

# North Down District Scout Council

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104169

## Details

Known as	NDDSC
Status	Received
Registered	2015-11-06
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	6 Balloo Avenue Bangor Bt19 7qt BT19 7QT
Phone	02891 461103

## 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, Sport/recreation, Youth development

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

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£63,280	£49,461	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Elisha Gherardi		
Mr Adam Cavan		
Mr Conor Graig		
Mr Gary Warke		
Mr Jack Fry		
Mr Kieran Mcevoy		
Mr Trevor Anderson		
Mrs Myrtle Ferguson		
Mrs Pamela Dunseath		

**North Down District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104169

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# Accounts

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**NORTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**Balloo Scout Centre**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31ST December 2025**

<u><b>INCOME</b></u>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance	7200.40	Insurance	991.40
Transfers from no 1 acc	411.77	Team Building	0.00
Grants	0.00	Garden	0.00
Donation	0.00	Renovation	0.00
Other income	80.00	Upkeep of Balloo Ave	2,397.53
Income - Slimming World	6280.00	Phone/Broadband	652.08
Income - Electric	1165.96	Electric	1,310.00
Income - Kilcooley Women	0.00	Bank Fees	84.02
Income - Mencap	60.00	Water rates	805.20
Income - Christmas at Balloo	715.00	Christmas at Balloo	796.77
Income - Band	900.00	Heating System	337.44
Refund of electric	0.00	Fence	0.00
11th Bangor	5177.16	Photocopier	0.00
		Cleaner	1,280.00
		Bank Balance	<u>13,335.85</u>
	<u>21,990.29</u>		<u>21,990.29</u>

**North Down District Scout Council**  
**Summary Bank Accounts**  
**31-Dec-24**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
District current account	£ 12,838.86
Investment account	£ 6,936.27
Danske Deposit account	£ 60,056.90
Balloo account	£ 13,335.85
Investment Account	£ 16,143.62
	<u>£ 109,311.50</u>
Petty Cash District	£ 69.80
	<u>£ 109,381.30</u>

**North Down District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104169

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# Accounts

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## NORTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31ST MARCH 2024

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>£</u>
Opening Balance	6524.78	Membership	29,906.00
Petty Cash	69.80	County Levy	8,230.00
Membership 2023	9945.00	Jamboree	900.00
Membership 2024	21347.00	Membership Rebate	0.00
Membership Rebate 2023	429.50	Group Badges	5,396.30
Group Badges	3065.10	Carol Service	0.00
Carol Service	0.00	St George's Day	100.00
St George's Day	0.00	Advertising	0.00
Explorers	0.00	Hon Secretary	0.00
Donation	40.00	District Commissioner	0.00
District camp	37.50	AGM	11.79
1st Holywood	0.00	Hollywood hall	1,139.11
Transfer from Deposit	0.00	Icebreaker	100.00
Council grant	0.00	Sponsored Walk	0.00
Beavers christmas	325.00	Internet	13.77
slimming world	0.00	Training	0.00
12th Bangor	1000.00	Play resource centre	0.00
Hollywood Hall	83500.48	Estate agent	0.00
Thunderbirds explorers	443.03	Baloo account	2,188.95
		Cubs	0.00
		Beavers	0.00
		Scouts	0.00
		Explorers	100.00
		Network	0.00
		Website & emails	1,260.00
		transfer to deposit accoun	13,000.00
		Bank Fees	86.40
		Float	69.80
		Bank Balance	64,225.07
	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
	126,727.19		126,727.19

## NORTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### Baloo Scout Centre

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31ST MARCH 2024

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>£</u>
Opening Balance	896.65	Insurance	844.03
Transfers from no 1 acc	2188.95	Team Building	0.00

Grants	0.00	Garden	0.00
Donation	0.00	Renovation	0.00
Other income	60.00	Upkeep of Balloo Ave	386.36
Income - Slimming World	4160.00	Phone/Broadband	711.36
Income - Electric	0.00	Electric	5,880.00
Income - Kilcooley Women	0.00	Bank Fees	52.69
Income - Mencap	480.00	Water rates	204.86
Income - Christmas at Balloo	0.00	Christmas at Balloo	225.90
Income - Band	720.00	Heating System	0.00
Refund of electric	7000.00	Fence	0.00
County Down Scouts		Photocopier	0.00
		Bank Balance	7,200.40
	<u>15,505.60</u>		<u>15,505.60</u>

**North Down District Scout Council**  
**Summary Bank Accounts**  
**31-Mar-24**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
District current account	64,225.07
Investment account	6,821.85
Balloo account	7,200.40
Investment Account	15,877.27
	<u>94,124.59</u>
Petty Cash District	69.80
	<u>94,194.39</u>

**North Down District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104169

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# Annual report

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## District Commissioners Report

As District Commissioner, I am pleased to present this year's report on the activities, achievements, and challenges faced by our Scout District. The past year has been eventful, and despite various challenges, the District has shown tremendous resilience, and teamwork. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers, leaders, parents, and, of course, our young people for their commitment and enthusiasm.

