

Scouts

Scottish Borders



Borders District Scouts

Annual Report 2019/2020



Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network



Normally, our Annual Report would cover up until 31st March, but this has been no normal year and therefore it unashamedly goes beyond then in places to demonstrate the flexibility and resilience within Scouting in the Borders in these extraordinary times. We hope you will enjoy reading it.

Cover picture: HRH Prince Charles meets Scouts from our Melrose Troop



BORDERS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The District Executive Committee of Borders District Scout Council has pleasure in presenting the report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020. These were adopted by the committee at its meeting on 27 August 2020.

Objects: The Scout Association is a UK-wide charitable body, incorporated by Royal Charter. Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. This is achieved through providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scouting values of integrity, respect, care, belief and co-operation, in partnership with adults.

Structure: Borders District Scout Council (Scottish Registered Charity no. SC008565) is an umbrella body to support Scout Groups in the Scottish Borders. Its affairs are managed by the District Executive Committee, which operates in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (with Scottish variations). The Executive Committee is accountable to the members of the District Scout Council at their annual general meeting. The members named below served throughout the year, except where otherwise shown:

President	Major-General Jeremy Phipps CB	
Ex officio members:	Ruth Smith	(Co-Chairperson)
	Derek Brown	(Co-chairperson)
	Douglas Allan	(District Commissioner)
	Brian Morrison	(Deputy District commissioner)
	Jessie Growden & Marion McIntosh	(District Explorer Scout Commissioners)
	Margaret Aitken	(Treasurer)
Elected Members	Isobel McElrath	(Secretary)
	Hazel Garden	(Hawick)
	Andrew Meldrum	(Lauderdale)
Nominated Members	David Redden	(Eyemouth)
	Norrie Allan	(Appointments Secretary)
	Graham Coulson	(Selkirk)

Address the District can be contacted via the Secretary:-
Isobel McElrath, 32 Berry Moss Court, Kelso TD5 7NP
or by e-mail secretary@borderscouts.org.uk

Accounts A full set of the Finance Statements will be presented to the AGM in October. Copies of these will be available from the District Treasurer.

Volunteers Scouting in the Borders District depends entirely on the efforts of volunteer leaders and supporters. The District Executive Committee would like to pay tribute to nearly 400 adults who have given freely of their time to support the provision of positive Scouting for young people in the Scottish Borders.

Chairs' Report 2019/2020

Borders District was very sad when our dear friend and former Appointment Secretary Maggie Allan passed away in September 2019. Maggie was instrumental in setting up the system used today and she also served on the District Executive Committee for seven years. A full appreciation of Maggie can be found further on

The very generous Legacy by the late David Hendry of Jedburgh continues to be put to good use with all payments up to date from the first tranche and new funding now available to apply for. Any Groups who have not made any applications yet should consider doing so for things like signage, upgrading and improving equipment along with new technology etc.

Many congratulations go to The Golden Eagle Champions at Innerleithen Scout Group who were runners up in the Environment and Conservation category at the YSL Awards in Glasgow. This represents a huge team effort on behalf of the Leaders, the Cubs and local Assistant District Commissioner working in partnership with the South of Scotland Golden Eagle project.

The District Team put on a very successful water activities weekend at St Mary's Loch with the help of the staff at Longcraig Centre. We commend all the Group reports to you where you can see some of the amazing adventures that our dedicated Leadership team has provided for the young people here in Borders District.

We would like to welcome John Berry to the role of District Scout Network Commissioner, this is especially important as it now allows us to provide the complete range of sections in the District.

We always try to visit as many AGMs as possible, but this year will prove to be a tester! All Groups who are OSCR registered will need to have one at some point.

COVID-19 has put paid to many face to face Scout Meetings, outdoor activities and summer camps at the moment, but hopefully we can all come back stronger once the Pandemic is over. Many things including the Beaver/Cub weekend at Bonaly will possibly be held over until next year. Many Groups are staying connected by holding virtual meetings and these will make novel reports for next year's AGMs. Lots of good stuff is coming out of this e.g. "The Great Indoors" and "Jamboree on the Internet".

