

4th St Albans Scout Group

Registered Charity Number: 302569

Annual Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 March 2024



4th St Albans Scout Group

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

4th St Albans Scout Group

Registered charity number

3 0 2 5 6 9

HQ registration number

1 0 0 0 0 7 6 9

Charity's principal address

Jim Green Memorial Hall

25 Riverside Road

St Albans

AL1 1RX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Cameron Lavin	Chair	
2	Kelly Drew	Treasurer	
3	Andrew Robins	Secretary	
4	Ian Hamilton Woods		
5	Kathryn-Rhys-Parry		
6	Andrew Drummond		
7	Juliette Warren		

Section B

Structure, governance and management

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 Group Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 5 Trustees (including one Ex-Officio Trustee) and meets formally every 3-4 months.

Members of the Group Trustee Board complete 5 training modules within the first 5 months of joining the committee: 'Essential Information', 'General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)', 'Safety', 'Safeguarding' and 'Trustee Introduction'.

The 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 Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would seek to facilitate temporary use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as churches, community centres and other Scout Groups and / or could hold section meetings at outdoor locations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Section B

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Risk and Internal Control (continued)

Reduced income. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and hall hire. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Trustee Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently and / or look for alternative sources of grants or other income.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of all sections. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the Group as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 14. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the Group as whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

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 objectives

Scouts

The Group continues in strength with over 70 Scouts across the two Troops. The Scouts have been on numerous camps from Gilwell Park to Paccar, have tried parascending and laser tag, honed their forestry skills and raised money for Oxfam water projects by walking around Heartwood Forest. Scouts have taken part in five District Competitions, swimming cooking, rifle shooting, the ever popular "I'm a Scout, get me out of here" and the Derek Turner night hike challenge.

Regular week night activities have included wide games, celebrating Chinese new year with hand-made shadow puppet displays, cooking as well as getting creative and arty. Skills such as knots, pioneering and alternate methods of communication such as morse code, the phonetic alphabet and semaphore have been learned.

3 Scouts achieved their Chief Scouts Gold award before moving on to Explorers. Many Scouts have continued their Scouting journey by moving onto a range of the Explorer units across St Albans.

Cubs

The Group currently has two Packs, with approximately 60 Cubs between them. The Packs have enjoyed a wider and varied programme. A number of District organised events such as water activities, bushcraft, an activities day at Gilwell Park, swimming gala, 'Itfar under the stars', movie morning and St George's Day parade were attended.

Regular pack nights included activities such as learning semaphore, orienteering, archery, rifle shooting, tomahawk throwing, shelter building, bushcraft, pioneering, paddleboarding at Stanborough Lakes, a visit to Bayfordbury Observatory, ring sledging at the Snow Centre, cooking, crafts and wide games. Cubs have learned all about the human body - making lungs, a brain hat and sweet DNA and collected food for the local food bank.

Both Packs attended the Group camp at Paccar Scout Activity Centre.

Over 550 badges were awarded and 19 Cubs have achieved their Chief Scout's Silver Award.

Beavers

Our 2 Colonies have a total 40 Beavers. The Beavers have attended various District events including a movie morning, St. George's Day Parade and a Funday activity day.

Ensuring a wide range of sessions to meet the interests of all Beavers, regular meetings have included crafts, hiking, cooking on fire, den building and bowling as well as trips to the Redbournbury Watermill, a hedgehog sanctuary as well as Gosling Sports Park to go ringo-sliding. In addition, Colonies have had visitors to meetings from various people such as David Clarke OBE (CEO of Paralympic GB team).

The Beavers have attended Group camp at Paccar Scout Activity Centre and Beavers in Tents, allowing them to experience activities like climbing, archery, knots as well singing around the campfire.

Beavers not only completed a high number of badges during sessions, but many also completed further badges at home. A number of Beavers were awarded the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Most Beavers reaching 8 years of age have moved up to Cubs to continue their Scouting experience.

Section C

Objectives and activities (continued)

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 during the year

As can be seen by the Sectional reviews, the Group has continued to run and engage its young people throughout the year under review with all Sections running a wide range of activities throughout their programmes.

The Group remains indebted to the efforts of all Section Leaders as well as parents, supporters and other volunteers who give their time, skills and support to enable Sections to run so successfully and the varied programme of events to be provided.

