

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104000

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2015-10-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	62Nd Belfast Scout Group Newtownbreda (St. Johns) Presbyteri 374-378 Ormeau Road Belfast Bt7 3hx BT7 3HX
Phone	07470169081
Email	scottrobinson@scoutsni.org
Website	https://www.newtownbreda.org/uniformed-orgs/

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: Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Education/training, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Adult training, Children (5-13 year olds), Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£13,427	£14,047	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Gordon Myles		
Mr Jonathan Dudgeon		
Mr Kenny Campbell		
Mr Michael Forsythe		
Mr Scott Guiler		
Mr Scott Robinson		
Mr Stephen Mallett		
Mrs Claire Compston Newell		
Mrs Helen Morrissey		
Mrs Liz Dudgeon		
Mrs Marjorie Guiler		

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104000

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62nd Belfast Scout Group

**The Annual Report for Year
Ended March 2025**



62nd Belfast: Finance

No two years are ever the same in Scouting!

Income this year totalled £13,427. This was £3,949 lower than 2024 but for good reasons:

- Income from activities was £2,400 lower – last year there were 2 major camps (Lagan District and our Centenary camp), only 1 small District camp this year.
- The EA grant was £1,500 lower – last year we were awarded a supplementary amount at the end of the year, EA funding did not allow this in 2024/25
- It was our centenary last year and we sold souvenir mugs, not repeated this year.

Subscriptions received totalled £6,870 and another year of Gift Aid was claimed. Expenses were also lower, totalling £14,047.

Capitation for our 92 members as at 31st January totalled £4,140. It is paid to The Scout Association and covers insurance for members and leaders, safeguarding and administrative costs. It represents 64% of the money we charge you each year, leaving 36% for programme costs. Camps and outings include the cost of the District camp and other outings through the year. We contributed £1,100 in the year to the church who generously enable us to meet weekly in the halls and cover the insurance on the scout den.

During the year we commenced a refurbishment programme on the scout den to bring it up to current safety standards and to improve the storage facilities for the scout group equipment. This will continue in the year to come.

We were very pleased to be able to support our 2 Explorer scouts and Leader who are travelling to Cambodia in the summer to work with Habitat for Humanity and this year's fundraising at the duck race was contributed to Community Search and Rescue, another very worthy cause.


The (planned) deficit for the year was £620. Our funds at 31 March totalled £22,510 – still a very healthy total. In addition, we own the Scout Den – valued at £168,945 in the latest insurance renewal – and equipment totalling £18,000.

62nd Belfast Scout Group
Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 104000)
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subs - Beavers, Scouts, Cubs, Explorers	6870		5840	
Duke of Edinburgh	303		525	
Income from activities	2002		4446	
Charity Fundraising	727		825	
EA Grant	2000		3577	
Donations	127		0	
Sale of centenary mugs	0		474	
Gift Aid	1398		1689	
	<u>1398</u>		<u>1689</u>	
		13427		17376
EXPENSES				
Capitation	4140		3720	
Group activities	1169		1412	
Camps and outings	1741		3207	
Duke of Edinburgh	455		810	
Badges and Scarves	769		771	
Leader Training and Expenses	299		0	
Sponsorship of International Explorer Expedition	1500		0	
Donations to Charity	737		1594	
Equipment	0		328	
Den running costs / outlays	1422		459	
Insurance	265		355	
Newtownbreda P.C. - contribution for halls and insurance	1100		1000	
EA grant returned	0		1053	
Centenary celebrations	0		4284	
AGM expenses	382		711	
Miscellaneous	66		25	
	<u>66</u>		<u>25</u>	
		14047		19730
Deficit for the year		(620)		(2354)
Opening balance 1 April		23130		25484
Closing balance 31 March		<u>22510</u>		<u>23130</u>
Cash at bank 31st March		21610		22065
Cash floats		900		1065
Total		<u>22510</u>		<u>23130</u>
Unrestricted funds		21348		21968
Restricted funds (Squirrels)		<u>1162</u>		<u>1162</u>
		<u>22510</u>		<u>23130</u>
Other Assets at insurance value				
Scout Den	168945		163548	
Camp equipment, fixtures, fittings	18000		17580	
	<u>18000</u>		<u>17580</u>	
		186945		181128
Other liabilities		0		0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>209455</u>		<u>204258</u>

62nd Belfast: Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved this report which has been signed by the Chair of the Trustee Board and Group Lead Volunteer on their behalf at the Annual General Meeting in June 2025.



Gordon Myles
Trustee Board Chair



Scott Robinson
Group Lead Volunteer

06/06/2025

Date

06/06/2025

Date

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104000

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62nd Belfast Scout Group

**The Annual Report for Year
Ended March 2024**



Scouts

62nd Belfast Scout Group – Year Review

As the group volunteer lead it is my pleasure to present the below reports on behalf of all the sections that make up the 62nd scout group. At our last AGM I highlighted that we were entering our centenary year and with this AGM we bring our year long programme of events mostly to a close.

I wish to start by thanking all those that support 62nd Scout Group, each section requires considerable dedication of all the leaders and helpers involved to deliver exciting, varied, and challenging programmes that challenge our young people to develop in a safe environment, hopefully throughout their entire time with us from Squirrels right up to young leaders. You will find below the section reports written by our Section Leaders relevant to your son and be able to read more about the activities they got up to.

Overall as a group in our 100th year we remain in a strong position. We have approximately 105 youth members engaging in a varied scouting programme across 5 sections. Our growth as a group has remained relatively flat over the last 2 years having now fully recovered from Covid. This is mainly due to Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs being at capacity both for the number of leaders available and the hall space. We continue to field regular enquiries for all 3 sections and redirect where possible to other nearby groups. Numbers in Scouts and Explorers continue to increase, Scout Section continues to grow due to scouts bringing their friends who have in turned joined up, which is a brilliant endorsement.

Highlights for this year included our centenary camp in September which was attended by all sections who either visited for the day on Saturday or spent the weekend camping either inside the BP chalet for Cubs or camping out for Scouts and Explorers. There was a full programme of activities throughout the weekend with a particular focus on activities on the Saturday which would challenge all sections with fresh activities that they had not previously done at other camps. The group came together for a campfire that evening.

In February we held a reunion afternoon tea for all past members in the Rosetta Hall at St Johns. It was fantastic that we were able to fill the hall with past members. Particular thanks to John Lyons our Group President for being such a driving force behind this event and all the other leaders and volunteers who made it possible by organising, setting up the venue and serving tea's and coffees on the day.

I would like to express my thanks and that of the 62nd Scout Council to the section leaders, Marjorie, Helen, Liz, Jonnie and Scott Guiler and their teams for the programmes they have delivered this year and their continued dedication to Scouting.

It would be remiss of me not to encourage anyone reading to consider volunteering. Scouting has changed and continues to become more modern, now more than ever there is a variety of roles suited to everyone from those that can commit to volunteering once a week to those can only give a few hours once a month. Much of the training has now moved online reducing this requirement also. Please speak to me or Scott Robinson or any of the sections leaders if you would like more information.

Finally, the Trustee Board also wish to note their thanks to our Sponsoring Authority, Newtownbreda Presbyterian (St. Johns) Church, as without their support the Scout Group would not be able to provide the wide range of activities for our members.

Deane Dawson (Group Volunteer Lead)

Group Location

The Scout Den at Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church, 374-378 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 3HX. The Den is a small hall for meetings and equipment storage. Main activities are carried out in the adjoining St Johns Hall.

Group Correspondence

All correspondence should be sent to:

Deane Dawson G.V.L.

62nd Belfast Scout Group
Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church
374/6 Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 3HX

62ndgsl@gmail.com

Personnel of the Trustee Board

The Trustees who comprise the Group Trustee Board on 31/03/2024 are:

- Gordon Myles (Chair)
- Deane Dawson (Group Lead Volunteer)
- Scott Robinson (Deputy Group Scout Leader & County Lead Volunteer for Belfast)
- Beth Dawson (Secretary)
- Marjorie Guiler (Lead Volunteer for Squirrels)
- Helen Morrissey (Lead Volunteer for Beavers)
- Liz Dudgeon (Lead Volunteer for Cubs)
- Jonathan Dudgeon (Lead Volunteer for Scouts)
- Stephen Mallett (Lead Volunteer for Explorers)
- Scott Guiler (Elected Trustee)
- Kenny Campbell (Elected Trustee)
- Michael Forsythe (Elected Trustee)
- Claire Compston (Elected Trustee)
- Norman McKee (Lagan District Commissioner)

Please Note: All Trustees live in NI and activities held are based in Belfast County.

