

# Strangford District Scout Council

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104026

## Details

Status	Received
Registered	2015-10-20
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

**Address**  
C/O Ni Scout Office  
109 Old Milltown Road  
Belfast  
Bt8 7sp  
BT8 7SP

**Phone** 02890492829

**Email** [info@scoutsni.org](mailto:info@scoutsni.org)

**Website** [www.scoutsni.org](http://www.scoutsni.org)

## 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:** Youth development

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

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£58,622	£47,005	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Poots		
Andrea Ritchie		
Helen Caughey		
John Steen		
Julie Wilson		
Pauline Coulter		
Philip Warnock		
Sean Hindsberg		
Tom Atcheson		
Tracey Ogg		

**Strangford District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104026

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# Accounts

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**Strangford District Scout Council**

**Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2025**

	<b>District</b>	<b>District Explorer Scouts</b>	<b>Active Support</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	£ 26,759.44	£ 4,371.14	£ 804.12	£ 31,934.70
<b>Income</b>				
Membership Fees	£ 35,751.00	£ 2,953.00	£ 270.00	£ 38,974.00
Grants	£ -	£ 1,600.00	£ -	£ 1,600.00
Activities	£ 849.00	£ 1,018.76	£ 330.00	£ 2,197.76
Badge Sales	£ 610.54	£ -	£ -	£ 610.54
Equipment Sales	£ 99.60	£ 330.00	£ -	£ 429.60
Administration	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Commissioner Support	£ 400.00	£ -	£ -	£ 400.00
Donations	£ 14,120.00	£ -	£ -	£ 14,120.00
Bank Interest	£ 290.07	£ -	£ -	£ 290.07
Canoe Income	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Campsite Fees	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 52,120.21</b>	<b>£ 5,901.76</b>	<b>£ 600.00</b>	<b>£ 58,621.97</b>

S. Hindsberg - Treasurer 31st December 2025

**Strangford District Scout Council**

**Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2025**

	<b>District</b>	<b>District Explorer Scouts</b>	<b>Active Support</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Membership Fees	£ 33,036.50	£ 1,365.00	£ -	£ 34,401.50
Grants	£ 2,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ 2,000.00
Activities	£ 2,924.75	£ 2,346.44	£ 565.00	£ 5,836.19
Training	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Badge Purchases	£ 950.24	£ 183.10	£ -	£ 1,133.34
Equipment Purchases	£ -	£ 926.52	£ 197.50	£ 1,124.02
Commissioner Support	£ 800.00	£ -	£ -	£ 800.00
Donations	£ 72.50	£ -	£ -	£ 72.50
Administration	£ 1,277.30	£ 11.81	£ -	£ 1,289.11
Stanley Watson Bursary	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Canoe Costs	£ 248.60	£ -	£ -	£ 248.60
Campsite Costs	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Rental of Premises		£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 41,309.89</b>	<b>£ 4,932.87</b>	<b>£ 762.50</b>	<b>£ 47,005.26</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£ 37,569.76</b>	<b>£ 5,340.03</b>	<b>£ 641.62</b>	<b>£ 43,551.41</b>

S. Hindsberg - Treasurer 31st December 2025

**Strangford District Scout Council**

**Statement of Balances at 31st March 2025**

Reserve Account	£	2,103.22
Current Account No.1	£	35,179.80
Current Account No.2	£	4,606.10
Current Account No.3	£	1,165.22
Current Account No.4	£	641.62
Cash	£	1,952.25
Unpresented Cheques	£	2,096.80
<b>Total Balance Available</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>43,551.41</b>

S. Hindsberg - Treasurer 31st December 2025

**Strangford District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104026

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# Accounts

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Strangford District Scout Council

