



Scouts

Warrington West

Dear Volunteers, Trustees and Supporters,

2024 has been yet another record year for Scouting in Warrington West!

As we now bring things to a close for the festive period, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what our volunteers have collectively achieved over the last 12 months to give young people from the area Skills For Life.

Over the course of the year, we have opened or started the process of opening Squirrel Dreys at 1st/14th, 15th, 28th and 31st. This is a great news story and once all these four Dreys are open, this will take us to seven Squirrel Dreys within Warrington West meaning that 50% of our Groups will have a Drey for four and five years olds.



Some new appointments have been made to the District Team including Alex Booth and Ben Lucas to the roles of District Youth Lead, sharing the role to ensure it is manageable for them. We have also appointed Sam Crossley as our Growth & Strategy Lead who is already looking at how we can grow Scouting within the area and offer our amazing opportunities to yet more young people. Finally, Kath Robinson has been appointed as District Administrative Assistant and supports our SLT and Leadership Teams as well as the Trustee Board.

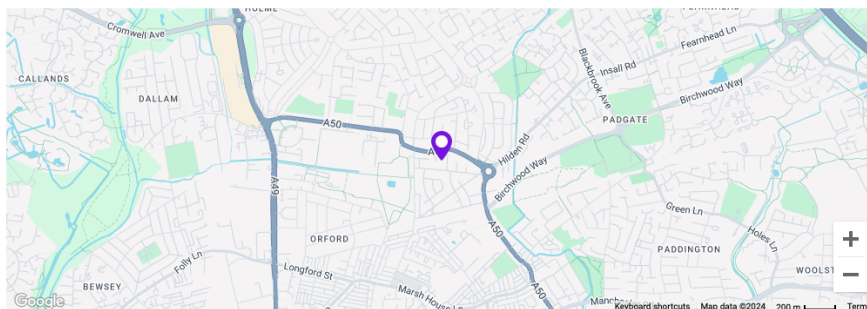
In March we were recognised by County as being the District with the largest growth in both young people and frontline volunteers who deliver Scouting on a weekly basis. This is a fantastic achievement for the District and we hope that the next Census at the start of 2025 will show a similar increase in members.

Unfortunately, due to extreme weather conditions we made the difficult decision to cancel our St George's Day parade however the Events Sub-Team are looking at a new event for 2025 which will incorporate St George's Day and a community engagement event. Keep your eyes peeled in the new year for more details.



In 2024, we have again made major upgrades at our District Headquarters particularly the meeting room which underwent a refurbishment to make the space more inviting by giving the walls a new lick of paint, installing a new carpet along with upgraded hybrid meeting technology which will make it even easier for our volunteers to join in person or via Teams.

The Scout Shop has again had a fantastic year with the start-up costs funded by both Warrington Districts repaid and the shop is now self-sufficient. This means that the shop dividends received are directly going towards funding Scouting in Warrington West and East including the purchase of new activity equipment, refreshing our meeting spaces give our volunteers the space and technology needed for 21st century Scouting along with supporting our adult volunteers through permit trainings and assessments. More details on permit funding will come in the new year.



Location & Hours

Warrington Scout Shop
Vale Owen Road
WARRINGTON, WA2 8PG

[Get directions](#)

Tuesday 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 12:00pm

Please park on the road as we have a very small car park with limited space to turn around.

In July, it was our first District Camp since 2019 and what an event it was seeing over 1000 members of the District come together for a weekend of action! It took a team of dedicated volunteers almost 18 months to plan all aspects of the camp, three days of set up and two days of take down however it was all extremely worth it for a weekend of action-packed activity, new skills and friendships along with having our youngest section, Squirrels, join us for the day on the Saturday. Seeing everyone's faces smiling throughout the event was brilliant to see and proved that the hard work to get the event off the ground as an initial idea and delivered was absolutely worth it. There was canoeing, climbing, Scouting skills, laser tag, inflatables, bouldering, archery, shooting and lots more for young people to take part in, many of which will have been new activities that the young people wouldn't have normally been able to try if it wasn't for Scouting.

As District Lead Volunteer, this is up there with my proudest moments of 2024 showing the reason why we're all involved and committed to Scouting, to give the young people of Warrington West opportunity to gain Skills For Life.



In October, we held our popular Blakfoot Hike in Mellor, Lancashire with around 100 Young People from Scouts and Explorers taking on a two-day independent hike navigating, camping and cooking for themselves while being supported by approximately 75 volunteers from across Warrington West and East Districts to ensure their safety. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event.



In November, many of our young people attended Celebrating Success where they were recognised for their achievements in gaining the higher awards available in Scouting to young people including Chief Scouts Awards, Duke of Edinburgh and Kings Scout Award. Well done to everyone who received their award on the day and also to those who could not attend the event.



In December, The Scout Association launched its new digital tools to further improve the experience for volunteers and while it has been a large change to get used to quickly, I am certain that the new systems will make it easier for all volunteers within their roles and alongside the new ways of volunteering, we are heading for a great year of Scouting in 2025 where we will continue our work to enrich the lives of young people across Warrington West.

As District Lead Volunteer, I want to thank you for all that you have done in supporting Scouting in Warrington West during 2024. The commitment you make each week means our local Young People can gain skills to prepare them for their futures in whatever they choose to do!

I send my warmest wishes for 2025 and please take the time to rest and relax over the next few weeks.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Scouting,
Adam Potts
District Lead Volunteer