



West Region Scout Council Annual General Meeting

22nd August 2026

Rhu Scout Hall

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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 30th August 2025, at Glynhill Hotel, 169 Paisley Road, Renfrew, PA4 8XB.
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR 5d.3)
 - 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 maximum number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Regional Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
5. Review of the previous year
 - a. The Regional Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts during the past 12 months 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 members of the Regional Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the Regional Trustee Board
 - b. Re-appoint Regional President and/or Vice Presidents
 - c. Appoint the Independent Auditor / Examiner
 - d. Elect representatives of the Regional Scout Council to represent the Regional Scout Council on the Council of The Scout Association
7. Closing remarks and end of Regional AGM for 2026

Gone Home

Lizzie McCarron

Lizzie was a valued member of the 19th Argyll Explorer Leader team and sadly passed away on 30 June 2026, after suffering from cancer.

Lizzie came late to Scouts, joining in 2018 at the age of 51 but grasped every opportunity offered and helped at numerous camps, participated in the 2023 Nepal trip, 2024 Argyll district Explorer Belt, and was a member of the Regional DofE Team. She will be much missed by the leaders and young people in mid Argyll.

Duncan Luke

As the District Treasurer for Greenock & District, Duncan Luke gave an incredible amount of time, support and guidance to Scouting locally. Duncan was reliable, supportive and dependable and always there when needed and quietly got on with whatever task was in front of him.

Duncan was also a true stalwart of the Greenock Gang Show, giving many years of dedicated service behind the scenes. Alongside his wife Kim, he took on the mammoth task of coordinating the Gang Show ticketing year after year, an enormous job which they carried out with incredible commitment. Duncan's work with the finance team was equally invaluable, and so much of what he did happened quietly in the background, without fuss or any expectation of recognition.



Local Scouting is still coming to terms with the sudden and shocking loss of Duncan, and the District will pay tribute to him at a later date. In the meantime, the thoughts and deepest sympathies from the District and West Region are with Kim, Greg, Sophie, Gavin and all of Duncan's family and friends.



Regional Chair's report for 2025/2026

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Report of West Region Scouts.

Since our last AGM, we have a new Regional Lead Volunteer, Regional President, and Regional Treasurer. I can advise that Blair Ross is RLV, Colonel Peter McCarthy as Regional President, and Anne Smart as Regional Treasurer.

District Lead Volunteer changes have also taken place in Argyll and Greenock and District where Anne Smart and Martin Buchan stood down after many years of dedicated service. I would like to offer them my sincere thanks for the work they have put into their respective Districts and wish them well in their new Scouting roles, and welcome Richard Fish as the District Lead Volunteer for Argyll, and Mark Gallacher and Kyle Wilson as the new District Lead Volunteers for Greenock and District.

Another change that took place during the year was the retirement of Ross Dunbar as the long-serving Warden of Lapwing Lodge Outdoor Centre, who was replaced by Ben Sharp as the centre manager.

The national transformation programme has been adopted with minimum problems, and a new constitution has been adopted with our Trustees now appointed for a three-year period. Over the past year, the Board has worked effectively to ensure that our charity continues to operate effectively in supporting the operational side of Scouting to deliver life-changing adventures for our young people and adult volunteers across West Region. Our focus has remained clear: to keep our charity safe, ensure our finances are well managed, and to equip ourselves for the future.

Scouting across the Region has provided memorable experiences for our members, but we still face challenges in attracting new adult volunteers. The new Regional Team under the leadership and guidance of the RLV has started to plan an exciting and challenging refresh for us, which will start to unfold as the Team members start putting their plans into action.

Scouting and its impact on our Section Members would not be possible without the commitment and generosity of our volunteers. Weekly, trustees and supporters across West Region dedicate their time and talents to ensure that Scouting continues to thrive. On behalf of the Trustee Board, I offer sincere thanks to every one of you for all that you do.

Donald Gordon,
Chair of Trustees Board

Regional Lead Volunteers Report for 2025/2026

It is a privilege to present my first Annual Report as Regional Lead Volunteer for West Region Scouts following my appointment in February 2026. Over the past year we have focused on strengthening the foundations of our Region, supporting our volunteers and ensuring we continue to provide outstanding opportunities for young people. While change has brought its challenges, it has also created new opportunities to modernise how we work and better support Scouting across our five Districts.

A key priority has been rebuilding our Regional Team. We have welcomed new volunteers into a range of leadership roles and continue to recruit talented people who share our vision for West Region. I would like to thank everyone who has stepped forward to volunteer and support our Region. Your commitment and enthusiasm are helping shape a stronger future for Scouting.

