

255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1164063

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2015-10-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 32 Upper Perry Hill
Bristol
BS3 1NH

Phone 01179535390

Email 255thscouts@gmail.com

Website <https://www.bristolsouthscouts.org.uk/about-us/groups/255th-bristol-scout-group>

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ACHIEVING THEIR FULL PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL POTENTIALS, AS INDIVIDUALS, AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND AS MEMBERS OF THEIR LOCAL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

Activities: Bristol Sea Scouts - activities for youths aged 6 to 14 in line with the Scout Association.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Bristol City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£36,672	£52,643	-	-
2024-03-31	£46,394	£31,732	-	-
2023-03-31	£34,764	£28,122	-	-
2022-03-31	£30,076	£26,173	-	-
2021-03-31	£9,909	£13,558	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Sweetman		2022-07-11
Andrew David Luke		2022-07-11
Christina Ilona Ransom		2022-07-11
ELAINE BECKETT		2015-10-13
Timothy Berriman		2024-07-01

255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1164063

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0	1	0	4	2	4
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 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	5
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Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

255 Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts

Registered charity number

1 1 6 4 0 6 3

HQ registration number

Charity's principal address

32 Upper Perry Hill

Bristol

Postcode

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Alan Sweetman	Chair	
2	Christina Ransom	Treasurer	
3	Elaine Beckett	Lead Volunteer	
4	Andrew Luke		
5	Timothy Berriman		
6			

Names and addresses of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Bankers	Lloyds Bank	1 Legg Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JS

Section B**Structure, governance and management****Description of the charity's trusts****Type of governing document**

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 3 Trustees and meets every 3 months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk and Internal Control

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. The Values of Scouting As Scouts we are guided by these values: Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal. Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others. Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live. Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes. Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends. The Scout Method Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and: - enjoy what they are doing and have fun - take part in activities indoors and outdoors - learn by doing - share in spiritual reflection - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their Promise.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The Group's main function is to support the Sections, comprising of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, achieving the aims of the Scouting Association. These Sections within the group provided weekly meetings for around 70 young people aged between 6 and 14, giving them fun, challenge and adventure through the Scout Method appropriate to their age. Activities provided are appropriate to the Sections and may include cooking, model making, crafts, team games, quizzes, mapping and outdoor activities. All Sections have the opportunity to participate in a camp or other outdoor activities/ challenges throughout the year. Several Adult Leaders, Young Leaders and other volunteers provide their time generously on an unpaid basis in order to support the Group's Scouting activities.
Public benefit statement	The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Beaver, Cub and Scout sections all continued to provide good opportunities for their members to progress their learning and skills by participating in Scouting activities. In August 2024, the Scout troop travelled to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland to take part in the permanent mini-Jamboree.

During the prior year, at the request of the local Police service and with support of Bristol South District and Three Counties, the group started a new Beaver Colony in the nearby neighbourhood of Redcliffe. This is an area with few development opportunities for young people. During the year this group became established and has started to grow. It is hoped that this will become viable in the long term; financially and in terms of numbers of young people and volunteers.

Section E	Financial Review
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	Reserves Policy The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Trustee Board considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months running costs, circa £8000 (covers rent, membership fees, uniform, badges, insurance, utilities, allowance for repairs and sundry expenses, but no events). The Group held excess free reserves against this at year end.
Designated funds	At the year end the Group held £10,474 of funds designated for the development and upkeep of the "Spyglass" site. During the year, £916 of expenditure primarily relating to upkeep and maintenance was allocated to this fund. Income totalling £805 were received in year from families attending Beavers sessions in the new Redcliffe colony. This just about covered te £828 running costs of the colony (although the true costs are more that this as District kindly waived the Annual Fee for Redcliffe Beavers). At the end of the year £1,087 of the set up grants remain unspent and will be carried forward for expenditure in the next year.
Further financial review details	Investment Policy The Group's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service. The Group Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Group Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods

We will continue to monitor the viability of the new Redcliffe Beaver colony and consider whether a Cub pack can be set up. We hope to increase the number of local young people participating in, and local volunteers leading the Scouting activities.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Christina Ransom

Full name(s)

Christina Ransom

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Treasurer

Date

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255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Annual Report 2024/25



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Dear Scouts, parents, friends and supporters,

Among many highlights of our year the ultimate has to be the trip to Kandersteg for some of our scouts and former scouts. Photos give just a taste of the fantastic scenery and activities that were on offer. Particular thanks to Tim and Iain for masterminding and delivering such a memorable trip. We are gauging interest in a repeat visit in 2028 so speak to a leader if you'd like to find out more.

We had other great camps including the Wye valley for Cubs, Glenny Wood and Chelwood for Beavers, a pioneering camp for Scouts as well as an adults-only camp organised by Iain with a Chippewa kitchen (build from sticks and mud and holding a whole side of pork). Another season of water sports is nearly over. Our own boat Spyglass has been used regularly by both scouts and explorers, and we've extended the invitation to parents who would like to row on several beautiful summer evenings. Bill Bennet Clark has passed the assessment for a stand-up paddleboard instructor permit, and Ben Brown has just earned his Night Away permit.

Cost of activities continues to rise and we are grateful to Christina our treasurer for being vigilant in terms of grant opportunities, gift aid, and high interest accounts and so helping to keep our prices affordable.

We welcomed a number of new and returning leaders and helpers. Becky Porter and Paul Palmer have long associations with the group and it is great to see them back in the scout section. There are new leaders in every section: Eudald Rossell Vivo and Steve Ransom in cubs, Ellen Roberts and Flo Johnson Marshall in Southville Beavers and Duncan Arnold and Peter Grant in Redcliffe Beavers. Our new leaders were undeterred by the teething problems in the new scout computer system and are now ready to muck in and share the load with the others.

With these extra helping hands we must consider growing the group and spreading our great work to even more young people and families. We can always use more help in front-line leader roles or in background support so please look out for our requests for help – there is a role to suit everyone!

Elaine Beckett

Lead Volunteer

Beaver Section report



Welcome to the Annual Report for the 255th Bristol Channel Beavers Colony for 2024-25. This report highlights the exciting adventures, achievements, and growth of our fantastic Beaver Scouts.

Membership

We started the year with 15 eager Beavers and ended with 17, with a healthy waiting list showcasing continued interest in our Colony.

Activities and Highlights

- This year, our Beavers participated in a variety of activities aligned with the Beaver Scout program, fostering teamwork, creativity, community impact and outdoor exploration.
- Some memorable highlights include:
 - Visit to Temple Fire Station (yes, including squirting the hoses!)
 - Christmas Party with cubs
 - Ferry trip on the harbour with Redcliffe Beavers
 - Trip to Pets at Home to learn about animal care
 - Dame Emily gardening and litter picking
 - Pancake making
 - Night Hike in Leigh Woods
 - Easter hunt in Greville Smyth Park
 - Cycle maintenance and a bike ride
 - Outdoor cooking at Spyglass
 - Visit to Bedminster Library for book badge with Rabbit
 - Crazy Climb at Redpoint
 - Chip shop hike
 - Sports and games in Greville Smyth Park

- We also had two fantastic camps with the Redcliffe Beavers: an indoor sleeping camp at Glenny Wood in the Autumn and a summer camp at Chelwood a few weeks ago, with a huge number of exciting activities and many of the Beavers gaining their first nights away badge.



Bronze Awards

- As well as the dozens of badges earned by all Beavers, six Beavers proudly earned their Chief Scout Bronze award, demonstrating completion of all six challenge badges and a great deal of hard work.

