

6th Ards Sea Scout Group

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103971

Details

Known as	No
Status	Received
Registered	2015-10-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	15 Falcon Park Newtownards Bt23 4gg BT23 4GG
Phone	07711 225934
Email	pootsies4@gmail.com

Activities

Purposes: Promoting 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.

What the charity does: The advancement of education,The advancement of citizenship or community development

How the charity works: Animal welfare,Community development,Cross-border/cross-community,Cultural,Sport/recreation,Youth development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds),Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£19,321	£19,225	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Helen		
Mr Alan Poots	Group Scout Leader	
Mr Paul Martin		
Mrs Alison Savage		
Mrs Allison Kingsmill		
Mrs Lynne Mccracken		
Mrs Pauline Coulter		
Mrs Sharlene Jellie		

6th Ards Sea Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103971

Accounts

6th Ards Sea Scout Group	103971	
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025	
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	3,427	-	-	3,427	3,531
Membership Fees	5,210	-	-	5,210	4,058
Gift Aid	898	-	-	898	-
Education Authority Grant	2,200	-	-	2,200	2,000
Fund Raising	857	-	-	857	2,798
Uniforms	1,004	-	-	1,004	342
Functions/Activities/Camps	5,721	-	-	5,721	8,850
Bank Interest	4	-	-	4	6
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	19,321	-	-	19,321	21,585
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance) .					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	19,321	-	-	19,321	21,585
A3 Payments					
Activities/Camps	7,583	-	-	7,583	17,768
Membership Fees	7,508	-	-	7,508	-
Badges/Awards/Uniforms	1,788	-	-	1,788	1,087
Equipment	65	-	-	65	82
Church Halls	800	-	-	800	300
Insurance	439	-	-	439	370
Functions	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Charges	150	-	-	150	136
Miscellaneous	892	-	-	892	975
A3 Sub total	19,225	-	-	19,225	20,718
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	19,225	-	-	19,225	20,718
Net of receipts/(payments)	96	-	-	96	867
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,484	-	-	Funds error	-
Cash funds this year end	7,580	-	-	Funds error	867

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Danske Bank	5,445	-	-	5,445	6,555
	Ulster Bank	975	-	-	975	1,226
	Cash	1,160	-	-	1,160	298
	Total cash funds	7,580	-	-	7,580	7,483
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	Funds error	Funds error
Make sure that Cash Balances match the Cash Funds in Section A						
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	When due (optional)	Amount due (optional)	Last year	
				-	-	
				-	-	
				-	-	
				-	-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval		

6th Ards Sea Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103971

Accounts

Receipts and payments

For the period from	01/04/2023	To
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts			
Subscriptions	3,531	-	-
Membership Fees	4,058	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-
Education Authority Grant	2,000	-	-
Fundraising	2,798	-	-
Uniforms	342	-	-
Functions/Activities/Camps	8,850	-	-
Bank Interest	6	-	-
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	21,584	-	-
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance).			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,584	-	-
A3 Payments			
Activities & Camps	17,768	-	-
Membership Fees	-	-	-
Badges/Awards/Uniforms	1,087	-	-
Equipment	82	-	-
Church Halls	300	-	-
Insurance	370	-	-
Functions	-	-	-
Bank Charges	136	-	-
Miscellaneous	975	-	-
A3 Sub total	20,719	-	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-
Total payments	20,719	-	-

<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	865	-	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,618	-	-
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	7,483	-	-

Charity No.103971	
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CCXX R3 accounts	
31/03/2024	

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Total funds	Last year
to the nearest £	to the nearest £
3,531	2,818
4,058	2,473
-	-
2,000	2,200
2,798	500
342	97
8,850	4,722
6	3
21,584	12,813

-	-
-	-
-	-
21,584	12,813

17,768	6,292
-	2,697
1,087	844
82	412
300	-
370	337
-	252
136	127
975	6,019
20,719	16,980

-	-
-	-
-	-
20,719	16,980

865	- 4,167
-	-
6,618	10,785
7,483	6,618

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Danske Bank	6,555	-	-	6,555	5,824
	Ulster Bank	1,226	-	-	1,226	523
	Cash	- 298	-	-	- 298	271
	Total cash funds	7,483	-	-	7,483	6,618
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Funds error	OK	OK	Funds error	OK
Make sure that Cash Balances match the Cash Funds in Section A						
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	When due (optional)	Amount due (optional)	Last year	
				-	-	
				-	-	
				-	-	
				-	-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval		