To all Leaders, Young Leaders, parents and helpers sincere thanks for the continued support you give to enable our young people to enjoy the Scouting family. Thanks to Douglas, Brian, Margaret, Isobel and Norrie for all their hard work behind the scenes and valued support to us as well as all members of the District Team and Executives.



Members of the District Team and District Executive came together for a catch-up evening of fun and friendship earlier in the year.

We hope that you and your families are all safe and well and look forward to meeting up again when it is safe to do so.

Derek Brown and Ruth Smith

Co-Chairs



Maggie Allan

A leader with fantastic people skills

Maggie passed away on 9th September 2019 in the Margaret Kerr Palliative Care Unit in the Borders General Hospital but she is fondly remembered for being a reliable and supportive Assistant Leader and a talented Leader and administrator with fantastic people skills. Also, for her ready sense of humour and twinkle in her eye which put the fun into the

fundamentals for all the young people lucky enough to have benefitted from her leadership at Meetings and at many Pack Holidays as well as all the adults she worked with.

Maggie became involved in Scouting in Edinburgh in 1973 when she took on a role as Assistant Cub Scout Leader in what was then 64th Waverley (now Edinburgh North) in Stockbridge, at that time run by her fiancé, Norrie. She continued in that role until 1985 when she moved along the road to Logie Green to take over the leadership of the 74th Waverley Pack (St Philips). The Pack became very successful, sharing a friendly rivalry with the 64th, and one year winning the District Arrow Work Competition and subsequently the Edinburgh Area Competition as Waverley's representative.

Maggie expanded her involvement to become a Tutor on Adult Training Courses and went on to become an Assistant Leader Trainer in 1989, all while continuing to run the 74th, bring up her own family and support Norrie in his Scouting at District and Area level.

She was awarded the Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Services in 1978 and the Medal of Merit in 1988.

The family moved to Kent in late 1991 to follow Norrie's job. Maggie soon enough got involved there, initially to mentor a new inexperienced leader in Royal Tunbridge Wells District then became Assistant District Commissioner (Special Needs) in Tonbridge District for a couple of years from mid-1993 while being an active member of the Scout Fellowship in that District. She took on the role of Chair of the Fellowship for several years.

The Fellowship at that time was large and extremely active in supporting the District and in its own social life which included walking weekends in Luxembourg and elsewhere which Maggie helped to plan. Additionally, she served on that District's Appointments Advisory Committee. In all, Maggie was a Fellowship member for 14 years until 2006 when she and Norrie returned north and settled in the Borders, just as the new District structures were being rolled out.

She became District Appointment Secretary in the Borders the following year helping to set up the system used today and she also served on the District Executive Committee for seven years. She stood down from these roles in mid-2011 following the start of her problems with cancer but remained a valued member of the Appointments Advisory Committee, lending her experience with interviews for as long as she was able to. Maggie was awarded the Silver Acorn in the St George's Day Awards of 2014.

Not bad for someone who only started helping so she could see her fiancé on a Friday night!



Adult Training

The District ran Getting Started training at regular intervals over the year until January 2020. Following the onset of Covid-19 further Getting Started courses were cancelled as well as First Response and BASP Outdoor First Aid Courses.

The District has a very good reputation for getting new leaders through their Getting Started training within the allotted time period. The majority of leaders are also up to date with their mandatory training modules. The area that we find more challenging is Wood Badge training, which has in part been due to the need for travelling up to Edinburgh to take part in the courses. One of the positive effects of the virus is that Region is now running Zoom training modules online and I know that several of our leaders have been taking advantage of this.

The past 6 months have been understandably quiet for training. Safeguarding and Safety courses are now done online. First Aid courses will be available online on Zoom through the Region, but the practical element will take place when we're allowed to do so.

There are significant changes to training across the board from mid-September; primarily to include Safeguarding and Safety for more roles, which will have to be completed every 3 years. Getting Started will no longer be run as a course but will just be online. The 5 month Getting Started and 3 year Wood Badge deadlines will be strictly adhered to, with a transition period until September 2021.

I'd like to thank all the Training Advisers for their hard work helping our Leaders to complete their training over the past year. I'd also like to thank Brian Morrison and Ruth Smith for all their help in delivering training.