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023
<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>£ 33,024.82</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees	£ 28,239.00	£ 32,220.50
Grants	£ 1,800.00	£ 2,382.44
Activities	£ 232.02	£ 945.00
Badge Sales	£ 775.93	£ 633.52
Equipment Sales	£ -	£ -
Administration	£ 3,686.74	£ -
Donations	£ -	£ -
Bank Interest	£ 289.20	£ 94.26
Canoe Income	£ -	£ -
Campsite Fees	£ -	£ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 35,022.89</b>	<b>£ 36,275.72</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Fees	£ 34,689.00	£ 31,628.50
Grants	£ 136.68	£ 381.25
Activities	£ 3,759.18	£ 1,728.44
Training	£ -	£ -
Badge Purchases	£ 583.89	£ 155.57
Equipment Purchases	£ -	£ 904.48
Commissioner Support	£ 800.00	£ -
Donations	£ 92.50	£ 178.00
Administration	£ 346.66	£ 303.00
Stanley Watson Bursary	£ -	£ -
Canoe Costs	£ 251.84	£ 251.84
Campsite Costs	£ -	£ -
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 40,659.75</b>	<b>£ 35,531.08</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£ 28,132.60</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>-£ 5,636.86</b>	<b>£ 744.64</b>

Signed:



1/12/2024

Trustee

Signed:

S. Hussain 29/4/2024

Trustee

Strangford District Scout Council

Statement of Balances at 31st March 2024

Account Balances	31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023	Change
District Account	£ 9,179.30	£ 18,622.28	-£ 9,442.98
Squirrel Sectional Account	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	£ -
Beaver Sectional Account	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	£ -
Cub Sectional Account	£ 273.44	£ 273.44	£ -
Scout Sectional Account	£ 283.50	£ 403.50	-£ 120.00
Explorer Sectional Account	£ 1,373.16	£ 1,896.50	-£ 523.34
Badge Account	£ 3,911.42	£ 3,719.38	£ 192.04
Canoe Account	-£ 1,847.39	-£ 1,595.55	-£ 251.84
Saintfield Explorers' Account	£ 1,838.61	£ 1,660.61	£ 178.00
Scrabo Explorers' Account	£ 653.47	£ 258.95	£ 394.52
Comber Explorers' Account	£ 32.50	£ -	£ -
Copeland Explorers' Account	£ 287.50	£ 287.50	£ -
Closed Group Account	£ 3,654.24	£ -	£ -
Stanley Watson Bursary Account	£ 3,770.85	£ 3,520.85	£ 250.00
Reverend Kennedy Bequest Account	£ 3,731.35	£ 3,731.35	£ -
Campsite Account	£ 590.65	£ 590.65	£ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 28,132.60</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>-£ 5,636.86</b>

Funds Available at 31st March 2024

Current Account	£ 37,361.86	£ 9,765.86	£ 27,596.00
Badge Account	£ 4,116.06	£ 3,340.13	£ 775.93
Reserve Account	£ 21,813.15	£ 21,523.95	£ 289.20
Cash	£ 624.52	£ -	£ 624.52
Outstanding/Unlodged Cheques (Net)	-£ 35,782.99	-£ 860.48	-£ 34,922.51
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>£ 28,132.60</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>-£ 5,636.86</b>

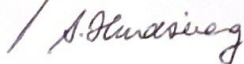
Signed:



1/12/2024

Trustee

Signed:



29/4/2024

Trustee



Strangford District Scout Active Support Unit

Income and Expenditure Summary for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Balance Brought Forward	£	812.50
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees	£	140.00
Gift Aid	£	-
Activities	£	100.00
Donations	£	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>240.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Fees	£	-
Activities	£	50.00
Badge Purchases	£	-
Equipment Purchases	£	32.00
Donations	£	58.00
Administration	£	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>912.50</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Signed:

1/12/2024

Trustee

Signed:

1/12/2024

Trustee

**Strangford District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104026

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# Annual report

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## **Strangford District Scout Council 23/24 AGM**

### **District Volunteer Lead Report**

The 22/23 AGM in November 2023 reported on the fantastic Growth and Support within Strangford District. Since then, the district focus for 23/2024 was to continue to deliver a varied programme, support sections and groups and for our young people to achieve awards and badges.

Nothing changed in relation to reminder emails being sent out to everyone about mandatory training in Safety, Safeguarding and GDPR. Thank you each and everyone for completing this training and ensuring that you are compliant, The compliance figure has been brought down from 12% non-compliant to less than 1%. Please complete this at your earliest convenience. I have already taken the tough decision to suspend leaders and will continue to do so in order to protect you, your GVL, your Group and most importantly our Young People. I would ask that when you get the 90-day reminder that you take action and complete the training as soon as possible so that unnecessary work is not required. Thank you.