62nd Trustee Update

Following the resignation of our previous Treasurer in June 2023 we have yet to appoint a new Treasurer. Our Trustees, Scott Robinson and Marjorie Guiler, have jointly been carrying out this function on a temporary basis.

The role of Deputy Group Scout Leader, currently held by Scott Robinson, will cease to exist at the point of the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

The NI Charity Commission website has been updated with any changes to the group.

The Trustees have examined the NICC statutory guidance on the Public Benefit requirements and consider they have complied with it in full.

62nd Belfast Scout Group Structure

The 62nd Belfast Scout Group is a constituent member of the UK Scout Association and follows its rules and policies as laid down in a document known as POR (Policy Organisation and Rules). There are 5 sections – Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers which are age-related as set out below in the census section. The Section Leader for each section is a Trustee as per POR and included above.

The Group is a cross-community with different church and ethnic backgrounds represented. 62nd Belfast Scout Group have a Constitution which is agreed upon annually and followed throughout the year by the elected Trustee Board.

The position of Group President is currently held by John Lyons.

Purpose and Benefit

Scouting is established to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals and responsible citizens.

This also benefits the local and wider communities to which they belong. By gaining Awards and badges set up by Scouts UK they learn and display knowledge and skills which will be of value to them throughout their lives. Activities and badges are tailored for the separate age groups.

62nd Belfast Membership

Census (January 2024)

- Squirrel Drey – 18 Members
- Beaver Colony – 22 Members
- Cub Pack – 18 Members
- Scout Troop – 21 Members
- Explorer Unit – 14 Members
- Executive Members – 14 Members
- Other Leaders – 18 Members
- Total Number of Group: 125 Members

62nd Belfast: Finance

For the 2023/24 financial year the Group is reporting a deficit of £2,559 (2022/23: Surplus of £2,558).

Although income for 2023/24 was £17,376, £2,816 more than the previous year, our expenses of £19,730 resulted in the deficit. Expenditure on camps and outings was significantly larger than the previous year, events at our AGM became a new annual cost and events organised to mark the group's centenary year were a unique expense.

Within the reporting year, we were pleased to raise £778 at our June 2023 Duck Race which was donated to Air Ambulance NI and the Squirrels-Kicks Count which raised £48. The Ardnally Walk raised £534, half of which goes to the Group and half to Lagan District.

62nd Belfast Scout Group
Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 104000)
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subs - Beavers, Scouts, Cubs, Explorers	5840		5,844	
Duke of Edinburgh	525		1,285	
Income from activities / fund raising	1472		2,213	
Camp income	3800		769	
ELB Grant	3577		2,123	
Other Grant	0		300	
Sale of centenary mugs	474		0	
Gift Aid	1689		2,026	
	<u>17,376</u>		<u>14,560</u>	
EXPENSES				
Capitation	3720		3,812	
Group activities	1412		1,312	
Camps and outings	3207		562	
Duke of Edinburgh	810		442	
Donations	1594		1,156	
Badges and Scarves	771		702	
EA grant returned	1053		0	
Den running costs / outlays	459		619	
Insurance	355		327	
Newtownbreda Presbyterian - contribution for use	1000		850	
Centenary celebrations	4284		0	
AGM expenses	711		0	
Equipment	328		1,158	
Miscellaneous	25		1,061	
	<u>19730</u>		<u>12002</u>	
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		<u>(2354)</u>		<u>2,558</u>
Opening balance 1 April		<u>25484</u>		<u>22,926</u>
Closing balance 31 March		<u>23,130</u>		<u>25,484</u>
Cash at bank 31st March		22065		25,319
Cash floats		1065		165
Total		<u>23,130</u>		<u>25,484</u>
Unrestricted funds		21,968		24,029
Restricted funds (Squirrels)		1,162		1,455
		<u>23,130</u>		<u>25,484</u>
Other Assets at Insurance value				
Scout Den	163,548		119,000	
Camp equipment, fixtures, fittings	17,580		14,415	
		<u>181,128</u>		<u>133,415</u>
Other liabilities		0		0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>204,258</u>		<u>158,899</u>

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of 62nd Belfast Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity set out in the Annual Report for the year ended 31 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.



Denis Guiler, 21 May 2024

Treasurer Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

Independent Examiner

62nd Belfast: Sectional Reports

Squirrels

Marjorie Guiler

Another fun-filled year for Squirrels! The weather in the summer term was lovely and we made the most of the great outdoors with walks to Galwally Lake to feed the ducks and to the new Lagan Footbridge to see the Squirrel mural. Stephen Harding, who designed the bridge, joined us there to talk to the boys about bridge-building. 2nd June saw the duck race – no real ducks were harmed! The water level was low after the great weather but all the boys managed to get very wet. The family barbeque and bouncy castles during the AGM afterwards were well received by all.

The Squirrels practised camping one evening in the church garden before going to the Lagan camp at the end of June – a great end to the summer term. At the beginning of the autumn term, they “camped” again at Ardnally, this time with the rest of the 62nd at the Centenary camp. They loved having their dinner with the older boys in 62nd and joining in at the campfire and a visit from Party Animals made their day (if not the leader’s day!). I would like to thank a former parent who kindly sponsored this visit – our annual event to remember Catherine.

Squirrels also visited and had fun at Ardnally for Halloween and Christmas at Elfnally, both Lagan District events. They are always ready to celebrate and party – another Halloween fancy dress party, Divali and of course Christmas when Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit.

We have continued to work (still having fun) on badges and were very pleased to award 8 Squirrels with their Chief Scout Acorn Awards in September before they moved up to Beavers. We have also completed/nearly completed 2 Challenge badges (All Around Us and All About Me) and 5 Activity badges (Local Superhero, Get Creative, Let’s Celebrate, Super Chef and Explore Outdoors). Well done boys!

The Drey has been full throughout the year and we continue to operate a waiting list. Thank you to all our Leaders –Beth, Rebecca, Claire, Hilary and Laura and young leaders Harry, Nenagh and Adam. I know it takes much more than an hour a week – Squirrels would not be possible without you.

BEAVERS

Helen Morrissey (Ahmeek)

We have 20 Beaver Scouts who attend regularly on Monday nights and we have continued to operate a waiting list due to a high demand for places.

We lost several of our young leaders when we finished in June 2023 due to educational commitments. We thank Emily, Lara, James and Caolan for all their help last year. We welcomed Lee-Ann Weldon to our Leadership Team as our new Assistant Beaver Scout Leader in September 2023. Two new young leaders – Matthew Catney and Steven George also joined us and are both volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

At our weekly meetings we played games, made crafts, had a uni-hoc competition and learnt about St. Patrick and the beaver animal. We have taken advantage of the good weather and had activities and trails outside in the church grounds.

We took part in several events during the year:

Hallowe'en Event at Ardnally – 15 Beavers attended a fun filled night at Ardnally on Friday 20 October 2023. They followed a spooky trail, tried to escape from the spider's web, made various crafts and heard a story at the campfire before enjoying pumpkin soup.

Elfnally - On Monday 4 December 2023, 21 Beavers visited Ardnally for a magical Christmas experience. They followed a Candy Trail, played games, made crafts and sang along to Christmas songs followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows at the campfire.

Gathering Drum - We joined with the Squirrels for a visit from Gathering Drum on Monday 12 February 2024 and the children and leaders all had great fun making lots of noise!

Thinking Day Service – 7 Beavers attended the Annual Thinking Day Service in the church on Sunday 18 February 2024. Lucas Weldon and Teddy Harding read the invitation to worship at the start of the service and Ben Myles and Oisin McClean made up our Colour Party. They all did an amazing job. Well done!

Rally Day - 13 Beavers attended Rally Day at Crawfordsburn on 18 May 2024. We met at Botanic Station and travelled by train to Helen's Bay Station before walking to the NI Scout Centre at

Crawfordsburn. We joined Beaver Scouts from across Northern Ireland to take part in a variety of activities with an Olympic Theme.

