

# SYNTHONIA SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 505233

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1976-05-21

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

## Contact

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**Address** Scout Headquarters  
Greenwood Road  
Billingham  
ts23 4ba

**Phone** 07376361611

**Email** [neil5005@hotmail.com](mailto:neil5005@hotmail.com)

**Website** [synthoniascoutgroup.co.uk](http://synthoniascoutgroup.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE INSTRUCTION OF BOYS OF ALL CLASSES IN THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE, LOYALTY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

**Activities:** All activities associated with the Scouting Movement

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- Stockton-on-tees

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£31,166	£21,767	-	-
2023-12-31	£16,973	£23,901	-	-
2022-12-31	£24,758	£62,562	-	-
2021-12-31	£35,069	£43,718	-	-
2020-12-31	£27,533	£10,949	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>ALAN NEAL</b>	Chair	2011-09-27
Andrew Scrimshaw		2024-05-09
Linda Ransom		2024-05-09
<b>MICHAEL ATKINSON</b>		
MICHELLE MALKIN		2011-09-27
Mark Anderson		2024-05-09
Neil Martin		2015-01-01
Paula Pekovic		2024-05-09
Rachel Dent		2024-05-09
<b>TONY ANDERSON</b>		2011-09-27

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Christmas 2024

**Synthonia Scout Group**  
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*Please note these reports were written in April or early May, with the addition of the next Page dedicated to Scott Hutchinson.*



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# Scott Hutchinson

Scott Hutchinson our Scout Leader unexpectedly passed away in his sleep on Monday morning 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Scott had been unwell for some time suffering from Progressive Multiple Sclerosis, but he never let it stand in his way providing an excellent scouting experience for all our young people. He always wanted to give the Scouts the best possible experience. He was successful in that aim.

Scott joined the Synthonia Scout Group as a Cub Scout in 1994, progressing through Scouts, Venture Scouts and becoming a Leader. He helped with Beavers and the Scout sections before taking on the role as Assistant Scout Leader. He became our Scout Leader in 2016.

He was an effective leader making friends with and managing a large team of assistants. His real success was his ability to engage with our young people. The scouts all enjoy their scouting. His leadership, affability and dedication were key to that enjoyment.

Scott's exemplary voluntary service has been recognised by the Scout Association. He has received the Commissioners Commendation and was the recipient of the Scout Association Medal of Merit for outstanding service to Scouting.

Scott was always at the Headquarters helping others whether fund raising, maintenance and other sections nights. His commitment to the Group and his own brand of humour is going to be missed by the whole Group including myself, all his Leaders and young people, Rest in peace Mate.

Mark Anderson, Group Scout Leader



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# Agenda

- 1 **Welcome & Introductions - by the Chairman**
- 2 **Chairman's Comments**
- 3 **Apologies for Absence - Group President**
- 4 **Minutes of the Last Meeting - Group President**
- 5 **Approval of the Annual Reports - Group President**
- 6 **Approval of the Accounts 2024 - Group Treasurer**
- 7 **Appointments & Elections to Group Executive - Group President**
- 8 **Presentations and Awards - Group Scout Leader**



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# List of Group Officials & Leaders

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## Group Officials

Group Scout Leader:	Mark Anderson	Deputy Group Lead Volunteer:	Andrew Scrimshaw
Chairman:	Allan Neal	Group President:	John Taylor
Treasurer:	Neil Martin	Secretary:	Michelle Malkin
Group Trustees:	Tony Anderson, Michael Kilding, Linda Ransom, Rachel Dent (parents Rep), Anya Peković (young person rep)		

## Beaver Scout Leaders

Beaver Lead Volunteer :	Megan Coverdale, Leon Hobson,
Ass. Beaver Volunteer:	Dylan Hayes, Chris Scrimshaw, Sarah Warburton-Miln,
Helpers:	Anne-Marie Clarkson,
Young Leaders:	Lacey Hobson

## Squirrel Scout Leaders

Squirrel Lead Volunteer:	Charlie Towning
Ass. Squirrel Volunteers:	Jac Robson, Kathryn Northern
Helpers:	Shania and Karen Towning
Young Leader:	Anya Peković,

## Cub Scout Leaders

Cub Leaders:	Michael Atkinson
Assistant Cub Leader:	Andrew Woods, Hollie Flanagan, James Atkinson, Aidan Cairnie
Helpers:	Julia Atkinson,
Young Leader:	Anya Peković,

## Scouts Leaders

Scout Leader:	Scott Hutchinson
Assistant Scout Leaders:	Jordan McGrogan, Kevin McCabe, Chris Whelan, Mark Robson, Amy Dixon, Sam Iddon,
Scout Helpers:	Colin Davies, Tony Anderson
Young Leaders:	Sam Green, Matila McCartie,



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# Chairman's Report

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## The Not so Good Bits

- Some bad people stole our minibus. The blighters. We have received a good insurance payout thankfully. However, Minibus values have gone berserk. We are closing a deal on a new bus for £26,000. Once more you our supporters have been brilliant in supporting our fund raising
- We were reminded of the parlous condition of our roof when it leaked quite badly into the new store and games room. A recent quote suggests we need £38,000 to sort it out. This is only a sticking plaster solution, as we have insulation and structural integrity to think about too. It will be a lot more to have the work done properly.
- We can't raise the money we need for the roof. We want to re-clad and insulate the walls too. The roof would be a dream for solar panels. We need to convert these pipe dreams into viable projects and raise money through grant applications to charitable trusts. This is an increasingly complex task. We could do with Experts, Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor, Structural Engineer, Architect Professional fund raiser to assist in making this all happen for us

## The Good Bits

- The support for the Mother's Day Afternoon Tea was belting. We took in just shy of £600 Father's day income was £550. Chinese New Year brought in over £530. We pulled in £1100 in external hires for the building. All of these activities helping the bank balance stay healthy.
- We converted the old store to a meeting room for the Squirrels.
- We completed the replacement of windows and blocked up the old store doorway.
- Rachel has set up a parents Whatsapp and regularly reports in on all the positive feedback you parents leave us
- Linda's wellness messaging helped all the children through the Covid lockdown and is still being well received by everyone
- We have a small team starting to get to grips with the major work we need doing on the building

Being a Trustee can sometimes be a little depressing. We talk about money, roof leaks and the price of gas and electricity. Insurance is bloomin expensive "It's dead money you know why should we bother?" New windows, Plaster board, ceilings and carpets were our years highlights along with discussions on how many sandwiches we could make from a loaf of bread. Who do you know who would want to do that?? I can tell you that far from the depressing tone being a Trustee is enjoyable and very worthwhile. Seeing the inside of how a Scout Group works is fascinating. Being part of the most successful Scout Group in the universe is even more fulfilling. Please join us.

So all I know is, just as with all our active young peoples' sections we have a cracking team of people working on the drudgery stuff so no one else has too. I'd like to thank the Groups Trustees for all they do for Synthonia. Particular thanks to our other officers Michelle the pen and Neil the money. I like to think that our small contribution is essential. Not necessarily directly but we do release time for Kim, Ko, Akela and Scott to focus on the kids enjoyment and development. I tell you what tho, but!! they are the best team of leaders I have seen in nearly 50 years of adult scouting

Allan Neal  
Group Chairman



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# Group Scout Leader's Report

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And 2024 comes to an end as quickly as it started, As I alluded to in last year's report we were aiming to start our new Squirrels section, well I am happy to report that we did indeed launch our Squirrels section in September, with some hard work from Charlie Towing, planning and recruiting leaders and we finally started with 8 Squirrel members, which rapidly became 10 and then 12, with an ever increasing waiting list of little people wanting to join the Synthonia Scouting experience. We are also full in Beaver and Cub sections with only a few spaces available in the Scout Section. We always need help in the Group whether its taking on the role of a leader or just coming along to help when you can or joining the Board of Trustees. Please have a think about Volunteering and join the Synthonia Leader Team. We run a Volunteering 4 week challenge, just ask for more information if you are interested, please have a go. You could help us to provide Scouting to more young people in Billingham.

Last year we kept our AGM in its new form, with us running two meetings and shows on a Sunday, we did this due to the increased numbers and to allow us to have more parents in to watch our show "Synners on Stage" with Beaver, Cub, and Scouts taking part in the Show, the whole idea around having all the young people take part in the show, is to raise their confidence levels, improve social skills, and as ever, they all did a fantastic job. This year we have decided to have a break from our normal show and we have organised an activity day for our young people and parents to enjoy.

Over the Past 12 months there has been lots of nights away, visits out of the building, badges gained and friendship made. There has been sleepovers in the building and Camps to Snowball Plantation in York, Ravengill camp site (North Yorks Moors) Hesleywood camp site (Sheffield), Thornthwaite (Yorkshire Dales) and Waddecar Camp site (Preston). This is a massive commitment from our volunteers to provide so many nights away for your young people, and I sincerely thank all our Volunteers for giving there time to organise and run these events. We also held our Christmas Party with over 120 people joining us including the Mayor who also joined us for our group photograph as you can see on the front of this report. Other group events this year were the Mother's Day afternoon tea, Father's day Breakfast, Sponsored walk, Chinese New Year which were all well attended.

As you are aware in October we have the misfortune of having our Prize Mini bus stolen while it was out on loan helping another local Community Group, and so we started fund raising, with Christmas Raffles, Boxing Day dip, sponsored walks, bonus ball draws and now a donation from a local charitable trust, we hare happy to report that we have made a total and are currently seeking to find a suitable vehicle for us to purchase. We will of course let you know as soon as we have a new addition to our Group.