### Program Highlights

This year, our young people have participated in numerous camps, activities, and community service projects. Some key highlights include:

- **District Camp:** Our District Camp was a resounding success, with over 180 young people in attendance. They participated in a wide range of activities such as orienteering, pioneering, fire-building, and first aid.
- **Christmas at Balloo:** Our annual Christmas event for Squirrels and Beavers was well attended as always, for some the start of X Factor indicates that Christmas is on the way for me its Christmas at Balloo!

### Leader Training and Development

Our adult volunteers are the backbone of the District, and their continuous development is essential to continue delivering quality programs.

- **First Aid Training:** A focus this year has been on compliance of mandatory training, and we ran a number of First Aid courses here in the district in an effort to ensure that all our leaders are fully compliant.
- **Skills Development:** This year we will be trialling a leader's skills day. Gillian will give more information on this later this evening, but I would really encourage you to attend. We would welcome any suggestions on what you would like covered and will be equally interested in any feedback afterwards.

### Challenges

Like any organisation, we faced a number of challenges. As a district we have been dealing with issues which have caused quite a bit of turbulence, however, those have been investigated and dealt with by Northern Ireland and in some cases Gilwell Park and they are now largely behind us. Some remain ongoing and are now a matter for the courts. For that reason we won't go into this any further what remains is outside the control of this district and it is important that we turn the page now and focus on a new year of Scouting, delivering the very best Scouting we can for our young people.

### Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, our goals for the coming year include:

- **Membership Retention and Growth:** We aim to further increase our membership and retain our existing Scouts by continuing to offer exciting and diverse programs.

## District Commissioners Report

- **Leader Recruitment and Support:** A key priority will be the recruitment of new leaders and the continued support and development of our current leaders.
- **Program Development:** Tonight Gillian will introduce the calendar of events for 2024/25 which offers an extensive district programme aimed at supporting the sections and also bringing the district together more regularly. We will have more adventurous activities, and greater opportunities for personal development and skill-building for our young people.

I would like to thank all our volunteers, leaders, young people and parents, for their ongoing support and dedication. It is because of your commitment that we can continue providing life-changing opportunities for young people in our District.

As we take part in the remainder of the AGM and the leaders meeting afterwards, I would encourage you to remember why you chose to be part of this organisation. Its so easy to get bogged down in negativity but ultimately, and hopefully! we all have the same thing in common and that is to deliver Scouting as best we can to the young people in North Down.

Together, we look forward to another year of adventure.

Thank you.

**North Down District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104169

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# Annual return

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## EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT FOR NORTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

I report on the accounts of North Down District Scout Council for the year ended 31 March 2024.

My examination does not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 Charities Act, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Robert Saulters

Qualification: BSc (CEng) MSc (Business Improvement)

Address: 47 Cranley Road, Bangor, BT19 7HE

Date: 01 July 2024

Signed:



**North Down District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104169

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# Accounts

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North Down District Scouts  
Financial statement to 31st March 2023

General account

Income

Membership	£29,461.00
Rebate	£424.00
Badges	£1,812.50
1st Holywood	£888.94
Beavers	£195.00

£32,781.44

Tfr from deposit account £5,996.78

£38,778.22

Expenditure

Membership	£30,924.00
Rebate	£276.00
Badges	£2,627.22
Hollywood Hall	£3,875.01
Explorers	£236.55
Bank Fees	£94.28
St Georges Day	£100.00
Icebreaker	£100.00
Sponsered walk	£139.50
Sundries	£405.66

£38,778.22

Baloo Account

Income

Donations	£5,000.00
Electric	£1,538.86
Christmas at Balloo	£515.00

£7,053.86

Tfr from deposit account £3,923.81

£10,977.67

Expenditure

Renovation	£2,578.34
Insurance	£771.03
Broadband	£648.00
Electric	£5,880.00
Water rates	£403.35
Christmas at Balloo	£639.51
Bank Fees	£57.44

£10,977.67

Balace Sheet

Current Account	£6,524.78
Baloo Account	£896.65
Deposit Account	£6,729.91
Baloo deposit account	£2,672.65
Petty cash	£69.80
	£16,893.79

**North Down District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104169

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# Annual report

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## District Commissioners Report

We remain focused on compliance and when it comes to this mandatory training and Access NI checks we must be compliant. The District will suspend members who ignore the repeated requests and reminders to complete the training.

