



# **Annual Report 2020 to 2021**

**Inspiring Generations with  
Skills for Life**



# What We Do

## Our Purpose

Wyre Scouts exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to enable more people than ever before to enjoy and benefit from the experience of Scouting in Wyre.

## Our Values

- Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs, and attitudes.
- Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.



# Welcome

Welcome to this Annual Report and celebration of Scouting in Wyre.

This has been my first year as Chair of Trustees of Wyre Scouts – and what a year it has been! Despite the obvious challenges, I have been delighted to see the tenacity and enthusiasm of our adult members in continuing to offer a programme of activities that has entertained, challenged, supported and inspired our young people.

Each section has been working hard to deliver a programme of activities that develops skills for life. Take a look at the section reports and be inspired by the range of opportunities that are being offered to Scouts across Wyre, resulting in awards for so many of our adult volunteers and young people. In addition, our specialist teams report on the adult training, adventurous activities and events happening across the district, supported by our dedicated Scout Active Support Unit.

As Chair of Trustees, I work with a dedicated team of trustees whose role is to ensure that the charity is run well, has the money and equipment we need, and continues to deliver our purpose, which is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. Whilst much of the trustees' work may go unnoticed it has a significant impact and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trustees, on your behalf, for the great work they have done during the past year.

Wyre Scouts is all about young people. We know that what we do empowers young people and prepares them to be positive role models in society. They learn to be independent and to think for themselves, to be courageous and take calculated risks, to ask big questions and stand up for what they believe in. As the district continues to grow, I challenge you to make it even more Youth Shaped, and to give our young people the opportunity to step up and lead, with you at their side as mentors and guides.

I am excited that we have such a strong team, working together to enable more people than ever before to enjoy and benefit from Scouting in Wyre. There is work to do in rebuilding the district to its pre-covid strength and we are actively recruiting adults and young people to all our groups and sections. Volunteering is #GoodForYou - it improves your wellbeing, gives you skills for the future, and helps you make new friends. Volunteering with Wyre Scouts helps you make a difference in young people's lives (but I don't need to tell you that!) If you know someone who could make a difference, encourage them to join us and be inspired.

I look forward to seeing many of you during the coming year as face-to-face activities re-start, and to supporting you in inspiring generations with #SkillsForLife.

**Neil Ralph – Chair of Trustees**

[neil.ralph@wyrescouts.org.uk](mailto:neil.ralph@wyrescouts.org.uk)





# District Commissioner's Report

As we complete our Annual General Meeting, it's again a time for us to reflect on the last year and look at the year ahead.

First and foremost, I would like to say a massive thank you to you all for everything you do to provide the very best opportunities for the young people of Wyre. Words do not seem enough, or even start to reflect the immense amount of hard work and your dedication to ensuring that the young people of Wyre had a sense of normality over the last year.

The last year has demonstrated our Scouting values and reinforced what a fantastic district we have in Wyre. I am very proud to lead a district that works so hard to make sure that hundreds of young people enjoy Scouting week after week. There have been so many tremendous achievements from both our young people and our adult volunteers, at a time when society has needed it the most.

At tonight's AGM, we reform the Executive Committee. Our Executive Committees at all levels undertake valuable work behind the scenes to ensure that we can operate our quality programmes in a safe manner. To me, they are our unsung heroes. Thank you to every member of every committee for your support and I look forward to working with the newly formed committee in the coming year.

In my report last year, I talked about a vision where more people than ever before were enjoying and benefiting from Scouting in Wyre. With the huge amount of joining requests we have received, along with offers of volunteer support, this vision is easily within our grasp and is something I am very excited about us achieving together.

There are many exciting opportunities to look forward to in the coming year and an opportunity for us to continue to work together and help young people have fun, learn new skills, and develop into fantastic role models in our community.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the near future and to seeing smiling faces enjoying engaging and adventurous programmes!



**Jon Minshull - District Commissioner**

[jon.minshull@wyrescouts.org.uk](mailto:jon.minshull@wyrescouts.org.uk)

# Youth Shaped

This has been my first year as District Youth Commissioner for Wyre Scouts. It has been a challenging but exciting time for the district, during which we have managed to grow Youth Shaped Scouting throughout the district, giving young people the opportunity to experience leadership, and shape their scouting.

