

Scouting

Summer 2016

South Cumbria Development Project



A Word From The Editor

As yet another Scouting year draws to a close it is a great time to reflect on some real success in development across both districts. It has been great working with such committed, talented and fun people to bring about this success. Starting with the 2015 census, we saw positive growth across both districts, highlights being adult numbers up 11% in Kentdale and a growth in Scouts of 56% in South West Lakes. Both of these were as a direct result of the Development Project. It is also pleasing to note the real progress which is being made by last year's new groups and those that implemented new models for leadership when their long established leaders left. The new sections in Ulverston and Staveley are flourishing and whilst we are disbanding the new group in Barrow, we have retained the young people at other groups so that they can continue their adventure.

I was delighted to go along to an activity with Sedgwick and Crosscrake Scouts recently and to see how well their new leadership model is working. Talking to the new Cubs leadership team at the amazing Cubs 100 event, it is a similar story. This time last year it looked inevitable that these two sections would have to close. Again, in Kirkby Lonsdale this time last year it looked highly likely that we would have to close scouts but a flexible volunteering model is working really well and although we did close cubs for a while we have managed to revive it with a great new leader. They have even added an Explorer unit.

We have recently opened a new scout section at 10th Kendal and I would pay tribute to the leaders from other groups who have given freely of their time and expertise to get this going. We are hoping to kick start cubs in September.

Kentdale has now got its own brand new Network section which has got off to a great start. Groups in South West Lakes have recently seen great success in recruiting adults from amongst their parents using the Cub Café and Beaver Bistro concept. Read on for more information. Of course, it is really important that we learn from our experiences so that we can keep our groups growing and vibrant. Both districts held popular media training days. A very successful Ready Steady Grow day was held in April attended by both districts and Kentdale have just held a great development day where lots of plans and ideas were generated. A similar event is planned for South West Lakes in the autumn. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter to catch up with what's been happening. Have a great summer and I look forward to working with you again in the autumn.

Damian

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A New Scout Troop in Kendal

10th Kendal has been in existence for over twenty years but has never had a Scout troop. All the other troops in the town and surrounding area are full so we decided to see whether there was demand for more scouts in the Auld Grey Town. The new section started at Easter and we have just short of twenty new scouts all of whom are from local primary schools. They have enjoyed a great programme, making the most of the amazing weather that South Lakeland has enjoyed recently. It has been down to the support of Bill, the ADC Scouts together with Josh and Liam from First Kendal that we have been able to get this initiative of the ground. Here are a few pictures of our newest section in action...



At the Cubs 100 day at Brathay.....



On a desert island.....



Map reading on Cunswick scar.....



Playing a wide game on the Helme.....



Having great fun on a flooded road.....

Flexible Volunteering at Sedgwick and Crosscrake

Last year when I went along to the last meeting of the Scouting year most of us thought that it would be the last meeting ever for a group with such a proud history. Instead, we implemented a flexible volunteering model where the adults job share the leader roles in both cubs and scouts.

Since then, the scouts came first in the District Cooking Competition, the cubs were out in force at the Cubs 100 day and here you can see the scouts enjoying a fun filled evening for their Cycling Badge. A great time was had by all.....



Cubs know how to have fun.....

Cubs at Kirkby Lonsdale

Our Cub leaders at Kirkby Lonsdale left their roles last summer. Unfortunately, cub numbers declined at the same time and a decision was made to merge the cub and scout sections together whilst we worked out a long term solution. We now have a great new leader called Felicity (or Flick) and after a recruitment exercise at the local school we have a dozen or so cubs enjoying a varied programme from Casterton Village Hall.



Has anyone seen a worm?

New Leaders at 10th Kendal Beavers

10th Kendal always seems to have a crisis in one section. That section had been Beavers when all the leaders left about eighteen months ago with virtually no notice. After a stabilising year, it has been great to welcome three new leaders who joined us through the Four week Challenge. Here they are doing a nature walk on Heron Hill on one of the beautiful summer evenings we have enjoyed in South Lakeland.....Does anyone know any cub leaders looking for a role?



