

**1stBallynahinch Scout Group**

**Registered Charity No. NIC 104034**

**Trustees Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**Charity's Principal Address**

1<sup>st</sup> Ballynahinch Presbyterian Church  
Windmill Street  
Ballynahinch  
Co. Down  
BT24 SHB

**Trustees**

Colin Stewart  
Samuel Currie  
Valerie Neill  
Rodney Brown  
Jane Elliott

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organization and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, the members of which are the Charity Trustees of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. Members of the Committee complete '*Essential Information for Executive Committee*' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee. The committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the running of the Group.

**Risks and Internal Control**

The Group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policy to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

## Objectives and Activities

### 1. The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

### 2. The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

**Integrity**- We act with integrity; we are honest, trust worthy 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.

### 3. The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when 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.

### 4. Main Activities During the Year

Following the suspension of the Group due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Group reopened the Squirrel, Beaver and Cub sections in late April 2023 with the support of the Strangford District Commissioner and NI Head Office. Weekly meetings took place up to the end of June 2023.

After the summer break, the sections reopened in September 2023. During the year each section In the Group took part in a wide range of events and activities designed to encourage young people in their personal development. These included engaging in badge work, team games etc.

### 5. Membership as at 31 January 2024

Squirrels	13
Beavers	8
Cubs	13
Scouts	0
Leaders	5
Assistants	0

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship.

### **Group Finances**

The Group's activities are funded by annual membership subscriptions, fund raising and Education grants. The Group's policy is to maintain sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should Income and fundraising activities fall short. The funds of the Group are retained in bank accounts and are considered to be in a healthy state. The bank accounts are monitored on a regular basis.

### **Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Name: Colin Stewart

Position: Trustee

Date: 15 January 2025