I have the great honour of welcoming new Adult Leaders into Synthonia, first of all, welcome to Jac Robson & Kathryn (Squirrel Leader), Welcome and we hope you enjoy your Scouting at Synthonia. I Also have the pleasure to thank those who are leaving us, Gee Barlow has moved down country due to her job, Gee has been a member of the group for many years and we thank her for her commitment over that time.

Finally, a huge thank you to all our Leaders, Helpers, Young Leaders, Parent Support members and Trustees for all their hard work and support in the last year. Our young people are amazing, as long as they keep enjoying the Scouting experience we provide, we will all continue to have fun and love Synthonia for what it is, our "Big Scouting Family".

Mark Anderson  
Group Scout Leader



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# Squirrel Report

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This year has been busy and fulfilling for our Squirrels Drey , comprised of 12 children ranging from ages 4 to 6. We have engaged in numerous meetings, events, and activities that have allowed the children to develop their skills and form friendships. One of the standout achievements was the participation in the District Beavers and Squirrels Activity Day, where the children earned the Exciting Experiments badge. This experience not only enriched their learning but also provided a wonderful opportunity for them to interact with peers from other groups.

Throughout the year, various themed meetings were organised, such as the introduction weeks, craft sessions, and exciting themed events like Pancake Day and St Patrick's Day. The children also enjoyed hands-on experiences during the Fire Station visit and activities leading up to Halloween and Christmas, including crafting and parties that brought everyone together in celebration.

Looking ahead, we are excited about another activity day planned for October, along with several upcoming trips for the next term. We are committed to making this next year equally as enjoyable and filled, with new activities for our youngest scout section.

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to all leaders for their dedication and hard work in delivering a full and varied programme this year. A special thank you goes to Bambi (Jac) for her unwavering commitment to making scouting accessible and engaging for our squirrels. Her willingness to get involved in every way possible truly enhances the experience for everyone. We also appreciate the ongoing support of our helpers, who contribute so much to the smooth running of the Section.

As we continue to provide opportunities for exploration, discovery, and play through our adventurous programme, we welcome any volunteers who might be interested in shaping the experiences of our youngest members. Your involvement would be greatly valued and would make a significant impact on their scouting journey.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the children, who make being part of this Group such a joy, as well as to the parents for their support throughout the year. Together, we look forward to another wonderful year of Scouting adventures ahead.



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# Beaver's Report

What a busy time the Beavers have had this year. With over 200 badges awarded of which 12 were the Chief Scout Bronze Award. This is the highest award a Beaver Scout can earn.

We started the year off in May, with our international badge- The Beavers were all given a passport for them to fly to destinations. We flew from the airport to France, America and Italy where we learnt some new languages tasted foods and drew their flags.

In June as the weather was still warm the Beavers took part in a nature walk around Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park. Here we ticked off the wildlife we came across. With the weather still being kind to us we assisted Billingham Tidy Up with a litter pick along Greenwood Road and Belasis Business Park. Ko took 11 of our Lodge leaders and Assistants away to Ravengill for a pirate themed camp where they got to sleep in tents. With the warm weather looking to hang around we moved into the gardens in July where we looked at some of our knots to go towards our outdoor challenge. This was a little tricky but none of our Beavers gave up and overcome the challenge. We also made campfires and toasted some smores' on them!

Our last night before the summer saw us hold a silly awards night with hot dogs and games.

We returned in September ready and raring to go and started another badge. This time the Safety activity badge we checked the scout hut had the safety features such as a fire alarm and emergency lights, we talked about stranger danger and who we can go to if we get lost or feel unsafe.

In October, we held our first full colony night away at Ravengill all our activities were based around Vikings! It was an amazing camp and the first time away for some of our Beavers.

November was a busy month we took part in the Billingham Remembrance Day Service. Most of our Beavers hadn't been to a Remembrance Service before, but they all represented the Group, exceptionally, especially our flag bearer Flynn. We returned to the Scout HQ ready to look at endangered animals and how we can help them, followed by what we can do to take care of our world.

With Christmas just around the corner, we made some Christmas cards for our friends and family. To end a wonderful term, we had a night at Go Climb at Billingham Forum. We all had a go on the vertical walls with many Beavers conquering their fears.

January came around and it was time for the Beavers to learn some new skills for the skills challenge badge we lit candles safely, learnt how to fold our neckers correctly and decorated biscuits that were very yummy. We also were fortunate enough for Cleveland Mountain Rescue to come and tell us what they do, we even got to have a go on the stretcher and we were kept warm in the big sleeping bag! At the end of January, we held another night away at our Scout HQ this year our theme was based around space we made many crafts and had lots of fun.

February saw us show off our collections and we showed our musical talents completing the musician badge. We had an invitation from Middlesbrough Roller Hockey for us to have a taster session. The Beavers rose to the challenge and really showcased their skills.

In March we looked at communication skills and the various ways we can communicate with people we learnt to finger spell our names and solve a secret message using the phonetic alphabet.

April was Easter themed we had fun making Easter cards, having an Easter bunny scavenger hunt and an egg hunt in the garden. The Beavers decorated their own Easter eggs. We also were lucky to have a visit to the Stockton Police Station where we got to look at the police vans and equipment they use.

We've had another brilliant year in Beavers having 5 nights away from home, all of these were only possible thanks to my wonderful team of volunteers.

My grateful thanks must go to all my Leaders, Young Leaders and Helpers for all of their support over the last year.



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# Cub's Report

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This past year has been an active and engaging time for our Cub Scouts, filled with memorable experiences and strong community spirit. Among the highlights, the Group successfully organised three camps, including a particularly exciting Summer Camp at Hesley Wood, where the Cubs participated in crate stacking, Cresta run, kayaking, and paddle boarding. These activities were not only enjoyable but also fostered development in teamwork and various skills. Additionally, three sleepovers brought the Cubs closer together, providing a wonderful opportunity for bonding.

The Magic Themed Camp was another notable event, providing the Cubs with a chance to participate in all things Hogwarts related over a packed weekend. The Media Camp, held earlier this year, also allowed the Cubs to learn valuable media skills while enjoying a memorable experience and producing four excellent short films.

Our regular meetings kept the Cubs busy earning badges and taking part in diverse badge activities, ranging from the Pioneer to the Chef badge. Skills were developed through practical exercises and themed nights, while the Cleveland 50th Birthday Party showcased achievements and included a BBQ, awards, and games that everyone enjoyed. Through these activities, the Cubs learned valuable life skills, teamwork, and adaptability.

In total, five Chief Scout Awards were presented, recognising the dedication and commitment of our young members toward their Scouting journey. This outstanding achievement reflects not only their individual efforts but also the supportive environment fostered by leaders and parents alike.

I would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to all the Cub leaders, young leaders, and helpers who have tirelessly dedicated their time and effort to the group this past year. Your commitment has been invaluable in providing the Cubs with enriching experiences and memorable learning opportunities.

Looking ahead, there is great anticipation for a dry summer camp this year., fingers crossed. We hope this will allow the Cubs to connect with nature and each other in pleasant conditions, further enhancing their Scouting adventures.

As we conclude this year, I would like to thank all the children for their enthusiasm and spirit, which has made this past year truly enjoyable for all involved. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the parents for their continued support, along with the many volunteers who keep our group running smoothly from behind the scenes. Together, we look forward to yet another successful year of Scouting!

Akela



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# Scout Report

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This report will be different from my usual reports I have written over the past few years, I'm just about 20 years into being a Scout leadership and for the last 10 years I have been the Scout Section lead volunteer, and this year I've seen the best in Synthonia Scouts, from scouts old and young helping each other overcome the fears of learning new skills for life, to just having a great time enjoying all the activities that we have managed to squeeze into this year's program. Then as we all know when our mini bus was stolen, this hit us all hard from leaders to scouts and families past and present, but after the shock of this everyone one of us has stepped up from this horrid act and helped with ideas for fundraising, taking part in fundraising events like our very popular boxing day dip where 25 Scouts and leaders and Supports ran into the north sea to raise funds, as well as this our Christmas raffles, walks, and other events is what we stand for at Synthonia, no matter what tries to knock us down we will come back bigger and stronger.

Now I would like to say a massive thank you to my Scout Section leadership team for the sheer dedication to Scouting, for the time and effort they have put in for our young people. Without each individual one of them and the different skills they bring into Synthonia, our program and level of activities wouldn't be possible, but also I would like to say thank you to the silent team of Adults on our Trustee Board for doing all the behind the scenes work to free up myself and the other leaders to focus on the young people.

I would normally go into how many badges and nights away we've done over the past year but all you need to do is look at any scout uniform and see a full variety of badges and look on our Facebook page to see what we get up to on camps. The lists are never ending and the variety of activities keeps the young people coming back week on week.

So, on the next page, I've asked some of the scouts to put together a few sentences to tell everyone what scouting means to them.



