

## **Annual Report for 3rd Newtownards Scout Group 2023-2024**

**Registered Charity NIC103965**

Trustee Board

Stephen Markwell (Treasurer)  
Helen Caughey (GSL)  
Danielle Markwell  
Stephanie Potter  
Leanne McGrath

### **3rd Newtownards Squirrel Scouts April 2023 – March 2024**

This year there were eleven registered Squirrels who attended regularly. The programme included games connected to badges. Activities were both inside and outside in the Church grounds when weather permitted. The planned visit mentioned in last year's report to Air-tastic in Bangor was a great success.

Other activities included crafts, games and Halloween and Christmas parties.

Once again we grateful to the parents who have helped out as leaders throughout the year.

### **3rd Newtownards Beaver Colony April 2023 – March 2024**

3rd Ards Beaver Scout – Report September 2023 to May 2024

We had 8 new Beavers take their scout promise in this scouting year and they have made an excellent start into their scouting journey.

The children were awarded 217 badges this does not include the name badge, county badge, District badge, or indeed the Ulster badge.

The Beavers completed challenge badges which in turn has helped them develop and gain confidence. They have had to work in team situations where they were asked to vote for a leader who guided the team. The Beavers also had to work on their own to complete parts of the badges which they did. The badge work helped the quietest of Beavers as they were completing tasks without realising that they were engaging with others. We enjoy time to let the Beavers discuss various topics from environmental changes to world disasters and how to help people from countries less well off than ourselves. To complete one of our badges the Beavers were joined by a member of the Guide Dog Association. She was able to educate our young people not only how dogs help people with seeing difficulties but also how we should approach and look after our dogs. We then had a pizza night where the children made pizzas and their parents joined us. We asked for donations and we raised £100 which was forwarded to the Guide Dogs.

We were also fortunate to be able to get the young people out and about. We visited Mount Stewart where the children were taught about the environment and the animals living near us. They also completed a hike from Crawfordsburn Scout Centre to Stricklands Glen, and another one where we climbed up the front of Scrabo Hill, both of which were enjoyed by all. We also had our Christmas outing to play ten pin bowling. We finished our scouting year with a sleep over at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre where the Beavers had a varied programme which included playing cricket, star gazing, camp fire and camp songs. We made smores and attempted the climbing wall and grass sledging.

In conclusion I must say that I am so delighted to report that we had 12 Beavers who achieved their Bronze Chief Scout award and I was so proud to present these to them at the swimming up ceremony which took place in May.

Elaine Anderson  
Beaver Scout Leader  
3rd Ards Beaver Leader

### **3rd Newtownards Cub Scouts April 2023 - March 2024**

The Cubs had twenty eight members and were very active this year doing a range of activities.

They had a summer camp at Ballyhornan and moving up ceremony before the Summer break.

From September onwards they attended the annual youth service in the church, held another camp at Crawfordsburn for the Sixers and Seconders and did a pioneering badge. There was a Halloween party and Water Polo session in Bangor Pool and a visit to Clip and Climb all before Christmas.

The new year saw a music night, Winter Olympics and sessions devoted to Global issues and environmental conservation.

As a result of these activities many badges were gained by the young folk.

On the sporting front the Cubs took part in the District and Northern Ireland Uni-hoc competitions.

### **3rd Ards Scouts Activity Report - April 2023 to March 2024**

During the year 23/24, the Scout Section continues to be active and striving to provide a programme which is very much youth lead, with an overall focus on ensuring that each member will achieve their Chief Scout Gold Award at the end of their 4 years with us.

At the end of the last scout year (April to June 2023), the scouts took part in Easter Camp at Crawfordsburn (29 members attending), Expedition Camp (9 attending) and TOE (20 members attending). We also had a number of scouts attending the Trash the Trash day working in the local area in Newtownards just off the Jubilee Road.

In June we welcomed cubs into the troop and had our meetings outdoors during June at Crawfordsburn. This gave the scouts an opportunity to get to know each other through team games as well as taking part in Tomahawks, Archery, and Abseiling. We finished off the year with a presentation from the scouts who completed their Expedition Hike / Camp, along with a BBQ and Campfire.

The start of the new term saw a number of scouts and new cubs not returning in the new term due to clashes with other extra circular activities, including football, swimming, gymnastics and transition to secondary school.

In the first term of the new year (September to December), scouts attended the youth service at St Marks. In October, we held a membership camp for those joining the troop which was held in Cladagh Glen Scout Accommodation (indoor camp). Then in November it was the turn of the older scouts, who had an outdoor (hammock camp) which incorporated some environmental work at Mount Stewart.

Other activities in the first term included developing our code of conduct for the year, internet safety, investiture of new scouts, ninja warrior assault course, halloween party, local knowledge walk and quiz and volunteering at the Warehouse, designing Christmas Cards for others in the local community.

The second term (January to March), saw scouts learning about disabilities and taking part in challenges to develop their team working skills. We also had a night hike and wide game in Mount Stewart and took part in Jambowlree (ten pin bowling event), as well as enjoying some pancakes and taking part in the Holy Week service at St Marks.

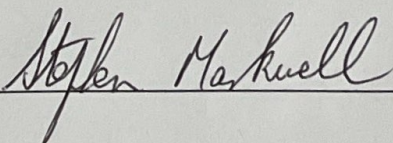
In January we had 9 scouts attend the presentation at Belfast City Hall and receive their Chief Scout Gold Award, with other Scouts from across Northern Ireland.

As for camps, PLs and APLs attending a NI Training Event in February and then we had a weekend away to test our map reading & navigation skills at Shephards Lodge (17 members attending) located in Donard Forest Park.

Leanne Mc Grath Scout Leader

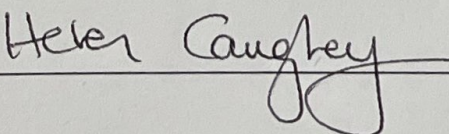
Signed

Stephen Markwell (Group Treasurer)



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Helen Caughey (GSL)



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