If you have any issues with accessing IT please get in touch with Scout headquarters and your GVL.

The January Census for the District was up +4.6% (1200). This was fantastic and showed what a great programme you as leaders are delivering to our young people and providing opportunities that others may not be able to take part in. Census is coming back around in January 2025 and I encourage Group leads to start communicating out to section leads to prepare for the data collection to help with a smooth process.

In February I started the Compass clean up working with Group leads. This process was finished in September before the compass freeze. Over 300 records were looked at in detail to update and fix records so that leaders would transfer over to the new system as smoothly as possible. A lot of hard work and attending UK training was completed to help answer the compass queries as best as possible. Thank you to the Group leads for completing this huge task.

In April over 400 people took part in the St George's Day Celebration event in Londonderry Park. This family event welcomed everyone from across the district. Sections and groups took part in a renewal of promise service with some campfire songs and ending in an afternoon of games and activities. Thank you to all the groups that took part. The weather certainly made the event run smoother and it was great to see so many at the first St Georges day since Covid.

I met with Development Manager Vicky from HQ and Julie Wilson Region lead to look at the District Development Plan for 24/25. Scouts UK are looking at gaps in current groups and how we can open missing sections. I will be meeting with Group leads to discuss how we can do this in groups within the district.

In May I attended the SASU Flag dedication and renewal of promise service. This was a lovely service and great to see so many members at the event. It was also great to see Rev Gilpin doing so well after being unwell.

As always summer months were busy with groups camping and going to various sites and taking part in lots of adventurous activities.

NI AGM took part in September with the NI Chief Volunteer Lead Stephen Donaldson standing down and Stephen Bell taking up his new role. As a district, we thank Stephen Donaldson for all his years in post and the support and guidance he has shown Strangford District. We also wish Stephen Bell the very best of luck in his new role as he starts his term as the new chief.

NI Restructure officially started with seeing an end of an era to Counties and especially Co Down after 74 years. Strangford District is now in East Region along with North Down District and East Belfast overseen and supported by Julie Wilson. Thank you, Julie, for coming along this evening and I look forward to showing you around Strangford.

UK Transformation as mentioned earlier Compass has gone and we have a new system. Leaders will be able to log in across the coming weeks and I encourage leaders to attend training to help you learn to navigate the new system.

Every year as Scouts, we're guided by these values:

- **Integrity:** We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- **Respect:** We have self-respect and respect for others.
- **Care:** We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- **Belief:** We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- **Co-operation:** We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

This scouting year has been a difficult one for me personally for a number of reasons and it has made me reflect a lot on the values as I have just mentioned as well as our Scout Law and Promise. I reflect on what they mean to me and have meant across my scouting career and various roles held. I think about how they reflect Strangford District and what they may mean to individual leaders.

### **Not to be read out but merely discussion**

The Promise is a simple way to help young people and adults celebrate their shared Scout values. Every Scout promises to stick by these values when they become a member.

### **On my honour**

This separates this Promise from the Beaver and Cub Promise. It emphasises that keeping the Promise is a reflection of an individual's character and therefore strengthens the words of the Promise that follow. Keeping the Promise is entirely up to the individual.

### **I promise that I will do my best**

The person is making the Promise for themselves. By taking responsibility for their actions the person is recognising that individuals are responsible for what they become and what they do. The Promise includes the requirement to 'do my best', not necessarily to be perfect. The person is expected to strive to reach their potential, rather than doing just enough to get by. This requirement to 'do my best' applies to all parts of the Promise that follow and does not mean perfection.

### **To do my duty to God**

This uses the concept of duty to indicate that the person thinks and acts more widely than just about themselves, either through their faith or through their Scout values, depending on their chosen beliefs.

### **and to The King,**

Make a positive contribution to society: 'The King' is a reference to the United Kingdom's constitutional monarchy, where the monarch reigns according to the laws of the nation. With this phrase, the person is expected to respect the laws of the land and to set a good example. For people of other nationalities resident in this country, this phrase may be replaced with 'the country in which I am now living'.

### **to help other people**

Make a positive contribution to society: This refers to the person's responsibility to help others in various ways, including working towards a fairer world for all. For example, washing up after a meal or comforting someone who is upset.