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# Scout Comments

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“I enjoy making the connections between people and doing so many things that I may not of been able to do”

**“I enjoy the opportunities scouting gives us to do activities we wouldn’t normally be able to do”**

*“I believe scouting is amazing as it brings people from all parts of our area and gives us a chance to meet them and grow friendships”*

*“I really like the way that we get to experience a variety of activities with a large group of scouts”*

As I now finish this report, I hope you can see how much we all value every moment in scouting, normally I’d end on a quote but this time I’m going to end it on a promise,

**we will always find a way or make a way to try new adventures and learn a lifetime of skills**

Scott Hutchinson

Synthonia Scout Section Team Leader



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# **Section's Accounts, Group Accounts and Financial Statement for 2024**



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# Section Accounts 2024

<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	1998.49
Squirrels Membership Fees in	447.75
Beavers Membership Fees in	3,282.00
Cub Membership Fees in	4,770.20
Scout Membership fees in	4,113.38
Young Leaders membership fees in	784.00
Beavers Activities in	1,934.45
Cubs Activites in	5,690.61
Scouts activities in	10,749.14
Squirrels Setup Grant from SA	500
Joining Fees in	540.00

**Total 34810.02**

## Summary

Account balance brought forward	1,998.49
Total income	32,811.53
Total expenditure	31,237.17
Net income	1,574.36
Account balance carried forward	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3,572.85</span>

Membership fees to Group	10000.00
Meetings - Squirrels	159.33
Meetings - Beavers	282.81
Meetings - Cubs	437.67
Meetings - Scouts	429.69
Beaver Activities out	982.67
Cub Activites out	5,439.02
Scout Activities out	11,246.55
Squirrel Setup costs	533.40
Scout Shop - Beavers	139.37
Scout Shop - Cubs	242.47
Scout Shop - Scouts	209.17
Camping Equipment	55.72
OSM costs&fees	1079.3
<b>Account Balance Carried forward</b>	<b>3,572.85</b>

**Total 34810.02**

## Account balances

Sections Bank book	3,105.84
Expense Account Cards	467.01
	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3,572.85</span>



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# Group Audited Accounts 2024

## SYNTHONIA SCOUT GROUP ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2024

### INCOMING

<b>BALANCE B/F</b>	<b>£8,473.12</b>
Minibus Insurance Payout	£14,264.00
Subscriptions	£10,000.00
Donations	£2,075.00
HQ Hire	£1,139.00
Christmas Fair Takings	£910.00
Chinese NY Takings	£560.00
Mother's Day Takings	£592.00
Minibus Donation	£550.00
Father's Day Breakfast	£548.00
Sponsored Walk	£250.00
AGM Raffle	£198.00
Boxing Day Dip Sponsorship	£80.00

**TOTAL** **£39,639.12**

## VIRGIN MONEY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2024

### INCOMING

<b>BALANCE B/F</b>	<b>£16,393.01</b>
Interest	£222.53
Transfer from Group	£14,264.00

**TOTAL** **£30,879.54**

### CAPITAL STATEMENT

Buildings Insurance Value  
Camping Equipment Insurance Value

£221,223.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED  
£36,234.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED

### TRUSTEE'S STATEMENT

The Group is a trust established under its rules which is common to all groups.  
Trustees are appointed in accordance with P.O.R. Of the Scout Association  
The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payment basis, which is consistent with previous years  
Approved by the trustees on 03rd February, 2025

### OUTGOING

Transfer to Savings Account	£14,264.00
Capitation Fee	£4,898.50
Utilities & Rates	£3,255.09
Group Insurance	£2,704.28
Squirrel's Room Refurb	£2,603.20
HQ Maintenance	£2,450.35
Minibus Expenses	£2,337.42
Equipment for HQ	£1,034.89
Camping Equipment	£603.50
Christmas Party Expenses	£515.86
Website Fees	£421.64
Father's Day Breakfast	£269.65
Scout Shop	£260.99
Leader's Meal Deposit	£155.00
Christmas Raffle Expenses	£150.00
AGM Expenses	£76.40
Chinese NY Expenses	£30.00
<b>BALANCE C/F</b>	<b>£3,608.35</b>

**TOTAL** **£39,639.12**

### OUTGOING

**BALANCE C/F** **£30,879.54**


**TOTAL** **£30,879.54**

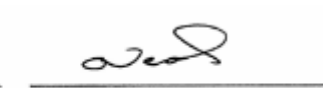


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AUDITOR

  
GROUP CHAIRMAN

# Minutes of the annual General meeting 2024

MINUTES OF THE 2024 AGM OF THE SYNTHONIA SCOUT GROUP HELD ON SUNDAY 12 MAY 2024

The Meeting started at 1 pm with many people present; the Secretary believes that there were around 15 Beavers, 32 Cubs and 34 Scouts, 15 Leaders and 80+ parents and supporters.

Apologies were received from: Mr Andy Wolfe, Mr Mayor and Mr Brian Capes.

Present: The President (John Taylor), Chairman (Allan Neal), GSL (Mark Anderson) Secretary (Michelle Malkin) and Treasurer (Neil Martin) together with The DC (Paul Elliott), YCC (Ben Fountain) CChair (Frank Rose), The Mayor Cllr John Gardner and Lady Mayor.

The Group Chairman (Mr Allan Neal) opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Reading through his report and pictures are shown in the 2024 annual report. Various awards were presented Group Chief Bronze Awards, Group Chief Scout Silver Awards and Group Chief Scout Gold Awards. New Squirrel section was announced. Finance was discussed at how money was spent on activities, building insurance and kit. Subs to increase to £14pm. Building requires a new Roof. Various administrative changes would occur driven by the Scouting Association we must follow – now Trustees no longer Executive Group.

The Annual Reports for 2023/24 were approved and seconded by the meeting

The Annual Accounts for 2024 were approved and seconded by the meeting

The Group President (Mr John Taylor) continued with the Meeting by confirming the election of the Group Executive committee for 2024/25

Chairman: Mr Allan Neal Secretary: Michelle Malkin (Re-Elected) Treasurer: Neil Martin Re-Elected)

Committee: Allan Neal Michelle Malkin Neil Martin Mark Anderson Andrew Scrimshaw Tony Anderson

Brian Capes (apologies), Lynda Ransom, Paula Pekovic, Michael Kielding and Rachael Dent (Beaver Parent)

Examiner of Accounts: Vicki Gardner

The Group Scout Leader (Mr Mark Anderson) with support from The Chairman (Allan Neal) continued with the Meeting by presenting various Awards.

Presentations 2024:

**Beaver Scout of the Year:** Harry Austin (Winner), Runners Up – Josh Buckley, Jacob Atkinson, Jack Dent, George Taylor.

**Chief Scout Bronze Awards:** Hary Austin, Jacob Atkinson, Noah Buckley, Jack Dent and Grace Taylor.

**Cub Scout of the Year:** Jacob Taylor (Winner), Runners Up – Emily Smith

**Buddy Dale Trophy for Cub Scout Activities:** Emily Smith

**Chief Scout Silver Awards:** Ollie, Finley, Jude, Daisy, Harry, Ruby, Junior, Beatrice, George, Jacob, Elliott and Emily.

**Scout of the Year:** Grace Blenkinsop (Winner), Runners Up – Amelia Mann and William Patterson

**Chief Scout Gold Awards:** Grace Blenkinsop and Ben Ackworth.

**Promise Award:** Max McCluskey (above and beyond Charity Work, hair donation for Little Prince's Trust). Ollie Edmonson (raising money for Huntington's Disease)

District Commissioner Paul Elliott said it was a pleasure always, to come to this Group, so busy, so active and so well achieving. A joy.

The Evening concluded with the usual wonderful entertainment provided by the young people of each section.

Michelle Malkin (Secretary)

19.05.24



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# Messages of thanks received from parents to leaders for there time organising activities and camps

Thanks for an amazing party both my boys loved it. They love Squirrels and Cubs so much, I'm so grateful for all that you do for our little ones

The boys have had an amazing time!!! At Scout Camp We're so grateful for everything you do with them

For all the volunteering hours that went into 2024 seen and unseen...  
THANKYOU

Leaders you are an inspiration for our children. Well done all

The twins had the best time, thank you for all the effort, hope you all have a lovely Christmas For all the volunteering hours that went into 2024 seen and unseen...THANKYOU

Thank you so much for the fantastic Xmas party and all the hard work throughout the year!

Sounds like a great party, thanks for all your hard work, Florence absolutely thrives in cubs and has so much fun Merry Christmas to you all.

Thank you to Akela and all the leaders who have supported George through Cubs. He has learnt so many valuable lessons and has gained many skills which will help him later in life. Feels like yesterday he joined. Hope he enjoys his journey to scouts

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR EVENT 20/10/24  
Another top session thanks Harry loved the experience too thanks again :) Andrew has had a lovely time this afternoon; thank you for organising Jack's had a fantastic time today. Thank you to everyone! Fantastic experience for them all thank you for this afternoon

LIBRARY SLEEPOVER 28/9/2024  
"It was amazing! Thank you so much." x  
"Thank you to everyone for last night, Ruby had a great time. Thank you so much to everyone."  
"Jack's had a fantastic time" "Connie has not stopped grinning and telling me what a good time she has had. Thank you to all involved."  
"Sounds like a fantastic sleepover thank you"

Thanks so much for another amazing camp, the twins have loved it! A fab weekend to end their time with cubs, thank you to everyone for making their cubs experience so incredible, they will miss everyone lots Xxx

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## Introduction

This year's Annual Meeting of the Group Council is going to be different. Why? Well the HQ isn't quite big enough to hold every one who wants to come along and see our show. Mark and I are conceited enough to think you just want to see him and I but of course that's not the case. As ever you want to see the children put in some great performances on stage and receive some recognition for their efforts in scouting.

This year we are going for comfort so we are going to try and do two shows so we can all have a tad more legroom.

Show One will start at 1.30pm on Sunday 15th May and Show 2 will start at 4pm. We will share the kids awards across both shows but inevitably the logistics may mean that some of us might miss our child's award. We are going to video and post all the awards on facebook so you can all have a record.

It makes it a bit difficult for us to do the business too. The Group Council (all parents, leaders and interested parties) have to review and accept this report, accept nominations to the Executive and approve the finances for us to accord with the rules of the Scout association and the Charity Commission. So it is important for you to read and digest everything before you come to our afternoon. We don't think there is anything controversial in the report. However please talk to us early about anything you aren't sure about or need more clarification on. We will then ask for a show of hands to accept the report and its contents at each start before we move on with the show.