One of the most rewarding parts of my first year has been visiting Districts, meeting volunteers and young people, and seeing first-hand the incredible work taking place every week. Whether at section meetings, camps, adventurous activities or community events, our volunteers continue to inspire young people and provide them with Skills for Life.

This year has also seen us continue adapting to the new UK Scouts operating model and membership system. Whilst there has been a learning curve, I would like to thank everyone for embracing these changes and supporting one another throughout the transition.

Communication and recognition remain important priorities. We have continued to improve how we communicate through our website and social media, celebrating the fantastic achievements taking place across West Region. We recognise that our volunteers deserve greater recognition for the countless hours they give to Scouting, and this will remain a key focus during the year ahead.

Looking forward, 2027 will be a landmark year for West Region. We look forward to welcoming members from across the Region to our Regional Founder's Day Service in Paisley & District on 27 February, before celebrating 120 Years of Scouting in West Region with our Regional Camp during the first week of July. These events will celebrate our proud history while creating unforgettable experiences for the next generation of Scouts.

None of what we achieve would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, Trustees, supporters and families. I would like to thank our District Lead Volunteers, Regional Team and every volunteer across West Region for your commitment, support and passion. As we look ahead, my ambition remains simple: to build a Region where every volunteer feels valued, every young person feels they belong, and every member has the opportunity to gain Skills for Life through adventure, friendship and challenge.

Thank you for everything you do for Scouting in West Region. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

Blair Ross

Regional Lead Volunteer

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31st March 2026 For West Region Scout Council

Accounts files are with MacMillan Craig, the independent examiners and we hope to have OSCR format accounts for approval in the next couple of weeks.

The outline summary of the 2025-26 financial year is as follows:

West Region

The Region's Bank Account showed a balance of £72,500 at the year-end although this includes £49,400 in respect of membership fees paid in advance of the due date giving an effective year-end bank balance of £23,100.

The Region also advanced funds during the year of £8,000 in connection with the Jamboree. This will be recovered in full once all participant fees are collected, giving an effective year-end balance of £31,100.

The Region are also due to recover rates of £2,175 paid to Argyll & Bute Council for Innellan Scout Hall. This should be recovered from the purchaser on conclusion of the sale of the property.

Lapwing lodge

Trading income for Lapwing Lodge was down by circa £40,000 to £192,000 but the overall position remained strong with a trading surplus of £17,000 despite an increase of £20,000 in utility costs from the year prior.

There was significant capital expenditure during the year with £6,000 on new fire doors, £41,600 on repairs to the dam and £41,400 on the installation of solar panels.

The solar panel installation was fully covered by grant funding and it is hoped that this will have a significantly positive impact on electricity costs going forward.

Lapwing Lodge had a closing cash balance of £21,800 at the end of the year. With the final payment having been made on the UK Scouting Loan, the only remaining loan is the Bounce-back loan, the year-end balance on which was £5,300.

Accounts for the year are attached.

Lapwing Trading Accounts to 31 March 2026

Income

Trading Income	192,158.48
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Expenditure

Cleaning	10,267.78
Maintenance	47,836.82
Equipment	7,904.53
Insurance	20,797.62
Utilities	40,694.41
Salary	40,397.24
Sessional Staff	400.00
Tuck Shop	567.00
Training	373.37
Interest	691.92
Miscellaneous	5,153.01
Phone & WiFi	20.40
	<u>175,104.10</u>

<u>Trading Surplus</u>	<u>17,054.38</u>
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Bank Account

Opening Bank Balance	58,411.37
Add Trading Surplus	17,054.38
Loan Repayments Bounce back	7,438.19
Loan Repayments Scouts UK	8,250.00

Capital Expenditure

Capital Projects - New Driveway	1,080.00
Capital Projects - Fire Doors	6,044.40
Capital Projects - Solar Panels	41,444.31
Capital Projects - Dam Repairs	41,632.00
Less Grant Income	<u>-52,281.31</u>

Closing Bank Balance	<u>21,858.16</u>
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Regional Youth Lead Report 2025/2026

It has been an important year for Youth Shaped Scouting across West Region. Our focus has been on establishing a sustainable Regional Youth Team (RYT), strengthening youth voice, increasing Young Leader Training (YLT) opportunities and putting structures in place that give young people real influence at all levels. The year also involved a planned leadership transition, with the Regional Youth Lead reaching the age limit for the role, making succession planning and the continued development of the team a key part of our work.

