

81st Belfast (St. Bartholomew's) Scout Group

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland – NIC 103875

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

ADDRESS

Saint Bartholomew's Church, 183 Stranmillis Road, Belfast BT9 5EE

81scoutgroup@gmail.com

TRUSTEES' and MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE at 31st March 2023

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Neil McDowell | Chair | Ian Berryman | Group Scout Leader |
| Anita McCann | Secretary | Simon Barber | Scout Leader |
| James Davis | Treasurer | Duncan Berryman | Cub Scout Leader |
| | | Jacqui Berryman | Beaver Scout Leader |

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, Organisation 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. The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders and meets at regular intervals. Members of the Executive Committee should complete appropriate training for their role.

This Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for the following:

The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; the insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; assisting in the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support; appointing any sub-committees that may be required and appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

The Group Executive Committee has identified that major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. 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 comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to equipment. The Group has sufficient contents insurance to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to Leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group, through the capitation fees, contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group on an ongoing basis either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of Leaders. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. If there was a reduction in the number of Leaders to an unacceptable level in any Section then the Group would undertake a recruitment project before considering contraction or closure of Section or, in the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 – 14. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular Section or the Group as a whole, a similar undertaking would be put in place as outlined above.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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.

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Integrity – We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy 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.

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.

Sectional Key Activities

- In May the Colony entered 2 teams (A & B) for the first ever Belfast Beaver County Flag Competition. The design for the commemorative badge had been created by Lucy, an 81st Beaver Scout. Team A won the competition and also the Dr Donald Brownlie Memorial Cup for First Aid.
- Also in May, a team from the Cub Pack entered the Belfast Cub County flag Competition and won the Cooking Competition for their Tacos and Eton Mess.
- Beavers enjoyed NI Beaver Scout Rally at NI Scout Centre Crawfordsburn in May on a theme of real-life superheroes. Meeting PSNI, RNLI, the Army, and St John's Ambulance along with lots of fun activities
- In September the Explorer Unit had a camp at Tipperary Wood and hiked in the Mourne
- In early October Squirrels attended NI Squirrel Day to celebrate one year of Squirrel Scouts
- Also in October, Beavers raised funds for Alzheimer's Society by cycling, scootering, and go-carting around the Church to represent 20,000 miles for the 20,000 people living with Dementia in Northern Ireland
- In November, Scouts & Explorers collected essential items for Simon Community NI and attended NI Big Sleepout at NI Scout Centre Crawfordsburn
- In December Squirrels & Beavers attended Lagan Scout District's 'Christmas @ Elfnally' event at Ardnally Scout Centre
- Squirrels and Beavers made Christmas crafts and cards for the elderly in Saint Bartholomew's Church and Sydenham Court, supported housing for people living with Dementia. At Saint Bartholomew's Christmas Fayre, craft items made by Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs were sold.
- Volunteer Leaders, 'Brown Beaver' (Beaver Scout Leader) & 'Kaa' (Cub Scout Leader) were awarded the Medal of Merit
- In February, the Squirrel Drey attended a Belfast County Squirrel event and collected toiletries for the Simon Community NI
- In March Cubs and Scouts had a camp at NI Scout Centre Crawfordsburn
- During the year Beaver Scouts held 2 Sleepovers in the Church Hall
- In the autumn and spring all Sections held fundraising activities to support participants attending the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, summer 2023. Two Explorer Scouts selected for the NI Contingent, 'The Wee Buns' and one Leader as a member of the International Service Team
- All Sections have been working towards their Chief Scout top awards
- All Sections are involved in donating non-perishable food items, toiletries, and basic cleaning products to a monthly collection for the FoodBank
- The 81st Belfast Scout Group is extremely grateful to the Fountainville Scout Development Trust for its continued financial support enabling the Scout Group to offer exciting activities, outdoor opportunities, and life skills to the young people.

Signed on behalf of Trustees

Signature



Full name –

IAN DAVID BEARYMAN

Date – 7/9/23