Mark Anderson, Group Scout Leader  
Allan Neal, Group Chairman



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# List of Group Officials & Leaders

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## **Group Officials**

Group Scout Leader:	Mark Anderson
Deputy Group Scout Leader:	Andrew Scrimshaw
Chairman:	<u>Allan Neal</u>
Group President:	John Taylor
Treasurer:	<u>Neil Martin</u>
Secretary:	<u>Michelle Malkin</u>
Nominated Group Executive members:	<u>Tony Anderson, Brian Capes, Michael Keilding, Linda Ransom, Stephen Hope, Karren Towning, Paula Pekovic, Tony Anderson</u>
Auditor:	<u>Jaqueline Bradburn.</u>

## **Beaver Scout Leaders**

Beaver Leader:	Megan Lund, Dorothy Harris
Assistant Beaver Leader:	Dylan Hayes, Chris Scrimshaw,
Helpers:	Anne-Marie Clarkson, Karren Towning
Young Leaders:	Leon Hobson, Hermione Clarkson, Charlie Towning, Gaele Baucherel, Phoebe McCabe, Ameila Iddon

## **Cub Scout Leaders**

Cub Leaders:	Mike Atkinson
Assistant Cub Leader:	Andrew Woods, Kevin McCabe, Gee Barlow, Faye Capes, James Atkinson
Helpers:	Brian Capes
Young Leader:	Charlie Towning, Leon Hobson, Aiden Cairnie, Gaele Baucherel.

## **Scouts Leaders**

Scout Leader:	Scott Hutchinson
Assistant Scout Leader:	Jordan McGrogan, Elliott Bradburn, Chris Whelan, Amy Dixon, Logan Ransom
Scout Helpers:	Colin Davies, Tony Anderson
Young Leaders:	Charlie Towning, Liam Thompson, Tyler Blenkinsop, Sam Iddon, Poppy Fearn, Gaele Baucherel



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# Chairman's Report

It does look a little like things are returning to normal..... and then they aren't. Suddenly COVID has another go and we are leaders or children short at meetings as people look out for each other and stay away until they are not infectious. How on earth does everyone cope? Synthonia is managing very well it seems to me. The kitchen extension and new store has been completed without detriment or disruption to any of our section meetings. It looked impossible to me, watching Ando, Akela, Jordan and just about everyone else putting up wallboard, painting and decorating, plumbing and wiring, mopping cleaning and sweeping, building shelves, loading shelves. Wow just an amazing effort from everyone. We need not to just thank the doers who did the work but also thank everyone left sat at their homes. They have seen the quality of life at home suffer while all the stuff that needed to be done at the headquarters got done. Thank you for sharing your folk and their time with us. It has been a truly phenomenally busy time at the group and looking at that kitchen, was it worth it? Oh Yes!!

I hope everyone enjoyed our new Mother's Day afternoon tea. A great fun idea and something a little different. Roll on Fathers Day and our all day breakfast - Wahoo!! Dads

So looking at the money and the balances we look to be in a very healthy situation. We are except we still have the cost of the extension to come out of the accounts. Costs are rising significantly. The larger building replacement value is nearly 4 times our present insured value. Our fee's to headquarters are significantly higher and we all know and understand the impact of inflation is having on costs. We are about to do a little financial exercise of stripping out the gratefully received one off grants and donations for the kitchen project from the accounts. Then we can check whether our regular income is meeting our regular expenditure and make any necessary adjustments.

So even with the extension the scout group is growing and fit to burst. Over 100 young children on the books. So would we benefit from more grown ups having fun with us and helping manage the load? Of course we would. Have a chat with Ando to see what you can do to help our kids develop into better adults.

So finally another great year. Have a read to see what has gone on. The exec team make it easy for me to see the group administered well. Thank you to Mark, Akela, Scott, Megan and their leaders do a superb job to see your children receive the very best that scouting has to offer Thank you to them

Allan Neal



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# Mission Accomplished The Building Extension

For well over 9 years now we have been talking about extending our building. At last that aim has been completed. We now have a larger and better equipped Kitchen. We can use the new facilities to help our young members with their cookery skills. We have also made it much easier for ourselves when catering for camps, sleepovers and fundraising events. We have recently completed moving all the equipment stored in the old Storeroom into the new extension. Now we can turn our attention to converting the old Storeroom into more useable space for our growing sections and hopefully attract the local community to use the building too.. It has been a long and tiring job. Working most weekend and evenings for the last 4 months to achieve this fantastic result. Many thanks need to be passed on to all the Leaders, helpers and young leaders who gave up their spare time to help create our new facilities. Thanks to you all.



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# Group Scout Leader's Report

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Another strange but uplifting year for the Group. Numbers of young people haven't fallen throughout the pandemic if fact they have increased. There are no places available throughout the whole Group, with waiting list starting to grow for all sections. We have increased our Beaver Scout Cohort slightly, but due to the limited adult support, we have been unable to fill up to our max with Beaver Scouts into the Group. Please have a think about Volunteering and join the Synthonia Leader Team. We run a Volunteering 4 week challenge, the information for which is on the next page, please have a go. You could help us to provide Scouting to more young people in Billingham.

Last year's AGM and show again didn't happen due to the covid regulations, but rest assured our show will happen this year "Synners on stage" in 2022 will take a different shape this year, as we have so many young people in the group now we are going to move the AGM to a Sunday afternoon and we are going to do 2 shows so that we can make sure parents get the chance to see their Beaver, cub and Scout take part in the Show.

We have not been able to run a normal camp since the start of the pandemic so it was great to get back to our normal busy camps in November, with both the Cubs and the Scouts enjoying weekends away. With both sections away in the same weekend we had a total of 78 Members of the group away on camp over the weekend. Both the Cubs and Scouts all so had a camp in the new year, with the cubs going to Thornthwaite and the Scouts visiting Kettlewell both were full, busy camps as usual. Well done to all the leaders for the time in planning and running the events.

Unfortunately due to the increasing numbers of Covid cases we took the decision to cancel the Christmas party, a decision that was not taken lightly but which we had to make to keep as many people safe as possible over the Christmas period.

Again as I did last year, I would like to thank a number of people who have worked on our building over the year, especially as we worked on our building project. Akela, Scott, Tony, Jordan, Elliot and the Young Leaders, leaders and helpers. Together we have worked to create a fantastic facility with our new kitchen and store room. The builders handed the structure over to us in November and with lots of weekends and evening works we are just about done, Thank you all, a fab team effort.

I am pleased to announce that Allan Neil our Group Chairman who has been working in Scouting all his life at various Scout group & districts and has been the Chair here at Synthonia for 10 years has been awarded the Silver Acorn by the Scout Association, for distinguished service to Scouting. A well deserved award and I look forward to seeing Allan being presented with the award at the Meeting.

Finally a huge thank you to all our Leaders, Helpers, Young Leaders and Parent Support members for all their hard work and support in the last year. Our young people are amazing, as long as they keep enjoying the Scouting experience we provide, we will all continue to have fun and love Synthonia for what it is, our big Scouting Family.

Mark Anderson  
Group Scout Leader



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# Adult Volunteers 4 week Challenge

If “You” think you would like to become part of a fantastic team of adults who support the young people of the Synthonia Scout Group, please come and chat about how you think you can help us.

You might be interested in helping with the Beaver Scouts, or have skills or experience that would be useful to help the Scout Section. You might like counting money. There will always be something you can help us with.

We have a wide range of jobs that need doing. Working with the young people, managing the Group, maintaining our Headquarters. We have a great team that you will enjoy being part of. So please come and talk to us, we need you help now.

Many Thanks

Mark Anderson  
Group Scout Leader

## Take the four week challenge



Volunteer for just four weeks and be amazed at the difference you'll make.

Week 1 See what we get up to  
Week 2 Start to help out  
Week 3 Get a little more involved  
Week 4 You'll know if Scouting is for you.

We have a wide range of flexible roles either supporting young people or behind the scenes. Any help is truly amazing.

Interested?  
Contact Mark Anderson on 07854508757  
or email [gsl@synscouts.org](mailto:gsl@synscouts.org)

#Synscouts

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# Beaver's Report

What a busy time the beavers have had this year. With over 300 badges given out and 6 bronze awards as you can see on the right of the page, we also had 3 beavers achieved all the activity badges too, a massive achievement. We have also introduced lodge leaders choosing 5 of the more senior beavers who took on their roles very impressively and wore their badges with pride.

We started the year off in May with our outdoor challenge badge. The beavers took part in a nature walk around Belasis business park and we completed the outdoor challenge badge where we cooked s'mores on campfires and learnt some new campfire songs. We had some great fun erecting tents and pretending we were at camp. Sona came down and helped to build some bug hotels to finish the badge. With the warm weather looking to hang around we moved into the gardens in July where the beavers made campfire blankets and each sewn on their badge, next we built outdoor shelters, using staves, rope and tarpaulin. Each lodge had a different approach to this, and each was successful. The experimental badge was next and was a huge success with 3 experiments, oobleck, skittles and making sorbet using ice and salt. We had planned our annual sandcastle competition at Seaton Carew but the weather put a stop to this, so we improvised and held a sandcastle drawing competition instead. With many fabulous drawings of unique sandcastles, it was a very difficult task to pick just one winner. Our last night before breaking up for summer we put on our camp blankets and had a wonderful campfire and sang so many camp songs.