Throughout the last 12 months, we have ensured that we put young people at the heart of everything we do here at Wyre Scouts from planning the programme to making governance related decisions.

Some of the opportunities that young people have been able to experience were the "Wear Their Necker" month, which allowed young people to take on the role of District Commissioner through running an All Leaders Meeting and taking the role of their Section Leader.

Other opportunities were the WLSshape event which gathered Young People across the County, including several from Wyre Scouts to allow them to give their own opinions to help shape the future of scouting in West Lancs.

I look forward to another 12 months within Wyre Scouts and for Youth Shape to grow from strength to strength.



**Luke Thornton – District Youth Commissioner**

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# BEAVERS

My last report was at the start of the COVID-19 virus and we had just gone into lockdown. We never thought that life as we knew it was about to take a huge turnabout and that Scouting and our lives were going to become 'virtual'. What a year! Our conversations have revolved around Teams and Zoom Meetings, and learning comments such as "You're on Mute", "We can't see you", and "Does anyone know the zoom codes?" I am so pleased that as writing this we are starting to see some return to normality.



As Leaders we adapted, went to plan B, and coped with change to encourage our young people to continue the Big Adventure that Scouts gives them. Our Beaver meetings continued on Zoom and we discovered that we could do almost anything online! We welcomed new Beavers and continued gaining badges.



Beavers came together for fun and friendship on district Zoom, attended group, district, and county virtual camps and challenge days proving we are a great organisation. We didn't miss our district Remembrance Service, a great turnout for all sections

bringing their families to join us online. January was 'Wear your Necker' month and I've had great reports of Beavers taking over roles and joining in, Bravo!

County Hero Awards were held in February, congratulations and well done to the Beavers who were nominated. In April we renewed our promises online for our district St George's Day celebration and had great fun at this event. A huge WELL DONE to those Beavers who kept Beaver-ing On to complete their Bronze Awards, congratulations to you all.

I must congratulate all the Leaders, Young Leaders, Helpers and Parents who have kept Beavers going. Our hardest challenge has been - dare I say... the Risk Assessments. I can sense terror every time these are mentioned. Give yourselves a big pat on the back, you did it! Well Done. Without you all we could not have given Wyre Beavers such an Unusual Great Year.

The biggest cheer goes to all the Beavers across Wyre Scouts, you have shown strength, courage, caring and your fantastic enthusiasm for fun.



I hope to see you face to face very soon, in the meantime keep safe, keep smiling and THANK YOU!

**Jan Townley - Assistant District Commissioner (Beavers)**

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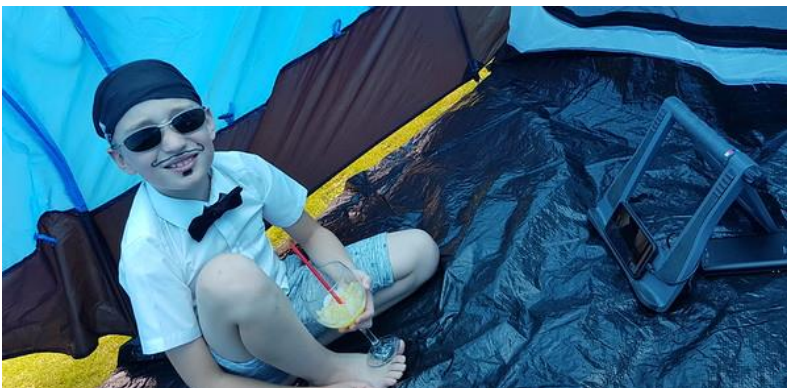
Well, what can I say? What a crazy year it's been for all of us – lockdowns, tier groups, bubbles, popped bubbles, hands-face-space, risk assessments, isolation and a thing called zoom. “I can't see you but can hear you, oh there you are, what are you saying we can't hear you” ... zoomed in – zoomed out – zoom in again .... This was when some dedicated leaders had to learn new skills, possibly having help from the Cubs along the way! And how amazing you all are in doing so; leading and showing the Cubs perseverance, resilience and not giving up!



Wyre Cubs engaged and took part in a variety of virtual activities and virtual camps within their own groups, one of the popular activities was how to make a muffin in a mug (I think all Cubs are now experts in this!).