We established and expanded the Regional Youth Team around dedicated workstreams covering YLT, Events, Youth Shaped Scouting and Team Support, and recruited new youth volunteers including a District Youth Lead and Regional Youth Team Members across each area. Recruitment materials, vacancy packs and role descriptions were produced to support future growth and succession.

Six young people represented West Region at the UK Youth Forum, contributing to discussions on Youth Voice, Strategy, Sustainability and Advocacy, and identifying safety, programme quality and youth-led decision-making as key priorities. We have also developed plans for Regional Youth Forums and Youth Shaped Scouting resources to support delivery of the YouShape Award and widen opportunities for young people to be heard.

Two Regional YLT Weekend were delivered for 60 young people from all Districts, with all participants completing their modules. We secured £1,000 from the Scouts Scotland Development Fund to support future delivery and online learning resources and continued working with Surrey Scouts on more flexible hybrid and online approaches. Regional communications have also improved through the West Region website, increasing the visibility of youth-led activity.

The Regional Youth Development Plan focuses on five priorities: developing the Regional Youth Team; refreshing our regional appearance and communications; empowering young adults; delivering what young people want from Scouting; and improving access to Top Awards and leadership opportunities. Good progress has been made across all five, with particularly strong development in youth recruitment, engagement and Young Leader Training.

Priorities for 2026–27 include appointing a new Regional Youth Lead, launching our Youth Shaped Scouting resources, developing regional YLT further and expanding online and hybrid learning materials. We also plan to deliver Regional Youth Forums, raise awareness of Top Awards and create more opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles.

The work carried out in 2025–26 has given West Region a strong foundation. Youth representation has increased, more young people are developing leadership skills, and stronger support structures are in place. There is still plenty to do, but young people are now better placed to have their voices heard, influence decisions and take on leadership roles, and I look forward to building on this progress over the coming year.

Paris Grierson

Regional Youth Lead

Lapwing Lodge Annual Report for 2025/2026

This has been a landmark year of transition and celebration for the centre. After twelve years of dedicated service as warden, Ross Dunbar retired, leaving behind a truly remarkable legacy. Under his stewardship the centre was transformed with new heating, hot water, the much-loved hobbit village and a superb activity hall all delivered during his tenure. Ross combined outstanding commercial acumen with deep Scouting experience, and together these drove bookings back to and then well beyond the strong levels enjoyed in years past. At the annual dinner we were proud to present both Ross and Liz with a special recognition of their incredible service to the centre. Looking ahead, we are delighted to welcome Ben Sharp as our new Centre Manager. Ben brings an impressive career in delivering adventurous activities and maintaining property, an ideal combination that positions the centre brilliantly for the future.

Over the past year the centre proudly hosted a wonderful array of returning Groups, many travelling from well beyond West Region. A particular highlight was last summer's PAGGS international camp, which brought 500 campers from across Europe together for over a week of adventure, a tremendous success and a real credit to both the organisers and the centre working in partnership.

Alongside our youth groups, the centre continues to benefit from strong engagement with external organisations, both through venue hire and through companies participating via their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes enabling substantial steps to be taken in improving the centre. This Spring we were thrilled by a fantastic turnout of members, including many familiar faces returning after several years, who rolled up their sleeves to tackle a wide variety of improvement projects.

Development has continued apace throughout the year, with a new driveway ensuring that the all-important first impression is now greatly improved. Our dedicated team of support staff, working hand in hand with the Lapwing Lodge Management Board under the leadership of Hilary Graham, has been instrumental in maintaining the centre for the benefit of its thousands of users and my heartfelt thanks go to every one of them. Having taken on the role of Lead Volunteer last year, I have worked with the support team to set out an ambitious three-year strategy: to create opportunities for Explorer Scout aged members to achieve their top awards in both volunteering and service while gaining activity permits; to build an adult support team to sustain the centre's continued development; and to secure regular grant funding so that even more members from across the Region can enjoy everything the centre has to offer.

We also recognise the financial challenges faced by Sections and Groups who may not be able to hire full wings. To support them, we are excited to announce that a new pricing model will launch in August, opening the centre's doors even wider to Sections right across the Region.

Stephen T. Allan

Lead Volunteer - Lapwing Lodge Support Team

Argyll District Annual Report for 2025/2026

2025/26 was another busy year for the six Groups and three Explorer units based in Argyll.

