

7th Wellington

11th Kidsgrove

12th Tunstall

Potteries North District Scout Council

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 22nd June 2020

Meeting held via Zoom

7.30pm



www.pnscouts.org.uk

BEAVERS

cubs



Scouts

SCOUTS

EXPLORERS

network[®]

Scouts



Potteries North
Scout Active Support



Young Leaders

1st Chatterley Whitfield

Potteries North Youth Team

84th Biddulph Moor

67th Burslem

105th Werrington

99th Berryhill

97th Rode Heath

85th Milton

13th Alsager

40th Stockton Brook

51st Smallthorne

59th Newchapel

**POTTERIES NORTH DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held on Monday 22nd June 2020

Meeting held via Zoom

7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Reflection - Pete Whitehouse
3. Apologies
4. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 AGM
5. Receipt and Consideration of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee.
6. Receipt of the Hon. Treasurer's report and Annual Statement of Accounts approved by the Executive Committee.
The Accounts have been approved by the Executive subject to Audit.
7. Approval of the DC's nomination of the District
Chairperson: Michele Lawrence
8. Approval of the DC's nominations of members to the
District Executive Committee: Colin Greatbatch, Don Longhurst,
Barry Walker, Ceris Walker, Shay Norman
9. Election of District Secretary: Liz Mapperson
10. Election of District Treasurer: Mr Rob Poole
11. Election of Members of the District Executive Comm.
Nominations Received:
Steve Travers, Peter Whitehouse, Mike Smith, Matt Clutton, Amy Ratcliffe.
12. Approval of Member to represent the District on the Kibblestone Scout District Exec:
Michele Lawrence, Imogen Boote to stand as Young Person Representative for the
Three Districts.

Approval of the Members to represent the District on the County Scout Council.
Sara Walklet and Amy Ratcliffe
13. Appointment of Independent Examiner: John Hyatt
14. District Commissioner's Remarks
15. Any Other Business notified to the District Secretary before 30th May, 2020
16. Closure of the Formal Business of the Meeting.

-
17. County Commissioner's Remarks

A full list of District Awards for 2019/2020 is appended

Thank you for taking part in our 1st Virtual Annual General Meeting.

Potteries North District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Smallthorne Community Centre, on Thursday 27th June, 2019 at 7.30pm

Present:

County Commissioner, Mrs Jacqueline Brocklehurst,
County Training Manager, Owen Dyde.
County Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Mr P Whitehouse, plus 48 members and guests, as listed on the attendance register.

Apologies:

Pat Russell, County Chair, Helen Wilcox, County Secretary, Oliver Brock and Paul Colclough, 51st Smallthorne.

Welcome:

Mr Jim Hunter, the Chair extended a warm welcome to the invited guests and to the members of Potteries North District Scout Council. He asked Mr. Peter Whitehouse to open the proceedings with a short reflection.

Peter asked us to reflect upon our common purpose: Giving young people the opportunity to gain skills for life.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2018 AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Thursday 14th June 2018, were circulated before the meeting.

Mr Peter Whitehouse proposed and Mr Phil Tyler seconded that the minutes be approved and signed as true record. All were in agreement.

Matters Arising

The chair confirmed there were no matters arising.

Receipt and Consideration of the Annual Report and the Annual Statement of Accounts:

The Chair presented the Annual Report contained within the AGM document. He noted that the main priority of the Executive was to ensure the District still functioned whilst the process of appointing a new DC was executed. He thanked Colin Greatbatch and Don Longhurst for their sterling work, alongside their District Team. The Groups, under their own Leadership had flourished which was a credit to all Leaders.

The Chair said it had been a wonderful experience to be part of Potteries North, and thanked everyone for the friendship and support they had given him. He hoped his successor would find the role as enjoyable and satisfying as he had and wished them well.

With no questions from the Council he handed over to Mr Rob Poole, Treasurer.

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019 (which had been approved by the District Executive Committee) were presented by the Treasurer, Mr Rob Poole, copies of the financial report were circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr Poole stated that there was nothing significant to highlight in the accounts. The income stood at the same level as it had 8 years ago. The District's Income and Expenditure is quite small and therefore, it has adopted a low risk strategy. All funds are held in cash in mainstream banks or invested in short term bonds. He reported that the district funds stood at £33,992 and that the Trustees were satisfied that the total financial resources were adequate to support the District.

Headline figures show an income of £13,841.76 and expenditure of £12,222.53 leaving a surplus of £1,619.23.