We are about to embark on a programme of change both at a Northern Ireland level and nationally. The Board of Scouts NI have undertaken a review of the structures within Northern Ireland Scouting with the aim of providing better support to Leaders working with young people to deliver #SkillsforLife. This review was prompted by the fact there were almost 200 unfilled posts throughout our Districts and Counties and many Leaders “double-jobbing” and even “triple-jobbing”.

A consultation paper was circulated in September 2022 after our AGM and was followed up by a series of roadshows across Northern Ireland. Feedback from the roadshows was reviewed by a working group containing representatives of all Counties and had a significant youth involvement.

The analysis of the feedback clearly indicated that:

- The vast majority (>98%) believed that we could do better, and that change should happen.
- There was a strong affinity to the current Districts.
- A single tier of support would be better.

The working group submitted a proposal to the Board which reflected this feedback, and the Board unanimously approved at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The outlines of the proposal are that:

- The current 10 Districts will remain unchanged; the 4 County/Districts will become Districts.
- The County level will disappear.
- The 14 Districts will be grouped together into four Regions containing either three or four Districts with similar numbers of young people and Leaders.
- As the Chief Commissioner cannot provide direct support to 14 District Commissioners, four Regional Commissioners will be appointed to support a group of Districts and the Chief Commissioner. These individuals will not have a separate team (or be a registered charity etc) but will receive support from the Northern Ireland Commissioner Team.

The Districts will not be obliged to organise regional activities but will be encouraged to work together in a flexible manner. Similarly, readjustment to District make-up can be considered if likely to improve the delivery to young people.

The grouping of Districts is set out below under the headings of North, South, East and West.

North: Slemish, South East Antrim, North Belfast, North West Belfast.

South: Armagh, South Down, Lisburn, Lagan.

East: North Down, Strangford, East Belfast.

West: Fermanagh, Tyrone, Londonderry.

North Down District will fall under East region when the changes come into effect in 2024.

On a national level the skills for life strategy was agreed in 2018 and now the focus is on making volunteering with Scouts easier and more fun so we can attract and retain more volunteers to help young people gain skills for life.

## District Commissioners Report

We volunteer **flexibly** as part of a team with a shared purpose.

Our teams and titles are **easier to understand** and more appealing to new volunteers.

Teams agree how to **share tasks** between them and this can change over time.

We want flexible volunteering to be a reality. We also want volunteering to be a smooth journey when people join us (or when we sadly say farewell).

To do this, we're using team descriptions. Unlike role descriptions, where one volunteer takes on specific responsibilities (this can be a barrier for some volunteers joining or staying in Scouts), this approach means we can share the load among the team.

We're making it clear that volunteers can get involved with just the tasks that work for their skills, interests and free time. Teams can decide how to split the tasks up, according to who's in the team and what the local needs are.

Our new approach makes it easier for our current teams, as volunteers can give their time in a more sustainable way. It helps volunteers build knowledge, experience, and confidence. And it makes it easier for them to change their involvement when their circumstances change. As such, they stay volunteering for longer. And in the future, more volunteers will want to join Scouts and give their time as part of a flexible team.

### **How we will organise the District**

Scout Districts help volunteers develop, improve Section programmes, and support Scouts to run in the best way possible.

They keep volunteers working well together and feeling motivated. They also make sure the 14-24 Sections are working well and are well regarded in their local community.

The District Leadership Team is made up of:

- District Lead Volunteers
- Team Leaders of each District Team
- Lead Volunteers of each Group in the District
- District Youth Leads
- Other Leadership Team Members who may have specific responsibilities

The District will have a:

- Leadership Team
- 14–24 Team
- Programme Team
- Volunteering Development Team
- Support Team
- Trustee Board

## District Commissioners Report

The intention is to have this structure in place and ready for launch in late August at our leaders meeting.

All sections attended the St George's Day Parade in April. Once again we were fortunate with good weather and many parents, grandparents and friends lined the route to see our scouts.

Once again NI Beaver Team organised and ran Beaver Rally Day in May 2022. As usual it was a great event and was well attended by Beavers from across North Down.

Christmas at Balloo was as always much anticipated and was held in North Down Scout Centre in December. Our District Explorers and their leaders ran a fantastic event which was well supported by both Squirrels and Beavers in the District.

In December we held our District Carol Service in First Presbyterian Church in Bangor. All sections were invited with donations of non perishable foods going to Storehouse.

Many groups and Units attended various camps over the summer, including Blair Atholl, Isle of Man and Red Rose.

We held a Chillax camp in September for Explorers and welcomed 65 Explorers for a super weekend.

It was also great to see our Explorers and Scouts at the Ice Breaker Hike and the Simon Community Big Sleep Out.

**North Down District Scout Council**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104169

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# Annual return

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Name: Robert Saulters

Qualification: BSc (CEng) MSc (Business Improvement)

Address: 47 Cranley Road, Bangor, BT19 7HE

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Signed:

