

THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION  
(incorporated by Royal Charter)

*Patron:* Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

*Founder:* The Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell, O.M.,  
G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., LL.D.

*Chief Scout:* Bear Grylls

## SUNDERLAND DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION

District Headquarters: Kayll House, 9 Foyle Street, Sunderland SR1 1LB  
Telephone/Fax: (0191) 565 7444

# Annual Report 2011 - 2012



For all Scouting uniforms and resources, visit the Sunderland District Scout Shop  
Open every Thursday in term time 7 to 8 pm  
In Kayll House basement



leasing of car parking space at the rear of the premises on a day time basis to a local business. The building however remains an under-used resource.

The future of the derelict premises at Seaburn remains unresolved although we are moving to a closure on the sale of Goldenlands at Stanhope. My concern for the future remains the shortage of qualified leaders and helpers. If the movement in Sunderland is to grow, we need an increase in leaders. We have sought help from the Regional Development Office to work with us all to expand groups and to establish new groups in parts of the City where we know demand exists for the scouting experience.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in scouting in the City. We can be proud in what we achieve.

**Leslie Scott**  
*District Chairman*

### District Commissioner's Message

I look back on another year of Scouting in Sunderland District with a sense of achievement in some areas and a feeling of great potential – as yet undeveloped – in others.

I am thrilled to report two new appointments to the Executive Committee. Steve Whatt is our new District Explorer Scout Commissioner and brings enthusiasm and good Scouting credentials to the role. I know that he will work with Leaders and Explorers to develop Young Leader training and establish a good programme of progression within that Section. I welcome Keith Lowes taking on the role of District Treasurer so I can relinquish my "caretaker" role! I know he will bring a fresh approach and new skills to advise us on the best use of our resources for the benefit of the District. Welcome to you both!

We have seen another reduction in both our youth and adult membership since 2011 but the drop in youth membership is minimal and I know that several groups have already recruited adults since the census was taken on January 31st 2012.

However, we must all continue to be encouraging and flexible in recruiting leaders. I have had enquiries from two local community groups who want to host Scouting in their facilities. Over the coming year, we will work very closely with both of these bodies, District Leaders and Regional and County teams to increase the provision of Scouting for young people in these areas.

Leadership development is a high priority. Over the last twelve months, Val Atkinson, our District Secretary, has worked hard to update adult members' details so they are accurate. With the recent training of more leaders so they can become members of the Adult Appointments Committee we will ensure that we have a great enough pool of leaders to speedily proceed through the appointments process. We have also increased the number of Training Advisors – though we still need more – and will soon be able to plot leaders' progress in their training and provide training locally when necessary. By supporting Leaders, we can all be confident that we are providing a high standard of support to our young Scouters.

It is with sadness that I must note that Mike Woodward has Gone Home. Mike was a credit to Scouting in Sunderland and will be a big miss to us

all. Our thoughts remain with Mike's family and friends.

Our District looks forward to the next twelve months of active Scouting whether taking part in County activities, City events, District and Section programmes. We hope to forge a long term relationship with GenToo following our Community Week project during which we cleaned up a public space in the Lakeside area of the City and we expect all groups to be involved in at least one of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee events being held in the City and elsewhere in the County. Great opportunities to get involved in the celebrations! Thank you to everyone who contributes to Scouting in Sunderland – Leaders, helpers, Executive members at District and Group level, parents, youngsters and people outside scouting with whom we make connections. It is you who makes Scouting the great organisation it is!

And finally, Eddie Mallaby, Group Scout Leader at St John's, was awarded the Bar to the Silver Acorn, presented at the St George's Day celebration in the presence of the Queen at Windsor Castle. Congratulations Eddie!

**Maureen Dale**  
*District Commissioner*

### Beaver Scout Section Report

The Beaver Scout section celebrated their "25th Anniversary of Beaver Scouting" in July last year by having a District sports night in Barnes Park. Beavers from different Colonies took part in the event and were all awarded with a medal for their participation. In September, three Colonies from Sunderland attended the County Beaver Picnic at West Hall. The theme was The Seaside and each Colony had to produce a Seaside themed banner. 1st Sedgefield were the overall winners of the Beaver Picnic Banner, but as we didn't have our usual Summer Trophy Competition this year, the judges judged our three banners and Silksworth were awarded the Summer Trophy. Despite the very wet weather in the morning a great day was had by all.

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee this year five Colonies attended a joint sleepover with the cubs at the Museum and Winter Gardens in March. The Beaver Scouts enjoyed doing the different trails, handicrafts, a campfire and songs and watching the film "A Night at the Museum".

Several Colonies from District will be attending this year's Beaver Picnic (Big Day Out 2012) at Moor House in June. This is a joint event with the Cubs with an Olympic theme. Instead of a badge this year, County are looking at giving out the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Regional Challenge Beaver woggle. As they are challenging Colonies to arrange to eat in the community or with the community, by attending the picnic we will be doing this. Several Beavers from St Aidan's, St Andrew's, St John's and Silksworth have earned their Chief Scout Bronze Awards and will be presented with their certificates at the annual District AGM and Presentation evening in June.

