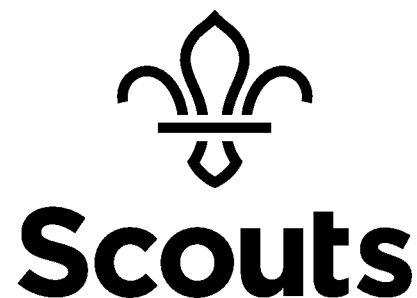


Annual General Meeting 2023/2024



Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Governance topics
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6th November 2023
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
 - c. Note the Group's financial year
 - d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
4. Review of the previous year
 - a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the 1st Waldridge Fell Scout Group
 - b. Section Reviews – Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
 - c. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
 - d. Trustees Report
5. Making appointments
 - a. Appoint the Group Chair
 - b. Appoint the Group Treasurer
 - c. Appoint members of the Group Trustee Board
6. Closing remarks

Annual report 2023/2024



Chairs Report

The last 12 months has seen progress with our lease with Durham County Council. At the end of November 2023 our business plan was approved & we were granted a 30 year lease for this building. Although there were some issues with staff changes at DCC we're hoping to get the lease finally signed by the end of 2024.

This will allow us to apply for grants & funding to upgrade the building with a fully working kitchen and more Scouting friendly flooring, i.e. mop clean from muddy boots. It will also allow us to install more suitable heating after the gas was cut off by DCC during COVID that they were then unable to reconnect. Group has grown over the last 12 months & we're currently running at capacity for both Beavers & Cubs so much so that we have a waiting list for both sections. Hopefully with the building upgrade plans, specifically the heating, we could increase capacity for young people but this requires adult volunteers across the Group.

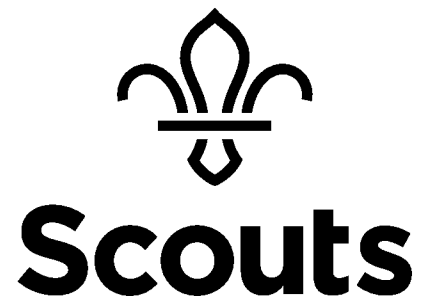
Last year Scouting changed from Executive Committee to Trustee Board - ideally, between the nominated, elected and co-opted Trustees, the Group Trustee Board should include a parent of at least one Member of each of the Sections in the Group. At the moment we currently only have a parent Trustee from Beavers. If anyone is interested in joining our Trustee Board please come & speak to me or one of the Leaders.

Our ongoing vacancies include a Group Secretary & members of the Trustee Board. However, we always welcome adult volunteers to help out across the Sections.

As always, my thanks goes to all the Leaders, Adult Volunteers & Young Leaders who give up their time each week, & occasional weekends, to give a variety of opportunities to your young people at a Section, Group, District & County level.

Claire Gowdy
Group Chair

Annual report 2023/2024



Financial Year Ending 31 October 2024

Executive Summary

The group has had an income of £9465 in membership subscriptions and activity income, an increase of £1170 on the previous year.

The group spent £6397 on camps, activities, and resources for the children. This is almost identical to previous year costs of £6355 suggesting a consistent and engaging programme of events and activities has been maintained.

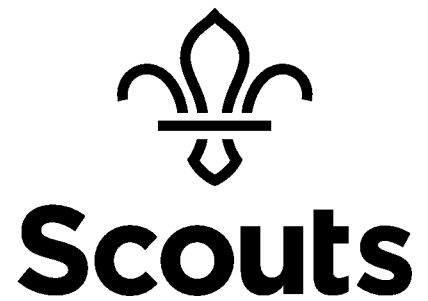
The groups overheads and administrative costs were down slightly this year from £957 to £627.

The group is in a sound financial position with £17,889 in cash assets (up from £15,000 previous year) and as can be seen from the financial results, it is a profitable group, posting an annual net margin of 26%.

What this means is that for every £10 received in subs and membership fees, the group is able to retain £2.60 to invest back in the group.