### **and to keep the Scout Law**

The Scout Law focuses on helping others and personal guidance, including thinking about the needs of others and doing a good turn. The Scout Law can help people to understand how to really live out their Scout Promise and Scout Values.

### **Scout Law**

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.
4. A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts.
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

Our development of young people takes place when the young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors

- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

Finally THANK YOU!!!!

To each and everyone of the leaders and helpers from all the young people in Strangford District and myself who you support on a daily basis and provide an excellent diverse programme, teaching and mentoring our young people to be the best that they can be. To the team leads (Tracey ADC Squirrels and Philip ADC Cubs) who have worked tirelessly to help and support 1<sup>st</sup>Ballynahinch Scout Group and the opening after 34 years of 1<sup>st</sup> Greyabbey Scout Group. Thank you both for all your efforts they do not go unnoticed.

To the NI Youth Lead Kayleigh for working closely with our young people and supporting leaders with programs. Thank you for delivering the Young Leader scheme to explorers across the District. I would like to welcome Ryan to the District team as Strangford District Youth Lead who will be out visiting all groups and sections across the coming months.

To Richard the District Chair thank you for always being at the end of a phone, text or email. Discussing various issues and coming up with solutions to best support the District.

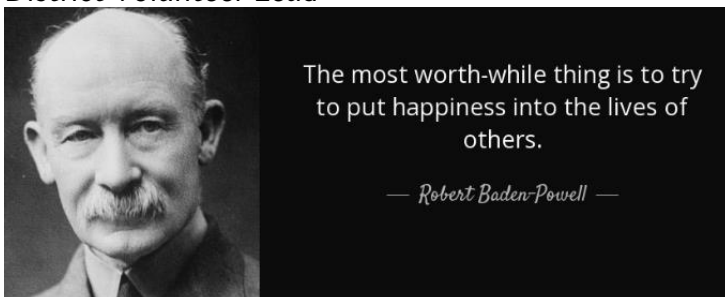
To Sean the District Treasurer, who has the hardest job and continues to do it so well. Thank you for keeping me right with the EA, CCNI, Explorer accounts and more. You are so meticulous in your work and I thank you for all your efforts.

Many thanks for you all attending the AGM tonight, I look forward to working with you all in the new scouting year, getting out to visit groups and sections and taking part in district and NI activities.

We are all experienced in so many ways and with so much knowledge—let's use that to our advantage in providing new memories for our Young People. If there is a role you would like to try or want to nominate someone for the role then please speak with me for more information.

This concludes my report.

Danielle Markwell  
District Volunteer Lead



**Strangford District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104026

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# Annual return

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## **Independent Examiner's Report to the charity trustees of Strangford District Scout Council**

I report on the accounts of Strangford District Scout Council (registered charity number NIC 104026) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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, comprising the accounts for the Scout District and Scout Active Support Unit, 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.

Signed:



Name:

Matthew Pentland

Date:

1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

**Strangford District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104026

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# Accounts

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Strangford District Scout Council

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2023

	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022
<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	£ 33,024.82	£ 29,297.88
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees	£ 32,220.50	£ 36,313.50
Grants	£ 2,382.44	£ 2,504.32
Activities	£ 945.00	£ 90.00
Badge Sales	£ 633.52	£ 562.25
Equipment Sales	£ -	£ -
Administration	£ -	£ 378.35
Donations	£ -	£ 20.00
Bank Interest	£ 94.26	£ 2.14
Canoe Income	£ -	£ -
Campsite Fees	£ -	£ 28.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 36,275.72</b>	<b>£ 39,899.06</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Fees	£ 31,628.50	£ 30,965.50
Grants	£ 381.25	£ 3,511.82
Activities	£ 1,728.44	£ 80.00
Training	£ -	£ -
Badge Purchases	£ 155.57	£ 174.24
Equipment Purchases	£ 904.48	£ 60.00
Commissioner Support	£ -	£ -
Donations	£ 178.00	£ 21.00
Administration	£ 303.00	£ 863.36
Stanley Watson Bursary	£ -	£ -
Canoe Costs	£ 251.84	£ 496.20
Campsite Costs	£ -	£ -
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 35,531.08</b>	<b>£ 36,172.12</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>£ 33,024.82</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>£ 744.64</b>	<b>£ 3,726.94</b>

**Auditor's Declaration**

I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Statement, along with the account records, bank statements and all other records, and I certify them to be correct.

