

1st Newry (Earl Kilmorey) Scout Group

Charity Registration No: 103883

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 1ST April 2024 - 31ST MARCH 2025

REVIEW OF THE YEAR:

Squirrels.

This year 2024/25 has been another memorable and exciting one for our Squirrel Scouts. From hands-on learning to adventurous activities, our focus has remained on badge work, teamwork, and having fun every step of the way.

We kicked things off with the Emergency Aid Badge, transforming our young squirrels into local superheroes. Then came Fire Safety where we ran an engaging safety program filled with fun games, educational activities, and important lessons. As our learning continued, we were thrilled to welcome a visit from our local Newry Police community team, who shared practical safety tips in an enjoyable and interactive way. One of the highlights of the learning experience was a visit from Guide Dogs Association, where the children were fascinated to learn about the vital role guide dogs play in supporting people with visual impairments.

Next, we ventured into the Navigator Badge, where our squirrels became little explorers. Through compass games, scavenger hunts, and map work, they discovered the basics of navigation while building their confidence and problem-solving skills. For the Space Explorer Badge, things got cosmic! Our squirrels made their own delicious moon biscuits while learning about moon cycles and the planets in our solar system. They experimented with flour to create moon craters and designed imaginative teddy bear space helmets – a true blend of creativity and learning!

As we rounded off the year, we were working towards the All Together Award. This has brought a wonderful focus on teamwork, cooperation, and kindness. Through group games and thoughtful tasks, our squirrels are learning the value of supporting one another and working together as a team.

In addition to all the fantastic badge work, we made plenty of time for seasonal celebrations. Halloween was a spooky delight with costumes and themed activities. Our Easter scavenger hunt brought lots of treats, smiles and excitement, while Christmas was full of festive cheer, fun games, and a touch of holiday magic.

We are incredibly proud of all our squirrels for their energy, enthusiasm, and the fantastic progress they've made this year. A huge thank you to all the leaders, helpers, parents, and special visitors who helped make this year so rewarding. Here's to another adventurous year ahead!

Beavers.

During 2024/2025 our Beavers undertook a variety of different activities. Included in this were a number of educational, cultural and learning visits away from our hall to local parks, monuments and memorials etc.

In particular the Beavers along with the Squirrels enjoyed the trip to an educational nature walk. There was also a renewed focus on badge work, with the children earning a variety of badges over the year. This was of course accompanied by our usual varied programme of team building games and arts and craft nights for various holidays such as Christmas, Easter and Mothering Sunday.

However following our return to our own hall in February the Beaver section headcount was bolstered by a large intake of young people moving up from the Squirrel section. At the beginning of the New Year in April we will have quite a number of Beavers soon to move to the cub section so this will allow the capacity for future growth.

Cubs.

Cubs began the new scouting year in April 24 on the usual Monday evenings and continued throughout the year with a range of exciting indoor and outdoor activities which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Along with our programme we managed to ensure that badge work was incorporated into our weekly programmes. On 29th April, all the Cubs took part in an Archery event at Newry High School provided by the local Bulls Eye Archery Club. Everyone had a wonderful time and gained a lot of excitement and experience. Following this our usual meetings were held at the hall where various activities took place both inside and outside. Then along came our very special event held on the weekend of the 22nd to 23rd June. This one of the biggest highlights of the year was our first Cub overnight camp since Covid as well as a visit to Carlingford Adventure Centre, where the Cubs took part in thrilling activities including the Sky Course and canoeing. The excitement and energy was incredible, and everyone had an amazing time. After a full day of adventure, we returned to our campsite for the night. The Cubs took responsibility for pitching their own tents and cooking their own meals, building independence and teamwork. We rounded off the evening with wide games, laughter, and stories — a fantastic experience all around.

Following the summer school holiday break we returned in September, when we picked up with our regular programme. A particular highlight was a trip to Game Locker in Belfast, a fantastic venue packed with fun and interactive activities. The Cubs had a brilliant

time and didn't want to leave! We also held our annual Halloween and Christmas parties which were full of festive fun, games, and great energy as well as taking part in Laser Tag which was enjoyed by all the Cubs.

After the Christmas break, we turned our focus to badge work, with the Cubs working hard on their Knots, Nature, and Athletics badges. They showed great enthusiasm and learned valuable skills along the way. We were also fortunate to welcome some special visitors: Newry Police visited us for a "show and tell" session, giving the Cubs insight into their work and sharing important safety advice. We also hosted a representative from Guide Dogs, who brought his Guide Dog along and not only talked to the Cubs about the incredible work the organisation does but showed how the dog helped him in his daily living and getting out and about. The Cubs not only loved learning about the ability of these dogs and the important role they play in supporting people with visual impairments. The owner also allowed the Cubs to pet the dog and put on blindfolds and try their hand at walking and being guided by the dog around the hall.

Looking Ahead: As we look to the future, we're already starting to plan our next camp, and the Cubs are buzzing with excitement. We're proud of everything the Pack has achieved this year and can't wait for more adventures, learning opportunities, and fun in the year ahead.

Scouts.

During the latter part of the year a small number of members of the Cub section reached the age to transfer into the Scout section. However as the numbers were not enough to enable a satisfactory range of programme events/activities it was decided that those member should remain for a short period within the Cub section until the numbers increased. It is our hope that within a short period there should be enough of the appropriate age to recommence the Scout section later on.

The Group

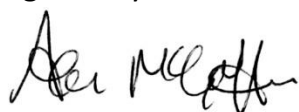
2024/25 proved to be quite a satisfying year for the Group in that all sections provided their members with a varied and exciting range of activities and events. It was pleasing to see Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs in the Group along with the small number of Scouts and their Leaders taking part a variety of activities and events. Members from all sections in the Group also took part in the Remembrance Day parade to the Cenotaph on Sunday 10th November when there was an excellent turn out. We are still fortunate that we have a small band of volunteers and helpers who give of their time and energy to not only to take care of our young people but to provide a wide range of activities for all sections and look after the fund raising and other administrative activities which keep the Group well financed and functioning. We sincerely thank all those who have supported us in any way over the past year and we look forward to the incoming year with some optimism that the Group will continue to progress and develop further in the years to come. The Parents' Committee would like to thank all the Leaders for the hard work and time over the past year. Thank you, Carol, Billy, Lee, Jonathon, Alana, Roisin and Mervyn.

OUR OFFICE BEARERS: Our thanks go also to our Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer as well as all other members of the Committee for their support and help in managing the Group's finances and other administrative responsibilities for the past year. We are greatly indebted to you for your time and support. Thank you Linda, Alan, Jim and all others.

REVIEW OF OUR FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31/03/2025

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. Our funds are in a healthy state and we do not have any debts or funds in material deficit. We collect subscriptions and fees on a bi-annual basis in order to satisfy contingencies and anticipated expenses.

Agreed by all Trustees



Signed by Alan McGaffin (Chairperson)

Date: 25th September 2025