From the district, Cubs joined in virtually for district camp, Remembrance Sunday, Red Nose Evening and St George's Day.

A **HUGE WELL DONE** to all the Cubs who achieved their **SILVER AWARD** and well done to the Cubs who gained badges towards theirs. It's been great to hear from your leaders how Cubs have been so enthusiastic and even though it has been challenging at times you all joined in to '**Do Your Best**'.



Due to unforeseen circumstances I had to take time out from Scouting for a while and I would like to say a huge thank you to those who supported me and the Cub Section.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all Leaders, Young Leaders, helpers and especially to parents as without your help and support this wouldn't have been achieved. So, here's a virtual **BRAVO** and give yourselves a round of applause!

That's all for now so in the meantime, Take Care, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and... Hopefully see you all very soon!!

**Tracy Douglas - Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs)**

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# SCOUTS

I have been the ADC Scouts for just over 12 months, which has presented me with some interesting challenges during the pandemic, but despite this Scouting has continued giving our young people many opportunities to develop their skills. Not only has it given young people new experiences, but our amazing adult volunteers have also learnt to adapt and develop their own skills to be able to deliver exciting programmes over Zoom. For some it took time, but others they soon got up and running.

A range of activities were delivered from camping virtually, cooking, meeting animals virtually, talking to Scout troops across the globe, undertaking science experiments and taking part in quizzes including Minecraft. I'm delighted to report that during this year I was able to award several Chief Scout Awards and our young people need to be proud of achieving their awards.



Scouts has provided so much more than just a meeting once a week, with friendships being developed and strengthened and despite not seeing each other the young people have found ways to engage and chat through a variety of platforms such as WhatsApp, Discord and Minecraft.

Looking forward, and as restrictions are lifted, we are moving back to delivering face to face Scouting with exciting adventures planned. The Scouts are keen to get back to developing their scouting skills and taking part in some of the more traditional activities such as camping, fire light, bush craft skills and pioneering.

**Nicky Dennison - Assistant District Commissioner  
(Scouts)**

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# EXPLORERS

What another interesting year! I would just like to say thank you to all those Explorers that supported us and joined every week on Zoom. I know all the leaders are glad that you all showed real commitment to your scouting. It's been great to see the Explorers when we came back to face to face, and we have all had some great fun. We have done some great cooking nights, walks at Nicky Nook, climbing at Hutton Roof, canoeing, wide games and even go-karting.

I know that all the leaders are planning for the future, this will hopefully include building and developing a Duke of Edinburgh team and seeing some expeditions from April next year. Explorers from across the units are going on international trips with West Lancs Scouts, with Explorers going on the Malawi trip in 2022 and others going yachting in Croatia. This will be an amazing experience for these Explorers, and I wish them luck with their fundraising.



The main focus over the next 12 months will be recruiting more leaders into the three units we are operating and growing our numbers of young people. We will be working with the ADC Scouts to make sure we run joining in sessions, and I plan to visit different Scout Troops to make sure Explorers has a visible presence in the district. The other focus will be on adventurous activities, as we know this is what our young people want. If you have a permit for any activity, please contact me as I know the Explorers are open to trying anything.

**Andrew Truelove – District Explorer Scout  
Commissioner**

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# network

Network is for young people aged 18 -25 who wish to continue their Scouting Adventure.

At the present time there are 43 young people involved in network within Wyre.

Despite the challenges of this year, network has continued to be active throughout.

A launch event was held in February 2021 to promote the work and activities of Network and to engage with new members to showcase what can be achieved.

We have been able to meet as group over zoom and have undertaken service work at 1<sup>st</sup> Carleton to support clearing the site of rubbish and foliage, followed by campfire cooking and toasting marshmallows.

Moving forward and looking to the future network have a range of activities planned such as hill walking, go-karting and looking at ways to achieve the awards available to network members.

As the Network Commissioner I am looking forward to developing and growing the group and supporting the young people to develop their #SkillsForLife.