End of year bank balances of £33,991.66 of which £2,725.12 is held on behalf of charity fund, SAS PNYT and jamboree 2019 plus £3,079.20 ring fenced for Church Lawton until 30/07/2023.

Nett District funds therefore stand at £28,187.34. This creates a true deficit for the year of £2,143.21 - which I believe reflects a true statement of our finances for the year.

The Treasurer wished to thank Mr. John Hyatt for his services as auditor.

No questions were asked by the District Council.

The Chair thanked Mr. Poole for his sterling work and added his thanks to Mr. Hyatt.

Approval of the DC's nomination of the District Chairperson:

The outgoing Chair stepped down.

The DC was seeking the approval of Mrs Michele Lawrence as District Chair:

All were in favour.

Mrs Michele Lawrence thanked everyone for their support and said she would do her best to uphold the position.

DC's Nomination for the District Executive for 2018/19

Matt Clutton, Amy Ratcliffe. Shay Norman, to be co-opted until his 18th Birthday, when he will become a full member. Taken en block and all were in favour.

Election of District Secretary

The Chair noted that the current secretary, Judith Hunter felt it was time to retire and had asked the DC to look for a replacement. Judith will work alongside the new Secretary until she feels well established.

We have received a nomination of Liz Mapperson for District Secretary.

Liz Mapperson was proposed by Jenny Walker and seconded by Peter Whitehouse. All approved.

Chair thanked Judith for her work within the District.

Election of District Treasurer

Mr Rob Poole was proposed by Carol Hyatt and seconded by Sara Walklet. All approved.

Election of Members of the District Executive

Nominations were received for Mike Smith, Peter Whitehouse, Richard Hawthorne, and Steve Travers. Proposed by Matt Clutton and seconded by Carol Hyatt. Taken en-bloc and all in favour.

Approval of the Executive nomination of Members to represent the District on Kibblestone Scout Council

Michele Lawrence. Imogen Boote was also proposed to represent the Three Districts on the Kibblestone Executive. All Agreed.

Appointment of Independent Examiner: Mr John Hyatt – all approved.

The DC asked the District Scout Council if they would give approval to the appointment of a Vice President. He wished to Appoint Jim Hunter to the role.

All Agreed.

District Presentations

The DC presented Jim with a Certificate of Appointment and thanked him for his work as Chair of the District Executive Committee prior to that as a member of the Executive for many years.

The DC presented Imogen Boote with her Woodbadge

The DC presented Andy Ellis with a Commissioners Commendation.

DC's Remarks

The DC's opening remarks were startling: He informed the Council that Scouting was going to change, Uniform, Training and Leadership Levels. This would start with the District structure.

The DC said it was encouraging to see all Groups come together. He was looking forward to establishing a District Team who would together give the young people within the District fantastic experiences.

He thanked Colin and Don for their work within the District and was pleased to say that they had accepted his offer to assist him on the new Leadership Team, their roles being Deputy District Commissioners.

The DC spoke of the heroic actions of Stuart Mosely and his six Leaders who had provided support in a life threatening incident during the previous weekend. The DC said he wanted to share with the District their outstanding courage and bravery. He has commended them to the Movement.

POTTERIES NORTH DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Section 1	Legal and Administrative Information
Charity name	Potteries North District Scout Council
Charity Commission registered number	
For the financial year beginning on	01/04/19
For the financial year ending on	31/03/20
Charity's principal address	-

Description of the charity's trusts:

Governing document	The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Objects of the charity	The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local national and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership
Specific investment powers	None

Professional advisers:

Accountants / Scrutineer's	John Hyatt
Bankers	National Westminster Bank

Section 2	Trustees and Governance
------------------	--------------------------------

Name of Trustee	Dates during which named trustees acted, if not for whole period of this report	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint any charity trustee
Michele Lawrence District Chairman		Potteries North District Scout Council
Dale Harrison District Commissioner		The County Commissioner
Colin Greatbatch Don Longhurst Deputy District Commissioners		The County Commissioner
Rob Poole District Treasurer		Potteries North District Scout Council
Liz Mapperson District Secretary		Potteries North District Scout Council
Sara Walket District Explorer Scout Commissioner		Potteries North District Scout Council
Imogen Boote District Youth Commissioner		Potteries North District Scout Council
<i>DC's Nominated Members</i>		
Matt Clutton		District Commissioner Pot. N Dist. S.C
Amy Ratcliffe		District Commissioner Pot. N Dist. S.C
<i>Scout Council Elected Members</i>		
Mike Smith		Potteries North District Scout Council
Peter Whitehouse		Potteries North District Scout Council
Barry Walker		Potteries North District Scout Council
Richard Hawthorne		Potteries North District Scout Council
Steve Travers		Potteries North District Scout Council
<i>Scout Council Young Person Representative</i>		

Trustee selection method:

The District Commissioner is appointed by the County Commissioner. All the other trustees are either nominated by the District Commissioner and approved or directly elected at the Annual General Meeting of the charity.