M. Pentland - Auditor

*M Pentland*  
17/09/2023

S. Hindsberg - Treasurer

*S Hindsberg*  
10.9.23

R. Lawther - Chairman

*R Lawther*  
17/9/23

Strangford District Scout Council

Statement of Balances at 31st March 2023

Account Balances	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022	Change
District Account	£ 18,622.28	£ 18,737.77	-£ 115.49
Squirrel Sectional Account	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00
Beaver Sectional Account	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	£ -
Cub Sectional Account	£ 273.44	£ 273.44	£ -
Scout Sectional Account	£ 403.50	£ 403.50	£ -
Explorer Sectional Account	£ 1,896.50	£ 2,035.98	-£ 139.48
Badge Account	£ 3,719.38	£ 3,225.38	£ 494.00
Canoe Account	-£ 1,595.55	-£ 1,343.71	-£ 251.84
Saintfield Explorers' Account	£ 1,660.61	£ 1,499.61	£ 161.00
Scrabo Explorers' Account	£ 258.95	£ 300.00	-£ 41.05
Copeland Explorers' Account	£ 287.50	£ 100.00	£ 187.50
Stanley Watson Bursary Account	£ 3,520.85	£ 3,270.85	£ 250.00
Reverend Kennedy Bequest Account	£ 3,731.35	£ 3,731.35	£ -
Campsite Account	£ 590.65	£ 590.65	£ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>£ 33,024.82</b>	<b>£ 744.64</b>

Funds Available at 31st March 2023

Current Account	£ 9,765.86	£ 9,154.40	£ 611.46
Badge Account	£ 3,340.13	£ 2,772.66	£ 567.47
Reserve Account	£ 21,523.95	£ 21,429.69	£ 94.26
Cash	£ -	£ 378.35	-£ 378.35
Outstanding / Unlodged Cheques (Net)	-£ 860.48	-£ 710.28	-£ 150.20
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>£ 33,024.82</b>	<b>£ 744.64</b>

Auditor's Declaration

I have examined the above Statement of Balances, along with the account records, bank statements and all other records, and I certify them to be correct.

M. Pentland - Auditor

*M. Pentland*  
17/09/2023

S. Hindsberg - Treasurer

*S. Hindsberg*  
10.9.23

R. Lawther - Chairman

*R. Lawther*  
17/9/23

**Strangford District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104026

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# Annual report

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## **Strangford District- DC ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

The last AGM in June 2022 focused on Recovery for Strangford District coming out of Covid-19 and what we had achieved. However, since the beginning of 2023 the focus has been on support and growth.

Across this report you will hear how the district has supported, reopened and developed a number of groups within the past year. We make a difference to young people and Scouting is needed now more than ever.

Nothing changed in relation to reminder emails being sent out to everyone in relation to mandatory training in Safety, Safeguarding and GDPR. Thank you each and every one for completing this training and ensuring that you are compliant, however there are a number of leaders outstanding and as you are aware as DC I have received direction that Leaders are to be suspended for non-compliance of their Access NI and Mandatory training. The compliance figure has been brought down from 12% non-compliant to 2%. Please complete this as your earliest convenience. I have already taken the tough decision to suspend leaders and will continue to do so in order to protect you, your GSL, your Group and most importantly our Young People. I would ask that when you get the 90 day reminder that you take action and complete the training as soon as possible so that unnecessary work is not required- thank you.

If you have any issues with accessing IT or a number of people in the group need to complete it please get in touch with myself and your GSL.

**July and August 2022-** saw a number of groups head of across the water to various camps, the most popular being the Isle of Man Activity Centre with four groups from the district heading there for their summer camps. Everyone arrived safe and well back home with lots of adventurous activities being completed.

**September 2022-** A sad beginning to the new Scouting year with the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, Kayleigh Finlay our District Youth Commissioner was honored to be chosen to help with the Queens lying- in- state. Kayleigh wrote a diary blog about each day and had some fantastic stories about the people she met. Kayleigh, you are a credit to Strangford District and Scouts NI. It was not an easy task to undertake both mentally and physically and we thank you for your service.

