



1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group  
Annual Reports & Accounts

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Charity Commission Registered Number: 303417

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group AGM 23/01/2024
3. Annual report by Treasurer and Adoption of Accounts
4. Group Section Reports
5. Adoption of Constitution as per POR 5.4
6. Nomination and Election of members to Trustee Board (Group Scout Leader / Deputy Group Scout Lead / Section Leaders)
7. Nomination and Election of Group Chair
8. Nomination and Election of Group Treasurer
9. Nomination and Election of Group Secretary
10. Nomination, Election and Approval of other members to the Group Trustee Board (e.g. fundraiser etc)
11. Approval of the Independent Examiner
12. Youth Investment Fund
13. Close

## TRUSTEE BOARD

Group Lead Volunteer	Bob Kingsman
Deputy Group Lead Volunteer	Richard Phillpot
Chairperson	Ben Goult (resigned 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024)
	Vacant
Treasurer	Samantha Stanton
Secretary	Samantha David
Explorers Leader	Warren Forster
Scout Leader	Jon Jackson (resigned 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)
Cub Scout Leader	Daniel LeCorney
Beaver Scout Leader	Brigette Watson
Maintenance Leader	Matthew Randall (appointed 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024)

## GENERAL SCOUT LEADER REPORT 2023/24

I recommend that you take the time to read all the section reports to appreciate the great activities that are provided by our team of volunteers throughout the year.

We have had an interesting time since our last AGM whilst the refurbishment work has been going on at the hut which was out of action for a number of weeks. Meetings carried on at various venues to ensure scouting carried on in Birchington, thanks to all volunteers who went the extra mile to make this happen.

Scouting nationally is implementing new systems and initiatives to make it more accessible for anyone to volunteer and enjoy more support with a team based approach to Scouting, now is a great time to get involved!

Once again thank you to all parents who help on an occasional basis, and especially when we go camping and on trips.

We now have a building which is fresh and warm with updated safety features thanks to a generous grant from the youth investment fund, this has been completed thanks to the efforts of Richard Phillpott( assistant GLV), Sam Stanton (treasurer) and Matt Randell (Bagheera). Special thanks to Matt who spent many hours at the hut sorting the electrics, cctv and fire protection.

We have young people waiting to join our group due to a shortage of leaders/helpers so please consider coming forward to help if you can spare a couple of hours a week.

We also need a new chairman and fundraising team so plenty of opportunities to step up and help your young people.

***Please check messages on social media to ensure your young people are at the right place, at the right time.***

**Bob (Mowgli)**

**1st Birchington Air Scouts : Preparing young people with skills for life**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT 2023/24**

The opening cash balance was £17,111 and the closing cash balance was £16,589, as a result of a net payment of £522 over the financial year.

Funds received from subscriptions and activities were £8,553, with £7,425 being spent on the Youth Programme and activities for the Beaver, Cubs and Scouts during the year. Highlights on these have been discussed in the section reports. We were able to claim Gift Aid of £853 on the subscriptions.

Due to the hard work from Richard and Bob £74,021 of funding was secured from the Youth Investment Fund to replace the roof on the Scout Hut. With the support of Matt the majority of this work was complete by the end of March. A further amount, £10,123 has been received since the year end, to support with the completion of this project. I would like to say thank you to all those involved, the benefits for the scouting community in Birchington will be seen for many years to come.

Community groups are still using the hut and this generated income of £1,749 in 2023/24. There were two street collections and with the activities that were held in the hut during these we raised £1,795, which helps support the running costs of the Group. With ongoing costs, such as utilities, cleaning, insurance and purchasing new equipment these funds are essential to help support the Group's activities.

During the year we also set up a new higher interest bank account to help generate additional income for the Group.

I'm looking forward to seeing what exciting activities will happen in 2024/5 for the sections, thank you to everyone for their hard work this year.

**Samantha Stanton, Treasurer**

## **BEAVER SECTION REPORT 2023/24**

Since our last AGM beavers have been busy getting out and about doing badges and activities. We have made volcanoes on the beach, had custard cream stacking competitions, and thrown tomahawks with visitors at the hut.

