

Scouts

1st Houghton



Annual Report and Accounts 2021 – 2022

The Group

1st Houghton (St Michael's) Scouts are one of the oldest Scout Groups in the Houghton District being active for over 100 years. We are proud to be part of our local community and try to support it wherever possible.

We are also proud to provide the young people of Houghton le Spring with a safe, welcoming and rewarding environment where they can learn skills for life enabling them to fulfil their potential within the community.

We cater for young people from the ages of six to eighteen and operate a Beaver colony, a Cub pack, a Scout troop and Explorers.

The activities we offer vary greatly depending on the ages of the participants but these can include things like arts and crafts and cookery for Beavers to online safety, outdoor survival skills and Duke of Edinburgh Awards for the Explorers and many things in between.

The group is led by an Executive committee and we have many adult volunteers who help to run the weekly activities. The number of adult volunteers and young leaders has steadily increased over the year which has brought new ideas and has had a positive impact on what we do.

All of our adult volunteers are fully DBS checked and are all appropriately trained to work with young people. Some lead in several sections. Many of our volunteers have gained recognition for completing their formal training.

The commitment and dedication of our leadership team is nothing short of amazing.



The Charity

Funding

1st Houghton Scouts are funded by monthly subscriptions of £15 per month per young person. We are also funded in part by grants that we apply for from local and national funds.

Expense

Our main expenses are fixed costs of our HQ, such as energy bills, business rates and Membership Fees, a compulsory insurance fee per young person paid annually.

We also spend money on activities for the young people. This is agreed by the leaders on an ad-hoc basis and is signed off by the Treasurer or Group Scout Leader. This method of spending has worked well in the past and allowed us to keep control of our finances.

Grant Applications

Over the year, we have been successful in applying for funding from various sources including Sunderland City Council and, more recently, the Youth Investment Fund. Our total grants for 2021-2022 is £58,957 - a much larger number than usual.

The bulk of the grant money was £51,000 from the Youth Investment Fund which we used to completely refurbish our dilapidated toilet facilities in the HQ. This has given us fully accessible toilets as well as a shower and baby changing facilities. This has allowed us to offer our Scouting experience to people of all abilities and genders and we can now offer our HQ out to other community groups.

Our Registered Charity Number is: 512697

Reserves

1st Houghton has always tried to be responsible with our finances and usually keep a reserve of around £10,000. This has reduced this year though due to the decision we took to reduce subscriptions to £1 per month during the 2020 and 2021 while we were not able to offer full Scouting activities during the Covid pandemic.

HQ Improvements

We have also contributed some of our reserves to the many improvements we have made to our HQ over the past two years. Rather than one off costs though, we look at these expenses as long term investments in both the group and the young people of Houghton le Spring. The improvements we have made (and will continue to make) to our HQ will still benefit the group decades into the future.

Risk Management

1st Houghton does not have any investments and our funds are held in a UK High Street bank. Only the Group Scout Leader and the Treasurer have access to the account and we require two signatories for any payments made.



The Trustees

Role	Name
Group Scout Leader	Steven Gibson
Chairman	Paul Marriner
Treasurer	David Haugh
Secretary	Helen Brown
Assistant Group Scout Leader & Cub Leader	Sandra Ranson
Beaver Leader	Gail Grey
Scout Leader	Andrew Brown
Explorers Leader & Young Person	Daniel Longhorn

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are elected on three year terms. The current terms run until 2025.



Receipts

Income Type	Amount (£)
Subscriptions	2959.19
Fund Raising	92.01
Energy Refund	946.75
Camp Fees	175.00
Grants	58,957.00
Total	63,129.95

Payments

Payment Type	Amount (£)
Badges	415.20
Water	146.00
Electric	333.62
Gas	789.00
Business Rates	86.00
Capitation/Membership Fees	1880.00
Leader Training Courses	315.00
Insurance	1454.21
Food, Drink & Activities	1109.23
Maintenance	52.31
HQ Refurbishments	64,720.49
Other	747.47
Total	72,048.78

Balance Sheet

1st Houghton Scout Group

Charity Number: 512697

Statement of Accounts 2021/2022

Funds as at 6 April 2021 £13,426.61

Excess Income over Expenditure **£-8918.83**

Funds as at 31 March 2022 £4,507.78

Compromising

Current Account £4,069.62

Cash on Hand £438.16

Total £4,507.78

The above accounts were approved by the trustees on 28th October 2022 and independently checked by Carl Hickman.

