



9th Heywood (St Michael's) Scout Group

Registered Charity No. 508174

Trustees' Annual Report for the period From: 01 April 2023 To: 31 March 2024

Section A Reference and Administration Details:

Charity name:	9 th (Heywood) St. Michael's Scout Group
Registered Charity Number:	508174
Charity's principal address:	Dixon Fold Diggles Lane Bamford Rochdale OL11 5PP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Richard Baron	Chair, Trustee Board		Group Scout Leader / Group Council
2	Martin Bowe	Treasurer, Trustee Board		Group Council
3	Andrew Sutton	Group Lead Volunteer		Warranted Appointment Scout Association
4	Tony Robson	Secretary, Trustee Board		Trustee Board
5	Sarah Govier	Subscriptions Secretary, Trustee Board		Trustee Board
6	Bill Ramm	Elected Member, Trustee Board		Group Council
7	Bill Fern	Elected Member, Trustee Board		Group Council

Names of the trustees for the charity:

Scout Association Trust Corporation

GOVERNING DOCUMENT:

The 9th Heywood (St. Michael's) Scout Group adheres to the Scout Association's 'Policy, Organisation and Rules' (POR). This document defines the structure of Scouting in the UK and sets out our constitution, our management process and objectives. The document is available for general scrutiny on the Scout Association website: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/>

How the charity is constituted:

In common with other Scout Groups, we operate as an educational charity subject to the policy and rules of the Scout Association. Scout Groups are autonomous organisations being responsible for their own property and equipment, recruitment of leaders and members. We own our HQ building and lease the land on which it stands from Rochdale Council.

The Group is led by the Group Lead Volunteer (GLV) and is managed by the Group's Trustee Board. The Trustee Board make decisions and carry out actions in line with the requirements of the Scout Association, the needs of the GLV and the uniformed leadership team. The Trustee Board is answerable to the Group Council who comprise all our Leaders, our members' parents / guardians and others with an interest in the Group. For further information regarding our constitution this can be read in detail on the Scout Association website by using the following link: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5-local-governance-and-finance-of-groups-districts-counties/#5.4>

Within the hierarchical structure of Scouting in the UK we are a member of Pennine Scout District (comprising of Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton townships). The District falls under the jurisdiction of Greater Manchester North Scout County within the UK Scout Association.

Our Group name indicates our link to St. Michael's Church, Bamford, Rochdale who are our sponsoring authority. The link dates back to when our Scout Group originally began (circa 1940's), but then closed for a period until restarting in the late 1950's to the present day. During the late 1950's and the following decade the Group met at St. Michael's School, but as we outgrew the facilities available to us there, we sought our own place to meet less than a mile away in Bamford village. The links with the church continues to the present day.

Although the church remains our sponsoring body, our Scout Group has a policy of 'open membership'. I.e. it is unrestricted regardless of faith, gender, colour etc.

During the year our Scout Group operated 3 active Scouting sections:

- **Beavers** (aged 6 – 8 years) – making friends, being creative, trying new indoor and outdoor activities
- **Cubs** (aged 8 – 10.5 years) – learning practical skills while having adventures with friends
- **Scouts** (aged 10.5 – 14 years) – building confidence, resilience and a sense of adventure

Further information on the structure and activities of each section can be found on the Scout Association website.

Trustee selection methods:

The Group Lead Volunteer nominates the Chairperson to lead the Trustee Board. This nomination is put to the Group Council for approval at the AGM. The Group Treasurer is elected to office by a decision of the Group Council at the AGM. The remaining members of the Trustee Board are approved by the Group Council at the AGM. Membership of the Trustee Board is strongly encouraged across our members' parents to ensure a healthy cross section of views and debate. Further information can be found on the Scout Association website: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5-local-governance-and-finance-of-groups-districts-counties/>

Training / Experience of Trustees

The POR document together with numerous Factsheets set out the rules and guidance for Trustees to follow. The Scout Association is on hand to provide further support and guidance as necessary.

Additionally, Pennine District provide a range of training and support packages for administrative roles as well as for the Scouting leadership team.

Our elected representatives to the Trustee Board are not required to have specific qualifications for their roles, but each are committed and trustworthy individuals, taking their obligations seriously and acting with integrity and care and the best interests of our members. Training, covering basic requirements is provided locally as well as online to assist their development in the role. They are all unpaid volunteers, as are our uniformed Leaders. Some have been Beavers, Cubs and Scouts themselves, whilst others have had no Scouting background.

