



Scouts

West Region Scout Council
Annual General Meeting
30th August 2025
Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew

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Annual General Meeting of West Region Scout Council
30 August 2025
Glynhill Hotel, 169 Paisley Road, Renfrew, PA4 8XB

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Gone Home
4. Governance Matters
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2024 at Lapwing Lodge, Gleniffer Road, Paisley, PA2 8UL
 - b. Re-Adopt the Regional variation of the model constitution from Scottish Variations of the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association (March 2024)
 - c. Note that West Region's financial year is from the 01 April to the 31 March
 - d. Approve the appointed and community members of the Regional Scout Council
 - e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Regional Trustee Board
 - f. Agree on the quorum for all future meetings of the Regional Scout Council (excluding the 2025 AGM)
5. Review of the previous year 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025
 - a. The Regional Lead Volunteer's review of Scouting in West Region
 - b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Regional Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts
6. Making Appointments
 - a. Appoint two members to the Regional Trustee Board following two resignations. One appointee follows an open selection process initiated by the Regional Trustee Board; the second appointee is a seconded one, recommended by the Regional Trustee Board.
 - b. Appoint the Regional Treasurer, following the recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the Regional Trustee Board in accordance with POR Chapter 16 – Teams Table, Spring 2025 (As at 25 April 2025)
 - c. Note that members of the Regional Trustee Board, except for the two new appointees noted in (a) above, will retain their appointments until the Regional AGM in 2027 in accordance with POR Chapter 16 – Teams Table, Spring 2025 (As of 25 April 2025). The two new members of the Regional Trustee Board will retain their appointments until the Regional AGM in 2028.
 - d. Appoint a new Regional President and Vice-Presidents
 - e. Appoint the Independent Auditor/ Examiner
 - f. Elect representatives of the Regional Scout Council to represent the Regional Scout Council on the Council of The Scout Association
7. Approve the Regional membership subscription for the financial year 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027
8. Closing remarks and end of Regional AGM for 2024

Gone Home



Ian McAuley Hunter

09 May 1971 – 20 October 2024



Ian was a member of the 171st Glasgow where he earned his Queens Scout Award. He was then appointed as Scout Leader and Venture Scout Leader at the 171st Glasgow. Following this, he became the Assistant District Commissioner (Venture Scouts) in Eastwood.

After moving to Houston, Ian volunteered at the 43rd Renfrew and Inverclyde (1st Houston and Crosslee) Scout Group where he was appointed Scout Leader and Explorer Scout Leader.

In 2015 he was appointed as District Commissioner for Renfrewshire, a role he held until 2021 when he was appointed as the Regional Commissioner for West Region. In 2018, Ian was awarded the Award For Merit for outstanding service to Scouting.

Maureen Margaret Murdoch

23 April 1950 – 27 June 2025

Maureen started off her Scouting as a Ranger Guide doing her service in the 1st Renfrew Scout Group where she became an Assistant Cub Leader in November 1968, and Cub Leader in September 1980. During the time she was the Cub Leader, Maureen also assisted at Paisley St. James and Quarriers in Bridge of Weir and retired as a Cub Leader in April 2006. Maureen held other posts in Scouting at District, Area and Regional level, ADC(Leader Training) March 1993 – January 2004, District Appointments Secretary May 2006 – November 2024, Area and Regional Secretary and Trustee September 2009 – November 2024 and Area and Regional Appointments Secretary February 2016 – November 2024. In November 2023, Maureen was awarded The Silver Wolf.



Andrew Sharkey, Chief Commissioner of Scouts Scotland:

10 October 1970 - 29 November 2024



Andrew Sharkey, known to everyone as Sharkey, began Scouting as an Assistant Scout Leader at the 36th Lanarkshire Group in 1988. Over the years, he held roles at Regional, Scottish, and UK levels.

There are two roles Sharkey is most well-known for. The first is Camp Chief at the Scottish International Patrol Jamborette, held every two years in the grounds of Blair Castle, Blair Atholl, Pitlochry. Sharkey served as the Camp Chief for six years, from 2012 to 2018., and the second is Chief Commissioner for Scouts Scotland from 2018 until 2023. On completing five years in this role, he left behind a legacy that has enabled Scottish Scouting to grow and develop for the benefit of our youth members.

4.a. – Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2024 at Lapwing Lodge.

WEST REGION SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2024
At LAPWING LODGE.

1. INTRODUCTION, WELCOME & SEDERUNT

The Regional President ("RP"), who chaired the meeting, opened by welcoming the Regional Scout Council and guests, advising that a Sederunt was circulating and asking all to sign it.

Sederunt: The secretary took note of those who attended, which numbered 32.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Ian Hunter (Regional Lead Volunteer) John Kitson (Acting Regional Lead Volunteer)
Jane MacLeod (Lord Lieutenant of Argyll) Stuart Wilson
Ian Banner
12 others

It was noted that Ian Hunter is seriously unwell again and the thoughts of all at the meeting are with him.

3. GONE HOME

The RP commemorated those who are no longer with us, noting that they had all contributed greatly to the Scout Movement as a source of assistance and support for young people. There followed one minute's reflection on the lives of Mr John Hawthorn, Mr Bill McCaig, Mr Mike Lynch, Ms May Lightfoot, Mr Chris Timmons and Ms Dorothy Kinloch.

4. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

a. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 5 October 2023 at Lapwing Lodge, were approved as a fair reflection of the said meeting.

Proposed: Mr Blair Ross; Seconded Mr Jim Sneddon

b. Regional Constitution

The RP provided a synopsis of the Constitutional changes, highlighting a few key differences between the current and proposed Constitution.

In respect of the new Constitution, Mr Martin Buchan queried the inclusion of item 2.2 - 'Scout Active Support Manager', asking if this should be removed as the post no longer exists. The RP and Regional Chair agreed that Scout Active Support Manager be removed from the Constitution.

Action by the RP: Item 2.2 to be removed from the Constitution

Mr Ewan McCrone asked about the sizes of the sub-committees in terms of membership numbers. The RP advised that sub-committee numbers are the quorum for these Committees; it's the minimum number of attendees which is stated in the Constitution. He further clarified that this information is in the Byelaws, which can be changed by the Council at the request of the Trustee Board, subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting.

Further to the above points, noting that item 2.2 be deleted, the Council approved the new Constitution.

Proposed: Ewan McCrone; Seconded Brian Donaldson

The RP closed this item by thanking Mr Donald Gordon for his support in respect of Transformation Lead and all the work associated with this role. The Council also gave their thanks to Mr Gordon for his support and guidance.

c. West Region's Financial Year

It was noted that West Region's financial year is from 1 April to 31 March.

d. Appointed and Community members of the Regional Scout Council

It was noted that, at the time of the meeting, no external names had been nominated as members of the Regional Scout Council.

The RP asked if the Council gave approval to the Trustee Board to fill any nominations which come to them as and when such actions are requested.