Making a surplus is essential going forward into the new financial year as we expect significant expenditure on the building, in terms of repairs and maintenance, as well as wanting to maintain our programme of activities and events, many of which the group subsidise.

Annual report 2023/2024



Financial Position and Recommendations for the Year ahead

- As a group, and registered charity, we should be claiming gift aid on payments. This should be a priority for the next financial year. We will aim to submit a Gift Aid claim in 2025 to cover previous 3 years.
- Subscription Fees will increase by £1 per month each year, over the next 5 years. This is part of our long term strategy to repair and maintain the scout hut, which is long overdue, and it cements the groups long term future, allowing us to grow and expand the scouting experience in Chester le Street for many more young people. In addition the group will continue to subsidise activities wherever possible, and will continue to offer a hardship fund for any young person who's family or carers might be facing financial challenges. No young person should be excluded from Scouting based on financial hardship.
- The group will be moving to the financial records and bookkeeping over to OSM for the new financial year, allowing us greater visibility into the income and expenditure of all that we offer. • We expect Repairs and Maintenance costs to be significantly higher next year and as such will adjust out forecast to allow for a lower net margin.

Attachments: Profit and Loss Statement, Comparative Statement to 2023, Balance Sheet.

Andy Thomas
Treasurer

Annual report 2023/2024



Lead Volunteers Report

I've had the pleasure this year to visit, (and in some cases, get involved in planning of !) several events across our sections led by our fabulous team leaders and section teams. my personal favourite being our group camp in April this year, where the young people from all sections came together and enjoyed a weekend of activities, hikes, and some fabulous food, including cheese tasting !

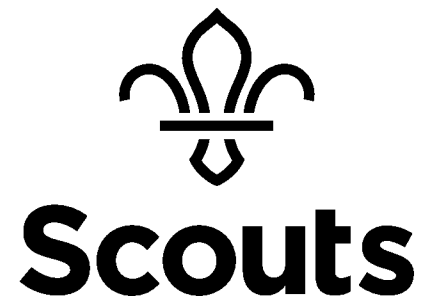
Thankfully i was helped in the kitchen cooking for so many of us by Avie !

Another great event we attended was the District St. Georges day parade at beamish, lead by our District band, our young people did us proud, Myself and the rest of the volunteers couldn't help but have a go on the play park too !

Our Young people got to march through beamish, and renew their promise on mass with hundreds of other scouts from across the district

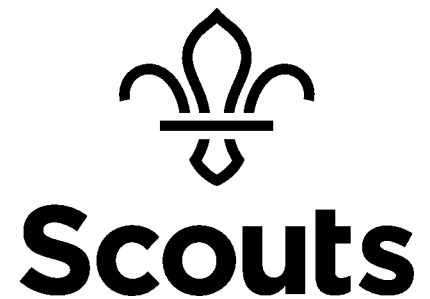
Across the year we've welcomed four new members to our team, a warm welcome to all of you and THANK YOU, without your support, our young people simply couldn't have the variety of activities and events that they do

Annual report 2023/2024



The highlight of the year though, for me, was attending the Durham County awards day, and watching our fabulous young people receiving the top award for their sections, Achieving top awards takes determination and skill, from both our volunteer teams and the young people, the grins on their faces - Priceless ! We had young people from beavers and cubs receiving their awards, and two of our young leaders too ! WELL DONE !

Annual report 2023/2024



Beaver Section Report

The last year has been one of the most successful and challenging years yet for the beavers. We have remained at a healthy unit size along with a number of beaver age and pre beavers on our waiting list.

This year has also seen the introduction of our lodges within our colony, which come along side our mascots Fred the Moose and Dorris the Goose.

Within the group we have welcomed two new helpers in the form of Kathleen who has joined our leadership team, and the second being Sian who has joined us as a young leader while completing her Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.