Risk management processes are in place for the health and safety of our members both within our HQ building and for when we undertake activities outside. Risk assessments have become mainstream in our planning and day to day operations for both the uniformed sections and for the administrative management of the Scout Group.

In order to provide a safe and inclusive environment for Scouting in Bamford, our Trustees and Leaders act in accordance with the Key Policies of The Scout Association. These include:

- Child Protection Policy and Young People First
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safety Policy
- Religious Policy
- Development Policy

Further details of these policies can be found on the Association website.

The following reports upon achievements and performance are taken from the Group's AGM held on Thursday 26th September 2024 via Zoom.

Group Chairman – Richard Baron

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Good evening, everyone and a huge welcome to 9th Heywood Scout Group's 2024 Annual General Meeting. I'm sorry we haven't been able to meet face to face this year, but due to other commitments and time constraints, it has been necessary to revert to Zoom on this occasion. Firstly, I'd like to thank Andy Sutton (our Group Team Leader) along with all our Section Leaders and their assistants for their dedication to Scouting and for making Scouting happen for our young members, week-in and week-out. They do a first-rate job, and without them we would not be here tonight. They are all volunteers, who give up their time to help our young people. You'll hear and read more about the activities and programmes initiated by our Leaders in Andy's report.

However, my responsibility is to overview the things that have happened for the Group as a whole and for which the Trustee Board has responsibility.

Our New HQ Building: The year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 can generally be described as one of 'consolidation'. We are settled into our new HQ and environment, and have largely overcome the problems and issues which inevitably arise from a new-build property. We have undertaken a number of upgrades to the building and some minor changes that make our environment safer and more user-friendly. All is not finished in this task, as we have a list of relatively minor works that we would like to see completed over the coming year. In addition, we have a policy of continual investment in the building to ensure it is kept in good order, is safe and secure and, of course, continues to meet the needs of our Scouting sections.

Third-Party Users: To raise income for the Group and to become a worthwhile and usable asset for the local community, the Trustee Board has been committed to lending our building to users beyond the Scouting community at an affordable price. During the review year, we saw a significant growth in third-party users; many were individual families who chose us as a venue to host their children's birthday party. Additionally, we are now a regular venue for a performing arts society, a martial arts group and for a mum's and toddler's group. We continue to receive requests from organisations and individuals alike, and where possible, will accommodate them. This is a great source of income for us and helps us to keep our membership fees as low as possible.

Fundraising: We have two major fund-raisers during the year: the Plant Sale in May and the BBQ and Fun Day in July. The Plant Sale continues to be very popular and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for their hard work that made the 2023 Plant Sale such a huge success. The financial result was only superseded by the result in 2024, but more on that next year! We had a brilliant team of helpers for the May 2023 Plant Sale who helped generate a profit of some £5,500. Planning for this event takes place in January and there's plenty of ways in which volunteers can help, both in the run-up to May and on the week of the sale itself. Let me know if you want to join our brilliant team. The BBQ and Funday was another huge success and was very well attended by many of our members and their

families and friends. This is very much a fun event, and we had some great weather to enjoy the day. Thanks again to everyone who helped-out, volunteered tombola prizes, etc.

Transformation Programme: The UK Scout Association is going through a period of transformation. You've probably noticed that we've changed the name of the Group Executive Committee to Trustee Board and that our role names have also changed. We don't expect a huge change to what happens at our weekly meetings, as the changes impact more on our administration. That said, it's all about ensuring our volunteers are as well-equipped as they can be to undertake their roles, and of course, that will only improve the quality and experience for our young members.

Looking Ahead: I am proud to report that this Scout Group continues to blossom and grow. We have a fantastic HQ and facilities in Bamford, we are financially sound, and we have a growing demand from the local community for children to join in all our sections. We also have a terrific group of volunteers who make this all possible, but, we do need more people to step forward to share the responsibilities. Volunteering is a great way of meeting new people, giving something back to your community, learning new skills, having fun, challenging yourself and so much more. If you're willing to give it a go, even on a trial basis, you will be warmly received, given training and support and you will also enjoy that inner feeling of value and contribution. Please speak to either myself or Andy if you'd like to learn more about volunteering with our Group, either with the Trustee Board or with our sections.