Beavers have completed eight badges including taking photos of the village, growing sunflowers and beans, and learning morse code. We have also completed some staged activity badges visiting the Manston air museum and learning the phonetic alphabet. And every week we complete bits of the challenge badges learning to tie knots, light candles and learning a song in British sign language.

Beavers have helped in the village selling poppies with the British Legion, dressing as elves in the Christmas lights event and litter picking in Crispe Park.

At the time of writing this report we are looking forward to an Olympic sleepover and hoping that Vicky will be assessed for her nights away permit. We have another booked for October at Marshside.

We currently have thirteen beavers with three going up to cubs in September. We still only have two leaders with Mary still helping regularly for us. We have had a new helper in Steve who helps when work allows. Unfortunately, he will not be able to stay with us past autumn half-term so won't get to complete any training. So, we are still looking out for regular helpers who may turn into leaders!

We have said a beaver thank you to the Baptist Church for lending us their space while the scout hut had its new roof work. We couldn't have kept the activities going without their support.

And as always, I have a huge thank you to say to Vicky and Mary and all the parents who have been able to help and keep our colony doing the fun scouting activities we all enjoy.

Birch.

**Brigette Watson, Beaver Team Leader.**

## CUBS SECTION REPORT 2023/24

Hi, welcome to the section of the annual report where I try to cram a year's worth of Cub activities into one side of A4.

In the spring and summer terms I like to get the Cubs outdoors as much as possible - weather permitting - so we managed to get outside for evenings at Crispe Park (tracking), the rec (navigation) and Minnis Bay (crabbing and water rockets). Across the country, Scouts were encouraged to take part in a 'big help out' in the community to mark the King's coronation. The Cubs partnered up with the Birchington Anti-litter Group and used their litter pickers to carry out a tidy up of rubbish around the village. Finally, as an end of term treat, we had a great evening at Nelson Park, riding and grooming horses. (Not at the same time.)

A weekend camp was held at Ross Woods in June to give our newer Cubs a camping experience ahead of the highlight of the year. This was our summer camp, five days and four nights at Broadstone Warren in the Ashdown Forest. 12 Cubs, 9 leaders/helpers, 2 other young people and 1 dog took part. Upon arrival there was a downpour of rain which lasted non-stop for 18 hours... and so Bagheera and Mowgli became VERY familiar with the local launderette. Despite this, I did not hear one word of complaint from the Cubs. So what did they get up to? Climbing, abseiling, zip wiring, artificial tunneling, rafted canoeing, McFlurry and Domino's eating, washing up-ing, visiting Hundred Acre Wood and pooh sticks bridge from the Winnie the Pooh stories, and Bluebell steam railway journeying. Yes, I think that is enough to give you a taste.

In the autumn term we completed the communicator and astronomer badges, visited the Powell-Cotton Museum as part of the Kent Scouts LionAid challenge and enjoyed a sunny October hike in the Stodmarsh nature reserve. In November we spent a night underground trying to sleep at the Ramsgate Tunnels, using the basic beds and washing facilities which were used when people sheltered down there during the Second World War. This was a unique experience and we had great fun exploring the old railway tunnels. Our last meeting before Christmas was a visit to the ice-skating rink at Quex Park. The result? Not quite Torvill and Dean, but it wasn't Bambi on ice either.

The first three months of the year are always pretty gloomy, weather- and Scouting-wise, and we spent a month meeting elsewhere while work was going on at the scout hut. Still, we put together a decent programme, making airfix model Spitfires and swimming at Birchington Vale and some German, Spanish and Holi activities for the international badge - or should that be the eating-lots-of-foreign-food-and-making-a-mess-with-coloured-powder badge? At the very end of March, we started a series of visits to Monkton Nature Reserve as part of the naturalist (got to make sure I've got that word right) badge which is being completed later in the summer months of 2024.

A couple of shout outs: Henry and Toby for earning their Chief Scout Silver awards; Bagheera, Kim, Hathi, Chil, Mowgli and Willow for their time helping the Cubs this year; and a big BRAVO to Ella, Gareth and Sue, who have generously provided the catering for our camps and sleepovers since 2019 (by a rough count I think they have done this on 9 different events) and have now understandably decided it's time to take a break from this responsibility.