6th Ards Sea Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103971

Annual report



**6TH ARDS SEA SCOUT GROUP
AGM**

**9th OCTOBER 2024
REGENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

PRESENT

Alan Poots SL/GSL
Pauline Coulter Treasurer
Lynne McCracken ACSL
Joanne Miller BSL
Allison Kingsmill ABL
Alison Savage SL

APOLOGIES

Helen Moore Chairperson
Robin Jardine ASL
Sharlene Jellie CSL

Paul Martin ACSL
Andrew Greene ABSL
Kim Upritchard ASSL
Claire Hunter ASSL
Jack McGimpsey ASSL

INTRODUCTION

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed on Helen's apologies for not attending due to illness. He proposed to chair the meeting in her absence.

MINUTES 2023 AGM 30th September 2023

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were agreed. Proposed by Joanne Miller and seconded by Pauline Coulter

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening balance at 1st April 2023 was £6618.40. Income during the year amounted to £21,580.76. Closing balance at March £7,483.57. A detailed breakdown of figures by section is contained in the financial report attached.

It was discussed and agreed that the Group would donate £500 to the Church towards heating and lighting.

David Quigg, an accountant with the NI Health Service has agreed to audit our annual accounts. The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to David, in anticipation of this work.

SECTION REPORTS

Detailed reports of the activities of each of the four sections – Squirrels/Beavers/Cubs/Scouts - have been prepared by the Section Leaders and are attached.

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

The GSL's report is attached

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Alan proposed that the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary remain in post for a further year. This was agreed.

Allison Kingsmill
Group Secretary

Annual Report on 6th Ards Squirrels

October 2024

The Squirrels were once again back to full capacity of 24 squirrels last September and they enjoyed a full and varied programme. We had the usual parties for Halloween and Christmas and did our badge work, craft and games along the way.

Santa provided a great hit at our Christmas party so thanks to him for taking time out of his busy schedule to come along.

Thanks to Malcolm McConnell who came along to discuss model aeroplanes and how planes fly.

Outside visits included the Paddling Pool, our walk round Newtownards to try and talk about various buildings and statues when all they want to do is run around the square and go to Mauds for ice cream, an educational trip to Ards Allotments where they were given strawberry plants to grow and a thoroughly enjoyable night at Bangor Fire Station thanks to Joanne for organising.

The last night BBQ at Scrabo remained mainly dry where 5 of the boys passed through the forest and up to Beavers. A few more have since gone up. We have 23 boys again in September and 1 very brave girl who appears to be holding her own.

We were sorry to lose Janet this year due to illness and hope that her health continues to improve. Also Jenny has taken a back seat due to her Mum's ill health but we are delighted to welcome Katie Grinnell as a young leader and of course thanks to the old favourites Claire, Kim, Jack and Matilda for their help throughout the year. Jack has now completed all his training.

Thanks to Alan for always turning up with badges and scarves at the drop of the hat and to Pauline for assisting with the finances at the year end.

We have an action packed year planned and are looking forward to some new activities.

Alison Savage – Section Leader

6 TH ARDS SEA SCOUT GROUP

BEAVER SECTION REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023 – JUNE 2024

This year we undertook a full programme of indoor and outdoor activities, some in conjunction with the Cubs and some with the Squirrels. These have always gone down well and we find it helps with the transition when it comes to the children moving sections. We would like to express our thanks to both sections and hope to continue with these joint nights in the future.

Some of those nights included BBQs at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre and Scrabo, Wall Climbing, Bowling, and a few trips to the park and for ice-cream!

We also had a night over in Bangor Fire Station with the Squirrels that all our young people thoroughly enjoyed, even if they did get a bit wet from over excitement using the hose.

Throughout the year we worked hard with the Beavers covering all aspects of badge work and activities and we were delighted to award over 100 badges, which we presented to the Beavers' in an Awards Ceremony the morning after the sleepover.

This year we also were able to Award 4 Bronze Chief Scout Awards, congratulations to the 4 girls on this achievement and thanks to all the Beaver leaders for all the work and effort put in to help the Beavers achieve these badges and awards.