In the summer of 2025, eight leaders, 23 Explorers and 11 Scouts from across Argyll District travelled to the Norwegian National Jamboree. All participants had an excellent experience and enjoyed meeting Scouts from many parts of the world. We were hosted on a sub-camp by four Groups from Drammen and are delighted that 65 members of these Groups will return to Scotland in the summer of 2026 for a week-long camp at Barrwood.



The academic year began with three leaders and two Explorers from Argyll attending the Cowal Games in Dunoon at the end of August. The aim was to raise awareness of Scouting in Argyll and to support leader recruitment for the local Group and other Groups across the District. Despite very wet weather, which reduced the number of visitors, positive conversations were held at the stall and many people enjoyed the craft activity organised by the Explorers.

Argyll Explorers attended the Blair Atholl selection event in September 2025, and a patrol was selected to attend Blair Atholl in 2026. Explorers also showed strong interest in the international Peru 2027 trip, with two leaders, one Networker and seven Explorers signing up to take part in this adventure.

There were twice as many applicants for Peru as there were places available, which inevitably meant that a number of Explorers were disappointed. In response, Argyll District has organised an overseas trip to Iceland in 2027. An information day was held in February 2026 to identify interested applicants and begin planning for this additional international opportunity.



Argyll District opened its 2026 Explorer Belt to participants from the West Region and was subsequently asked whether it could accommodate participants from the North East Region. A total of nine leaders and 25 young people will join the expedition in October 2026. The first training camp, held in April 2026, was a valuable opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and begin developing the skills that will be useful in Galicia.

The national Adventure Camp at Hopetoun House was attended by leaders and Scouts from 1st Argyll, 15th Argyll, 19th Argyll and 37th Argyll. All those who attended had a fantastic weekend and enjoyed the wide range of activities on offer.

Argyll Wildcat Explorers have continued to take part in adventurous activities and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions throughout the 2025/26 year. Activities have included scrambling, kayaking, hiking and wild camping.



Anne Smart
District Lead Volunteer

Dunbartonshire District Annual Report for 2025/2026

This has been another outstanding year for Dunbartonshire Scouts, marked by growth, adventure, and the continued dedication of our young people, volunteers, and supporters.

Across our 12 active Groups, hundreds of young people have enjoyed an incredible range of opportunities and experiences. From camping under the stars and exploring the hills on hikes, to developing new skills through kayaking, skiing, and archery, our programme has continued to embody the spirit of adventure that lies at the heart of Scouting. These activities have not only created lasting memories but have helped our members build confidence, resilience, teamwork, and a lifelong love of the outdoors.

We are particularly proud to have opened three new sections during the year, extending our reach and enabling even more young people to benefit from everything Scouting has to offer. This expansion reflects the hard work and commitment of our volunteers and the strong support we receive from families and local communities.

Most significantly, Dunbartonshire Scouts has achieved growth for the fifth consecutive year. Sustained growth on this scale is a remarkable achievement and demonstrates the strength, vitality, and relevance of Scouting across our district. It is a testament to the enthusiasm of our young people, the dedication of our adult volunteers, and the collective effort of everyone who contributes to our movement.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and optimism. Building on another successful year, we remain committed to providing safe, exciting, and inclusive opportunities that enable more young people to gain skills for life and experience the adventure of Scouting.

Thank you to every volunteer, leader, parent, supporter, and, above all, every young person who has made this year such a success. Together, we continue to ensure that Dunbartonshire Scouts goes from strength to strength.

Sarah Lintott

District Lead Volunteer

Greenock and District Annual Report for 2025/2026

The past year has been another busy and successful one for Greenock & District Scouts, with hundreds of young people across our Groups and District sections benefiting from an exciting and varied programme delivered by our dedicated volunteers.

Throughout the year, our District programme has provided opportunities for adventure, challenge and personal development. Young people participated in a wide range of camps, competitions and events including pioneering, orienteering, the popular Itchy Midge Camp, and our long-established Hardie/Webster Camping Competition. These events continue to test and develop practical scouting skills whilst encouraging teamwork, leadership and resilience, they are also about having fun and coming together.

Our Explorer Scout and Scout Network sections have enjoyed another successful year with the introduced two new events to the District calendar – the Leapmoor Chill Weekend and “Hunted” on Millport – both of which proved highly successful and further strengthened opportunities for older young people to remain engaged in Scouting. The 14-24 team also hosted the Explorer Network Quiz night. The Region Young Leader Training weekend was well attended by the Explorer Section. There has been high uptake for events over the next year with Explorers being successful in gaining places for international experiences such as Blair Atholl Jamborette, the Region trip to Peru and The World Scout Jamboree to Poland.