Finally, well done to all the Cubs for everything you've achieved this year, it means a lot to me and the other leaders 😊

**Daniel (Rama)**



## SCOUTS SECTION REPORT 2023/24

Over the past year, our scout section has had a remarkable year in growth, adventure and achievements. Despite the natural ebb and flow of scouts ageing out of the section, we have successfully maintained our numbers. This stability is largely thanks to the enthusiasm of our current scouts, as well as the leadership team.

It's always sad to lose scouts, but we are immensely proud of those who have successfully completed their chief scout gold award. This achievement reflects the hard work, commitment they have put in and we are immensely proud of them. Additionally, we have several scouts on track to complete their chief scout award soon, although we will be losing some of these dedicated members due to age.

This year our scouts have had the opportunity to experience a variety of exciting activities, each one bringing its own set of challenges and fun. Climbing and abseiling at revolution skate park brought about some significant challenges for our scout troop. It takes a lot of courage and trust, but the scouts had a thrilling time pushing their limits and building confidence.

Our scouts also had a truly unique experience sleeping underground in Margate Caves, getting up close with the local wildlife...Slugs.

Over the course of our building renovations, the Scouts were lucky enough to call the RAF Manston History Museum home. This allowed them to explore aviation history in more depth, learning valuable lessons from the past.

Coming up, we have an eagerly awaited overnight trip to Ramsgate Tunnels, where the scouts will sleep in bunks reminiscent of those used in World War II. It promises to be both educational and a fun experience for everyone.

This year also saw changes to our leadership team. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to one of our leaders who started the scout section back up at 1st Birchington, it was a heartfelt loss to the section. However, we were fortunate to gain a new leader, Sara, whose enthusiasm has made her a fantastic addition to our hardworking team. That being said, our need for more adult leaders remains a priority in order to expand our section and offer even more opportunities to current and future scouts.

As we head into the next year, we are filled with optimism and excitement for what's to come. With our current scouts achieving great things and plenty of awesome activities on the horizon, the future for our troop looks bright.

To ensure we continue to thrive, we will be focusing on the growth of the troop, both adult leaders and scouts, while maintaining the enthusiasm that makes our troop so awesome.

Thank you to both Sara and Toby for all the work they put into your 'two hours a week'. Our section would not run without either of them giving all they're hard work.

Lastly, our troop would be in dire straits without our young leaders, they are the glue that holds it altogether. They have worked incredibly hard this year helping us adults to make each night run smoothly and keeping us oldies current within the world of teenagers. Thank you guys!

**Jody (Hobbit)**

## EXPLORERS LEADER REPORT 2023/24

Having grown quite quickly in the last couple of years, our numbers are now holding at around 19, sadly saying goodbye to some members as they turn 18 and regularly enrolling Scouts from Minster and Westgate as well as Birchington. We still meet every other week which seems to fit in around the Adult Volunteers work commitments and the Explorers own commitments, whether they are for part time jobs or for helping out as Young Leaders, which we encourage new Explorers to sign up for as many use it to tick off their volunteering requirement of their DofE award.

The Explorers programme is guided by them and we encourage them to make the most of their last couple of years in Scouting as Young People and the emphasis is always on fun and stress busting, especially around those dreaded exams. Planning and completing hikes, Pumpkin Carving, Pioneering at the Dip, Escape rooms, Karaoke, Quiz nights, Movie nights and recreating The Traitors and Squid Game (don't worry, no Explorers were harmed and it was sweets hanging from the rafters as the prize) were some of our personal favourites from this past year.

We aim to bring every opportunity to our Explorers which includes national and international events such as the Kent Scouts Rollercoaster Madness, London Monopoly Run or International Jamborees. Although some of them have enjoyed or signed up to these events, as the programme is tailored by them, we feel they would enjoy a camp that is just theirs which we have unfortunately been unable to offer as none of our leadership team currently has the necessary training. So we are looking to make amends and myself and Joe will finally be receiving training next month and will hopefully be assessed and ready to plan a proper Summer camp for the Explorers in 2025 and generally have more nights under canvas beyond that, finally getting to put the EXPLORE in Explorers!

