1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 512057

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1981-12-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	2 Kings Drive Marple Stockport SK6 6NQ
Phone	01614274861

Activities

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

Activities: The training of young people in teamwork and mutual respect. Activities include first aid,home safety, cooking and outdoor pursuits eg.football,swimming,camping, orienteering.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cheshire East
- Derbyshire
- Stockport

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Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£117,688	£85,577	-	-
2024-03-31	£82,428	£73,376	-	-
2023-03-31	£76,436	£86,022	-	-
2022-03-31	£68,433	£54,681	-	-
2021-03-31	£43,038	£26,509	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David John Rainsbury		2013-09-01
Dr Richard Thorpe		2017-04-01
Edward James Spreckley		2022-04-01
George Brady		2022-04-01
John Roderick Mills		2022-04-01
Judith Pauline Roberts		2015-07-16
Julian David Taylor		2022-04-01
Keith Frazer		2015-07-16
Marina Griffin		2022-04-01
Stuart Charles Jupe		2022-04-01

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1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 512057

Accounts

Registered Scout number: 10010395
Charity number: 512057

1st Marple Scout Group

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st March 2025

Administrative details

Charity name	1st Marple Scout Group
Registered Charity No	512057
Principle Address	1st Marple Scout Group Headquarters Memorial Park Marple Stockport, SK6 6BE
Charity Number	512057
Group Registration	10010395
Scout District	Stockport District (Goyt until December 2018)
Scout County	Greater Manchester East

Address for Correspondence

2, Kings Drive,
Marple,
Stockport SK6 6NQ

Independent Reviewer

Tina Mcauley Chartered Certified Accountant, The McInnes Partnership

Principal Bankers

Barclays Bank and National Westminster Bank

Structure Governance and Management

Introduction

1st Marple Scouts was founded in 1908 and has existed on substantially the same site for 116 years. The Group was until late 2017 part of Goyt District Scout Council but was transferred into Stockport District Scout Council in January 2018. The change in District resulted in us changing how we present our accounts these changes were first reflected in the 2017/18 accounts.

The Group Executive

The Group is run by a Trustee Board (formerly known as the Group Executive Committee). Collectively this group acts to further the Group's aims as an educational charity. The trustees of the charity are responsible for ensuring that all decisions made by the Trustee Board comply with the current legislation governing and applicable to charities whilst at the same time ensuring observance of the common rules, as set out in the Scout Association's Policy Organisation and Rules (POR).

All members of the Trustee Board are currently registered with the Charity Commission as trustees. The Trustee Board comprises; two non-uniformed independent representatives, the chair and the treasurer; the Group's Leader Volunteer (and unusually, as our Group is a large one two Assistant Lead Volunteers); representatives from each of our eight sections (i.e. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts); a representative for the two District Explorer Units that Marple Group host and a representative from the County Network Unit that Marple Group also hosts. In 2024 the Trustee Board co-opted two additional members to take advantage of their experience and co-opted one other for the same reason. The Trustee Board also has a youth representative amongst it number.

The Trustee Board undertakes the necessary training as recommended by the Scout Association and all members are familiar with Trustee induction (formerly known as Essential Information for Executive Committees).

The Trustee Board meets approximately every three months and manages the administrative burden of the Group, including the Group's finances; insurances; the setting of subscription rates; approving the annual accounts; fund raising, governance; health, safety and safeguarding matters; the maintenance of the Headquarters building; relations with the public; the management of risk and the appointment of any advisors who might have specialist skills as appropriate.

Trustee Board Members 2024

Debbie Spreckley	Lead Volunteer - Ex-Officio
Richard Thorpe	Chair
David Rainsbury	Treasurer
Judith Pauline Roberts	Minute taker/secretary
Michelle Maryan	Representative for Beavers
Marina Griffin	Representative for Cubs
Adi Tognarelli	Representative for Scouts
Paul Marshall	Representative for Explorers

Harry Burnyeat	Representative for Network
James Maryan	Youth Representative
Julian Taylor	Quartermaster
Keith Frazer	Group Administrator
Ed Speckley	
George Brady	
John Mills	Elected member
Stu Jupe	Elected member

Method of appointment and induction of Trustees

Trustees are reviewed annually. Some members change as a natural part of their changing role within the Group, others through the election and co-option process and more recently through changes brought about through changes to the Scout Association's Policy Organisation and Rules. Previous governance reviews have led to changes in the way our finances are reported and scrutinised, and we have a continuing overview of the skill sets of our trustees. Governance changes are ongoing. For example, the most recent changes can be seen in our 2023/2024 report to the Charity Commission. Another aspect related to governance is the recent attention we have had to pay to our estate. The building of a new swimming pool in Memorial Park, together with the purchasing and leasing of a small parcel of land in connection with this, has led us to commission an architect to see how our buildings might be enhanced to make more of the space we occupy.

Objectives

The objectives of the Group are as a branch of The Scout Association. The aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.
The Scouting Programme is provided to young people between the ages of 6 and 25. The Beaver Section covers the ages 6 to 8, Cubs cover 8 to 10 and a half, Scouts cover 10 and a half to 14, Explorers cover 14-to-18-year old's (coordinated by the Scout District) and Network covers 18 to 25 year old's (also coordinated by the Scout District).

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Group Lead Volunteer's Report 2024-2025

Debbie stated that she was proud of the way the Group operates, particularly in keeping the children happy. She commented that we now have 2 qualified axe throwing permit staff, Alec and Ed. She thanked them for this additional training and was looking forward to the Group being able to access this activity. She highlighted the positivity of the Gang Show and the Ball and thanked all those involved in ensuring the success. In commenting on the Group's numbers, she stated that there was a waiting list, and that the "clumping" was now at the Explorer level. It is a pity that each year many don't make it into scouting, however there is hope that this could be resolved with the new build and that addition of 2 rooms upstairs. She concluded with heartfelt thanks to all the leaders and helpers, stating that it could not be done without them.

Group Lead Volunteer's Report

We are proud of our Scout Group. Not just because of the rich and varied programme that is offered to our members, but also because of the role that our group and our members play in supporting the wider Marple community. So in addition to a brief review of the programme that our units have delivered since our last AGM, I would like to take the opportunity offered by our annual report to highlight some of our wider community activities. If this report is light on the details of our programme, I do not wish it to be interpreted that we take our volunteers for granted. They are amazing. Their enthusiasm is matched only by their imagination in planning and delivering their weekly meetings and other events and we are truly grateful for everything they do.

Our programme

Our 10 sections continue to deliver a bewildering variety of activities to our members. I choose to highlight a few of our more high-profile and adventurous activities as an illustration of the rich programme offered to our young people, and of the continuing positive impact that our Scout Group has on the local community: As ever, camping remains core to our programme, and our units have been as busy as ever. I would like to make special mention of the leadership teams that organised group trips to Disneyland Paris in May, summer camps to Kibblestone (Cubs) and Keswick (Scouts) and to Network for staging the ever-popular Battle of Marple camp. It's joint events like these that allow our rather large Scout group to maintain an intimacy that many small groups struggle to achieve. 1st Marple is not just about large events, though; all our units have delivered nights away with their section, both on familiar ground and new territory, and there are too many to list here. When they're not camping our units have been hiking, and bowling, and cooking, and visiting the theatre, and axe throwing, and sailing, and making models, and starting fires and all manner of other things.

Our place in the community

And when our units and leaders are not adventuring on their own, they're getting "stuck in" in our community. Brabyns Bonfire, organised by Marple's Scouts and Guides since its inception in 1971,

continues to proudly occupy its' place as the largest bonfire and firework display in the area and our 2024 event was as successful as ever (if you haven't yet bought your tickets for this year's bonfire, now would be a good time to do it). We hosted Marple Adventure Film Festival. Our units have supported New Mills and Marple Rotary Club in accompanying Santa in his tours of Marple. We have delivered food hampers and carols to Marple residents. We've presented a folk band and a ceilidh, a train show weekend and our annual bedding plant sale. Oh, and in a lovely twist of fate, our HQ has again become the home of Marple Library in the building that Scouts acquired from them in 1975.

A special mention is saved for our 60th Gang Show which was staged to great acclaim at the Carver Theatre in March and gave us opportunity to celebrate with old friends including a number of those involved with our first show in 1965. Gang Show celebrations culminated in a spectacular "black tie and red necker" ball attended by past and current cast and helpers.

Our membership

Scouting in Marple is in great health. We are fortunate to count nearly 350 members and volunteers associated with our Group. Our youth membership is limited by the need to maintain manageable unit sizes – to maintain safe ratios of Leaders to youth members, to allow delivery of the rich and challenging programme that we've referenced earlier, and due to the constraints of space available at our Headquarters. We continue to maintain a significant waiting list which unfortunately greatly exceeds our capacity.

	31/01/2021	31/01/2022	31/01/2023	31/01/2024	Current
Beaver Scouts	43	60	58	42	40
Cub Scouts	63	78	61	80	80
Scouts	40	63	68	77	77
Total Youth Membership	**146**	**201**	**187**	**199**	**197**

In addition to the 197 youth members registered directly with 1st Marple, we host 50 Explorers and 16 Scout Network members that are formally registered at District and County level as required by Scouting rules. We view this as a technicality only – our two Explorer units and Network unit are as much a part of our family as are our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

And making it all happen are a small army of leaders and volunteers. We're grateful to have a slightly increased number of adult members since last year, with 37 energetic and enthusiastic leaders running our weekly unit meetings and an equally unstoppable team of 47 adult volunteers, including our Trustee Board which ensure our facilities are maintained (and improved), that our paperwork is up to date, that our finances are in order and that our leaders have the help and support that they need to continue to deliver the spectacular programme that we've become accustomed to.

On these occasions there's always a temptation to reel off a list of specific thank you's, which I'll try to avoid. Not because we aren't grateful (we truly are) but because doing so might give the false impression that we know the details of the time and effort spent by each of our volunteers and in some way are able to rank them. We value every one of you. Thank you for everything you do to ensure the success of our movement.

Our Next Chapter

As I think it will be apparent from the overview of our past year of activities, our Scout Group continues to provide a fantastic, rich and adventurous programme for those that are fortunate enough to secure a place in our membership. It is a regret that many of the 170 children that are on our waiting list will be unable to join us because we simply don't have the space to accommodate everyone in the nine youth sections that are hosted at our HQ today. We are proud of our place in Marple's community, and excited at the prospect that in the near future we'll be neighbours to Marple's new Community Hub, and the redevelopment that is happening around us has given us cause to think about the next chapter for 1st Marple Scouts.

Plans for development of our Headquarters are taking shape to support our future vision for Scouting in Marple. They include:

- A new outside area for controlled use of fires, since our existing area will be redeveloped (as car park) to support the Community Hub.
- Two additional meeting rooms, which will allow us to better support existing units and enable us to deliver additional Beaver, Cub and Scout and Explorer places that are necessary to better provide for those on our waiting list.
- Extended storage and improved access to our equipment for unit activities, camping, bonfire, Gang Show etc.
- Enhancements to the outside of our building to improve its appearance, since upon completion of the Marple Hub project our HQ will be much more visible than it is today, and we want our HQ to complement the new development.

There is still much to do, both in finalising the building plans and securing the necessary funding, but we're excited to have started the journey and are looking forward to turning our vision into reality.