We returned in September ready and raring to go and start another badge. This time the collector's badge. The beavers all brought in something they collect and showed them to the other members. We made some wonderful leaf printing pictures and learnt how to sign our own names using sign language. In October our young leaders planned our Halloween night, the beavers all looked spooktacular in their costumes. November was a busy month the beavers designed a superhero and then made a shield that their superhero would use. We had the honour of taking part in the Billingham remembrance day service. None of the beavers had taken part in this before and were all amazing, especially our flag bearer Rory. We were fortunate enough to have a visit from Cleveland fire brigade, they gave us a talk on fire safety & let us see ourselves using the thermal imaging camera, we then moved outside to see the fire engine. To finish off our creative activity badge the beavers in their lodges wrote a short play then designed sock puppets before putting on a puppet show for us all.

With Christmas just around the corner we made Christmas eve boxes, after decorating the boxes whilst having a dance to Christmas songs we made hot chocolate cones, reindeer dust, reindeer bauble and a Christmas card. For our last night of the year we had a night at 'go climb' at Billingham forum. We all had a go on the vertical walls with many beavers conquering their fears. Unfortunately, we decided it was safer to cancel the Christmas party due to the high volumes of covid cases. Santa wasn't able to give out the Beavers gifts so entrusted them to ko and chip to deliver. The beavers learnt new skills for the skills challenge badge we lit candles safely, learnt how to tie shoelaces and decorated biscuits that were very yummy.

Moving onto the health and fitness badge in February the beavers enjoyed making fruit kebabs with fruit they had cut and prepared themselves. With lots of games and sports it was a tiring month. March, we moved onto money skills, the beavers had great fun designing their pound notes, learnt the history of money through a quiz and looked at some old coins. We also welcomed Cath to the colony as an assistant beaver leader. We were fortunate enough to have Andy (NAG) come down over two weeks to do some air rifle shooting with the beavers which was a great few nights. As march drew to a end we finished off with making some beautiful mother's day cards. April was easter themed. Making easter cards. We had easter bunny scavenger hunt. The beavers decorated cups and planted flower seed bombs. We ended the night with chocolate eggs and chocolate cornflake cakes made by Kim.

Massive Well Done to Rory, for his personal challenge he set himself the target of no game consoles for two weeks. However, Rory didn't stop there he wanted to do something to help the people in Ukraine, so with his mams help he came up with the idea that people could sponsor him to complete his personal challenge and donate the money to the red cross appeal. On the last count he was close to £200. Well Done Rory we are all very proud of you!

Well done to all the Beavers who have taken part into these activities.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the leaders, young leaders, and parent helpers.

Special thanks to ko who has been amazing at planning the programme and keeping the beavers so busy.



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# Cub's Report

So, another difficult scouting year, due to Covid restraints, has passed and its time to look back at what we have achieved. 2021 did allow us to do more face-to-face scouting but severely limited the camping opportunities and visits away from the Scout Hut. Yet again another year with no County events and only one District event, St Georges Day Parade, to which 11 cubs attended.

Summer camp was cancelled again due to Covid guidance, but we have managed to hold two pack holiday weekend camps. The first of these was a Magic themed weekend at Carlton. 30 cubs attended and had a magical weekend completing many Harry Potter themed activities and crafts. Unlike the books, Slytherin triumphed and managed to win the house cup. In the spring our second camp was a media themed camp at Thornthwaite, the cubs were challenged to make an advertisement video to promote cub scouting. The videos you have all seen, are proof of how hard the cubs worked that weekend to make some great films.

Regarding pack visits, we managed to participate in Ice Skating in November, swimming in March and a visit to MIMA last September. We also had a great visit to St Cuthbert's Church, last Autumn. It's amazing that we have a building that's over a thousand years old on our doorstep. The cubs also really enjoyed our Fire Station visit which was short but highly enjoyable.

Although Covid has given us challenges, the cubs have taken on all that I have asked them, we have at last stopped the zoom pack meetings and we met each week outdoors on the field at the rear of our building and we still continue to complete many badges. Ten cubs have completed their Chief Scouts Silver Awards presented to them during the last year and Rory will receive his Silver this during the AGM. Otherwise, a massive 474 other badges have been awarded since September. Well done to all the cubs.

My grateful thanks must go to all my leaders, Young Leaders and Helpers for all their help and support over the last year.

Akela



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# Scout's Report

What a year of Scouting we have had, lock down, no lock down, masks on, masks off, but week in week out we turned up and pushed on forward to grown the Troop to 42 Scouts amazing work, so first, I would like to thank every Leaders and young leaders for the time put into programs, camps, learning and adapting as fast as we did, not a backward step was taken and for that I am proud, well done everyone.

This year I am sure everyone has a favourite memory but a few of mine have been our first camp, after the lockdown, which was held at Ratlingate, near Carlisle. Summer camp was cancelled again due to the Covid guidance, so we ran a few summer events, paintballing, Aqua Park, paddle boarding, and wakeboarding, then up on the hills for some hiking.

One of our Young Leaders Poppy Fearn, is going to the world Scout jamboree in Korea next year, which will keep the tradition of someone from Synthonia attending the world Jamboree, which is in South Korea, in 2023. We also have Amelia Iddon, Megan Lowe, Sam Green, Lilly Baker, Matilda McCartie and Young Leader in the Cub Section Aiden Cairnie all been selected to go along to the Haarlem Jamborette near Amsterdam at the same time, well done to all of you for being selected by the county to attend the events, we hope you have an amazing time..

At this time, we have handed out near 370 badges from the world Challenge, Teamwork Challenge, level 5 Swimming and first aid, to name a few, right up to awarding 2 Chief Scout Gold Badges to Amelia and Ashley a massive well done on reaching this milestone in scouting,

We have had 2 camps since restrictions were lifted, the second camp was held at Kettleless near whitby which was a chilly and wet weekend but one we all enjoyed, we have plenty more booked in with our first summer camp for 3 Years booked, we are off to Walesby Forest for 7 days, with loads of activities planned.

We held our very first Boxing day dip in December and Raised a massive £2000 for the group, an idea put forward and planned by the Scouts themselves, for the fundraising badge, it was a freezing morning with 38 brave Polar bears & Penguins up to their waist in the north sea, smiling and enjoying life. Well done again every one, who's up for it next year too?!

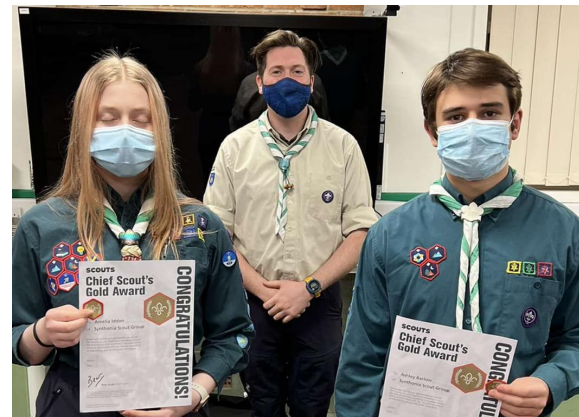
As always, I will finish this report with a quote

**“The only way of discovering the limits of the possible**

**is to venture a little way past them into the impossible.” — Arthur C. Clarke**

Scott Hutchinson

Synthonia Scout Leader



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# Sections Accounts, Group Accounts and financial Statement for 2021



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# Section Accounts 2021

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## Income

Events - Beavers	119.00
Events - Cubs	2,132.00
Events - Scouts	3,933.00
Joining fees	383.20
Membership fees - Beavers	2,076.00
Membership fees - Cubs	5,040.00
Membership fees - Scouts	4,680.00
Membership fees-Young Leaders	600.00

## Expense

Camping Equipment	87.50
Events - Beavers	100.00
Events - Cubs	1,564.95
Events - Scouts	4,692.37
Group Camp/Sleepover	562.27
Meetings - Beavers	149.95
Meetings - Cubs	137.92
Meetings - Scouts	370.29
OSM/Go Cardless Fees	608.52
Scout Shop - Beavers	241.39
Scout Shop - Cubs	598.44
Scout Shop - Scouts	316.41
Subs To Group	9,120.00

## Account balances

Sections Bank book	2,756.61
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## Summary

Account balance brought forward	2,343.42
Total income	18,963.20
Total expenditure	18,550.01
Net income	413.19
Account balance carried forward	2,756.61



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# Group Audited Accounts 2021

## SYNTHONIA SCOUT GROUP ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2021

### INCOMING

BALANCE B/F	£10,776.15
BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS	£18,335.21
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£9,120.00
DONATIONS	£5,880.00
HQ HIRE	£740.00
MINIBUS HIRE	£650.00
MIKE KILDING SPONSORSHIP	£343.78

**TOTAL** **£45,845.14**

### OUTGOING

TRANSFER TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT	£22,000.00
CAPITATION FEE	£3,277.70
UTILITIES & RATES	£2,561.58
INSURANCE	£1,498.08
MINIBUS EXPENSES	£1,492.58
HQ MAINTENANCE	£1,241.05
EQUIPMENT FOR HQ	£895.68
WEBSITE SUBSCRIPTIONS	£332.94
SCOUT SHOP	£280.00
XMAS PARTY EXPENSES	£103.96
HQ EXTENSION	£10,034.42
<b>BALANCE C/F</b>	<b>£2,127.15</b>

**TOTAL** **£45,845.14**

## VIRGIN MONEY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2021

### INCOMING

BALANCE B/F	£39,251.61
INTEREST	£67.37
TRANSFER FROM GROUP	£22,000.00

**TOTAL** **£61,318.98**

### OUTGOING

**BALANCE C/F** **£61,318.98**

**TOTAL** **£61,318.98**

### CAPITAL STATEMENT

BUILDINGS INSURANCE VALUE	£221,223.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED
CAMPING EQUIPMENT INSURANCE VALUE	£36,234.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED

### TRUSTEE'S STATEMENT

The Group is a trust established under its rules which is common to all groups. Trustees are appointed in accordance with P.O.R. Of the Scout Association  
The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payment basis, which is consistent with previous years  
Approved by the trustees on 10th January, 2022

AUDITOR

GROUP CHAIRMAN



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# 2021 AGM Minutes

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The Synthonia Scout Group did not record Minutes as an attended Meeting did not take place. Annual Reports and Accounts were delivered to every parent, member and supporter of the Group and copies were issued to the County Commissioner, District Commissioner and District Chairman.