I have to say that although our programme has been great over the past 12 months, we have been severely limited in what we can do as our funds were locked away in our GoCardless and we were unable to access them, whilst we transferred our banking to 1st Birchington's account. After a lot of back and forths and with the help of Sam (our treasurer) we are finally able to access our funds once again.

Although, sadly, we have lost a key member of our leadership team as Hannah has decided to take a step back from Scouting for the foreseeable future and I would like to thank her for keeping our Unit as one of her many spinning plates for so long. She has been a fantastic Leader, an inspiration to our Explorers and we hope that she'll find a way back to Scouting at some point. However, Joe has joined us full time from Westgate and we'll be joined regularly by Ryan, another of our former Explorers. But as our Unit grows and we look for more opportunities for camping further afield, we would love to hear from any potential leaders or helpers so that we can offer our fantastic group of Explorers as much Scouting as possible.

Warren, Explorer Team Leader.

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2023.24

1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group (Charity no. 303417)  
Receipts and payments account

For the year from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024
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### Receipts and payments

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Receipts</b>		
<b>Donations, legacies and similar income</b>		
Membership subscriptions	5,558	5,090
Donations	2,079	3,020
Gift Aid	853	927
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,490</b>	<b>9,037</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
Youth Investment Fund Grant	74,021	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>74,021</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fundraising events (gross)</b>		
Street Collections	1,795	527
Beaver/Cub/Scout activities	2,995	599
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>1,126</b>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Bank interest	241	18
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>87,542</b>	<b>10,181</b>
<b>Asset and investment sales, etc.</b>	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>87,542</b>	<b>10,181</b>

**1st Birchington Air Scout Group (Charity no. 303417)**  
**Receipts and payments account**

For the year from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024
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**Receipts and payments**

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Charitable Payments</b>		
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	2,334	2,172
Youth programme and activities	7,425	4,150
Youth Investment Grant Expenditure	73,021	-
Water and Sewerage	218	182
Electricity and Gas	919	2,266
Insurance	759	694
Repairs and Renewals	598	1,134
Materials and equipment	706	1,388
Uniforms	1,055	76
Council tax	65	138
Cleaning	549	507
Group expenses	215	283
Donations	28	19
Bank Charges	172	115
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>88,064</b>	<b>13,124</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>88,064</b>	<b>13,124</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(522)</b>	<b>(2,943)</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>17,111</b>	<b>20,054</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>16,589</b>	<b>17,111</b>

**1st Birchington Air Scout Group (Charity no. 303417)**  
**Receipts and payments account**

For the year from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024
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**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year**

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Bank current account	1,751	6,601
Bank deposit account	14,838	10,510
Cash/Floats	-	-
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>16,589</b>	<b>17,111</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account)	ok	ok
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>16,589</b>	<b>17,111</b>

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ 2024 (the date of the Trustee Board meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
	Chair
	Treasurer

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group

On accounts for the year  
ended

31-3-2024.

Charity no  
(if any)

303417

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

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 (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:

ALISON

Date:

24-6-2024

Name:

ALISON BLACK

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

IER

1




Oct 2018

1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Venue: Scout Hut Birchington

Attendees	<p>Ben Gault (Chair) Bob Kingsman (Group Scout leader) Richard Philpott (Deputy Group Scout Leader) Samantha Stanton (Treasurer) Samantha David (Secretary) Warren Forster (Explorers Leader) Jon Jackson (Scout Leader) Daniel Le Corney (Cub Leader) Bridgette Watson (Beaver Leader)</p> <p>District Team Leaders: Gemma Lambeth Catherine Hodges</p> <p>Also present were cubs and their parents / carers.</p>	
Apologies	Matthew Randall	
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
Minutes of previous meeting	<p>Minutes from previous AGM – x1 amendment to spelling error in name Minutes approved – see embed.</p>  <p>Confirmed AGM Minutes 100922.docx</p>	
Annual report by treasurer and adoption of accounts	<p>Copies made available for all. 1<sup>st</sup> Approved: Bridgette Watson 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved: Jon Jackson</p> <p>Please see below.</p>  <p>1st Birchington Air Scout Group AGM Rej</p>	All leaders to encourage Gift Aid forms to be completed
Group section reports	<p>Bob Kingsman read overall summary Reports approved.</p>  <p>1st Birchington Air Scout Group AGM Rej</p>	