Section E

Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves and investments

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income from subscriptions, hall hire, fundraising activities and other income sources fall short. Given the Group ownership of the Headquarters building, sufficient reserves to cover on-going maintenance and repair are also required.

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is relatively small and as a consequence, the Group, 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.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods

The Group intends to continue to offer a full programme of activities, camps, meetings and events throughout the next financial year.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Cameron Lavin

Ian Hamilton Woods

Position

Chair

Group Scout Leader

Date

0 9 0 9 2 4

England & Wales

Unqualified report for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payments accounts with a gross income of £250,000 or less in the relevant financial year

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 4th St Albans Scout Group Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 4th St Albans Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 4th St Albans Scout Group 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 4th St Albans Scout Group 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 4th St Albans Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Andre DeRoy

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: 26, St Ives Close, Digswell AL6 0BB

Date: 19-08-2024

4th St Albans Scout Group
Income and Expenditure for the Year Ending 31st March 2024

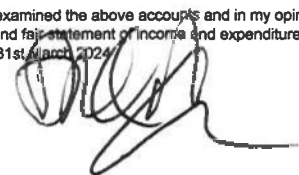
INCOME	23-24	22-23	Change
Subscriptions			
Scout Troop	4,860.80	7,105.91	-32%
Cub Pack	3,773.76	5,640.05	-33%
Beaver Colony	2,785.54	3,736.70	-25%
Total Subs	11,420.10	16,482.66	-31%
Scouting activities income	12,950.65	11,765.23	+10%
Grants and Donations	1,000.00	0.00	n/a
External fundraising collected	0.00	0.00	n/a
Hire of Equipment	0.00	0.00	n/a
Family camp	0.00	0.00	n/a
Group Activities/Other	0.00	0.00	n/a
Group clothing	719.94	912.95	-21%
Gift Aid	0.00	3,583.34	-100%
Interest	502.11	90.88	+452%
Other income	655.39	0.00	n/a
Closure / Transfer of Scouts investment A/c	7.09		
'Scouting activities' subtotal	27,255.28	32,835.06	-17%
Memo 'Scouting' net income	-3,234.20	2,192.33	
Hire of Hall			
Morris Men	772.50	750.00	+3%
Pre-School & Lunch Club	11,410.34	10,961.00	+4%
Woodcraft	0.00	0.00	n/a
Other	800.00	1,000.00	-20%
'Hall' income	12,982.84	12,711.00	+2%
Memo 'Hall' net income	-9,515.01	4,415.21	
TOTAL	40,238.12	45,546.06	-12%

EXPENDITURE	23-24	22-23	Change
Scouting activities spend	17,417.95	15,347.96	+13%
Memo 'Scouting activities' net spend	4,467.30	3,582.73	
Membership subscription	9,213.00	9,434.00	-2%
External fundraising paid on	0.00	0.00	n/a
Scout Shop	0.00	2,925.55	-100%
Admin & Training	290.42	548.00	-47%
Family camp	0.00	0.00	n/a
Group Clothing	2,134.25	1,319.00	+62%
Equipment	3,010.31	718.22	+319%
Other	0.00	350.00	-100%
Provision to repay	-1,576.45	0.00	
'Scouting activities' subtotal	30,489.48	30,642.73	-1%
Hut Maintenance	17,010.33	2,595.14	+555%
Insurance	1,691.13	1,371.38	+23%
Utilities			
Electricity	2,347.05	2,868.69	-18%
Gas	974.81	1,045.80	-7%
Water	474.53	414.78	+14%
'Hall' expenditure	22,497.85	8,295.79	
TOTAL	52,987.33	38,938.52	+36%

Balance as at 31st March	23-24	22-23
Current A/c	26,923.18	44,371.51
Deposit A/c	42,208.14	41,706.03
Uncleared Credits	0.00	0.00
Uncleared Cheques	0.00	-4,502.00
Accruals	-1.00	-1.00
Land & Buildings	1.00	1.00
Investment Accounts	0.00	304.99
Total	69,131.32	81,880.53
Accumulated Funds at start of year	81,880.53	75,272.99
Increase/decrease during year	-12,749.21	6,607.54
Funds available at 31st March	69,131.32	81,880.53

I have examined the above accounts and in my opinion they represent a true and fair statement of income and expenditure to the year ended 31st March 2024.

Signed:



Date:

19/08/2024