Duck Race and Activity Day – We will finish the year with the Annual Duck Race at Minnowburn on Friday 7 June 2024 and an Activity Day at Ardnavalley on Saturday 29 June 2024.



During the year we enrolled 13 kits (children are called kits until they complete several activities and become a Beaver Scout) and awarded 21 Parliament Badges and 13 Stage 1 Hike Badges.

Thank You

We are grateful to all our leaders and helpers for making Beavers possible and for their continued dedicated service to the Colony on Monday nights. Thank you to the parents for their support and to the Church for the use of the halls.



Liz Dudgeon (Akelia)

Cubs meet in the Church halls every Monday evening from March through to May with approx 21 Cubs in attendance. In March we attended the Ardnally walk and the monies raised went to the Air Ambulance. In May-June we met in Ardnally where we were able to do fire lighting, cricket, rounder's, hunt and practice pitching tents.

In June we attended Lagan District Camp where all sections camped, weather had been very hot until the Friday night when rain started. It did not dampen spirits and the cubs enjoyed meeting old and new friends from different units. On Saturday the Cubs did Canadian canoeing, and different bases organised by leaders.

In September we had an indoor camp with the Scouts and the Squirrels and Beavers joined us on the Saturday for activities and birthday cake to celebrate the 62nd 100 years of existence. Some of the activities included caving and wall climbing which the Cubs loved.

We said good bye to our P7s and in October we invested our new Cubs. At Halloween we carved pumpkins and interesting faces were made.

At the end of November we made Christmas tree calendars in preparation for our evening with the PW of the church. The Cubs and the PTA choir of St Michaels' sang Christmas carols and some cubs played their musical instruments.

We also went to Ardnally for "Christmas at Ardnally" where we went on the elf trail, had smores and played Christmas games.

In January we got more new Cubs and all the Cubs refreshed themselves on the Cub laws by playing games and encouraging team building by having a night of board games where some of the Cubs showed how well they can play chess.

In February the Cubs took part in the annual Founder days Church service where some of the cubs did a reading and carried the Cub Flag.

Throughout the year we have completed First Aid badges and navigator badges.

SCOUTS

Jonathan Dudgeon

The Scout Section have been quite evenly split between Ardnally and the Church Halls, with the odd night off for Christmas or Easter, maybe 2 nights off over Summer, with the occasional meeting off site for night walks in the local area. We have made a conscious decision to make as much time up as possible due to missing so much time due to previous Covid restrictions.

When walking, we usually encourage the older Scouts to take the lead in navigation. Often our walks have stops for cooking on the Trangia's, a spot of Morse Code or a forage around for wild garlic for Garlic Bread which we can make on a fire back at the Den or Ardnally.

At Ardnally, we run a variety of different types of games and activities, often to fit the conditions on the night as the weather can be so variable. We are fortunate at Ardnally to have mature trees that provide ample cover for most rain showers, so the rain rarely actually interrupts our program.

Whilst the leaders (myself Jonnie Dudgeon, Mike 'Fozzy' Forsyth, Kenny Campbell and Deane Dawson) are running the show, we seek the opinion of all Scouts to know what's fun what's not and so on. Fan favourite activities of note include chariot building and racing with pioneering poles, pumpkin carving, pancake making on tin cans with the heat source being an individual candle, fires and axe work.

As we are at Ardnally so often we help out in our small way in the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds. We conduct litter picks, were the Scouts are split up and compete against the other team to collect as much litter as they can in the zone we find ourselves in that night. We also help clear paths of branches and debris after storms and the clearing of the grass of all the branches and stones before it is to be cut.

In June of 2023 we attended the Lagan District camp at Ardnally along with many others from the District. Some of the Senior Scouts assisted in building a gate for our campsite which we shared with the 115th Scouts, as was tradition. We had so many admirers or perhaps jealous eyes that the ground just in front of the entrance gradually became quite muddy, so much so that over a year on the grass still hasn't recovered and is looking rather bare.

In September we again camped at Ardnally for the weekend, this time for our 100 Year Anniversary. The Scouts and Explorers camped on the Lagan Site behind the BP Chalet and the Cubs slept in the hall in the chalet. We ran some activities with the BAC in Barnett's Park such as caving and climbing on the climbing wall and went Canadian Canoeing at Shaw's Bridge. On the Saturday evening we had a beautiful birthday cake made by Janine who is a Beaver leader in 115th. Whilst some of the Scouts sensibly kept the campfire lit in the evening a dozen or so could escape the Rugby World Cup fever and watched Ireland put 8 tries past a strong Tongan side.

We also returned to the church halls just before the Halloween, on a particularly frosty 1st night we made Chocolate brownies within oranges cooked over the fire. In the following weeks we conducted a litter pick in the church grounds and the surrounding roads –with Rosetta Park being particularly bad.

The Rugby World Cup was a near constant in the Autumn, with our tuck shop time almost glued to the TV to see what we had missed in the previous hour and a half of activities. One of the more memorable moments was witnessing the tail end of Ireland's famous victory over favourites and eventual winners South Africa after doing some fire lighting in colanders at the Den.

Our 3rd camp at Ardnally was in March where we again encountered very mild and dry weather. As the annual Ardnally walk wasn't due to happen until September we organised our own scaled down version with a night hike down to Minnowburn and the Terrace Gardens. We didn't quite do a test run for the Duck Race, which will have occurred just before this AGM, but a few Scouts did throw poohsticks in the stream, although one or two may have been disqualified as I think their selection may have been considered pooh-branches or pooh-trunks and could well have created a new Beaver Dam at Minnowburn!

Parents may be encouraged to hear that this might have been the 1st camp that the Scouts actually got a full night sleep and didn't come home reeking of campfire! And I was similarly impressed in the morning to discover almost immaculate tents, not a drop of litter or evidence of midnight feasts!

2 of the 3 camps were held jointly with the other Scout Troop I am in charge of the 115th Belfast, this gives the Scouts the opportunity to see some fresh faces and hear fresh voices and perspectives – it also means I only have to run 3 camps not 6!

All the work that goes into our programming is guided by the requirements of the Chief Scout's Gold Award. I use this as a sort of a curriculum, as it often reminds me that we've done too

much Scout'ie activities like fire building, axe work and backwards cooking and not enough items for the required Creative Challenge Award!

I would like to thank my current leadership team (Fuzzy, Kenny and Deane) and to those leaders who have come before us, who set a really high standard of Scouting that we not only to maintain but try and exceed on occasion, but more importantly the Scouts themselves who are receptive to our message, week in week out at Ardnally and the Church Halls.

EXPLORERS

Stephen Mallett & Scott Guiler

Since May 2023 the Explorers have attended two major camps, completed Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and Chief Scouts Awards, volunteered in the community and at a county, district and group level and continued to develop their skills in the areas that a scout would be expected to excel.

The Lagan District camp allowed us to take part in adventurous activities on the River Lagan and nearby mountain bike trails but more importantly we were able to interact with other groups to make new friends and useful contacts.

At the 62nd group Centenary camp we were challenged at Belfast Activity Centre with the wide range of challenges that they offer, we prepared a large campfire for the evening's entertainment and better got to know the other sections in our own group.

In August we had six explorers involved in their DofE expedition in the Mourne Mountains. This proved to be a tough outing for them but they were able to take some key learning points away from it for the future.


Helping others is a keystone of scouting and volunteering at church events (pizza nights and the Autumn Fete), at Ardnally (ground maintenance and wardening duties) and with Belfast County (Administrative tasks).

"A Scout is expected to be able to" has been the basis of many of the activities in the past year. Fire lighting, cooking, navigation, problem solving, practical knot tying, teamwork and crafting are just a few of the skills we have been developing on Friday nights.

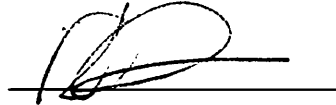
We look forward to continuing our programme into the summer months as we prepare for this year's expeditions, camps and service activities.

62nd Belfast: Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved this report which has been signed by the Chair of the Trustee Board and Secretary on their behalf at the Annual General Meeting in June 2024.