1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group  
Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Adoption of constitution as per POR 5.4	New policy organisation / rules for scouting. Previously members were executive committee and now Trustee Board  Adopted by the group	
Election of members to the Trustee Board	Following positions were nominated and approved.  Vacant (Chair) Bob Kingsman (Group Lead Volunteer) Richard Phillpott (Deputy Group Lead Volunteer) Samantha Stanton (Treasurer) Samantha David (Secretary) Warren Forster (Explorer Leader) Jon Jackson (Scout Leader) Daniel LeCorney (Cub Leader) Bridgette Watson (Beaver Leader) Matthew Randall (Maintenance lead)	
Chair vacancy	The group passed on their thanks to Ben Goult who has held the position of chair for a number of years. This position is now vacant.	
Parent Representative	There are currently vacancies for parent representatives in the following groups: Beavers Cubs Scouts Explorers	Parents were asked to consider volunteering for this
Independent Assessor of Accounts	Samantha Stanton explained that Alison Blake will independently assess the accounts in line with charity requirements. Group approved this nomination	
Youth Investment Fund	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Birchington group has been successful in obtaining a grant for maintenance to the hut. This will include; roof being replaced / cavity insulation / rendering / electrical update and CCTV if money allows. A new boiler has also been installed.  Thanks were given to Richard Phillpott for all of his work / time in applying for the grant and Matthew Randall for technical support / advice.	
AOB	None	
Date of next meeting	tbc	





1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group  
Annual Reports & Accounts

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

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***Please check messages on social media to ensure your young people are at the right place, at the right time.***

**Bob (Mowgli)**

**1st Birchington Air Scouts : Preparing young people with skills for life**

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**Samantha Stanton, Treasurer**

## **BEAVER SECTION REPORT 2023/24**

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We currently have thirteen beavers with three going up to cubs in September. We still only have two leaders with Mary still helping regularly for us. We have had a new helper in Steve who helps when work allows. Unfortunately, he will not be able to stay with us past autumn half-term so won't get to complete any training. So, we are still looking out for regular helpers who may turn into leaders!

We have said a beaver thank you to the Baptist Church for lending us their space while the scout hut had its new roof work. We couldn't have kept the activities going without their support.

And as always, I have a huge thank you to say to Vicky and Mary and all the parents who have been able to help and keep our colony doing the fun scouting activities we all enjoy.

Birch.

**Brigette Watson, Beaver Team Leader.**

## CUBS SECTION REPORT 2023/24

Hi, welcome to the section of the annual report where I try to cram a year's worth of Cub activities into one side of A4.

In the spring and summer terms I like to get the Cubs outdoors as much as possible - weather permitting - so we managed to get outside for evenings at Crispe Park (tracking), the rec (navigation) and Minnis Bay (crabbing and water rockets). Across the country, Scouts were encouraged to take part in a 'big help out' in the community to mark the King's coronation. The Cubs partnered up with the Birchington Anti-litter Group and used their litter pickers to carry out a tidy up of rubbish around the village. Finally, as an end of term treat, we had a great evening at Nelson Park, riding and grooming horses. (Not at the same time.)

A weekend camp was held at Ross Woods in June to give our newer Cubs a camping experience ahead of the highlight of the year. This was our summer camp, five days and four nights at Broadstone Warren in the Ashdown Forest. 12 Cubs, 9 leaders/helpers, 2 other young people and 1 dog took part. Upon arrival there was a downpour of rain which lasted non-stop for 18 hours... and so Bagheera and Mowgli became VERY familiar with the local launderette. Despite this, I did not hear one word of complaint from the Cubs. So what did they get up to? Climbing, abseiling, zip wiring, artificial tunneling, rafted canoeing, McFlurry and Domino's eating, washing up-ing, visiting Hundred Acre Wood and pooh sticks bridge from the Winnie the Pooh stories, and Bluebell steam railway journeying. Yes, I think that is enough to give you a taste.