This year we introduced our sleepover back into the programme and all children thoroughly enjoyed this – the leaders, maybe not so much. Thanks to Paul for coming and helping out with this.

I would also like to thank Ben, our Young Leader, for all his help with delivering our programme – it is very much appreciated.

We hope to keep working with the Beavers to develop their skills and prepare them for moving up to Cubs.

Joanne Miller – Section Leader

6th Ards Scout Group

AGM – Cubs Report

September 2023 to June 2024

It has been another busy year in Cubs.

Badge Report

5 Cubs gained their Chief Scout Silver Awards: Alexander Mooney, Leahrose Watson, Arthur Patty, Elijah Green and Caitlin Wilson.

Trips/Outings/Visitors

We enjoyed lots of outdoor activities this year including Crawfordsburn Scout Centre for Orienteering and wall climbing. We went to the park where we practised pitching and taking down tents and enjoyed a hike up Scrabo and BBQ. We also did tracking activities.

We completed our Martial Arts Badge by learning a range of self-defence techniques with 2 visits to Raptr Martial Arts in Dundonald.

We enjoyed some joint activities with the other sections including a litter pick around some areas of the town, advised by the council.

Beavers also joined us for Burns Night, Christmas and Easter celebrations.

Cubs joined the Beavers and Squirrels for a Sponsored walk. Cubs walked from Ballyholme to Crawfordsburn Scout Centre and enjoyed hot dogs at the end. Special thanks to Terry for organising. Cubs raised an amazing total of £510 for our Pack.

Nights Away

We ended our year in Cubs with a 2 night Summer Camp in Lorne activity centre. Cubs enjoyed completing a variety of adventurous and outdoor activities including Gladiator Challenge, Archery, Zipline and making S'mores round the campfire. Beavers joined us on the Saturday evening for a walk to the beach and Pizza. ! It was a very successful camp, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I would like to thank Paul and Lynne for all their help and support throughout the year and also special thanks to Alan for all his ongoing support in our preparations for camp – very much appreciated.

Sharlene Jellie – Section Leader (Cubs)

6th Ards Sea Scouts
Report: September 2023 to August 2024

September 2023 saw Scouts commence with a total of 30 scouts, and as the year progressed this increased to 40 scouts, the most we have ever had. This total would include 9 girls.

Pumpkin Camp was cancelled as Crawfordsburn was very wet under foot, so our first camp was Barn Camp in January. Once again, a great success and thanks are due to Lynne and Brian McCracken for hosting us.

Our Christmas outing was to Ards Cinema to see the newly released Wonka.

Mourne Camp in May followed by a Patrol Camp in June prepared everyone for our Summer Camp at the end of July to the Share Centre. Declared by many as the best camp ever, the 22 scouts attending all engaged fully with all the activities.

As well as the camps, badge work over the year progressed at a good pace, culminating with 6 scouts being awarded their Chief Scouts Gold Award. Well done to Joey Carson, Ben Waide, Darsi McMaster, Sidnee Gallagher, Emily Gallagher and Jay Henderson..

Our Most Improved Scout was T J Veitch and for the first time Emily and Sidnee Gallagher were joint winners of the Scout of the Year.

We wish those scouts that are moving on the very best and we hope that they continue in scouting.

Alan Poots – Scout Leader

GSL Report: Alan Poots

The Education Authority provided funding of £2981 for the year April 2023 to March 2024 and we wish to thank the EA for their generous and much welcomed support.

Our annual census return recorded a total of 85 young people comprising 21 Squirrels, 14 Beavers, 12 Cubs and 38 Scouts. This is a significant increase in overall membership from last year.

The organisation of Scouting in Strangford District is undergoing change, with the proposed closure of The County Down layer of management and also the replacement of the Scout Leader Data Base System, Compass across the United Kingdom. Generally the proposed replacement of Compass has been welcomed.

I would also wish to acknowledge new leaders who have joined our sections and given freely of their time. Jack McGimpsey in Squirrels and Andrew Green in Beavers. Andrew also pops along to Scouts regularly and is most welcome. Many thanks to both of them. Also recently Chris McWilliams has volunteered as an adult helper at Beavers and I hope that he will join us as leader once the new Data Base system is up and running. Many thanks to Chris also.

The New Data Base is due to go live on 28th November, so fingers crossed all goes well. Leaders have been renewing many of their mandatory training modules recently in order that when the transfer of data takes place, the new system will have as many leaders as possible with current training in date.