Gordon Myles
Trustee Board Chair



Dean Dawson
Group Lead Volunteer

29/06/2024

Date

29/06/2024

Date

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104000

Annual report

62nd Belfast Scout Group

**The Annual Report for Year
Ended March 2024**



Scouts

62nd Belfast Scout Group – Year Review

As the group volunteer lead it is my pleasure to present the below reports on behalf of all the sections that make up the 62nd scout group. At our last AGM I highlighted that we were entering our centenary year and with this AGM we bring our year long programme of events mostly to a close.

I wish to start by thanking all those that support 62nd Scout Group, each section requires considerable dedication of all the leaders and helpers involved to deliver exciting, varied, and challenging programmes that challenge our young people to develop in a safe environment, hopefully throughout their entire time with us from Squirrels right up to young leaders. You will find below the section reports written by our Section Leaders relevant to your son and be able to read more about the activities they got up to.

Overall as a group in our 100th year we remain in a strong position. We have approximately 105 youth members engaging in a varied scouting programme across 5 sections. Our growth as a group has remained relatively flat over the last 2 years having now fully recovered from Covid. This is mainly due to Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs being at capacity both for the number of leaders available and the hall space. We continue to field regular enquiries for all 3 sections and redirect where possible to other nearby groups. Numbers in Scouts and Explorers continue to increase, Scout Section continues to grow due to scouts bringing their friends who have in turned joined up, which is a brilliant endorsement.

Highlights for this year included our centenary camp in September which was attended by all sections who either visited for the day on Saturday or spent the weekend camping either inside the BP chalet for Cubs or camping out for Scouts and Explorers. There was a full programme of activities throughout the weekend with a particular focus on activities on the Saturday which would challenge all sections with fresh activities that they had not previously done at other camps. The group came together for a campfire that evening.

In February we held a reunion afternoon tea for all past members in the Rosetta Hall at St Johns. It was fantastic that we were able to fill the hall with past members. Particular thanks to John Lyons our Group President for being such a driving force behind this event and all the other leaders and volunteers who made it possible by organising, setting up the venue and serving tea's and coffees on the day.

I would like to express my thanks and that of the 62nd Scout Council to the section leaders, Marjorie, Helen, Liz, Jonnie and Scott Guiler and their teams for the programmes they have delivered this year and their continued dedication to Scouting.

It would be remiss of me not to encourage anyone reading to consider volunteering. Scouting has changed and continues to become more modern, now more than ever there is a variety of roles suited to everyone from those that can commit to volunteering once a week to those can only give a few hours once a month. Much of the training has now moved online reducing this requirement also. Please speak to me or Scott Robinson or any of the sections leaders if you would like more information.

Finally, the Trustee Board also wish to note their thanks to our Sponsoring Authority, Newtownbreda Presbyterian (St. Johns) Church, as without their support the Scout Group would not be able to provide the wide range of activities for our members.

Deane Dawson (Group Volunteer Lead)

Group Location

The Scout Den at Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church, 374-378 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 3HX. The Den is a small hall for meetings and equipment storage. Main activities are carried out in the adjoining St Johns Hall.

Group Correspondence

All correspondence should be sent to:

Deane Dawson G.V.L.

62nd Belfast Scout Group
Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church
374/6 Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 3HX

62ndgsl@gmail.com

Personnel of the Trustee Board

The Trustees who comprise the Group Trustee Board on 31/03/2024 are:

- Gordon Myles (Chair)
- Deane Dawson (Group Lead Volunteer)
- Scott Robinson (Deputy Group Scout Leader & County Lead Volunteer for Belfast)
- Beth Dawson (Secretary)
- Marjorie Guiler (Lead Volunteer for Squirrels)
- Helen Morrissey (Lead Volunteer for Beavers)
- Liz Dudgeon (Lead Volunteer for Cubs)
- Jonathan Dudgeon (Lead Volunteer for Scouts)
- Stephen Mallett (Lead Volunteer for Explorers)
- Scott Guiler (Elected Trustee)
- Kenny Campbell (Elected Trustee)
- Michael Forsythe (Elected Trustee)
- Claire Compston (Elected Trustee)
- Norman McKee (Lagan District Commissioner)

Please Note: All Trustees live in NI and activities held are based in Belfast County.

62nd Trustee Update

Following the resignation of our previous Treasurer in June 2023 we have yet to appoint a new Treasurer. Our Trustees, Scott Robinson and Marjorie Guiler, have jointly been carrying out this function on a temporary basis.

The role of Deputy Group Scout Leader, currently held by Scott Robinson, will cease to exist at the point of the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

The NI Charity Commission website has been updated with any changes to the group.

The Trustees have examined the NICC statutory guidance on the Public Benefit requirements and consider they have complied with it in full.

62nd Belfast Scout Group Structure

The 62nd Belfast Scout Group is a constituent member of the UK Scout Association and follows its rules and policies as laid down in a document known as POR (Policy Organisation and Rules). There are 5 sections – Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers which are age-related as set out below in the census section. The Section Leader for each section is a Trustee as per POR and included above.

The Group is a cross-community with different church and ethnic backgrounds represented. 62nd Belfast Scout Group have a Constitution which is agreed upon annually and followed throughout the year by the elected Trustee Board.

The position of Group President is currently held by John Lyons.

Purpose and Benefit

Scouting is established to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals and responsible citizens.

This also benefits the local and wider communities to which they belong. By gaining Awards and badges set up by Scouts UK they learn and display knowledge and skills which will be of value to them throughout their lives. Activities and badges are tailored for the separate age groups.

62nd Belfast Membership

Census (January 2024)

- Squirrel Drey – 18 Members
- Beaver Colony – 22 Members
- Cub Pack – 18 Members
- Scout Troop – 21 Members
- Explorer Unit – 14 Members
- Executive Members – 14 Members
- Other Leaders – 18 Members
- Total Number of Group: 125 Members

62nd Belfast: Finance

For the 2023/24 financial year the Group is reporting a deficit of £2,559 (2022/23: Surplus of £2,558).

Although income for 2023/24 was £17,376, £2,816 more than the previous year, our expenses of £19,730 resulted in the deficit. Expenditure on camps and outings was significantly larger than the previous year, events at our AGM became a new annual cost and events organised to mark the group's centenary year were a unique expense.

Within the reporting year, we were pleased to raise £778 at our June 2023 Duck Race which was donated to Air Ambulance NI and the Squirrels-Kicks Count which raised £48. The Ardnally Walk raised £534, half of which goes to the Group and half to Lagan District.

62nd Belfast Scout Group
Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 104000)
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subs - Beavers, Scouts, Cubs, Explorers	5840		5,844	
Duke of Edinburgh	525		1,285	
Income from activities / fund raising	1472		2,213	
Camp income	3800		769	
ELB Grant	3577		2,123	
Other Grant	0		300	
Sale of centenary mugs	474		0	
Gift Aid	1689		2,026	
	<u>17,376</u>		<u>14,560</u>	
EXPENSES				
Capitation	3720		3,812	
Group activities	1412		1,312	
Camps and outings	3207		562	
Duke of Edinburgh	810		442	
Donations	1594		1,156	
Badges and Scarves	771		702	
EA grant returned	1053		0	
Den running costs / outlays	459		619	
Insurance	355		327	
Newtownbreda Presbyterian - contribution for use	1000		850	
Centenary celebrations	4284		0	
AGM expenses	711		0	
Equipment	328		1,158	
Miscellaneous	25		1,061	
	<u>19730</u>		<u>12002</u>	
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		<u>(2354)</u>		<u>2,558</u>
Opening balance 1 April		<u>25484</u>		<u>22,926</u>
Closing balance 31 March		<u>23,130</u>		<u>25,484</u>
Cash at bank 31st March		22065		25,319
Cash floats		1065		165
Total		<u>23,130</u>		<u>25,484</u>
Unrestricted funds		21,968		24,029
Restricted funds (Squirrels)		1,162		1,455
		<u>23,130</u>		<u>25,484</u>
Other Assets at Insurance value				
Scout Den	163,548		119,000	
Camp equipment, fixtures, fittings	17,580		14,415	
		<u>181,128</u>		<u>133,415</u>
Other liabilities		0		0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>204,258</u>		<u>158,899</u>

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of 62nd Belfast Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity set out in the Annual Report for the year ended 31 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.