**Gareth Bates - District Scout Network Commissioner**

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## Adventurous Activities

When I took on the role of ADC Adventurous Activities, just over twelve months ago, my primary objective was to get more of our young people into the outdoors and



enjoying adventure. I planned to achieve this by raising awareness of the opportunities and by increasing the number of Adventurous Activity Permits held by leaders within the district. As is often the case with grand plans, it didn't get off to a very good start; and we don't need reminding why.

However, in between the lockdowns and despite the restrictions on group sizes and travel constraints, sections within the district have been increasingly active, with activities ranging from night hikes along the River Wyre, rock climbing with the district climbing team, archery and, more recently, kayaking on the boating lake at Fleetwood.

We have also gained some new permits for hillwalking and climbing as well as a few renewals, and I've definitely sensed an eagerness amongst the new permit holders to get out there and put their skills to good use.

Looking forward I am hopeful that, as the restrictions ease, we will be holding some district events such as walking days in the Lakeland fells or Yorkshire Dales, and more water-based activities; after all, few districts are lucky enough to have the natural resources we have, right on their doorsteps. I still see a pool of permit holders being key to delivering these activities and, with help from the county assessors, I aim to offer regular opportunities for training and assessment.

**Geoff Lyons - Assistant District Commissioner  
(Adventurous Activities)**

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## Scout Active Support Unit

Wyre's Scout Active Support Unit (SASU) provides a key role in supporting the district programme activities, events and sections. During the course of the year, Cyril Crossley stepped down as manager of the SASU unit and we would like to thank him for his leadership and dedication to the section over the last 9 ½ years with ten years service as ADC Scout Fellowship.

This year, the unit has supported a number of online events in the district including the virtual district camp and also district competition days. With a return to face to face Scouting the unit will re-commence a schedule of social activities for our members starting in September along with continuing to provide support to an exciting programme of events through the coming year.

As SASU, we are always on the lookout for keen, enthusiastic new members who can help support the district. If you would like to join us, please contact Jon Minshull (District Commissioner) or Marjorie Crossley (SASU Co-ordinator).

**Jon Minshull - District Commissioner**

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# District Events

As for us all, the 2020 / 2021 year was a strange year for laying on events for the district with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. No doubt like us all, I would have preferred to be offering adventurous outdoor activities on behalf of the district, however we have as a district pulled together as always and made the most of the situation laying on four events during the course of the year to March 2021.



We started by having an all-sections district virtual camp in August 2020, with a secret agent spy theme attended by our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts taking part in varied activities. We also had the pleasure of having Tim Kidd, the UK Chief Commissioner as our special guest to open the event. Our Beavers had a virtual visit from a Crime Scenes Investigation (CSI) professional showing them how to be agents and investigate crimes. Our cubs had to make dens for themselves as spies, made some brilliant spy gadgets and dressed up as spies. Finally, our Scouts took part in a spy scavenger hunt around their local areas taking photographs and gaining spy points. The event concluded with a virtual campfire and the whole district working together on a morning's spy challenge. A great time had by all.



The second of our events was a more formal event with a virtual remembrance service online as we weren't able to attend our normal cenotaphs around the district. This was a formal remembrance service led by Rev. George Ayoma, the District Chaplain, which was a very moving service. Our young people instead of laying wreaths were invited to make and show poppies during the service and then display them in their windows at home to show Wyre Scouts remembering. Thanks to all those who attended, a wonderful turnout, with about 150 of our members joining us.

The third event that took place was a Christmas Santa Special day again with our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts and leaders taking part in a variety of Christmas activities from Christmas cooking to building a Christmas Den, to making cards or decorations, through to singing or playing a Christmas song. We finished the event with a virtual Christmas Disco with prizes given for the best entry in each category of Scouting and each different type of event. A fantastic effort by our judges to work that one out and once again credit goes to our young people for their wonderful efforts whilst taking part and great ideas they came up with.

Our fourth and final event in February was a Scouting skills challenge for all our members, with five Scouting skills challenges set: First Aid – Use a sling correctly; Make a fire or do some cooking; Knotting; Craft; and, Pitch a Tent or Make a Den to sleep in. We had wonderful entries again from all sections showing what a great job groups are doing with their young people and once again making life difficult for our judges to give out prizes.

I look forward to working with all the groups on events next year in an outdoor adventurous setting for all our young people particularly working towards a wonderful district camp from 3rd to 5th July 2022.

