

SCOUTS

Scout Report 2019/20

I'm delighted to report that the District recorded a further rise in the number of young people in the Scout section in the 2020 census with a 14.6% increase. The standard of scouting across the district is extremely high with most groups delivering very exciting programmes and opportunities for Scouts to achieve their Gold Chief Scout Award. Many young people from Bradford South attended the County Awards Ceremony at Bradford Cathedral last October and were presented with their Gold Awards.

Last summer over 20 Scouts from Bradford South joined Scouts from across West Yorkshire and took part in an international Scout holiday. One group enjoyed a jamborette in Haarlam in the Netherlands and enjoyed fun-filled days of activities alongside Scouts from other countries. A second group took part in an adventurous activity holiday to Aosta in Italy. All the young people had a fantastic time and came back with lots of happy memories and tales to tell of their adventures. Following on from the success of these trips a further Bradford South international trip is planned to the Ardeche in France next summer and over 80 young people are already booked on to the trip.

In September we held a District Scout Camping Competition and groups enjoyed competing for the newly resurrected Sutherland Trophy. The weekend was delightful with excellent weather and a great bunch of Scouts who worked extremely well in their teams and were a credit to their groups. Well done to 64th – winners of the trophy in a very closely contested competition.

Over the summer holidays a group of District Scouts helped the Marsden Moor National Trust plant over 2,400 Sphagnum Moss seedlings despite atrocious weather conditions. They gained recognition and were named "Climate Action Heroes" by the Peak District National Park Authority. Many of the Scouts gained their John Muir Award. On another rather wet day last March another group of Scouts enjoyed taking part in activities to gain their Naturalist Badge at Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve, Elland.

The annual torchlit Scout and Explorer Memory Walk around Swinsty Reservoir took part last November just ahead of Remembrance Day with a Remembrance Service at the side of the water. It was a peaceful and moving evening, attended by over a 100 people and one that I'm sure the Scouts will remember for many years to come.

Unfortunately, other planned events had to be cancelled as the country went into lockdown and so with anticipation and eagerness we look forward to more fun and adventure as a phased return to Scouting begins once it is safe to do so.

Many thanks to Stephen who has taken on the ADC Scout role and to Ian who is supporting conservation work. I wish you both much success in the coming year. Thanks also to Mick and David for support with District Scout activities.