

Kibblestone District Scout Council

Annual Report

for the year to 31 December 2019



Thank you for sharing our adventure

KIBBLESTONE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Kibblestone International Scout Camp,
Kibblestone Road, Oulton, Stone, ST15 8UJ
Tel: 01785 813407 Email: kibb.admin@kibblestone.org
Registered charity No. 524533



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**“The real way to gain happiness is to give it to others”
Lord Baden Powell**



KIBBLESTONE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

President

The Lord Mayor of the City of Stoke-on-Trent

Vice-Presidents

The Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme

Ken Adams

Gretta Bloor

Steve Broadhurst

Wilf Burt

Kay Ellis

Albert Hart

Trevor Mardling

Susan Meachem

Phil Shemilt

Rosemary Thys

Victor Thys

Graham Wiggins

District Chair (Acting)

Mike Willis

District Commissioner

Clive Leader

email: dc@kibblestone.org

District Treasurer

John Capper

District Secretary

Karen Stevens

Kibblestone International Scout Camp, Oulton, Stone, ST15 8UJ

Tel: 01785 813407 email: kibb.admin@kibblestone.org

Registered Charity No. 524533



Executive Committee

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| District Chair | Mike Deakin (resigned 31 December 2019) |
| District Chair (Acting) | Mike Willis (appointed 31 January 2020) |
| District Commissioner | Clive Leader |
| District Secretary | Karen Stevens |
| District Treasurer | John Capper |
| District SAS Manager | Steve Fern |

ELECTED MEMBERS

Colin Greatbatch

NOMINATED MEMBERS

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S NOMINATIONS

Tom Mason

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICTS NOMINATIONS

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Newcastle District | Graham Baddeley |
| Potteries North District | Michele Lawrence |
| Three Towns District | Nick Moss |

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICTS YOUNG PERSON NOMINATION

Imogen Boote

INVITED MEMBERS

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Manager of Operations | Bob Dudley |
| Kibblestone Accountant | Karen Stevens |

RIGHT OF ATTENDANCE

County Commissioner
County Chairman
District Commissioners of the Districts

Management and Finance Team

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| Chairman | Mike Deakin |
| | Clive Leader |
| | Bob Dudley |
| | John Capper |
| | Steve Fern |



Health and Safety Team

Bob Dudley
Steve Fern

Scout Active Support Manager

Steve Fern

Manager of Operations

Bob Dudley
Kibblestone International Scout Camp, Oulton, Stone, ST15 8UJ
Tel: 01785 813407 Email: bob@kibblestone.org

Estate Manager

Steve Fern
Kibblestone International Scout Camp, Oulton, Stone, ST15 8UJ
Tel: 01785 813407 Email: manager@kibblestone.org

Campsite Staff

Sue Hadfield
Philip Malbon
Matthew Heath
Ray Wilson





**“Life without adventure would be deadly dull”
Lord Baden Powell**



KIBBLESTONE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting held in the Ronald Copeland Training Centre, Kibblestone International Scout Camp on Saturday 1 June 2019 at 2.30 pm.

PRAYER

The meeting opened with a prayer led by the Chairman, Michael Deakin, in which he remembered those members who had passed away during the year including John Barker, Ron Harrison and John Bramhall, and also Mrs Copeland who passed away in January.

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present, especially our invited guests –

- The Lord Mayor of the City of Stoke-on-Trent – Councillor Jackie Barnes;
- The Mayor of Stone – Councillor Mark Green and the Mayoress Mrs Kristan Green
- Jackie Brocklehurst – County Commissioner
- Vice Presidents – Gretta Bloor, Trevor Mardling, Victor & Rosemary Thys, Wilf Burt, Sue Meachem

PRESENT

36 Members and guests were in attendance including the above named, as recorded in the attendance book.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded from –
HM Lord Lieutenant, Mr Dudson
Mayor-Elect, Stafford, Councillor Gareth Jones
Andrew Bradshaw
Bob & Christine Dudley
Pat Russell
Vera Bloor
Steve Broadhurst
Albert Hart
Graham Wiggins
Richard Dale
Paul Wilkinson
plus 5 as recorded in the attendance book.