Leadership and Volunteering

- We said goodbye to Ed “Raccoon” Hodge after more than 6 years with our Beaver colony, but are pleased that the group are now being led by the very capable Ben “Bat” Brown with strong support from Kate “Rabbit” Myers, Ellen “Panda” Roberts, new leader Flo “Flamingo” Johnson-Marshall and Young Leader “Penguin” (Martha Entwistle). A special thankyou to Sam “Rat” Jones for continuing to support in his Young Leader role, including through his GCSEs, and to Kes Shields for his support as a Young Leader in the earlier part of the year.
- We are of course incredibly grateful for our parent helpers who volunteer their time and expertise to create a fun and enriching environment for the Beavers.

We are always keen to welcome new parent helpers and leaders, particularly those who might have a particular skill or hobby to share with the Beavers.



Redcliffe Beavers Report

In 2023, 255th were approached to support the establishment of a new Beaver colony in Redcliffe following an approach from Avon and Somerset police to Bristol South District.

With thanks to supportive parents, and an enthusiastic and committed leadership team, we have together managed to create a thriving beaver colony.

Our beavers have enjoyed a diverse programme, playing countless games, earning badges, through creativity including; firework art, tie-dye t-shirts, mocktails, marzipan fruits, pancakes and reindeer biscuits.

They have planted spring bulbs for the benefit of our local community, and visited Bedminster fire station. Toured the harbour side on foot, stayed overnight at Glenny Wood, and just last week, joined with 255th Beavers to share a camp at Chelwood.

We've made great progress this year in recruiting more beavers and some extra leaders. The next stage will hopefully be opening a cub section that our oldest beavers can move up into - watch this space!





Cub Section Report



Cubs Section – Year in Review

What a brilliant year it's been for our Cub Scout section! Here's a quick look back at everything we've packed into the last 12 months.

Major Event

- **Spy-Themed Winter Weekend in the Wye Valley**
A real highlight of the year – full of mystery, missions, and lots of sneaky fun. The Cubs loved getting into character and solving spy challenges in such a great setting.

Weeknight Adventures

We've had loads of fun (and learned a lot!) during our weeknight meetings:

- **Hikes and Navigation** – Exploring the outdoors and building up our map skills.
- **Treasure Hunts** – Putting those skills to the test in fun and fast-paced adventures.
- **Cycling** – Getting active and learning bike safety and skills.
- **Movie Making** – Lights, camera, action! A creative night where Cubs turned into directors and actors.
- **So Much Cooking!** – We've chopped, stirred, grilled, and baked our way through some tasty evenings.
- **Pioneering** – Building cool structures and learning knots and lashings.
- **Science Nights** – From explosions to experiments, our inner scientists had a great time.

Badges Galore

We've handed out **hundreds of badges** this year – massive thanks to **Kate** for keeping everything running smoothly on that front!

Big Thanks

As always, none of this would be possible without the amazing adults who give up their time to help. Huge shout-outs to: **Chloe, Dale, Steve, and Olly** – thank you for everything you do. And of course, our awesome young leaders: **Silas, Tommy, Elsie, and Sam** – you've been brilliant role models and a big help.

Looking Ahead

Here's to another amazing year of Cub Scouting ahead – full of adventure, fun, and new memories to make!

Matt Hill, Cub Section Leader



Scout Section Report



This past year has been quite eventful for our scout group, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the participation in the Kandersteg camp. This remarkable experience was held over ten days, which allowed our scouts to immerse themselves in various activities, create lasting memories, and develop valuable skills. In addition to Kandersteg, we had a variety of other events that the members took part in. For instance, the Green Beret challenge in November provided a platform for teamwork and personal growth. The Sodbury Challenge that we entered three teams into, one of those teams coming first and bringing home the trophy. With a closer link to Spinnaker and the Benjamin Perry Boat House Scouts have had the opportunities for caving and several boat maintenance days which helped our scouts learn practical skills while also enjoying time outdoors.

We also organised an adult camp, fostering a sense of community among leaders and parents alike. A pioneering weekend provided opportunities for our scouts to build and create, pushing their boundaries while developing teamwork and resilience. It is worth noting that our leaders continued to gain additional permits, enabling us to broaden the activities available to our scouts.

This year, we presented one Chief Scout Award, signifying the commitment of one of our members in their scouting journey, which is commendable and reflects well on the ethos we strive to cultivate within our group.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming Kent International Jamboree, which promises to be another enriching experience for our scouts. Additionally, we are considering planning a trip back to Kandersteg in 2028, keeping the spirit of adventure alive for future generations.

A particular thanks goes to "Mr Tim Sir" for his immeasurable contributions, especially regarding the Kandersteg trips and the effective planning that made them possible. His efforts have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. BRAVO.

We have said a farewell to Tyler Wakeford whose skills and enthusiasm are missed already. He hasn't gone far and is still a part of the scouting journey for our young people as they progress to Spinnaker Explorers they will find him there, I am glad though truth be told that he has gone to help them even if he leaves a void in our ranks, his passion for scouting and the Explorer section are evident and happy leaders are only a positive for the youth they influence on their journey of growth through the movement. BRAVO.

As we close this year, we want to extend our gratitude to all the children involved, for their enthusiasm and spirit have made our events enjoyable and rewarding. We also wish to thank the parents for their unwavering support especially during fundraising events and the volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Your dedication enables us to provide enriching experiences for our scouts. We look forward to another year of scouting, filled with fun, learning, and growth.

Iain Timmons, Scout Section Leader



Financial Report

Year ended 31 March 2025 Financial Report

It's been a busy year for the group, with plenty of camps and events across the sections. The Scout jamboree to Kandersteg in August 2024 was an event that families had been saving and fundraising towards for over a year and resulted in our bank account having an unusually high balance at 31 March 2024. Now that it has been paid for, reserve levels have fallen, but still stand at a healthy £36,000 in 2025.

The leaders have done a tremendous job planning a range of activities that we hope you agree provide excellent value for money for families. We are committed to keeping subs levels as low as possible and have managed to avoid raising them for a number of years.

Fundraising has become increasingly important and we would encourage families to get involved if they can. It really is a case that many hands make light work! This year the Victoria Park BBQ raised over £2000 - this was a massive group effort, so please put 13 September 2025 in your diaries to join us for the next one. If you are inspired to organise your own fundraising event then we now have a JustGiving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/255th-bristol-scout-group>), which is a convenient way to collect donations.

Finally, a big thank you to all the families for helping to make the financial arrangements of the group run so smoothly. As well as being a convenient way to collect money for subs and events, OSM is also a handy way for us to collect gift aid, so if you are eligible, we would be grateful if you ticked the box to allow this. This year, our funds have been topped up by gift aid payments of over £2200, which amounts to a subsidy over around £30 per young person.