Conclusion: It's a delight to be able to provide such a positive report on our successes during this year, and I hope you will agree with me that we have a bright future ahead. Can I thank, once again, all our leaders and helpers and trustees for their role in making Scouting such a positive experience here in Bamford, and I look forward to another year of exciting opportunities and growth for Scouting here at 9th Heywood Scout Group.

Group Lead Volunteer – Andy Sutton

April '23 – March '24 Overview

Overview:

The 2023/2024 academic year has been another great 12 months for 9th Heywood Scout Group. Each section has more members than ever and hopefully all the kids' involved are enjoying their time and experiences within the Scout sections.

As always, I would like to start by thanking all the leaders and helpers for continuing to deliver a Scouting program over the last 12 months. The individual sections could not function without the commitment and enthusiasm shown by everyone involved. I would also like to thank the Trustee Board for all the hard work they put into the Group behind the scenes. This often goes unnoticed but their continued support provides an excellent environment for each of the sections to flourish. It's worth mentioning that all the adults that help run the Scout Group are volunteers and their time and effort is given freely to help provide the best possible experience for the young members in all the Scout sections.

We have been lucky to add Lisa Hoyle to the leadership team and she has taken up an assistant section leader role within Beavers. We were very sad to lose Beth Redmond from the Beaver team. After 22 years of dedicated service, she has decided to take a break from Scouting. Luckily for us Beth has agreed to continue to support the Group with various events such as the plant sale.

There has also been a change in the Scout Section. After 20 years Andy Fern has unfortunately had to step back from his role as Scout leader due to work commitments. He will be continuing his association with our Scout Group by assisting Lisa and the team at Beavers but this does leave us very short of help within the Scout section

We cannot thank Andy and Beth enough for all their hard work and dedication over a long period of time that has helped to grow our Scout Group, especially over some very difficult periods such as through Covid and when we re-built our Scout HQ. Their passion and commitment will be missed.

It goes without saying that we can only continue to deliver a fun and exciting program with the support of volunteers. It can be challenging at times but ultimately it is very fun and rewarding. If anyone would like any information about how to get more involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

All the sections have been very active over the past year, and it was great to see a fantastic turn out at the St Georges Day event held at Queens Park. The behaviour from all our members was a credit to the Scout Group and all the parents.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all the parents that have supported the Group in the last 12 months. Either by helping at section meeting nights or by coming and supporting events such as the plant sale and summer BBQ. The Scout group can only thrive with your continued support.

BEAVERS

Our Beaver unit has always been very strong and this year has been no exception. Overall numbers are all very good and we have a fantastic group of leaders. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Beth after many years of outstanding service, but we were lucky to say a big hello to Lisa Hoyle who has joined the leadership team.

Activities came thick and fast at the start of the year and before we knew it, we were having our annual Halloween fancy dress party. All the Beavers dressed up in some very scary outfits and played games, some of which included the leaders!

Remembrance Sunday was commemorated by attending Church parade at St Michaels Church and once again a good attendance was great to see. We have had many comments complimenting all the children's behaviour from regular church members which is fantastic to hear.

The Beavers all worked hard on their Personal Challenge badge with some even offering to clean their toilets at home! They also had lots of fun experimenting with static electricity from balloons and making butter cream.

A Christmas craft night finished off the calendar year with the kids making real life snowmen out of toilet paper.

A fantastic turn out at the St Georges day event meant that the Beavers could show everyone how well they could behave again, and they all took part in the activity at Queen's Park that was part of the event. Lisa Fern was also presented with her long service award. This was well-deserved recognition for showing such dedication to our Beaver Unit.

Work on the Hobbies badge continued over summer and the year was finished off with the Beaver Olympics. Everyone had a great time and lots of medals were awarded with huge effort put in by all the Beavers.

cubs

September got off to a kicking start at Cubs with Senki Dojo martial arts club coming in to teach the kids some new skills as well as working on their listening and behaviour.

This was quickly followed by Skylight Circus running a session to introduce the Cubs to circus skills such as plate spinning and juggling.

Remembrance Sunday preceded work on the skills challenge award where the Cubs were taught how to chop vegetables, use a screwdriver and hammer along with how to iron their neckers. Something they all need to practice!

A Christmas craft evening rounded off the year with some very dodgy looking chocolate treats.