**October 2022-** I joined 1<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Scout group for their registration evening and was encouraged to see the healthy number of young people registering for a new year of scouting.

Executive meetings took place throughout the year and I would like to thank those who sat on the District Executive this year whilst supporting me in the role and keeping me up to date with items for the Agenda.

**November 2022-** As mentioned in the Cub report a District Cub Quiz was held. It was great to see District events being organised and groups taking part. The aim was for each section to deliver at least one event across the year and build on this for the following year.

**December 2022-** Scrabo and Comber explorers joined forces last year and delivered a fantastic program to our young people. I was invited to their Christmas event which included Dinner and bowling in Dundonald. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders involved in getting the two units up and running together. I would also like to Thank Mick Lynn who stepped down from his role and moved to Cardiff in September 2023 to be with his family. Mick helped the explorers across Strangford and I wish him the best as he starts a new scouting career in Wales.

**January 2023-** January as usual was the month for the yearly census return and many thanks to everyone involved for inputting the data and getting it in on time it was very much a team effort.....Thank you!!! It was very encouraging to have numbers of 1200 including Squirrels and Leaders. This is close to what we had in January 2020 before covid and the NIC had given Strangford the target of getting back to those numbers of 2020 not including squirrels by the census of Jan 2023 which was not met so the same target remains for Jan 2024. So how are we going to do this together?

I know that many GSL's are expecting the numbers to increase with new groups opening, current groups growing which gives us all a positive lift for being a leader with so much responsibility. Each one of you has a part to play in increasing the numbers of Young People and Leaders and together we can achieve the target.

I also took part in the Comber Scout Troop and Explorer camp at the School house in January. Thank you to Neil and his team for making me feel so welcome and allowing me to take part in a day hike and sharing my hillwalking knowledge with explorers.

**February 2023-** 1<sup>st</sup> Newtownards Scout Group- Michael Robinson stood down as GSL and I took on the role of supporting the group to get back on its feet, moving forward and getting back to being one of the strongest groups in Strangford. This has not been an easy task but I am delighted that all the hard efforts of the leaders and young people we now have a new GSL- Errol Graham in place, a new trustee group board

and an exciting program ahead. This has been a group I have observed and supported the dedicated leaders on a weekly basis going from strength to strength and finding new leaders to join the sections.

**March 2023-** saw the re-opening of 1<sup>st</sup> Ballynahinch Scout Group, new leaders completed training, section programs were designed and delivered for 10 weeks for squirrels, beavers, and cubs with over 80 young people. Colin Stewart agreed to take on the role as treasurer and registered the group with the EA. Young leaders were volunteering as part of their DofE and have been a fantastic asset to the group. I could not do it alone and am grateful for the help of the ADC team Tracey and Philip and NI HQ development team Pamela, Vicky and Emma helped support the leaders on a rota basis making sure someone was there to deal with questions from parents and share knowledge and experience about supporting young people. It has been great to see a group reopen after covid with enthusiastic leaders. This is why we do what we do and why we are a part of this organisation.

**April/ May 2023-** Nights Away season began with assessments continuing to take place as always I encourage you all to apply for renewals and first time permits early as the assessment process and paperwork does take time. Please make sure your compass record is up to date with all your personal details and permits.

**June 2023-** NI Beaver Day took place with a number of beavers from across the district taking part. It is great to see Strangford District supporting NI events and giving our young people opportunities to take part. Thank you to the leaders who gave up their Saturday to take part in the event.

Various camps took place across the District and NI Squirrel event was a great success at Todd's Leap with squirrels from the district travelling on a bus down to Omagh for the days events. I hear the bus home was silent with exhausted squirrels.

**July/ Aug 2023-** Emma Currie- Assistant Unit Leader, Suzanne McGrath and Charli Ogg two participants, and Three IST (Kayleigh Finlay, Megan Hunter and Philip Dalzell) travelled to South Korea to the World Scout Jamboree. As I am sure you saw in the media this was not the adventure our young people and leaders had signed up for. UK Scouts had pulled the UK contingent from the event early due to concerns of Health and safety. Our NI unit spent the rest of the trip in the city of Seoul and taking part in a range of activities. The strength and resilience of our young people and leaders needs to be commended. The NI unit all came home safe and although not what they expected had their own stories to tell. It was great to see Strangford being

represented and I encourage leaders and young people to apply for future international experiences including explorer belts, WSJ 2027, and more.