Approved by Council

e. Number of members appointed to the Regional Scout Council

The RP advised that POR indicates a minimum of 5 and no more than 12 in total, 12 including ex officio and co-opted trustees, and recommended the Council approve 12 appointees.

Approved by Council

f. Quorum for all future meetings of the Regional Scout Council

It was noted that the outgoing Trustee Board propose the Quorum for future Regional Scout Council Meetings (excluding the 2024 Meeting) be 12, in person, which is similar to the previous numbers.

Agreed by Council

5. REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR (1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024)

a. Regional Lead Volunteer's review of Scouting in West Region

The RP, in the absence of the Regional Lead Volunteer and Deputy Regional Lead Volunteer, drew the meeting's attention to the RLV's Report on pages 29 and 30 of the Annual Review. The RP invited questions from the Council and was pleased to note there were no questions.

b. Annual Report of the Regional Trustee Board including the Annual Statement of Accounts

The RP drew the Council's attention to the Chairman's Report on pages 27 and 28 of the Annual Review and, noting the Chairman had no further comments to make, invited questions from the Council. He was pleased to note there were no questions.

The RP then invited the Treasurer to comment on the Accounts, on which he advised the Council:

"Our annual accounts are in a format prescribed by OSCR, the Scottish charities regulator.

"Unfortunately the format is difficult to follow and even harder to explain so I want to try and restrict my report to the key financial highlights.

"The income and expenditure on the final page shows a loss of almost £120,000 but this is skewed largely by the Jamboree in Korea and the Nepal trip both of which took place during the financial year 23/24. The majority of income for these trips came through in previous financial years with much of the expenditure coming through this year. Both trips were fully funded and there was in fact a small rebate made to those who were part of the expedition to Nepal.

"Lapwing Lodge traded very well last year with the trading surplus of almost £35k and £20k of grant income allowing further investment in the facility with £37k spent on new windows, £15k on fire doors and £14k on electrical improvements.

"This positive position continues into the current year and we are hopeful that we will be able to escalate the repayment schedule of the loans taken out in 2017.

"At this point I would like to express my thanks to Ross, Hilary and the team at Lapwing who carry out a huge amount of work to continue to improve the facility at lapwing and the experience for our various user groups.

"Some one-off costs in the region, training support and the need to now pay for the independent examination which was previously provided free of charge resulted in a deficit position for the region this year of approximately £12,000.

"Overall, the regions finances remain in a healthy position with a bank balance in excess of £90,000 at the year end.

"We are therefore proposing that the regional levy remain at £2 for the current year but we do this with the expectation that the levy may well need to increase next year."

In response to a question from Mr David Smart regarding the £90,000 excess, the Treasurer advised that the majority of the £90,000 sits in the Lapwing Lodge Account.

The RP asked about movements and combined 2-year movement in the Accounts; the Treasurer advised that this is a requirement of OSCR.

The Treasurer further clarified that Membership fees used to be collected and paid before the end of March. This year that was changed to April, so with a 31 March year end, from a cashflow perspective in 2023/24, there were no membership fees in and out in 2023/24. This change was at the instruction of SHQ.

Mr David McCallum asked if, because some of the legacy funds (detailed on pages 12 and 13 of the Annual Review) are quite small, it would be possible to combine these funds into one, perhaps for use at Lapwing Lodge. The RP delegated this task to the Trustee Board.

Action: To be discussed at the Trustee Board Meeting in November 2024

The Treasurer concluded by advising that the sign-off process for the Accounts is in place in time for filing with OSCR within the set timeframe.

6. MAKING APPOINTMENTS

a. Appointment of Regional Chair

The RP invited the Council to approve the appointment of Mr Donald Gordon as Regional Chair.

Approved by Council

b. Appointment of Regional Treasurer

The RP invited the Council to approve the appointment of Mr Eric Richardson as Treasurer.

Approved by Council

c. Appointment of members of the Regional Trustee Board

The RP proposed that 12 members being the Quorum of the Trustee Board, this number of appointed members serve on the Regional Trustee Board.

Approved by Council

Further to the above, it was noted that appointments are for 3 years and, following the election process, the undernoted have been elected to the Regional Trustee Board:

Ex-Officio:

Regional Chair – Mr Donald Gordon

Regional Treasurer – Mr Eric Richardson

Regional Lead Volunteer (when announced)

Regional Youth Lead – Ms Meg Scott (appointed on 15 Sept 2024)

With reference to the Temporary Trustee Board (which operated between April and September 2024), and taking account of the 5 Districts in the Region, it was proposed that a representative of each District serve on the Trustee Board. Nominations were:

Mr Edward Thornton – Argyll

Ms Barbara McDonald – Dunbartonshire

Mr Tommy Boag – Greenock & District

Mr Jack Winch – Paisley & District

Mr Ewan McCrone – Renfrewshire

Mr Russell Keir – Regional Safety Adviser

Mrs Hilary Graham – Chair of Lapwing Lodge Management Board

The RP asked for the Council's approval of the above nominations to the Regional Trustee Board.

Approved by Council

Further to the approval it was noted there is one vacancy to fill. This will be considered by the Trustee Board.

Action: Trustee Board to fill vacant position

To conclude this point, the President wished to place on record his thanks to Trustees who were standing down from their appointment, those being:

Mr Jim Sneddon
Mr Brian Donaldson
Mrs Maureen Murdoch
Mr Bernie McGuinness
Mr Callum Tabor
Ms Emily Randtoul
Mr Blair Ross
Ms Anne Smart

The RP advised that the post of Regional Secretary has been replaced by Regional Administrator and that Mrs Maureen Murdoch had intimated a wish to step down from the Regional Secretary's post. He advised that Ms Susan Wilson was willing to undertake the post of Regional Administrator and asked the Council to approve these changes.

Approved by Council

Having received approval for the above changes, the RP wished to place on record his thanks to Mrs Murdoch for her dedication, support and counsel during her many years as Regional Secretary.

Two other appointments brought to the Council's attention, for information only, were the appointment of Mr Barry Donald-Hewitt as Lead Volunteer for Scotland (appointed during the last financial year) and Mr Dwayne Fields as Chief Scout (appointed in September 2024).

d. Re-appoint RP and Vice Presidents

Regional President

The RP handed the meeting over to the Regional Chairman, who proposed that Mr Bill McCallum continue as RP, retaining the transition work he undertakes, and asked for approval from Council.

Vice-Presidents

The RP resumed his chairmanship of the meeting, advising the nomination of the following Vice-Presidents:

Col Peter McCarthy
Ms Jill Young MBE
Ms Jane McLeod
Mr Ian Banner

Approved by all

e. Appointment of Independent Auditor/Examiner

The treasurer proposed MacMillan Craig to fulfil this role, with Mr David Carlaw being proposed to carry out the tasks of reviewing the Accounts.

Approved by Council

f. Election of representatives of the Regional Scout Council to represent the Regional Scout Council on the Council of the Scout Association.

It was noted that two members of the West Region Council represent the Region on the Council of the Scout Association, the nominees being Ms Meg Scott (for the 18 to 24 year age group), with Mr Donald Gordon as the second appointee.