Denis Guiler, 21 May 2024

Treasurer Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

Independent Examiner

62nd Belfast: Sectional Reports

Squirrels

Marjorie Guiler

Another fun-filled year for Squirrels! The weather in the summer term was lovely and we made the most of the great outdoors with walks to Galwally Lake to feed the ducks and to the new Lagan Footbridge to see the Squirrel mural. Stephen Harding, who designed the bridge, joined us there to talk to the boys about bridge-building. 2nd June saw the duck race – no real ducks were harmed! The water level was low after the great weather but all the boys managed to get very wet. The family barbeque and bouncy castles during the AGM afterwards were well received by all.

The Squirrels practised camping one evening in the church garden before going to the Lagan camp at the end of June – a great end to the summer term. At the beginning of the autumn term, they “camped” again at Ardnally, this time with the rest of the 62nd at the Centenary camp. They loved having their dinner with the older boys in 62nd and joining in at the campfire and a visit from Party Animals made their day (if not the leader’s day!). I would like to thank a former parent who kindly sponsored this visit – our annual event to remember Catherine.

Squirrels also visited and had fun at Ardnally for Halloween and Christmas at Elfnally, both Lagan District events. They are always ready to celebrate and party – another Halloween fancy dress party, Divali and of course Christmas when Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit.

We have continued to work (still having fun) on badges and were very pleased to award 8 Squirrels with their Chief Scout Acorn Awards in September before they moved up to Beavers. We have also completed/nearly completed 2 Challenge badges (All Around Us and All About Me) and 5 Activity badges (Local Superhero, Get Creative, Let’s Celebrate, Super Chef and Explore Outdoors). Well done boys!

The Drey has been full throughout the year and we continue to operate a waiting list. Thank you to all our Leaders –Beth, Rebecca, Claire, Hilary and Laura and young leaders Harry, Nenagh and Adam. I know it takes much more than an hour a week – Squirrels would not be possible without you.

BEAVERS

Helen Morrissey (Ahmeek)

We have 20 Beaver Scouts who attend regularly on Monday nights and we have continued to operate a waiting list due to a high demand for places.

We lost several of our young leaders when we finished in June 2023 due to educational commitments. We thank Emily, Lara, James and Caolan for all their help last year. We welcomed Lee-Ann Weldon to our Leadership Team as our new Assistant Beaver Scout Leader in September 2023. Two new young leaders – Matthew Catney and Steven George also joined us and are both volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

At our weekly meetings we played games, made crafts, had a uni-hoc competition and learnt about St. Patrick and the beaver animal. We have taken advantage of the good weather and had activities and trails outside in the church grounds.

We took part in several events during the year:

Hallowe'en Event at Ardnally – 15 Beavers attended a fun filled night at Ardnally on Friday 20 October 2023. They followed a spooky trail, tried to escape from the spider's web, made various crafts and heard a story at the campfire before enjoying pumpkin soup.

Elfnally - On Monday 4 December 2023, 21 Beavers visited Ardnally for a magical Christmas experience. They followed a Candy Trail, played games, made crafts and sang along to Christmas songs followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows at the campfire.

Gathering Drum - We joined with the Squirrels for a visit from Gathering Drum on Monday 12 February 2024 and the children and leaders all had great fun making lots of noise!

Thinking Day Service – 7 Beavers attended the Annual Thinking Day Service in the church on Sunday 18 February 2024. Lucas Weldon and Teddy Harding read the invitation to worship at the start of the service and Ben Myles and Oisin McClean made up our Colour Party. They all did an amazing job. Well done!

Rally Day - 13 Beavers attended Rally Day at Crawfordsburn on 18 May 2024. We met at Botanic Station and travelled by train to Helen's Bay Station before walking to the NI Scout Centre at

Crawfordsburn. We joined Beaver Scouts from across Northern Ireland to take part in a variety of activities with an Olympic Theme.

Duck Race and Activity Day – We will finish the year with the Annual Duck Race at Minnowburn on Friday 7 June 2024 and an Activity Day at Ardnally on Saturday 29 June 2024.



During the year we enrolled 13 kits (children are called kits until they complete several activities and become a Beaver Scout) and awarded 21 Parliament Badges and 13 Stage 1 Hike Badges.

Thank You

We are grateful to all our leaders and helpers for making Beavers possible and for their continued dedicated service to the Colony on Monday nights. Thank you to the parents for their support and to the Church for the use of the halls.



Liz Dudgeon (Akelia)

Cubs meet in the Church halls every Monday evening from March through to May with approx 21 Cubs in attendance. In March we attended the Ardnally walk and the monies raised went to the Air Ambulance. In May-June we met in Ardnally where we were able to do fire lighting, cricket, rounder's, hunt and practice pitching tents.

In June we attended Lagan District Camp where all sections camped, weather had been very hot until the Friday night when rain started. It did not dampen spirits and the cubs enjoyed meeting old and new friends from different units. On Saturday the Cubs did Canadian canoeing, and different bases organised by leaders.

In September we had an indoor camp with the Scouts and the Squirrels and Beavers joined us on the Saturday for activities and birthday cake to celebrate the 62nd 100 years of existence. Some of the activities included caving and wall climbing which the Cubs loved.

We said good bye to our P7s and in October we invested our new Cubs. At Halloween we carved pumpkins and interesting faces were made.

At the end of November we made Christmas tree calendars in preparation for our evening with the PW of the church. The Cubs and the PTA choir of St Michaels' sang Christmas carols and some cubs played their musical instruments.

We also went to Ardnally for "Christmas at Ardnally" where we went on the elf trail, had smores and played Christmas games.

In January we got more new Cubs and all the Cubs refreshed themselves on the Cub laws by playing games and encouraging team building by having a night of board games where some of the Cubs showed how well they can play chess.

In February the Cubs took part in the annual Founder days Church service where some of the cubs did a reading and carried the Cub Flag.

Throughout the year we have completed First Aid badges and navigator badges.

SCOUTS

Jonathan Dudgeon

The Scout Section have been quite evenly split between Ardnally and the Church Halls, with the odd night off for Christmas or Easter, maybe 2 nights off over Summer, with the occasional meeting off site for night walks in the local area. We have made a conscious decision to make as much time up as possible due to missing so much time due to previous Covid restrictions.

When walking, we usually encourage the older Scouts to take the lead in navigation. Often our walks have stops for cooking on the Trangia's, a spot of Morse Code or a forage around for wild garlic for Garlic Bread which we can make on a fire back at the Den or Ardnally.

At Ardnally, we run a variety of different types of games and activities, often to fit the conditions on the night as the weather can be so variable. We are fortunate at Ardnally to have mature trees that provide ample cover for most rain showers, so the rain rarely actually interrupts our program.

Whilst the leaders (myself Jonnie Dudgeon, Mike 'Fozzy' Forsyth, Kenny Campbell and Deane Dawson) are running the show, we seek the opinion of all Scouts to know what's fun what's not and so on. Fan favourite activities of note include chariot building and racing with pioneering poles, pumpkin carving, pancake making on tin cans with the heat source being an individual candle, fires and axe work.

As we are at Ardnally so often we help out in our small way in the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds. We conduct litter picks, were the Scouts are split up and compete against the other team to collect as much litter as they can in the zone we find ourselves in that night. We also help clear paths of branches and debris after storms and the clearing of the grass of all the branches and stones before it is to be cut.

In June of 2023 we attended the Lagan District camp at Ardnally along with many others from the District. Some of the Senior Scouts assisted in building a gate for our campsite which we shared with the 115th Scouts, as was tradition. We had so many admirers or perhaps jealous eyes that the ground just in front of the entrance gradually became quite muddy, so much so that over a year on the grass still hasn't recovered and is looking rather bare.

In September we again camped at Ardnally for the weekend, this time for our 100 Year Anniversary. The Scouts and Explorers camped on the Lagan Site behind the BP Chalet and the Cubs slept in the hall in the chalet. We ran some activities with the BAC in Barnett's Park such as caving and climbing on the climbing wall and went Canadian Canoeing at Shaw's Bridge. On the Saturday evening we had a beautiful birthday cake made by Janine who is a Beaver leader in 115th. Whilst some of the Scouts sensibly kept the campfire lit in the evening a dozen or so could escape the Rugby World Cup fever and watched Ireland put 8 tries past a strong Tongan side.