A brainstorming session.....



Vision 2018.....

Lessons Learned

On 10th April, both districts came together for a *Ready Steady Grow* event at the Whitewater Hotel. A thoroughly enjoyable day explored such topics as adult recruitment, fund raising and good governance. Members of the Development Grants Board were along to steer us in the right direction. Below are some pictures of a very enjoyable and informative day.

Very successful media training days have been held in both districts. Kentdale held a District Development day in Kendal when all sorts of issues were explored and five key priorities were identified. A similar event is planned for South West Lakes district in September.



Recruitment materials were available.....

Recruiting Parents

Beaver Bistro and Cub Café are great ways of talking to parents about volunteering whilst the Beavers or Cubs are engaged in an activity leading to the Chefs Badge. This model has worked really well recently in the two groups in Dalton where we have recruited six new adults and set up two really effective parent rotas. I would recommend running it alongside the Four Week Challenge.

All the materials you need including posters and invites are available on the Print Centre which is in the Members section of the Scouts website. Look under Sectional Materials.

Four Week Challenge

Earlier in the year, we ran the Four week Challenge which is an attempt to bridge the gap between a parent rota and becoming a uniformed leader. From a parent's perspective what we take for granted must be very daunting and it is a big ask to go from being a parent of a couple of young children to being a Scout leader maybe because the previous leader is leaving. It is also a great tool for succession planning. Leaders may need to take time off for personal reasons and the programme may well benefit from having a fresh face around for a while. Again templates to produce materials are available on the Print Centre and I have some posters left from the new year campaign. Why not run it alongside a Beaver Bistro or Cub Café?



SCOUTING FOR PARENTS!

Take the four week volunteering challenge



Would you like to...

- ▶ Spend some quality time with your child?
- ▶ Develop your own skills?
- ▶ Have fun and rediscover adventure?
- ▶ Give something back to the community?

Why not try some of the fun and adventure of Scouting for yourself? We're now inviting parents to come along to Scouts for four weeks. You'll be amazed at the difference you can make and how good you'll feel...

- Week 1** Come along and see what we get up to
- Week 2** Start to help out
- Week 3** Get a little more involved - maybe run an activity
- Week 4** By now you'll know if Scouting is for you.

We have a wide range of flexible vacancies either supporting young people or behind the scenes. Even if you can only give an hour a month, any help is truly amazing!



INTERESTED?
Contact **Damian Bonsall** on 01539 729117 or email damian.bonsall@scouts.org.uk



THANK YOU!

to all our volunteers

Find out how to create inspiring communications like this one on the Scout Print Centre.

It's a free resource that allows adult volunteers to create on brand communications quickly and easily.

Whether it's a poster, flyer, banner, vacancy board or advert you need, we have hundreds of templates for you to adapt and use.

You can create a PDF free of charge and print at home, or place a bulk order with our commercial print partner, N2.

Discover the top five most useful templates now with our new blog.

LOG IN TODAY

Simply log in here <https://www.n2printcentre.com/login.aspx> and enter your username and password. If you do not know or have forgotten them, there are instructions on the log in page to request them.

COMMUNICATIONS MADE EASY

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Did you know?

1. 11 of the 12 people to walk on the moon were Scouts.
2. Scouts have stood on the summit of Everest and at the South Pole.
3. We offer over 200 activities from abseiling and coding to drama and archery.
4. A quarter of UK Scouting's membership is female.
5. 1 person began Scouting in 1907; today 573,000 Scouts (young people and volunteers) now take part in the UK and 40 million around the world.
6. What have Bear Grylls, David Beckham, Tim Peake, Paul McCartney, The Duchess of Cambridge, Richard Branson and Jamie Oliver all got in common? They were (or are) all Scouts.
7. In 2016, Scouts was voted the UK's most practical charity.

OUR SCOUT VALUES