Approved by Council

7. REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026

It was proposed that the Regional Membership subscription for 2025 to 2026 be retained at £2.00.

Approved by Council

8. CLOSING REMARKS

There being no further business, the President closed the formalities of the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and attention.

Following the end of the formalities, the RP invited Col Peter McCarthy to address the Council prior to presenting awards. Col McCarthy opened by thanking the RP for the quality of his leadership at the meeting, also congratulating the Council on the work which has taken place during the transition process and recognised all Scouting gives, comparing it to a compass in giving young people direction in their lives. He finished by thanking everyone for their commitment to Scouting, advising that he was delighted to be able to present the following awards:

Silver Acorn to Ms Liz Bryson for 35 years' service to 1st Erskine Cubs

Bar to the Silver Acorn to Mr David Graham for various roles with Inchinnan Scout Group, Lapwing Lodge and as Regional Activity Adviser.

The final part of the evening was an excellent presentation from two young people who attended the 2024 Blair Atholl Jamborette as part of the West Region contingent.

The Chairman thanked the young people for their presentation and formally closed the meeting.

Regional Chair's report for 2024/2025

"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it and move with it", Alan Watts, writer and philosopher, 1915 to 1973.

"The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."
Socrates (470 – 399 BC), Greek philosopher

The financial year from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 has seen Scouting across the UK undergoing transformation aimed at improving the volunteer experience, making it easier and more enjoyable. The transformation, the most important changes to UK Scouting since the Chief Scout's Advanced Party Report in 1966, focused on creating a warmer welcome for new volunteers, providing more relevant and convenient learning opportunities, simplifying the volunteering process overall and promoting good governance practice.

A key feature of the transformation was the implementation of digital tools to support volunteers in various aspects of their roles, from recruitment and onboarding to learning and management.

The strong message during the transformation was about Our Volunteering Culture: Being at our best. This message focused on the shared understanding of what we do and say as Scout volunteers, support each other, following our values and being at our best while acting as role models for young people.

There is no doubt that with the many changes Scouting has and continues to face, as volunteers we must keep our skills, knowledge and learning current to ensure that we do not stop helping our young people step up, speak up, dream big and gain the skills they need for life. At the same time, we must also acknowledge that volunteering for Scouting should have a positive impact on our wellbeing in order that we have fun and enjoy our experiences. These key factors are integral parts of the 4 pillars of Vision, Analysis, Target and Plan of West Region's strategic development plan currently being developed.

Thanks to you, the adult volunteers across West Region, the transformation took place with very few problems highlighted, and those that were highlighted took precedence in being resolved. The success of the transformation will ensure that our young people find their place in the world, learn to believe in themselves, and make a difference to their communities and society. No matter your background or experience, where you're based, or which team you're in, your time and skills help young people gain **#Skills for life**.

By working together, and living Scouting's values of integrity, respect, care, belief and cooperation, our young people have achieved a wide range of awards across all Sections. This has culminated in Chief Scout's Awards, the highest awards in each Section, from Squirrels to Explorers. Additionally, West Region youth members achieved the King's Scout Award, the highest award for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which is worked on alongside the King's Scout Award.

Scouting across West Region would not exist without the enthusiasm of our adults. All our Leaders and supporters are volunteers who truly believe in the value and impact that Scouting has on the lives of young people, and through the transformation have taken on board the changes required to ensure continuity in the provision of programmes and support for our young people.

I would like to take this opportunity in the annual report to express my deepest gratitude for the invaluable contribution to Scouting across West Region made by our Leaders, supporters and Trustees as they faced the challenges of transformation, and it is welcoming news to note that a number of our Leaders have been recognised by The Scout Association for dedication, outstanding service, and significant contributions with Good Service and Length of Service Awards in the past year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a sincere personal thank you to three of our adult volunteers who are standing down at this AGM.

The first thank you is to our Honorary President, Bill McCallum, who has been active in Scouting since November 1957 when he started his volunteering as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Over the years, Bill has taken on numerous roles including District Commissioner for Renfrew and Area Commissioner for Renfrew and Inverclyde. Bill took on the role of Honorary President for the former Renfrew and Inverclyde and now West Region in September 2010, and since then has been a strong supporter of Scouting across our five Districts as well as ensuring that Scouting is recognised as a key developer of young people in our communities. Bill was awarded The Silver Wolf in April 2009.

The second thank you is to our Regional Treasurer, Eric Richardson, who has been a volunteer in Scouting since August 2008 when he was appointed as the Treasurer for Renfrew District, a role he carried out until June 2015. Running parallel with his District role, Eric was appointed Area Treasurer of Renfrew and Inverclyde in September 2009, and role he has undertaken until this AGM. Eric has been the source of all information relating to finances at District and Regional levels and over the time of his appointments has provided sound financial administration, support and information under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. Eric was presented with the Award for Merit in September 2018.

The third thank you goes to Hilary Graham, who began her volunteering journey in Scouting as a Group Section Assistant with the 1st Inchinnan Scout Group in February 1998. A significant role for Hilary was becoming Chair of the Lapwing Lodge Management Board in September 2015, where she has collaborated closely with the Warden, Support Team members, and the Regional Trustee Board (formerly Regional Executive) to make it an exciting venue for Scouting adventures. As we undertake a refresh across the West Region, Hilary is moving on to embrace different challenges in support of Scouting throughout the Region. Hilary was honoured with the Silver Acorn in November 2022.

As Scouting continues to develop across West Region under the leadership of James Cumming, the Regional Lead Volunteer, we also need to acknowledge the past year has seen us lose a popular Leader in Ian Hunter. Those of you who were fortunate to visit Ian both in hospital and the hospice will know that his passion for Scouting remained until the very end, and he always wanted to know what was happening across our five Districts.

We must also recognise other adult volunteers who have 'Gone Home' during the year and the impact they made on our youth members, none more so than Maureen Murdoch, who passed away in July. Maureen first took out an appointment as an ACSL in November 1968, and this started her 56 years as an adult volunteer at Group, District and Area/Region level covering uniformed and non-uniformed roles and was 'the person to go to' for help and information on Scouting across West Region. Maureen was presented with her 50 years' service award in 2018 and the Silver Wolf in November 2023 for services of the most exceptional character.

We also need to say thank you to John Kitson BEM, who kept the Region operational during Ian Hunter's illness and up to the appointment of our new Regional Lead Volunteer.

The changes that have taken place in the past year show how resilient and adaptable our adult volunteers are when they step up to deliver and support Scouting to ensure that it continues to deliver **#Skills for Life**. This preparedness to take on the challenges of change is summed up nicely by our founder, Robert Baden-Powell, who in 1907, in the first edition of 'Scouting for Boys' wrote that the Scout motto was 'Be Prepared'. Upon hearing this, he was asked, "Prepared for what?", and he answered, "Why, for any old thing".

Good Scouting to all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald Gordon', written over a horizontal line.

Donald Gordon
Chair, West Region Scouts

Regional Lead Volunteer Report for 2024/2025

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of commitment that I present my first annual report as the Regional Lead Volunteer for West Region Scouts, having taken on this inspiring role in October 2024. This past year has been a period of dynamic change and significant progress, as we embarked on a comprehensive transformation strategy aimed at strengthening our Region and better serving our young people and dedicated volunteers.

A cornerstone of that transformation has been the restructuring of our Regional Team in line with the new structures that came out from Scouts UK. We have been incredibly fortunate to welcome new talent into key positions, including Blair Ross as Programme Lead, Meg Scott as Youth Lead, and Fraser Wright as Volunteer Development Lead. Their expertise and fresh perspectives are already proving invaluable in driving our strategic objectives forward. This new team structure is designed to foster greater collaboration, efficiency, and support across all levels of our Region.

We also celebrated the appointment of two new District Lead Volunteers who bring renewed energy and vision to their respective areas. A special thank you goes to Gus Gillies, our new District Lead Volunteer for Renfrewshire, and Sarah Lintott, who has taken the helm in Dunbartonshire. Their leadership is crucial as we continue to grow and develop Scouting within these vital districts. We also extend our sincere gratitude to their predecessors, whose foundational work laid the groundwork for their successors' success.

Lapwing Lodge remains the jewel in our crown, a testament to years of dedicated service from Ross and Hilary, who are due to stand down. Their unwavering commitment has made Lapwing Lodge a place of unforgettable experiences for countless Scouts and others who have used the centre over the years. We have big plans for the centre, ensuring it continues to provide excellent adventurous and educational experiences, serving as a beacon for outdoor learning and personal development for many years to come. We are committed to building upon their incredible legacy and look forward to working with their successors.

The past year has also seen the introduction of a new national membership system, replacing the previous Compass system. While any new system presents an initial learning curve, we acknowledge that it has been hard to grasp initially for some.

However, this new digital-first platform, launched by The Scouts in December 2024, is designed to significantly ease administrative pressures on Districts and Groups. It offers a much better, more integrated solution, streamlining essential learning, permit applications, awards, and membership detail updates through "MyMembership" and "MyLearning" components. This transition represents a vital step forward in modernising our operations and enabling our volunteers to focus more on delivering skills for life to young people.

In conjunction with these national advancements, we have also launched a new website for the West Region. This new digital hub will better serve our members, offering improved a fresher look, new communication channels, easier access to information, and a more engaging platform to showcase the incredible work happening across our Region.

Looking ahead, we are closely aligning with "Summit 25," the National Scout Conference held in January 2025. This significant event brought together over 700 leaders, volunteers, and staff from across the UK to reflect on past achievements and, crucially, to collaboratively plan for the future. Summit25 aimed to shape the post-2025 vision and strategic roadmap for Scouting up to 2035, addressing global trends and the evolving needs of young people, skills development, education, and communities. The insights gained from this national strategy will undoubtedly inform our Regional plans, ensuring West Region Scouts remains at the forefront of providing relevant and impactful Scouting experiences to our Young People and ensure our leaders are equipped with the skills and tools to make that happen.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I must acknowledge the loss of two remarkable individuals who significantly shaped our Scouting community. Ian Hunter, our former Regional Commissioner, was taken from us far too soon in October 2024. His dedication and passion for Scouting left an indelible mark on many lives within our Region. Similarly, Maureen Murdoch, our Regional Secretary, passed away in June 2025 is much missed. Her tireless work and unwavering support were invaluable, and her absence is deeply felt by all who had the privilege of working with her. Their legacies will continue to inspire us as we move forward. To quote our founder Lord Baden-Powell, both left this world a little better than they found it. I pass on my condolences to all Districts and Groups who have lost Scouters over the past year.

I want to pay tribute to all those who received awards in the past year. We have not been great at recognising our leaders and I know for a fact that there are some outstanding people doing incredible work out there. This is an area we will improve on in the next year.

Youth membership in West Region Scouts sits at 3,477 while adult membership is at 987, This brings the total combined membership of the Region to 4,464.

I said that this past year has been one of challenge and transformation, but more importantly, it has been a year of immense progress and renewed purpose. The dedication of our volunteers, the enthusiasm of our young people, and the strategic direction we are now pursuing fill me with optimism for the future of West Region Scouts. Together, we will continue to empower young people with Skills For Life, fostering a generation of confident, resilient, and responsible citizens.

I am looking forward to what the next year brings as we build on the foundations we have set together.

James Cumming
Regional Lead Volunteer
West Region Scouts

West Region Scout Council
Scottish Charity SC006564

**Report Of The Trustees And Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year
Ended 31st March 2025 For West Region Scout Council.**

6. Making appointments

- a) Appoint two members to the Regional Trustee Board following two resignations. One appointee follows an open selection process initiated by the Regional Trustee Board; the second appointee is a seconded one, recommended by the Regional Trustee Board.
- b) Appoint the Regional Treasurer, following the recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the Regional Trustee Board in accordance with POR Chapter 16 – Teams Table, Spring 2025 (As at 25 April 2025)
- c) Note that members of the Regional Trustee Board, except for the two new appointees noted in (a) above, will retain their appointments until the Regional AGM in 2027 in accordance with POR Chapter 16 – Teams Table, Spring 2025 (As of 25 April 2025). The two new members of the Regional Trustee Board will retain their appointments until the Regional AGM in 2028.
- d) Appoint a new Regional President and Vice-Presidents
- e) Appoint the Independent Auditor/ Examiner
- f) Elect representatives of the Regional Scout Council to represent the Regional Scout Council on the Council of The Scout Association

7. Approve the Regional membership subscription for the financial year 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027

Regional Youth Lead Report 2024/2025

This year has marked a transformative period for youth involvement in the West Region. As Regional Youth Lead (RYL), I've focused on building a strong foundation for youth-shaped scouting by developing leadership pathways, launching new initiatives, and amplifying young voices across our districts. This report outlines our progress, highlights key achievements, and sets out our strategic goals for the year ahead.

Regional Youth Development Plan was developed in partnership with the Regional Development Plan setting out goals for across the 2024-2025 year aiming to develop the presence of youth shaped scouting in the region. These goals are set out as below;

- Regional Youth Team – Recruitment and development of youth shaped scouting in districts.
- New Regional Appearance – Regional Design Competition and communication improvements
- Empowering Young Adults
- Delivering Wants of Young People
- Accessible Top Awards – Work with programme team to run events support this including KSA, Explorer Belt and YLT.

Regional Youth Team

Aim	Goal		Who	Timeline
Support the appointment of youth team members across all regional teams.	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Youth Shaped scouting information materials for adults for the website – to support education of youth shaped scouting – links to Goal 3.1 	RYL	Autumn 2025
Fill the DYL Vacancies	1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of vacancy packs specific to each District e.g Argyll differs from Paisley & District – Scouts Scotland example to be utilised 	RYL	June 2025
Create a regional youth team	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop definition of a regional youth team and workstream may look like in West 	RYL, RLV, DYL	June 2025
	1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise for youth team members aged 14-24 to support delivery of youth development plan 	RYL	June 2025
Succession Planning	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to age limits of role, planning for succession of RYL and further support to be developed in tandem with RLV. 	RLV, RYL	Autumn / Winter 2025

We've made significant progress in establishing a Regional Youth Team (RYT) to support District Youth Leads (DYLS) and drive youth engagement across the region.

