



Scouts

The Winterbornes

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024

HQ registration number 306101

Reference and administration details

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

For the period 01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024

Richard Wilson	Chair
Samantha Elliott	Group Lead Volunteer
Nicola Lindley	Treasurer
Anna Way	
Denise Saunders	
Kirsty Young	
Paul Andrews	

Names and addresses of advisers

Auditor	Colin Westbrook	Gillingham
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Front cover image from Summer Camp at Huish Woods, Somerset - camp fire with a Scout Troop we made friends with from West Yorkshire

Back cover image of Chestnut and Mike on their first outing to Brownsea Island with the Beavers. Mike Mullett (aka Chestnut) volunteered in Scouting and also actively helped with Community events in Milborne St Andrew. In 2022 we were donated money from The Milborne May Fair Committee in Mike's memory. We wanted to spend it on something that would benefit the Beaver Scouts but also remember Mike and his dedication and love for Scouting. We thought two 'build-a-bears' were perfect as they can be taken on adventures, for many years to come, with our Beavers and provide comfort and smiles at events, camps and sleepovers.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The Winterborne Scout Group's governing documents are those of the 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.

How the charity is constituted

The Winterborne Scout Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues

The Winterborne Scout Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, 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 and keeping proper accounts.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 6 Trustees (including 2 Ex Officio Trustees, and 2 co-opted Trustees) and meets every 2 months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 5 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk and Internal Control

The Group Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

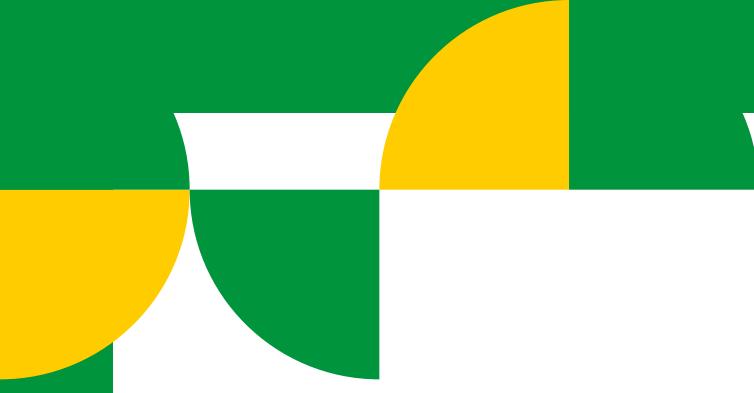
Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fund raising. 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 Board 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 a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. 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 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

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 policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.



Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

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.

Public benefit statement

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.



Achievements and performance

For the period
01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024

BEAVERS



Beavers have made smoothies for Health and Fitness badge and we invited Charlton Marshall Beavers to join us for a joint Frisbee Golf session completing our Sports badge. For our Safety badge we learnt the Green Cross Code and Countryside Code and then enjoyed exploring Puddletown Forest with the Cub pack.

During the summer term we did lots of outside activities learning how to erect tents safely, fire lighting and we made grass snakes and investigated the allotments for our Gardening badge. Some of our Beavers went to Summer Camp and had a great time earning two nights away badges!

After the summer break we continued looking at the Safety badge by learning how to stay safe in the event of a fire. They also learnt how to tie some knots and do some basic lashing to build some great dens from canes and bed sheets.

For Remembrance Beavers sewed some lovely poppies and some of the older Beavers began sewing badges onto their new camp blankets. To celebrate Guy Fawkes night Beavers enjoyed sparklers and decorated biscuits. During this winter term Beavers built a huge cardboard box fort for their Builder badge and built amazing Lego vehicles. Before Christmas we took part in a Polar Bear Challenge; created a polar bear face with cotton buds, found out about their food chain, covered a few Beavers in toilet roll to look like a bear and watched a short documentary about Polar Bears.

In January we celebrated International Kit Day by making kites and flying them. The following week we carried on the International theme by learning about France; learning phases and tasting French food like; croissants, Brie, baguette etc...