Group Officials were asked to remain in post for the pursuing year and everyone who received the document were asked get in touch if this arrangement was not acceptable, No Comments were received.

We also ask everyone who received the document to return comments or queries with regards the Annual Reports and Accounts with 14 days of receipt. No such comments or queries were received within the 14 day period, from distribution of the document, so the Annual Reports and Accounts were accepted as read on the 16th June 2021.



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# Acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts during the National COVID Emergency

This year our Leaders and Children have raised the bar with their commitment to Scouting at Synthonia. We continued working online to find new ways to do our scouting and to challenge ourselves. We hope you agree the Group's Leaders have done an outstanding job in keeping scouting going during lockdown and preparing the Headquarters so that we can resume our meetings safely following all Government guidelines.

We are obligated to hold a Group Scout Council, Annual General meeting (AGM) once a year to :

- account for our actions and finances
- confirm the team who will manage the Group for the next year.

Normally the AGM is a highlight of our scouting year where we show off the achievements of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and put on a show involving all the sections in the group. Again there is no chance of that this year unfortunately, so the question is how can we meet our obligations in the current situation. The Group Executive has like last year agreed on the following actions to comply with charity commission and Scout Association requirements. The Group Executive Committee have generated the Annual Reports for 2020. The accounts have been audited and are presented in this report. We have taken the exceptional action again of asking all those Officers requiring election and approval by the Group Council to remain in their posts for a further year, they are listed and underlined on page 4, they all have agreed to remain in post. We have also asked the Auditor of the accounts to remain in post for us next year, and we are pleased to say she has agreed. This report and accounts will be distributed to every member of the Group Council for their acceptance (members, Leaders, Trustees, parents & supporters of the Group).

For the second year we will deem the Annual Report, Financial Accounts and membership of the Group Executive to be approved by the Group Council on Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at an open Zoom Meeting starting at 7.30pm and after distribution of the report. We will be pleased to address any queries, objections or requests, for further information please contact Mark Anderson, Group Scout Leader 07854 508757 or Allan Neal, Group Chairman 07926 273505.

As we made you aware last year, financially the Scout Association has been struggling. It has cut back on its paid staff and is selling off some of its prized assets namely Baden-Powell House, a Hotel in the centre of London that we have stayed in as a Group in the past. It is also selling off Downe Scout Activity Centre in Kent. They have had to increase the amount of subscriptions that we as Synthonia have to pay for each member of the Group.

We think we have had a fantastic year which was highlighted when we gained a Special Achievement Award from the Durham Community Foundation and the High Sheriff of Durham. We hope that after reading the enclosed reports you will agree with us that the Leaders and members of the Group have been an exceptional Scout team during 2020.

Yours in Scouting

Mark Anderson, Group Scout Leader  
Allan Neal, Group Chairman



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# List of Group Officials & Leaders

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## Group Officials

Group Scout Leader:	Mark Anderson
Deputy Group Scout Leader:	Andrew Scrimshaw
Chairman:	<u>Allan Neal</u>
Group President:	John Taylor
Treasurer:	<u>Neil Martin</u>
Secretary	<u>Michelle Malkin</u>
Group Executive members:	<u>Tony Anderson, Brian Capes, Graham Porter, Linda Ransom, Stephen Hope, Karren Towning, Paula Pekovic.</u>
Auditor:	<u>Jaqueline Bradburn.</u>

## Beaver Scout Leaders

Beaver Leader:	Dorothy Harris
Assistant Beaver Leader:	Megan Lund, Dylan Hayes
Helpers:	Anne-Marie Clarkson, Karren Towning
Young Leaders:	Leon Hobson, Hermione Clarkson, Charlie Towning, Gaele Baucherel

## Cub Scout Leaders

Cub Leaders:	Mike Atkinson
Assistant Cub Leader:	Andrew Woods, Kevin McCabe, Gee Barlow, Faye Capes, James Atkinson
Helpers:	Brian Capes
Young Leader:	Charlie Towning, Leon Hobson, Aiden Cairnie

## Scouts Leaders

Scout Leader:	Scott Hutchinson
Assistant Scout Leader:	Jordan McGrogan, Elliott Bradburn, Chris Whelan, Craig Weedall
Scout Helpers:	Tony Anderson, Colin Davies
Young Leaders:	Logan Ransom, Amy Dixon, Charlie Towning, Liam Thompson, Sam Iddon, Poppy Fearn, Gaele Baucherel



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# Chairman's Report

How is it that the our Scouting has improved through this Lockdown? Well our leaders are a bit special. When times were more normal if something wasn't just quite right, the Leaders were able to adjust and adapt to make the meeting work. That is next to impossible in a virtual meeting. The planning has to be meticulous and cover every eventuality. Our Leaders have taken on that challenge and produced some great Scouting challenges for the children. I am in awe of the whole team. Don't take my word for it. Have a look over the page for a very small selection of comments from other people.

The Group 's efforts were recognised with a £1,500 award from the High Sheriff of Durham for our efforts to maintain our children's mental health during the lockdown or more easily recognised as doing great scouting.

We are coming out of Lockdown in a very healthy financial position. The fund raising, donations and grants that we have received have allowed us to make a start on extending the Headquarters. See page 7. The current programme is for us to begin around the start of June 2021, with the aim to break into the existing building around August 2021, once the building has been made water proof. Then there will be many weekends as we complete the internal works. With the hope to be completed for our Christmas Party weekend. We are generating a little income from the Tang Soo Do Group who use the Headquarters. When we complete the new work we may be able to entice other community groups to use the Headquarters too.

My personal thanks go to Michelle our hard working Secretary and Neil who sniff's out money for the Group where none exists. Andy has had it easy this year but his work managing the minibus hire and maintenance is also an unseen effort that keeps the Group solvent and moving too and from our adventurous activities.

Allan Neal



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# What Others think of Synthonia

Easter Sleepover 800+ photo's and 40+ comments A few Extracts

Toilet rolls and socks flying everywhere in our house 😂

I think you have give Imogen a dodgy ping pong ball 🤔

Just seen Rosie and her mum litter picking - well done guys

4 bags of rubbish done on our walk.... just nearing the end now!

Thank you so much for making this a fantastic weekend from Sam and Jessica.

Thank you for organising an amazing weekend xxx

Hope the leaders have a good nights sleep thanks for your efforts it really is appreciated such a fantastic group Thankyou x

Awesome event guys yet again thank you happy easter - enjoy your break

Thank you. A great weekend. 🥰 The McCarties need to brush up on Marvel Films 🤔. A great excuse to watch lots over the Easter break

Thanks for the lovely sleepover and for all of the effort. 🥰🙌

Earliest my 2 have been in bed for a year! Thanks Scott, Mark, akela And all 🌈💜👑

Oliver is done for the day. Thank you so much for a amazing weekend. We have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Just want to say a huge thank you for the weekend, brilliant as always and now I need a pint or three :-)

Think that's me photo's out. Thanks for the weekend very enjoyable (& tiring) again. Enjoy Easter all! 🙌

The Deputy County Commissioner  
Congratulations Synthonia!  
A magnificent achievement!

The District Commissioner  
You really do all deserve to win it, I can't think of a group more appropriate after the effort you've all put in ( your exec included)

From Cleveland County and our District Leaders (The Gaffers !?) following our Award

The County Commissioner

I watched with excitement last night to see if you would win! Well done to all the team at Synthonia. What was said last night about your commitment and support to the young people was completely correct.

Well done again.

The District Chairman

Thank you to you and all of the leaders, exec members and wider members of the group for everything you have done over the past year and continue to do going forward to support the young people.

Well deserved

Fantastic news! Thanks to everyone at Synthonia for doing an unbelievable job keeping the kids engaged and entertained throughout the lockdown!

What wonderful news!! So very well deserved

From Mum's and Dads on our Award

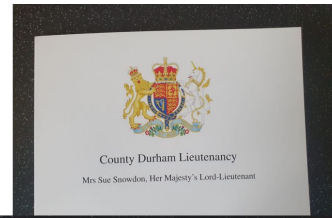
That's excellent news and is a true testament to the level of leadership shown by each and everyone of you.

Whoop whoop. Well deserved guys. Can't wait to see you all in person!!

That's great news and such a well-deserved nomination for everything that all of you scout leaders and volunteers have been doing week in week out both before and during the covid times.

I know Aidan and Thomas don't often effuse their emotions to the world but they have really appreciated, as have I, that they've been able to maintain connection to scouts throughout this past crazy year.

Excellent news. Congratulations to all concerned.



Synthonia Scout Group.  
I was delighted to learn that you had been recognised in this years Shival awards. Your award is well deserved. You have made an immeasurable difference to many during a very difficult time.  
Please accept my congratulations, appreciation and very best wishes.  
Sue Snowden



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# Group Scout Leader's Report

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Another strange but uplifting year for the Group. Currently the number of young people in the Group have stayed around the same. Very few places are available throughout the whole Group, and the Beaver Scout waiting list is still as long as ever. We would love to increase our Beaver Scout Cohort, but due to the limited adult support we have been unable to bring more Beaver Scouts into the Group. Please have a think about Volunteering and join the Synthonia Leader Team. We run a Volunteering 4 week challenge, the information for which is on the next page, please have a go. You could help us to provide Scouting to more young people.