During the 2024/25 year we have had two DYL's step down in Paisley & District and Renfrewshire due to educational and personal commitments, as we now have 3 DYL roles to be filled a vacancy pack was developed and shared with the DLV's to go alongside our pre-existing social media packs to advertise these roles. At this stage these are awaiting DLV input.

These roles will also be advertised (with DLV permission) by myself when I reach out to our 14-24's regarding the development of a regional youth team.

The development of a regional youth team will be primarily to support DYL's and myself with outreach and to support the Regional Youth Lead Development Plan with team members focusing on specific goals. A full RYT role pack was developed to support the recruitment of 14-25's with two individuals expressing interest in our Young Leader and Events focused team member roles. The RYTM role has been split into 4 areas; team support, young leader training, events and youth shaped scouting.

The RYT held its first meeting in January and continues to collaborate via WhatsApp, with the first full team meeting in Mid August. A set of graphics has been prepared to introduce the RYT and encourage wider engagement across the region.

New Regional Appearance

New Regional Appearance				
Aim	Goal		Who	Timeline
Create a Regional Design Competition	2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Release a regional design competition	RYL	January 2025
	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Youth Team and Leadership team vote on winning designs	RYT, RLT	March 2025
	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Workshop winning designs including sample selection	RYL, RLT	April – May 2025
	2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Notify all entrants of results – winning design to be announced on regional page	RYL, RYT	May 2025
Improve Communication Habits of the region	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Creation of a new regional website	CT	March 2025
	2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved social media presence – through use of reels and youth team meta pages	CT, RPT, RLV, RYT, RYL	Summer 2025
	2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inter district comms to be improved – creation of a whatsapp community to improve leadership comms	RLV, RYL	November 2024

To align with our transformation goals and new leadership team, we launched a regional design competition:

- 96 neckerchief and 56 logo designs were submitted.

- The RYT shortlisted entries, and the Regional Leadership Team selected the winners.
- Winning designers will receive the new tri-colour neckie as a reward.
- We're working with suppliers to finalise samples and will contact participants once confirmed.

At this time the potential for a regional youth team social media page has been floated this would promote resources and improve visibility of youth shaped scouting across the region including the You Shape award.

Empowering Young Adults

Aim	Goal		Who	Timeline
Empower young adults to join regional teams	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop presence of youth voice in leadership discussions – links to Goal 1.1	RYL, DYL, RLV, DLV	Autumn 2025
	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of links to top awards and transferable skills to create appeal for young people	RYL, RYT	Summer 2025

The RYT will develop clear links to top awards that support and increase the appeal of youth involvement in district and regional discussions.

Delivering Wants of Young People

Aim	Goal		Who	Timeline
Regional Youth Forums	4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attend district events of various sections with regional youth team to run youth forums to establish wants of young people across the region – information to be fed back to region and districts	RYL	Autumn 2025

Two West Region Youth Leads attended Summit25, gaining valuable insights into youth governance and strategy:

- Connections were made with Surrey and Essex Youth Leads.
- Ideas shared included youth-led events, Explorer weekenders, and scouting career fairs.
- These insights are shaping our future initiatives.

West Region proudly sent 6 delegates (2 Scouts, 2 Explorers, 2 adult volunteers) to the UK Youth Forum on 5 April:

- Workshops included Youth Voice, Strategy, Advocacy, and Sustainability.
- Delegates ranked “Keep Everyone Safe” and “Deliver a Great Programme” as top youth priority from the Summit25 goals.
- The YouShape Award has been presented to all Scout and Explorer participants for their leadership and engagement.

Regional outreach is set to increase following summer 2025 and with the establishment of the West Region Youth Team, These forums will give young people a platform to influence local scouting and share their ideas.

Paris Grierson has agreed to be the Events RYTM taking the lead on our explorer weekender and scouting careers fair.

- Inspired by Oxfordshire's VOX and Essex's youth-led events, we are planning a weekend where Explorers design and lead their own programme. This will foster leadership, creativity, and community among young people.
- Proposed as part of the Explorer Weekender, this event will showcase post-18 opportunities in Scouting. From Network to regional roles, the fair will highlight flexible pathways to retain young volunteers.

Accessible Top Awards

Aim	Goal		Who	Timeline
Support Top awards and programme delivery	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support delivery of residential weekends for gold dofe and ksa awards within the region	RYL	2026
	5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish a flexible young leader training programme including residential weekends and online capabilities	RYL, RYT	2025
	5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of young leader training materials – utilising surrey scouts online example.	RYT, RLV, RYL	2025

We've prioritised making Young Leader Training (YLT) more engaging and accessible:

- A successful YLT weekend was held at South Newton (7–9 March), with 25 young people from 4 districts completing all modules.
- The programme was co-designed with Young Leader Coordinators to avoid traditional PowerPoint-heavy sessions and focus on leadership development.
- The model has been shared with Scouts Scotland and is being further developed through discussion with Surrey Scouts for a junior/senior tiered approach.
- Online resources are in development to support those unable to attend in person.
- The RYT has taken on Rhys Callaghan to lead on support of Young Leader Training.

Final Reflections

This year has been about laying the groundwork for a more inclusive, youth-led future in West Region Scouting. I'm incredibly proud of the progress we've made and excited for what's ahead. Thank you to every young person, volunteer, and leader who has contributed to this journey.

Meg Scott

West Region Youth Lead Volunteer

Lapwing Lodge Annual Report for 2024/2025

This past year has once again been a busy if a challenging one. Lapwing has seen visitors form far and wide, along with many new visitors.

Our annual returning visitor numbers have again grown. For the second year, Vango has used Lapwing for their photo shoot.

Bobby Woods our Duty Warden stepped down at Christmas, he is sorely missed, Bobby is still with us on a volunteer basis.

Christine Storrie stepped down as LLMB secretary after many years, Susan Wilson is our new secretary.

I have also stepped down as Chair of the LLMB and Stephen Allen has taken over as Lead Volunteer of Lapwing Lodge Support Team.

Our team have many projects on the go to ensure the site is as safe and up to date as possible. Work continues on the Canoe shed extension and the revamped Fisherman's Kitchen to a Camper's Kitchen which will provide campers with a shared place to cook food.

There is always work to be done at Lapwing, we will always require back or house help for the more mundane but necessary task to keep the site ready for visitors if anyone would like to help and has time in the week to offer please contact Ross Dunbar via the office.

Activities

We have had another year of amazing activity delivery we cannot thank the small but dedicated team of instructors and helpers who give their time to Lapwing almost weekly. We are always looking for more help both for instructors and to help support the back ground needs of running a site as busy and Lapwing.

