



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
For the Period 2023/24

1st Ballymacash Scout Group
Charity Reg number: NIC 103867

Trustees Annual Report
1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

1st Ballymacash Scout Group—based at:

St Marks Church, Ballymacash Road, Lisburn, BT28 3EZ

Current charity trustees, acting for the whole year:

Noel Irwin (Group Lead Volunteer / Cub Lead Volunteer)

Jonny Farmer (Chairperson)

Linda Walker (Treasurer)

Emma Moriarity (Secretary)

Charlotte McGucken (Squirrel Lead Volunteer)

Sharon McKnight (Beaver Lead Volunteer)

Michael Conn (Scout Lead Volunteer)

John G Clarke (Explorer Lead Volunteer)

Governing Document

Scout Association Royal Charter and supplemental Charters

Our purpose

The purpose of Scouting is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development as individuals and as responsible citizens, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Public and private beneficiaries

Public Benefit Statement

1. The benefit which flows from our purpose is that young people are empowered to make a positive contribution to society through being engaged and supported in their personal development, including physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually. 2. This benefit is demonstrated through Scouting making a positive impact in our communities; preparing young people to be active citizens; embracing and contributing to social change; being as diverse as the communities in which we operate. These are evidenced by feedback from our beneficiaries and the wider community. 3. There is no harm arising from our purposes. Scouting operates within a framework of safety to enable young people to take part in adventurous activities safely. 4. Scouting's beneficiaries are children and young people. 5. The only private benefit from this purpose is that Adult Volunteers are trained to deliver the programme, but this is incidental and necessary because it is needed to operate in today's society working with young people

Public benefit arising from activities.

Throughout the year each section has enjoyed taking part in various activities that concentrate on the overall development of each member

Summary of activities and achievements

Squirrels

We have nine regular Squirrels attending. With eight badges completed this year, we have been focusing on getting the Squirrels involved in Scouts and what it means.

We have welcomed visitors from St John's Ambulance and have had lots of trips out to the Woodlands, Care Home and Wallace Park.

Thanks to our committed Squirrel Leaders; Charlotte, Eloise and Evie.

Beavers

It was another busy year for beavers. We had an average of twenty-eight children each week and a leadership team of five. Badges completed included disability awareness, cooks, health and fitness, explorer, navigator, animal friend, communicator and emergency first aid.

Beavers continued to work towards their challenge badges. As part of My world badge Gillian crocheted the most beautiful beaver which we sold tickets to guess the name of the beaver to raise money for St Marks Church.

We are immensely proud that all of the beavers who swam up to cubs achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award. We enjoyed a visit to Pets at Home and visits to the woodland. We held our annual book swap to mark World Book Day.

We had three camps during 24/25 - a summer camp to Crawsfordsburn and an autumn and spring camp in Gosford Forest Park. We also attended Beaver Rally day on Crawsfordsburn.

Thanks to our ever-committed beaver leaders - Gillian, Natalie, Erin, Micheal and Ellie for all their ideas in planning the annual programme and delivering the programme week by week.

Cubs

The Cub Scouts had a busy 2024/25. The average weekly attendance was twenty-seven children and four leaders during which some 367 activity and challenge badges were awarded as part of our varied activity and badge programme.

This included Artists, Athletes, Athletes Plus, Book Readers, Communications, DIY, Entertainers Hobbies, Home Help, Home Safety, Local Knowledge, Physical Recreation, Personal Safety, Road Safety, Sportsman Activity Badges alongside of Hikes Away, Nights Away, Musician and Swimmers Staged Activity Badges and the Adventure, Outdoor, Personal and Teamwork Challenge Badges.

The Pack took part in all 4 District Cub events, winning both the District Quiz. We had Camps to Crawfordsburn in the Summer of 2024 along with a winter overnight stay in Gosford Forest Park in February 2025.