**Keith Parkinson – Assistant District Commissioner (Events)**

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## Appointments

Since September 2020 the appointments process has seen a few changes. With the Committee not being able to meet face-2-face it was decided to hold



meetings online. A different process was put into practice which saw several new volunteers attend Panel meetings. Besides the informal chat with the Panel, the new volunteers were treated to a presentation by the DC, telling them all about the district, the district team, training and other useful information.

My thanks go to all the Appointments Advisory Committee members for their work throughout the last 12 months. I must also thank Mike King who stepped down as Secretary at the end of January and handed over to Caroline Dugdale.

**Len Wiseman - Appointments Advisory Committee Chair**

[len.wiseman@wyrescouts.org.uk](mailto:len.wiseman@wyrescouts.org.uk)



## Adult Training

During the past year the leader training scheme has considerably changed, not only to ensure leaders are compliant with their mandatory training, but also enable leaders to



continue to access the leader training scheme during the pandemic.

The getting started training is now completed through a series of eLearning modules and a new trustee induction module for executive members has been added. The remainder of the leader training modules have been adapted to either zoom, workbooks or eLearning. This allows leaders to complete their training and gain their wood badge. A blended learning approach to 1st Aid has been implemented and a series of management courses have also been held virtually, allowing new managers to gain vital training to support their teams. All the latest training dates and courses can now be found on the district website.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support by continuing to undertake their training, taking on board the changes to how it's delivered under sometimes difficult circumstances. In Wyre all our leaders are fully compliant with Safety and Safeguarding mandatory training.

I have also been able to keep meeting the compliance targets and ongoing training with the continued support from my team of training advisors and the District Commissioner. Thank you for your hard work, without your help the targets would not have been achieved, it is very much appreciated.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone, hopefully face to face soon.

**Caroline Dugdale - Local Training Manager**

[caroline.dugdale@wyrescouts.org.uk](mailto:caroline.dugdale@wyrescouts.org.uk)

# Adult Awards

Congratulations to our adult members who have been rewarded for their service to Scouts.

## Bar to the Silver Acorn

- Ian Porteous, Active Support



## Silver Acorn

- Len Wiseman, 1st Garstang



## Bar to the Award for Merit

- Don Ashworth, District Deputy Commissioner
- Caroline Dugdale, District Appointments Secretary



## Award for Merit

- Cherry Earle, Active Support
- John Gornall, 16th Fleetwood
- Liz Porter, Explorers
- Diane, Raina, District
- Jan Townley, Assistant District Commissioner (Beavers)



## Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Alex Smart, 1st Thornton Cleveleys | • Wilma Orrell, Anchorsholme   |
| • Emily Byrne, 1st Great Eccleston   | • John Powell, 1st Carleton    |
| • Trevor Catley, 4th Poulton         | • Ronald Jeffs, Active Support |
| • Tony Cherry, Anchorsholme          | • Rod Robinson, 1st Pilling    |
| • David Fairclough, Explorers        | • Karl Thornton, 1st Fleetwood |



## Length of Service Awards

**30 Years** Alan Cornforth, District  
Maureen Head, District  
Anne Shipway, District

**25 Years** Don Ashworth, Deputy DC  
Mike King, District  
David Simpson, District

**20 Years** Neil Ralph, District Chair

**15 Years** Gareth Bates, Network Commissioner  
Andrew Lees, Active Support  
Liz Porter, Explorers  
Steve Townsend, Active Support

**10 Years** Diane Raina, District  
Paul Truelove, District

**5 Years** Katie Black, Network  
David Fallows, Active Support  
Anthony May, Network  
Roisin McCann, Network  
Katharine Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Fleetwood  
Hayley Thornton, Active Support  
Andrew Truelove, Explorer  
Commissioner  
Suzanne Truelove, District



# Young People Awards

## Chief Scout's Gold Award

- **1<sup>st</sup> Carlton**  
Christian Dennison
- **1<sup>st</sup> Garstang**  
Victoria Bird  
Issac Hill  
Ruairi Watson  
Patrick Willshaw
- **4<sup>th</sup> Poulton**  
Joe Thomas Ellam  
Samuel Ward