Funding

We have again been fortunate to gain several grants to ensure the lesser seen aspect of Lapwing is renewed updated and refreshed.

We have new fire doors and external doors, the insulation of the corridors is half way done making a huge impact on heat loss.

We saved hard to be able to renew the main driveway, which is the first face of Lapwing seen by all visitors. This has had a huge impact for all our visitors and staff.

Finances

Because of the high visitor, numbers income is also increased which allows continued work on the site, much of which goes unnoticed but is essential to the smooth running of the site.

Skills weekend

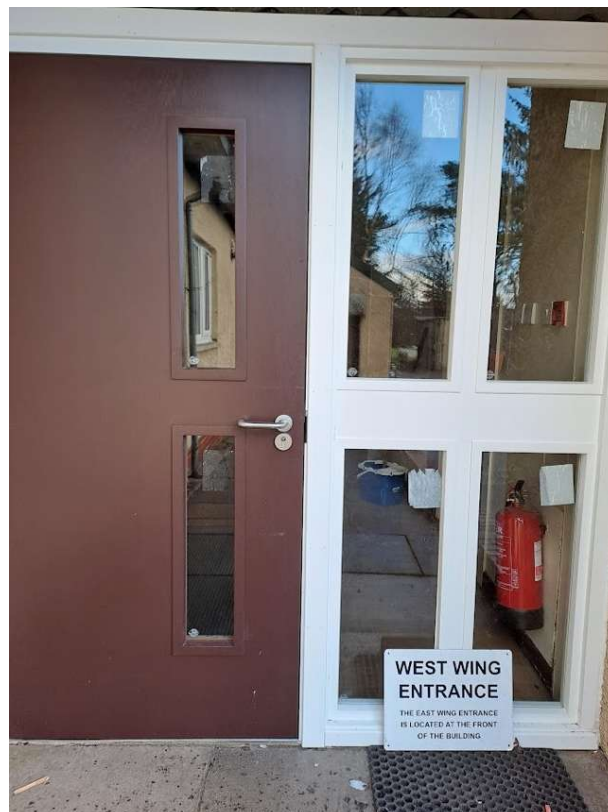
Seen around 70 leaders and some young leaders learn new to them skills and some gained permits in their chosen activity.

The weather was again very kind to us and allowed everyone to Socialise around the campfire at the close of the day.



Funding Projects

We have replaced the fire and entrance doors also lowered and insulated both corridor ceilings and almost finished the external walls of the corridors all of which will ensure lower energy bills and a more comfortable experience for the users. These both require to be painted and if anyone has time in the week to help with this task please contact Ross Dunbar at the Lapwing office.



New Driveway

This has been a long needed job, many thanks to Gerry Green for leading this project with his wealth of Knowledge on roadways.

Gerry was able to use his years of experience to ensure we got the very best contractor who work around the very busy schedule at Lapwing and completed the job within a week.



Filming at Lapwing

One of the film crew who used Lapwing this year.



Hillary Graham
Lapwing Lodge

Argyll District Annual Report for 2024/2025

2024/25 was another busy year for the six Groups and Explorer unit based in Argyll.

Eight Explorers from Argyll District were joined by five Explorers from Stirling to complete Argyll's first ever Explorer Belt in Galicia in northern Spain. Working in three teams the 13 young people completed over 100 kilometres walking on the Camino Fisterra, undertaking a range of cultural projects to earn their Explorer Belt. The weather ranged from the sublime to the biblical – perseverance, tenacity and senses of humour were rigorously tested, with all candidates gaining confidence and self belief over the ten day adventure.

In November 2025 19th Argyll celebrated their 75th birthday with an all-group trip to Lochgoilhead National Scout Centre. The Squirrels were day attendees with all other sections enjoying their residential experience. We were delighted to be joined by James Cumming on Saturday evening when the Argyll Explorers entertained Scouts and Explorers with presentations about their Explorer Belt.

In November 2024 a selection day was held at Uilleann for young people interested in attending the 2025 National Norwegian Jamboree. 8 leaders, 23 Explorers and 11 Scouts from across Argyll District will be travelling to Norway in July 2025 to be hosted by four groups from Drammen. Two training camps have helped the participants to get to know each other better and we're now looking forward to the trip.



Argyll Scouts were delighted to welcome James Cumming, Blair Ross and Meg Scott to Argyll in February 2025 to visit Dunoon Scout Hall and Uilleann, and to discuss possible regional events that could be hosted by Argyll District. Sadly Dunoon Scout Hall has been deemed not fit for purpose and is currently being emptied prior to a decision being made on its future. I was delighted to be presented with my 15 year service award during James' visit.

The annual Snowdrop Expedition challenge took place in March 2025 with Scouts from the 19th and the 1st taking part. All Scouts attending successfully completed the 20-mile challenge testing their hiking, navigation, and wild camping skills. On the same weekend Explorers from the North, West and East of the District took part in a variety of silver and bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and practices. In total over 40 young people from across the District successfully completed their challenge hike that weekend. A big thank you to John Hunter from Paisley District who crossed the Clyde to help us deliver a memorable weekend.

The weekend of May 16th to 18th May was a busy one for Argyll Scouting. 26th Argyll organised a group camp at Glenbranter and on 17th May 100 Cubs and Beavers from 1st Argyll, 19th Argyll, 26th Argyll and 37th Argyll participated in the John Logan and Louise Holms trophies at Inveraray Primary School. Congratulations to the Cubs from 1st Argyll who won the John Logan trophy and the Beavers from 26th Argyll who were victorious in the Louise Holms trophy. All young people thoroughly enjoyed their day of activities and approximately half the Cubs camped overnight too.

A range of adventurous activities have been offered to Wildcat Explorers this year including ice climbing, kayaking and hiking expeditions. In addition these amazing young folks have worked in their communities raising funds for good causes and engaging in creative activities.

Squirrels have continued to be a joy, with adult and young leaders creating and delivering a fantastic programme resulting in armfuls of badges for these young Scouts. Trips to airbases, hiking, science experiments and nearly camps have been part of their experience.

The high quality programmes offered have ensured that top awards presented include seven Acorns, seven Bronze, ten Silver and seven Gold Chief Scout Awards. Explorers gained twelve Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards, eight DoE Silver, fifteen Platinum Awards, and five Diamond Awards. Eight Explorer Belts were awarded.

The RLV and DLV have visited 15th Argyll, 16th Argyll and 19th Argyll and have met with leaders from 1st Argyll and 37th Argyll. Leader recruitment remains difficult for groups and 16th Argyll and 37th Argyll have been creative in developing a solution that involves running sections fortnightly with all leaders contributing every week. 16th Argyll have also moved to a different meeting place and since doing so have recruited three new leaders. We end the year more positively than we started.

Argyll District Leaders are looking forward to a well-deserved rest during the school holidays but planning for next year is already underway. The year will kick off with attendance at the Cowal Games followed by attendance at selection events for Blair Atholl 2026, Explorer Belt 2026 and Peru 2027.