MINUTES

The minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting of Kibblestone District Scout Council held on 7 June 2018 had been incorporated in the Annual Report and circulated to those members present. Their acceptance was proposed by Graham Baddeley and approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer, John Capper presented a review of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Reviewing the Trustees' Report, John said that the Trustees believe that Kibblestone is a special place and it is the role of our Special District in Scouting to make it as available as possible to the young people in Scouting and other similar groups. It was fitting that so many Lord Mayors were able to join the members to see how Kibblestone contributes to help our young people to become good citizens and to learn exciting and adventurous #skillsforlife.

It has been an adventurous and challenging year as ever, but everyone could rest assured that the Trustees had not been too adventurous with the District's funds.

A lot of time and attention has been devoted to the subject of Risk Management at both the Management and Finance meetings and the Executive Committee meetings, not merely from the point of the health and safety risks for the activities at Kibblestone but also all the strategic, financial and management risks that apply to the Charity.

We are extremely appreciative as ever of all the voluntary help that we continue to receive – without this contribution the Charity would be unable to function. Special thanks are due to all the members of the Kibblestone Scout Active Support for their assistance with maintenance work and various other tasks to support the campsite and the District. John also personally thanked Karen Stevens who has taken on much more than the bookkeeping duties she originally agreed to do. The Charity is very lucky to have the support of so many people.

In terms of Achievements and Performance we continue to see more demand for the use of Kibblestone, its buildings and activities and thus we continue to focus on the infrastructure of the campsite, including the electricity, drains and water supply.

Other customers included the Girl Guides, youth groups and corporate customers who used the venue for educational field studies, development and training – amongst these are High Adventure, the Prince's Trust, Rotary, Chernobyl Children and Duke of Edinburgh Award groups.

Schools and colleges that used the site include Landauforte colleges, Stoke-on-Trent College, Finham Park, Humberstone Junior Academy, Ellis Guilford, and Oulton First School.

We have the Learning Outside the Classroom accreditation and will be continuing to work closely with schools.

We have continued to improve the buildings and estate grounds. The Cub Lair interior was refurbished to provide four new dormitories, whilst keeping much of the floor space and character of the building.



Replacement windows were installed in the Trading Post and Cub Lair ablutions. The Copeland Cabin extension was fitted out and will be fully operational in April 2019. The Fox Glen and Wetmore Mill required replacement roofing and the overflow carpark was improved. The Dale Shelter was refurbished during the year with the kind support of the Dale family.

The temporary cave facility has been replaced with a new version of the cave bus – the “Hamster Run”.

The maintenance and improvement of the buildings in the Charity’s portfolio is key to continuing success. In total, £47,000 was invested in new assets during the year.

On the Statement of Financial Activities, John reported that the overall result for the year showed an excess of expenditure over income of £54,000, compared to £17,000 last year. John also explained that the excess of expenditure over income includes a charge for depreciation of £62,000.

Revenue decreased by £49,000 from £309,000 to £260,000. The shortfall was partly due to poor weather at the start of 2018 and the decision to stop selling badges. Expenditure was maintained at the 2018 level, through good management.

There were no questions for the Treasurer and adoption of the Accounts and Financial Report was proposed by Nick Moss, seconded by Mike Willis and approved by all present.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman, Michael Deakin, presented the Annual Report which reflects the achievements of the District during the past year.

Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Stevan Fern, seconded by John Capper and approved by all present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019/2020

The Chairman informed the meeting of the following appointments:

President:

The Lord Mayor of the City of Stoke-on-Trent

Vice Presidents:

Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme

Ken Adams

Gretta Bloor

Steve Broadhurst

Wilf Burt

Kay Ellis

Albert Hart

Trevor Mardling

Sue Meachem

Phil Shemilt

Rosemary Thys



Victor Thys
Graham Wiggins

The Secretary, Karen Stevens, announced the Ex-officio Members -

| | |
|--|---------------|
| District Commissioner | Clive Leader |
| District Secretary | Karen Stevens |
| District Treasurer | John Capper |
| District Scout Active Support Manager | Stevan Fern |

Karen announced the District Commissioner's nominations –

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| District Chair | Michael Deakin |
|----------------|----------------|

Executive Nominations (3) to be appointed in due course.