**September 2023-** For a second year in a row I joined 1<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Scout group for their registration evening and was encouraged to see the number of young people registering for a new year of scouting. I discussed the effects of the storm on Tipperary wood campsite and what the group may need for support. They are hoping that in spring of 2024 to have an open day and further information will be communicated out across the district.

**October 2023-** I have been encouraged to see so many leaders attending the wood badge and out and about weekends across the year. UK transformation is in the pipeline and until then it is business as usual. There is still plenty of training opportunities and if leaders have nearly completed training, I encourage you to get the training validated and signed off before the move to the new compass system takes place and get your wood beads that you deserve and have worked hard for.

Scouts held a District climbing competition at Hot Rock in Tollymore outdoor Centre with over 40 in attendance. A great day was held by all, and I would like to thank Richard Dorian, Leanne McGrath and Andrew Donaldson who took the lead on organising the fantastic event.

**November 2023-** the launch of 1<sup>st</sup> Greyabbey Scout Group. 20 Squirrels walked into Greyabbey community hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> November for a 6 week programme. There were plenty of smiles on the faces of the young people which can only mean the night was a success. The new leaders have visited 2<sup>nd</sup> Donaghdee Squirrels and thanks to Tracey and her team for inviting them along for some programme ideas and OSM training. They are hoping to open Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the new year. An exciting time ahead for Ards Peninsula.

## **Moving Forward**

As we move into the rest of the 23/24 Scouting year the focus is on **Growth and Development**.

What does this look like?

- It could include opening sections in groups where there isn't a section E.g- 1<sup>st</sup> Saintfield do not currently have squirrels- how can we open?

- Continuing to open new groups and sections E.G Greyabbey currently have squirrels, how can we open all other sections.
- Supporting current groups and leaders- E.G 1<sup>st</sup> Donaghdee

Finally THANK YOU!!!! To each and everyone of the leaders and helpers from all the young people in Strangford District and myself who you support on a daily basis and provide an excellent diverse programme, teaching and mentoring our young people to be the best that they can be.

To the team leads (Tracey ADC Squirrels and Philip ADC Cubs) who have worked tirelessly to help and support the re-opening of 1<sup>st</sup> Ballynahinch Scout Group and the opening after 34 years of 1<sup>st</sup> Greyabbey Scout Group. Thank you both for all your efforts they do not go unnoticed. I welcome Emma Stevenson onto the District Team as our Development Lead who will be supporting groups in anyway necessary, and Emma looks forward to getting out and visiting groups over the coming months.

To the Youth Commissioners Kayleigh and Megan for working closely with our young people and supporting leaders with programs. Thank you in advance for delivering the Young Leader scheme to explorers across the District in the new year.

To Richard the District Chair thank you for always being at the end of a phone, text or email. Discussing various issues and coming up with solutions to best support the District.

To Sean the District Treasurer, who has the hardest job and continues to do it so well. Thank you for keeping me right with the EA, CCNI, Explorer accounts and more. You are so meticulous in your work and I thank you for all your efforts.

A big thank you must go to Pauline who has been updating your compass records once your training has been completed. Pauline Thank you.

To the District Secretary Jo Burridge and Scout Active Support Coordinator Jill Breadon. Thank you for the years of service you have given to your roles. Thank you for supporting me and keeping me right. Please accept this token of appreciation from

the District and I wish you both the best as you continue as GSL for 1<sup>st</sup> Saintfield and Scout Active Support member.

Many thanks for you all attending the AGM tonight, I look forward to working with you all in the new scouting year, getting out to visit groups and sections and taking part in district and county activities.

We are all experienced in so many ways and with so much knowledge – let's use that to our advantage in providing new memories for our Young People. If there is a role you would like to try or want to nominate someone for the role then please speak with me for more information.