The Scout section issued a call recently for any parent who could help out on a Friday Night and at weekend camps. Sam Weir has had to stand down as a leader due to family commitments and Robin Jardine, who has been a scout leader for a long time, announced that this would be his final year. We hope that over the next few months some parents will come forward.

6th Ards Sea Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103971

Annual return

Independent Examiner's report to the Charity Trustees of 6th Ards Sea Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the 6th Ards Sea Scout Group for the Year ended 31st March 2024

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My 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 seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

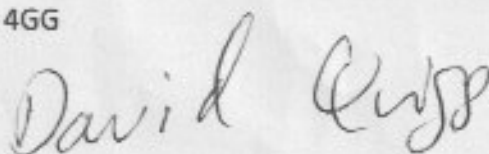
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: David Quigg FCA

Address: 29 Falcon Park, Newtownards, BT23 4GG

Date: 11th December 2024.



6th Ards Sea Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103971

Accounts

6th Ards Sea Scout Group	103971	
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/04/2022	To	31/03/2023	
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	2,818	-	-	2,818	2,437
Membership Fees	2,473	-	-	2,473	3,256
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	
Education Authority Grant	2,200	-	-	2,200	1,800
Fundraising	500	-	-	500	4,255
Uniforms	97	-	-	97	232
functions/Activities/Camps	4,722	-	-	4,722	6,687
Bank Interest	3	-	-	3	7
A1 Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)	12,813	-	-	12,813	18,674
A2 Asset and investment sales (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,813	-	-	12,813	18,674
A3 Payments					
Activities/Camps	6,292	-	-	6,292	5,333
Membership Fees	2,697	-	-	2,697	3,103
Badges/Awards/Uniforms	844	-	-	844	629
Equipment	412	-	-	412	10,598
Church Halls		-	-		
Insurance	337	-	-	337	277
Functions	252	-	-	252	916
Bank Charges	127	-	-	127	61
Miscellaneous	6,019	-	-	6,019	1,414
A3 Sub total	16,980	-	-	16,980	22,331
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see tables 1 and 2 in section 7 of the guidance)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	16,980	-	-	16,980	15,131
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,166		-	4,166	3,657
A5 Transfers between funds		1	-	-	19/01/2024 -

A6 Cash funds last year end	10,785		-	10,785	14,442
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	6,618	-	-	6,618	10,785

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Danske Bank	5,824		-	5,824	9,151
	Ulster Bank	523	-	-	523	1,175
	Cash	271	-	-	271	459
	Total cash funds	6,618	-	-	6,618	10,785
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details					
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details		Fund to which liability relates	When due (optional)	Amount due (optional)	Last year
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name		Date of approval	

6th Ards Sea Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103971

Annual report



REGISTERED CHARITY NIC103971

6TH ARDS SEA SCOUT GROUP

AGM

30 September 2023

PRESENT

Helen Moore Chairperson

Terry Troughton County Chairman/previous GSL

Alan Poots SL/GSL

Pauline Coulter Treasurer

Sharlene Jellie CSL

Paul Martin ACSL

Andrew Green ACSL

Lynne McCracken ACSL

Joanne Miller BSL

Alison Savage SSL

Claire Hunter ASSL

Allison Kingsmill Group Secretary/ABSL

Alan welcomed everyone and thanked Helen for hosting the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Maggi Wong, Mark Stinson

INTRODUCTION

Helen thanked leaders and helpers for all their hard work and commitment during the year. She expressed the opinion that Scouting provided a positive impact on the young people and indicated that she was available to help in any way she could.

MINUTES of AGM 21st November 2022

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were agreed. Proposed by Alison Savage and seconded by Lynne McCracken.

SECRETARY

No correspondence

FINANCIAL REPORT

The report was prepared and distributed by the Treasurer prior to the meeting. The opening balance was £10,326.25 and the closing balance was £6,600.95. Income comprised a grant of £2,200 from the Education Authority (EA). Unfortunately, it has not been possible to claim gift aid on subscriptions because the online procedure used for the first time to collect registration fees did not provide sufficient information.

It was decided that the Group would revert to manual records and issue written receipts on registration evening for 2023/2024 fees. Various other arrangements were discussed and agreed for that evening. As it is unlikely that any EA grant will be available, fund raising will be necessary. Various ideas were discussed including a hike.