The District always needs more Leaders as Training Advisers; this would reduce the ratio of Leaders to Training Advisers, Anyone who is interested in becoming a Training Adviser or Trainer should contact me for details.

Tamsin Growden

Assistant District Commissioner (Adult Training)



The briefest of updates on the Borders Scout Network

The Borders District started a Scout Network in March 2020. This is for young adults aged 18-25.

In the District there are around 30 members. All are section or section assistant leaders in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers. 27 receive the periodic newsletter. Of those 27, about 15 open the newsletter. And there are 6 people active/interested in in Network activities.

Those 6 have met online about eight times since March. Meetings are now monthly.

Of the six active members:

- One has done everything for his Queen's Scout Award (QSA). He just needs to document it and we're working on that.
- Five signed up for the 2021 Moot in Ireland – the Moot has now been postponed until 2022.
- Two are very active with QSA and DofE Gold making monthly progress. One has completed QSA and DofE Gold all bar the expedition. Expeditions are planned for 2021. John Berry, DSNC, is now a Primary Leader for DofE and so approves plans and progress.
- An Explorer Belt expedition in planned for 2022.

During this time of lockdown, the single aim is to have more folk become active with the top awards.

The District Scout Network communicates internally via WhatsApp and generally via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ScottishBordersNetwork/>), Instagram and Twitter (@SB_ScoutNetwork).

John Berry

District Scout Network Commissioner

Scottish Borders Scouting Water Activity Weekend

1st & 2nd June 2019

To continue our run of great Borders-based activities, Scottish Borders District Team decided to organise a whole weekend of water activities in which Scouts, Explorers and Young leaders were invited to take part in weekend activities and camp overnight should they wish to.

We decided on using St. Mary's Loch as the location for the weekend and with the support of Mark Jones, the Commodore of St Mary's Loch Sailing Club, we made their clubhouse and grounds our base for the weekend.

We asked for help from Longcraig Scout Centre as our local Scout water activity experts who were instrumental in helping us provide a wide and varied programme of activities over the two-day event. This was Longcraig's first year in attempting 'outreach' activities and it was Borders first attempt at this scale and type of activity. It's fair to say we encountered many behind-the-scenes challenges but with an outstanding can-do attitude from both the Borders District Team and the Longcraig staff (ably led by Ian Harrower) we managed to do sessions in sailing, paddle boarding, raft building, kayaking and many more activities besides.

Prior to planning the event we asked the young people, via their leaders, which activities they'd like to do and the fantastic weekend take-up of 115 Scouts, Explorers and Young Leaders enjoyed the mix of activities they wanted. We even had a visit on our final day from Regional Commissioner Margery Naylor to help present all out Scouts with special badges from Longcraig, who were celebrating their 50th year of operating as an activity centre. We all rounded off the weekend with plenty of (50th) birthday cake.

Special thanks must go to Douglas Allan's Borders District team, Ian Harrower's Longcraig team, Mark Jones and St Mary's Sailing Club and finally, all the local Borders section leaders who once again volunteered their time and efforts in making sure our older sections had the opportunity to take part in a successful and fun weekend.

John McCusker

Assistant District Commissioner (Section Support)



Fun on the Water

St Mary's Loch



Cardrona Scout Group and TweedGlen Explorers

In June 2019 at our AGM we proudly presented 9 Chief Scout Gold Awards, 4 Silver and 4 Bronze Awards to our Youth Members. The 9 Gold Award Scouts were all moving into Explorers and we all as a Scout Group were looking forward to a trip to Hawkthirst in August. We took nearly 50 Cubs, Scout and Explorers to Hawkthirst Scout Adventure centre in the last weekend in August and had a fantastic and VERY sunny weekend taking part in a whole range of activities. It was the first time that the Explorers had attended Hawkthirst as a group in their own lodge and they spent the weekend on the water participating and completing their Paddle Sport Passport Level 1. What an amazing weekend we had!

In October TweedGlen Explorers went to Cally Rally near Inverness. They travelled by train which was a great excitement and they had a great time at that camp and despite the rain they said they'd go back!