Our organisation flourishes thanks to volunteers who give their time freely and enthusiastically to achieve a common goal – Scouting is about having fun, learning skills for life and building community. It works because we do it as a team, and it feels like we do a pretty good job of it. So to all those that have helped make our last twelve months a success, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks. And if, by chance, you're not already involved and like the sound of what we do, or what we're planning, come and speak to me and we'll welcome you into our Scouting family.

Debbie Spreckley
Group Lead Volunteer

Chair's Report 2024 – 2025

The year 2024-25 has been another successful year. This could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of Leaders and parent helpers who have made the development and enjoyment of all those young people who participate in Scouting in Marple their priority.

1st Marple is fortunate in both the numbers who volunteer and the dedication of its Leaders and this is one of the reasons why 1st Marple has been able to develop and sustain itself over such a long period of time. Of course, this is helped by the Group's continued commitment to the annual Gang

Show and its close relationship to Marple Guides.

Singling out individuals is never a good idea, but thanks need to go to Debbie Spreckley, our Lead Volunteer for way she has managed, what is a new role with Scouting and coordinating the tasks that need to be undertaken, with both her assistants and the unit leaders.

Debbie, in her report, has comprehensively outlined last year's scouting activities. For my part I would like to mention the fact that over this last year we have hosted Marple Library in our headquarters building. The library has become homeless as a result of the building of the new swimming pool and at the end of last year and following an approach, a decision was made to accommodate the library with the headquarters on two days in the week. This 'sharing of space' (albeit for a short period of time) was in the beginning seen by some as a little contentious but I can report that the arrangement is working well, and we feel that in accommodating them we have in small measure responded to the needs of the community in the spirit of Scouting.

As in previous years, the regular staple of community related activities have taken place: the Gang Show; the Community Bonfire; Marple Adventure Film Festival; the Model Railway Exhibition as well as letting our building out to a range of regular users from fitness groups to parents with toddlers. Each in their own way, not only give those participating a great deal of enjoyment but they also provide an important income stream that help enable us to run Scouting and support our units. Of course again, a number of these activities would not be able to take place without the input and dedication of Leaders who continue to give their own time to make these activities a success and we are extremely grateful to them for this.

Perhaps the next exciting new developments to take place relate to our estate. Firstly our plans to build new stores and possible even new meeting space on the current footprint is now progressing quite fast. This development will we hope give us the opportunity to considerably smarten up the outside appearance of the headquarters, something which should stand us in good stead. This is because when the NHS Clinic is demolished the public will be able to see the whole of the side of our building! With the Clinic gone, so too will be an area of green space that is now between the clinic and our building. To reclaim some green space that we can use and call our own, we have secured a license from the council to use the 'green space' between our building and the Senior Citizens Hall. Scouts will be able to use this for occasional outside activities. Wilmott Dixon have been helpful in clearing this land of rubble and reclamation is well under way.

Secondly over this last year we have been in touch with the Knowsley Estate in order secure a long lease for 1st Marple to use Cumberland Cottage. This project is exciting in that it will potentially give older scouts access to a 'bothy' experience as well as being able to reestablish the activities that took place at Cumberland Cottage by past generations.

As a consequence of hosting the Library our communication with Stockport Borough Council is much improved and with them using the building we have benefitted from a number of improvements thought to be essential in a public building (eg a new automatic front door, exterior lights and an internal alarm system) these will remain when the library moves out of the building.

The Trustee Board will now need to raise money to realise our plans for new space and ensure that the building of the new swimming pool does not impinge in any way our ability to operate. We are keen to ensure that we are disrupted as little as possible over the Scouting calendar, and we have

put in place safeguards within our agreement with the council that enable us to re-visit our arrangements should the need arise.

To conclude, the Group remains financially strong and Scouting in Marple remains much in demand. When thanking the leaders we also need to thank those members of the Trustee Board who oversee other important of running the Group, specifically, the overseeing of our training, of the finances and the general day-to-day maintenance of Headquarters. These activities often go all unseen, yet it is also done by volunteers.

Richard Thorpe
Chair of 1st Marple Scout Group

Awards and Achievements in the year

5 years' Service - Jenny Haddleton (September 2024)
Suzie Jupe (March 2025)
Alan Apps (July 2025)

10 years' Service - Ryan Nolan (June 2024)
Sarah Dawson (August 2024)

15 years' Service - Ollie Hibbs (July 2024)

20 years' Service - Mark Statham (February 2024)

25 Years Service - Mike Dyer (June 2025)

Chief Scouts Commendation - Thomas Wood (August 2024)

Wood Badge - Debbie Spreckley - GLV (September 2024)
Sarah Dawson (September 2024)
Adrian Tognarelli - Scout Leader (September 2024)

Independent examiner's report

The review performed considered the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025. This report relates to an independent examination carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. The examination was conducted in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The responsibility of the independent examiner was to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters were raised.

Basis of independent examiner's report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and sought explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In 2024/25 no matter has come to my attention, in connection with the examination, which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records for non-company charities have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

No material misstatements were noted based on the information reviewed. The financial notes describing the detail of accounting practices aligns with my understanding. Proportionate consolidation has been used to consolidate the gang show and bonfire accounts. Both draw up accounts to the end of the calendar year. As the year end is not more than 3 months prior to group year-end management have chosen to consolidate these accounts directly in the group account.

The independent review was performed on current year numbers only.

The group treasurer noted that the trustees took assurance over the bonfire and gang show accounts from separate independent reviews that are performed on the accounts from these activities.

Notes on the accounts 2024/2025

Based on the practice followed last year the Group accounts ending March 2020 have the receipts, expenditure and assets/liabilities from the individual units consolidated into the figures and 50% of the receipts, expenditure, assets/liabilities from the Gang Show and the Brabyns Community Bonfire (these being joint ventures with Marple Guides) have also been consolidated.

Note in relation to each line of Receipts

a. *Membership Subscriptions.* Subscriptions for members are paid into unit accounts and sections forward receipts to the Group for capitation payment to the District.

b. *Gang Show.* In normal periods this is an activity jointly organised with Marple Girl Guiding. Separate accounts are kept for the show by the Gang Show leadership team. These accounts are prepared with a year-end date of 31 December. The group's accounts for 2024/25 reflect our 50% interest. There are no other assets noted as all costs associated with buying, building or maintaining costumes and props are expensed each year.

3. *Bonfire.* This is a fundraising activity jointly organised with Marple Girl Guiding. The group's accounts for 2024/25 reflect our 50% interest.

4. *Plant sales.* Sales of plants (purchased from a third party and sold for a profit) is a fund-raising activity. Receipts are paid directly into Group accounts.

5. Rent *of Scout Headquarters*. Receipts relate to the renting out of the headquarters building to third party lettings.

6. *Donations received:* This value relates to donations that were made directly into central Group funds. Other small donations made to Section accounts are included in the section receipts numbers.

7. *Section Accounts (8 units of Scouting).* Each of the Scout units have a bank account in order to access an agreed level of funds and prepare a breakdown of receipts, payments and assets/liabilities for inclusion in the Group accounts. The review and monitoring processes for unit accounts are being developed further in 2024.

Note on Grants
Grants received are held in reserve until the work is completed.

Note in relation to each line of Expenditure

a. *Stockport District Capitations.* Subscriptions from members are paid into unit account and sections forward receipts to the Group for capitation payment to the District.
b. *Gang Show*. These figures are taken directly from the audited Gang Show accounts. See note 2 above.

c. *Bonfire.* These figures are taken directly from the bonfire accounts. See note 3 above.

d. *Plant sales.* As indicated above, this is a fund-raising activity, this figure represents the cost of the plants.
e. *Donations Made.* Donations have been made to support local groups.

f. *The 8 Units of Scouting Accounts.* See note 7 above.

g. *Group Running Cost.* These relate to payments in relation to District fees and also training payments for the voluntary leaders. In 2024/2025 payments to the District were made as usual.
h. *Scout Headquarters running payments.* This relates to gas, electrics, insurance, water, rates and scout hut building work/repairs.

Note in relation to a reserves policy

The Group retain enough funding to cover one years running cost of the Group.

Bonfire:
The annual Brabyn's Park Community Bonfire that takes place is managed by an experienced leadership team. Firework displays are organised and run by a professional firework display company and assistance and support are delivered by a number of the Group's most experienced leaders. Bonfire accounts are prepared to 31st December each year and consolidated into the group accounts.

Gang show:
The Gang Show is managed by an experienced leadership team that have been involved in this activity for many years. The Gang Show accounts are independently prepared. The accounts are prepared to 31st December and consolidated into the group accounts.

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP **CHARITY NUMBER 512057**

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD

1 APRIL 2024 to 31 MARCH 2025

	£	£
INCOME		
Members Subscriptions	24,377.82	
HMRC Tax Claim	4,442.42	
Gang Show	18,158.11	
Bonfire	16,419.00	
Plant Sales	5,180.13	
Rent of Scout Hut	4,140.87	
Donations Received	3,397.89	
Fundraising	280.56	
Bank Interest	544.19	
The 8 units of Scouting	20,747.30	
Special Hire Deal	20,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		**117,688.29**
EXPENDITURE		
Stockport District Capitations	11,232.00	
Gang Show	15,437.18	
Bonfire	7,888.39	
Plant Sales	3,424.96	
Donations made	619.94	
The 8 units of Scouting	30,136.12	
Group running costs	4,640.53	
Scout Hut running costs	12,198.27	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD		**- 85,577.39**
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		**32,110.90**
FINANCED BY:		
OPENING BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2024	102,166.49	
ADD SURPLUS INCOME	32,110.90	
CLOSING BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2025	**134,277.39**	

I have examined these accounts and the records on which they are based and certify that they constitute a true record of the same

The McInnes Partnership

The McInnes Partnership
Chartered Certified Accountants

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 512057

Accounts

Registered Scout number: 10010395
Charity number: 512057

1st Marple Scout Group

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st March 2024

Administrative details

Charity name 1st Marple Scout Group
Registered Charity No 512057

Principle Address 1st Marple Scout Group
Headquarters
Memorial Park
Marple
Stockport,
SK6 6BE

Charity Number 512057

Group Registration 10010395

Scout District Stockport District (Goyt until December 2018)

Scout County Greater Manchester East

Trustees

Trustee Name	Office
Dr Richard Thorpe	Chair Ex-Officio
David John Rainsbury	Treasurer Ex-Officio
John Dawson	Group Scout Leader Ex-Officio
Keith Frazer	Group Administrator Co-opted
Judith Pauline Roberts	Secretary Ex-Officio
Dan Hopwood	Elected as a Parent Representative
Julian Taylor	Elected as Quartermaster
Ed Speckley	Elected as Youth member
Katy Spreckley	Beaver Representative Ex-Officio
Marina Griffin	Cub Representative Ex-Officio
Tommy Tognarelli	Scout Representative Ex-Officio
Paul Marshall	Explorer Representative Ex-Officio
George Brady	Network Representative Ex-Officio
John Mills	Elected member
Stu Jupe	Elected member

Address for Correspondence

18, Ellesmere Avenue
Marple, Stockport
SK6 7AN

Independent Reviewer

Tina Mcauley Chartered Certified Accountant, The McInnes Partnership

Principal Bankers

Barclays Bank and National Westminster Bank

Structure Governance and Management

Introduction

1st Marple Scouts was founded in 1908 and has existed on substantially the same site for 115 years. The Group was until late 2017 part of Goyt District Scout Council but was transferred into Stockport District Scout Council in January 2018. The change in District resulted in us changing how we present our accounts these changes were first reflected in the 2017/18 accounts.