Karen announced the nominations of the District Commissioners of the Districts –

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Newcastle | Graham Baddeley |
| Potteries North | Michele Lawrence |
| Three Towns | Nicholas Moss |

Karen announced the nominations of the Young Persons Representative nominations by the District Commissioners of the Districts –

Imogen Boote

Karen announced the Executive Committee's Elected Members –

Colin Greatbatch
Mike Willis

The meeting approved these appointments.

Karen announced the Executive Committee's Invited Members –

Bob Dudley
Karen Stevens



AUDITOR

John Capper thanked Andrew Bradshaw of Bradshaws Accountants for his support of Kibblestone and recommended that Bradshaws be appointed Independent Examiner for 2019.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No pre-notice of any other business had been received.

SPEAKERS

Jackie Brocklehurst, County Commissioner, addressed the meeting. Jackie talked about Kibblestone Special District, and how it is a special place, only because of the people who give so much to the District and how they deliver "Skills For Life". Jackie thanked the staff and volunteers of the District.

Jackie presented Mike Willis with his 15-year Service Award.

Clive Leader, District Commissioner, addressed the meeting. Clive talked about the World Scout Jamboree in America later this summer and what an effect it will have on the young people attending. Clive talked about how in its own way, Kibblestone has a positive effect on the young people that visit. He also talked about how much time and effort people give to Kibblestone, and how proud all our volunteers should feel.

Clive then talked about the Centenary of Kibblestone in 2027 and how to connect with the thousands of people who have had some contact with Kibblestone. It would be an opportunity to look forward to the next hundred years. Clive asked for contributions from the room for ideas about what people would like to see at Kibblestone and how to celebrate the centenary

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

On closing the meeting Michael thanked everyone for attending.

Michael personally thanked all those who work for Kibblestone or who give their time to help maintain the site so that we can continue as a District to give to the people who come to use the facilities here.

The meeting closed with the National Anthem.





**"The open-air is the real objective of Scouting and the key to its success."
Lord Baden Powell**



District Commissioner's Update

Kibblestone is people.

There were record numbers of young people who came to Kibblestone for fun and adventure, and to make those memories that will last forever. You might forget a few English lessons from school, but you will never forget the time you tried to jump across the stream at Kibblestone and didn't quite make it! The site was busy from a mad May to an over-worked October. The Treasurer will talk elsewhere about the financial achievements of the year – but behind the revenues are the opportunities for young people to grow. A special thank you to all those adults in the Movement – and supporting other youth groups – who gave of their time to use the site to deliver those experiences.

To continue to build and develop, we need to grow the pool of talent and energy that is our volunteers. During 2019 we established the Kibblestone Youth Team. In the best tradition of Youth Shaping they took my idea and turned it on its head. They didn't want a Youth Forum that talked about things which never got implemented. They wanted a Youth Team that would roll up its sleeves and get stuck in. A special thank you to the pioneers and a call to everyone to encourage anyone between 14 and 25 who would like to be part of something special to come and join in. (email KYT@Kibblestone.org)

The bedrock of people supporting the site is the SAS - the team which delivers activities, maintains and develops the infrastructure, runs the shop, deals with our customers and generally makes things happen. It was particularly pleasing to see a number of the SAS recognised through national awards this year – congratulations to you all. Whether you have a medal or not, your contribution is always the difference between a field and a campsite, the difference between a visit and an adventure, the difference between something a young person did and something they will remember forever. Thank you all.

At the end of 2019 we said farewell to Mike Deakin as Chairman of the District Executive. His knowledge, experience and focus have enabled the Exec – since the District was established – to exercise proper stewardship over the wonderful resource with which we have been entrusted. Mike Willis has kindly taken the role on an acting basis until we can find the right person to take us into the future. The Exec members have done a wonderful job but we are aware as a team that we need to add to our skills and experience and the nature of the District Constitution means a number must step down at next year's AGM. So, we are always on the look-out for new talent who might support the charity as a Trustee. (email me at DC@Kibblestone.org).