Finally, a big thank you to all the Leaders and helpers for your valuable time and commitment every week which continues to help make the Beaver section as successful as it is.

**Julie Hannon**  
*ADC Beaver Scouts*

### District Chairman's Message

This is my fourth annual report as chairman and chief trustee.

After an extensive search we finally appointed a new Treasurer. Keith Lowes recently retired from the City Council as Chief Planning Officer joined us in January. He is already bringing his expertise to the Executive Committee. We have also strengthened the Executive Committee with two new Commissioners. Sadly we lost Mike Woodward very suddenly and we have missed his contribution. Progress has been made on the administration of the District by the work of the Appointment's Committee but Training and Development still needs further development.

We have the Entrepreneurs Badge Fund up and running in conjunction with Houghton-le-Spring District. There is £10,000 available in grants to scouts with business acumen who want to pursue the Entrepreneur Award.

A number of high profile events were held during the year with the sleepover at the Museum particularly successful. We marked the national Scouting Community Week with an excellent event sponsored by GenToo involving Scouts and Explorers from several groups.

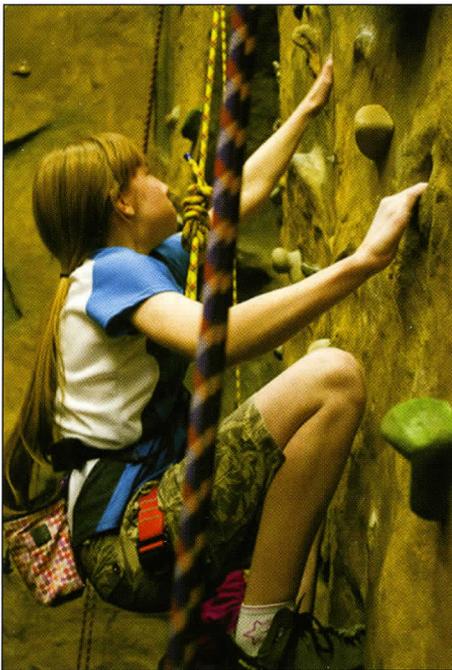
The running of Kayll House has received attention. A Maintenance Fund has been established to look after the fabric of the building paid from the



### Cub Scout Section Report

The Cubs section has continued apace this year with its usual array of events and competitions. We started off with the Indoor Games Competition in May, St Nicholas' were the victors, St Aidan's were second and Grindon third.

The 34th Sunderland Cub Moot took place in July, the theme was "Science" which was a great excuse to earn an activity badge! The Cubs enjoyed making circuits, setting off water rockets, pond dipping, got their pulses racing and smelled all kinds of weird and wonderful things. They enjoyed this so much that we hope to earn an activity badge again this year. We all had great fun around the campfire and the Cubs enjoyed the adventurous and fun activities provided by Moor House. St Aidan's won the Camp Award for the best-decorated site with "Area 36" on a sci-fi theme, as usual the competition was fierce with everyone joining in the



fun. St Gabriel's won the Kwik Cricket Competition and the Best Dressed Box Competition and St Aidan's won the Box Race.

As the weather changed we moved indoors. The Offerton Shield Competition took place in November, Cubs completed challenges based around the Cubs programme, keeping fit, arts and crafts, outdoor skills, the world around us, our community and our Scouting Promise. St Aidan's were the winners, Ewesley Road were second and St Nicholas' were third. St Aidan's went on to represent Sunderland in the Pete Swinney County Work Competition and were placed fourth. The theme for the Photography Competition this year was "Buildings". Lucas Duffy was the winner and Alicia Crosbee was second, both were from St Aidan's Pack, both entries were then entered in the FW Dunn County Photography Competition. Lucas' entry was placed third. Everyone was very proud to be representing the District.

The Safety Competition took place in November and this year we covered the badge requirements for the Home Safety badge. St Aidan's and St Nicholas' were declared joint winners.

The Christmas Campfire got us in the festive spirit in the lead up to the Christmas break. The Cubs enjoyed campfire songs and Christmas Carols with Ken and James Routledge leading them in song and then warmed up with hot dogs and hot chocolate. We particularly liked the jokes Ken!

2012 started off with the General Knowledge Quiz. The Cubs were thoroughly tested on all aspects of general knowledge before St Aidan's were declared the winners, with St Nicholas' in second place and Ewesley Road in third.

The Climbing Competition was as popular as ever, it is a great opportunity for first time climbers to have a go as well great fun for those who are experienced, nothing could separate Daniel Pull from St Aidan's and Archie Elwell from St Nicholas' both scored maximum points to take joint first place, Daniel Cubitt from St Aidan's took third place. All three were entered into the County Climbing Competition, which was won by Daniel Pull, well done Daniel!