A new auditor will have to be found for next year's accounts.

The financial report is attached.

SECTION REPORTS

Reports from each of the four sections are attached.

GSL Report

The GSL's report is attached

County Chairman's Remarks

Reverend Anne Tolland has asked him to make the arrangements for the uniformed organisations' participation in the Remembrance Day Service to be held in the Church on 12th November. A practice will be held in the Church prior to that.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman proposed that the current Treasurer and Secretary remain in post. This was agreed.

AOB:

None

SIGNED:

ALLISON KINGSMILL

GROUP SECRETARY

HELEN MOORE

CHAIRPERSON

6th Ards Sea Scouts

Annual Report Sept22 – May23

Squirrel Section - Alison Savage

September 22 saw us begin with 5 squirrels having moved some up to Beavers. During the year we managed to add to this and finished with 13 boys.

Since coming under the Scout Umbrella we have a lot more badges to work for. We decided to do 6 activity badges and 2 challenge awards per year leading up to the Chief Acorn Award before they move to Beavers.

Events for the year included a make your own pizza night, Halloween party, we joined the Beavers for a Christmas night out to The Ark Farm to see Santa – made bird feeders, planted bulbs made various crafts for Halloween, poppies for Remembrance Sunday and crafts for Christmas, Easter, Valentines Day and Mothers Day.

We went to Soft Play at the Leisure Centre and had a night at the paddling pool, had a walk to the park and annual trip to Mauds – joined the Beavers for a night at Mountstewart, picnic at the Duck Pond and our last night BBQ at Scrabo. Luckily enough we had great weather for all the outdoor events – lucky we finish In May and not July.

Thank you as always to my great band of helpers Claire, Kim, Jenny, Jack and Janet (who missed part of the year due to illness but thankfully is on her way to recovery now) who I could not do without and Matilda who started with us for her Duke of Ed has agreed to come back again in September.

I'm delighted to say I have 24 names on the books for September so we should have a busy year again next year .

Beaver Section – Joanne Miller

We started the year with 9 Beavers and finished with 12. A check with parents revealed that some of the children were not returning because they had chosen to attend various sporting activities instead.

Despite our low numbers we undertook a full programme of indoor and outdoor activities, some in conjunction with the Cub and some with the Squirrel Sections.

We joined Cubs for a litter pick along the canal; a Halloween craft and food party; an informative visit from “Wee Critters;” an Easter craft and games session; and an end of season party.

With Squirrels we visited the Ark Open Farm in the run up to Christmas and Mount Stewart in May.

Beavers worked on and earned various activity badges, including “emergency Aid” and “International Activity.” The latter included instruction from a French language teacher. In addition, the requirements for “My Skills” and “My World Challenge” were met.

To try and increase numbers, we held a “Bring a Friend” night in February and 3 children joined the colony.

Our young leaders organised a Scouting Skills evening and an Easter egg hunt at the Leisure Centre play park. We were very grateful to them for their help throughout the year.

We finished on 12 June with Crazy Golf at Pirates’ Cove and a picnic.

Cub Section – Sharlene Jellie

It has been another busy year in Cubs with 21 cubs registered at the beginning of the year and another 2 joining throughout the year.

We had 2 young leaders complete their volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award with us – Finn Neely and Maggie Jellie. Finn also attended the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. The cub section supported him with his fundraising.

Badge Report

We awarded 244 challenge, staged and activity badges throughout the year. 7 Cubs gained their Chief Scout Silver Awards: Jason Gilmore, Alfie Martin, Noah Campbell, John Allman, Aimee Egerton, Judah English and Luca Jellie.

Trips/Outings/Visitors

We enjoyed lots of outdoor activities this year including Crawfordsburn for team games and activities and a walk in the forest. We met for a night-walk at the floodgates as part of our Astronomer badge and in sixes completed a local knowledge quiz around Newtownards town. Mount Stewart guides provided us with lots of nature activities and in preparation for camp, we went to Scrabo Country park where we practised pitching and taking down tents.

We also enjoyed going bowling at Dundonald Ice Bowl.

We completed our Collector’s badge and invited parents and Beavers in to view all the collections and ask the Cubs questions.

Other badgework included Cubs learning what to do in an emergency, basic First Aid and how to say the Cub Promise using Makaton sign language.