Christina Ransom

Group Treasurer

Financial Reports for year ended 31 March 2025

Income and Expenditure

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Income		
Bank Interest	1,112	929
Donation	0	1,805
Events - Beavers	1,085	632
Events - Cubs	5,042	630
Events - Scouts	10,377	18,215
Fundraising	4,494	2,404
Gift Aid	2,262	9,120
Membership Fees	10,750	10,607
Redcliffe group	805	1,428
Uniform	746	624
Expenses		
Activity Equipment	0	5
Admin	119	300
Annual Fee District South	3,930	3,885
Badges	591	407
Bank Fees	465	38
Camping Equipment	0	656
Council tax	220	225
Events - Beavers	700	584
Events - Cubs	1,690	771
Events - Scouts	30,193	12,468
Fundraising expenses	1,470	997
Group events	2,670	229
Insurance	365	456
Meetings - Beavers	132	88
Meetings - Cubs	283	201
Meetings - Scouts	205	28
Membership Costs	387	384
Rent	5,436	5,362

	2024-2025	2023-24
Expenses cont.		
Redcliffe group expenses	828	318
Training	610	80
Uniform	1,653	1,002
Utilities	324	79
Venue Maintenance	372	3,168
Account balances		
255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOU	6,796	15,834
Petty cash	43	38
Expense Account	2,791	0
Lloyds fixed term deposit 83LS	0	11,000
Lloyds fixed term 30LS	0	25,000
Redcliffe Petty Cash	344	73
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit 2153	26,000	0
Summary		
Account balance brought forward	51,944	37,281
Total income	36,672	46,395
Total expenditure	52,643	31,732
Net income	-15,970	14,663
Account balance carried forward	35,973	51,944

Fund movements by type

Fund and type	Fund balances 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances 31 March 2025
Building fund						
(Designated)	11390	0	-916	0	-916	10474
Redcliffe group	1110	805	-828	0	-23	1087
(Designated)						
General fund	39445	35867	-50899	0	-15032	24413
(Unrestricted)						
Totals	51945	36672	-52643	0	-15970	35975



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scout Group Board of Trustees 2024/25

Chair	Al Sweetman – chair@255th.org.uk
Deputy Chair	Andy Luke – andyluke2001@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Christina Ransom – treasurer@255th.org.uk
Secretary	Rebecca Miller – secretary@255th.org.uk
Trustee	Tim Berriman – timberriman@gmail.com
Lead Volunteer	Elaine Beckett – lemur@255th.org.uk



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2025

Charity no (if any)

1164063

Set out on pages

1-14

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2025**.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Jacqueline Uren

Date:

14/09/2025

Name:

Mrs Jacqueline Uren

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Chartered Accountant

Address:

11 Wathen Road, Bristol, BS6 5BY

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Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None

255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1164063

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0	1	0	4	2	3
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Section A

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255 Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts

Registered charity number

1 1 6 4 0 6 3

HQ registration number

Charity's principal address

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Bristol

Postcode

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4	Nicholas Vaughan		
5	Andrew Luke		
6	Jasmine Basma		

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Public benefit statement	The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Section D**Achievements and performance****Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Beaver, Cub and Scout sections all continued to provide good opportunities for their members to progress their learning and skills by participating in Scouting activities.

At the request of the local Police service and with support of Bristol South District and Three Counties, the group started a new Beaver Colony in the nearby neighbourhood of Redcliffe. This is an area with few development opportunities for young people. It is hoped that this will become viable in the long term; financially and in terms of numbers of young people and volunteers.

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Designated funds	At the year end the Group held £11,390 of funds designated for the development and upkeep of the "Spyglass" site. During the year, £3,472 of expenditure primarily relating to electrical work was allocated to this fund. Grants and funding totalling £1,428 were received in year towards the costs of setting up and running the new Beaver Colony in Redcliffe. At the end of the year £1,110 remains unspent and will be carried forward for expenditure in the next year.

Further financial review details	Investment Policy The Group's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service. The Group Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Group Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.
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Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods

We will continue to monitor the viability of the new Redcliffe Beaver colony. We hope to increase the number of local young people participating in, and local volunteers leading the Scouting activities.

In August 2024, the Scout troop are travelling to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland to take part in the permanent mini-Jamboree. Fundraising activities have been taking place throughout 2023 and 2024 to make this possible,

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Christina Ransom

Full name(s)

Christina Ransom

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Treasurer

Date

0

1

0

7

2

4



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Annual Report 2023/24



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Dear Scouts, parents, friends and supporters,

2023-24 has been another successful and eventful year for 255th.

As usual our section leaders have organised a fantastic programme for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with camps for all 3 sections.

Leaders have carried on working towards permits and Tyler has gained his hillwalking and pulling permits, while Laura is now trained as an archery instructor.

The new Redcliffe Beaver group has got off the ground thanks largely to our brave volunteers who signed up at the start, and also support from Paul Harper and James Blackmore. Our trustees have given careful consideration to each stage and Tony Rees has helped ensure any financial worries are dealt with. As a result we saw the Southville and Redcliffe Beavers mixing and making friends at the Adventure Day and the recent Big Fiesta.

Our boat Spyglass has been restored to immaculate working order by our scouts and leaders (especially Dave), and groups of scouts and parents have enjoyed trips down the harbour on the nice summer evenings.

Our site next to the church has been cleared in a massive effort involving removal of vegetation, rubbish and unwanted equipment. Thanks to all who helped - this will need to be a regular job so more volunteers are always welcome.

Finally our trip to Kandersteg in Switzerland is approaching meaning the culmination of all the planning (particular thanks to Tim for masterminding). Also scouts and their parents have been fundraising to keep everyone's costs down, including a successful BBQ, cake and craft sales, and dressing up as an Easter bunny at the Woodhouse Park egg trail.

So the group will go from strength to strength if we keep up the enthusiasm and teamwork that have bought so much success over the last 12 months - there's always room for people with different skills to be involved so ask any leader or trustee how you can help.

Elaine Beckett
Lead Volunteer

Beaver Section report



Welcome to the Annual Report for the 255th Bristol Channel Beavers Colony for 2023-24. This report highlights the exciting adventures, achievements, and growth of our fantastic Beaver Scouts.

Membership

- We started the year with 15 eager Beavers and ended with 16 (few new starters and a few moving to cubs), with a healthy waiting list showcasing continued interest in our Colony.

Activities and Highlights

- This year, our Beavers participated in a variety of activities aligned with the Beaver Scout program, fostering teamwork, creativity, community impact and outdoor exploration.
- Some memorable highlights include:
 - Visit to Bedminster Library for book badge
 - Halloween party
 - Night hike in Leigh Woods
 - Learning about the St Pauls food bank
 - Chip shop hike
 - Pancake making
 - Chinese New Year
 - Beavers Activity Day at Woodhouse Park
 - Visit to a decommissioned jet airliner for Air Activities badge
 - Litter picking and gardening in Dame Emily Park
 - Sports and games in Greville Smyth Park
- We prepared some pictures (shown at the top of this report) for and shared some badges with a Joey colony (Australian version of Beavers) from a Sea Scout group in Melbourne, Australia. Apparently, Joeys HOP (Help Other People)!
- We also participated in the Big Fiesta activities and camp at Woodhouse Park, allowing our Beavers to connect with the other sections in our group, including the Redcliffe Beavers, and other scout groups from our wider district, with a huge number of exciting activities and for many of the Beavers gaining their first nights away badge.

Bronze Awards

- As well as the dozens of badges earned by all Beavers, Five Beavers proudly earned their Chief Scout Bronze award, demonstrating completion of all six challenge badges and a great deal of hard work.

Leadership and Volunteering

- We are incredibly grateful for our leaders and all our parent helpers who volunteer their time and expertise to create a fun and enriching environment for the Beavers.
- We are always keen to welcome new parent helpers, particularly those who might have a particular skill or hobby to share with the Beavers.



Cub Section Report



This past year has been an exciting and action-packed time for our Cub Scout section. Here's a quick look back at all the fantastic activities and events we've enjoyed:

Major Events

- Two Great Camps at Woodhouse - Our camps at Woodhouse were a highlight for everyone, offering adventure, fun, and a chance to bond in the great outdoors. Was also excellent to invest another 9 cubs on the woodhouse assault course...still not a fan of having to stand in the mud pool though”!

Weeknight Activities

- Hikes and Navigation - We've spent many evenings exploring local trails and honing our navigation skills.
- Fires! - Learning about fire safety and building campfires was a blast.
- Photography Evening - The photography evening was a hit, with everyone getting creative and capturing some amazing shots around Ashton Court.
- Team Building Challenges - We've tackled numerous team-building challenges that strengthened our teamwork and problem-solving skills.
- So Much Cooking! - From making simple snacks to cooking full meals, our Cubs have become quite the chefs.
- The “Rain-gutter Regatta” - brought out our competitive spirits and engineering talents – all the boats were fantastic! Thanks to Roger Whiter for helping organise and set it up.
- Diwali Evening Celebrating - Diwali was a beautiful and educational experience, filled with colours and lights.