The Group Executive

The Group is run by a Group Executive Committee. Collectively this group acts to further the Group's aims as an educational charity. The trustees of the charity are responsible for ensuring that all decisions made by the Group Executive Committee comply with the current legislation governing and applicable to charities whilst at the same time ensuring observance of the common rules, as set out in the Scout Association's Policy Organisation and Rules (POR).

All the Executive Committee members act as trustees. The Executive consists of three non-uniformed, independent representatives – these being the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Uniformed members include, the Group Scout leader and Group Administrator, together with representatives from each of the eight sections (i.e. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) as well as a representative for the two District Explorer Units that Marple Scouts host. In 2019 the Executive Committee re-elected two members and co-opted another member. The Executive also has a youth representative amongst it number.

The Executive undertakes the necessary training as recommended by the Scout Association and are familiar with Trustee induction (formerly known as Essential Information for Executive Committees).

The Executive Committee meets approximately every three months and manages the administrative burden of the Group, including the Group's finances; insurances; the setting of subscription rates; approving the annual accounts; fund raising, governance; health, safety and safeguarding matters; the maintenance of the Headquarters building; relations with the public; the management of risk and the appointment of any advisors who might have specialist skills as appropriate.

Executive Committee Members 2024

Dr Richard Thorpe	Chair Ex-Officio
David John Rainsbury	Treasurer Ex-Officio
John Dawson	Group Scout Leader Ex-Officio
Keith Frazer	Group Administrator Co-opted
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Ed Speckley	Elected as Youth member
Katy Spreckley	Beaver Representative Ex-Officio
Marina Griffin	Cub Representative Ex-Officio
Tommy Tognarelli	Scout Representative Ex-Officio
Paul Marshall	Explorer Representative Ex-Officio
George Brady	Network Representative Ex-Officio
John Mills	Elected member

Stu Jupe Elected member

Method of appointment and induction of Trustees

In early 2018, commensurate with the retirement and recruitment of a number of new officers 1st Marple Scout Group began a process of review and instituted a gradual process of change to the appointment of trustees and members of the Executive Committee. This process has now been completed. The governance review has led to changes in the way our finances are reported and scrutinised, together with a review of the number and skill set of our trustees. Governance changes are ongoing and recent changes made are recorded in this 2023/2024 report to the Charity Commission. Another aspect of our focus on governance was a review of our estate and a decision taken to refurbish the Scout Headquarters in Memorial Park. This last year has again led to us securing grants which we can report have led to the completion of the project to refurbish the inside of the Scout Headquarters. These accounts show monies received for the purposes of this refurbishment.

Objectives

The objectives of the Group are as a branch of The Scout Association. The aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.
The Scouting Programme is provided to young people between the ages of 6 and 25. The Beaver Section covers the ages 6 to 8, Cubs cover 8 to 10 and a half, Scouts cover 10 and a half to 14, Explorers cover 14-to-18-year old's (coordinated by the Scout District) and Network covers 18 to 25 year old's (also coordinated by the Scout District).

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Group Lead Volunteer's Annual Report

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Dawson, who stepped down as Group Scout Leader last year. John's association with 1st Marple Scout Group dates back to the late 1980's when he joined our Group as a Cub Scout. Following an active career as a youth member John became an equally active leader both within 1st Marple, Goyt (latterly Stockport) district and Greater Manchester East Scout County. John accepted the role of Group Scout Leader in 2022 and despite presiding over a period during which the administrative demands of Scouting increased significantly, continued to be active in the leadership of Marple Explorers and in the organisation of foreign trips. If we attempted to summarise the impact that John has made on our Scout Group over the past forty-something years we really wouldn't do it justice, so I'll keep it short and say thank you again for your service and leadership.

1st Marple Scout Group continues to thrive, and remains one of the largest groups in the northwest. In recognition of both the size of our Scout Group and of the ever-increasing demands on Group Leadership when seeking a replacement Group Scout leader, we decided to co-opt three of them! Our Group Lead Volunteer role (as it is described today) has been filled by myself, Judith and Stu,

as you may have seen communicated when we took on the role earlier this year.

Our early months in office have been “interesting”. The outcome of the coroner’s inquest into a fatal accident during a Scouting activity on Great Orme in 2018 was published in February and has led to increased scrutiny and oversight over all activities carried out by Scouting. We would like to take this opportunity to commend our leaders for responding positively to changing rules and guidance and continuing to provide an active, challenging and safe environment for our young people. We would like also to recognise the support provided by the Stockport Scout District team in helping us navigate the changes and for their continued support and encouragement – which extends far beyond approving paperwork and communicating new regulations.

We’ve taken to circulating a termly bulletin containing highlights of our unit’s activities, so will keep the summary for this report brief; we choose to highlight a few of our more high-profile and adventurous activities as an illustration of the rich programme offered to our young people, and of the continuing positive impact that our Scout Group has on the local community:
Since our last AGM all sections have been camping. Quite a lot. We didn’t make an exhaustive list of where they’ve been for this report, but we counted at least 8 different camp sites across 3 countries. Together with Marple Guides we’ve staged our annual Gang Show and delivered another successful community Bonfire and Firework display in Brabyns Park. We’ve hosted a folk band, a weekend Railway Exhibition and an Adventure Film Festival. Our Scouts and Explorers have been Skiing in Austria, Camping in Scotland and in the Netherlands and our Scout Network were successful winners of the annual Dragnet competition, fending off the challenge from 46 other Explorer and Network teams from across the country. All this in addition to regular unit nights where our young people have learned new skills, sampled adventurous and educational activities and developed their teamwork and leadership skills.

Scouting in Marple is in great health. We are fortunate to count nearly 350 members and volunteers associated with our Group. Our youth membership is limited by the need to maintain manageable unit sizes – to maintain safe ratios of Leaders to youth members, to allow delivery of the rich and challenging programme that we’ve referenced earlier, and due to the constraints of space available at our Headquarters. We continue to maintain a significant waiting list which unfortunately exceeds our capacity.

	31/01/2021	31/01/2022	31/01/2023	Current
Beaver Scouts	43	60	58	42
Cub Scouts	63	78	61	80
Scouts	40	63	68	77
Total Youth Membership	**146**	**201**	**187**	**199**

In addition to the 199 youth members registered directly with 1st Marple, we host 40 Explorers and 22 Scout Network members that are formally registered at District level as required by Scouting rules. We view this as a technicality only – our two Explorer units and Network unit are as much a part of our family as are our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

And making it all happen are a small army of leaders and volunteers. We are blessed with 35 energetic and enthusiastic leaders running our weekly unit meetings and an equally unstoppable team of 47 adult volunteers, including our Executive team, which ensure our facilities are maintained (and improved), that our paperwork is up to date, that our finances are in order and that our leaders have the help and support that they need to continue to deliver the spectacular programme that we’ve become accustomed to.

On these occasions there's always a temptation to reel off a list of specific thank you's, which I'll try to avoid. Not because we aren't grateful (we truly are) but because doing so might give the false impression that we know the detail of the time and effort spent by each of our volunteers and in some way are able to rank them. We value every one of you. Thank you for everything you do to ensure the success of our movement.

I would like to finish by remembering, as mentioned in Richard's report, the recent and sad losses of Tommy Tognarelli and Gerald Fletcher. Both gave long and distinguished service to 1st Marple Scout Group and to our community. They were fantastic ambassadors for our movement, great role models and will be sadly missed.

Our organisation flourishes thanks to volunteers who give their time freely and enthusiastically to achieve a common goal – Scouting is about having fun, learning skills for life and building community. It works because we do it as a team, and it feels like we do a pretty good job of it. So from me, it's "well done" and Thank You!

And if, by chance, you're sat here and not already involved, come and speak to me later and we'll welcome you into our Scouting family.
Debbie Spreckley
Group Lead Volunteer

Awards and Achievements in the year

Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service
David Rainsbury
Ed Spreckley
Richard Thorpe

Thirty Years Service
John Dawson
Andy Spreckley

Twenty Five Years Service
Paul Marshall

Twenty Years Service
Mark Statham

Ten Years Service
Alison Fletcher
Judith Roberts

Five Years Service
JJ Crowther
David Edwards

Chairman's Report

Firstly, I must apologise for not being here in person at this year's AGM (it won't happen again!)

I'd like to begin by thanking those Leaders who stood up to the plate to volunteer their services when the District asked for volunteers to take on the role of Group Scout leader. This role has never been an easy job, given the size of the group and the decision to split the role into areas of responsibility under a Group Scout Leader lead supported by two assistant group Scout leaders has I think made the job more manageable and attractive given the workload involved.

Debbie, in her report has comprehensively outlined last year's scouting activities and I would just like to reiterate my thanks to all leaders and helpers who have contributed to ensuring that 1st Marple Scouts remains successful. Its success is not only in the programmes it runs for the units but also in the contribution it makes to wider community of Marple through activities such as Gang Show, the Community Bonfire as well as hosting activities such as Marple Adventure Film Festival and the model Railway Exhibition. Each in their own way, not only give a great deal of enjoyment but also provide important income streams that help enable us to run Scouting. These wouldn't happen but for the energy and dedication of those Leaders who continue to give their own time to make these activities a success and we are extremely grateful to them for this.

In relation to buildings, since last year there has been some significant progress with our plans to buy the 10 m² of land at the rear of the headquarters. We have also made a decision to license the currently spare land at the back of the Headquarters and around the Senior Citizens Hall. The thinking behind this, in part, is to replace the green triangle between us and the clinic that we will lose when the swimming pool is finally completed. The 10 m² we will purchase, and this will enable us to build up at the back and marginally increase the size of our stores, but it will more importantly enable us to reroof across the whole of the large hall, and removing the flat rooves on the current stores and garage. I'm pleased to be able to say that solicitors have been appointed to draw up the paperwork and when an opportunity presents itself, we will move to complete this work.

On the swimming pool front I can also report that we had gone from having almost no communication with the council in relation to what is happening and what access we would be likely to have to now, almost having too much! Currently, communication is on a daily basis! The reason for this, as you will already know, is because the council have asked us if they can use space within the Scout headquarters to accommodate a temporary library for the next 18 months. Again, as you will know we've responded to this request positively and we're currently working with the council to ensure that the building meets the standard required for the public. The Group Executive responded positively to the Council's request to hire space for two reasons. Firstly, we considered that it would be for a limited time only and secondly it would public spirited of us to help out the Council who were in a difficult position. As you are aware, we consulted widely with leaders before making a final decision and we can report that the vast majority responded positively to the proposed arrangements. We are reassured that there will be no disruption to our Scouting calendar, and we have put in place safeguards within our agreement that enable us to re-visit the arrangements if problems arise.