- Team Lead- Beavers
- Team Lead- Scouts
- Team Lead- 14-25
- Deputy DC
- SASU Team Lead
- GSL 3<sup>rd</sup> Newtownards
- GSL 1<sup>st</sup> Ballynahinch

This concludes my report.

Danielle Markwell

District Commissioner

[dc.strangford@countydownscouts.org.uk](mailto:dc.strangford@countydownscouts.org.uk)

**Strangford District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104026

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# Annual return

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Strangford District Scout Council

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2023

	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022
<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	£ 33,024.82	£ 29,297.88
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees	£ 32,220.50	£ 36,313.50
Grants	£ 2,382.44	£ 2,504.32
Activities	£ 945.00	£ 90.00
Badge Sales	£ 633.52	£ 562.25
Equipment Sales	£ -	£ -
Administration	£ -	£ 378.35
Donations	£ -	£ 20.00
Bank Interest	£ 94.26	£ 2.14
Canoe Income	£ -	£ -
Campsite Fees	£ -	£ 28.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 36,275.72</b>	<b>£ 39,899.06</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Fees	£ 31,628.50	£ 30,965.50
Grants	£ 381.25	£ 3,511.82
Activities	£ 1,728.44	£ 80.00
Training	£ -	£ -
Badge Purchases	£ 155.57	£ 174.24
Equipment Purchases	£ 904.48	£ 60.00
Commissioner Support	£ -	£ -
Donations	£ 178.00	£ 21.00
Administration	£ 303.00	£ 863.36
Stanley Watson Bursary	£ -	£ -
Canoe Costs	£ 251.84	£ 496.20
Campsite Costs	£ -	£ -
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 35,531.08</b>	<b>£ 36,172.12</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>£ 33,024.82</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>£ 744.64</b>	<b>£ 3,726.94</b>

**Auditor's Declaration**

I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Statement, along with the account records, bank statements and all other records, and I certify them to be correct.

M. Pentland - Auditor

*M Pentland*  
17/09/2023

S. Hindsberg - Treasurer

*S Hindsberg*  
10.9.23

R. Lawther - Chairman

*R Lawther*  
17/9/23

Strangford District Scout Council

Statement of Balances at 31st March 2023

Account Balances	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022	Change
District Account	£ 18,622.28	£ 18,737.77	-£ 115.49
Squirrel Sectional Account	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00
Beaver Sectional Account	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	£ -
Cub Sectional Account	£ 273.44	£ 273.44	£ -
Scout Sectional Account	£ 403.50	£ 403.50	£ -
Explorer Sectional Account	£ 1,896.50	£ 2,035.98	-£ 139.48
Badge Account	£ 3,719.38	£ 3,225.38	£ 494.00
Canoe Account	-£ 1,595.55	-£ 1,343.71	-£ 251.84
Saintfield Explorers' Account	£ 1,660.61	£ 1,499.61	£ 161.00
Scrabo Explorers' Account	£ 258.95	£ 300.00	-£ 41.05
Copeland Explorers' Account	£ 287.50	£ 100.00	£ 187.50
Stanley Watson Bursary Account	£ 3,520.85	£ 3,270.85	£ 250.00
Reverend Kennedy Bequest Account	£ 3,731.35	£ 3,731.35	£ -
Campsite Account	£ 590.65	£ 590.65	£ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>£ 33,024.82</b>	<b>£ 744.64</b>

Funds Available at 31st March 2023

Current Account	£ 9,765.86	£ 9,154.40	£ 611.46
Badge Account	£ 3,340.13	£ 2,772.66	£ 567.47
Reserve Account	£ 21,523.95	£ 21,429.69	£ 94.26
Cash	£ -	£ 378.35	-£ 378.35
Outstanding / Unlodged Cheques (Net)	-£ 860.48	-£ 710.28	-£ 150.20
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>£ 33,769.46</b>	<b>£ 33,024.82</b>	<b>£ 744.64</b>

Auditor's Declaration

I have examined the above Statement of Balances, along with the account records, bank statements and all other records, and I certify them to be correct.

M. Pentland - Auditor

*M. Pentland*  
17/09/2023

S. Hindsberg - Treasurer

*S. Hindsberg*  
10.9.23

R. Lawther - Chairman

*R. Lawther*  
17/9/23