In the autumn term we completed the communicator and astronomer badges, visited the Powell-Cotton Museum as part of the Kent Scouts LionAid challenge and enjoyed a sunny October hike in the Stodmarsh nature reserve. In November we spent a night underground trying to sleep at the Ramsgate Tunnels, using the basic beds and washing facilities which were used when people sheltered down there during the Second World War. This was a unique experience and we had great fun exploring the old railway tunnels. Our last meeting before Christmas was a visit to the ice-skating rink at Quex Park. The result? Not quite Torvill and Dean, but it wasn't Bambi on ice either.

The first three months of the year are always pretty gloomy, weather- and Scouting-wise, and we spent a month meeting elsewhere while work was going on at the scout hut. Still, we put together a decent programme, making airfix model Spitfires and swimming at Birchington Vale and some German, Spanish and Holi activities for the international badge - or should that be the eating-lots-of-foreign-food-and-making-a-mess-with-coloured-powder badge? At the very end of March, we started a series of visits to Monkton Nature Reserve as part of the naturalist (got to make sure I've got that word right) badge which is being completed later in the summer months of 2024.

A couple of shout outs: Henry and Toby for earning their Chief Scout Silver awards; Bagheera, Kim, Hathi, Chil, Mowgli and Willow for their time helping the Cubs this year; and a big BRAVO to Ella, Gareth and Sue, who have generously provided the catering for our camps and sleepovers since 2019 (by a rough count I think they have done this on 9 different events) and have now understandably decided it's time to take a break from this responsibility.

Finally, well done to all the Cubs for everything you've achieved this year, it means a lot to me and the other leaders 😊

**Daniel (Rama)**



## SCOUTS SECTION REPORT 2023/24

Over the past year, our scout section has had a remarkable year in growth, adventure and achievements. Despite the natural ebb and flow of scouts ageing out of the section, we have successfully maintained our numbers. This stability is largely thanks to the enthusiasm of our current scouts, as well as the leadership team.

It's always sad to lose scouts, but we are immensely proud of those who have successfully completed their chief scout gold award. This achievement reflects the hard work, commitment they have put in and we are immensely proud of them. Additionally, we have several scouts on track to complete their chief scout award soon, although we will be losing some of these dedicated members due to age.

This year our scouts have had the opportunity to experience a variety of exciting activities, each one bringing its own set of challenges and fun. Climbing and abseiling at revolution skate park brought about some significant challenges for our scout troop. It takes a lot of courage and trust, but the scouts had a thrilling time pushing their limits and building confidence.

Our scouts also had a truly unique experience sleeping underground in Margate Caves, getting up close with the local wildlife...Slugs.

Over the course of our building renovations, the Scouts were lucky enough to call the RAF Manston History Museum home. This allowed them to explore aviation history in more depth, learning valuable lessons from the past.

Coming up, we have an eagerly awaited overnight trip to Ramsgate Tunnels, where the scouts will sleep in bunks reminiscent of those used in World War II. It promises to be both educational and a fun experience for everyone.

This year also saw changes to our leadership team. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to one of our leaders who started the scout section back up at 1st Birchington, it was a heartfelt loss to the section. However, we were fortunate to gain a new leader, Sara, whose enthusiasm has made her a fantastic addition to our hardworking team. That being said, our need for more adult leaders remains a priority in order to expand our section and offer even more opportunities to current and future scouts.

As we head into the next year, we are filled with optimism and excitement for what's to come. With our current scouts achieving great things and plenty of awesome activities on the horizon, the future for our troop looks bright.

To ensure we continue to thrive, we will be focusing on the growth of the troop, both adult leaders and scouts, while maintaining the enthusiasm that makes our troop so awesome.

