



**6TH ARDS SEA SCOUT GROUP
AGM**

**4 SEPTEMBER 2025
REGENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

PRESENT

Helen Moore Chairperson
Alan Poots SL/GSL
Pauline Coulter Treasurer
Lynne McCracken ACSL
Sharlene Jellie CSL
Paul Martin ACSL
Allison Kingsmill ABL
Alison Savage SL
Andrew Greene ABSL
Kim Upritchard ASSL
Claire Hunter ASSL

APOLOGIES

Joanne Miller BSL

WELCOME

Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Joanne Miller sent her apologies.

MINUTES 2023 AGM 30th September 2023

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were agreed. Proposed by Lynne McCracken and seconded by Pauline Coulter

FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening balance at 1st April 2024 was £7520. Income during the year amounted to £19000. A grant from the Education Authority amounted to £2000 and Gift Aid £900. A detailed breakdown of figures by section is contained in the financial report attached.

Pauline explained the information that was required regarding subscriptions in order to claim Gift Aid. She requires Bank Statements up to 31/3/25 from each section to prepare the accounts for audit.

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

Alan extended his thanks to Leaders and young helpers for all their work and commitment during the year. He emphasised the need to complete mandatory training as a matter of priority.

Finally, Alan expressed his thanks to Robin Jardine for his exceptional commitment over many years in the Scout Section. Robin has retired to take up new challenges.

Thanks also to Pauline for all her work on the accounts.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Helen expressed her appreciation to all those involved in the leading and helping with the many children in the Group. The excellent numbers was testament to the amazing work undertaken throughout the year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

AOB

Alan proposed the Registration Evening should be streamlined. Parent/Carers advised to go to OSM online to register their child's/children's details.

There was a brief discussion of setting up a process for uniforms to be passed back to the group when no longer needed. There has been an increase in requests for second hand uniform.

Allison Kingsmill
Group Secretary

BEAVER SECTION REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024 – JUNE 2025

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.

Throughout the year we worked hard with the Beavers covering all aspects of badge work and activities and we were delighted to have awarded over 200 badges.

We also were able to award a Bronze Chief Scout Awards, congratulations to Jude Cardwell on his achievement and thanks to all the Beaver leaders for all the work and effort put in to help the Beavers achieve all these badges and awards.

We have had fun along the way. At Christmas we had a joint night with Cubs and had Aunt Sandra in, I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed the chocolate treats, to trips to Mauds for ice-cream, and participating in a litter pick along the canal, to which the Beavers found some things you wouldn't expect to find, much to their amusement.

We finished the year off with a day at Lorne, The Cubs and Scouts were there camping and we joined for a day of activities and pizza for tea before lighting the fire for the all important marshmallows and smores. Thanks to Cubs and Scouts for their hospitality.

We had some parents help out with the Litter Pick and they seemed to enjoy it as well. I did try to recruit more leaders but unfortunately this didn't work – I won't give up!

This year there have been a few obstacles with the Sleepover, the biggest one being the variable device in the flats next door, but this is just another obstacle to overcome in true Beaver Style.

I would like to take this moment to thank Paul for coming and helping us with the Sleepovers, Alison Savage for just doing everything she does to help us and our Young Leaders for all their help, it is very much appreciated, and we couldn't do this without you.

Also, my fellow leaders who I can rely on to help with the programme and indeed anything that is required, you have my upmost thanks Andrew and Allison.

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

CUB SECTION REPORT JUNE 2024 - JUNE 2025

We've had a great year in Cubs. We celebrated several joint activity nights with the Beavers, the Collector's Badge Night, allowed parents to join in and share in the activities. We also had a visit by the Council, where we explored the significant topic of recycling, adding to our understanding of our role in the community. Another highlight was our international night, which was well organised and delivered by Andrew, who offered invaluable insights about Polish Scouts and their culture. Thanks very much Andrew, a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

During the course of the year, our Cubs participated in various district events as well, including the Cub District Quiz, Remembrance Day, and St. Georges Day.

We joined Scouts for a visit to the Somme Museum and our joint summer camp with Scouts and Beavers joining for the day, was a particular success, with everyone enjoying a weekend of fun activities and team building.

Our meetings often combined learning and activity, such as Emergency Aid sessions, activities related to Our World challenge badge, geocaching, a hike at Cairn Wood, Laser Tag and trip to Mount Stewart.

We are pleased to acknowledge that four Chief Scouts Awards were earned this year, reflecting the dedication and commitment of our Cubs.

As we look ahead, we are keen to welcome our new Cubs joining us from Beavers. We would also like to thank Harry and Maggie, our young leaders, for their invaluable help and support throughout the year.

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Robin, who has been an invaluable support to the whole group for many years. We wish him all the best on his exciting journey with his family and appreciate all his contributions to our Cubs.

I want to take the opportunity to thank Alan and all the leaders, the children for their enthusiasm and their parents for their ongoing support.

6th Ards Sea Scouts Report: September 2024 to August 2025

September 2024 saw Scouts commence with a total of 31 scouts, and as the year progressed this decreased to 27 scouts. This total would include 5 girls.

Pumpkin Camp was cancelled again this year, due to high winds, so our first camp again 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 Ten Pin Bowling at the Ice Bowl, many thanks to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council for their discounted fees.

Mourne Camp in May had to be cancelled as it would appear that camping in the Mournes is not permitted, courtesy of the Northern Ireland Water Service. Patrol Camp in June was a joint camp with the Cubs at Lorne and prepared everyone for our Summer Camp at the end of July to the Venture Centre on the Isle of Man. The 16 scouts attending all engaged fully with all the activities, sometimes at least four activities a day. A very successful camp was had by all and my thanks to Robin Jardin and Maggi Wong for their help.

As well as the camps, badge work over the year progressed at a good pace, culminating with 3 scouts being awarded their Chief Scouts Gold Award. Well done to Ben Weir, Ellyce Robinson and Harry Martin.

Our Most Improved Scout was Erin Simpson and Harry Martin was the Scout of the Year.

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

GSL Report: Alan Poots September 2025

The Education Authority provided funding of £2000 for the year April 2024 to March 2025 and we wish to thank the EA for their generous and much welcomed support.

Our annual census return for the year Jan 2025 recorded a total of 81 young people comprising 19 Squirrels, 20 Beavers, 13 Cubs and 29 Scouts. This is only marginally down in membership from last year.

The reorganisation of Scouting in Strangford District is underway, with the closure of The County Down layer of management. Our understanding is that the County system has been dismantled and replaced by Four regional management groups. We are now part of East Region, which comprises groups from Strangford, North Down and East Belfast. Compass Data base has now been replaced by the New Membership System. After a few teething issues, the new database seems to be working OK. My thanks to all the leaders across all the sections that completed the new mandatory online training as requested.

I also wish to thank all the leaders and adult helpers across all the sections who have continued to provide our young people with an exciting and varied scouting experience. We really appreciate all that they do and we know how important the scouting experience is to development and the confidence of young people. I would also like to thank our young helpers. They have all contributed much to us having another successful year and I hope to see them all again in the following year.

Robin Jardine, who has been a scout leader for almost 30 years has sadly retired. His contribution and dedication to 6th Ards over the years has been exceptional and he will be greatly missed. I know that everyone in the Group would wish to pass on their sincere thanks to him and we all wish him well for the future.

Finally, my personal thanks to our treasurer, Pauline Coulter, who has always been available for advice and support when needed but also for her expertise in putting together our accounts and keeping all the sections financially solvent.