Badges and Recognition

- Hundreds of Badges Handed Out - Thanks to Kate for being so organized and ensuring that our Cubs are recognized for their achievements.

Acknowledgments

A huge thank you to all the adults who have supported us throughout the year:

- Dale, Olly, Chloe, Tyler and Steve - Your dedication and hard work have been invaluable, we really couldn't put on such a good programme without all the time you put in to support the evenings. Chloe, hope you enjoyed your travels – we're definitely a bit jealous!
- Our Great Young Leaders - Agnes, Ben, Sam, and Charlie Your leadership and enthusiasm have made a big difference.
- All the parents who've helped out! I know we push quite a bit for more help and sometimes it seems like there's not masses to help with (other weeks are very full on!) but we would not be able to keep running without the help!

Looking Ahead

We're excited for another fantastic year ahead, filled with more adventures, learning, and fun! Here's to another great year with the Cub Scouts!

Matt Hill, Cub Section Leader



Scout Section Report



It has been a good year for our Scout Troop with our member number sitting at 34 with a few having moved to Explorers or starting their leadership careers as young leaders in other sections. We are fortunate to have a strong leadership group allowing to keep our numbers this high.

This year we have had many camps looking back to early last summer we had a camp at Brockmead where we taught and practiced our pioneering skills building a rope bridge with the scouts that had been practiced on our parent and leader weekend.

Later in the summer we took the troop to Rough Close a campsite near Coventry, whilst here we practiced our pioneering and allowed a more organic growth of the activity finding Laurie Vaughan and his patrol built a functional portcullis. Other memorable moments were the giant indoor water park and leaders and scouts alike enjoying the fast rides, Tyler's bingo calling

(he really is quite good at it) and a surprise stand-up comedy session in front of the whole troop from a Scout who on any other day I would have considered a quiet soul. Quite the eventful trip.

We had an overnight expedition in the Cotswolds, we almost lost a group as they didn't fancy the idea of walking through a field of inquisitive cows (they are quite daunting when they all come slowly towards you). We did have a minor slip on a slope where a minor injury occurred, the impressive part was the Scout had assistance from his hiking patrol to make a sling from his necker as he had hurt his shoulder and they were carrying his pack for him. True team work and Scouting spirit. The Scout had no lasting injury thankfully.

We returned to Brockmead Campsite this summer to attempt the survival badge which includes tasks such as fire wood preparation, to cook all food over an open fire for 24 hours, to only eat food for their dinner that could have been foraged and to shelter build and sleep in the shelters they build. With the exception of shelter building and sleeping in the shelters it was a very successful weekend with an old favourite of Knife, Axe and Saw works for fire prep, fire starting and cooking. The potato and hand-picked nettle soup went down an absolute treat with a side of pheasant, we had a demonstration from Bill on the butchery of these small birds and a few Scouts had a go at this for themselves. I look forward to completing this badge and seeing the shelters they build.

Water sports are again in full swing for the summer term with all 34 members taking part, this year we will be completing two qualifications for our older Scouts.

Later this summer we will be attending Kandersteg in Switzerland, I look forward to writing about this in next year's report, I do however want to take this moment to say thank you to all of those involved in making this trip happen, from parents fundraising, our Exec supporting us behind the scenes, the leadership team who are going and meeting each week to discuss the many things we need to, to be ready. But most importantly my thanks to Mr Tim Sir (Smart) for all the work he has done to keep us organised, working with Adventure Abroad our tour operator, Kandersteg International Scout Camp and for always steering the leadership team with keen focus. Thank you, Tim.,

Iain Timmons, Scout Section Leader

Redcliffe Beavers Report



After an "Open Day" in September 2023 supported by Two Counties Development Support Team there was enough interest to launch a new trial Beaver section in Redcliffe as a satellite of 255th. We were lucky to have Chris (a former Group Scout Leader at 255th) plus Mandy and Trevor who were prepared to start their leader training immediately, followed later by Sam and Rachel as leaders and Ben as Young Leader. This May the section has been handed over to 255th with support from Bristol South Scout District. We have 6 Beavers attending regularly plus a younger sibling and they have enjoyed some great activities including making wooden bird boxes, cookery, map reading and first aid. Badges are being earned, including their first Nights Away badge at the recent Big Fiesta. Attracting more Beavers to the Redcliffe section will secure its future so we'll carry on spreading the news about all the fun, adventure and skills on offer.

Elaine Beckett Lead Volunteer

Financial report

255th Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts

Year ended 31 March 2024 financial summary

It is lovely to have had a full year of meetings and activities for all 3 sections. We have also welcomed a new Beaver colony in Redcliffe to our group and are grateful to funds provided by Avon and Somerset Police that have covered many of the set-up costs. We also appreciate Bristol South District Scouts have waived many costs and offered subsidised events in order to keep costs as low as possible for families joining the Redcliffe Beaver colony.

We are all aware of the rising cost of living; and unfortunately, the group has not been immune to increased prices. We have seen our rental costs go up, and activities become more expensive. During the year, we were pleased to have been able to absorb these additional costs into our existing budget and did not have to pass them onto families. Our leaders endeavour to provide a varied and enriching programme that we hope you agree represents excellent value for money for parents. Your assistance and support for fundraising activities such as the annual Victoria Park BBQ in September are much appreciated and help us to top up our budget.

We are fortunate to finish the year with a healthy bank balance in of nearly £52,000. Around £11,000 of these funds are designated for use on the Spyglass site. Although plans for large-scale development are on hold, the site is a valuable storage facility and meeting resource, and the funds will be used for its modernisation and continued use. The group is also holding around £15,000 in its bank account as stage payments for the 2024 Scout trip to Kandersteg. This amount includes a grant of £1,750 from The Leslie Sell Charitable Trust, for which we are very grateful.

I would like to finish by thanking our wonderful families for your continued help and support in making the financial arrangement for the group run smoothly. By making payments via Online Scout Manager on a timely basis it frees up valuable leader time allowing them to focus on organising activities and events. Thank you too for all those who have completed the Online Scout Manager gift aid declarations (and a gentle reminder for anyone who hasn't done one to log on and tick the box!) Gift aid is a valuable source of income that is worth around £2,000 per year for the group at no extra cost to families (the £9,000 income received this year represents a back dated claim).