Thank you to both Sara and Toby for all the work they put into your 'two hours a week'. Our section would not run without either of them giving all they're hard work.

Lastly, our troop would be in dire straits without our young leaders, they are the glue that holds it altogether. They have worked incredibly hard this year helping us adults to make each night run smoothly and keeping us oldies current within the world of teenagers. Thank you guys!

**Jody (Hobbit)**

## EXPLORERS LEADER REPORT 2023/24

Having grown quite quickly in the last couple of years, our numbers are now holding at around 19, sadly saying goodbye to some members as they turn 18 and regularly enrolling Scouts from Minster and Westgate as well as Birchington. We still meet every other week which seems to fit in around the Adult Volunteers work commitments and the Explorers own commitments, whether they are for part time jobs or for helping out as Young Leaders, which we encourage new Explorers to sign up for as many use it to tick off their volunteering requirement of their DofE award.

The Explorers programme is guided by them and we encourage them to make the most of their last couple of years in Scouting as Young People and the emphasis is always on fun and stress busting, especially around those dreaded exams. Planning and completing hikes, Pumpkin Carving, Pioneering at the Dip, Escape rooms, Karaoke, Quiz nights, Movie nights and recreating The Traitors and Squid Game (don't worry, no Explorers were harmed and it was sweets hanging from the rafters as the prize) were some of our personal favourites from this past year.

We aim to bring every opportunity to our Explorers which includes national and international events such as the Kent Scouts Rollercoaster Madness, London Monopoly Run or International Jamborees. Although some of them have enjoyed or signed up to these events, as the programme is tailored by them, we feel they would enjoy a camp that is just theirs which we have unfortunately been unable to offer as none of our leadership team currently has the necessary training. So we are looking to make amends and myself and Joe will finally be receiving training next month and will hopefully be assessed and ready to plan a proper Summer camp for the Explorers in 2025 and generally have more nights under canvas beyond that, finally getting to put the EXPLORE in Explorers!

I have to say that although our programme has been great over the past 12 months, we have been severely limited in what we can do as our funds were locked away in our GoCardless and we were unable to access them, whilst we transferred our banking to 1st Birchington's account. After a lot of back and forths and with the help of Sam (our treasurer) we are finally able to access our funds once again.

Although, sadly, we have lost a key member of our leadership team as Hannah has decided to take a step back from Scouting for the foreseeable future and I would like to thank her for keeping our Unit as one of her many spinning plates for so long. She has been a fantastic Leader, an inspiration to our Explorers and we hope that she'll find a way back to Scouting at some point. However, Joe has joined us full time from Westgate and we'll be joined regularly by Ryan, another of our former Explorers. But as our Unit grows and we look for more opportunities for camping further afield, we would love to hear from any potential leaders or helpers so that we can offer our fantastic group of Explorers as much Scouting as possible.

Warren, Explorer Team Leader.

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2023.24

1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group (Charity no. 303417)  
Receipts and payments account

For the year from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024
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### Receipts and payments

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Receipts</b>		
<b>Donations, legacies and similar income</b>		
Membership subscriptions	5,558	5,090
Donations	2,079	3,020
Gift Aid	853	927
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,490</b>	<b>9,037</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
Youth Investment Fund Grant	74,021	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>74,021</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fundraising events (gross)</b>		
Street Collections	1,795	527
Beaver/Cub/Scout activities	2,995	599
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>1,126</b>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Bank interest	241	18
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>87,542</b>	<b>10,181</b>
<b>Asset and investment sales, etc.</b>	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>87,542</b>	<b>10,181</b>

**1st Birchington Air Scout Group (Charity no. 303417)**  
**Receipts and payments account**

For the year from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024
----------------------	----------------	----	-----------------

**Receipts and payments**

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Charitable Payments</b>		
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	2,334	2,172
Youth programme and activities	7,425	4,150
Youth Investment Grant Expenditure	73,021	-
Water and Sewerage	218	182
Electricity and Gas	919	2,266
Insurance	759	694
Repairs and Renewals	598	1,134
Materials and equipment	706	1,388
Uniforms	1,055	76
Council tax	65	138
Cleaning	549	507
Group expenses	215	283
Donations	28	19
Bank Charges	172	115
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>88,064</b>	<b>13,124</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>88,064</b>	<b>13,124</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(522)</b>	<b>(2,943)</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>17,111</b>	<b>20,054</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>16,589</b>	<b>17,111</b>