The New Year started with a focus on the DIY badge and all the Cubs made their very own bird box. This gave them chance to put into practice using a screwdriver whilst also learning how to safely use a saw, hammer and pillar drill. The results were fantastic.

We were lucky to welcome Firefighter Dylan Carter to the Scout HQ who came and taught the Cubs some basic first aid including CPR, wound treatment and choking. Hopefully all very useful life skills.

St Georges day was once again well attended and the new event-based format was well received with the Cubs undertaking a treasure hunt around Queens Park.

Cub activity day at Ashworth Valley Scout campsite was a great day out as usual and we managed to avoid the worst of the British weather with the Cubs getting a chance to try out climbing, archery and the infamous cave bus amongst other activities.

A visit from Rochdale Lacrosse Club proved to be a hit and introduced the Cubs to a new sport and the teamwork change badge was finished with some team water games. This inevitably descended into a free for all water fight with most of the Cubs trying to soak the leaders.

The academic year was rounded off with a trip to Clip and Climb at Summit Up in Oldham which was a fantastic end to what has been an action-packed year.

SCOUTS

Our Scout Troop is currently the strongest it has been for many years and the section has had another eventful year.

September started with firefighting and cooking outside the HQ and was quickly followed with first aid training and a session at Haslingden Clip and Climb centre.

A good attendance at Remembrance Sunday was nice to see and all the Scout's looked very smart. Both Georgia and Austin did a fantastic job of reading out poems they had written for the service.

A night hike in November gave the Scouts a chance to learn more about navigation and stretch their legs before finishing for the Christmas break.

Pancake tossing and cooking plus a trip to Ski Rossendale proved to be very popular at the start of the New Year followed by the Scout Activity Day at Ashworth Valley Scout campsite. Crate stacking, climbing and axe throwing seemed to be popular with all who attended.

A good turnout at St Georges day completed what was a very impressive display from all the Group with the Scouts taking on a pioneering challenge.

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Andy Fern at Easter who has been the main Scout leader for the group for over 15 years. It cannot be underestimated the commitment and dedication this takes, and he will be hugely missed by all the Scout group.

The summer term started with the Scouts having a gardening and clean up session around the Scout building, something that we hope can be done on a regular basis in the future.

A trip to Graystone Action Sports Centre proved to be a highlight of the year with the Scouts taking on the ramps and jumps on Scooters and skateboards before trying out their flipping skills on the trampolines.

An evening spent helping with grounds maintenance up at St Michaels church was very much appreciated by the vicar and the members of the church with the Scouts doing a fantastic job.

The Scouts also helped out on a community project at Taylor Park on the boundary between Bamford and Norden. It was a horrific evening of wind and rain, but this didn't stop the Scouts from working extremely hard clearing one of the neglected areas of the park and I know the residents around the park were very grateful for the help.

A night hike over Knowl Hill, on probably the only warm and dry evening of the summer, followed by an evening of tent pitching practice helped bring the year to a close but not before a trip to Summit Up in Oldham. The Scouts had a coached climbing session learning how to tie specific climbing knots and how to safely belay other climbers which proved to be a brilliant way to end the year.

Group Treasurer – Martin Bowe

I am pleased to write the new building is now fully paid as the last snagging jobs were completed. The final settlement payment was paid in April after this financial year.

With us all now well settled into the new building it is good to see it being used more than ever by the community, whether for birthday celebrations or performing / learning groups who are benefiting from the facilities and the extra space it offers.

The annual plant sale and family BBQ events continue to be worth all the effort put in by those who contribute their time, so please continue to support and volunteer if possible.

Feel free to offer any ideas for new fund-raising activities.

Remember. Please get in touch to see if there is a function you want to hold which can be accommodated.

Enquires from businesses or volunteer groups are welcome as there are still opportunities to hire during the day.

The total income was £37,271 with the largest increases from the building hire, plant sale and the sections subscription monthly payment, due to the change of payment system introduced.

The total expenditure was £28,382. This included a capitation payment to Pennine District of £2,921 which again was a normal increase per person from the previous year. We provided more money to the sections for activities and continued to spend money on further enhancing the building with improvements on lighting, Hive remote heating controls and the fire alarm system.

Overall, a very successful year where we managed to keep a healthy bank balance.

Accounts totals on 31st March were as follow:

Combined Current / Sections Accounts - £4,236.

Savings Account - £16,714.