Section 3	Activities and Achievements
<p>Summary of Achievements During the Year</p>	<p>As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. We encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more. Each week, we give young people the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed, now and in the future.</p> <p>We are talking about teamwork, leadership and resilience – skills that have helped Scouts become everything from teachers and social workers to astronauts and Olympians. We believe in bringing people together.</p> <p>We celebrate diversity and stand against intolerance, always. We are part of a worldwide movement, creating stronger communities and inspiring positive futures. We are preparing more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing Leaders delivering an inspiring programme.</p> <p>We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities. We are proud to say we are a values-based movement. Our Scout values of integrity, respect, care, belief and cooperation guide everything we do.</p> <p>The successes of the Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network in the District, guided and assisted by their Leaders and Helpers, continue to set new and higher standards and they thoroughly enjoy themselves in the process.</p> <p>The range of activities offered by the Sections within the District continues to broaden. What many of our young members consider to be “the norm” would amaze the young people who have yet to sample the opportunities Potteries North Scouting can offer them. Beaver Scout Colonies, Cub Scout Packs, Scout Troops and Explorer Scout Units continue to deliver a quality programme which is the reason behind their numbers increasing - quality continues to breed success.</p> <p>Yet again there has been an increase in the number, and wider range, of Leader Activity Permit authorisations. There also continues to be an increased number of applications for Leaders’ Nights Away Permit accreditations.</p> <p>Consequently, the numbers of Chief Scout’s Awards gained, ranging from Bronze Awards for Beaver Scouts to Diamond Awards for Explorer Scouts, are increasing. The number of Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Scout’s Awards gained has increased. One Queen Scout award was gained. “Young Leaders” completing various elements of these awards have been giving invaluable assistance, over many months, to Colonies, Packs and Troops throughout the District</p> <p>The cornerstone of Scouting’s success has always been the willingness of many adults to volunteer their services in a great variety of roles, whether it is as a Leader, Helper, Administrator or Supporter. This exceptional service is recognised, and I am very grateful for all the work you and your teams put in every week.</p> <p>The end of this year has been truly strange with the suspension of Face to Face Scouting; we are planning and will be back better and stronger.</p>

Section 4	Policies
------------------	-----------------

Reserves policy	<p>The District’s policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District for one year should income and fund raising fail to raise any money. The current reserves are £33,992</p>
Investment Policy	<p>The District’s Income and Expenditure is small and therefore it has adopted a Low-risk strategy. All funds are held in cash in mainstream banks or invested in the Scout Short Term Investment Service.</p>

Grant-making policy	<p>The Trustees do not make grants to outside organisations</p>
----------------------------	---

Investments Selection policy	<p>The Scout Association’s Policy, Organisation & Rules set out the manner in which the funds of the County may be invested</p>
-------------------------------------	---

Section 5	Signature and Declaration
Declaration	I declare, in my capacity as charity trustee, that:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the trustees have approved the report above; and
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have authorised me to sign on their behalf.
Signature	<i>M J Lawrence</i>
Full Name	Michele Lawrence
Position	District Chairman
Date	15 th May 2020