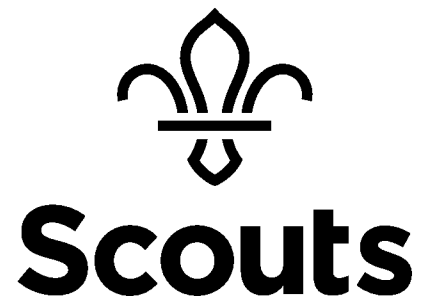
During the course of the year the group as a whole have awarded 201 programme badges, 38 of which being challenge badges and 6 being Chief Scout Bronze awards. The highest award that can be achieved within beavers.

We have completed 12 different activity badges and 5 different staged activity badges.

We have welcomed 6 new beavers into our colony along with 1 transfer from another colony in the district. And invested 11 beavers into our scouting family.

We have taken part in many different activities outside of the meeting place ranging from flag days to lantern parades representing our group out in public and setting an example of all the fun activities which can take place.

Annual report 2023/2024



Beaver Section Report (Cont.)

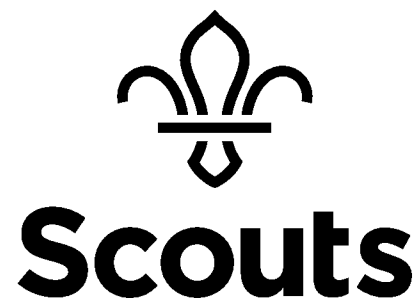
As a group we have given our young people many a chance to spend a night or two away from home. From a joint sleepover within our grounds with our cub pack, to the beaver picnic a county event with beaver groups from across the county and some of the beavers very first time sleeping in a tent.

As a group as a whole we also spent two nights in Dipton for our group scout camp where we completed the Wallace and Gromit challenge and explored our local area.

Over the next year I hope to offer the same and more to our current and future beavers.

Shelley-Marie
Beaver Team Leader
1st Waldridge Fell

Annual report 2023/2024



Cub Section Report

Firstly i would like to welcome our new cubs, we've had quite a few new starters over the past couple of months, and i hope they're settled in and enjoying cubs.

This year we have seen Julie (Akela) take a step back from weekly meetings, she's still involved though, she hasn't left us ! and we have welcomed Avie in her place at our weekly meetings.

Avie has a son in beavers, so came on board last year as a parent helper to our Trustee Board and has progressed recently into the cub section team. He's enjoying being with us as much as we are !

It's been a busy year working on lots of new badges, the cubs have had a go at lots of activities, including some DIY and Athletics

We have had some exciting camps taking place, including a group camp at Dipton which all of 1st Waldrige Fell attended, we had an excellent time doing junk modelling, Hiking, having songs by the fire and Film Nights, and lots more that everyone enjoyed.

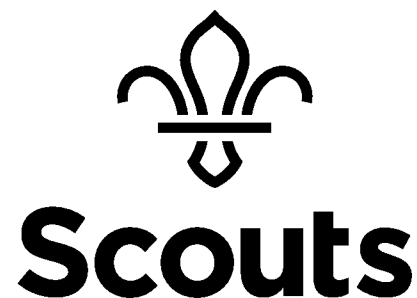
We also had cubboree this year, a county event taking place at Moor House in Durham, Lots of our cubs attended with 100's of others from accross the county. It was a fab weekend with activities like the cave bus, climbing wall, leap of faith, laser tag and much more. but most importantly, meet other cubs and make new friends.

We have another group camp planned for April this year, which we hope all of our cubs will attend, and we have loads planned over the comings months, which will all be posted to OSM, so if you have any problems accessing this, let us know.

As always we welcome parent helpers at our weekly meetings, so if you can lend a hand, please let us know.

Katherine Anthony
Cub Team Member

Annual report 2023/2024



Scout Section Report

The last year has been a healthy year for our group's small Scout Troop.