The strong partnership between Greenock & District Scouts and Inverclyde's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme continues to provide outstanding opportunities for our young people. We are extremely grateful to the DofE team for their continued support. Inverclyde consistently produces an exceptional amount of Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, reflecting the quality and accessibility of the programme available locally. These achievements complement the Scout Award Scheme, supporting young people on their journey towards the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards and ultimately the King's Scout Award.

We are particularly proud that two members of our Network achieved the prestigious King's Scout Award during the year and attended Windsor in April, with several others progressing towards completion. Joe Milloy, one of this year's recipients, had the honour of representing Scouts Scotland at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Everton Campsite remains a vital asset for Scouting within Inverclyde and beyond. We extend our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who continue to invest significant time and effort into maintaining and improving the site. During the year, all windows within the Lodge were replaced as part of the ongoing maintenance and improvement programme, ensuring the facility remains fit for future generations of Scouts.

The Leapmoor Pipe Band continues to flourish, maintaining a proud tradition through regular teaching and practice sessions. The band has represented Scouting at numerous civic and community events throughout the year, including the Annual Inverclyde Commemoration Service at Greenock's Wellpark Cenotaph.

Our District Amateur Radio Club remains one of the most unique opportunities available to young people within the District. The volunteer team continues to engage Scouts from across all sections through visits to the radio room at District Headquarters and participation in JOTA-JOTI. A particular highlight this year saw young people successfully communicate with astronauts aboard the International Space Station, providing an unforgettable educational experience.

The District's powerboating programme continues to go from strength to strength. Thanks to the commitment of the powerboat team and permit holders, increasing numbers of young people and volunteers are accessing safe, adventurous activities on the water. During the year, additional leaders gained qualifications, enabling the programme to expand further. We remain extremely grateful to the many organisations, grant providers and local businesses whose support helps maintain and develop this important activity provision. Thanks are due to the Royal Gourock Yacht Club for its continued partnership and support.

Across the District, volunteers continue to provide an exceptional level of service to young people. Their dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to go above and beyond remains the foundation upon which Scouting in Inverclyde is built. We thank every volunteer, trustee, supporter and parent who contributes to the success of our Groups and District. Our Groups support many community events across Inverclyde throughout the year from The Big Clyde Clean Up, Kilmacolm Show, KipFest, Wymess Bay Gala Day, Gourock Garden Party, Port Glasgow Commet Festival, Gourock Highland Games and more.

The famous Greenock Gangshow have had their launch event and auditions ahead of the summer break with a record size cast of 129 signing up early! We now look forward to rehearsals starting in August and the show in November at the Beacon Arts Centre.

This year also marks a significant leadership transition for the District. We extend our sincere thanks to Martin Buchan for his dedicated service as District Lead Volunteer over the past five years. Under Martin's leadership the District has continued to develop and grow, and we are grateful for his commitment and contribution. We also welcome Mark Gallacher and Kyle Wilson as Joint District Lead Volunteers and look forward to working together to continue developing Scouting across Greenock & District.

Greenock & District Scouts remains in a strong position, supported by committed volunteers, outstanding facilities and ambitious young people. We look forward to another successful year of adventure, skills development and community impact.

Mark Gallacher & Kyle Wilson

District Lead Volunteers

Paisley and District Annual Report for 2025/2026

Growth and Renewal

This year brought our strongest census return since before the pandemic: 719 young people, growth of 8.45%, taking total membership to 955 — the closest we have come to four figures in six years. Squirrels reached 72 with a fourth Drey opening at St Mirin's, Cubs grew from 178 to 211, and Scout Network returned to our census for the first time in several years with 23 members.

PAGGS 2025: Hosting the World in Paisley

The defining event of the year was PAGGS 2025, the international camp hosted by Paisley & District at Lapwing Lodge — the largest single undertaking this District has attempted in many years, and one delivered almost entirely by volunteers. The programme took every delegation to Edinburgh in festival season and into Paisley for witch talks, Abbey and Sma' Shot tours and the Lagoon, crowned by a Civic Reception hosted by the Lord Provost. On site, Lapwing delivered archery, kayaking and high ropes, while evenings brought an international showcase, a silent disco and a ceilidh with Fèis Phàislig.