For the Big Garden Bird Watch we watched a live feed of some owls nesting and made bird feeders, some Beavers completed the bird watch at home that weekend - well done to them!

We had a pretend Trading post activity where Beavers learnt the value of completing a task for money that they could then spend to earn more money. They also looked at the history of money and did a rubbing of the shield montage on the back of some coins, all earning the newest Beaver badge - Money Skills.

We had a lovely local volunteer come and teach our Beavers some Yoga moves for our mindfulness week. After half term we made some lovely pancakes and carried on the Cooks badge by making cheese on toast and learnt about other Welsh traditions for St David's day. For World Water Day Beavers made filters, from natural materials found outside their meeting place, to clean up some dirty water.

We had lots of Beavers join Blandford Beavers for a Dungeons & Dragons sleepover where they did loads of activities, went for a walk around Blandford, cooked, washed up and watched a film.



Willow, Matilda, Jake and Evelyn
all received their Chief Scout Bronze Awards.





cubs



Cubs started the term doing the Naturalist badge where they learnt the Countryside Code, identified different plants and mini beasts, looked at Energy and Water and used their imagination and recycling to build a Recyclobot!

Cubs joined Scouts for an activity up at Badbury rings and Beavers for a walk around Puddletown Forest. They also went on a hike creating a 'journey stick' as they explored their surroundings. Nearer the end of the summer term they Cubs took part in lots of outdoor sports and athletics activities.

In June some Cubs joined Blandford packs for a camp at Buddens Activity Centre in Wareham where they took part in many great activities like abseiling, climbing, raft building and backwoods cooking and gained another two nights away badges!

After rescheduling a couple of times the Cubs finally explored Blandford and discovered where all our local services are. This had to include knowing where the chippy was... and they had to taste test!

This term the Cubs also learnt fire safety and how to light fires safely plus they learnt Compass and navigational skills and how to tie various useful knots. We were given some bath bomb making kits from Lush cosmetics so Cubs made some lovely smelling bombs and they also made their own Christmas cakes and decorated them.

Some Cubs joined Blandford Cub packs for an Activity day at Buddens again where they did Tomahawk throwing, Rifle shooting, Raft building and the Zip line. In January they also joined Blandford to do some Climbing at The Project centre in Poole.

In the new year, with dark evenings, it was a great time to complete the Astronomer Activity badge. The Cubs made a handy Star Wheel, which helped them navigate the night sky with ease and identify stars and constellations plus they learnt the planets by creating a fruit-salad solar system.

Following on from many Cubs completing Emergency Aid level 1 in Beavers they further developed their skills by completing level 2 which involved learning how and when to get help and how to help someone who is unconscious, bleeding, had a burn or is having an asthma attack.

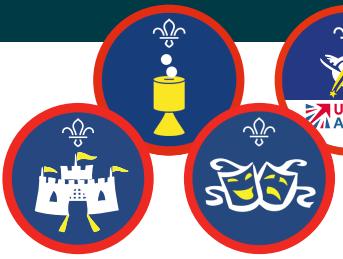
For pancake day the Cubs made little pancakes using tin cans and a candle, plus the Leaders made some big ones to fill them up!

We have had 6 Beavers swim up and renew their promise as a Cub, 7 new young people have joined Cubs and Eloise achieved her 5 year Joining In badge which demonstrates her commitment to Scouting.

Mia, Logan, Zara, James and Isla all received their Chief Scout Silver Awards.



SCOUTS



Scouts started the term by learning knots, lashings and pioneering skills and then used these to make Chariots. They followed these sessions with learning map reading and compass skills for orienteering badge. The Scouts enjoyed a session with Cubs at Badbury rings.

In the summer term they had a kayaking session with The Stour Valley Canoe Club in Blandford and also developed their knowledge of their Local Knowledge for another badge. A few Scouts also attended the North Dorset District Scout Backwoods Camp near Shaftesbury where they did car maintenance for Mechanics badge, created a Da Vinci bridge (a large pioneering project) and had a go at some Archery.