The rest of the term up to Christmas was full of Scouting activities, hikes, badges, fire lighting, map reading and fun. We then joined some of the other Borders units and headed to the Hawkthirst Wintercamp in the middle of January for what became our last camp! What a camp *that* was!! The weather was wild but the Scouts and Explorers kept trying to find activities to participate in, both inside and out, we changed our food plans to stay out the wind and rain, we moved tents to where the ground looked a bit drier and kept going till the Saturday lunchtime when the leadership team decided that it was just too wet for our Scouts to continue safely. Our fabulous parents rallied round and drove down in horrible weather to rescue us all! Hats off to any of the Groups that stayed on! I believe there was a little respite on the Sunday morning from the horrific rain!



On the 11th of March over 50 members and parents of Cardrona Scout Group and TweedGlen Explorer unit went bowling in Edinburgh for the night. Our Beavers were also meeting in the hall playing games and learning all about their Beaver Scout Promise. This was to be our last night in face to face meetings as by the end of the following week The Scout Association had formally

cancelled all Scouting meetings and activities in the face of the global pandemic. For the first time in over one hundred years, Scouting was forced to stop meeting.

Our leadership team made the immediate decision that we would adapt and change the way we ran our weekly meetings to online and keep on Scouting. On the 18th March we set the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts some challenges through our Facebook group and on the 25th March the Beavers and Scouts met for their first ever virtual Zoom meeting! What a lot of fun we had! During those first meetings we adapted traditional games such as scavenger hunts, Rock/paper/scissors and even the most traditional Scouting game - Kim's game! Cubs followed with their first meeting on the 30th March and TweedGlen Explorers on the 26th March where they took part in a Google Street View Treasure hunt, searching the globe for Ferraris, giraffes, ancient buildings and yellow taxis.

Very soon after this The Scout Association launched their new website called The Great Indoors where they have been posting hundreds of suggestions of activities that can be run in virtual meetings or by parents in their own home and a group of Scouting Leaders started a Facebook ideas group for Scouters to share their ideas and successes for all in Scouting. The 1st Virtual Facebook Scout Group has helped Cardrona and TweedGlen with a whole wealth of ideas including a virtual camp game with codebreaking, mini challenges and Scouting knowledge. There's even been a Harry Potter inspired Hogwarts Escape Room game created which the Scouts will be trying at one of their meetings.

Some of the Activities that Cardrona Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been doing whilst Scouting at Home are - games, learning about bees, talking about their favourite books, gardening, making pizzas during a meeting, learning about nature, Liverpool ShelterBox orienteering game, navigation challenges, Easter activities, VE Day activities, pets nights, construction challenges, junk modelling, quizzes, learning about Charles Rennie Macintosh.

Scouting has had to adapt so much of its programme and some of the changes are though badges that exist that can now be worked on at home, for Example - the Scottish Thistle Awards have their own At Home versions and the Zodiac Awards now have their own version too.

The Scout Association has just launched its new badge for The Great Indoors which is open for anyone to participate in and our Beavers, Cubs Scouts and Explorers have been working away on the different levels of the badge to.

Our favourite meetings so far are when the Beavers made their pitta bread pizzas, instructed by the Young Leaders and the week they all did karate together, instructed by one of our Mums who is a karate instructor. The Cub's Science night where they investigated how to clean coins, biofuel balloons, water powered rockets and spaghetti towers. In the Scouts we have had a joint meeting with the 51st Bath Scout Group where we learned about each others local areas and what makes them special. In the Explorers the funniest night has been their recent quiz night.

Over the term the group has participated in a few national and regional Scouting events too. Comic Relief partnered with The Scout Association for a national fundraiser called Hike to the Moon where Scouts and their families were encouraged to use their daily walk to record miles travelled to the Moon, and donate for each mile they walked. Launched on the 23rd April by Tim Peake and Bear Grylls, The Scout Association has now raised nearly £350,000 for Comic Relief. Cardrona Scout Group contributed over 100 miles to the total and across Scouting we have hiked to the Moon and back to Earth!