To conclude this report, the Group remains financially strong and Scouting in Marple remains much in demand. When thanking the leaders we also need to thank those members of the Executive who oversee other important aspects involved with running the Group, specifically, the training, overseeing our finances as well as the day-to-day maintenance of the Scout Headquarters. These activities often go all unseen, yet it is also done by volunteers.

I would also like to express sadness at the loss of two popular leaders this year – both to cancer. In their different ways both touched the lives of many Scouts and helped to pursue the aims of Scouting the reason we are all here.

Independent examiner's report

The review performed considered the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023. This report relates to an independent examination carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. The examination was conducted in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The responsibility of the independent examiner was to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission u nder section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters were raised.

Basis of independent examiner's report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and sought explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In 2023/24 no matter has come to my attention, in connection with the examination, which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records for non-company charities have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

No material misstatements were noted based on the information reviewed. The financial notes describing the detail of accounting practices aligns with my understanding. Proportionate consolidation has been used to consolidate the gang show and bonfire accounts. Both draw up accounts to the end of the calendar year. As the year end is not more than 3 months prior to group year-end management have chosen to consolidate these accounts directly in the group account.

The independent review was performed on current year numbers only.

The group treasurer noted that the trustees took assurance over the bonfire and gang show accounts from separate independent reviews that are performed on the accounts from these activities.

A

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP CHARITY NUMBER 512057
INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD
1 APRIL 2023 to 31 MARCH 2024

	£	£
INCOME		
Members Subscriptions	26,012.83	
HMRC Tax Claim	4,018.62	
Gang Show	12,302.58	
Bonfire	15,997.51	
Plant Sales	4,881.10	
Rent of Scout Hut	4,555.00	
Donations Received	2,110.71	
Fundraising	-	
Bank Interest	477.92	
The 8 units of Scouting	12,071.68	
Grant	-	
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		82,427.95
EXPENDITURE		
Stockport District Capitations	10,379.00	
Gang Show	6,292.20	
Bonfire	6,795.58	
Plant Sales	3,312.63	
Donations made	2,200.00	
The 8 units of Scouting	25,109.82	
Group running costs	6,751.00	
Scout Hut running costs	12,535.45	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD		- 73,375.68
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		9,052.27
FINANCED BY:		
OPENING BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2023	93,114.22	
ADD SURPLUS INCOME	9,052.27	
CLOSING BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2024	**102,166.49**	

I have examined these accounts and the records on which they are based and certify that they constitute a true record of the same

The McInnes Partnership

The McInnes Partnership
Chartered Certified Accountants

Notes on the accounts 2023/2024

Based on the practice followed last year the Group accounts ending March 2020 have the receipts, expenditure and assets/liabilities from the individual units consolidated into the figures and 50% of the receipts, expenditure, assets/liabilities from the Gang Show and the Brabyns Community Bonfire (these being joint ventures with Marple Guides) have also been consolidated.

Note in relation to each line of Receipts

a. *Membership Subscriptions.* Subscriptions for members are paid into unit accounts and sections forward receipts to the Group for capitation payment to the District.

b. *Gang Show.* In normal periods this is an activity jointly organised with Marple Girl Guiding. Separate accounts are kept for the show by the Gang Show leadership team. These accounts are prepared with a year-end date of 31 December. The group accounts for 2023/24 reflect our 50% interest. There are no other assets noted as all costs associated with buying, building or maintaining costumes and props are expensed each year.

3. *Bonfire.* This is a fundraising activity jointly organised with Marple Girl Guiding. The group accounts for 2023/24 reflect our 50% interest.

4. *Plant sales.* Sales of plants (purchased from a third party and sold for a profit) is a fund-raising activity. Receipts are paid directly into Group accounts.

5. Rent *of Scout Headquarters*. Receipts relate to the renting out of the headquarters building to third party lettings.

6. *Donations received:* This value relates to donations that were made directly into central Group funds. Other small donations made to Section accounts are included in the section receipts numbers.

7. *Section Accounts (8 units of Scouting).* Each of the Scout units have a bank account in order to access an agreed level of funds and prepare a breakdown of receipts, payments and assets/liabilities for inclusion in the Group accounts. The review and monitoring processes for unit accounts are being developed further in 2024.

Note on Grants
Grants received are held in reserve until the work is completed.

Note in relation to each line of Expenditure

a. *Stockport District Capitations.* Subscriptions from members are paid into unit accounts and sections forward receipts to the Group for capitation payment to the District.

b. *Gang Show*. These figures are taken directly from the audited Gang Show accounts. See note 2 above.

c. *Bonfire.* These figures are taken directly from the bonfire accounts. See note 3 above.

d. *Plant sales.* As indicated above, this is a fund-raising activity, this figure represents the cost of the plants.
e. *Donations Made.* Donations have been made to support local groups.

f. *The 8 Units of Scouting Accounts.* See note 7 above.

g. *Group Running Cost.* These relate to payments in relation to District fees and also training payments for the voluntary leaders. In 2023/2024 payments to the District were made as usual.
h. *Scout Headquarters running payments.* This relates to gas, electrics, insurance, water, rates and scout hut building work/repairs.

Note in relation to a reserves policy

The Group retain enough funding to cover one years running cost of the Group.

Bonfire:
The annual Brabyn's Park Community Bonfire that takes place is managed by an experienced leadership team. Firework displays are organised and run by a professional firework display company and assistance and support are delivered by a number of the Group's most experienced leaders. Bonfire accounts are prepared to 31st December each year and consolidated into the group accounts.

Gang show:
The Gang Show is managed by an experienced leadership team that have been involved in this activity for many years. The Gang Show accounts are independently prepared. The accounts are prepared to 31st December and consolidated into the group accounts.

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 512057

Accounts

Registered Scout number: 10010395
Charity number: 512057

1st Marple Scout Group

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st March 2023

Administrative details

Charity name	1st Marple Scout Group
Registered Charity No	512057
Principle Address	1st Marple Scout Group Headquarters Memorial Park Marple Stockport, SK6 6BE
Charity Number	512057
Group Registration	10010395
Scout District	Stockport District (Goyt until December 2018)
Scout County	Greater Manchester East

Trustees

Trustee Name	Office
Dr Richard Thorpe	Chair Ex-Officio
David John Rainsbury FCA	Treasurer Ex-Officio
John Dawson	Group Scout Leader Ex-Officio
Keith Frazer	Group Administrator Co-opted
Judith Pauline Roberts	Secretary Ex-Officio
John Spreckley	Co-opted
Dan Hopwood	Elected as a Parent Representative
Julian Taylor	Elected as Quartermaster
Ed Spreckley	Elected as Youth member
Katy Spreckley	Beaver Representative Ex-Officio
Marina Griffin	Cub Representative Ex-Officio
Tommy Tognarelli	Scout Representative Ex-Officio
George Brady	Network Representative Ex-Officio
John Mills	Elected member
Stu Jupe	Elected member

Address for Correspondence

2 Kings Drive
Marple Stockport
SK6 6NQ

Independent Reviewer

Tina Mcauley Chartered Certified Accountants

Principal Bankers

Barclays Bank and National Westminster Bank

Structure Governance and Management

Introduction

1st Marple Scouts was founded in 1908 and has existed on substantially the same site for 115 years. The Group was until late 2017 part of Goyt District Scout Council but was transferred into Stockport District Scout Council in January 2018. The change in District resulted in us changing how we present our accounts these changes were first reflected in the 2017/18 accounts.

The Group Executive

The Group is run by a Group Executive Committee. Collectively this group acts to further the group's aims as an educational charity. The trustees of the charity are responsible for ensuring that all decisions made by the Group Executive Committee comply with the current legislation governing and applicable to charities whilst at the same time ensuring observance of the common rules, as set out in the Scout Association's Policy Organisation and Rules (POR).

All the executive committee members act as trustees. The Executive consists of three non-uniformed, independent representatives – these being the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Uniformed members include, the Group Scout leader and Group Administrator, together with representatives from each of the eight sections (i.e. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) as well as a representative for the two District Explorer Units that Marple Scouts host. In 2019 the Executive Committee re-elected two members and co-opted another member. The executive also has a youth representative amongst it number and a representative from a County based Network Unit.

The Executive undertakes the necessary training as recommended by the Scout Association and are familiar with Essential Information for Executive Committees.

The Executive Committee meets approximately every three months and manages the administrative burden of the Group, including the Group's finances; insurances; the setting of subscription rates; approving the annual accounts; fund raising, governance; health, safety and safeguarding matters; the maintenance of the Headquarters Building; relations with the public; the management of risk and the appointment of any advisors who might have specialist skills as appropriate.

Executive Committee Members 2021

Dr Richard Thorpe	Chair Ex-Officio
David John Rainsbury FCA	Treasurer Ex-Officio
John Dawson	Group Scout Leader Ex-Officio
Keith Frazer	Group Administrator Co-opted
Judith Pauline Roberts	Secretary Ex-Officio
John Spreckley	Co-opted
Dan Hopwood	Elected as a Parent Representative
Julian Taylor	Elected as Quartermaster
Ed Spreckley	Elected as Youth member
Katy Spreckley	Beaver Representative Ex-Officio
Marina Griffin	Cub Representative Ex-Officio
Tommy Tognarelli	Scout Representative Ex-Officio
Paul Marshall	Explorer Representative Ex-Officio
George Brady	Network Representative Ex-Officio

John Mills	Elected member
Stu Jupe	Elected member

Method of appointment and induction of Trustees

In early 2018, commensurate with the retirement and recruitment of a number of new officers 1st Marple Scout Group began a process of review and instituted a gradual process of change to the appointment of trustees and members of the Executive Committee. This process has now been completed. The governance review has led to changes in the way our finances are reported and scrutinised, together with a review of the number and skill set of our trustees. Governance changes are ongoing and recent changes made are recorded in this 2022/2023 report to the Charity Commission. Another aspect of our focus on governance was a review of our estate and a decision taken to refurbish the Scout Headquarters in Memorial Park. This last year has again led to us securing grants which we can report has led to the competition of the project to refurbish the inside of the Scout Headquarters. These accounts show monies received for the purposes of this refurbishment.

Objectives

The objectives of the Group are as a branch of The Scout Association. The aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.
The Scouting Programme is provided to young people between the ages of 6 and 25. The Beaver Section covers the ages 6 to 8, Cubs cover 8 to 10 and a half, Scouts cover 10 and a half to 14, Explorers cover 14-to-18-year old's (coordinated by the Scout District) and Network covers 18 to 25 year old's (also coordinated by the Scout District and County respectively).

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Review of Activities by the Group Scout Leader

Earlier this year, we sadly lost our dear friend and fellow Scouter John Spreckley. John was a hugely influential figure in the Group for decades. He is remembered with fondness by all who knew him, for his commitment and dedication to Scouting, and was a true follower of the promise, always doing his best.
John was honoured by Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with the British Empire Medal (BEM) in recognition of outstanding service to the community of Marple, especially for supporting young people in Scouting and the Gang Show.
John served as Cub and Scout Leader at 1st Marple Scout Group, also a key player in the production team for the annual Gang Show. John was awarded the Silver Wolf, for services to Scouting of the most exceptional nature. An award which he deserved many times over.

It has been a very busy year for 1st Marple Scout Group as our leaders have continued to entertain, coach and enthuse our young people, providing a high-quality Scouting experience.

