

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

From 1st April 2023

To 31st March 2024

Section A	Reference and administration details
Charity name	1 st Ashton (Lord Gerard's Own) Scout Group
Other names the charity is known by	1 st Ashton Scout Group / 1 st Ashton (Lord Gerard's) Scout Group
Registered Charity Number	517134
Scout Association Group Registration Number	11562
Charity's principal address	1 st Ashton (Lord Gerard's Own) Scout Group Scout Association, Ashton Scout Hut Liverpool Road Ashton in Makerfield Wigan WN4 9LP
Correspondence address	Andrew Linster 8 Ware Close Ashton in Makerfield Wigan WN4 8XU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Barry Kay	Chairman & Trustee	
Eileen Heyes	Group Lead Volunteer & Trustee	
Andrew Linster	Treasurer & Trustee	
Andrea Linster	Trustee	
Kevin Smith	Trustee & Scout Leader	
Steve Bell	Trustee and Cub Scout Leader	Appointed 01 February 2024
Other		
Janet Derbyshire	Secretary to the Trustees	Appointed 01 February 2024

Names and addresses of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
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There are currently no advisors to the Scout Group

Section B	Structure, governance, and management
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Type of governing document The Group's governing documents are those of the Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter (4 January 1912), which in turn gives authority to the by-laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted 1st Ashton (Lord Gerard's Own) Scout Group was established under a Declaration of Trust dated 21 September 1949 and is a Charity in its own right on 31st January 1986. The Group is a trust established under its rules that are common to all Scout Groups/Districts.

Trustee selection method The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

Additional governance The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity.

As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 3 Trustees. The Trustee Board meets every 1 to 2 months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

The Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk and internal controls

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

Damage to the building, property, and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property, and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

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

Reduced income from fund raising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

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

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation, or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The Purpose of Scouting</p> <p>Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>The Values of Scouting</p> <p>As Scouts we are guided by these values:</p> <p>Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy, and loyal.</p>

Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.

Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs, and attitudes.

Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

Public benefit statement

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

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements in the last year

During the year:

This year has seen Steve Bell, Cub Scout Leader, join the Trustee board as a Trustee and Janet Derbyshire, Beaver Leader, join in the role of Secretary to the Trustees.

Financial position and Group premises

As well as the Ashton Summer and Christmas Fayre the Group also undertaken the first annual Beer Festival which was a big success.

Further plans will be discussed at future Executive Committee Meetings.

Overall, the Group is very good financial health.

Future Plans

The fundraising undertaken over the last 3 to 4 years now means we are in a position where we can move forward with the bouldering wall containers in the next year. This will be a valuable addition to the Scout Group.

Section E	Financial Review
Accounting policy	<p>The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis with a statement of the assets and liabilities and is consistent with the previous year.</p> <p>The accounts are drawn up in accordance with the requirements of Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association and reflects the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).</p>
Reserves Policy	<p>The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs. This sum is £10,000.</p>
Section F	Additional financial information
Insurance	<p>Public Liability Insurance is provided directly by the Scout Association, the current certificate is displayed on the notice board.</p> <p>Building & Contents Insurance is arranged through Unity Insurance Services Ltd via The Scout Association.</p> <p>The Group own a ride on lawnmower which is not currently used to cut the grass in front of the Scout Hut. If this was to change the Group would purchase an appropriate motor insurance cover to meet legal requirements.</p>
Banking	<p>Bank accounts in the name of the group are held with the NatWest Bank plc. We have a Current account and a Reserve account which is registered to receive interest paid gross and with a minimum of 2 signatures for any withdrawals. Individual sections have their own bank accounts, and are with NatWest and TSB.</p> <p>We are pleased to report that the Group is in a sound financial position. Future capital expenditure is considered in our budget. The Trustees are provided with sound administration in respect of its obligations according to POR (Policy, Organisation and Rules), including insurance, fundraising, and maintenance of Group property.</p>
Investment and financial policy	<p>The Trustees regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements.</p> <p>The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks / building societies.</p>

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Barry Kay (Chairman)

J.B. Kay.

Eileen Heyes (Group Lead
Volunteer)

Eileen M Heyes

Andrew Linster (Treasurer)

Andrew Linster

Date

28 September 2024.....



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

1st Ashton (Lord Gerard's Own) Scout Group

On accounts for the year
ended

31.03.2024

Charity no
(if any)

517134

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

24.09.2024

Name:

Michael Nelson

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

FCA – ICAEW: Membership Number 1307113

Address:	5 The Glades, Clipsley Lane
	Haydock, St. Helens
	WA11 0ST

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

I can confirm the books and records were found to be complete, comprehensive, accurate and give a true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation throughout the 23-24 accounting period.

One income sample selected for testing could not be verified to the original bank statement, as the paper copies were not available at the time of testing and the online web app did not allow us to go back far enough to agree. However, the transaction was agreed to the Group Account electronic records and deemed to be a bona fide business transaction.

A small number of cash income receipts were also selected for testing. Although, due to the nature of the income, supporting documentation was not available, valid explanations were obtained and the transactions were agreed to the Group Account Spreadsheet. Therefore, we can confirm that these were bona fide business transactions, and no further action required.