We also returned to the church halls just before the Halloween, on a particularly frosty 1st night we made Chocolate brownies within oranges cooked over the fire. In the following weeks we conducted a litter pick in the church grounds and the surrounding roads –with Rosetta Park being particularly bad.

The Rugby World Cup was a near constant in the Autumn, with our tuck shop time almost glued to the TV to see what we had missed in the previous hour and a half of activities. One of the more memorable moments was witnessing the tail end of Ireland's famous victory over favourites and eventual winners South Africa after doing some fire lighting in colanders at the Den.

Our 3rd camp at Ardnally was in March where we again encountered very mild and dry weather. As the annual Ardnally walk wasn't due to happen until September we organised our own scaled down version with a night hike down to Minnowburn and the Terrace Gardens. We didn't quite do a test run for the Duck Race, which will have occurred just before this AGM, but a few Scouts did throw poohsticks in the stream, although one or two may have been disqualified as I think their selection may have been considered pooh-branches or pooh-trunks and could well have created a new Beaver Dam at Minnowburn!

Parents may be encouraged to hear that this might have been the 1st camp that the Scouts actually got a full night sleep and didn't come home reeking of campfire! And I was similarly impressed in the morning to discover almost immaculate tents, not a drop of litter or evidence of midnight feasts!

2 of the 3 camps were held jointly with the other Scout Troop I am in charge of the 115th Belfast, this gives the Scouts the opportunity to see some fresh faces and hear fresh voices and perspectives – it also means I only have to run 3 camps not 6!

All the work that goes into our programming is guided by the requirements of the Chief Scout's Gold Award. I use this as a sort of a curriculum, as it often reminds me that we've done too

much Scout'ie activities like fire building, axe work and backwards cooking and not enough items for the required Creative Challenge Award!

I would like to thank my current leadership team (Fuzzy, Kenny and Deane) and to those leaders who have come before us, who set a really high standard of Scouting that we not only to maintain but try and exceed on occasion, but more importantly the Scouts themselves who are receptive to our message, week in week out at Ardnally and the Church Halls.

EXPLORERS

Stephen Mallett & Scott Guiler

Since May 2023 the Explorers have attended two major camps, completed Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and Chief Scouts Awards, volunteered in the community and at a county, district and group level and continued to develop their skills in the areas that a scout would be expected to excel.

The Lagan District camp allowed us to take part in adventurous activities on the River Lagan and nearby mountain bike trails but more importantly we were able to interact with other groups to make new friends and useful contacts.

At the 62nd group Centenary camp we were challenged at Belfast Activity Centre with the wide range of challenges that they offer, we prepared a large campfire for the evening's entertainment and better got to know the other sections in our own group.

In August we had six explorers involved in their DofE expedition in the Mourne Mountains. This proved to be a tough outing for them but they were able to take some key learning points away from it for the future.


Helping others is a keystone of scouting and volunteering at church events (pizza nights and the Autumn Fete), at Ardnally (ground maintenance and wardening duties) and with Belfast County (Administrative tasks).

"A Scout is expected to be able to" has been the basis of many of the activities in the past year. Fire lighting, cooking, navigation, problem solving, practical knot tying, teamwork and crafting are just a few of the skills we have been developing on Friday nights.

We look forward to continuing our programme into the summer months as we prepare for this year's expeditions, camps and service activities.

62nd Belfast: Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved this report which has been signed by the Chair of the Trustee Board and Secretary on their behalf at the Annual General Meeting in June 2024.



Gordon Myles
Trustee Board Chair



Dean Dawson
Group Lead Volunteer

29/06/2024

Date

29/06/2024

Date

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104000

Annual return

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of 62nd Belfast Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity set out in the Annual Report for the year ended 31 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.



Denis Guller, 21 May 2024

Treasurer Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

Independent Examiner

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104000

Accounts

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 104000)

Financial Statement for the Year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income				
Subscriptions	5848	0	5848	5564
Income from activities	3111	0	3111	0
Fundraising for charity	1146	0	1146	0
ELB and other grants	2423	0	2423	6282
Gift aid	2026	0	2026	0
Uniform	0	0	0	110
Transfer from 62nd Belfast Squirrels on merger	0	0	0	1920
	<hr/> 14554	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 14554	<hr/> 13876
Expenses				
Capitation fees	3812	0	3812	3543
Section activities	2443	0	2443	2133
Duke of Edinburgh costs	442	0	442	322
Donations to charity	1146	0	1146	0
Uniform and badges	695	0	695	754
Running costs - scout den	619	0	619	373
Insurance	327	0	327	279
Contribution to heat and light	750	0	750	0
Administration	0	0	0	92
Equipment	1158	0	1158	2575
Miscellaneous	604	0	604	137
	<hr/> 11996	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 11996	<hr/> 10208
Surplus for the year	2558	0	2558	3668
Transfer net deficit Squirrels	387	(387)	0	0
Balance at 1 April 2022	21084	1842	22926	19258
Balance at 31 March 2023	<hr/> 24029	<hr/> 1455	<hr/> 25484	<hr/> 22926
Cash at Bank 31 March	23864	1455	25319	21915
Cash in hand 31 March	165	0	165	1011
Accrued expenses	0	0	0	0
	<hr/> 24029	<hr/> 1455	<hr/> 25484	<hr/> 0 22926
Other assets at insurance value				
Scout den	148672	0	148672	119000
Camp equipment, fixtures and fittings	15982	0	15982	14415
Other liabilities	0	0	0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<hr/> 188683	<hr/> 1455	<hr/> 190138	<hr/> 156341

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104000

Annual report

62nd Belfast Scout Group

**The Annual Report for Year
Ended March 2023**



Scouts

62nd Belfast Scout Group – Year Review

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the 2023 Annual Report of the 62nd Belfast Scout Group. The Scout Group has had another great year with all members of the movement enjoying fantastic activities and opportunities some of which have led to personal achievements. As we continue to battle the full impact of the pandemic, we continue to hear personal stories from parents who feel strongly that the 'uniformed organisations' have really helped the personal development of their kids as they've returned to the 'new normal'.

As a Scout Group, we are blessed to have such an active Group (Sectional) Leadership team and Trustee Board, who continue to go above and beyond the curtain call to ensure that the experience provided to our members is memorable and inclusive. Our pure thanks go to every volunteer within the Scout Group who contributes on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis as they support the vision of the 62nd Belfast Scout Group being community-led and community-shaped.

At the St. George's Day Service in February, we shared our stories about celebrating our centenary year as a Scout Group. 100 years of being a part of the community in Ormeau and Rosetta, we look forward to continuing our celebrations as the year continues, especially in September 2023 with our Centenary Group Camp.

Finally, the Trustee Board also wish to note their heartfelt thanks to our Sponsoring Authority, Newtownbreda Presbyterian (St. Johns) Church, as without their support the Scout Group would not be able to provide the wide range of activities and memories for our members. As we look ahead, we look forward to strengthening the relationship through sharing resources and assisting with community-led activities.

Deane Dawson, Group Scout Leader

Group Correspondence

All correspondence should be sent to the Primary contact notified:

- **Contact Information:**
 - Scott Robinson, Deputy GSL, Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church, 374/6 Ormeau Road Belfast BT7 3HX.

Personnel of the Trustee Board

The Trustees who comprise the Group Trustee Board on 31/03/2023 are:

- Dr Simon Doherty (Chair)
- Deane Dawson (Group Scout Leader)
- Scott Robinson (Deputy Group Scout Leader)
- Beth Dawson (Secretary)
- Kathryn Eagleson (Treasurer)
- Marjorie Guiler (Squirrel Leader)
- Helen Morrissey (Beaver Leader)
- Liz Dudgeon (Cub Leader)
- Jonathan Dudgeon (Scout Leader)
- Stephen Mallett (Explorer Leader)
- Gordon Myles (Elected Trustee)
- Claire Compston (Elected Trustee)
- Scott Guiler (Co-Opted Trustee)

Please Note: all Trustees live in NI and activities held are based in Belfast County.

62nd Trustee Update:

A small number of Group changes have taken place and the NI Charity Commission website was amended accordingly.

The Trustees have examined the NICC statutory guidance on the Public Benefit requirements and consider they have complied with it in full.