At the core of all these groups are Steve and the staff team. Young people enjoy great times because they all do a great job for us – from the fun and exciting to the tedious and, well, less enjoyable tasks. The thing I love is that when you talk with them, they think they are the lucky ones to work at Kibblestone! Thank you all.

2019 was a successful year for the site – welcoming more guests, delivering more variety, enhancing the infrastructure, building stronger relationships with our users. And the thing I am really proud of, starting to build a team of Young People to take the batten on to an exciting tomorrow.

Kibblestone is growing!

Clive Leader, District Commissioner



AWARDS

Bar to the Award for Merit

Marion Bramhall

Award for Merit

Thomas Buttress

Victoria Cash

David Ellam

James Lewis

Andrew Locker

Michael Willis

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Ann Willis



IN MEMORIAM

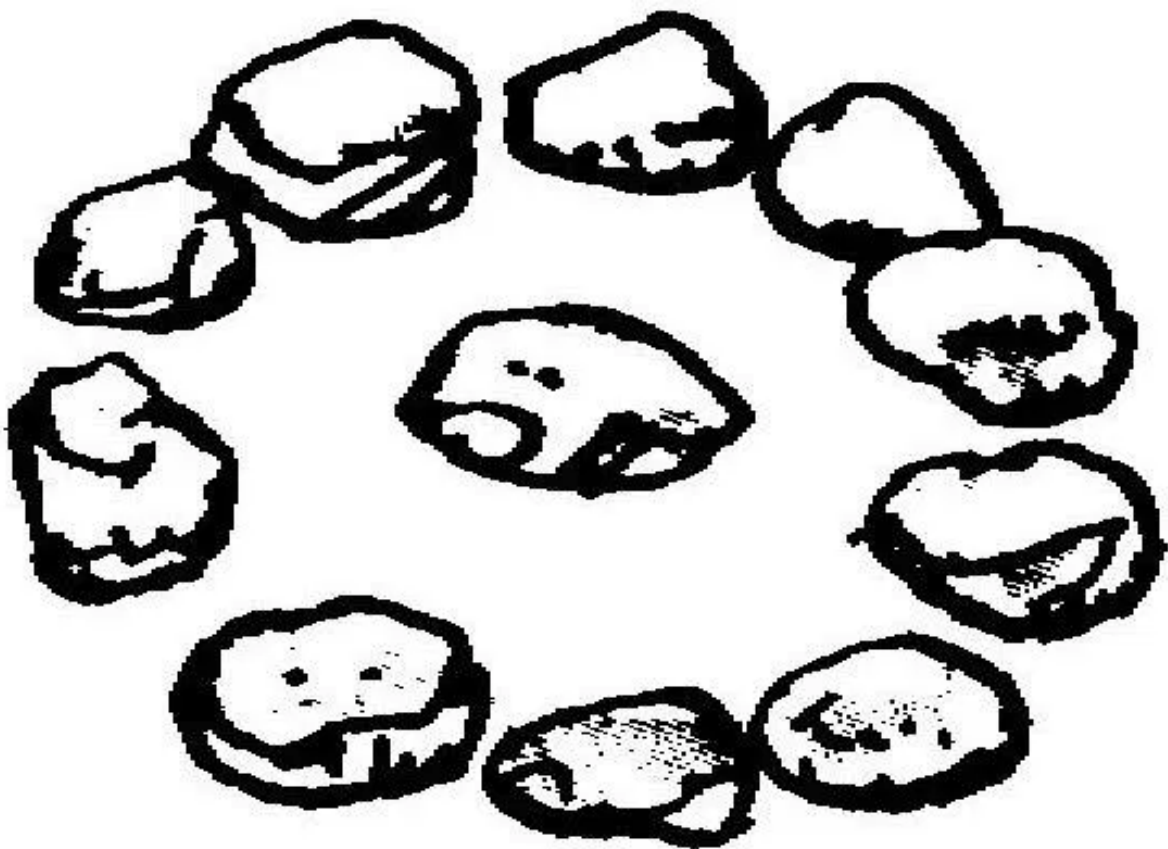
During 2019 we lost several good friends of Kibblestone. We will miss them all dearly and send our condolences to their families

John Barker

John Bramhall (Mr B)

Mrs Jean Copeland

Ron Harrison



District Chairman's Report

This year's report will be one of two halves as I stepped down as Chair at the end of 2019. I felt that, after nearly five years, it was time for me to stand aside and make way for a new person to take over and help lead the District forward.