None of it came easily. The opening days brought weather severe enough to force wholesale rescheduling, marquees rebuilt, and a water tanker rescued from a sinking car park. That the young people experienced almost none of this is the highest compliment we can pay the leaders and helpers who adapted, repaired and improvised their way through the week.

Better World: A Legacy from PAGGS

Out of the relationships built during PAGGS came a lasting partnership with Gleniffer Braes Country Park, and from it our Better World programme. The principle is deliberately reciprocal: the park has more conservation work than its staff can reach, and our young people need service that visibly changes something. Our Scouts have been clearing invasive growth, improving paths and access, and taking on habitat projects set by the park's own team — gaining practical skills, real conservation experience and progress towards Community Impact and award volunteering. It began as a single District day and is now a continuing partnership, and it is a model we would gladly share with other Districts.

A District Programme Restored

Last year we reported that the District had paused its centralised programme. This year a full calendar was planned and delivered: a first-ever Squirrel Fun Day at The Bield and a Christmas Movie Night; for Cubs, a Quiz Night at Lylesland, a Winter Weekend at Lapwing Lodge and a Ten Pin Bowling competition drawing around 100 Cubs to Braehead; and for Scouts, a Quiz Night at UWS alongside Better World. Scout Network has also been revived, now attracting ten to fifteen young people most weeks, with conversations underway with the UWS Students' Union about a presence on campus. Crucially, none of this has displaced the group-led activity that remains our real strength.

International Horizons

Thirty-one young people applied for Blair Atholl 2026, with thirteen selected from Lylesland, St Peter's, 3rd Barrhead and JNI, alongside a substantial number of our leaders on camp staff; they have trained together across the year and the District has assembled a complete camp kit. Amie Thomson of 3rd Barrhead was selected for the World Scout Jamboree 2027 in Poland, with Amy Lieberman and Molly Clarke both selected for the International Service Team. Fifteen young people and seventeen leaders were selected for the Region's Peru 2027 expedition. And ten of our young people — seven Scouts and three Guides — prepared to travel to Apeldoorn for the PAGGS Young Leaders' Conference.

The Recruitment Challenge

If there is one message this District would ask Region to take from this report, it is that we need more adult volunteers, and we need them urgently. The year was not without effort: grant funding from Scouts Scotland and Renfrewshire Council supported a leaflet drop across ten thousand households, new banners and branded clothing for recruitment events, and a new District website. Adult numbers did grow, and every new volunteer is gratefully welcomed.

But a handful of new leaders is not a solution. Our fourth Squirrel Drey opened only because four volunteers came forward together; elsewhere, planned sections have been shelved for want of two or three more adults. Growth of 8.45% in young people supported by broadly the same number of adults sharpens rather than eases the problem, and our leaders are tired — they have absorbed a system migration, successive waves of mandatory learning and shifting deadlines on top of running sections every week. We have tried humour, heartstrings and hard facts, and would welcome any Region-level thinking on this, because it is not a problem one District will solve alone.

Leadership Developments

Lynda Scollan took on the role of Volunteer Development Lead, building a team with Colin Harvey and Liam McGrory who have visited every Group and run weekly drop-in support sessions. Molly Clarke joined as District Youth Lead and has driven both the restored programme and the Network relaunch, and Ross Keir joined as Support Team Lead. Our thanks go to them, and to every volunteer who set up a campsite in the rain, completed another module after a long week, or spent a Sunday clearing paths on the Braes.

Graham Reid

District Lead Volunteer

Renfrewshire District Annual Report for 2025/2026

In 2025–2026, Renfrewshire has continued to deliver Scouting at a high standard, with many nights away and trips away from the halls. These have included camps at all three Scouts Scotland centres — Meggernie, Lochgoilhead, and Fordell — along with a wide range of visits, from hillwalking to chippy hikes, fishing to golfing, and skiing to sledging. We also held a Founders Day parade at Johnstone High School, which was well attended.

It has been a very successful year for awards in Renfrewshire, with nearly 90 young people achieving top awards:

7 Squirrels — Chief Scout's Acorn Award

16 Beavers — Chief Scout's Bronze Award

50 Cubs — Chief Scout's Silver Award

9 Scouts — Chief Scout's Gold Award

2 Explorers — Chief Scout's Platinum Award

The district also saw 3 Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Awards and 2 Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards presented this year. Congratulations to them all!

Over the next year, the district team must grow to be able to support all the groups in the district. More people in key roles will make it easier for grassroots leaders to deliver their week-to-week Scouting. Watch out for upcoming adverts.

Angus Gillies

District Lead Volunteer