Christina Ransom (Treasurer)

Financial Reports for year ended 31 March 2024

Income and Expenditure

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Income		
Bank Interest	929	0
Donation	1,805	1,065
Events - Beavers	632	735
Events - Cubs	630	2,005
Events - Scouts	18,215	18,388
Fundraising	2,404	1,162
Gift Aid	9,120	0
Membership Fees	10,607	11,122
Redcliffe group	1,428	0
Uniform	624	287
Expenses		
Activity Equipment	5	532
Admin	300	264
Annual Fee District South	3,885	3,639
Badges	407	671
Bank Fees	38	45
Camping Equipment	656	2,036
Council tax	225	199
Events - Beavers	584	405
Events - Cubs	771	1,751
Events - Scouts	12,468	10,040
Fundraising expenses	997	0
Group events	229	1,671
Insurance	456	454
Meetings - Beavers	88	190
Meetings - Cubs	201	101
Meetings - Scouts	28	47
Membership Costs	384	389
Rent	5,362	4,560
Redcliffe group expenses	318	0
Training	80	145

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Account balances		
255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUT	15,834	17,148
Petty cash	38	134
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit 96LS	0	20,000
Lloyds fixed term deposit 83LS	11,000	0
Lloyds fixed term 30LS	25,000	0
Redcliffe group Petty Cash	73	0
Summary		
Account balance brought forward	37,282	30,640
Total income	46,394	34,764
Total expenditure	31,732	28,122
Net income	14,662	6,642
Account balance carried forward	51,944	37,282

Uniform	1,002	550
Utilities	79	138
Venue Maintenance	3,168	293

Fund movements by type

Fund and type	Fund balances bought forward from 2022/23	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward to 2023/24
Building fund						
(Designated)	14862	0	-3472	0	-3472	11390
Redcliffe group	0	1428	-318	0	1110	1110
(Designated)						
General fund	22420	44966	-27941	0	17025	39445
(Unrestricted)						
Totals	37282	46394	-31732	0	14662	51944



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scout Group Board of Trustees 2023-2024

Chair	Al Sweetman - alansweetman@gmail.com
Deputy Chair	Andy Luke - andyluke2001@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Christina Ransom - christina@christinaedwards.co.uk
Secretary	Jackie Perkins - Jackieperkins@live.co.uk
Lead Volunteer	Elaine Beckett - elainesbeckett@gmail.com
Scout leader	Iain Timmons - iaintimmons@live.co.uk
Cub leader	Matt Hill - mwhill@hotmail.co.uk
Beaver leader	Ed Hodge - hodge.ed@gmail.com
Trustee	Jazz Basma - jazzbasma@icloud.co.uk
Trustee	Nick Vaughan - nck_vaughan@hotmail.co.uk



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

255 Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1164063

Set out on pages

1-12

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

10/09/24

Name:

Mrs Jacqueline Uren

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Chartered Accountant

Address:

11 Wathen Road, Bristol, BS6 5BY

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1164063

Accounts

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Annual Report 2022/23



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Dear Scouts, parents, friends and supporters,

There are so many exciting things in the section reports below that I thought I'd mention some of the less obvious but important work in the background due to the dedication of the adults in our group.

For the first time we have a Leaders and parents section in this report to highlight our adults developing their own skills and testing out adventurous projects before running them with our young people (see our fantastic Wye valley rope bridge!).

Congratulations to leaders who have achieved permits (Laura Nights Away and Iain Canoeing) and other adults who are working towards Watersports permits by spending as much time as possible on the water over the summer.

Our pulling boat Spyglass was moved from our store to the Benjamin Perry boathouse (luckily just before the Gaol Ferry bridge repairs blocked access to the ramp). Continued renovation work means it is almost ready to launch into the harbour.

Roger Whiter who moved on from this group to be even busier than ever has done great work fundraising and helping set up the Mercy Scout group at Ikoba girls school in Uganda, featured in St Georges Day parade this year. Our treasurer helped ensure the funds raised in this country were safely delivered to the Mercy Scouts in Uganda.

A fantastic BBQ at Victoria park funday in September thanks to chefs Seamus and Bill and their many assistants raised £1000 for group funds and showed the group at its best working together as a team.

Leaders have also given extra adult help to the Spinnaker Explorer group (where many of our scouts move at age 14) and the Joint Guide and Scout Rowing and Pulling Club. We are also preparing to support the setting up of scouting in the Redcliffe area by welcoming and sharing our experience with new volunteers into scouting.

So we go from strength to strength thanks to the commitment and skills of leaders, helpers and parents, and the enthusiasm and determination of our young people – thanks to all of you!

Elaine Beckett

Lead Volunteer

Beaver Section report

- By our Beaver leaders (Racoon, Bat, Otter and Deer)

Another fantastic, fun filled year with our Beaver section, with two camps and a packed programme of activities, both indoor and outdoors. Summer term 2022 involved lots of outdoor sessions including a fascinating ecology hunt in Ashton Court with Emma Luke, orienteering,

health and fitness activities and the obligatory end of term waterfight from which nobody emerged unsoaked.



Autumn 2022 introduced the Beavers to the traditional pleasures of conker fighting, plus Diwali cookery, a visit to a Buddhist temple and a Halloween party. Once the nights started to draw in we enjoyed an exciting night hike through Leigh Woods to the viewpoint overlooking the suspension bridge. The beavers then tried their hand at building a bridge back in St Pauls church with some very impressive results. Another highlight of the term was the ever popular chip shop hike along North St with a delicious, if difficult judging exercise. During this term we also made our first visit to the Glenny Wood scout camp near Portishead where we slept indoors but the fine autumn weather and wide range of “out of the box” activities meant we were outdoors all weekend and had a fine campfire with marshmallows and hot chocolate. Glenny Wood provided a brilliant and great value venue so we shall return.

At the end of this term we said goodbye to Sally, aka Badger, who had helped run Beavers for a number of years and who has moved out of the area - she will be missed. During the year we were however extremely happy to welcome Ben (Bat), Jackie (Otter) and Emma (Deer) to the Beaver leaders group. We have also been

supported throughout by our Young Leader Sam to who we are very grateful. Special thanks also to Elaine (Lemur) who continues to regularly support the section despite all her new responsibilities and Kate (Rabbit) for support to various activities and hugely impressive badge administration skills!

After Christmas we were mainly confined to indoor sessions at St Paul’s Church but made the most of it with learning about space for the space badge, getting involved with coding and understanding how computers work for digital maker, celebrating Shrove Tuesday in the usual way and thoroughly investigating global issues over a couple of weeks including recycling, fairtrade food and the importance of clean water.

Summer term this year started with a number of bank holidays but Beavers were represented at the St Georges day parade with a couple of enthusiastic flag bearers. After a bit of preparation, including starting camp blankets with some of our new Beavers it was time for our main camp of

the year, at Woodhouse Park at the end of May. We had brilliant weather for what was a first camp for many of the Beavers, and a range of activities including nature scavenger hunting, pedal go karts, soft crossbows, a camp fire with lots of raucous singing and plenty of other games. Everyone went home thoroughly exhausted but keen to return again.

More recently, and fully outdoors again we have had a number of sessions helping out in the garden with the Dame Emily Park Project, litter picking, learning about bees with Tim (aka Mr Rabbit) and taking the cycling badge with only one slight bump and a couple of exploding inner tubes.

As always we have been sad to say goodbye to some of our older Beavers as they moved up to cubs, but we were really proud of the seven Chief Scouts Bronze awards earned during the year, with more to come hopefully.

Final thanks, as always to all the parent volunteers who help out at our sessions and camps - it is always hugely appreciated.

Cub Section Report



Another year of great activities and fun over, we've had well over 30 cubs through the pack over the course of the year – sending many onto scouts while also acquiring some from beavers. It's been another year of varied and wonderful weekly activities – cooking nights galore, science night carnage, bike rides, walking through Ashton court in the dark and so much more – we even tried teaching the cubs to navigate!

The camp back in March was a highlight – lovely venue, walks (well some walking, lots of climbing over trees covering the paths!) magic shows and so much more! Think the highlight for me was probably watching the cubs taste the every flavour beans they'd made the day before – chilli was surprisingly popular!

Next year we'll look to continue with the great weekly activities while also trying to get onto the water a bit more (we are a sea scout group after all!) and increasing the number of nights away. Do shout if you have any interest in getting involved with any of it.

As always a huge thanks to Dale and Chloe for all their help over the last year, we really couldn't run things without you. Same goes to Kate for taking on the badges – finally the cubs are going to get everything they've earned! It's been great to also have the support of 2 young leaders over the course of the year – Ben, Agnes keep up the great work!