62nd Belfast Scout Group Structure

The 62nd Belfast Scout Group is a constituent member of the UK Scout Association and follows its rules and policies as laid down in a document known as POR (Policy Organisation and Rules). There are 5 sections – Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers which are age-related as set out below in the census section. The Section Leader for each section is a Trustee as per POR and included above.

The Group is a cross-community with different church and ethnic backgrounds represented. 62nd Belfast Scout Group have a Constitution which is agreed upon annually and followed throughout the year by the elected Trustee Board.

Purpose and Benefit

Scouting is established to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals and responsible citizens.

This also benefits the local and wider communities to which they belong. By gaining Awards and badges set up by Scouts UK they learn and display knowledge and skills which will be of value to them throughout their lives. Activities and badges are tailored for the separate age groups.

62nd Belfast Membership

Census (January 2023)

- Squirrel Drey – 18 Members
- Beaver Colony – 19 Members
- Cub Pack – 19 Members
- Scout Troop – 29 Members
- Explorer Unit – 15 Members
- Active Support Unit – 5 Members
- Executive Members – 14 Members
- Other Leaders – 20 Members
- **Total Number of Group: 129 Members**

62nd Belfast: Finance

The Group is reporting a net surplus of £2,559 (2021/2022: £3,668)

Overview

As noted on Page 5, the 62nd Belfast Scout Group remains to have a positive set of accounts with total income equating to £14,554 (2022: 13,876) and total expenditure equating to £11,996 (2022: £10,208)

Within the reporting year, we were pleased to raise £1,149 at our Duck Race which was donated to Friends of the Cancer Centre and £786 from our Sponsored Walk split between Lagan District Scouts and Cancer Research.

62nd Belfast Scout Group
Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 104000)
Financial Statement for the Year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income				
Subscriptions	5848	0	5848	5564
Income from activities	3111	0	3111	0
Fundraising for charity	1146	0	1146	0
ELB and other grants	2423	0	2423	6282
Gift aid	2026	0	2026	0
Uniform	0	0	0	110
Transfer from 62nd Belfast Squirrels on merger	0	0	0	1920
	<u>14554</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14554</u>	<u>13876</u>
Expenses				
Capitation fees	3812	0	3812	3543
Section activities	2443	0	2443	2133
Duke of Edinburgh costs	442	0	442	322
Donations to charity	1146	0	1146	0
Uniform and badges	695	0	695	754
Running costs - scout den	619	0	619	373
Insurance	327	0	327	279
Contribution to heat and light	750	0	750	0
Administration	0	0	0	92
Equipment	1158	0	1158	2575
Miscellaneous	604	0	604	137
	<u>11996</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11996</u>	<u>10208</u>
Surplus for the year	2558	0	2558	3668
Transfer net deficit Squirrels	387	(387)	0	0
Balance at 1 April 2022	21084	1842	22926	19258
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>24029</u>	<u>1455</u>	<u>25484</u>	<u>22926</u>
Cash at Bank 31 March	23864	1455	25319	21915
Cash in hand 31 March	165	0	165	1011
Accrued expenses	0	0	0	0
	<u>24029</u>	<u>1455</u>	<u>25484</u>	<u>0</u> 22926
Other assets at insurance value				
Scout den	148672	0	148672	119000
Camp equipment, fixtures and fittings	15982	0	15982	14415
Other liabilities	0	0	0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>188683</u>	<u>1455</u>	<u>190138</u>	<u>156341</u>

62nd Belfast: Sectional Reports

Squirrels

Squirrels – M Guiler

This year has been fun for Squirrels – they have made the most of the great outdoors and attended all the NI, County and District events. They started and finished the year with visits to Clip and Climb – some, like their namesakes, were able to scramble to the top of walls, others were more timid but did climb a few steps, an equally good achievement. Other outings included visits to Knockbreda Community Garden and Galwally Lake (to feed the ducks), to Ardnally for the Platinum Jubilee Picnic, the NI Squirrel Fun Day, the Lagan Halloween party and Christmas at Ardnally and to Mount Stewart in September for Catherine’s picnic when we remember Catherine Breen and all she brought to 62nd Squirrels. Once again this event was generously sponsored by a parent of a former Squirrel.

For the 2nd year running, all Mondays between September and December were dry, and we met (by choice) in the Church garden, working on badges, playing games, building dens and learning by having fun. The Squirrels gave Santa and his Elf a great welcome at our Christmas party. We moved indoors in January but back out again after Easter.

This year the Squirrels have been awarded the Go Wild, Exciting Experiments, Brilliant Builder and Story Time Activity Badges and the All Together Challenge Award – great work by all. 12 Squirrels moved to Beavers during the year to be replaced by 12 new bright-eyed and bushy-tailed boys. We continue to operate a waiting list.

Thank you to all our leaders, including young leaders Kieran, Nenagh and Harry. Squirrels would not be possible without you!





Beavers – H Morrissey

We have 20 Beaver Scouts who attend regularly on Monday nights and we have continued to operate a waiting list due to a high demand for places.

We lost Steph Russell from our Leadership Team when she accepted a new job and Holly McGonigle who was a young leader. Emily Toolan joined our Leadership Team along with Lara, James and Caolan who are all young leaders and have been a great help this year.

At our weekly meetings, we played games, had a uni-hoc competition and learned about St. Patrick, the Chinese New Year and the Beaver animal. Favourite activities were our experiments to see the effects of salt on our bodies, making dinosaur gliders and taking part in Treasure Hunts around the Church grounds.

We also took part in several events during the year:

Church Event

On Sunday 26 February 2023, 7 Beavers took part in the Annual Thinking Day Service. Matthew read the opening prayer and he along with Conor and Cameron made up our Colour Party. They all did an amazing job. Well done!

Lagan District Events

- 16 Beavers took part in a Hallowe'en Party at Ardnally on Friday 28 October 2022. They followed a Spooky Trail, tried to escape from the spider's web, made various crafts and heard a story at the campfire before the disco.
- 17 Beavers attended the District Christmas Lights Event at Ardnally on Monday 5 December 2022. They followed a Candy Trail, visited the Snowflake Story Tree, made Christmas crafts and enjoyed a campfire in a can.
- 12 Beavers joined Beavers from two other Colonies at St. Bernadette's Hall on Saturday 10 December 2022 for a Christmas Craft morning. Santa visited and everyone made lots of different Christmas crafts and decorations.
- 12 Beavers completed the Annual Ardnally Walk on Saturday 25 March 2023 and they raised a total of £291. Well done to everyone who took part. Half of the money goes towards the upkeep of Ardnally and half was donated to the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance Service.

NI Event

11 Beavers attended Rally Day at Crawfordsburn on Saturday 20 May 2023. We met at Botanic Station and travelled by train to Helen's Bay Station before walking to the NI Scout Centre at Crawfordsburn. The theme was Around the World in a Day and we were issued with our boarding passes and passports when we arrived. We joined around 550 Beaver Scouts and completed several activities in each continent including Europe where we built the Eiffel Tower, America where we did line dancing, Asia where we built the Great Wall of China, Australia where we pretended to be kangaroos and Africa where we had great fun playing the drums.



Power NI

We are very grateful to Gwyneth Compston who works for Power NI, as she kindly nominated the Colony as a local group that could benefit from £300 funding from the company. Gwyneth's nomination was successful and we were able to purchase a gazebo and flask. Power NI came along to Beavers to take a photograph for their internal staff article and a press release on 'Beavers Helping Hand'. We made the following contribution:

'The 62nd Beaver Scout Colony is delighted to have received support from Power NI. In ScOUTing the emphasis is on the outdoors and we will get great use out of our gazebo, especially throughout the spring and summer months when a lot of our activities take place outside. The flask will keep our leaders refreshed with tea and coffee as they help our young people experience new activities and develop life skills.'



Gwyneth Compston, Ahmeek and Ethan Compston

cubs

Cubs - L Dudgeon

Cubs continued to meet at Ardnally during April right through to June with approx 26 Cubs in attendance each evening. As the weather was kind to us, water games were especially popular. In May we attended a Jubilee Party at Ardnally for the Queen's Jubilee there were games and a scavenger hunt and all had a good time.

