



68TH BELFAST SCOUT GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT
2024

FOR THE PERIOD

1ST APRIL 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2024

GROUP TRUSTEE BOARD

GROUP CHAIRMAN	WILL MC MULLAN
GROUP SECRETARY	LIAM DUFFY
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	FRANK DUFFY
BOARD MEMBER	SUSAN THOMPSON
BOARD MEMBER	PETER RYAN
BOARD MEMBER	GAVAN DUFFY

GOVERNANCE

- 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 LEADER, INDIVIDUAL SECTION LEADERS (IF OPTED TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY) AND PARENT'S REPRESENTATION AND MEETS EVERY # MONTHS.
- MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPLETE 'ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE' TRAINING WITHIN THE FIRST 5 MONTHS OF JOINING THE COMMITTEE.

THIS GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXISTS TO SUPPORT THE GROUP SCOUT LEADER IN MEETING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE APPOINTMENT AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- THE MAINTENANCE OF GROUP PROPERTY;
- 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;
- APPOINTING GROUP ADMINISTRATORS AND ADVISORS OTHER THAN THOSE WHO ARE ELECTED.

RISK AND INTERNAL CONTROL

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 A COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE POLICY TO ENSURE THAT INSURABLE RISKS ARE COVERED.

INVESTMENT POLICY

THE GROUP DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO INVEST IN LONGER TERM INVESTMENTS. THE GROUP HAS THEREFORE ADOPTED A RISK AVERSE STRATEGY TO THE INVESTMENT OF ITS FUNDS. ALL FUNDS ARE HELD IN CASH USING ONLY MAINSTREAM BANKS OR BUILDING SOCIETIES

RESERVES POLICY

THE GROUP'S POLICY ON RESERVES IS TO HOLD SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO CONTINUE THE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP SHOULD INCOME AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES FALL SHORT. THE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS THAT THE GROUP SHOULD HOLD A SUM EQUIVALENT TO 12 MONTHS RUNNING COSTS, CIRCA £3000.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

THE GROUP MEETS THE CHARITY COMMISSION'S PUBLIC BENEFIT CRITERIA UNDER BOTH THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF CITIZENSHIP OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HEADINGS.

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.

THE GROUP CONTINUES TO GROW, AND THIS YEAR MARKED ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE RETURN FROM COVID WITH THE SEPARATION OF THE BEAVER COLONY AND CUB PACK TO MEET AS TWO SEPARATE SECTIONS. WE ALSO SAW AN INCREASE IN THE ADULT VOLUNTEERS WHICH MADE THIS MOVE POSSIBLE. THE GROUP HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH AND SOME OF OUR LEADERS TOOK PART IN THE ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE ALONGSIDE THE GUIDES.

BEAVERS

THE BEAVER COLONY HAS BEEN WORKING AWAY WITH LOTS OF GAMES STORIES AND ACTIVITIES. IN THE LATTER PART OF THE REPORTING YEAR THE BEAVERS REALLY GOT STUCK IN AS THEY WERE IN THEIR OWN HALL. THE COLONY WAS ALSO SUPPORTED BY A YOUNG LEADER, ALEXANDRA WHO WAS A GREAT ADDITION TO THE TEAM.

CHALLENGE BADGES	2
ACTIVITY INCLUDING STAGED BADGES	10

cubs

THE CUB SCOUT PACK WENT FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH WITH A LARGE MOVE UP FROM BEAVERS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SIXES. WE ALSO APPOINTED A SIXER TO LEAD EACH OF THE SIXES. WITH A NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM, THE PACK HAS BEEN WORKING AWAY CONCENTRATING ON CHALLENGE BADGES AND WITH AN ENTHUSIASTIC PACK IT HAS NOT BEEN THAT HARD. THE PACK ALSO HAD A YOUNG LEADER, REBECCA WHO WAS AN EXCELLENT MEMBER OF THE TEAM.

CHALLENGE BADGES	10
ACTIVITY INCLUDING STAGED BADGES	20

WOODBADGE AWARDED
(ADULT TRAINING)



FRANK DUFFY – GROUP SCOUT LEADER

THE ABOVE REPORT, RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES WERE APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF BY

Handwritten signature of Frank Duffy.

GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Handwritten signature of William McNamee.

GROUP CHAIRMAN