

Board of Trustees Annual Report

Name of Charity	1st Gilford Scout Group
Charity Registration Number	108902
Year Start Date	1st April 2023
Year End Date	31st March 2024
The Purpose of your Charity	<p>All Scouts NI Charities are governed by the Royal Charter and Bye-Laws.</p> <p>Purpose – Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p>
The principal address of the Charity	37 Burn Brae Court, Banbridge, Co Down, BT32 4GD
The names of all Charity Trustees	<p>Mr Paul McCoy ~ Chairperson</p> <p>Mr Colin McElory ~ Group Lead Volunteer</p> <p>Mrs Sarah McCoy ~ Secretary</p> <p>Mrs Angela Dawson ~ Treasurer</p> <p>Miss Leanna Blevins ~ Assistant Leader</p>
The financial year the report relates to	1 st April 2023 – 31 st March 2024
A summary of the Charity's main activities and achievements in the year	<p>These are the main activities undertaken by this charity to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit of its beneficiaries:</p> <p>Active Sections: Beavers (Age 6-8) and Cubs (Age 8 to 10.5). Section meetings take place on a weekly basis during term time on Thursday evenings; Beavers 6pm to 6.45pm and Cubs 7pm to 8pm. All activities follow a structured programme of age related games and activities to meet our charitable purpose. The group has had a successful year with a late Summer Camp taking place at the start of September. To better facilitate this activity we sold some of our larger, more complicated tentage which allowed us to purchase some smaller tents that younger members could erect with minimal adult help. This, combined with an overnight stay at Gosford Forest Park, gave all children an opportunity to demonstrate independence, leadership, teamwork, backwoods cooking skills and mental resilience.</p>

	<p>In October we were able to raise some extra funds by selling donated items at a local craft fair, which also helped us raise the profile of the group.</p> <p>Beavers: Beavers worked towards and completed Our Adventure Challenge, Space, Creative Builder, Sports, Gardening and Teamwork Challenge badges. At the start of the year we had a great trip to Armagh Planetarium. It was a great day out and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. There were lots of demonstrations and shows and we were able to complete our Space badge. In February we hosted the Guide Dogs for the Blind. We held our annual sports evening which is a joint session with our Cubs and is a favourite for the children. The competition for 1st Beaver and 1st Cub is always very high!</p> <p>This year all our meetings have taken place in St. Pauls Church Hall. The church kindly donated money for our vegetable and wildflower patch. We were able to extend our patch and are growing, peas, potatoes, runner beans, carrots, radishes, wildflowers and sunflowers.</p> <p>Cubs: We started this Scouting year with an overnight camp in Gosford Forest Park at the beginning of September where most members completed the day activities and 5 camped overnight. During the year our Cubs have completed the following badgework; Astronomer, Disability Awareness, Global Issues, Stage 1 Musicians, Teamwork Challenge and Our Skills Challenge. We were visited by Guide Dogs NI and we will finish this term with a visit to Lurgaboy Activity Centre. The Scout Group were also gifted an area of garden from St Paul's Church in the grounds of the church hall where we are planning to build a fire pit area and grow some fruit and vegetables. By the end of this year we are on track to present our first ever Chief Scout Silver awards to 2 of the Cubs who are due to leave us.</p> <p>Funds are allocated to activities and events that are both enjoyable and encourage the young people to become more independent and self-reliant, developing teamwork and skills for life.</p>
<p>A statement that the Trustees have had with regard to the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance</p>	<p>All trustees named above are aware of the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland's public benefit requirement and statutory guidance. There was no harm flowing from the charity's purposes and there was no private benefit.</p>

<p>A review of the Charity's financial position at the end of the year</p>	<p>Total funds at start of period: £760.25 Total receipts for period: £2,419.95 Total payments for period: £1,943.11 Total loss/gain for period: £476.84 (gain) Total funds at end of period: £1,237.09</p> <p>The charity's policy on reserve funds is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group for a short period should income and fundraising activities be curtailed (e.g. Covid 19 scenario) or falls short. The Group Executive Committee considers the charity should hold between £500 to £1,000 to cover this. Any additional funds held over this amount will be used to offset the cost of an end of Scouting year activity.</p>
<p>Details of any funds held by the Charity that was materially in deficit at the end of the year and steps taken by the Charity Trustees to eliminate the deficit</p>	<p>There are no funds held by the charity that are materially in deficit.</p>
<p>One or more of the Charity Trustees must sign and date this box.</p>	<p>Mr Collie McElroy, Group Lead Volunteer</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> 22/1/25.</p> <p>Mrs Sarah McCoy, Secretary</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> 22/1/25</p>