We currently have 187 young people taking part every week across the sections, with 58 Beavers, 61 Cubs and 68 Scouts. We do also have a substantial waiting list with a total of 178 young people eagerly waiting to join us. We want as many of them as possible to be able to take part and enjoy the benefits that Scouting offers them both now and throughout their lives, but we are constrained in that aim by time, premises and leader availability.

	31/01/2021	31/01/2022	31/01/2023
Beaver Scouts	43	60	58
Cub Scouts	63	78	61
Scouts	40	63	68
Total Youth Membership	**146**	**201**	**187**

These numbers do not include Explorer Scouts or Network members as they are formally registered at District level. There are two Explorer Scout Units and one Network section meeting weekly at Marple Scout Hut.

We have an energetic group of leaders with a team of 45 adults involved regularly – some attend every week and others on a less regular but equally valuable basis.

Most of our sections have benefited over the year with Young Leaders. These are young people under the age of 18 who are Explorers or undertaking assignments for their Duke of Edinburgh Award with college. They have been most excellent and an important part of our Leadership Teams for which we thank them.

Our volunteer leaders continue to deliver high quality programme in a safe environment, enabling young people to learn new skills while having fun. We are not going to dwell on the myriad activities undertaken by the sections, but they were fun, educational, challenging and (did we say) fun!
One of the absolute 2023 highlights for me has been The Three Cheers Marple Gang Show. Many thanks to everyone involved.

We are very lucky to have the use of the Scout Hut in the Memorial Park and I must especially thank John Mills and Keith Frazer and the Building Management Committee for their hard work over many years.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedicated help during the year from Phil Sumner, District Commissioner and Paul Barnes, Deputy Chair of Stockport District.

The AGM is an opportunity to recognise the fantastic contribution volunteers make to our communities and say thank you. We acknowledge and thank leaders (and other volunteers) - in our Group - who continue to support our young people. There have been challenges during the year, not-the-least the many occasions where a shortage of adult volunteers adds an additional strain on others who are committed to supporting our young people. That opportunity to support our young people as they grow and develop is exactly why we all do it! Of necessity, there are those that undertake two (or more) roles. I was told it's only one night a week and a week's annual camp. We all know that, in reality, it's a voluntary commitment that is far, far greater.
It is very difficult to measure the extent (and value) of this commitment. One way is to look at the number of years of adult service as recorded on our database. Such records are as good as the data inputted but a quick analysis reveals that our adult volunteers have given in excess of 650 person-years to Scouting in Marple (or elsewhere). For others, including parents and other supporters, such information is scant. There are a few volunteers in Marple with service approaching 50 years. For

some their journey has been much shorter but whatever the commitment has been - and will be - it is much appreciated.

It is appropriate at this time I mention, particularly, three adult volunteers:

- David Rainsbury has supported Marple Scout Group for over a decade as Treasurer. David's attention to detail is noteworthy, ensuring our accounts are fit-for-purpose. The role of Treasurer is often a demanding one - responding to the many requests from leaders.
- Richard Thorpe has supported Marple Scout Group for over a decade. We recognise his commitment as Chairman and valuable contribution – thank you for undertaking such a key role. Everything that has been achieved is much appreciated.
- Katy Spreckley is stepping down as Beaver Scout Leader. Our enormous thanks to Katy, for all the time and energy you have given to Beavers. It was a pleasure for me to present Katy with the Award for Merit in 2021.

The year ahead looks very exciting for 1st Marple Scout Group, with leaders planning a great programme, including a Norway adventure for Explorer Scouts (August 2023) and a skiing trip to Austria for the Scouts (February 2024).

Scouting is about having fun, learning skills for life and building community – we all strive to achieve these aims. The job of keeping this successful Scout Group alive and healthy is a continuous challenge. To keep the levels of volunteer support healthy and this Group's future bright, I urge any parent or family member to come along and feel free to help for whatever amount of time you have to give.

I would like to thank all the leaders, along with Group Executive members and supporters who have demonstrated continued commitment to Scouting in Marple.

John Dawson – Group Scout Leader

Awards and Achievements in the year

Silver Wolf

Keith Frazer

Keith received the Silver Acorn in May 2022. He has variously been:

- Assistant Section Leader
- Group Venture leader
- County Network Administrator
- Group Scout Leader
- Up to 2003 he was directly involved in the Gang Show and similarly with the Bonfire

Silver Acorn

Andy Spreckley

Fifteen Years Service

Chris Plumb
Jonathan Nolan
Stuart Jupe

Ten Years Service

Joe Ward

Five Years Service
David Rainsbury
John Mills

Chairman's Report

The period 2022/23 saw the Group finally returning to what might be seen as fully operational following the disruption caused by the pandemic.
The Group's units were, for the first time in a long time, able to plan their usual diet of activities for members and all the Group's fundraising activities were restarted during the year.
Our first fundraising activity was the plant sales. Learning from the necessity of having to organise and with electronic payment online during the pandemic, this activity was well supported and thanks should go to Ed Spreckley and his team for their efforts this year. St George's day followed and we can report a good turnout.
In November after an absence of two years the Group, together with Marple Guides organised our 50th anniversary community bonfire. With a new bonfire team and a new format, the bonfire proved a resounding success. Thanks should go to all members of the new committee as well as all those who help on the day to make this event the success it proved to be. The major innovations were internet purchase of tickets and bar code scanning of tickets on the gate(s) which ensured that we know how many people who had attended and no cash was held at the venue.
In November Tommy and Adi Tognarelli, ran another Marple Adventure Film Festival in the Scout Headquarters. Spread over two evenings, and following the success from the year before, this event was quickly sold out. The event made a significant contribution to Group funds and thanks should go to Tommy and Adi and all those who helped on the night for their efforts.
The period 2022/23 was a period when those Scouts who were attending the World Jamboree in Korea did their fundraising. One fundraising activity of note organised, and managed by those who attended was a model railway exhibition in the Scout Headquarters. Suggestions have been made that this event should become an annual staple for the group. Attended by young and old, thanks should go to Ed, Aiden, Charlie and Ben for their efforts in making this event such a success.
The last year has seen some movement on the development around the swimming pool (community hub) in memorial park. I am pleased to report that we now have a clearer idea as to what is being planned and how it will affect the Scout Headquarters. Useful contacts have been made with local councilors as well as with officers from Stockport Council. We are now much more confident that our plans to re-roof the main hall and enlarge our stores will come to fruition sooner rather than later.
To conclude, I can report that the Group remains in a strong financial situation and with waiting lists for all units Scouting continues to be much in demand in Marple and the surrounding area. Of course, this would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the very many volunteers that work to make the experience of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network as good as it can possibly be. Thanks need to also extended to parents and helpers as well as to members of the executive committee in particular John Dawson who stood down from his role as Group Scout Leader.
I would like to remember all those who passed away during the last year in particular John

Spreckley. John had been connected to Scouts for nearly 70 years from being a Scout himself to taking on various roles with the Group.

Richard Thorpe Chair – 1st Marple Scout Group Executive Committee

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP **CHARITY NUMBER 512057**

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD

1 APRIL 2022 to 31 MARCH 2023

	£	£
INCOME		
Members Subscriptions	18,852.86	
HMRC Tax Claim	4,307.63	
Gang Show	13,012.31	
Bonfire	16,085.87	
Plant Sales	3,722.15	
Rent of Scout Hut	3,360.00	
Donations Received	2,010.20	
Fundraising	0.00	
Bank Interest	142.99	
The 8 units of Scouting	14,941.99	
Grant	0.00	
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		**76,436.00**
EXPENDITURE		
Stockport District Capitations	9,630.50	
Gang Show	11,951.70	
Bonfire	6,756.72	
Plant Sales	2,439.45	
Donations made	500.00	
The 8 units of Scouting	20,590.66	
Group running costs	7,405.05	
Scout Hut running costs	26,747.76	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD		**-86,021.84**
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		**-9,585.84**

FINANCED BY:	
OPENING BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2022	102,700.06
ADD SURPLUS INCOME	-9,585.84
CLOSING BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2023	93,114.22

I have examined these accounts and the records on which they are based and certify that they constitute a true record of the same

The McInnes Partnership

The McInnes Partnership
Chartered Certified Accountants

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP **CHARITY NUMBER 512057**

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD

1 APRIL 2022 to 31 MARCH 2023

	£	£
INCOME		
Members Subscriptions	18,852.86	
HMRC Tax Claim	4,307.63	
Gang Show	13,012.31	
Bonfire	16,085.87	
Plant Sales	3,722.15	
Rent of Scout Hut	3,360.00	
Donations Received	2,010.20	
Fundraising	0.00	
Bank Interest	142.99	
The 8 units of Scouting	14,941.99	
Grant	0.00	
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		**76,436.00**
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The McInnes Partnership

The McInnes Partnership
Chartered Certified Accountants

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 512057

Accounts

Registered Scout number: 10010395
Charity number: 512057

1st Marple Scout Group

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st March 2022

Administrative details

Charity name 1st Marple Scout Group
Registered Charity No 512057

Principle Address 1st Marple Scout Group
Headquarters
Memorial Park
Marple
Stockport,
SK6 6BE

Charity Number 512057

Group Registration 10010395

Scout District Stockport District (Goyt until December 2018)

Scout County Greater Manchester East

Trustees

Trustee Name	Office
Dr Richard Thorpe	Chair
David John Rainsbury FCA	Treasurer
Keith Frazer	Group Administrator
Judith Pauline Roberts	Secretary

Address for Correspondence

2 Kings Drive
Marple Stockport
SK6 6NQ

Independent Reviewer

Tina Mcauley Chartered Certified Accountants

Principal Bankers

Barclays Bank and National Westminster Bank

Structure Governance and Management

Introduction

1st Marple Scouts was founded in 1908 and has existed on substantially the same site for 114 years. The Group was until late 2017 part of Goyt District Scout Council but was transferred into Stockport District Scout Council in January 2018. The change in District resulted in us changing how we present our accounts these changes were first reflected in the 2017/18 accounts.

The Group Executive

The Group is run by a Group Executive Committee. Collectively this group acts to further the group's aims as an educational charity. The trustees of the charity are responsible for ensuring that all decisions made by the Group Executive Committee comply with the current legislation governing and applicable to charities whilst at the same time ensuring observance of the common rules, as set out in the Scout Association's Policy Organisation and Rules (POR).

The Executive Committee consists of three non-uniformed, independent representatives – these being the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Uniformed members include, the Group Scout leader and Group Administrator, together with representatives from each of the eight sections (i.e. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) as well as a representative for the two District Explorer Units that Marple Scouts host. In 2019 the Executive Committee re-elected two members and co-opted another member. The executive also has a youth representative amongst it number.

The Executive undertakes the necessary training as recommended by the Scout Association and are familiar with Essential Information for Executive Committees.

The Executive committee meets approximately every three months and manages the administrative burden of the Group, including the Group's finances; insurances; the setting of subscription rates; approving the annual accounts; fund raising, governance; health, safety and safeguarding matters; the maintenance of the Headquarters Building; relations with the public; the management of risk and the appointment of any advisors who might have specialist skills as appropriate.