At the start of June, 18 Cubs attended the district camp, the first camp since Covid, and the first camp for a lot of Cubs. 5 further Cubs attended during the day on the Saturday. 7 got their Chief Scout Gold.

In September, we were back meeting in the Church Hall and we said goodbye to 7 senior Cubs as they moved up to Scouts, but we welcomed 4 into the pack from Beavers.

Our leadership changed and we lost 2 assistant leaders and 2 parent helpers but thankfully we obtained Sarah from Network.

Come October, it was Investiture time for the new Cubs. At Halloween, we carved pumpkins and some very interesting faces were created.

At the end of November, we made Christmas tree decorations in preparation for our evening with the PW of the church. The Cubs and the PTA choir of St Michael's sang Christmas carols with the PW and some of the Cubs played their musical instruments.

We also went to Ardnally for "Christmas at Ardnally" where we learnt our elf names followed by Christmas-themed games and crafts.

In January we got 2 more Beavers and we refreshed all the Cubs on how scouting began and how teamwork is important by playing games and learning how to help each other by trying to build towers from just paper or by straws and marshmallows.

In March we enjoyed a quiz about our patron saint, St Patrick and had a night doing badge work which ended by all the cubs earning at least 4 badges each.

In June we will be looking forward to attending Camp ,where the Cubs will learn more skills



SCOUTS

Scouts – J Dudgeon

The Scout Section have primarily been meeting at Ardnally every week, with the odd night off for Christmas or Easter, maybe 2 nights off over Summer, with the occasional meeting off-site for night walks in the local area. We have made a conscious decision to make as much time up as possible due to missing so much time due to Covid restrictions.

When walking we usually encourage the older Scouts to take the lead in navigation. Often our walks have stops for cooking on the Trangia's, a spot of Morse Code or a forage around for wild garlic for Garlic Bread which we can make on a fire back at Ardnally.

At Ardnally, we run a variety of different types of games and activities, often to fit the conditions of the night as the weather can be so variable. We are fortunate at Ardnally to have mature trees that provide ample cover for most rain showers, so the rain rarely actually interrupts our program.

Whilst the leaders (myself Jonnie Dudgeon, Mike 'Fozzy' Forsyth and Kenny Campbell) are running the show, we seek the opinion of all Scouts to know what's fun what's not and so on. We are also assisted by a few Explorers' namely Aiden McCann and Cathal McConnell. Fan favourite activities of note include chariot building and racing with pioneering poles, pumpkin carving, pancake making on tin cans with the heat source being an individual candle, fires and axe work. We don't often play the likes of football or uni-hoc (certainly not as much as when we were at the Church) but when we do the Scouts build their own goals out of pioneering poles and rope.

As we are at Ardnally so often we help out in our small way in the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds. We conduct litter picks, where the Scouts are split up and compete against the other team to collect as much litter as they can in the zone we find ourselves in that night. We also help clear paths of branches and debris after storms and the clearing of the grass of all the branches and stones before it is to be cut.

In August we took around 13 Scouts and 2 Explorers for a 2-night camp in Crawfordsburn. The Camp itself was activity-packed, which included axe throwing, zip line, catapult building, canoeing, and wall climbing in addition to our regular night hikes and campfires.

We also camped on 3 other occasions, twice at Ardnally and once more at Crawfordsburn. At Halloween, several Scouts bivied out in the forest, which meant we had a few fewer tents to put up, whilst the younger ones slept in tents.

Our next camp was at Crawfordsburn where we again bivied out – this time in aid of the Simon community. The Scouts were asked to bring along items the Simon Community could use in the effort to assist the homeless community – which was greatly needed, particularly over the cold winter months.

Our 2nd camp at Ardnally was in March where we again encountered very mild weather.

Buoyed on by the bivvy'ers of our last camp, more asked if they could sleep under the stars – which again is less time putting up and taking down tents.

The following morning was the day of the Ardnally walk, our own version started at late on the Friday night with a walk to the Gilchrist Bridge below Edenderry and back to Ardnally. The following morning with an early start we took down our tents, then continued onto the more traditional walk through Belvoir Forest, returning again to Ardnally for the finish – finishing as most groups were just about to start their own walk, and i myself redoing the walk with the Cub Pack!

All 4 Camps were held jointly with the other Scout Troop I am in charge of the 115th Belfast, this gives the Scouts the opportunity to see some fresh faces and hear fresh voices and perspectives – it also means I only have to run 4 camps, not 8!

We also returned to the church halls just before the Christmas break, on a particularly frosty 1st night we made Chocolate brownies within oranges cooked over the fire. In the following weeks we conducted a litter pick in the church grounds and the surrounding roads –with Rosetta Park being particularly bad. In Spring we returned to Ardnally with the coming of the milder weather.

All the work that goes into our programming is guided by the requirements of the Chief Scout's Gold Award. I use this as a sort of curriculum, as it often reminds me that we've done too much Scout'ie activities like fire building, axe work and backwards cooking and not enough items for the required Creative Challenge Award!

At our Founders Day Service 8 Scouts were presented with their Chief Scout's Gold Award, this was the 1st time we could do so in front of a congregation in some years and may have been the Scouts Section's biggest turnout for an awfully long time – as I'm sure those who were squeezed into the pews can attest to!

This turnout and overall number of over 30 is a testament to both the current leadership team and to those who have come before us, who set a standard not only to maintain but to exceed, but more importantly the Scouts themselves who are receptive to our message, week in week out at Ardnally and the Church Halls.



EXPLORERS

Explorers – S Mallett

For Explorers, this Scouting year has been a year focused on getting back outdoors and maximising the programme which we can provide on a weekly basis. With a new Explorer Team consisting of Stephen Mallett, Scott Guiler, Norman McKee, Fynn Bailie and Alessandro Angelone, we are pleased with the diversity of the programme provided.

Kickstarting the term in September, it wasn't long until we were heading for our first Explorer Unit camp in early October 2022 which was based at Ardnally Scout Centre and utilising the resources at the Belfast Activity Centre. Listening to the Explorers, we amended our programme from going from a bi-weekly programme to a weekly programme, we noticed numbers gradually increase with us reporting in the recent census that we had 18 Explorers with 5 turning 18 years old throughout the year.



Stripping Explorers back to the basics, we knew that we had a core group of members who were actively keen to complete their DofE experience from Bronze to Silver levels. As we bounced back from Covid, we were keen to get back into the hills and be able to participate in the scheme whilst having the opportunity to get back to camping in the Mourne Mountains. With over 15 participants in the scheme, we were pleased to be able to get 4 DofE Bronze Awards completed and 6 DofE Silver Awards completed, with the rest of the group looking to complete their DofE experience during the Summer of 2023.



As a Leadership team, we strongly believe and see the benefits of running Explorers as a youth-led activity where everyone feels the benefits of contributing to what they want to achieve whilst being at 62nd Belfast Explorers on a weekly basis. In partnership with the Leaders, key nights which were held over the last term were Mechanics (Car Maintenance), First Response with Annies, Night Hikes, Fires at Arnavally and Swimming to name a few.



Taking this forward, we have had a positive number of Explorers feel the benefits of volunteering via the Young Leaders Scheme. A scheme focused on getting 14-18-year-olds is vital to support for the Scout Group, with over 12 Explorers participating. We were very pleased to see Aidan McCann and Kieran O'Dowd receive their Young Leader awards throughout the year.

As always, we are grateful for our partnership with the 62nd Belfast Scout Group, without their support and partnership we would not be able to deliver the programme which meets everyone's expectations.

Finally, we want to say a big thank you to Newtownbreda Presbyterian (St. Johns) Church for their continued support. We were so pleased to support the Church's Autumn Fete in September 2023 where the Explorer Unit provided a Hot Dog and Tuck Shop stand, we look forward to being able to support more over the next couple of months.

62nd Belfast: Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved this report which has been signed by the Chair of the Trustee Board and Secretary on their behalf at the Annual General Meeting in June 2023.

Name	Position	Date
Dr Simon Doherty	Chair of Trustee Board	4 th June 2023
Beth Dawson	Secretary of the Trustee Board	4 th June 2023

62nd Belfast Scout Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104000

Annual return

Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of 62nd Belfast Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the charity set out in the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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.



Denis Guiler, 28 May 2023

Treasurer Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

Independent Examiner