To complete our Scientist badge, we had a Young Leader led night where cubs participated in a range of experiments organised by our Young leaders Finn and Maggie. 'Go Fly Your Kite' also came in and hosted a STEM Space workshop for us.

We enjoyed some joint activities with the other sections. We went to the Somme Centre with Scouts, which was a super trip, as always.

We joined with Beavers to do a litter pick around some areas of the town.

Beavers also joined us for an evening with 'Wee Critters', Halloween, Christmas and Easter celebrations and a games night.

Nights Away

We ended our year in Cubs with a 2 night Summer Camp in Ganaway. Cubs enjoyed completing a variety of adventurous and outdoor activities including kayaking, laser tag, zorbing and inflatables, climbing, trip to the beach and much more. We also joined another Cub group around the camp-fire and sang camp-fire songs! It was a very successful camp, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

District/NI events

3 teams entered the Strangford District Cub Quiz, with one of our teams coming 2nd place. Very well done!

I would like to thank Paul, Lynne and Andrew and our Young Leaders for all their help and support throughout the year and also special thanks to Alan for all his support in our preparations for camp – very much appreciated.

Scout Section – Alan Poots

In April and May 2022 we were almost back to normal programme following a relaxation of Covid regulations, but regrettably our very popular Mourne Camp had to be cancelled as I tested positive for Covid. Our Summer Camp was in The Share Centre in Fermanagh and although we had only 8 Scouts everyone had a great experience.

The poor numbers was mainly as a result of parents having family holidays that were booked during Covid and now clashed with Summer Camp.

In September and October 2022 we planned our Night Hike along Helen's Way, Camping on arrival at Crawfordsburn. Pumpkin Camp was a great success and we also spent a couple of troop nights practicing for the Remembrance Parade to the Cenotaph, and I am pleased to say that 6th Ards Sea Scouts were a credit on the Morning of the Parade. Our Christmas Outing to Air Tastic followed by McDonalds was also a great success. Our Scout of The Year

2022 was Joey Carson and The Most Improved Scout was Ellyce Robinson, both very well deserved.

We registered 27 scouts in the census for 2023, comprising 19 boys and 8 girls. Planning for our next Summer Camp in the IOM started with an Information Night for both scouts and parents in January. Our thanks to the PSNI Dog Handling Team, who give us a great insight into the life of a police dog. Barn camp was once again a great success and our thanks go to Brian and Lynne McCracken for hosting this annual event. Badge work and camps were all now back on track, our activities included Mourne Camp in May, Patrol Camp in June, along with a great visit to the RNLI in Donaghadee. plus a coastal path hike and an airsoft night at Crawfordsburn.

Summer Camp at the Venture Centre on the IOM was a great success with a total of 18 Scouts and 5 Leaders. Even the Boat Journey was an adventure. I know that many of the scouts have told parents that the camp was the best thing they have done in their lives, parents have also passed on their thanks for giving their young person an experience of a lifetime. The Scout of the Year 2023 was Darsi McMaster and the Most Improved Scout was Annie Hannah, again most deserved.

GSL Report: Alan Poots

In the previous Year, April 2021 to March 2022, the Education Authority had funded the group several grants, We were granted our normal Non Generic funding, usually in the region of £400-£500, but because of a new system in place we were given £1800. We also applied for and received a grant for Equipment Purchase of £2000 and a Camping Activity Grant of £5950. Because our total grant aid for the year exceeded £3000 we were then subject to a financial audit prior to the awarding of the April 2022 to March 2023. This audit determined that the unspent money for the Summer Camp should be repaid but also our spending from the Non Generic Funding also had to be fully traceable through each section bank account. Some of our spending from the Non Generic funding could not be categorised within the EA funding requirements, this resulted in the group having to repay approximately £944 of the £1800 granted.

It is important that we have robust systems in place so that this should never happen again.

Our annual census recorded 27 Scouts, 18 Cub Scouts, 7 Beaver Scouts and 9 Squirrel Scouts, a total of 61 young people.

Covid has clearly had an adverse impact on the group especially the younger sections, but I am confident that this will recover over the next couple of years.

6th Ards Sea Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103971

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of 6th Ards Sea Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the 6th Ards Sea Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My 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 seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

David Quinn

DAVID QUINN F.C.A.

29 FALCON PARK

NEWTOWNARDS BT 23 469