<u>Executive Committee Members 2021</u>

Richard Thorpe	– Group Chair	Charity Trustee
David Rainsbury	- Group Treasurer	Charity Trustee
Judith Roberts	- Group Secretary	Charity Trustee
John Dawson	- Group Scout Leader	
Keith Frazer	- Group Administrator	Charity Trustee
Katy Spreckley	- Beaver section representative	
Marina Griffith	- Cub section representative	
Thomas Tognarelli	- Scout section representative	
Paul Marshall	- Explorer section representative	
Edward Spreckley	- Youth Representative	
Stuart Jupe	- Elected member	

John Spreckley - Co-opted member
John Mills - Elected member
Julian Taylor - Co-opted member
George Brady - Network Representative
Dan Hopwood - Parent Representative

Method of appointment and induction of Trustees

In early 2018, commensurate with the retirement and recruitment of a number of new officers 1st Marple Scout Group began a process of review, the first phase of this process is now nearing completion. One aspect of this focused-on governance, focused on refurbishing the scout headquarters in Memorial Park. The governance review has led to changes in the way our finances are reported and scrutinised, together with a review of the number and skill set of our trustees. Governance changes are ongoing and further changes will be reported in the 2021/2022 report to the Charity Commission. In relations to buildings, we have continued to secure grants to complete the refurbishment of the inside of the Scout Headquarters. These accounts show grants secured for the refurbishment of the floors in all parts of the building and the complete renovation of the kitchen.

Objectives

The objectives of the Group are as a branch of The Scout Association. The aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.
The Scouting Programme is provided to young people between the ages of 6 and 25. The Beaver Section covers the ages 6 to 8, Cubs cover 8 to 10 and a half, Scouts cover 10 and a half to 14, Explorers cover 14-to-18-year old's (coordinated by the Scout District) and Network covers 18 to 25 year old's (coordinated by the Scout County).

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Review of Activities by the Group Scout Leader

This year saw a change in the role of Group Scout Leader. In 2021 Keith Frazer stepped down after nine years in the role. Keith Frazer contribution to Marple Scouts has been huge – giving 48 years dedicated service to the Group and still actively involved. It is certainly true that the Group wouldn't be the success that it is today without his contribution and thanks are extended to him and the commitment and leadership he has shown over the years.

The year has again been an unusual one, dominated by the latter stages of the COVID pandemic. Even though the year has been a difficult one, as with the year

before it has brought out the best in people. It has for example demonstrated the generosity of our volunteers and seen them at their most resourceful, adaptable, and creative. This has also been true for the parents, members and carers who have always been supportive and working in difficult circumstances often invigorated what we do. Sometimes reflecting on the small changes that can be made in how we provide our program can make a big difference.

Unfortunately, yet again, our largest fundraising event of the year, the community bonfire had to be cancelled 2021 but the good news is that the 2022 community bonfire will go ahead. This year we will celebrate our 50th anniversary bonfire falling as it does this year on November 5th.

This calendar year Scouting has come back to life, emerging from the toughest of recent times and there is every indication that it has come back stronger. Our aim is that it continues long into the future and our ambition is to provide the Group with the resources for membership to expand in order that more young people in the local community have the opportunity to join in the activities delivered in our various sections.

When asked what we have been up to since the early part of the year the answer might well be - what haven't we – and we've seen the full return to face-to-face Scouting for all sections. They're as we reported last year, we did lose some members as a result of the pandemic, but at the time of this report we can now announce that returned to the numbers and levels of activity that we enjoyed before the pandemic. Of particular satisfaction is the fact that throughout the period we retained our complement of leaders, making our return to Scouting that much easier.

This calendar year, Beavers have been completing many challenges, the Cubs have been camping and the Scouts have been getting stuck into traditional scouting skills and Explorers taking part in adventurous activities.

One of the highlights of 2022 has been the return of Three Cheers Marple Gang Show. The venue as always was the Carver Theatre. It was wonderful to see everyone back together and thanks are due to everyone involved.

As we emerge from the pandemic is clearer than ever to see how important Scouting is in Marple and will continue to be, for young people, families, and the local communities in which we live.
We have seen a 38% increase in youth membership.

	31/01/2021	**31/01/2022**
Beaver Scouts	43	60
Cub Scouts	63	78
Scouts	40	63
Total Youth Membership	**146**	**201**

Currently sections are led by 31 warranted leaders, assisted by occasional helpers, young leaders and parent helpers to which we are extremely grateful. Our executive comprises 15 individuals who work together to support the sections. These numbers don't include Explorer Scouts or Network members as

these are formally registered at District and County levels respectively. There are two Explorer Scout units attached to 1st Marple and one Network Section which meet on a weekly basis in Marple.

Buildings and Estates
We are pleased to announce that through the unwavering support of the group executive committee and building committee, we've been able to complete nearly all of our long-term plans in respect of refurbishing the Scout headquarters. Concluding these refurbishments has been the competition of an entirely new kitchen.

Training and Development
Judith Roberts and the County Training Team have continued to work incredibly hard throughout the year, often making use of virtual, hybrid and face-to-face training sessions, and other digital training resources to ensure that Leaders are able to keep their qualifications up to date. This year we have continued to focus on compliance issues so as to ensure that we are able to keep our young people safe – this remains at the heart of what we do.
Finances
We are pleased to be able to report that out finances are in good health shape. This is largely due to the dedication and hard work of our treasure David Rainsbury. David has always offered us his wise counsel and ensured that we are able to benefit from any Government schemes to which we are entitled. The healthy state of our finances even after such a difficult financial period speaks for itself.

Support from the District and County
We must also make note of the support and dedicated help we have enjoyed from firstly our District Commissioner Phil Sumner and his team and secondly from the County through our County Commissioner Steve Holloway and his team.

Conclusion
We currently have a strong and effective leadership team in all sections. But we are not complacent and recognize the need to plan ahead and encourage new leaders to come and join us. This will in turn ensure that the Group remains sustainable in the years to come, particularly when some of our long serving more established leaders retire from active service.

Lisa Bintliff is a case in point. She is in the process of stepping down as Beaver Scout leader. Lisa has provided fun activities for hundreds of young people aged 6 to 8 through the provision of a high-quality programme. We offer our thanks to Lisa for all the hard work she has done for 1st Marple and the Beavers over the years and in doing so, we know that her Beavers will be in the safe hands of Michelle Maryan as she takes over the leadership role. The executive in their turn will ensure that she receives all the support she needs.

Thank you again to all those who have helped Marple Scouts over this last year. Now that we are all active once again after some very difficult years we can now move forward with our plans to expand our programme of activities in the forthcoming year. Without the Leaders, Scouting simply couldn't remain so vibrant and successful as it is.

John Dawson – Group Scout leader

Awards and Achievements in the year

Silver Wolf
Keith Frazer
Keith received the Silver Wolf in 2022. He has previously held the roles below:

- Assistant Section Leader
- Group Venture leader
- County Network Administrator
- Group Scout Leader
- Up to 2003 he was directly involved in the Gang Show and similarly with the Bonfire till 2019

Award of Merit
Katy Spreckley

Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service
Ollie Hibbs
Rob Roberts
Debbie Spreckley
Julian Taylor
Joe Ward

Twenty Years Service
Tommy Tognarelli

Fifteen Years Service
Fallon Tognarelli

Ten Years Service
Debbie Spreckley
Julian Taylor
Tom Wood

Five Years Service
Rachel Bray
Matthew Burnyeat
Marina Griffin
Alec Maryan
Richard Thorpe
David Rainsbury

Chairman’s Report

The period 2021 to 2022 continued to represent a challenge to leaders, members, parents and supporters, particularly in the early months of the year. It's easy to forget, now that things are more or less back to normal, just how uncertain things were and how difficult that period was like.

As in last year’s report it is important to record how grateful we were for the dedication of all those leaders who did what they could to keep in touch with and

run their sections in those extraordinary times. Given this, this report must begin with the same expression of gratitude as last year, even if, things weren't quite as difficult as they were the year before.
In 2020 – 21 we found ourselves still very much restricted in relation to those regular activities we normally take part in throughout the year. However, in this last year a number of our annual activities did take place.

From June in 2021 onwards there was a great deal of discussion about whether we might be able to host the annual community bonfire – our 50th. The ever-present risk of there being another lockdown and the financial implications of purchasing and storing fireworks that we might not use, together with the health risks of crowds gathering if there was an upsurge in inflections made us cancel this event for another year. In retrospect this prove to be the correct decision as the new Omicron variant did start to get more wide spread in the population in October.

The two-year gap that has taken place between bonfires has seen a number of the bonfire organisers retire and others move away. This has in turn led to the Joint Scout and Guide Bonfire Committee re-forming their delivery team and reassessing how the Bonfire might be organized. This reconstituted committee have met and are now well on the way to planning our 50th Scout and Guide Community Bonfire. Much will be the same but some new innovations will be instituted. For example, the next Bonfire will be cashless, eliminating the risks associated with handling cash at the gate. Also, the intention is to hire a professional company to oversee security in the park whilst the bonfire is in progress. It is important that we should thank all those that have taken active roles in the bonfire committee in the past and also to wish those who are part of the new committee every success. The bonfire is an important fund raising activity both for the Scouts and the Guides.

Whereas the bonfire didn't happen this last year, the Joint Scout and Guide Gang Show did. The year before, this event was cancelled on the Monday before the first performance was due to take place on the Thursday! Even though there had been a gap of two years since rehearsals took place the majority of the original 2020 cast, which had invested so much rehearsal time, were able to perform the show. Thanks are due to all those who made this year show a success, particularly Steve Spreckley for his work as director.

This last year we also managed to restart our plant sales fund raising activity. This year, and for the second year running this was managed by taking all electronic payments. The fact that the timing of plant sales came immediately after a period of lockdown meant that members of the public and voluntary helpers were able to enter the headquarters in groups in numbers greater than six, which had been the rule up until then. We need to thank all of those leaders who helped this years plant sales fund raising activity be the success it was.

Building

This year saw the completion of the kitchen and with it the end of the so-called ‘phase 1’ refurbishment plan for the scout headquarters. This ‘phase 1’ plan commenced over five years ago now and it is really exciting to see that it has now been concluded successfully. Completed this year were the floors in both halls, the Network Suite and finally the kitchen along with a number of smaller

jobs. Thanks are due to all members of the building subcommittee for planning and organizing for this work to be done as well as a range of charities, both local and national, which donated towards the costs of the refurbishment. For example, The New Mills Marple and District Rotary Club; the National Lottery Awards for all Scheme and generous donations closer to home from Marple Adventure Film Festival; the Marple Beer Run and a very a very generous legacy from someone who had benefitted from Scouting in Marple (Mrs Jean Buckley) and left a donation to the scouts in her will. 'Phase 2' of the project is now ongoing. This involves reroofing the hall and at the same time extending the stores. Plans have been discussed and quotations for the work have been sought. Unfortunately, what is preventing us commencing the work is Borough Council. They are waiting to finalise their plans for what they intend to do in respect to the swimming pool and they do not wish to make a decision on divesting themselves of 10 square meters of land until decisions are made in respect of the pool.

Overall, the year has been a successful one and numbers have now returned to the same levels they were pre-pandemic. None of what we have achieved, often in challenging circumstances would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Leaders, helpers and the Executive Committee and for this we owe them our thanks.