We have also participated in South East Scotland Region's Sleep Out during the 11th-19th April and Northumberland Scout Region's Camp At Home challenge which ran for the whole of April and finished with a huge World Record attempt to have the most campers camping on one night on the 30th April. Through both of these events Cardrona Scout Group have achieved over 350 nights away at home in indoor dens, outdoor shelters, bivvies, tents and hammocks. This includes 12 of our Beavers who participated adding 25 nights to that total. Many of the Beavers and Cubs it was their first time sleeping in a tent or den which has been a great achievement. We've had campfires, marshmallow toasting, sausage sizzles, pizza making, baking, Burns, Suppers, learning to use camping stoves, pitching tents and learning how to flip our Neckies in the Neckie Challenge.

The Northumberland Camp at Home saw over 95,000 Scouts from 68 countries around the world participating together in one of the largest events in Scouting. Cardrona Scout Group and TweedGlen Explorers had nearly 60 members participating in the event. The parents of many of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts got involved in order to help their child participate and it's been great to see all the enthusiasm too!

One of the important aspects of Scouting is its programme and links to the badges and the skills for life and values that it aims to instil in its membership. At Cardrona and TweedGlen the pandemic lockdown has not stopped that part of Scouting. Our members have been working away at different parts of their badges, sharing them on our Online Scout Manager "Badges at Home" section and so far we have now awarded over 200 badges to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Many of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers have been working away on these badges on their own and are doing a great job. These vary from Artist to Scientist and include Chef, Cyclist, Animal Carer, Athletics, Craft, Community Impact, Navigator, DIY, Outdoor Challenges, Adventure Challenge, Backwoods Cooking, and Creative.

We are about to award our first Chief Scout Silver, Chief Scout Gold and Chief Scout Platinum awards, completed during the lockdown. These are the highest awards that can be earned in each section in Scouting and as Group Scout Leader I am personally so proud of them for completing their Chief Scout Awards.

I'm proud of the whole Group, from the youth members for taking to the new way of Scouting, to all the Young Leaders who are working so well with the leadership teams to come up with ideas and activities that will work online to the leaders who - with no hesitation said "yes" to keeping Scouting going in Cardrona and who have put a huge effort into the activities and maintaining the fun, excitement and engagement of the Group. I've worked out we are still managing to engage about 75% of our Youth Membership regularly through Zoom and the challenges. Our Youth members come from Cardrona, Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Peebles and we are open to all from the age of 6 years in Beavers to 18 in the TweedGlen Explorer Scout Unit.

Cheryl Turpie

Group Scout Leader



Galashiels Scout Group

A digital copy of this post can be found online at <http://galashielscoutgroup.org.uk/annual-reports-2019-2020/>

GALA BEAVERS (an acrostic poem)

Great Friendships

Adventurous Walks

Longest Day Sleepover

Artistic Weaving

Birdfeeders in mugs

Explorers Helping

ABC of First Aid

Visit to the Panto

Exploding Experiments

Repeating Zentangle patterns

Star Map Discoveries



This year has been busy, varied and memorable for many reasons. As I write this, it is exactly one year since the recently re-started Scouts and Cubs enjoyed a joint camp at Canty Bay with Jedburgh Scout Group. Now, our Cubs are Zoom'ing , while our Scouts are meeting outdoors and practising being socially distant while learning some fantastic new skills.

We have seen the lockdown affect our Group in many ways and it has given members both young and older a chance to take stock and assess where their future paths shall take them. It is with this in mind that we wish the very best to Cheryl Scott (our former Chair) and Jayne Findlay (our former

Treasurer) as they retire from their roles with the Executive Committee and the Scout Group. We will miss them and the years of service and hard work they have dedicated to us. Galashiels Scout Group really wouldn't be here without them. Our Vice Treasurer, Martin Rudge has agreed to take on the full Treasurer role and we will shortly be announcing our new Chair.

We also wish the very best to Lindsay our long-standing Beaver Leader as she moves into a District based role. Our Assistant Beaver Scout Leader Vicki has taken up the reins as Leader and we are all supporting her in this next exciting chapter for the Turquoise Ninjas!

