



# **1st Barton Scout Group 2023 AGM Report**

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## Group Trustee Board Members

Group Scout Leader:	Gavin Ions
Deputy Group Scout Leader:	Bex Brookes
Group Chair:	Stuart Veitch
Group Treasurer:	Jenny Veitch
Group Secretary:	Al Deavin
Squirrels:	Christine Elliott
Beavers:	Catherine Millar
Beavers:	Jon McCourt
Cubs:	Caitie Etheridge
Cubs:	Chris Gibson
Cubs:	Izzy Rickaby
Scouts:	Anthony Etheridge
Scouts:	Karen Marshall
Scouts:	Kevin Lilley
Scouts:	Mark Hornby
Scouts:	Sam Brookes
Scouts:	Richard Vart
Parent representative:	Victoria Denning
Parent representative:	Emma Swinbourne
Parent representative:	Rachel Vart



## Group Scout Leader Report

We've had another trip round the Sun and I am writing another AGM report. This one comes less than 11 months after the last "annual" meeting as we try to gradually creep them forward in the calendar closer to the end of our financial year. I hope the temptation of a bit of model car racing has grown our audience from an single parent in 2022 to enough people to make it standing room only, and that word of mouth and increased Pinewood Derby entries means we have to rent out the function rooms at the Dolphin Centre next year.

It's been another busy year, but the absolute highlight has to be opening the first Squirrel drey in Richmondshire district. In little over 6 months we went from running a mile at the mention of

Squirrels to opening our doors to 4-5 year olds. As with so much in the group, I can only take credit for some of the admin; the real credit here goes to Christine and her team for getting this off the ground and running with it since Easter. There's lots more about what they have been up to in Christine's report, so I won't say anything except how proud I am of the way they went about the challenge and the way things are running. Thanks to the whole team.

Family Camp 2023 was another success. Numbers were down on 2022 due to several factors. The event gets a year off in 2024 to allow us to concentrate our efforts on other events. We'll be back in 2025.

Numbers across all our sections remain stable - and full - with the exception of Scout which has seen a

dip to the lowest numbers we have seen in a long time. This is not a huge cause for concern as we have full sections below us and they will feed new members to us in good time.

Our partner Explorer Scout unit, Half Moon, has gone from strength to strength and they currently outnumber our Scouts. They continue to be fantastic role models to our younger sections and give them something to aspire to as they move through the sections. We're grateful to so many of them for volunteering as Young Leaders across our sections and showing our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts what a great family the group is.

I am delighted to be able to present some Chief Scout's Gold Awards at the end of the meeting tonight. This is a rare privilege and to be presenting more than one is a real rarity and testament to the tenacity of a cohort of Scouts who worked through the pandemic to achieve their goals.

In the next 12 months there will be a couple of things that loom large in terms of events. In July North Yorkshire Scouts will hold their first Jamboree since NYJAM in 2009. Larkin promises to be a memorable week and we are already planning towards it with lots of our volunteers offering to give up their leave from work to support it. Bookings are open for Scouts and Explorers and more information will come out to the younger sections in due course.

Most years come with some sad goodbyes and 2023 was no different. Except it was, because this year we said goodbye to our Bell Boats. They had served us well for 12 years but were sadly not getting used as much as they used to, so taking into account the cost of upkeep and insurance and difficulties with storage, we took the decision to sell them. Don't worry, they didn't go far; our County water team took them off our hands, so we'll be reunited with them at some point in the not too distant future.



I'll close with a few words of thanks.

Thanks you to the volunteers who make this happen. The ones in uniform you see every week. The ones who make administration a less onerous task. The ones who fetch and carry our gear. The ones who maintain our equipment and property. The ones who build the madcap bits and bobs that pop into my imagination. The ones who come and make delicious food at our events. Everyone who committed any little bit of time throughout the year, thank you.

I'd also like to extend our thanks to the Barton Village Institute Committee for putting up with such a noisy bunch of tenants. We wouldn't be the same group without our home.

Special thanks to the Westgarth family for the field which has simply become known to us as "The Field" over the years. It's a resource beyond anything



we could reasonably wish for and it enables us to be so much more. And a huge thanks to Darren and Sam for making it such an attractive place to spend our summer evenings. Even if you have attracted the occasional UFO this year.

Now, enjoy the racing!

**Gavin**

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## Squirrels Report

Another first for Squirrels – an AGM report! Not quite as exciting as some of the other "firsts" we have experienced this year as 1st Barton Squirrels.

However, I am excited to share these with you....

We opened our Squirrel Drey on 17th April this year with ten new Squirrels, a steady team of five leaders/helpers and three Young Leaders. Since then, three of the original Squirrels have moved up to Beavers and another three have started which maintains our membership at 10.



In our first week, four Squirrels attended St George's Day at Catterick as the first Squirrels in Richmondshire District and looked incredible in their red jumpers. Three weeks later they all made their promises at the field in front of a large audience of family, friends

and our District Commissioner which was an incredibly proud moment.

In terms of activities, we have spent time at the field going on a Bear Hunt, doing a Scavenger Hunt, toasting marshmallows and cooking other food on the campfire, singing songs and having a lot of fun. At the hall, we made fruit kebabs, learnt about where food comes from, built dens, made boats which were sailed at the beck, made up our own story, learnt new games and had an end-of-term sports evening.