During the Autumn term Scouts looked at survival skills, whittling and fire-lighting. They also took a walk to the war memorial where the spitfire crashed between Stickland & Durweston. They also investigated the history of Scouting and took part in the annual Jota/Joti (Jamboree on the airways/internet). Scouts also took part in the Christmas Polar Bear Challenge (as did Beavers) by decorating a polar bear themed Christmas card and tree decoration, created a Scherenschnitte (swiss craft of cutting paper into pictures), found out about the food chain, decorated their hot chocolate to look like a bear and similar activities.



In January they started the term remembering their pioneering skills and built ballista's. Scouts also had a go at Rifle shooting for their Master at Arms badge. Some Scouts hadn't achieved their Level 2 Emergency Aid so they completed this and went on a hike from Stourpaine up Hod Hill and back. Scouts also enjoyed a session on Electronics where they learnt how to use a soldering iron safely and put together a simple circuit to make a light up badge. They also did a climbing session at Queen Elizabeth Leisure centre.

We had 6 Scouts attend the annual East Dorset District 'Order of the boot' competition, this year, based at Badbury Rings. The event is essentially an incident night hike that tests Scouts navigation, map and compass skills. There are a series of checkpoints with challenges that are undertaken by Scouts (with no adult help) and points can be won or lost. We were really proud of our team for giving it ago in not the best weather conditions!

We have a few Scouts attending the Essex Jamboree in July 2024 and to help raise money for this event some took part in a great '3 Peaks Challenge' walking over, Hod Hill, Hambledon Hill and Okeford Hill. Again the weather was not on our side towards the end but spirits were high and they did great alongside Blandford Scout Group.

We have had 5 Cubs move up and renew their promise as a Scout, 2 new young people joined Scouts and Tyler, Lucas and Thomas were all awarded their 6 year Joining In badges.



Arthur T, Arthur W, Connor, Oliver and Max all received their Chief Scout Gold Awards.

GROUP

(all members together)

In April we invited to join in a rounders match, The Winterbornes Scout Group v's The Winterborne Stickland Youth Club, it was a lovely morning and thank Anna Way for inviting us and organsing the event.

We also attended the North Dorset District St Georges Day parade held in Blandford Forum this year. Shaftesbury Town Silver Banded us from part of town to Blandford Scout Hut, the weather was kind and it was a lovely afternoon meeting other Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Scout Volunteers from around North Dorset.

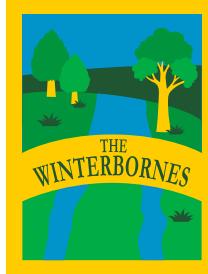
In May we organised a Group visit with Blandford Scout Group to Brownsea Island. We combined the event with JOTT (Jamboree On The Trail). It's a special place to visit and we had lovely weather. We also got together to celebrate the Kings Coronation with an evening session of crafts and games.

In June we volunteered to help the Milton Abbas Street Fair with their car park duties. A huge thank you to Bob Way for helping to organise and all our volunteers who helped at the event. The committee donated £1000 to our Scout Group for our support.

A big thank you again to Akela for organising a Ringo's session at the Dorset Snowsports Centre for all sections.

In August we ran our Summer Camp at Huish Woods in Somerset. Cubs and Scouts stayed 4 nights and Beavers came to enjoy the last 2 nights. For many Beavers this was their first time away and they just got stuck in and had a great time! A huge thank you to Denise/Akela for organsing most of the camp and to Harry, Paul, Jason, Willam and Bev for all your help. We literally can't run these camps without you so your support is very much appreciated.

In September we supported the Fun in the field event in Winterborne Whitechurch.



In October we organised a new 'Navigational Skills Workshop' followed with a hike. We met at Cerne Abbas village hall and each section learnt compass and map reading skills. We then put this into practice by hiking around the Cerne Giant.