The Pack held outings to Lisburn Bowling Alley, Clip n Climb (Dundonald Ice Bowl), the Ulster Aviation Society, Lisburn Cinema and an Orienteering event with 44th Belfast Cubs around Hillsborough Forest Park. Each Cub took part in four hikes.

Thanks to Ian, Reuben and new leader Joshua Parkes.

Scouts

During this session, the Scouts were awarded 280 badges. Our badgework included pioneering, navigation, craft, air activities, nights away and hiking. Challenge awards were also given which included teamwork, team leader, skills, adventure, outdoors and expedition.

The highlight of the year was January 2025 when fourteen of our Scouts were invited to Belfast City Hall to be awarded with their Chief Scouts Gold Award.

Camps included a couple of Hammock Camps at Lisburn Scouts Woodland, Claddagh Glen Scout Centre and Randalstown for an indoor camp. Trips included a great afternoon at the SSE Arena to watch the Belfast Giants, climbing Divis Mt in the dark and visiting The World of Owls where we met a few movie stars! Our Scouts also helped our local Community Rescue Service to raise vital funds with a bucket collection at Tesco.

Thanks to our committed Scout leaders; Carol, Michael and Victoria.

Explorers

The 2024/2025 Scouting Year has been one of growth and achievement for 1st Apollo Explorers. We began the year with our "swimming up" ceremony, proudly welcoming fourteen new members to the troop. This brings our total to 15 Explorers, and we are delighted to have maintained a consistent and engaging programme throughout the year.

As you will know, badge work becomes more challenging at Explorer level, and our young people have risen to the occasion with enthusiasm and commitment. Over the past year, they have worked diligently towards badges in Nights Away/camper, Volunteering/community impact/fundraising, creative arts, Map Skills, First Aid, and water activities.

We remain committed to contributing to the wider Lisburn District and have continued our woodland service project, meeting on the first Thursday of every month. This year, our efforts

included re-barking the axe throwing area and woodland paths, helping to enhance the area for all users.

Overall, it has been a vibrant and successful year for 1st Apollo Explorers. We are proud of the dedication and spirit shown by our members and look forward to another year of adventure, skill-building, and community involvement.

Thanks go to our Explorers leaders; Heather Ann, Karen, John and Kai.

Group

The Scout Group participated in all District led events and fora. All Sections attended the annual District Christmas Carol Service and annual St George Day Parade and Service. Individual sections within the Group took part in numerous District, County and Northern Ireland organised events. The Group also attended events hosted by our sponsors, St Marks, such as monthly family services, the Remembrance Day service and Christingle service.

We held monthly Group Scout Council meetings each month except for July and August and all of the Sections from Squirrels to Explorers conduct their programmes through the Online Scout Manager system. This included the collection of 2024-25 membership fees and applications for to HMRC for Gift Aid reimbursement.

All adults involved within their Group have completed all aspects of the mandatory training, including First Response, Safety and Safeguarding Training. Thanks must go to all the leadership teams and young leaders who support our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in developing a very enjoyable, interesting and diverse programmes. Thank you also to parents who support and encourage not only their own young people but the group. Finally, thank you to St Marks Parish for the use of their premises, as our Group sponsors, allowing us to be a part of the church community, and for working with us to provide opportunities for local young people.

Initial preparations began on the Group's Centenary Year in 2027.

Financial Review

Our Scout Group runs on one main bank account held in the name "1st Ballymacash Scout Group Council". All funds held in reserves are for the use of the Group or any section within the Group (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and the partnered Explorer Unit) for future use in line with the aims and objectives and activities of the Scout Group. The agreed portion held for such use will be subject to the agreement of the Trustees. Subscriptions fees received are acknowledged for the use of that member section. Our funds at the end of March 2025 are in a satisfactory state and there are no debts or funds in deficit.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the above report, ratified at the Annual General Meeting and signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by

Jonny Farmer
Chairperson, 1st Ballymacash Scout Group

November 2025