We have attended the following Nights Away experiences for Scouts:

- January – our troop's Resolutions indoor camp in Hexham.
- February – a joint patrol camp with Great Lumley Scouts in our grounds
- April – our group's indoor camp with Beavers and Cubs at Dipton
- July – our troop's activity camp at Moor House Adventure Centre
- September – our district Scouts' Night Incident Hike and Camp at Beamish Museum
- October – our County's massive Confido activity camp at Moor House Adventure Centre

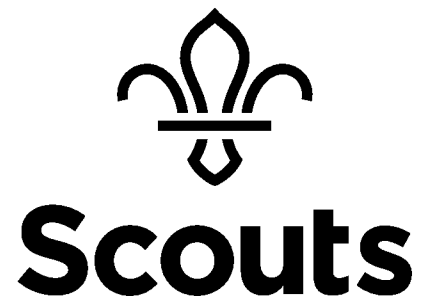
Our Scouts have jointly participated in events with the other sections of our Scout Group, the District Explorer Scout Unit, other Scout Troops across the district, and Scouts across the County.

The Scouts have paraded with other Youth Organisations in our local community.

Scouts have also attended Remembrance Sunday, the District Christingle, the Children's Lantern Parade in Durham, St George's Day at Beamish Museum, our group's Beach visit, and visited Whickham Thorns Climbing Wall, Moor House Adventure Centre, Walldridge Fell and Low Burnhall Woods.

Activities the Scouts have done have included the Cave Bus, Climbing, Crate Stacking, Orienteering, Athletics, Coding, Campfires, Catapults and Scout Knife crafting skills, as well as the 100s of activities available at Confido. Activity badges that have been available to earn throughout the year included have included the Emergency Aid 3 badge, Orienteering badge, Local Knowledge badge, Navigator Staged Activity Badge, Athletics Activity Badge, Nights Away and Hikes Activity Badges.

Annual report 2023/2024



Scout Section Report (Cont.)

Those Scouts who attended regularly both meetings and camps would have had the opportunity to complete all these badges.

5 Scouts from the troop have 'graduated' to Explorer Scouts during the year, with 2 becoming Young Leaders with Beavers and Cubs in our Scout Group.

At the start of the year, Tony (our Explorer Scout Leader) stepped in to become our Scout Leader whilst Will took a planned break.

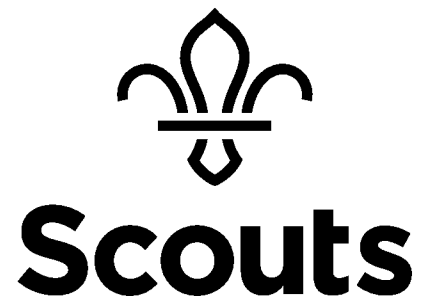
Tony continues to help with Scouts now that Will has returned to our Scouts Section Leadership Team, and both are supporting Kayden our former Explorer Scout Young Leader in our Scout troop who is now our Scouts Section Team Leader.

Matthew has also turned 18 and has moved from being an Explorer Scout Young Leader to one of our adult volunteers and Shelley continues to help with many Scout meetings and events.

The troop is expecting a healthy future with a strong Scouting programme.

Tony Brewis
Scout Team Leader

Annual report 2023/2024



Updates and reports on the scout hut

Progress has been made this year, and although we're not there yet, we hope to have secured a thirty year lease on the building within the next few weeks, once this is completed, a significant amount of investment will be being made into the building and grounds, making the space much more welcoming, increasing our capacity to take additional young people and ensuring the longevity of the building

We're always on the lookout for volunteer who are handy, so if you're skilful with a paintbrush, happy mowing the lawn or you're happy just to make the cuppas and have a chat there's a role for everyone, speak to one of the leadership team, there's unlimited tea and coffee, and the occasional barbecue too !

