

Chair of the District's Board of Trustees Report

It has been my privilege to Chair the District Board, this my first year in post and during this time I have been impressed by the positivity of everyone involved in scouting within the District.

I have seen the contributions made to scouting by the Trustees, the leaders and all volunteers to make scouting enjoyable for so many. The variety of opportunities offered to young people is unparalleled and it makes me proud to be part of an organisation which has young people at its very core. I thank all leaders and volunteers for the quality of care, attention and encouragement that is offered to all.

The Board of Trustees works hard and effectively to ensure the smooth running and enhancement of scouting in the South Derbyshire area, with many doing this above and beyond the positions that each one of them hold at Group level. Each contributing so much to scouting.

We are working on updating the website to provide regular information on events, news and information for the South Derbyshire area. Whilst initially it was a challenge, the use of the On-line Scout Manager (OSM) to simplify administration appears to be the way forward. We receive regular reports on all financial matters from our treasurer and have provided financial support for activities as needed, along with offering a skill set to assist with financial, health and safety matters.

Going forward we will be encouraging sectional reports to feedback to the Trustees which can be incorporated into future planning. There is a constant focus on training needs and take-up by all volunteers and like other districts, we need additional volunteers to help create additional squirrel dreys; the demand is great.

This past year has seen a change in the District Lead Volunteer. Rev Stella Greenwood stepping down part way through the year. Thank you Stella for your work during your term of office. We did not make an immediate appointment to fill the position, instead Stephen Parker stepped up to cover until Dan Barnes took the position in March 2026. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Stephen for his time and support given to the District Board, to the groups and to me personally. I am very grateful to have had this support and experience to draw upon.

I offer my thanks to all in scouting for your hard work, commitment and enthusiasm that has meant so much, to countless families and young people over the district.

Jacqui Storer