During the time up to the end of the year the Management Team along with the Executive Committee have worked hard to improve the site and provide extra facilities. An excavator has been purchased to assist with work on site and a new toilet and shower block facility has been approved and is scheduled to be built in the early part of 2020. These are just two of the many projects undertaken by the camp staff and the volunteers of the Active Support Unit, including the Gotcha Team, without whom Kibblestone would not function.

Our Carol service was again in the form of a campfire and was well attended. Again, many thanks to the camp staff and volunteers for arranging the event. Our volunteer thank you lunch was a great success and this was not without a great effort from the camp staff and Karen.

All that is left for me to do is to thank all the members of the Executive and Management teams, the camp staff and all our volunteers for their help and assistance during my time as District Chair.

I wish you all and the District all the very best for the future.

Mike Deakin, outgoing Kibblestone District Chairman

Hello everyone

After an enjoyable Carol Service in the Fox Glen I was approached by Clive to consider standing in as acting Chair for Kibblestone District.

I made it through my first Management & Finance Committee meeting without any problems. The meeting followed its usual format and the previous Chairman was there to hand over the reins to me.

My second meeting turned out to be very different due to the closure of the site and cessation of all face to face Scouting. Our Treasurer, John Capper, came to the rescue with online meeting facilities – thank you John!

As the lockdown continued we have held much more regular meetings to support Steve and the team. Key areas of concern have been how to look after the welfare of the employees and volunteers and how best to minimise the financial losses.

We will continue to monitor the situation and act in the best interests of Kibblestone. Steve has many ideas on how to keep everyone engaged and I look forward to seeing them.

I would like to finish by thanking all the members of the Kibblestone Executive Committee, the camp staff and volunteers for their hard work over the last twelve months. I would also like to thank Bob Dudley for his continued support of Kibblestone.

Mike Willis, acting Kibblestone District Chairman



Review of 2019

What a sensational year we had!

2019 was a year of incredible growth and saw the highest level of income for the Charity in its existence. Camp fees were more than a third higher than 2018 and income from the Trading Post was over £24,000 – that's a lot of slushies! The Charity applied for grants totalling more than £50,000 and was fortunate to receive several grants, including £10,000 from Awards For All towards the replacement tree house and £2,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. We also developed links with the Donna Louise Trust, running a joint fund-raising event just before Christmas.

The annual summer camp programme partnership with High Adventure saw a record number of young people visit the site over ten weeks, and we have been working hard to improve the capacity of the site to increase numbers even more.

We were delighted to host several large District events, including Wolverhampton East, Potteries North Cubs, Lowry District, Cannock Chase Cubs, Lichfield and Newcastle. The Baden Powell Scouts chose Kibblestone as the venue for their AGM, and Derby cubs held a Christmas camp with a very special visitor!

This year also saw the first Children of Artemis Gathering at Kibblestone over the August Bank Holiday weekend, moving from their former venue, Horley Scout Camp in Oxfordshire. This whole-site booking filled a traditionally empty weekend, and brought a delightful group of nature-loving people who adored everything Kibblestone has to offer. We are looking forward to building on this event every year and to welcoming the attendees who look after the site with such care and respect.

We maintained our Learning Outside the Classroom accreditation and continue to offer Kibblestone to schools for activity days and residential courses. We have developed more relationships with local Prince's Trust groups and hosted nine residential courses this year.

Our themed Beaver Day was a great success this year, with a visit from local celebrity Police Dog Cooper, and his house-mate Police Dog Henry. Our Cub Activity Days and Autumn Activity Camp were as popular as ever, and the free camping in February brought out some hardy campers determined to earn their Sub-Zero badges.