Richard Thorpe

Chair 1st Marple Scouts Executive Committee

Notes on the accounts 2021/2022

Based on the practice followed last year the Group accounts ending March 2020 have the receipts, expenditure and assets/liabilities from the individual units consolidated into the figures and 50% of the receipts, expenditure, assets/liabilities from the Gang Show and the Brabyns Community Bonfire (these being joint ventures with Marple Guides) have also being consolidated.

Note in relation to each line of Receipts

Membership Subscriptions. Subscriptions for members are paid into unit accounts and sections forward receipts to the Group for capitation payment to the District.

Gang Show. In normal periods this is an activity jointly organised with Marple Girl Guiding. Separate accounts are kept for the show by the Gang Show leadership team. These accounts are prepared with a year-end date of 31 December. The group accounts for 2021/22 reflect our 50% interest, however, due to the pandemic the Gang Show was cancelled at the last minute, and circumstances on refunds offered and amount not taken up?

There are no other assets noted as all costs associated with buying, building or maintaining costumes and props are expensed each year.

Bonfire. This is a fundraising activity jointly organised with Marple Girl Guiding. The group accounts for 2021/22 reflect our 50% interest. due to the pandemic the Bonfire was cancelled in 2021.

Plant sales. Sales of plants (purchased from a third party and sold for a profit) is a fund-raising activity. The activity spanned the financial year end.

Rent of Scout Headquarters. Receipts relates to the renting out of the headquarters building to third party lettings.

Recognition of Marple Scout Hut as an asset: The title absolute is held by THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION TRUST CORPORATION Gilwell Park, Chingford, London. The value of the asset has therefore not been included in the Marple Scout Association group accounts. The cost of maintenance and improvements to Marple Scout Hut are expensed in the Marple Group Accounts.

Donations received: This value relates to donations that were made directly into central Group funds. Other small donations made to Section accounts are included in the section receipts numbers.

Section Accounts. Each of the Scout units have a bank account in order to access an agreed level of funds and prepare a breakdown of receipts, payments and assets/liabilities for inclusion in the Group accounts.

Note in relation to each line of Expenditure

Gang Show. These figures are taken directly from the audited Gang Show accounts. See note on Gang Show above.

Bonfire. These figures are taken directly from the bonfire accounts. See note on Bonfire above. The bonfire did not take place in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Plant sales. As indicated above, this is a fund-raising activity, this figure represents the cost of the plants.

Donations Made. Donations have been made to support local groups.

Section Accounts. See note on section accounts above.

Group Running Cost. These relate to payments in relation to District fees and also training payments for the voluntary leaders. In 2021/2022 payments to the District were made as usual.

Note in relation to a reserves policy

The Group retain enough funding to cover one years running cost of the Group.

Bonfire:
The annual Brabyn's Park Community Bonfire that takes place is managed by an experienced leadership team. Firework displays are organised and run by a professional firework display company and assistance and support are delivered by a number of the Group's most experienced leaders. No bonfire took place in 2020. The accounts are prepared to 31st December 2020 and consolidated into the group accounts.

Gang show:
The Gang Show is managed by an experienced leadership team that have been involved in this activity for many years. The Gang Show accounts are independently prepared.

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP **CHARITY NUMBER 512057**

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD

1 APRIL 2021 to 31 MARCH 2022

	£	£
INCOME		
Members Subscriptions	20,964.34	
HMRC Tax Claim	1,610.11	
Gang Show	10,144.29	
Bonfire	-	
Plant Sales	3,228.00	
Rent of Scout Hut	2,050.00	
Donations Received	12,034.74	
Fundraising	1,048.69	
Bank Interest	4.82	
The 8 units of Scouting	7,848.43	
Grant	9,500.00	
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		**68,433.42**
EXPENDITURE		
Stockport District Capitations	9,045.00	
Gang Show	6,975.08	
Bonfire	-	
Plant Sales	3,650.41	
Donations made	70.00	
The 8 units of Scouting	13,450.03	
Group running costs	1,632.13	
Scout Hut running costs	19,858.74	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD		**- 54,681.39**
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		**13,752.03**
FINANCED BY:		
OPENING BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2021	88,948.03	
ADD SURPLUS INCOME	13,752.03	
CLOSING BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2022	**102,700.06**	

I have examined these accounts and the records on which they are based and certify that they constitute a true record of the same

The McInnes Partnership

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INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD

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The McInnes Partnership
Chartered Certified Accountants

1ST MARPLE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 512057

Accounts

Registered Scout number: 10010395
Charity number: 512057

1st Marple Scout Group

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st March 2021

Administrative details

Charity name 1st Marple Scout Group
Registered Charity No 512057

Principle Address 1st Marple Scout Group
Headquarters
Memorial Park
Marple
Stockport,
SK6 6BE

Charity Number 512057

Group Registration 10010395

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Scout County Greater Manchester East

Trustees

Trustee Name	Office
Dr Richard Thorpe	Chair
David John Rainsbury FCA	Treasurer
Keith Frazer	Group Scout Leader
Judith Pauline Roberts	Secretary

Address for Correspondence

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SK6 6NQ

Independent Reviewer

Thomas Ridgway CA

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Barclays Bank and National Westminster Bank

Structure Governance and Management

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<u>Executive Committee Members 2021</u>

Richard Thorpe – Group Chair Charity Trustee
David Rainsbury - Group Treasurer Charity Trustee
Judith Roberts - Group Secretary Charity Trustee
Keith Frazer - Group Scout Leader Charity Trustee
Marjorie Bennett - Beaver section representative
Marina Griffith - Cub section representative
Thomas Tognarelli - Scout section representative
Paul Marshall - Explorer section representative
Edward Spreckley - Youth Representative (Also Network member and District Youth Commissioner)
Stuart Jupe - Elected member
John Spreckley - Co-opted member

John Mills - Co-opted member
Rob Roberts - Network Representative

Method of appointment and induction of Trustees

In early 2018, commensurate with the retirement and recruitment of a number of new officers 1st Marple Scout Group began a process of review, the first phase of this process is now nearing completion. One aspect of this focused-on governance, focused on refurbishing the scout headquarters in Memorial Park. The governance review has led to changes in the way our finances are reported and scrutinised, together with a review of the number and skill set of our trustees. Governance changes are ongoing and further changes will be reported in the 2021/2022 report to the Charity Commission. In relations to buildings, we have continued to secure grants to complete the refurbishment of the inside of the Scout Headquarters. These accounts show grants secured for the refurbishment of the floors in all parts of the building.

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The Group meets the Charity Commission’s public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Review of Activities by the Group Scout Leader

The 2020/21 1st Marple Scout Group year commenced in during the first lockdown of the pandemic. This meant that no face-to-face scouting activities were permitted to take place. Those activities that did take place were via one of the communication portals, Teams, Zoom or Skype. The leaders were able to use Zoom, but it was left to their own discretion whether they wanted to organize virtual meetings for their units. I was always very conscious of what their own personal circumstances might be, with many having to juggle working from home, educating their children and looking after wider family. Those sections that did however organise virtual scouting (which included a variety of activities) reported that the uptake was about 50%. As the year progressed, numbers did decrease and the term, 'zoomed out' began to be heard increasingly often. This, all things considered was understandable. Once the Covid restrictions were relaxed in early summer, Scouting was allowed to return to face-to-face meetings outdoors but with the caveat that there be a limit on numbers. Again,

although this was seen as a step forward, it was also weather dependent and again, I was conscious that the leaders also needed to feel that they weren't been pressured to commence outdoor activities if they weren't comfortable doing so. However, this was short lived due to Scouting in Manchester returning to Red status when the region was moved into Tier 4. At this point Zoom returned but in a very limited way. This pattern continued until the end of our year.

Covid 19 and lock down had an effect on the annual census conducted in January 2021. This showed that Group numbers had decreased by approximately 30% in relation to the previous year. This was drop was reflected in returns across the Country. January's numbers identified 146 members (43 Beavers, 63 Cubs, and 40 Scouts). As members have been lost over the year, it does allow us to offer more places once we return from our waiting lists. As a consequence, we expect to be back to capacity by the end of 2021. We currently have 153 on the waiting list, many of which are already 6 years old but sadly we have been unable to offer them a place. The same situation also applies to a number of young people of cub age. The numbers we can take are affected by the availability of trained leaders. If the numbers of leaders in a section drops then the number of children that can be offered a place is affected for reasons of safeguarding. We are very conscious that we cannot offer places in Marple Scouts to all the young people who would like to experience Scouting because of the large catchment area we cover. Last year we discussed with the Stockport Scout District Team, of which we are part, the possibility of opening a new scout group in the surrounding area. However, this plan would be dependent on finding new leaders and a suitable venue. Sadly, this situation has not been able to be moved forwards at this particular time.

Our sections are led by 39 warranted leaders, assisted by 34 adults who support the sections as Executive Committee members, Occasional Helpers and section assistants. We are also supported by Young Leaders and parent helpers for which I remain extremely grateful. These numbers don't include Explorers or Network members as these are formally registered at District and County levels respectively. There are two Explorer Sections that use our premises and one Network section.

This year, the levy charged by the District; County and National Scouting bodies was £42.00 per member. We made the decision in March, not to collect the summer subscription as there was no face-to-face Scouting. As the restrictions continued the Group asked sections to ask for a contribution of £50 subs to cover the membership of the youngsters. A number of sections felt unhappy asking for this as they were not meeting. They therefore covered this sum from their own funds. To assist in the running of the group we have *Compass*, the Scouting management database. The sections use *Online Scout Manager* to assist the running of their sections. This system makes organisational tasks easier including the claiming of Gift Aid. This year (2020-2021) our claim was for £5200.00. We do expect that this figure will be much reduced in the coming year. Can I use this communication to remind parents / guardians to check that all the details we hold are correct and if not are updated. The Group finances are still sound having been able to claim several grants available during the Covid period. Even though rarely been used this has enabled allowed us to maintain the building throughout the year.

Work has continued over the year, despite lockdown to make the HQ 'Covid compliant'. It has been regularly cleaned and ready for so should the situation change for the better the HQ could be used. However, refurbishment has been on hold but hopefully will be able to commence shortly. I am very grateful to the exec committee for their continued work behind the scenes during lockdown.

Unfortunately, our traditional fundraising events were all cancelled but we are looking forward to being able to run all our usual activities in the future.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team of Leaders and Young Leaders that assist the running of the sections, but we can always use more – I offer a warm welcome to all those who have joined us over the year. We also continue to be reliant on the support we receive from parents on a day-to-day basis, and I wish to express my gratitude for this support. But again, I must reiterate that we do need more. There is still a shortage of adults prepared to take on a leadership role within the different sections, support would also be welcome on the executive, join one of our committees, organise fund raising activities or help support and organize the Headquarters maintenance.

All leaders undertake ongoing training which has had to continue despite the lockdown and restrictions placed on us over the year. I am pleased to report that several leaders have received National Recognition from the Scout Association for going above and beyond in their volunteering within the group. Thanks should go to Judith Roberts our training advisor who has worked continuously twisting arms, cajoling but most of all supporting to ensure that leaders get their training qualifications updated.