POTTERIES NORTH DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2020



<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	£		£			£		£	
Badges	100		590		Badges	311		281	
SAS	62		387		SAS	516		471	
Census (District)	1,215		959		Census payment (County)	31,354			
Census (prior year)	0		1,995		Census receipts (Groups)	(29,565)			
					Census (nett)	1,789		0	
Donations (Councillors)	0		0		Stationary	509		512	
Donations (Charities)	807		0		Grants to sections	415		71	
Donations (Services)	391		342		Donations (Services)	100		250	
(Mike Churchill)	0		69		(Charities - Parkinsons)	1,208		132	
					(Other)	200		494	
Interest	215		88		AGM	329		379	
Miscellaneous	131		20		Awards Evening	240		270	
					Miscellaneous	0		0	
					Wreaths	37		36	
Events Team	57		200		Gifts	0		52	
Events - Football	90		9		District Costs	100		0	
Events - Swim Gala	222		399		District Neckers	0		219	
District Camp 2019	1,751		0		Hi Vis Jackets	0		126	
District Camp 2020	0		0		Events Team	0		300	
Jamboree 2019	1,978		4,955		Events - Football	0		150	
Explorer Belt	150		0		Events - Swim Gala	0		288	
					District Camp 2019	2,375		120	
					District Camp 2020	888		0	
					Jamboree 2019	2,385		5,772	
					Explorer Belt	0		0	
					Motion Picture Licensing	301		292	
					PRS License	770		706	
PNYT	0		472		PNYT	0		580	
Burdi Boys	14,365		276		Burdi Boys	12,124		722	
Burdi DVDs	960		0		Burdi DVDs	800		0	
Burdi Hoodies	1,434		0		Burdi Hoodies	1,362		0	
Australia Badges	1,082		0		Australia Badges	975		0	
Church Lawton Funds	0		3,079						
Excess Expenditure over Income	2,724		0		Excess Income over Expenditure	0		1,619	
Total	27,734		13,842		Total Exp.	27,734		13,842	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2020

Balances at 1st April 2019

Cash	17
Current Account	12,584
Leek United 1yr fix 0.95% (Mar 18)	21,391
Add surplus	(2,724)
Total	31,268

Balances at 31st March 2020

Cash	7
Current Account	9,654
Leek United 1yr fix 0.95% (Mar 18)	21,607
Total	31,268

CENSUS BREAKDOWN - POTTERIES NORTH DISTRICT SCOUTS - 2020

	Beaver s	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	Totals	HQ Levy	County Levy	Total Received	Total to County	District Levy
	Census Rate per person					£28.50	£8.00			£1.50
Total	256	286	209	108	859	£23,085.00	£6,480.00	£29,565.00	£31,353.50	£1,215.00
1st Kidsgrove	28	26	17	14	85	£2,422.50	£680.00	£3,102.50	£3,102.50	£127.50
7th Wellington	11	13	13	13	50	£1,425.00	£400.00	£1,825.00	£1,825.00	£75.00
12th Golden Hill	10	9	15	3	37	£1,054.50	£296.00	£1,350.50	£1,350.50	£55.50
13th Alsager	54	60	34	17	165	£4,702.50	£1,320.00	£6,022.50	£6,022.50	£247.50
40th Stockton Brook	15	21	13	9	58	£1,653.00	£464.00	£2,117.00	£2,117.00	£87.00
51st Smallthorne	11	12	11	0	34	£969.00	£272.00	£1,241.00	£1,241.00	£51.00
59th Newchapel	14	18	16	17	65	£1,852.50	£520.00	£2,372.50	£2,372.50	£97.50
67th Burslem	5	12	7	3	27	£769.50	£216.00	£985.50	£985.50	£40.50
84th Biddulph Moor	16	15	13	5	49	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,788.50	£0.00
85th Milton	24	38	16	0	78	£2,223.00	£624.00	£2,847.00	£2,847.00	£117.00
97th Rode Heath	22	15	18	13	68	£1,938.00	£544.00	£2,482.00	£2,482.00	£102.00
99th Berry Hill	15	18	9	2	44	£1,254.00	£352.00	£1,606.00	£1,606.00	£66.00
105th Werrington	22	23	22	12	79	£2,251.50	£632.00	£2,883.50	£2,883.50	£118.50
1st Chatterley Whitfield	9	6	5	0	20	£570.00	£160.00	£730.00	£730.00	£30.00