In November members from each section represented our Group at Remembrance Parades in Winterborne Stickland, Winterborne Whitechurch and Milborne St Andrew.

In December we took part in the Blandford Yuletide Festival and we also came together to do some Carol Singing in The Royal Oak followed by a small Christmas party at the Village Hall. Some members also did some carol singing at Dunbury Academy Christmas Fair. Thank you to Carli and Akela for organising and to those that attended you all sang so well - very brave!

In January, our Adult Volunteers attended a 'Scout Transformation' event at The Crown in Blandford. Dorset is one of a few Counties piloting a transformation of Scouts over the next few months, with the rest of country following later. We were given details on why and how the structure, training and volunteering culture of Scouts is changing. The Beaver, Cub and Scout programmes, badges or uniform won't be affected. The biggest difference you may have noticed already is the change of names i.e. 'Executive Committee' now 'Trustee Board', 'Section Leader' now 'Team Leader', 'Section Assistant(s)' now 'Team Member(s)' and 'Group Scout Leader' now 'Group Lead Volunteer'.

In March we joined together to explore Badbury rings... it will be remembered for being the muddiest walk ever!



Beavers enjoying their hot chocolate before bed at Summer Camp 2023 at Huish Woods, Somerset

Big thank you...

to all our youth members for coming along to as many sessions and events as possible and attempting every challenge we set you.

We know Scouts couldn't do this without the support from their families / carers - thank you for transporting to and from sessions, washing uniforms (plus the dirty, smelly camp kit) and paying Subs and event costs on time.

Trustee Changes

Richard Wilson has been a member of our Trustee Board since 2016 and stepped into the Chair role in 2022 but is sadly resigning at the AGM. Volunteering to take over as Chair is Sarah Parkin - we look forward to the year ahead, thank you for joining the team!

Kirsty Young, a Trustee since 2021, will also be resigning at this AGM but we thank Kirsty for supporting our Scout Group.

Ideally we would like a couple more members of the Board - please do contact us to find out more or visit the Scouts Trustee Boards [website](#)

Group Statistics

Since our merge of two Scout Groups in 2020 we have grown in youth membership from 31 members to 51 in 2024. We have had older Scouts move on to Explorers and come back to help our Cub and Scout sections as Young Leaders which is brilliant - a huge thank you to them for volunteering to support and share their skills. Our adult volunteers have stayed the same and ideally in 2024-25 we will work to try and recruit more volunteers as we have a few members doing multiple roles which isn't very sustainable in the long-term.

If you would be interested in helping at any sessions please do contact us to find out more or visit the Scouts Team Members [website](#)

Review & Goals

The structure of Scouting is 'Transforming', Dorset is one of the pilot Counties to 'go live' first so over the next year our volunteers will be navigating their way through a new computer system, training and structure. None of this will affect youth members or their families directly. In the long term it should make Scouts easier, more enjoyable and rewarding for all of our volunteers.

Scouts HQ have set a challenge to get 'Outdoor in 24' to encourage Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to get outside throughout 2024. Despite the many days of rain we have had at the start of the year all sections are doing well and we hope next year's report will state that all members achieved this special badge!

Three Scouts are attending Essex International Jamboree in 2024, a **HUGE** milestone for our Scout Group! If this goes well the Scout Team will discuss the possibility of attending a Jamboree or International experience every 2-3 years.

Thank you

Thank you to Milborne St Andrew Sports Ground & Pavilion, Dunbury Church of England Academy and Winterborne Stickland Sports & Community Club for the hire of their halls, we understand utilities and running costs have increased dramatically in last few years and appreciate that they haven't increased hire costs too much for us. We have also done some one off hires at Milborne St Andrew Village Hall and Cerne Abbas Village Hall and thank them for accomodating us too. Thank you to Piers for providing us with storage for our equipment for another year.

Thank you to our Young Leaders; Alexander, Arthur, Connor, Lucas and Tom - the young people and leaders appreciate your support and it's great to see your confidence growing in programme planning and running some activities.