A District camp is planned for 2026 which will incorporate the John Logan and Louise Holms trophies as well as offering traditional Scouting skill bases for Scouts and Explorers.

Ann Smart
Argyll Lead Volunteer





Dunbartonshire District Annual Report for 2024/2025

2024/2025 has been a year of many changes within the District and all to the good with an upturn in young people membership, mostly attributable to our Squirrel Dreys and the opening of 1st Renton Scout Group. Opening groups and sections brings with it many challenges and it is heartening to see our volunteers rising to the challenges brought by this

We held our first District Cub Quiz which was a fabulous event attended by over 80 young people from the District and will definitely be something we will aim to repeat annually

We also held a District Beaver Christmas fun day which was an event that brought much excitement to our young people

I made the decision, after 3 years of being in the role of District Commissioner/District Lead Volunteer, to step away from this post. I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with committed volunteers who inspire and motivate our young people and know this will continue with my successor. Thank you to everyone who supported me, cajoled and taught me how to manage and enjoy this role

I wish you all the very best in Scouting

Barbara MacDonald (she/her)

District Lead Volunteer – 31 December 2024

Dunbartonshire District Scouts

Since the start of this year I've had the pleasure of firstly being the Acting District Lead, before officially taking on the role in May. I firstly want to say a huge thank you to Barbara for her service as District Lead over the last three years, and her continual support to all of our volunteers and Groups to make the District what it is today.

We had the absolute joy this year to see through our annual census that we are now above pre-covid membership levels, along with record numbers of Explorers across the District. Our District will continue to grow over the coming year with plans to re-open the Beaver Colony at 6th Clydebank, open a new Beaver Colony at 1st Renton and a new Explorer Unit at 1st Peninsula.

Our District Team has expanded with Chris Scarlett, Stephen Barbour and Colin Webber joining as Volunteer Development Lead, Programme Lead and 14-24 lead respectively. One of Colin's first tasks was to re-launch our Network section and he has seen some brilliant success with Network numbers growing from 7 to 18 members so far this year.

In April we held our first all section District Camp with over 120 people coming together at Lapwing Lodge. Whilst it wasn't a dry weekend by any stretch of the imagination, the feedback has been positive and we are now in the early stages of planning our next one for 2026.

Our District also now boasts a target sports team who have travelled all over the UK to take part in air rifle shooting competitions. Their hard work and enthusiasm paid off in June when, at their second ever competition, they returned home with a gold medal, two silver medals, two bronze medals and a large trophy.

I look forward to supporting our District to continue to grow and have our young people gain new experiences and gain new skills

Sarah Lintott

Dunbartonshire District Lead Volunteer

Greenock and District Annual Report for 2024/2025

It has been a pleasure to oversee the Greenock and District Scouts successful progress over the last 5 years, offering numerous enriching opportunities for our youth, ranging from Squirrels to Network Scouts. This achievement is attributed to the dedication of our adults, and I extend my gratitude to all volunteers, supporters, Everton Camp staff, the Trustee board, and the district team. The robust number of adult volunteers contributes significantly to providing high-quality programs for our youth. Despite a decrease in the number of young members last year, I am confident in the eventual growth of youth membership within the district due to the exceptional quality of scouting activities offered. The rising cost of living has had a widespread impact, including in Inverclyde.

The district has expanded to include a third Squirrel Drey at Inverkip and Wemyss Bay, with other groups considering similar initiatives. The three established dreys have been operating successfully, providing valuable experience to aid other groups in setting up their own dreys. We plan to open our fourth drey in Larkfield under the 33rd Scout Group after the summer holidays.

Janice McAdam has led our District Cubs team and has been instrumental in collaborating with other leaders to develop brilliant district programs and events. Notable activities included a district archery competition and a district cub camp. Our thanks go to Everton Camp and the district leaders who contributed to these events. Janice recently stepped down from her role, and we express our appreciation for her outstanding leadership.

Gordon Sinclair leads our District Scouts team who have organised numerous successful district scout section events, such as camps, first aid competitions, and pioneering competitions. The annual Hardie Webster Camp Competition, which rigorously tests the skills acquired by our scouts, taking place in August.

Our former DESC, Lloyd Keogh, along with his leadership team, continues to run the annual Mark Muir Expedition Weekend in September. This demanding event pushes explorers to their limits, yet they always complete it with smiles. Explorer Scouts will be actively participating in both national and international events, including the World Scout Jamboree, the regional expedition to Peru, and the Blair Atholl International Jamborette.

A critical aspect of our explorer program is the strong connection with Inverclyde's Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. The exceptional service provided by Brian, Paddy, and their team includes support for our explorer scouts. Inverclyde historically produces more Gold DoE awards than the whole of Glasgow, highlighting the quality and inclusiveness of the program. These awards are vital stepping stones for higher accolades such as the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards, culminating in the King's Scout Award. Over the past year, six networkers have achieved the King's Scout Award, with several others nearing completion.

Meg Scott and Matt Heaney, the previous District Network Scout Commissioners, alongside Aidan Phillips, have excelled in coordinating the district network team for ages 18-24. Both Meg and Matt received the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service this year, a well-deserved recognition. The Network Team focuses on supporting King's Scout Award pursuits, enhancing leadership roles, and securing activity permits. The Greenock network participates in national events and district activities, with many members also leading sections in various groups. Several networkers attended the Windsor Parade this year.

Gary McLuskey serves as the camp warden at Everton Camp Site. We extend our sincere gratitude to him and his team for their unwavering dedication to the development and safety of the site, supported by a team of committed volunteers. The Property and Assets Committee provides invaluable oversight and assistance to the camp team.

The Leapmoor Pipe Band continues its tradition with Sunday teaching and practice sessions, performing at numerous events, including the annual Inverclyde Commemoration Service at the Wellpark Cenotaph.

The District's Amateur Radio Club comprises five enthusiastic volunteers who engage sections and invite them to the well-equipped radio room at District Headquarters. They contribute to JOTA/JOTI and are always open to collaboration.

The renowned Greenock Gang Show returned to the Beacon Theatre last November, now produced by Kyle and Aileen Wilson. Our gratitude extends to the cast, crew, band, and all helpers for their remarkable teamwork and professionalism.

Our groups have engaged in camping trips across Scotland, England, and internationally, with destinations such as Jersey, Bavaria, Ireland, and Norway. Special thanks to our group scout leaders who uphold the essence of scouting in Inverclyde. Their role is crucial in achieving our goals and objectives.

Over the past year, I have had the honour of presenting many Wood Badge certificates to our leaders. Numerous leaders and executive members have been recognized with Good Service Awards, including Commissioner's Commendations, Chief Scout's Commendations, and Awards for Merit. More awards are forthcoming, and it has been a pleasure to present these well-deserved accolades.