Monthly Subscription Fee

Thank you for continuing to pay the monthly fees.

We will keep the fees held again at:

One child at £14 per month, Two children from the same family at £23 (3 children £32).

Sarah Govier, our Subscription Secretary, together with Andy Sutton introduced the change of payment system which helps us keep in better control of the fees paid and helped us payback any over-payments to parents.

The next step will be to improve how we submit our Gift Aid Tax Relief submission to HMRC.

Remember, Gift Aid Tax Relief – Do you pay tax? Then the group can get 25% extra. Please ask us if there is any doubt on whether you have signed a form as this is an easy method of gaining extra funds for group activities.

Thank you.

Martin Bowe
Scout Group Treasurer

Sarah Govier
Scout Group Subscription Secretary

Section E Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s): 

M. Bowe

Full name(s): Richard Baron

Martin Bowe

Position: Chair

Treasurer

Date: 27 September 2024

27 September 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
9th Heywood (St. Michael's) Scout Group

No (if any)
508174

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2023		31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	9,740	-	-	9,740	6,864
Sundries	-	-	-	-	510
Building Hire General	8,548	-	-	8,548	2,025
Hire to Photography Group	210	-	-	210	425
Fund raising AGM / BBQ	2,619	-	-	2,619	2,398
Fund raising Plant Sale	15,606	-	-	15,606	7,000
Grants	-	-	-	-	1,607
New Building Donations	375	-	-	375	2,112
Gift Aid Tax Refund	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest	173	-	-	173	69
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	37,271	-	-	37,271	23,010

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total receipts	37,271	-	-	37,271	23,010
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A3 Payments					
Capitation Fee to District	2,920	-	-	2,920	2,881
Refund for Overpayments	308	-	-	308	-
Training Beaver Section	-	-	-	-	468
Training Cubs Section	1,872	-	-	1,872	390
Training Scouts Section	852	-	-	852	700
World Jamboree	-	-	-	-	1,000
Equipment	239	-	-	239	2,040
Council Tax	1,007	-	-	1,007	348
Electricity	1,186	-	-	1,186	999
Gas	650	-	-	650	288
Water	275	-	-	275	284
Broadband	567	-	-	567	591
Building Insurance	1,697	-	-	1,697	1,664
Land Rent	175	-	-	175	175
Maintenance	3,193	-	-	3,193	1,654
Sundries	1,383	-	-	1,383	980
Fund raising AGM / BBQ	1,769	-	-	1,769	1,390
Fund raising Plant Sale	10,289	-	-	10,289	2,323
New Building Fees	-	-	-	-	18,161
Sub total	28,382	-	-	28,382	36,336


A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	28,382	-	-	28,382	36,336
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,889	-	-	8,889	13,326
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,328	-	-	11,328	24,654
Cash funds this year end	20,217	-	-	20,217	11,328

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	<div>Bank Current Account</div> <div>Bank Savings Account</div> <div>Bank Building Account</div> <div>Cash</div> <div>Total cash funds</div> <div>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</div>	<div>3,419</div> <div>16,714</div> <div>-</div> <div>84</div> <div>20,217</div> <div>OK</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>OK</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>OK</div>
B2 Other monetary assets	<div>Beaver Section Bank Account</div> <div>Cubs Section Bank Account</div> <div>Scouts Section Bank Account</div>	<div>294</div> <div>188</div> <div>335</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div> <div>-</div>
B3 Investment assets	<div>Details</div>	<div>Fund to which asset belongs</div>	<div>Cost (optional)</div>	<div>Current value (optional)</div>
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	<div>Details</div>	<div>Fund to which asset belongs</div>	<div>Cost (optional)</div>	<div>Current value (optional)</div>
B5 Liabilities	<div>Details</div>	<div>Fund to which liability relates</div>	<div>Amount due (optional)</div>	<div>When due (optional)</div>

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Chair person		RICHARD BARON	1.7.24
Treasurer	M. Bowe	MARTIN BOWE	1/7/24



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

9^K HEYWOOD (ST MICHAEL'S) SCOUT GROUP

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST MARCH 2024

Charity no
(if any)

508174

Set out on pages

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

1-7-24

Name:

DOUGLAS SUTTON

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

RETIRED BANK MANAGER

Address:

12 CAMBERLEY DRIVE
BAMFORD

ROCHDALE OL11 4AZ

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

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