Our volunteer catering teams have been busier than ever as more groups request fully catered camps, and they always meet the challenge of making sure no camper goes home hungry!

We held our first Kibblestone Guardians day in April and put our enthusiastic volunteers to work spring cleaning the site ready for visitors. After a day of clearing leaves, weeding and mixing concrete the barbecue was well received!



The day-to-day running of the site is the responsibility of the Estate Manager, Stevan Fern, with the support of the Operations Manager, Bob Dudley. Steve is assisted by his team: Sue Hadfield, Phil Malbon, Ray Wilson and Matt Heath. This small team delivers an excellent level of service to all our users and we are extremely grateful for their support and vast knowledge of the operation.

Much of the projects would not happen without the tireless work undertaken by our voluntary supporters, the Kibblestone District Scout Active Support Unit – the “Gotcha” team, Den Service teams, Trading Post staff and Mosty Lea Mill team. The value of these people is immeasurable and without them our operating costs would be unaffordable.

We had some great support from local businesses, including JCB who provided a machine and operator to prepare foundations and dig trenches. We hope to build a long-lasting relationship with the company for the future.

The staff and volunteers have been busy making improvements to the site. Major projects completed this year include:

- The installation of lighting along Copeland Drive;
- The installation of Wi-Fi in the Cub Lair and RCTC;
- The partitioning of the main RCTC dormitory into smaller rooms;
- The installation of two outdoor classrooms;
- Mapping of the hot and cold water infrastructure;
- The completion of the five-year electrical test;
- The installation of replacement windows and door in the Rover Den;
- Replacement of the underground water pipe along Jubilee Drive;

Another large project has been the renovation of the Dale Shelter, with the financial support of the Dale family. The changes have been so significant that we have decided to rename the building the Dale Centre, because “Shelter” no longer seemed appropriate. We have improved the sleeping accommodation, and the building now sleeps twenty. The next stage of the project is to add a kitchen and improved washing and toilet facilities.

Our campfire-themed Carol Service was well attended again and we were delighted to host the High Sheriff of Staffordshire and the Mayors of Stone and Stafford and the Deputy Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme. Our thanks to the Scout Active Support for providing the refreshments and entertainment.

During the year we worked to develop our branding and marketing material. We are particularly proud of the information packs, which we showcased at the County Conference in September.

We continue to market our investment properties in Hanley. Two of the properties are currently vacant, and events in 2020 mean that the two tenanted properties are not trading and our tenants are facing very uncertain futures. We will continue to work to support the tenants to protect the Charity’s assets and income.



Looking to the future, Kibblestone will celebrate its hundredth birthday in 2027. The Centenary task force held its first meeting this year to develop some inspiring projects to send us forward into the next hundred years. This is a big celebration for us and we will need a lot of help to make it a success. If you are interested in helping out please email manager@kibblestone.org.

We are committed to ensuring the continued development of the site, to offer all of our visitors the best experience possible. Thank you to everyone for your dedicated commitment, time and effort - without you the adventure would be so much harder to deliver.

2019 has been our best year ever. 2020 will probably be the most difficult year in Kibblestone's history. The COVID-19 pandemic will result in the loss of most Scouting and Guiding bookings in 2020. Schools and other youth groups will also be badly affected, with the campsite closed until at least July. The team will continue to look after the site, whilst minimising costs to protect reserves where possible. We will formulate ways to keep in touch with our customers and supporters and ensure that the site is ready to operate safely when it is able to open. The situation will present a difficult challenge and we will need the support of all our friends to ensure that the charity survives.