District program lead David Nawrath continues to secure funds to support our three RIBs. Many leaders have achieved powerboat qualifications, with some advancing to higher levels. David Reid collaborates with David Nawrath to promote water activities for young people within and beyond Inverclyde. Our efforts are supported by grants from the Trinity House Regional Committee (Scotland), Dacia Activity Grants, and the Leslie Sell Trust. We also acknowledge the Renfrew Town Sea Scouts, Largs and Inverkip Marinas. The Royal Gourock Yacht Club has been fantastic for their cooperation and use of the facilities. David is leading a project to repair and enhance the slipway at the Yacht Club – this will aid the club and our access to the Clyde. Additionally, we appreciate Inverclyde Council's ongoing support through a variety of important grant to district and groups.

District Support team leader Andy Yarr, with Scout Notes writer Fiona Bell, and networkers Eilidh Yarr and Scott Downie have been instrumental in maintaining and integrating our new district website with Scout Notes magazines and social media. Their efforts ensure valuable news and events are shared, along with a comprehensive members area. We extend our thanks for their hard work in maintaining the website.

The Greenock and District Trustee Board plays a vital role in our scouting operations, often working behind the scenes. I personally thank them for their dedication over the past five years during my tenure as lead volunteer. My district team comprises exceptional leaders devoted to both their groups and the district. The expanded team supports our groups in delivering the high-quality scouting programs our youth deserve and expect. A heartfelt thanks to all involved. I would like to thank our Property and Assets subcommittee, chaired by Alex Lynch OBE. They do crucial work and safety assurance.

I look forward to the continued growth of scouting in Greenock and District, enabling volunteers to provide enjoyable and enriching programs for our youth. Sincere thanks to all our volunteers, supporters, and parents.

Martin Buchan
Greenock and District Lead Volunteer

Paisley and District Annual Report for 2024/2025

Group-Led Growth and Activity

While the district itself has not delivered a centralised programme of activities over the past year, the energy and initiative demonstrated by local groups across Paisley & District have been nothing short of inspiring. Across Barrhead, Neilston and Paisley; groups have been the true engines of Scouting, delivering rich and varied programmes that reflect both the spirit of our movement and the evolving needs of young people today.

Volunteer Strength and Support

Several groups revitalised their sections, with new another new Squirrel Drey appearing at 1st Barrhead this year to meet growing local demand. Volunteer recruitment has taken encouraging steps forward, as leaders—both new and longstanding—have stepped up with creativity and determination. Peer mentoring, leader support networks, and access to training resources have helped foster confidence and continuity, ensuring that our groups feel connected and capable even without a centralised district framework.

Dynamic Programme Delivery

Programme delivery at group level has flourished, with young people enjoying everything from pioneering to community outreach, and from adventurous outdoor experiences to skill-building sessions anchored in real-life contexts. District-organised activities may have been paused, but groups have proactively partnered with neighbouring units to share resources, campsites, and even leadership talent—building a strong sense of collaboration across the area.

Community Impact and Engagement

These local successes have also deepened community ties. Whether through environmental clean-up projects, participation in civic events, or creative fundraising initiatives, our Scouts have continued to show that local action can have lasting impact. These achievements speak volumes about the resilience and commitment of our volunteers, families, and young people alike.

Leadership Developments and Transitions

This year also saw key developments in our district and group leadership teams. We were delighted to welcome Matthew Hesselmann into the role of Programme Lead, bringing fresh insight and a strong commitment to supporting groups in delivering high-quality, youth-led experiences. Equally, the appointment of Lynda Scollan as Volunteer Development Lead marks a new chapter in how we recruit, support, and retain our adult volunteers — with her passion for growth and wellbeing already making a noticeable impact.

At the group level, we were pleased to see Susan Wilson step into the role of Group Lead Volunteer at St Peters Scouts, where her enthusiasm and community spirit are already shaping a supportive and forward-thinking leadership culture.

Meanwhile, we extend heartfelt thanks to Rachel Millar, who stepped down from her role as District Youth Lead after a period of dedicated service. Her leadership inspired many young people to find their voice within Scouting, and her legacy continues to resonate across the district.

Blair Atholl Participation and Representation

Paisley & District Scouts were proudly represented at the Blair Atholl Jamborette, where our participants not only embraced the camp's international spirit but also stood out for their preparation, enthusiasm, and leadership. Their approach to camp life was a shining example of the region's high-quality training, as they demonstrated maturity, teamwork, and adaptability in every aspect of their adventure. Their conduct was a true credit to the district, the region, and the wider Scouting movement. Equally commendable was the sheer number of leaders from Paisley & District who gave their time to serve on camp staff — a testament to our commitment behind the scenes. From logistics and catering to programme delivery and pastoral care, these volunteers ensured that the camp ran like clockwork and that every young person had a safe, exciting, and enriching experience. Their dedication reflects the very best of Scouting leadership.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

One of the proudest reflections of this year has been the recognition of long-serving and dedicated volunteers whose contributions continue to shape the heart of Paisley & District Scouts. Over 30 Length of Service Awards were presented this year, with special congratulations going to:

- **60 Years of Service:** Tom Nixon
- **50 Years of Service:** Elizabeth Crapnell, Gordon Mason
- **40 Years of Service:** Moira Leckie
- **30 Years of Service:** Jeanette Savage, Teresa Maughan

In addition, we were honoured to present six **Chief Scout's Commendations** to:

Douglas Canning, Fraser Wright, Catriona McGeechan, Kyle Colquhoun, Alan Chapman, and Sheilagh Stewart.

And finally, **Award for Merit** distinctions were awarded to:

Sharon Neil and Liam Stratton — in recognition of their outstanding commitment and service.

Their dedication, passion, and years of unwavering support are an inspiration to all of us and serve as a powerful reminder of the legacy and future of Scouting in Paisley & District.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead, the foundations built by these dedicated groups offer a powerful base for future district-wide collaboration. Their ingenuity and unwavering commitment have kept Scouting in Paisley & District vibrant, visible, and full of purpose.

Graham Reid

Paisley and District Lead Volunteer

Renfrewshire District Annual Report for 2024/2025

In 2024-2025, Renfrewshire has continued to deliver fantastic programmes across the 12 groups. There have also been several events hosted by groups for the district and they include the Squirrel and Beaver fun days, the Cub quiz night and Scouts and Explorers Subzero. Scouting at the grass roots is alive and well in Renfrewshire.

Transformation

Transformation has absorbed so much volunteer time in the last 12 months, and it would be wrong of me to not thank the volunteers in Renfrewshire for sticking with the new way of working. You are all delivering the same great programmes, camps and events as before and dealing with the added extras of the new membership system etc. Thank you!

The district is still evolving to the new way of working and in the next year we need to get people into key roles to ensure Scouting is supported throughout the district.

Census

The census has shown a decrease of 8.8% in youth members in the district. Although the squirrels' numbers have doubled and that growth will continue with a new drey opening in Bridge of Weir. There has been a drop of 14.2% in adult volunteers however I believe that number is skewed by the transition to the new membership.

Angus Gilles

Renfrewshire District Lead Volunteer