Cubs continue with Kat at the helm and have had another active busy year, managing to gain around 250 badges with our most recent Chief Scout Silver Award being awarded live during a Zoom meeting! Our highlights for the year have included camping at Canty Bay with Jedburgh Scouts, a visit from our former MP Calum Kerr, our Scout Post and a Panto visit in December, bug hunting, litter picking, cooking and making our mark on the Welcome Panels for the Great Tapestry of Scotland. Zoom didn't stop us with virtual camps, dens and sleepovers, map skills learnt and our @Home activity packs to keep us busy.

Scouts was temporarily closed in Easter 2019 and following her successful application, Jude Cormack started as our new Scout Leader in August. Bringing together the new Scouts along with some patient older members, she was invested by her sons, one a Scout and one an Explorer and has focused on getting the Scouts camping and learning outdoor skills. Starting at Canty Bay and managing to enjoy camping at Hawkthirst in January, a trip to the climbing arena at Ratho and Nandos and more, they really have hit the ground running.

Continuing through lockdown, the Scouts have managed to complete over 50 badges recently and are now enjoying a socially distant outdoor based programme, again concentrating on skills work, having recently walked to the local Royal Observer Corps post, built a monkey bridge and had a go at cricket and a combat workout in the rain.

We're busy working behind the scenes together as Leaders and a new Executive Committee to get back together safely with all these new rules and are looking forwards to bringing Scouting in Galashiels into a new chapter in its long history.

Kat Peddie

Cub Scout Leader

Kelso Scout Group

We currently have 11 Beavers with 1 Beaver Scout Leader, 2 Assistant BSLs, 1 Section Assistant, 25 Cubs with 2 Cub Scout Leaders, 1 Section Assistant, and 18 Scouts including 3 girls, with 1 Scout Leader and 1 Assistant SL.

Beavers

- Visited the local Library as part of the Book Reader badge.
- Random Act of Kindness – planted a flower and delivered it to the local care home.
- Weekend at Hawkhurst Scout Centre, wall climbing, water activities, campfire.

Cubs

- Four parents and Cubs attended Meggernie Parent and Cub Camp. Everybody had a great time orienteering, cooking over fires, and lots more.
- Weekend camp at Glen Almond where they met up with Methven Cubs Tony's (CSL) former Cub Pack.
- Litter picking around the town.
- Participated in the Ramble for Children in Need and raised £702.
- Scouts
- Weekend camp at Ford/Etal Scout Centre tried out the new tents bought with legacy money.
- Three scouts attended the Lochgoilhead camp.
- Lamb Trophy competition between Scouts and Guides. Lighting an alter fire and cooking cake in an orange. Guides won this year.

Awards

- Tony Abbott, Cub Scout Leader, received the Bar to the medal of Merit from Deputy District Commissioner Brian Morrison.
- Long service certificates – Jackie Nairn (Treasurer) 5 years, Seonaid Blackie (ASL) and Robert Young (Exec Committee) 10 years.

I would like to thank all my leaders for all their dedicated efforts in organising fun and challenging activities throughout the year. Thank you to all the parents for their help because without them it would limit what activities we could offer to the young people

Elizabeth McIntosh

Group Scout Leader

GIFT FOR LOCAL CARE HOME



HAWKHIRST SCOUT CENTRE



HELPING KEEP THE STREETS CLEAN



RAMBLE FOR BBC CHILDREN IN NEED



ANNUAL HOSPITAL GARDEN CLEAN UP



CIVIC WEEK



VISIT FROM METHVEN CUBS.



5 YEARS & 10 YEARS



Lauderdale Scout Group and Explorer Scout Unit

Lauderdale Scout Group had another successful year, with lots of activities, camps and awards

The Group continues to Grow with over 150 young people in the 2020 census, we have more plans for expansion with the possibility of a third Scout Section starting, which will really help as both Scout sections are sitting around the 30 mark.

The Beaver waiting list is still quite full, but we have managed to get most young people a place when they reach 6 years old. The Beaver Colonies are both running really well and providing exciting activities. Their Harry Potter camp to Ford last year was very popular.