The Management Committee
Kibblestone District Scout Council





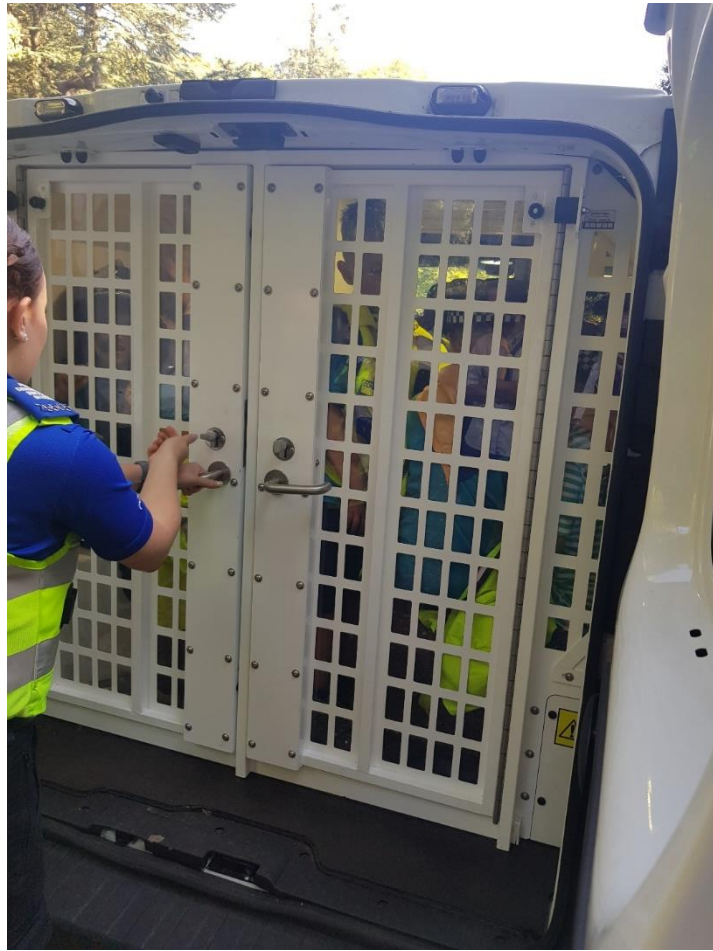
Thank you to our supporters





Artemis Gathering 2019





Beaver Day 2019 how to deal with unruly Beavers?





Christmas at Kibblestone



Scout Active Support

Well let's start by saying what another fabulous year as a District we have had!

Kibblestone is growing every year and the site is becoming better known, with more and more customers deciding to use the site for their outdoor endeavours. The Scouting Active Support has been very busy this year and the huge variety of volunteer activities will show any member of Scouting just how much can be achieved by an SAS unit. The team has taken part in all the major events that the site has produced for our customers.

From the Gotcha team fitting out the extension on the Copeland Cabin; the Mosty Lea Mill team maintaining the mill and its surrounding area; to shop staff serving hundreds of young people; the catering team buttering loaf after loaf; and our activity instructors instructing whatever the weather, I thank you all.

I always ask myself why the volunteers come to Kibblestone, come rain or shine, fixing leaky pipes and broken toilet seats, pouring concrete, fixing fences, and yes, even sweeping Jubilee Drive. The reason is that our Active Support team at Kibblestone is more like a family - one that will share your good times and be there to support you through the bad times. We are here for each other and to support the site no matter what the task.

We are always grateful for new volunteers, so if you have a few hours spare, even if it's not a regular commitment please get in touch. Kibblestone would not be the place it is without our amazing volunteers.

As always, a massive THANK YOU to the SAS members. Let's make this next year an adventure to remember!

Thank you

Stevan Fern, Scout Active Support Manager





The first Kibblestone Guardians Day





“Can you remember the patter of rain on your tent, the sound of owls or the rustling of the wind in the leaves at night? It’s a feeling of absolute freedom and belonging – re-establishing our relationship with both ourselves and planet earth. A night in the outdoors is also a reminder that not everything that’s precious and valuable costs a lot of money.”

Bear Grylls





**"The man who is blind to the beauties of nature has missed half the pleasure of life."
Lord Baden Powell**



Sub-Zero Camping 2019



“Every child has the right to an adventure. Life is about grabbing opportunities. The prizes don’t always go to the biggest, the best and the strongest – they go to those who persevere. These are simple life lessons that Scouting teaches”

Bear Grylls



Here's to another amazing year together at Kibblestone Scout District

Join the Adventure!



KIBBLESTONE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
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