Annual report 2023/2024



5 Year Business Plan (4 Years Remaining)

Progress has been made on several parts of our 5 year plan, as outlined below, text in *Red Italics* are extracts taken directly from the business plan

- *To create and establish a sustainable financial plan that includes fundraising, grants, and other sources of revenue to support the scout group's operations and programs.*

As you can see from this years treasurers report from Andy, and this years annual accounts, we're well on our way to achieving out sustainable financial plan and position, however we do anticipate that the groups financial position will look significantly different next financial year due to the significant investments needed in the building and grounds

- *To establish a strong online presence through social media and other digital platforms to promote the scout group and engage with members and the community.*

This year we have created our new website, created social media platforms on Facebook and Instagram, and continued our investment in online scout manager, we hope to continue this to grow our online presence within the remaining four years of the current business plan

- *To increase membership by 10% within the next year through targeted marketing and outreach efforts.*

This has been achieved this year in both youth and adult membership, and we hope that this trend continues, our projections (based on waiting list and age demographic data suggests that the sections will continue to grow for the next four years, before levelling off, however, this is reliant on the investment in the building, as our beaver and cub sections have reached their maximum safe capacity due to the heating and other building limitations

Annual report 2023/2024



5 Year Plan (4 Years Remaining) Cont.

Progress has been made on several parts of our 5 year plan, as outlined below, text in *Red Italics* are extracts taken directly from the business plan

- *To offer leadership training and development opportunities to members to help them develop important skills and become effective leaders.*

Leadership training continues with all of our current adult volunteers having completed all of their basic getting started training, and the majority having completed their first response first aid course, with more planned for the coming months, the scout association is launching a new online learning platform within the next few weeks, and we are encouraged to hear that this will simplify the learning and validation aspects of all training.

Further training updates will mean that all adult volunteers have new training to complete to ensure that scouts is safe for all involved

- *To provide at least one outdoor adventure per term in each section to promote physical fitness and outdoor exploration.*

This is one section in which our group is in a very strong position, all sections have completed this requirement and beyond, with several camps and weekly meetings offering outdoor adventure, as well as off-site trips offered throughout the year

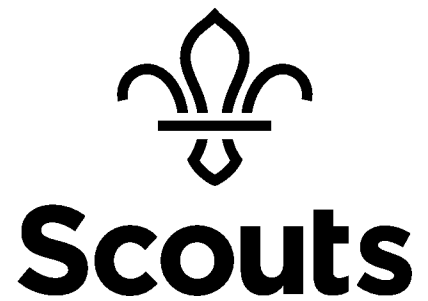
- *To offer at least one community service project per year in each section to encourage members to give back to their communities.*

This goal has been achieved by the beaver section this year (hospital hampers), and we hope to roll out more community activities to the other sections this coming year

- *To regularly evaluate and assess the scout group's programs and operations to ensure that they are meeting the needs of members and the community.*

The trustee board and leadership team now meet monthly to give an oversight of governance and operational matters within the group

Annual report 2023/2024



Goals for the year ahead

- Increase Membership: We aim to grow our membership by 15%. Strategies include engaging local schools, hosting open days, and leveraging social media* -

*This goal is dependant on securing a long term lease on the budling, and completing works to enable the building to have a higher safe capacity

- Enhanced Programme: We plan to introduce new activities focused on outdoor skills, STEM, and sustainability. This will not only align with the Scouts' core values but also provide our members with diverse opportunities across all three section.
- Community Initiatives: We will increase our community service projects, aiming for at least three initiatives this year (up from 1 this past year). This will help instil a sense of responsibility and leadership in our beaver, cubs & scouts.
- Fundraising and Resources: To support our activities, we will launch a fundraising campaign, targeting local businesses and exploring grant opportunities. This will ensure we have the resources needed for all planned events and equipment - this will be particularly crucial due to the large investment needed in the building and grounds
- Leader Recruitment and Training: We will actively seek to recruit additional leaders and provide ongoing training to ensure a high standard of mentorship for our beavers, cubs & scouts.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the year ahead holds exciting opportunities for growth, learning, and community engagement. I encourage everyone—parents, leaders, and scouts—to be involved in our initiatives and support our goals. Together, we can make this year memorable and impactful for our scouts and the wider community.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's make this year our best one yet!