The Cub Packs are still running with high numbers and credit to the leaders for managing such big Packs. Last year the Cubs had great camps to Hawkhurst and the national camp "The Howling" at Fordell Firs, which was really enjoyed by all who attended.

The two Scout Troops both have about 30 scouts each and despite the complications this causes in our small hall, they still produce quality programmes with Gold Scout awards achieved by both sections. This year we had camps to Lochgoilhead, Craikhope and Hawkhurst.

Our Explorer section continues to be popular with new members joining from outside our Group. We had camps to Hawkhurst, the "Woolly Jumper" camp in Aberdeen and the Blair Atholl Jamborette selection camp. Last year also saw three of our Explorers attend the World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) in the USA. Well done to Dylan, Euan and Alex for all their hard work in getting to the Jamboree.

Young Leaders - Vicky Hammersley has been running our young leader training programme for 14-17 year olds with great success, steering more young leaders through their training and achieving their Young Leader Belts.

2019 also saw the group start the Duke of Edinburgh awards with Explorers working hard towards this prestigious award in both bronze and silver levels.

Our Group continues to have a very effective Executive Committee, keeping us on the right track not only in terms of development of our young people, but building for the future. We are continually looking at ways to improve our hall, with new storage and a new roof this year, Bluecairn Scout Wood continues to be a great resource for the Group giving us a safe and secure outdoor space which we utilise.

As we started the next financial year in March 2020, Covid 19 restrictions took a massive effect on our Group's activities with camps cancelled or postponed. Some sections had meetings online using Zoom and a good number of young people did badges at home along with the various camps at home which was really nice to see.

Andy Beaumont

Group Scout Leader

Melrose Scout Group

Scouting Programme

Over the last year we have tried to focus the programme we deliver on core traditional Scouting skills such as Camping and outdoor activities. We have developed a small outdoors classroom area at Old Melrose thereby enabling each section to hold more of their weekly sessions outdoors each year. We have also identified three separate local camping sites to use during the year. The Group will be increasing its Camping opportunities in the coming year. During lockdown we have been making some challenges available to our members via Facebook and in some weeks, we have had nearly 40 of our members taking part. Our intention is to continue to provide some online activities until such time as we are able to resume our sessions.

Community

This year we have helped on two litter picking up sessions and taken part in the remembrance parade. We are looking at trying to work with the Rotary to help organise an annual carol service in Melrose Town Square each December. We also raised a record breaking £1,500 for the Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue.

Scouts Review

The highlight of the year was the Expedition Camp, where the older Scouts made their own way from Smailholm Tower to Old Melrose before camping overnight. The low point of the year was having to cancel the winter camp in Kielder Water due to high winds. Plans when we resume include a survival camp, raft building and racing, Laser Tag and lots of Camping.

Cubs Review

Our Cub Pack has operated at full capacity over the last year. We started the year with a fun day out at Longcraig where we sailed in the Scout boats that are kept there. It was an outing that was enjoyed by all the Cubs who attended. We have continued to work towards our Chief Scout Silver Award which we hope all regular attendees will achieve over their two-year period of being a Cub.

We have made use of the Old Melrose woods for den building and other activities and where possible we try to be outdoors as much as possible. Sadly, most of our camping activities were planned for between March and July and as such we have been unable to undertake any of them this year. We do however have many exciting plans for when we are able to resume our weekly sessions.

Beavers Review

A busy year achieved with regular help from parents, meaning we have been able to fill the section with 24 children. Highlights include a sleepover in the Galashiels Scout Hall and completing the Builder badge just before lockdown, visiting the library in Melrose for the book reading badge, visiting Mountain Rescue in Melrose, and plenty of other indoor activities and games. We were able to award the Bronze Award to some Beavers moving onto Cubs, with other Beavers working towards this at the moment using OSM Badges at Home. Badges at home are checked weekly, with ideas for badges added regularly - a great source of ideas for home schooled children.

Bill Younger

Group Chair



The District Executive sincerely thanks all the Commissioners, Leaders and Helpers for their time and hard work over the last year. We would also like to thank those who have contributed in any way to this Annual Report for 2020.

Margaret and Isobel