Last year's AGM and show didn't happen and it's sad that we will miss it this year too. Rest assured though we are already planning next year's show "One Night Only" in 2022

We have not been able to run a normal camp now for well over a year. However we have held some amazing Group sleepovers. At Christmas we welcomed 52 young people to our Zoom session. We provided over 27 hours of fun including a live magic show. Santa visited us and the Scouts completed an Escape Room. We made some Christmas crafts and fudge, followed by 5 Task Master Challenges finishing with a family quiz. At Easter we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Interactive Sleepover where we had 54 young people attend, with a live Circus Show. We included card crafts, pin and string art, a ping pong ball challenge, the biggest bubble, a what 3 words Easter trail and another family quiz to finish. Both these events were fantastic fun to run and the Leaders really enjoyed watching the hundreds of photos and comments come in from parents.

All of the section Leaders have working really hard to keep Scouting ticking over on Zoom as you can read on the following pages. It has been an enjoyable challenge to keep the Zoom meetings engaging for all the young people. It is wonderful to see all the members on zoom and its been amazing to get back together again in the Headquarters to do some proper Scouting.

I would like to thank a number of people who have worked on our building over the Lockdown period. Thank you Akela who has worked tirelessly every week carrying out maintenance and cleaning works. Thank you Elliott for fitting our new CCTV system to help keep our building safe. Finally thank you Faye, Leon and Brian who have done so much hard work on the Grounds. Steve Hope continues to keep our grass and weeds under control thank you Steve. I also need to say a big thank you to Michael Kilding one of our parents who ran a marathon and raised £650+ for us last year. Thank you so much, this was a huge personnel challenge for Michael and we thank his supporters for helping him along the way.

Finally a huge thank you to all our Leaders, Helpers, Young Leaders and Parent Support members for all their hard work and support in the last year. Our young people are amazing, as long as they keep enjoying the Scouting experience we provide, we will all continue to have fun and love Synthonia for what it is, our big Scouting Family.

Mark Anderson  
Group Scout Leader



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# Adult Volunteers 4 week Challenge

If “You” think you would like to become part of a fantastic team of adults who support the young people of the Synthonia Scout Group, please come and chat about how you think you can help us.

You might be interested in helping with the Beaver Scouts, or have skills or experience that would be useful to help the Scout Section. You might like counting money. There will always be something you can help us with.

We have a wide range of jobs that need doing. Working with the young people, managing the Group, maintaining our Headquarters. We have a great team that you will enjoy being part of. So please come and talk to us, we need you help now.

Many Thanks

Mark Anderson  
Group Scout Leader

## Take the four week challenge



Volunteer for just four weeks and be amazed at the difference you'll make.

Week 1 See what we get up to  
Week 2 Start to help out  
Week 3 Get a little more involved  
Week 4 You'll know if Scouting is for you.

We have a wide range of flexible roles either supporting young people or behind the scenes. Any help is truly amazing.

Interested?  
Contact Mark Anderson on 07854508757  
or email [gsl@synscouts.org](mailto:gsl@synscouts.org)

#Synscouts

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# Beaver's Report

What a busy time the Beavers have had this year. So many badges have been awarded and we have spent a lot of the time in our meetings online. All the Beavers and been amazing taking part and completing all the Badge work we have set.

In the last year we have presented a total of 186 badges to the Beavers, which included Adventure, Outdoors, Skills, World and Personal Challenge Awards, there was Book Reader, Hobbies, Safety, Air Activities and Community Impact Activity Badges to name but a few of them and the crowning glory is of course the 11 Chief Scout Bronze Awards that have been presented in the last 12 months, a fabulous effort from all the Beavers and Leaders.

We took part in the Group's 2 Sleepovers at Christmas and Easter, and we have a great time watching the Magician, Santa, and Circus Performer. We also made Fudge & Mars bar nuggets as well as Christmas tree decorations and greetings cards.

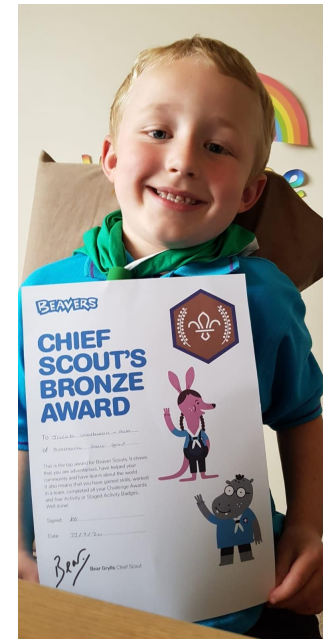
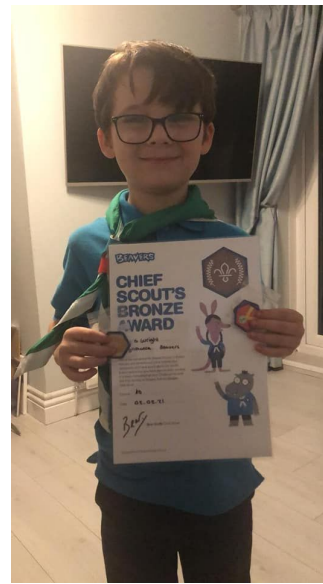
We also took part in the Cleveland County Scouts Indoor Challenge where 6 of our Beavers completed the 14 challenges ranging from creating a Back Garden assault course to making furniture out of recyclable materials.

The great news that greeted us in April was that we could meet face to face again, so we have been taking part in a Litter Pick, Nature walk and making smores over a fire as we tried to keep as many of our meetings out in the open. It's always a bit hit and miss with the usual British weather.

It have been difficult with the number of Leaders that we have had this year as Kit has been pursuing a new career she has been unable to attend. However its great news that Dylan can now be here more as he has a new job. So i would just like to say a huge thank you to the team who have battled on over the last year, especially Ko (Leon) who has planned all the programmes and done nearly all of the prepwork over the last year.

So thank you to Chip, Sunshine, Dylan, Rusty, Kit and of cause the Brilliant Young Leaders Ko, Keo and Kim.

Baloo



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# Cub's Report

As we are all well aware, 2020 has been a hugely different and difficult year for us all. Soon after the first Lockdown was instigated, the Scout Association stopped all face to face meetings and so we moved online. This was a new venture for all, Cubs, and Leaders alike. But after a while it became normal, and we carried on running our planned programme with activities at home or in the garden so the Cubs could continue earning badges.

We also held several sleepovers at home. These were great fun too. We provided craft materials and videos so the Cubs could make things and we loved watching online, seeing their enthusiasm and creativity.

We did manage some face to face meetings in the Autumn which was fantastic but all to soon we were back online as the next Lockdown took hold. Thankfully, we have been back together since April and the focus has been on outdoor activities. After a year indoors it's great to get outdoors and practicing scouting skills.

Unfortunately, we have not had any camping, visits, District or County events during the last year but I am hopeful the Scout Association will change to Green soon so we can organise some of these important activities.

On a brighter note, we only had three cubs leave during the pandemic and therefore still have a full pack of 36 Cubs which is great. Also, the Cubs worked really hard, and between them managed to earn an amazing 720 badges. An incredible achievement by each and every one of them. Two of the older Cubs are remarkably close to earning all the 37 activity badges which again is fantastic. Finally, nine Cubs completed their Chief Scouts Silver Award and I'm expecting lots more to do the same once we get to camp and many can complete the Outdoor Challenge.

My grateful thanks must go to all my Leaders, Helpers and Young Leaders for all their help and support over the last year.

Akela



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# Scout's Report

Not too sure where to begin on the last 12 months, most would say at the start, but we all know I won't be doing that!!, after the year we have all had. First of all a massive thank you to all the Leaders, Committee members, Young Leaders, Scouts and parents. What we managed to achieve during Lockdown using new ways to do our scouting was amazing. We were one of the first Groups back face to face. It was a great effort. We all learned new ways to use Zoom, we had visitors giving us talks on Forensic and had many fights over "Among Us", but the best part of the year was getting back down to the Headquarters to enjoy activities live, from fires and cooking, to axe throwing and skinning rabbits. We have done some air rifle shooting and had a fab visit to AirTrail at the Barrage. We have all loved getting back to proper Scouting,

We end the year with 30 Scouts, When lockdown started we made up a WhatsApp parent group, we have all enjoyed support throughout all the Lockdowns, isolations and when someone needed an answer, we all have jumped into help. Together we kept Synthonia alive and strong for future generations to come. We have a great Leadership team with skills to rival the best, what more could you could ask for, and if I do say so myself a great Young Leader team!

This year we've handed out over 250 Badges, ranging from Personal Challenge, Global Challenge and the Skills Challenge Badges, plus activity badges like Photographer and Artist, Week in and out, Scouts have logged on, turned up, took part and learned new skills, even the Leaders learned to just accept the Scouts know more than us sometimes and let them run with it! overall a great year has been had, albeit a very different one!

Here are some camp dates for your calendar (fingers crossed we go to a Green state of readiness at the end of June 2021).