Issie Mullen joined the Cub pack in February 2024 but is off to America soon so we wish her well and thank you for helping and supporting the Cubs and other Leaders - you are very welcome back anytime!

Thank you to parent helpers; Jason Liddy, Stuart Davis, William Hay and others who have been to events or sessions to support our volunteers and young people.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to our Leaders; Denise, Harry, Jo, Kev, Paul, Sue and new volunteers Laura and Ollie plus Trustees; Anna, Kirsty, Nicky and Richard. We really appreciate your time and support - you are all amazing and you a huge asset to our Scout Group and the local community.



Financial Review

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 Trustee Board considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £1000.

Our official accounts on the next page show a year end balance of £5489.58, however two large bills (insurance £177.84 and census £2893), that should have cleared before 31st March 2024 didn't and so this doesn't reflect an accurate year end balance. Taking these into account our Group holds reserves of approximately £2418.74 against this at year end. This is slightly above the level required for operating expenses. However this can be explained by having £530 income for a Summer Camp 2024 which will be spent in the next financial year plus and having some income from Summer Camp (due to some paid activites being unavailable) left which we will allocate back into section budgets for the coming year.

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.

Treasurers Review

Our Group started in 2020 with £1,381.78 and we have struggled to build a reserve pot, the Covid pandemic not helping matters, whilst paying the insurances, hall hire and membership fees and making sure all our members are receiving a great quality Scouting experience. From September 2023 we increased subscriptions from £105 to £120 per year which has been helping us. Next year we will apply for Gift Aid which will give us some reserve money to put into a high interest account which will secure the future of the Group.

The Trustee Board have discussed changing our financial year from 1st April - 31st March to 1st September - 31st August and will hopefully be received well and agreed on for next accounting year. Due to the Scouts annual census we tend to get our Membership Invoice in March but the payments come out to late to appear in the correct financial year. The same happens with events, where we have an income between September - March but no expenditure until later in the next year. The change will dramatically change our accounting and will be much easier to review each year.

The Winterbornes Scout Group
Accounts 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Income		
Events	£4,149.28	£3,011.29
Fundraising	£1,233.70	£0.00
Group	£70.89	£1,072.63
Meetings	£4,000.58	£3,667.27
Expense		
Events	£2,647.17	£3,998.81
Group	£774.24	£585.45
Insurance	£0.00	£0.00
Meetings	£1,556.76	£6,693.34
Summary		
Account balance brought forward	£1,013.30	£4,539.71
Income after Go Cardless deduction see below	£9,454.45	£7,751.19
Total expenditure	£4,978.17	£11,277.60
Net income	£4,476.28	-£3,526.41
Account balance at 31st March	£5,489.58	£1,013.30
 Total Income	 £9,731.81	
Go cardless deduction	-£277.36	
Balance received into bank account	£9,454.45	
 Breakdown for 2023 - 2024 Year		
Beavers	£680.71	£612.56
Cubs	£586.70	£603.86
Scouts	£629.87	£340.34
Capitation	£2,252.00	£2,893.00
Fundraising	£1,233.70	£0.00
Group	£70.89	£771.74
Cub Activity Day	£120.50	£120.50
3 Peaks Challenge	£0.00	£30.00
Brownsea JOTT 2023	£227.77	£289.80
Group Summer Camp 2023	£2,167.49	£1,385.32
Cub Camp Blandford 2023	£211.20	£163.27
County PL Event	£70.00	£70.00
D&D Beaver Sleepover	£114.84	£0.00
Essex Jamboree	£520.20	£620.20
Cubs Climbing Blandford 2024	£38.08	£38.08
Group Summer Camp 2024	£530.50	£0.00
Insurance for kit	£0.00	£177.84

Figures in red were paid in this financial year but did not clear, due to Easter and are not included in this financial statement.



Reviewed by C. Westbrook The Cedars Bay Layne SP8 4ER



Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report (19th June 2024)

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Samantha Elliott
Group Lead Volunteer



Richard Wilson
Chair