**1st Birchington Air Scout Group (Charity no. 303417)**  
**Receipts and payments account**

For the year from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024
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**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year**

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Bank current account	1,751	6,601
Bank deposit account	14,838	10,510
Cash/Floats	-	-
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>16,589</b>	<b>17,111</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account)	ok	ok
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>16,589</b>	<b>17,111</b>

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ 2024 (the date of the Trustee Board meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
	Chair
	Treasurer

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group

On accounts for the year  
ended

31-3-2024.

Charity no  
(if any)

303417

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

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 (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:

ALISON

Date:

24-6-2024

Name:

ALISON BLACK

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

IER

1




Oct 2018

1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Venue: Scout Hut Birchington

Attendees	<p>Ben Gault (Chair) Bob Kingsman (Group Scout leader) Richard Philpott (Deputy Group Scout Leader) Samantha Stanton (Treasurer) Samantha David (Secretary) Warren Forster (Explorers Leader) Jon Jackson (Scout Leader) Daniel Le Corney (Cub Leader) Bridgette Watson (Beaver Leader)</p> <p>District Team Leaders: Gemma Lambeth Catherine Hodges</p> <p>Also present were cubs and their parents / carers.</p>	
Apologies	Matthew Randall	
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
Minutes of previous meeting	<p>Minutes from previous AGM – x1 amendment to spelling error in name Minutes approved – see embed.</p>  <p>Confirmed AGM Minutes 100922.docx</p>	
Annual report by treasurer and adoption of accounts	<p>Copies made available for all. 1<sup>st</sup> Approved: Bridgette Watson 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved: Jon Jackson</p> <p>Please see below.</p>  <p>1st Birchington Air Scout Group AGM Rej</p>	All leaders to encourage Gift Aid forms to be completed
Group section reports	<p>Bob Kingsman read overall summary Reports approved.</p>  <p>1st Birchington Air Scout Group AGM Rej</p>	

1<sup>st</sup> Birchington Air Scout Group  
Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Adoption of constitution as per POR 5.4	New policy organisation / rules for scouting. Previously members were executive committee and now Trustee Board  Adopted by the group	
Election of members to the Trustee Board	Following positions were nominated and approved.  Vacant (Chair) Bob Kingsman (Group Lead Volunteer) Richard Phillpott (Deputy Group Lead Volunteer) Samantha Stanton (Treasurer) Samantha David (Secretary) Warren Forster (Explorer Leader) Jon Jackson (Scout Leader) Daniel LeCorney (Cub Leader) Bridgette Watson (Beaver Leader) Matthew Randall (Maintenance lead)	
Chair vacancy	The group passed on their thanks to Ben Goult who has held the position of chair for a number of years. This position is now vacant.	
Parent Representative	There are currently vacancies for parent representatives in the following groups: Beavers Cubs Scouts Explorers	Parents were asked to consider volunteering for this
Independent Assessor of Accounts	Samantha Stanton explained that Alison Blake will independently assess the accounts in line with charity requirements. Group approved this nomination	
Youth Investment Fund	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Birchington group has been successful in obtaining a grant for maintenance to the hut. This will include; roof being replaced / cavity insulation / rendering / electrical update and CCTV if money allows. A new boiler has also been installed.  Thanks were given to Richard Phillpott for all of his work / time in applying for the grant and Matthew Randall for technical support / advice.	
AOB	None	
Date of next meeting	tbc	





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

#### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

151 BILKINGTON ARL SCOT GROUP

On accounts for the year  
ended

31-3-2024

Charity no  
(if any)

303417

Set out on pages

(Indicate 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

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 (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:

Alison Blake

Date:

24-6-2024

Name:

Alison Blake

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

IER

(if any):

Address:

51 NASH COURT ROAD

MALDEN

KENT CT9 4DH

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.