Bramhope – 12/11/2021

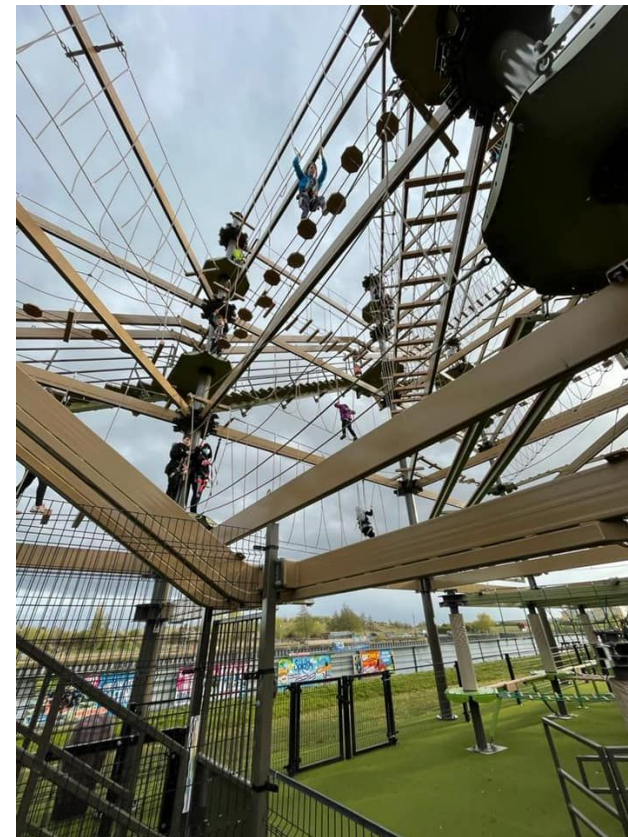
Kettleiness – 18/03/2022

Summer camp 2022 – 30/07/2022 to 06/08/2022

"The key to successful Leadership today is influence not authority."  
Blanchard.

Ken

Scott Hutchinson - Scout Leader



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# Scouts's Report



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# Sections Accounts, Group Accounts and financial Statement for 2020



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# Section Accounts

## Synthonia Sections Accounts as at 31/12/2020

Income		Expenditure	
Starting Balance CF	£ 1,334.04		
Subscriptions in	£ 7,218.93	Subscriptions to group	£ 4,088.20
Joining Fees	£ 140.00	Joining Fees	£ -
		Beaver night costs	£ 80.98
		Cub Pack Night Costs	£ 518.69
		Scout Night costs	£ 396.51
		Beaver - Scout Shop	£ 110.76
		Cub - Scout Shop	£ 534.35
		Scouts - Scout Shop	£ 155.49
Cub Activities in	£ 245.45	Cub Activities	£ 321.00
Cub sleepovers In	£ 162.96	Cub Camps/sleepovers	£ 264.00
Cubs Snowball Weekend	£ 1,312.47	Cubs Snowball Weekend	£ 1,122.13
Scout Camp Hesley wood	£ 1,450.80	Scout Cxamp Hesley wood	£ 1,378.44
Scout Expedition weekend	£ 262.04	Scout Expedition Refunded	£ 262.04
Scout Summer Camp	£ 1,175.69	Scout Summer camp	£ 893.99
Scout Activities	£ 198.94	Scout Activities	£ 100.00
Group online SleepOver	£ -	Group online sleepover	£ 417.87
Miscellaneous	£ 175.00	Miscellaneous	£ 183.95
		Year end Balance CF	£ 2,847.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,676.32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,676.32</b>



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# Group Audited Accounts 2020

## SYNTHONIA SCOUT GROUP ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2020

### INCOMING

BALANCE B/F	£6,476.75
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£4,088.20
BAG PACKING	£1,565.49
MINIBUS HIRE	£800.00
HQ HIRE	£1,010.00
BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT:	£11,667.86
BUSINESS RATES REBATE	£4,442.94
SPONSORED WALK	£1,007.25
DONATIONS	£2,000.00
FUNCTIONS	£401.00
SPONSORED RUN	£550.09

**TOTAL** £34,009.58

### OUTGOING

UTILITIES & RATES	£2,495.08
CAPITATION FEE	£3,528.80
MINIBUS EXPENSES	£1,317.08
INSURANCE	£1,475.34
HQ MAINTENANCE	£1,211.07
EQUIPMENT FOR HQ	£373.77
WEBSITE SUBSCRIPTIONS	£202.03
SCOUT SHOP	£127.00
AGM/EASTER EXPENSES	£219.31
TRANSFER TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT	£12,283.95
<b>BALANCE C/F</b>	<b>£10,776.15</b>

**TOTAL** £34,009.58

## VIRGIN MONEY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2020

### INCOMING

BALANCE B/F	£26,843.66
INTEREST	£124.00
TRANSFER FROM GROUP	£12,283.95

**TOTAL** £39,251.61

### OUTGOING

**BALANCE C/F** £39,251.61

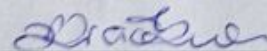
**TOTAL** £39,251.61

### CAPITAL STATEMENT

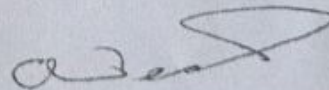
BUILDINGS INSURANCE VALUE	£221.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED
CAMPING EQUIPMENT INSURANCE VALUE	£36,126.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED

### TRUSTEE'S STATEMENT

The Group is a trust established under its rules which is common to all groups.  
Trustees are appointed in accordance with P.O.R. Of the Scout Association  
The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payment basis, which is consistent with previous years  
Approved by the trustees on 02nd February 2021



AUDITOR



GROUP CHAIRMAN



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# 2020 AGM Minutes

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The Synthonia Scout Group did not record Minutes as an attended Meeting did not take place. Annual Reports and Accounts were delivered to every parent, member and supporter of the Group and copies were issued to the County Commissioner, District Commissioner and District Chairman.

Group Officials were asked to remain in post for the pursuing year and everyone who received the document were asked get in touch if this arrangement was not acceptable, No Comments were received.

We also ask everyone who received the document to return comments or queries with regards the Annual Reports and Accounts with 14 days of receipt. No such comments or queries were received within the 14 day period, from distribution of the document, so the Annual Reports and Accounts were accepted as read on the 24th October 2020.



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**SYNTHONIA SCOUT GROUP ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2020****INCOMING**

<b>BALANCE B/F</b>	<b>£6,476.75</b>
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£4,088.20
BAG PACKING	£1,565.49
MINIBUS HIRE	£800.00
HQ HIRE	£1,010.00
BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT:	£11,667.86
BUSINESS RATES REBATE	£4,442.94
SPONSORED WALK	£1,007.25
DONATIONS	£2,550.09
FUNCTIONS	£401.00

**TOTAL** **£34,009.58**

**OUTGOING**

UTILITIES & RATES	£2,495.08
CAPITATION FEE	£3,528.80
MINIBUS EXPENSES	£1,317.08
INSURANCE	£1,475.34
HQ MAINTENANCE	£1,211.07
EQUIPMENT FOR HQ	£373.77
WEBSITE SUBSCRIPTIONS	£202.03
SCOUT SHOP	£127.00
AGM/EASTER EXPENSES	£219.31
TRANSFER TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT	£12,283.95
<b>BALANCE C/F</b>	<b>£10,776.15</b>

**TOTAL** **£34,009.58**

**VIRGIN MONEY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2020****INCOMING**

<b>BALANCE B/F</b>	<b>£26,843.66</b>
INTEREST	£124.00
TRANSFER FROM GROUP	£12,283.95

**TOTAL** **£39,251.61**

**OUTGOING**

**BALANCE C/F** **£39,251.61**

**TOTAL** **£39,251.61**

**CAPITAL STATEMENT**

BUILDINGS INSURANCE VALUE	£221.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED
CAMPING EQUIPMENT INSURANCE VALUE	£36,126.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED

**TRUSTEE'S STATEMENT**

The Group is a trust established under its rules which is common to all groups.  
Trustees are appointed in accordance with P.O.R. Of the Scout Association  
The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payment basis, which is consistent with previous years  
Approved by the trustees on 02nd February 2021

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AUDITOR

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GROUP CHAIRMAN

**SYNTHONIA SCOUT GROUP ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2020**

INCOMING	OUTGOING
<b>BALANCE B/F</b>	
SUBSCRIPTIONS	
BAG PACKING	
MINIBUS HIRE	
HQ HIRE	
BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT	
BUSINESS RATES REBATE	
SPONSORED WALK	
DONATIONS	
FUNCTIONS	
SPONSORED RUN	
<b>£6,476.75</b>	
	<b>£24,088.20</b>
	UTILITIES & RATES
	CAPITATION FEE
	MINIBUS EXPENSES
	INSURANCE
	HQ MAINTENANCE
	EQUIPMENT FOR HQ
	WEBSITE SUBSCRIPTIONS
	SCOUT SHOP
	AGM/EASTER EXPENSES
	TRANSFER TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT
	<b>BALANCE C/F</b>
	<b>£10,776.15</b>
<b>£34,009.58</b>	<b>£34,009.58</b>

**VIRGIN MONEY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2020**

INCOMING	OUTGOING
<b>BALANCE B/F</b>	
INTEREST	
TRANSFER FROM GROUP	
<b>£26,843.66</b>	
	<b>£12,283.95</b>
	<b>BALANCE C/F</b>
	<b>£39,251.61</b>
<b>£39,251.61</b>	<b>£39,251.61</b>

**CAPITAL STATEMENT**

BUILDINGS INSURANCE VALUE	£221.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED
CAMPING EQUIPMENT INSURANCE VALUE	£36,126.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED

**TRUSTEES STATEMENT**

The Group is a trust established under its rules which is common to all groups. Trustees are appointed in accordance with P.O.R. Of the Scout Association. The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payment basis, which is consistent with previous years. Approved by the trustees on 02nd February 2021

AUDITOR

GROUP CHAIRMAN