## Chief Scout's Silver Award

- **1<sup>st</sup> Carlton**  
Nicholas Eaton  
Joel Millerick
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Cleveleys**  
Ben Tebay  
Reuben Smith
- **16<sup>th</sup> Fleetwood**  
Libby Holmes
- **1<sup>st</sup> Great Eccleston**  
Alex Jones
- **1<sup>st</sup> Poulton**  
Charlie Potts  
Kaya Thomas  
Lucas Thomas Watts  
Harry Bond
- **4<sup>th</sup> Poulton**  
Benjamin Horrocks,  
Nathaniel Ditman,  
Freddie Johnson-Lowe
- **1<sup>st</sup> Stalmine**  
Lizzie Loy  
Thomas Melling
- **1<sup>st</sup> Thornton**  
William Heaton  
Bentley
- **1<sup>st</sup> Thornton Cleveleys**  
Daisy-Mae Hill  
Jack Hocking  
Edward Riley  
Travis Tomlinson  
Daniel Wright  
Teddy Johnston  
Alfie Holland  
Noah Shanagher  
Isaac Anderson  
Emily Stephens



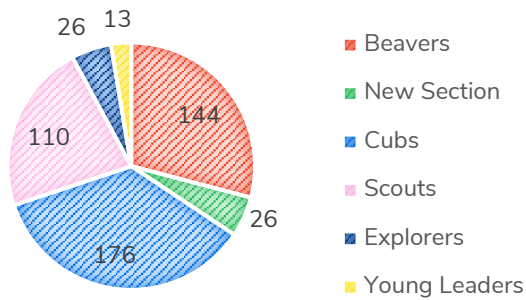
## Chief Scout's Bronze Award

- **1<sup>st</sup> Carleton**  
Stanley Mills  
William Cassidy
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Cleveleys**  
Tyler Bowden
- **1<sup>st</sup> Fleetwood**  
Caleb Rawlinson
- **16<sup>th</sup> Fleetwood**  
Marleigh Ruffs
- **4<sup>th</sup> Poulton**  
Charlie Geeson
- **1<sup>st</sup> Thornton**  
Alexander Haigh