Finally thanks to any and all the parents who've helped us out on any of the fantastic (or chaotic!) evenings over the last year! Here's to another year of fun, chaos and adventure while hopefully teaching them a few skills for life.

Matt Hill

Cub Section Leader

Scout Section Report

We kicked off the year in September preparing for our first camp of the year, the expedition through the Wye Valley. The Scouts were dropped off at our muster point and made their way to their campsite carrying all of their sleeping equipment. After setting up camp (and what a camp site), feeding themselves and a good night's rest we had an early reveille, breakfast and off they went towards Tintern. Apart from one leader getting lost navigating by car a very successful start to the year.

Continuing the previous year's emphasis on a youth driven programme, we have continued in this vein leading to a good variety of activities on our Wednesday evenings. These activities included, cooking competitions, knife/axe/saw training, skating at Bump, camp sketches (stories to tell around camp fires) a craft competition, practicing knots and their uses, patrol Olympics, and water safety to name but a few.

Following last year's success with the gang show our very own Dante Basma-Craig was part of the show again this year and all that went to see him were very proud of him. It was also a real pleasure to see him with his red necker (the red necker is awarded to gang shows



which meet required standards a prestigious award indeed) to the following scout meeting and the pride he had wearing it.

The Green Beret competition in the dark (wet and cold) of November was attended by a team of the 255th Scouts who did themselves proud coming quite high in the rankings. The Green Beret competition in Hertfordshire is attended by thousands of Scouts and has over a hundred activities. Each activity awards points for how well they are completed the team with the highest score wins, this is announced at the closing ceremony on the Sunday.

In May some Scouts and a few Leaders were whisked away sailing for a weekend with the Scouts "Discovery Sailing Project" a fantastic adventure sailing a yacht in the English Channel with an Ex-Scout, now young leader, as a member of the crew.

This spring we took Scouts camping locally again asking the Scouts to walk (only about 3km this time) to the campsite at Brockmead for a weekend

of pioneering and archery. Our pioneering projects on this camp were rope bridge building and the floating flag pole. Quite large projects not seen by the Scouts before, a real sense of achievement to complete these with/by the Scouts.

With our summer week long camp on the horizon and water sports to the end of term we are certainly still full throttle.

None of this would be possible without our terrific team of leaders who all contribute their time, can do, team work and skills to the troop. Sadly, we said goodbye to Roger Whitter who had a role within district to attend however seemed to be diverted to assist a different Sea Scout Troop in the District, about the same time Becky Porter left following a career path though I hope one day Bristol and the 255th will lure her back. We welcomed Lauren Mulvihill from Ireland with a Guides background, Tony Goring a friend of the troop who previously had volunteered as Scout Leader with Windmill Hill, Bill Bennet-Clark and Lou Spellward both joined as occasional helpers with both having great camping and water skills hidden up their sleeves.

Iain Timmons Scout Section Leader

Leaders and parents Report

This year we have found that the leadership teams and parents have been finding and doing their own activities underneath the Scout flag (or umbrella).

In October 2022 a team of Leaders (Laura, Tyler, Matt, Tim and myself) all decided about a week or so before the Sodbury Challenge that we would attend and compete as a Leaders team. The Sodbury Challenge was a very new concept, arrive at a Scout Hut in Sodbury, have a kit inspection (no cheating), plot 30ish grid references and plan a route in about 30 minutes, (each point was a checkpoint with various points awarded,) some other fun rules thrown in the mix. If I remember right our night navigation exercise (22:00 to 06:00) of eight hours we covered 23 miles though Tyler is definitely the best to talk to about our route and distance. We came first of the adult teams (and last year we were the only adult team).

The last weekend of March we returned to the Wye Valley with a troop of Leaders and Parents. We aimed to practice our own delivery of skills and discuss best practices. The highlight of the weekend being the catering by Tony and Bill, thanks again to both. We also pushed our pioneering skills building the rope bridge and floating flagpole for the first-time allowing a good test and risk assessment of the bridge as almost all adults had more than one go across the bridge. A great taster for the parents to see what Scouting is all about including a pair of true Scout Leader investitures with the climbing of the oars for the Leaders to boot. Well done Lauren and Tony.



Iain Timmons Scout Section Leader



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scout Group Executive Committee 2022-2023

Chair	Al Sweetman alansweetman@gmail.com
Deputy Chair	Andy Luke andyluke2001@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Christina Ransom christina@christinaedwards.co.uk
Secretary	Lynda Keeys lyndakeeys@googlemail.com
Group Scout Leader	Elaine Beckett elainesbeckett@gmail.com
Scout leader	Iain Timmons iaintimmons@live.co.uk
Scout section	Tim Smart timsmart@email.com
Cub leader	Matt Hill mwhill@hotmail.co.uk
Beaver leader	Ed Hodge hodge.ed@gmail.com
Scout parent rep	Jazz Basma jazzbasma@icloud.co.uk
Scout parent rep	Sarah Maplestone wiginsamoa@yahoo.co.uk
Scout parent rep	Mary Fuller mary.fuller@blueyonder.co.uk
Cub parent rep	Nick Vaughan nck_vaughan@hotmail.co.uk
Beaver parent rep	Kate Myers kateandthecats@gmail.com

255th Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts

Year ended 31 March 2023 financial summary

It is lovely to have had a full year of post-covid meetings and activities for all 3 sections. This has meant that income from membership fees and events have largely returned to their pre-pandemic levels after a couple of years of reduced-rate subscriptions with limited opportunities for camps and events.

We are all aware of the rising cost of living, and unfortunately, the group has not been immune to increased prices. We have seen our rental costs go up, and activities become more expensive. During the year, we were pleased to be able to absorb these additional costs into our existing budget and did not have to pass them onto families.

We are fortunate to finish the year with a healthy bank balance of just over £37,000. Around £15,000 of these funds are designated for use on the Spyglass site. Although plans for large-scale development are on hold, the site is a valuable storage facility and meeting resource, and the funds will be used for its modernisation and continued use. The group is also holding around £9,000 in its bank account as stage payments for the 2024 Scout trip to Kandersteg.

As trustees, we must keep a close eye on our finances to check that the group remains sustainable. To ensure that the day-to-day running costs were covered, we took the decision that from April 2023 the membership fees for Beavers would be increased to match those paid by Cubs and Scouts. Our leaders endeavour to provide a varied and enriching programme that we hope you agree still represents excellent value for money for parents.

I would like to finish by thanking our wonderful families for your continued help and support in making the financial arrangement for the group run smoothly. By making payments via Online Scout Manager on a timely basis it frees up valuable leader time allowing them to focus on organising activities and events. Thank you too for all those who have completed the Online Scout Manager gift aid declarations (and a gentle reminder for anyone who hasn't done one to log on and tick the box!) Gift aid is a valuable source of income that is worth around £2,000 per year for the group at no extra cost to families.

