

Board of Trustees Annual Report

Name of Charity	1 st Gilford Scout Group		
Charity Registration Number	108902		
Year Start Date	1 st April 2024		
Year End Date	31 st March 2025		
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 2024 – 31 st March 2025		
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.</p> <p>The group has had another successful year where we held an indoor camp/movie night, participated in a multisport event at Lurgaboy, produced an art exhibition demonstrating a variety of different art mediums, hosted the church vestry as well as completed a number of activities working towards Chief Scout awards. These activities gave all children an opportunity to</p>		

demonstrate independence, leadership, teamwork and mental resilience.



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. We did not conduct any fundraising this year as we had surplus income from the previous year that was used to offset activities.

Beavers and Cubs Summary

The church kindly donated money for our vegetable and wildflower garden and we were able to extend our patch growing, peas, potatoes, runner beans, carrots, radishes, wildflowers and sunflowers as well as an area to practice camp fires. We had our annual sports evening in May which was a joint session and a favourite for the children. The competition for 1st Beaver and 1st Cub is always very high!

We also visited Dunbarton Bowling Club in May and the children received coaching tips and had a small competition. Our last session before the Summer Break was at Lurgaboy Activity Centre where the children took part in orienteering, archery, high ropes, canoeing and paddleboarding. This evening culminated in end of Scout year presentations where we awarded the first ever Chief Scout Silver badges to 2 Cubs as well as Best All Round Beaver and Cub.

Following Summer both sections worked towards Photography and Artist badges and we hosted parents and caregivers with an art exhibition showing the artwork and photography they produced. The children worked very hard on lots of pieces for their art badge and were really proud to have it displayed for all the parents to see. We held an indoor camp in October and the children really enjoyed it. It was a good introduction to camping for some of the younger members. In March we hosted the church vestry to thank them for their generous support in allowing us to use the hall and for funding a purpose built storage area for our camping equipment and activity supplies. The children cooked and served a meal and entertained our guests. The evening was rounded off with an enjoyable game of bingo. And finally we had lots of practice making fires and toasting marshmallows in preparation for Summer Camp.

<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: £1,237.09 Total receipts for period: £1,915.00 Total payments for period: £2,138.96 Total loss/gain for period: £223.96 (loss) Total funds at end of period: £1,013.13</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. Although our expenditure exceeded income for the period, the fund was in surplus the previous year and therefore the total funds held was still around the £1,000 threshold. The fund is not in debt to any creditors and maintains a healthy balance.</p>
<p>One or more of the Charity Trustees must sign and date this box.</p>	<p>Mr Collie McElroy, Group Lead Volunteer  21/01/26. Mrs Sarah McCoy, Secretary  22/1/26</p>