Charity Name
Potteries North District Scout Council

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01/04/2019 To 31/03/2020

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
SAS	62	-	-	62	387
Interest	215	-	-	215	88
Badges	100	-	-	100	590
Collection at Services	391	-	-	391	342
Donations (Councillors)	-	-	-	-	-
Collections (Charities)	807	-	-	807	-
Donations (Mike Churchill)	-	-	-	-	69
District Levy	1,215	-	-	1,215	959
Census - prior year	-	-	-	-	1,995
Miscellaneous	131	-	-	131	20
Jamboree	1,978	-	-	1,978	4,955
Explorer Belt	150	-	-	150	-
Burdi Boys	14,365	-	-	14,365	276
Burdi DVDs	960	-	-	960	-
Burdi Hoodies	1,434	-	-	1,434	-
District camp	1,751	-	-	1,751	-
Events Team	57	-	-	57	200
Events - Football	90	-	-	90	9
Events - Swim Gala	222	-	-	222	399
Australia Badges	1,082	-	-	1,082	-
PNYT	-	-	-	-	472
Church Lawton Funds	-	-	-	-	3,079
Sub total	25,010	-	-	25,010	13,842
A2 Payments					
SAS	516	-	-	516	471
Badges	311	-	-	311	281
Grants to Sections	415	-	-	415	71
District Costs	100	-	-	100	-
AGM	329	-	-	329	379
Awards Evenings	240	-	-	240	270
Gifts	-	-	-	-	52
Postage & Stationery	509	-	-	509	512
Motion Picture Licensing	301	-	-	301	292
PRS Licensing	770	-	-	770	706
Donations (Services)	100	-	-	100	250
Donations (Parkinsons)	1,208	-	-	1,208	132
Donations (other)	200	-	-	200	494
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
District Neckers	-	-	-	-	219
Hi Vis Jackets	-	-	-	-	126
Jamboree	2,385	-	-	2,385	5,772
Wreaths	37	-	-	37	36
Chatterley Whitfield	-	-	-	-	-
First Aid Course	-	-	-	-	-
District camp	2,375	-	-	2,375	120
District camp 2020	888	-	-	888	-
Events Team	-	-	-	-	300
Events - Football	-	-	-	-	150
Events - Swim Gala	-	-	-	-	288
District Scout Trip Holland	-	-	-	-	-
Census	1,789	-	-	1,789	-
Burdi Boys	12,124	-	-	12,124	722
Burdi DVDs	800	-	-	800	-
Burdi Hoodies	1,362	-	-	1,362	-
Australia Badges	975	-	-	975	-
PNYT	-	-	-	-	580
Sub total	27,734	-	-	27,734	12,222
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,724	-	-	- 2,724	1,619
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	33,992	-	-	33,992	32,373
Cash funds this year end	31,268	-	-	31,268	33,992

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash	7	-	-
	Current Account	9,654		
	Leek United (1yr fix 0.95%)	21,607		
		-		-
	Total cash funds	31,268	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK OK OK

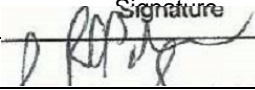

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ROBERT POOLE	04/06/2020
	MICHELE LAWRENCE	04/06/2020

Potteries North District Commissioners Report 2019 - 2020

As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. We encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more. Each week, we give young people the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed, now and in the future.

We are talking about teamwork, leadership and resilience – skills that have helped Scouts become everything from teachers and social workers to astronauts and Olympians. We believe in bringing people together.

We celebrate diversity and stand against intolerance, always. We are part of a worldwide movement, creating stronger communities and inspiring positive futures. We are preparing more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing Leaders delivering an inspiring programme.

We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities. We are proud to say we are a values-based movement. Our Scout values of integrity, respect, care, belief and cooperation guide everything we do.

The successes of the Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network in the District, guided and assisted by their Leaders and Helpers, continue to set new and higher standards and they thoroughly enjoy themselves in the process.

The range of activities offered by the Sections within the District continues to broaden. What many of our young members consider to be “the norm” would amaze the young people who have yet to sample the opportunities Potteries North Scouting can offer them. Beaver Scout Colonies, Cub Scout Packs, Scout Troops and Explorer Scout Units continue to deliver a quality programme which is the reason behind their numbers increasing - quality continues to breed success.

Yet again there has been an increase in the number, and wider range, of Leader Activity Permit authorisations. There also continues to be an increased number of applications for Leaders' Nights Away Permit accreditations.

Consequently, the numbers of Chief Scout's Awards gained, ranging from Bronze Awards for Beaver Scouts to Diamond Awards for Explorer Scouts, are increasing. The number of Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Scout's Awards gained has increased. One Queen Scout award was gained.

“Young Leaders” completing various elements of these awards have been giving invaluable assistance, over many months, to Colonies, Packs and Troops throughout the District

The cornerstone of Scouting's success has always been the willingness of many adults to volunteer their services in a great variety of roles, whether it is as a Leader, Helper, Administrator or Supporter. This exceptional service is recognised, and I am very grateful for all the work you and your teams put in every week.

The end of this year has been truly strange with the suspension of Face to Face Scouting; we are planning and will be back better and stronger.

Stay safe everyone.

Yours in scouting

Dale Harrison

Dale Harrison
District Commissioner

When Dale Harrison, our new DC, was preparing for his interview for the role of DC he asked me to consider being District Chair. I didn't say yes immediately. I decided to interview him before his official interview. I wanted to find out what his ambitions were for the District.

It didn't take long to realise that he is passionate about Scouting and the District and wants to continue the work that Jackie Brocklehurst had done in building a strong, vibrant and youth led district.

Based on that I said yes and the rest as they say is history.

Safe to say it had been a strange first year. There have been some wonderful highlights though.

I was privileged to present two long service awards at Wellington in July at their AGM to two members of their executive both having served 60 years. An outstanding achievement and dedication.

Dave, Mr Skip, Bannister, celebrated 60 years of service in December and again, I was privileged to present his award at Milton HQ during a wonderful evening dedicated to Mr Skip and Scouting.

Burdi Boys 2019 was a resounding success in every way and congratulations to everyone involved. Burdi is a tremendous amount of hard work, but when you can see how well the District pulls together and how much everyone involved benefits, is it worth all the endeavours that go to make it possible. It is a brilliant showcase for everything in Scouting.

There were so many events being planned for 2020/2021 but as we know Corona Virus brought Scouting not only here in Potteries North but Worldwide to a crashing halt. Events have been postponed, not cancelled. When we are able it would be great if as many young people as possible could participate to make each event a resounding success.

Scouting and particularly in Potteries North rose to the challenge of no face to face meetings and are keeping scouting very much a live and active in these trying times.

Our St Georges Day Celebration was a prime example of this with. Many people were able to participate sending in snippets that became part of an amazing, moving event led by Father John at Christ Church, Tunstall and Cath Leighton. Our resident technical wizard, Shay Norman, made the video side of things work seamlessly.

Judith Hunter informed the Executive that as far as she is aware we were the only district in the UK to hold a complete St Georges Day Service with hymns, readings and sermon, not to forget the sock puppets performance of St George and the Dragon.

The Executive meets virtually to ensure that Potteries North continues to operate within PO&R and meets its obligations towards the district and groups. We do not know what the future holds for Scouting at this time but the Executive is doing all that it can to support groups to make sure that all can open their doors again when face to face scouting resumes. The minutes will be available on our social media.

Thank you to every member of the Executive for all their work for the District. Many have more than one role in Scouting and the extra effort put in to be a member of the executive is appreciated.

On behalf of the Executive I would like to thank each and every person in Potteries North for all their work this last Scouting Year. You are all a credit to Scouting and I am proud to be a part of it.

Many thanks to Jim Hunter for his stint as Chair, a hard act to follow without a doubt.

Also many thanks to Judith Hunter for her support and advice as I learn my role.

Whatever you are doing to keep Scouting alive in your sections, groups or executives carry on Scouting. As someone said "Teamwork makes the Dream work"

Michele Lawrence
District Chair

Many people dread the idea of technology, many of the emails I get start with people telling me how they struggle with IT. So, when people have asked me what my role entails, I'd say it's trying to alleviate that feeling of unease when it comes to digital scouting.

It's been a very busy year for Communications and Media. Our website continues to gain more monthly visitors who are clicking on more pages, finding us from more locations and staying on our site for longer. Through our website we've now started capturing data in an attempt to reduce the time taken for leaders to fill out forms and make it easier for our team to decipher them when they arrive!

Adults can now submit Nights Away Notifications and Award Nominations through the site, and we've seen a massive increase in the amount of online NAN's submitted, which reassures us that the ability to fill out these forms from your phone and in a clear simplistic way is something our volunteers appreciate.

In the last year our public Facebook page and our private Facebook groups have proved a real asset in terms of our communications. The majority of our posts and updates get very good coverage and it enables us to share the positive experiences and stories in scouting more easily than ever before.

The ability for our team to email out to all volunteers, section leaders and GSLs has been a key focus of mine and over the next year I'll be continuing to focus on making sure our Compass contact details are accurate and up to date so that role specific emailing becomes easier and quicker, meaning less irrelevant emails and more contact with the members of our team that are most able to support you in your role.

Online Scout Manager continues to play a massive part in reducing the admin for our leaders. With nearly all our groups registered on OSM we'll be looking to offer support to those sections not yet on-board and developing leaders' knowledge in utilising more of the functionality paid for by the county such as online payments, Gift Aid, badges and emailing parents.

Possibly our biggest successes as a District in technology have been since the start of UK 'lockdown'. Our website was opened up to submissions throughout the whole of April where we saw nearly two hundred camps at home submitted! We also wanted to see you all clapping for carers and were amazed with over a hundred submissions.

It was an absolute pleasure to work with Fr John to put together our fantastic St George's Day service which has now been viewed by over a 1000 people and was one of the only full virtual services in the UK. Alongside this there's been supporting volunteers in getting used to Zoom – we've held some fantastic GSLs, Executive and Team meetings and I'm aware there's been lots of our leaders really getting on-board with Virtual Scouting which has been brilliant to see.

There's been an awful lot of progress this year in technology, but we have a lot more upcoming, so I felt it fitting to end on a quote from Alan Turing. "We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done".

Shay Norman
District Communications & Media Manager

Where do I start, I was asked to take on this role last year, the start of the year was great I attended the county training day and found out more about the role, and how I could develop it in Potteries North, I have attended the Safeguarding training in Manchester, I am looking forward to training leaders in all sections.

Inclusion Development Plan 2020 – 2021

	Resources to achieve	When to be completed by
To present at the adult forum with “what is inclusion” And how we can develop as a district to have the attitude of “scouting for all”	PowerPoint HQ Information	April 2021
To support all GSL’s and District team to complete the inclusion rag rating, once completed to look at each group’s needs and develop a district action plan	Rag Rating to GSL’s and District members Action plan	September 2020 December 2020
To continue to support the DC with safeguarding and develop each leaders understanding of safeguarding	Safeguarding training Laptop and projector	November 2019
To develop workshops to support leaders to support young people with additional needs from allergies to autism	Laptop HQ information	Ongoing
To develop, support and guide the development of our Muslim group	Open day with scouting activities	July 2021
To develop a team for Inclusion		December 2020

Ceris Walker
ADC Inclusion

As with all of us we are having a very different year with Scouting, work and life in general. With being in post for just under a year we have only a couple of District Events that have taken place.

October we had the District Football competition – an enjoyable day personally as I managed watch the young people take part and enjoy themselves. This was well supported from all sections – thank you to all those who took part and also helped to organize the event at ‘Goals Stoke’

Burdi Boys 2019 – what a show, great support from across the District with great numbers on stage, and also fantastic ticket sales. This led to ‘The Greatest’ Show being put on and everyone enjoying themselves, with fantastic reviews. Well Done to All.

December came and saw our annual Christmas Carol Concert – Thanks to all the people who organized this an enjoyable evening.

January we had the Swimming night at Fenton Manor attended by over 200 young people, working towards various levels of their Scout swimming awards. Thank you all for your support. Who knew that this would be the last event before lockdown.

As we know Corona virus has put pay to any further face to face events however this did not stop Potteries North being one of the only Districts in the Country to give a full St Georges Day service and celebration. This was a fantastic afternoon and amazing to see what had been created. Well done to all and Thank you.

Moving forward and putting a plan in place for now to end of 2021 myself and the District team want to give young people and also leaders the chance to be involved with looking at events, maybe new events or tweaking current ones.

We would like to hopefully have District camp in 2021 and also some activity days for sections- information will follow when we are able to send this out, plus many other activities for all. Burdi Boys 2021 is something we are currently working on and putting a team in place to give the District and Scouting in Potteries North to be again proud of. A new theatre for many, exciting opportunities and the Burdi Brand being launched. Leaders, young people who do not know much about Burdi or and events across the District please ask and get in touch with myself or any of the District team.

Thanks go to all the people who have attended activities, parents, District team, Mike Smith for being the Chair of events team. I look forward to a positive year once we are allowed to Scout again and wish you all to join us on the adventure of Potteries North

Barry Walker
DDC Events

EXPLORERS Potteries North Explorer Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Since the last AGM I have visited majority of the Explorer groups and have been invited to DoE expedition presentations, group Carol services, litter picks, Police dog visits, Best Chippy event to name a few. The Explorers have been busy and the enthusiasm from them all has been a joy to see.

The last Census shows Explorers in our District has increased to 108 young people with units providing quality programmes, working on top awards and fun had by all. Over the year Explorers have been involved in helping at Bonfires, Santa runs, Christmas tree recycling, Vintage Rally, fund raising events for charity, Chase Walk, sorting food donations at the foodbanks and more!

In the Summer of 2019, three Explorers represented Potteries North as part of the Staffordshire Contingent at the World Scout Jamboree, West Virginia, USA. They made new friends with Scouts from all over the World, experienced new cultures, foods and camping on a very large scale (40000+ Scouts and leaders) and also visited New York, Washington, Niagara Falls and Canada. Scouting and making memories for life.

