

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0	1	0	4	2	3
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to end date

3	1	0	3	2	4
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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
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HQ registration number

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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	Nicholas Vaughan		
5	Andrew Luke		
6	Jasmine Basma		

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 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 4 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.

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.

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 £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	010724	



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:

J Uren

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.