Can I conclude by thanking both the District and County for their support over the year and finally, I wish to thank parents, members of the Group Executive Committee for their continued enthusiasm and support throughout the year but especially all Scouters, Young Leaders and Helpers, who give up their time, year in and year out to ensure Scouting thrives here at 1st Marple.
Keith Frazer
Group Scout Leader

Awards and achievements in the Year

Service Awards

Gerald Fletcher - 40-year award
Mike Dyer - 20-year award
Andy Statham - 10-year award
Rick Wood - 5-year award

Medals of Merit

Chris Plumb
Mark Statham
Ian Bennett
Johathan Nolan
Stuart Jupe

Chairman’s Report

Maintaining Scouting in the pandemic has been a challenge for leaders, members, parents and supporters. In many instances as the Group Scout Leader

reports a number of units did manage to retain links with members albeit with reduced numbers. This is a credit to those leaders who managed to make this possible when their own circumstances must have been far from easy.

There is no doubt that the financial year has been a difficult one, beginning and ending in a national lockdown with all that that has entailed. Over the whole period we have been taking advice directly from the Scout Association, District and County within the context of the National and local directives in operation at the time. Monitoring the situation on a regular basis we have at times adjusted our guidance to leaders, but always mindful of the fact that each individual's circumstances will be different, and it is the leader that needs to be comfortable with what might be being proposed rather than having a uniform approach to all sections and units.

The method of contact of choice proved to be zoom during lockdown and when the regulations eased such that it was possible to meet up face-to-face outside, usually Memorial Park or Brabyns Park. Our proximity to both proved a God send.

Of course, this extraordinary year has also had other effects. It brought out the best in people and the Group has been the beneficiary of some unsolicited kindnesses. Two members of the public, who had been reflecting on their own time as Scouts donated money to the Group and for these donations, we are extremely grateful. Over the whole period we have not been able to take part in any of our traditional fund-raising activities or put on our annual staple of annal events. There have been no camps, no St Georges day Service no Gang Show (much to the frustration of all those who worked so hard on the production which had to be cancelled days before it was due to commence), there has also been no annual Community bonfire (again an event that was ready to run but as the winter months arrived it became clear that it would be ill advised for it to go ahead). There were also no plant sales nor Carol singing. At Christmas, parents were asked to deliver items for the hampers to outside the HQ at a set time with social distancing maintained. The Hampers were then made up by leaders in a family bubble. Contact was made with the recipients prior to delivery to ensure they were happy to receive the hamper and delivered by one leader.

I am pleased to report that the Group were beneficiaries of two of the Government schemes to support Charities and voluntary bodies for which we have been grateful. They certainly removed any anxiety that we initially felt in relation to our financial security. These can be seen in the accounts.

Notwithstanding COVID discussions have continued with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council with respect to location of the proposed new swimming pool and 'Community Hub'. One round of consultations took place immediately before the first national lockdown and a second is imminent. How the Scout headquarters might be affected and how any new development might use landscaping to mitigate any effect on the aesthetics and feel of the park remain of paramount concern to us.

During lock down a number of grant applications were written to continue the build refurbishments and the result of these will become known in next year's annual report.
I would like to thank all the leaders, helpers, parents, and executive committee members for all the work they have put over this last year a year that for all

concerned has been unprecedented. Finally, I wish everyone well for next year.

Richard Thorpe
Chair 1st Marple Scouts Executive Committee

Independent examiner's report

The review performed considered the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021. This report relates to an independent examination carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. The examination was conducted in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
The charity's trustees consider that an audit
is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Co mmission under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. The examination included a review of the accounting records

kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and sought explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

No matter has come to my attention, in connection with the examination, which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records for non-company charities have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

No material misstatements were noted based on the information reviewed. The financial notes describing the detail of accounting practices aligns with my understanding. A receipts and payments basis for preparing the accounts has been used. Proportionate consolidation has been used to consolidate the Gang Show and Bonfire accounts.

The group treasurer noted that the trustees took assurance over the bonfire and gang show accounts from separate independent reviews that are performed on the accounts from these activities.

Independent examiner: Thomas Ridgway C.A.

Statement of financial activities

Charity number 512057

1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Section A	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Last year Total Funds	
Income	£p	£p	£p	£p	£p	Notes
Members Subscriptions	5,602			5,602	25,545	Note 1 and note A.

HMRC Tax claim	5,250			5,250	3,982	
Gang Show	4508			4508	8,979	See note 2.
Bonfire	125			125	6,240	See note 3.
Plant Sales	2,062			2,062	8,664	See note 4.
Rent of Scout Hut	625			625	3,692	See note 5&6.
Combined Super Camp	2,478			2,478	6,379	See note 7.
Donations received	1,757			1,757	5,807	See note 8.
Fund Raising	420			420	2,119	
Bank interest	6			6	65	
The 8 units of Scouting	266			266	12,879	See note 9.
Grant	19,669	270		19939	0	
Asset and Investment sales				0	0	
Total receipts	42,768	270	0	43,038	84,352	

Expenditure

Stockport District Capitations	6,132			6,132	8,883	
Gang Show	2,712	1,192		3,904	6,160	See note a.
Bonfire	0			0	3,063	See note b.
Plant Sales	61			61	5,846	See note c.
Combined Super Camp	0	10,940		10,940	1,143	See note e.

Donations made	110			110	1,491	See note f.
The 8 units of Scouting	937			937	17,994	
Group running costs	0			0	2,294	See note h.
Scout Hut running costs (including building work)	4,154	270		4,424	17,729	See note i.
Asset and Investment purchases	0			0	0	
Total payments	14,107	12,402	0	26,509	64,604	
Net of receipts and payments	28660	(12,132)	0	16,529	19,478	
Opening Bank Balances as at 01/04/20						
Group C/As	51,922	12,388		64,310		
Cash	0			0		
Group D/A	9,212			9,212		
	61,134	12,388		73,524		
Total cash funds this year end	90,053			90,053		

Section B

Closing Bank Balances as at 31/03/2021				
Cash funds	90,053			90,053
Other monetary assets	0	0	0	0
Investment assets	0	0	0	0

Assets retained for the charity's own use	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	0	0	0	0

Signature	Name	Date
	R.Thorpe Chairman	31st January 2022
D.J.Rainsbury		
Signature	Name	Date
	D.J.Rainsbury F.C.A. Treasurer	31st January 2022

Signed on behalf of all trustees

Notes on the accounts 2020/2021

Charity accounts may be prepared either on the receipts and payments basis or the accruals basis. Receipts and payments basis has been adopted for these accounts, this is the simpler of the two methods of preparation and may be adopted where a non-company charity has a gross income of £250,000 or less during the year. It consists of an account summarising all money received and paid out by the charity in the financial year, and a statement giving details of its assets and liabilities at the end of the year.

Based on the practice followed last year the Group accounts ending 31 March 2021 have the receipts, expenditure and assets/liabilities from the individual units consolidated into the figures and 50% of the receipts, expenditure, assets/liabilities from the Gang Show and the Brabyns Community Bonfire (these being joint ventures with Marple Guides) have also being consolidated.

Note in relation to each line of Receipts

1. *Membership Subscriptions.* Subscriptions for members are paid into unit accounts and sections forward receipts to the Group for capitation payment to the District.

2. *Gang Show.* In normal periods this is an activity jointly organised with Marple Girl Guiding. Separate accounts are kept for the show by the Gang Show leadership team. These accounts are prepared with a year-end date of 31 December. The group accounts for 2020/21 reflect our 50% interest, however, due to the pandemic the Gang Show was cancelled at the last minute. Refunds were offered on all tickets. Some ticket holders chose to donate the money instead of accepting the refund. At year end there was a total value of tickets of £1,496 (included in income for the year) where the ticket holders had not responded to either accept or donate the refund. This amount will be held in reserve in the Gang Show accounts until the next show in case the ticket holders would like to accept a refund.

   There are no other assets noted as all costs associated with buying, building or maintaining costumes and props are expensed each year.

3. *Bonfire.* This is a fundraising activity jointly organised with Marple Girl Guiding. The group accounts for 2020/21 reflect our 50% interest. due to the pandemic the Bonfire was cancelled in 2020.

4. *Plant sales.* Sales of plants (purchased from a third party and sold for a profit) is a fund-raising activity. Receipts are paid directly into Group accounts. In 2021, due to the pandemic, there the group only handled online sales.

5. *Rent of Scout Headquarters*. Receipts relates to the renting out of the headquarters building to third party lettings.

6. *Recognition of Marple Scout Hut as an asset:* The title absolute is held by THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION TRUST CORPORATION Gilwell Park, Chingford, London. The value of the asset has therefore not been included in the Marple Scout Association group accounts. The cost of maintenance and improvements to Marple Scout Hut are expensed in the Marple Group Accounts.

7. *Combined Super-Camp:* This camp is a bi-annual event and was planned to be next held in 2022. However, due to the Celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee, a number of events are competing for the dates the combined Super-Camp would normally held on. It is now planned to take place in 2023.

8. *Donations received:* This value relates to donations that were made directly into central Group funds. Other small donations made to Section accounts are included in the section receipts numbers.

9. *Section Accounts.* Each of the Scout units have a bank account in order to access an agreed level of funds and prepare a breakdown of receipts, payments and assets/liabilities for inclusion in the Group accounts. The review and monitoring processes for unit accounts are being developed further in 2022.

Note on Grants
Grants received are held in reserve until the work is completed. Grants from two Government Covid Schemes were received based on ratable value, £10,000 and £9,9939.21 together with a grant from the Stockport Hydro £270.00.

Note in relation to each line of Expenditure

a. *Gang Show*. These figures are taken directly from the Gang Show accounts reviewed separately. The joint venture accounts consolidated are for a 20 month period from 31/07/2019 to 31/03/2021. Note that the year end date for Gang Show accounts was

incorrectly stated in prior year accounts as the 31st of December. The Gang Show treasurer has noted that he plans to return to a 31st of July year end date in future years.

b. *Bonfire.* These figures are taken directly from the bonfire accounts. See note 3 above. The bonfire did not take place in 2020 due to the pandemic.

c. *Plant sales.* As indicated above, this is a fund-raising activity, this figure represents the cost of the plants.

d. *Rent of Scout Headquarters*. See note 5 above.

e. *Combined Super-Camp.* See note 6 above. The Combined Super-Camp did not take place due to the pandemic.

f. *Donations Made.* Donations have been made to support local groups.

g. *Section Accounts.* See note 8 above.

h. *Misc. Group Running Costs.* This usually relates to payments for training for the voluntary leaders. In 2020/2021 no training payments were required

i. *Scout Headquarters running payments.* This relates to gas, electrics, insurance, water, rates and scout hut building work/repairs. All utilities amounted to £3,509.36. General repairs totaled £887.69 and photocopying amounted to £27.40.

Note in relation to a reserves policy

The Group retain enough funding to cover one year's expenses of the Group.

Bonfire:
The annual Brabyn's Park Community Bonfire that takes place is managed by an experienced leadership team. Firework displays are organised and run by a professional firework display company and assistance and support are delivered by a number of the Group's most experienced leaders. No bonfire took place in 2020. The accounts are prepared to 31st December 2020 and consolidated into the group accounts.

Gang show:
The Gang Show is managed by an experienced leadership team that have been involved in this activity for many years. The Gang Show accounts are independently prepared. No Gang Show took place in 2020 or 2021.