Christina Ransom (Treasurer)

Financial Reports for year ended 31 March 2023

Income and Expenditure

	2022-2023	2021-2022
Income		
Bank Interest	0	0
Donation	1,065	1,256
Donation - building fund	0	1,028
Events - Beavers	735	504
Events - Cubs	2,005	0
Events - Scouts	18,388	15,867
Fundraising	1,162	2,333
Membership Fees	11,122	8,801
Uniform	287	286
Expense		
Activity Equipment	532	378
Admin	264	148
Annual Fee District South	3,639	3,758
Badges	671	56
Bank Fees	45	16
Camping Equipment	2,036	0
Council tax	199	174
Events - Beavers	405	471
Events - Cubs	1,751	0
Events - Scouts	10,040	16,078
Group events	1,671	42
Insurance	454	302
Meetings - Beavers	190	123
Meetings - Cubs	101	28
Meetings - Scouts	47	296
Membership Costs	389	95
Rent	4,560	3,365
Training	145	190
Uniform	550	459
Utilities	138	171
Venue Maintenance	293	23
Account balances		
Lloyds current account	17,148	8,866
HSBC savings account	0	4,978
HSBC current account	0	16,730
Petty cash	134	66
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit 96LS	20,000	0
Summary		
Account balance brought forward	30,640	26,737
Total income	34,764	30,076
Total expenditure	28,122	26,173
Net income	6,642	3,903
Account balance carried forward	37,282	30,640

Fund movements by type

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward from 2021/22	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward to 2023/24
Building fund						
(Designated)	15492	0	-630	0	-630	14862
General fund	15148	34764	-27492	0	7272	22420
(Unrestricted)						
Totals	30640	34764	-28122	0	6642	37282



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

255 Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1164063

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 March 2023**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

29 June 2023

Name:

Neil Piggot

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:	18 Merthyr Avenue
	Portsmouth PO6 2AS

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

--

255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1164063

Accounts

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts Annual Report 2021/22



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Dear Scouts, parents, friends and supporters,

We are celebrating another successful year with too many highlights to mention. Scouts have had extra Saturday rowing sessions and gave a fantastic performance as pirates in the Gang Show. We've had a number of successful camps culminating in a great turn-out from all 3 sections to our group camp in June. 3 of our leaders earned a Camping Nights Away Permit and others are working towards it. We also welcomed our new Assistant Cub Leader Chloe to the group.

We are in a great place for the future. There is an increased demand for what we offer as everyone rediscovers life after the lockdown. We've had a successful year financially. With more adult helpers either in leader or supporting roles we can achieve even more and we encourage you to find out what are the ways you can get involved. There really is a role to suit everyone.

On a sadder note we have some thanks that we'd rather not have to give. Our group president Bob Stanfield passed away in October 2021. He was conscientiously working on our DBS checks practically up to the day he went into hospital. His family very kindly offered us part of his memorial fund and we will use it to continue to develop the group. We are also very sorry that Roger Kirkland had to step back from the group due to family reasons, although he still supports behind the scenes and organises our watersports activities. We'll be guided by his vision and dedication as we carry on.

As always we have a great team of leaders, and also parents/carers helping either in committee roles or in so many other ways (from pouring squash to running an activity). I'd particularly like to thank Sarah (Matthews) who steps down as chair this year after several years of expertly and calmly keeping us safely on track.

Elaine Beckett

Beaver Section report

- By our Beaver leaders (Racoon, Badger, and Lemur)

We were delighted that by the time this last year started we were able to meet in person once more and the Beavers enjoyed a number of sessions in Dame Emily and Greville Smyth Parks including gardening, litter picking and sports and games.

One of the highlights of 2021 was the September Beavers camp at Woodhouse Park. For all of the Beavers, and most of the leaders this was a first scouts camp. The weather was extremely good and we enjoyed a number of activities such as go-karting, orienteering, outdoor cooking and of course a campfire sing along. Ed (Racoon) was very pleased to be awarded his nights away permit.

As autumn drew in we reverted back to mainly indoor activities, utilising the main hall of St Pauls Church. Over the winter we covered a number of badges including the Space Badge, which involved some stargazing with a big telescope in the church garden, cookery and crafts,

Experiment Badge and a big joint Christmas party with Cubs, involving a lot of balloons and decorating “live Christmas trees”. Beavers also had an indoor Christmas themed camp at the 229th HQ, where we played a lot of games, watched Christmas movies, ate a huge turkey dinner and stayed up far too late.

Early in 2022 the Beavers enjoyed a visit to Temple Fire Station where they had a thorough tour of the station and the equipment, opportunity to ask all the questions they could think of, then the highlight - testing the hoses!

On St Valentines Day the Beavers enjoyed a chip shop hike around the streets of Bedminster, which is currently voted the best session ever, so shall be repeated again later this year..

A number of Beavers turned out in their smartest uniform for the annual St George’s Day parade which hadn't been held for several years. They were excited to parade along the road, taking turns to carry our flag, and see so many other Scout groups from the Bristol South area.

Lots more fun sessions and activities this year, particularly once the weather and daylight hours have allowed us to get outside again. The Beavers particularly enjoyed meeting Sheila and her guide dog Brian in the park and learning all about guide dogs and how Brian helps Sheila. We also helped build a wildlife fence at Dame Emily and enjoyed mini beast hunting in Ashton Court where plenty of bugs were found along with an enormous leech, to everyone’s delight/ horror (delete as appropriate).

A highlight of this year so far was of course the Big Fiesta at Woodhouse Park. The Beavers who attended were treated to a huge array of activities from climbing to assault courses, archery to circus skills, hover crafts to quad bikes. They also enjoyed meeting other Beaver Colonies, food, dancing and shows on the big stage. The weather was glorious and by the end of the two days everyone left very exhausted and happy with only a moderate pile of lost property.

Beavers have earned lots of badges this year, including 2 chiefs scout bronze awards for Tommy Sanders and Iris Bennet-Clark, with a number of current Beavers very close to achieving this.

All of this was made possible by our team of leaders and young leaders, Elaine, Ed, Sally, Kate, young leaders Minnie, Tom and Harry. And in the earlier part of the year great help from Roger K, Rich (Mole) and young leaders Ben and Sam.

Finally - thanks to all the parents who have helped out with sessions, hikes and camps over the last year. It is always hugely appreciated.



Cub Section Report



It's quite nice to be writing one of these reports again and not find myself making comments about the oddities of the last year and all the disruption Covid has caused! It's been another excellent year for cubs, we've still got around 30 of them causing chaos (despite sending nearly 20 up to terrify the scouts over the last 12 months!).

Highlight of the year was definitely getting to finally go on another camp with them all, a great weekend was had by all of those who attended, activities ranging from climbing and crate stacking to cooking on fires and hovercraft. Some of them even slept occasionally!

On the regular weekly meetings, it was great to once again spend every week of the summer term outside along with more of the other terms than has been the case recently. Highlights including Chip tasting, fire lighting and the photography evening. Been great to hand out over 200 badges as well (well once the 100 on order have been handed out anyway!).

As always a massive thanks to all the help provided by Dale over the last year, and to Chloe for everything since she joined just before Easter. Now he's moved on to helping with the scouts more and cubs a bit less, it'd be wrong of me not to mention Tyler and all the help he's given over the past 4 years, your help made my life lots easier and the cubs a lot more fun – so thank you...even if you haven't escaped our clutches fully just yet!

Looking forward to another year of fun, chaos and adventure to come!

Matt Hill
Cub Section Leader

Scout Section Report



We resumed 'normal' Scouting in September by meeting indoors and by welcoming a large group of Cubs from the Pack. Before long, we investing them into the troop and with our traditional initiation ceremony of climbing the oars. With Covid restrictions having precluded this for so long, we had quite a backlog of candidates.

We jointly ran two Patrol Leaders development weekends in September and October with Windmill Hill Scouts at our Avon County campsite, Wood House Park.

Basic camping skills, field craft, and an emphasis on teamwork and being a servant leader jump started our youth leaders for the year ahead.

With desire to foster a programme driven by our scouts, back in August we asked the patrols what sorts of things they wanted to do. The result has been a great variety of activities some of which have directly led to badges on shirts and others have contributed to eventual awards. All I hope have been fun.

Here are some of those activities:

Tracking Signs, Knife, Axe, Saw training , Cycling and maintenance, Cooking (twice) DIY training and badge, Saturday Rowing Club, RNLI boathouse tour, Knots, rope making, District Gang Show and Entertainer badge, CPR First Aid training, Orienteering, Live link with a Ugandan Scouter, Rucksack packing, Fire laying and starting day, and most recently, Wednesday night water sports!