The District Football competition was well attended by Explorers and the Clay Pigeon Shoot was a great success, between the two events nearly every Explorer group was represented.

Explorer groups have had joint meetings with other groups in our District, we have had our first Explorer Camp at Consall in October, it was a very wet and windy weekend however this didn't stop the Explorers and Leaders team building and making new friends within the District.

County Young Leader camp was a great success with Potteries North having the most attendees (13) from one District. I have been able to offer 2 First Aid courses for Young Leaders to complete this module of training. I have also presented 4 Young Leader buckles since the last Awards night and we have others just finishing off the award.

Burdi Boys was a great success with Explorers helping at Beaver and Cub rehearsals, taking part in the show and helping Front of House.

Unfortunately due to the present climate Scouting face to face has had to stop, this however hasn't stopped the Explorers. I would like to thank the Leaders and Explorers for pulling together at this time, we have groups meeting weekly via zoom for social quizzes, badge work, guest speakers, talking to other groups around the World, DofE planning and Young Leader Training (amongst other things).

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all soon and more Scouting adventures.

Sara Walklet
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Potteries North

Youth Commissioners Annual Report 2019 - 2020

2019 has been a busy year. I have had the opportunity to visit several sections throughout the District to see the amazing activities our young people are getting to do. I have especially enjoyed working with and supporting several Explorers this year to plan and achieve. Alongside section meetings I visited the first District Explorer Camp where we held a youth forum about what the Explorers wanted from the District.

Burdi Boys Gang Show 2019 was a huge hit yet again! Following the success of implementing youth involvement in 2017, this year the aim was to get even more young people involved. Our Beaver, Cub and Scout production teams had youth members involved. We had young people backstage, helping in the dressing rooms and welcoming the audience each night as part of our Front of House team.

We held our first District Youth Forum with over 40 young people in attendance from Scout and Explorer groups across the District. The ideas and feedback generated from this event are now being used by the District Team and Executive to make positive changes and adjustments to make scouting as youth shaped as possible.

Although 2020 looks to be a very different year for Scouting than what we are normally used to, I look forward to continuing my role and supporting the wonderful leaders and young people in Potteries North.

Imogen Boote

District Youth Commissioner



Potteries North Youth Team Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Over the last year the Youth Team has been under review, with the hope to reconstruct over the new term. As part of the new vision, the team will work in line with the youth commissioner to form a collective of keen representatives from each group. The aim is to empower the voices of the youth within the district, as part of the reform.

Amy Ratcliffe
Youth Team Chair

The Scout Active Support membership at the moment is 33.

The past year was fairly busy with a variety of activities and events which contributed to our success in achieving our aims as set out in our Service Agreement with the District Commissioner and which is renewed every year.

However, due to a lack of requests for help from the various sections of the District we have not been as busy as we usually are. St George's day and the Carol Service were our major events with a few individuals assisting with just a few tasks. We also helped with The Burdi Boys Gang Show in November.

Members have taken part in a few social events and a successful day out to see our colleague Rev Cath Leighton administering her 1st communion after her ordination and then followed by a visit to RAF Cosford. We have also continued with our bi-monthly successful dinners or lunches up to "lockdown".

We have attempted to change the format of our meetings so that we can make the meetings more meaningful by including a speaker or have a presentation which we will now "tweak" to help make them more successful. We have already had presentations from Jamboree participants.

It is always worth reminding District members that there is a wealth of Scouting experience in the Scout Active Support Unit and many years of dedicated service to the Movement, so feel free to use our skills. We also wish to invite all adults in the District to join us and especially those who find that they cannot commit a lot of time to help with the Groups but can find a little time to continue their Scouting.

Malcolm Blaze
Scout Active Support Unit Manager

Report of Last Round of Awards 2019/20



Silver Wolf (St. George's Day Awards)

Roy Peach

Potteries North

Silver Acorn (St. George's Day Awards)

Joe Fahey

7th Wellington

Award for Merit

Karl Ratcliff

85th Milton

Chief Scout's Commendation

Dave Ball

40th Stockton Brook

Josh Cornes

1st Kidsgrove

Kirsty Williams

105th Werrington

Gordon Rhodes

105th Werrington

Terry Rhodes

105th Werrington

Liz Mapperson

Potteries North

Ruth Millington

105th Werrington

Laura Bradshaw

105th Werrington

Garry Potter

105th Werrington