The Alex McKenzie Shield, the Cub Moot badge design competition was held in March. There were over 70 entries based around "The Romans" theme. The winner this year was Kyle Johnson from Ewesley Road, 13 others were given highly commended awards. The theme for the Handicraft Competition this year was "Fairground", the Cubs spent a happy couple of hours making rollercoasters, Ferris wheels and swings from cereal boxes, egg cartons and yogurt pots, the winning model came from Ewesley Road's A team, St Aidan's A team were second and the B teams from both groups were placed third. Thanks to our regular judge, Mrs Joyce Galley for doing a great job once again, it's no mean feat to decide on winners, the Cubs always put huge effort

into both competitions and Joyce always has a very difficult task.

Something new for this year, we were able to arrange a sleepover at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens. We held this as a joint activity with the Beavers as a celebration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Over 100 Beavers and Cubs took part in treasure hunts in the museum, made crowns and union flags, explored the winter gardens by torchlight and had an indoor campfire before settling down to watch "Night at the Museum". Finally heading for sleeping bags in amongst the exhibits in the early hours. Everyone had a great, if tiring time, and it may be one to repeat in the future.

So now we're back to where we started, the Indoor Games competition has just taken place again and "hot off the press" the winners were Ewesley Road A team, second were St Aidan's A team and in third place were St Nicholas' A team. Full competition results and photographs of some of our events can be found on the District website at [www.sunderlandscouts.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandscouts.org.uk)

It would be great to see more Groups represented at these competitions and at our annual Cub Moot. Those who do attend have a great time and ensure that we can continue to provide a full programme of events for the Cub Section. Thank you very much for your support.

Finally a big thank you to all the Leaders, Cubs and Parents who play their part in Cub Scouting in Sunderland each week. Without you all there would be nothing to write about!

Lesley Robinson  
ADC Cub Scouts

## Scout Section Report

It is always nice to see Sunderland District represented at County Competitions, and we did well with Abigail Robinson coming 3rd in the County climbing competition earlier in the year, after winning the District event.

St Nicholas, St Aidans and Ewesley Rd attended the recent indoor games competition with St Nicholas winning on the day. My thanks go to St Aidans who hosted and ran the event in my absence. The scout section lacks somewhat in the competition stakes and I would look to you all for inspiration and to come up with some ideas for Scout section competitions our young people would like to see evolve within the District. This will only happen if we have support from our Leaders to organise and run these events.

I would also like to remind you of the Scout Entrepreneur Awards and monies donated to the District from the Sunderland Youth Enterprise Fund. This will be available as a grant to any bid made by a Scout or group of Scouts, where a project is undertaken either to make a cash return on the capital or a community benefit return instead. This is an opportunity not to be missed but for a little thought behind developing a project. e.g. buying equipment to make jams, etc. or buying seeds to create plants to sell on! It doesn't have to be complex. For more information, check out the District website.

Please also discuss the opportunity with your Scouts of going to Confido later in the year, (Oct 12th to

14th) Some fifty activities will be on offer including Europe's largest mobile Zipwire - further details are on the County Website.

My thanks to you all for the valuable time you give to allow our young people to enjoy quality scouting.

Phil Atkinson  
ADC Scouts

## DESC Report

Hello, my name is Steven Whatt I would like to introduce myself as the New District Explorer Scout Commissioner for Sunderland.

Over the next year I will be looking at setting up Young Leader Training and getting all current Explorers wishing to do Young Leader Training through their Module A. Young Leader training will be predominately run from Kayll House. Also I will be starting to look at who would like to work for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award and getting this set up.

Coming up this year we have the Monopoly run which is based at West Hall and is being run in Sunderland during August. In October we have Confido running at Moor House.

I would like to thank all the explorer leaders for all their help over the last year and look forward to working with all the leaders and explorers in the district over the coming year.

Steve Whatt  
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

## Gone Home - Mike Woodward

It was with great pleasure that we celebrated Mike's 50th year as a leader in Scouting at the last AGM. Mike was very happy to receive the award to a standing ovation as befitting someone of his character and tenure.

Sadly, within a couple of weeks after that joyful event, we were saddened to hear of Mike's death. A number of leaders were proud to present a guard of honour at his funeral at St Andrew's church and several members of the congregation reminisced about times with Mike as a fellow-Scout or as their leader.

Mike led a very full life - he was involved in St Andrew's Opera, Fulwell Methodist pantos, as a church sidesman, he was a Magistrate, took part in cycling proficiency, the Masons, and had background in shipbuilding and the Merchant Navy - as well as having a long and fulfilled career in Scouting. He joined Scouting at 8 years old and forgot to leave!

We miss Mike's experience at the Executive Committee, his knowledge of Scouting in Sunderland that only comes from experience and his sense of humour.