We have also participated in two church parades, and the Big Fiesta camp.

None of this would be possible without our terrific team of leaders who all contribute their time, industry, and skills to the troop. Sadly, we said goodbye to Cat Piggot who now serves in the 1st Portsmouth Sea Scout team. We welcomed Laura Andrews who moved here from Salisbury, and Tyler Wakeford who most recently assisted Matt Hill with the Cubs.

Roger Whiter (Baloo) SL



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scout Group Executive Committee 2021-2022

Chair	Sarah Matthews sarahmbailey@gmail.com
President	Bob Stanfield RIP
Treasurer	Ursula Gasser uschi.smile@gmail.com
Secretary	Lynda Keays lyndakeeys@googlemail.com
Assistant GSL	Elaine Beckett elainesbeckett@gmail.com
Scout leader	Roger Whiter rogerwhiter@gmail.com
Scout section	Tim Smart timsmart@email.com
Cub leader	Matt Hill mwhill@hotmail.co.uk
Beaver leader 1	Ed Hodge hodge.ed@gmail.com
Beaver leader 2	Sally Quigg sally.quigg@btinternet.com
Scout parent rep	Pete Bird haleybird@blueyonder.co.uk
Scout parent rep	Jason Viner Jason.viner@nbt.nhs.uk
Cub parent rep	Nick Vaughan nck_vaughan@hotmail.co.uk
Beaver parent rep	Andy Luke andyluke2001@hotmail.com
Beaver parent rep	Emma Luke emma_deen@yahoo.co.uk

Financial Reports

Income and Expenditure 2021-2022

Income

Bank Interest	0.49
Donation	1,256.00
Donation - building fund	1,027.96
Events - Beavers	504.00
Events - Scouts	15,867.09
Fundraising	2,333.44
Membership Fees	8,801.40
Uniform	285.50

Expense

Activity Equipment	378.37
Admin	148.48
Annual Fee District South	3,758.00
Badges	56.36
Bank Fees	15.60
Council tax	173.70
Events - Beavers	471.30
Events - Scouts	16,077.50
Group events	42.03
Insurance	302.20
Meetings - Beavers	122.53
Meetings - Cubs	27.69
Meetings - Scouts	296.37
Membership Costs	95.45
Rent	3,365.00
Training	190.00
Uniform	459.28
Utilities	170.78
Venue Maintenance	22.60

Account balances

255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUTS	8,865.91
HSBC savings account	4,977.68
HSBC current account	16,729.95
Petty cash	65.61

Summary

Account balance brought forward (2020-2021)	26,736.51
Total income	30,075.88
Total expenditure	26,173.24
Net income	3,902.64
Account balance carried forward (2021-2022)	30,639.15

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

	21/22	20/21 (restated)
Incoming resources		
Subscriptions	8801	5276
Activities	16371	4187
Fundraising	4617	415
Other income	286	30
Prior year adjustment (Note 1)		2880
Total incoming resources	30076	12788
Resources used		
Section costs	447	3654
Activity costs	16969	8741
Operating costs [Admin, rent, membership fee, insurance, utilities)	8052	1010
Training	190	0
Fundraising costs	0	0
Other costs (Equipment, uniform, badges)	516	152
Total resources used	26173	13557
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	3903	-769
Total funds brought forward	26737	27506
Total funds carried forward	30640	26737

Fund movements by type
Period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Fund and type	Fund balances bought forward from 20/21	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward to 22/23
Building fund (Designated)	14660	1028	196	0	832	15492
General fund (Unrestricted)	12077	29048	25977	0	3071	15148
Totals	26737	30076	26173	0	3903	30640

Note 1: The accounts have been restated to reflect an error in the previously stated prior year closing funds. This has resulted in additional income for the prior year of £2880. For 20/21 accounts all the checking of transactions, receipts etc was completed but the wrong figure was taken as the fund balance brought forward. The £2880 adjustment corrects this to the actual fund balance brought forward at 1 April 2021.

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts Annual Report 2021/22



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

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Cub Section Leader

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Roger Whiter (Baloo) SL



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scout Group Executive Committee 2021-2022

Chair	Sarah Matthews sarahmbailey@gmail.com
President	Bob Stanfield RIP
Treasurer	Ursula Gasser uschi.smile@gmail.com
Secretary	Lynda Keeys lyndakeeys@googlemail.com
Assistant GSL	Elaine Beckett elainesbeckett@gmail.com
Scout leader	Roger Whiter rogerwhiter@gmail.com
Scout section	Tim Smart timsmart@email.com
Cub leader	Matt Hill mwhill@hotmail.co.uk
Beaver leader 1	Ed Hodge hodge.ed@gmail.com
Beaver leader 2	Sally Quigg sally.quigg@btinternet.com
Scout parent rep	Pete Bird haleybird@blueyonder.co.uk
Scout parent rep	Jason Viner Jason.viner@nbt.nhs.uk
Cub parent rep	Nick Vaughan nck_vaughan@hotmail.co.uk
Beaver parent rep	Andy Luke andyluke2001@hotmail.com
Beaver parent rep	Emma Luke emma_deen@yahoo.co.uk

Financial Reports

Income and Expenditure 2021-2022

Income

Bank Interest	0.49
Donation	1,256.00
Donation - building fund	1,027.96
Events - Beavers	504.00
Events - Scouts	15,867.09
Fundraising	2,333.44
Membership Fees	8,801.40
Uniform	285.50

Expense

Activity Equipment	378.37
Admin	148.48
Annual Fee District South	3,758.00
Badges	56.36
Bank Fees	15.60
Council tax	173.70
Events - Beavers	471.30
Events - Scouts	16,077.50
Group events	42.03
Insurance	302.20
Meetings - Beavers	122.53
Meetings - Cubs	27.69
Meetings - Scouts	296.37
Membership Costs	95.45
Rent	3,365.00
Training	190.00
Uniform	459.28
Utilities	170.78
Venue Maintenance	22.60

Account balances

255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUTS	8,865.91
HSBC savings account	4,977.68
HSBC current account	16,729.95
Petty cash	65.61

Summary

Account balance brought forward (2020-2021)	26,736.51
Total income	30,075.88
Total expenditure	26,173.24
Net income	3,902.64
Account balance carried forward (2021-2022)	30,639.15

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

	21/22	20/21 (restated)
Incoming resources		
Subscriptions	8801	5276
Activities	16371	4187
Fundraising	4617	415
Other income	286	30
Prior year adjustment (Note 1)		2880
Total incoming resources	30076	12788
Resources used		
Section costs	447	3654
Activity costs	16969	8741
Operating costs [Admin, rent, membership fee, insurance, utilities)	8052	1010
Training	190	0
Fundraising costs	0	0
Other costs (Equipment, uniform, badges)	516	152
Total resources used	26173	13557
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	3903	-769
Total funds brought forward	26737	27506
Total funds carried forward	30640	26737

Fund movements by type
Period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Fund and type	Fund balances bought forward from 20/21	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward to 22/23
Building fund (Designated)	14660	1028	196	0	832	15492
General fund (Unrestricted)	12077	29048	25977	0	3071	15148
Totals	26737	30076	26173	0	3903	30640

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOUTS

On accounts for the year
ended

31 MAR 22

Charity no
(if any)

1164063

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011
("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to
undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of
applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that~~
~~disclosed below~~ *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material
respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements
concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities
(Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement
that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter
considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in
order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Neal Piggot

Date:

5/8/22

Name:

NEAL PIGGOT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

(if any):

--

Address:

18 MERTHYR AV
POULTSMOUTH
PO6 2AS

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

--