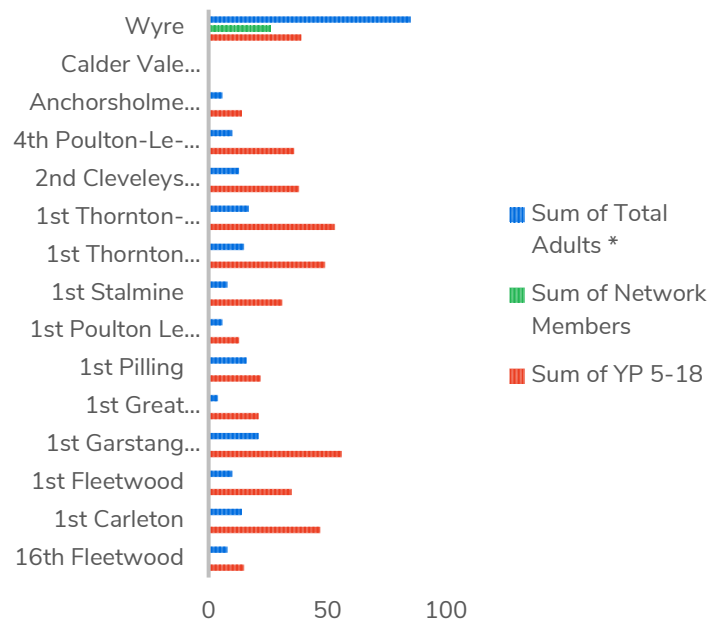


# Census Summary 2021

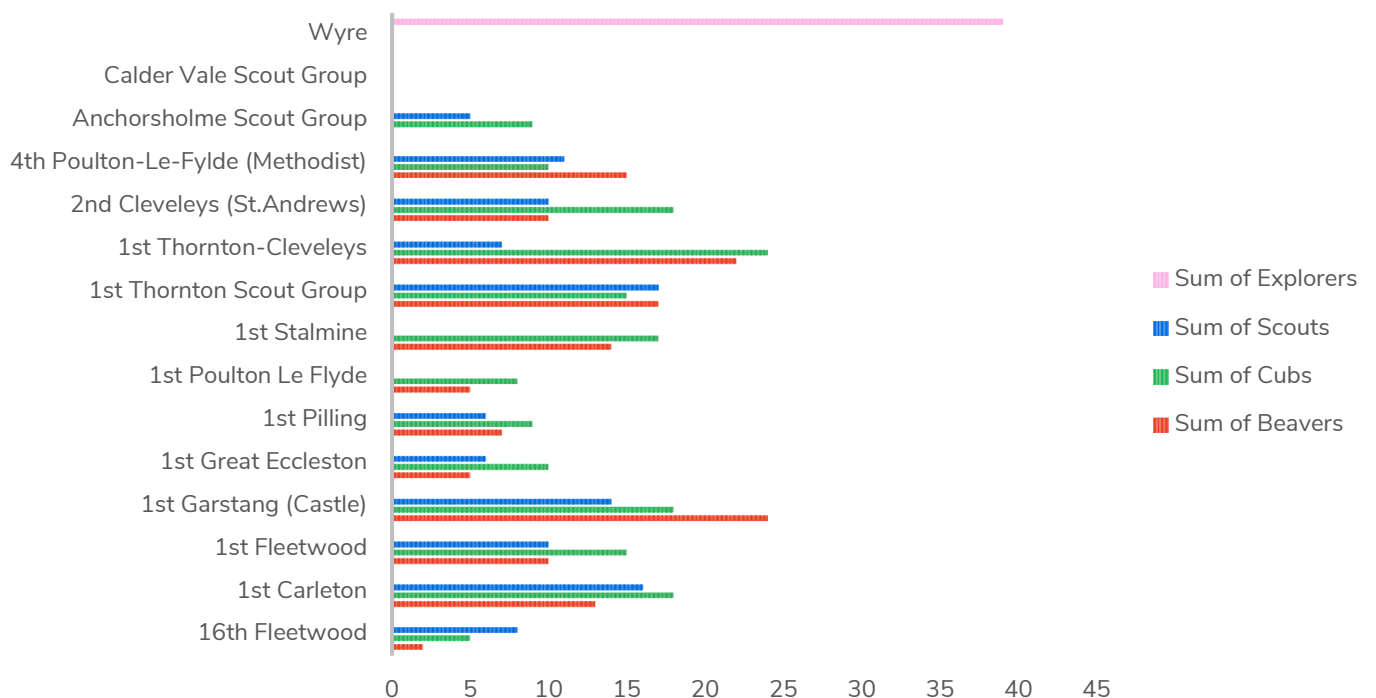
## WYRE SCOUTS CENSUS 2020 - 2021



## SUMMARY OF MEMBERS



## SUMMARY OF YOUNG PEOPLE



# Wyre Scouts Executive Committee

## 2020 – 2021

Vice President

Muriel Freestone

Vice President

Rick Ramsden

### Ex-Officio members

District Chair

Neil Ralph

District Commissioner

Jon Minshull

District Secretary

Margaret Forrest

District Treasurer

David Simpson

District Youth Commissioner

Luke Thornton

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Andrew Truelove

District Scout Network Commissioner

Gareth Bates

County Commissioner

Craig Dewar-Willox

County Chair

Carl Hankinson

### Elected members

Jan Townley

Len Wiseman – Chair of the Appointments Advisory Committee

Marjorie Crossley

Maureen Head

Nicky Dennison – Chair of the 14-25 sub-committee

### Nominated members

Andrew Graham – Chair of the Assets sub-committee

Rosemary Dyson

### Co-opted members

Colin Sills – Chair of the Finance and Fundraising sub-committee



# Thank you

On behalf of the young people who benefit from Scouting in Wyre, a very big thank you to our dedicated team of volunteer Leaders across the district and in each of our Groups who give their time so freely to make Scouting happen in Wyre.

It is because of you that our young people gain so much.

**Particular thanks for support, grants and donations, to:**

Mayor and Mayoress of Wyre

Rev. George Ayoma and clergy of all denominations

Arnold Clarke Foundation

CVS Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS Youth)

Robert Hall Foundation

Rotary Club of Fleetwood

Singleton & Smart Ltd

The Dulverton Trust

The Square Room