We have helped the local community by collecting for the Richmond Foodbank at Harvest.

Out and about we have visited Clearvaux where we helped to water the plants in the very hot weather, met the animals and enjoyed an ice lolly! We went to Sally's house where we learnt how to make apple juice from freshly picked apples and toasted marshmallows (again!) we also had a "colour hike" in the rain where the Squirrels were encouraged to spot things of different colours – it's amazing what you see when you look.

Coming up we have plans to visit the fire station at Richmond, Melsonby church, and go back to Clervaulx to make bird feeders. We will also learn about Diwali, have a couple of parties for Halloween and Christmas and get messy when we do our Christmas crafts.

Leaders and helpers have also learnt a lot; firstly, it was too much of a squeeze trying to cram all our lovely activities into 45 minutes so this term we have increased the meeting times to 1 hour. Secondly, the concept of a relay race for 4 and 5-year-olds is confusing! Finally, a recorder and a hole punch are vital pieces of equipment to take on a hike!

Furthermore, the Squirrels all have wonderful individual personalities which are starting to really shine through as confidence builds and our group bonds even more.

We hope to build on the badges that have already been completed and are working towards our first Acorn

Awards. Watch this space 😊

**Christine, Sally, Lucy, Ella and Megan**

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## Beavers Report

The Beavers have had a busy start to the new term, picking up from where we finished at the end of the summer term.



We have welcomed 4 new members, 3 of them are our first to transfer up from the Squirrel section!

We said farewell to two Beavers who have moved up to Cubs. This means that member levels remain steady at around 24.

We have two young leaders who are doing a fantastic job and it's great to have Euan back to help out, whilst doing his volunteer work for DofE.

Volunteer numbers remain lower than we would like having lost Caitie at the end of the summer term. We only have four adults who attend each week, but this leaves us very close to being short handed sometimes. We've had some parent helpers over the last few weeks, thank you to those who have helped out. We'd always welcome more volunteers each week if you feel you can spare the time.

**Jon and Catherine**

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## Cubs Report

There are currently 24 members in the Cub section, with some very eager beavers on the way!! We gained two new leaders this year. We first gained Izzy in March, Izzy has been through all of the sections herself so we are very lucky she has decided to come back and be an official Cub Scout Leader. We would also like to welcome our

newest leader George who has just joined us from her previous scout group! We're very grateful to have such a strong team helping us every step along the way including our regular parent helpers and our fantastic Explorers, Robbie, Jakob and Aaron, they are all excellent and we couldn't do it without them.



Over the past year we have done various activities, we introduced our cubs to knife skills and backwoods cooking, we have visited Darlington Fire Station. We have walked and hiked as well as made our own woggles and collected many badges along the way. The cubs have been amazing and had so much fun this term.



The summer term meant we could have a cub summer camp at Moor House, this followed the very successful Family Camp. During this time we saw many of our cubs receiving their first nights away badges, we are very proud of them for this and hope to see many more soon.



We have halloween and Christmas parties planned for the remainder of the year as well as many more exiting badge work nights. Finally a massive thank you to all involved we have had an excellent year and can't wait to see what the next year holds.

**Caite, Bex, Chris, Izzy and George**

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## Scouts Report

This year has seen many of our scouts who have been in the troop for the last four years move on. The leaders have taken great pride that many of them decided to stay in the Barton Scout community, and have joined the Half Moon Explorers.

This year has seen a real focus and determination from our scouts who have been working hard towards the highest award on scouts - the Chief Scouts Gold Award. I am optimistic that we will hear more about this during tonight's AGM!

We started the calendar year with our first winter camp since 2020. We made the short journey over to Carlton in Cleveland and enjoyed a new activity - weaselling - much fun was had and thankfully nobody got stuck in the Wainstones.

It was also a special occasion as Izzy, our joint gang show choreographer and cubs helper made the next step in her scouting life as she took on a unformed role.



From April to July we spent every troop night outdoors doing those typical scouty things with fires, backwoods cooking, honing tracking skills and perfecting bearings.

With the skills practised in the early year, the scouts put their experience to the test as they planned and completed a weekend expedition.



We've introduced some new activities to the programme and enjoyed the Barton version of the Houses of Commons and enjoyed some interesting discussions when we had a life auction.

We are so lucky to have access to such a wonderful outdoor space at the Melsonby field, we know that exposing children to natural habitats and particularly woodland are associated

with enhanced cognitive development and mental health benefits. But we don't see it like that at the time, we're just having fun!

We started the year with 23 scouts and ended the year with 17, which is the lowest troop size we have had in many years. But, this has given us the opportunity to run programmes which allow children to have their voices heard, the leadership team to take a more flexible approach and ensures that everyone has the freedom to engage, interact and practice.

We have had the pleasure to send a record number of scouts up into the Half Moon Explorer Unit. I'd say we're doing something right as some of this young talent in the Unit will one day be reinvesting their time into scouting, volunteering to help shape our future generations of scouts.

**Anth, Rich, Kevin, Mark and Karen**

## A word from our sponsors

Benefits of volunteering

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer/volunteering-with-scouts/>

At Scouts we celebrate differences and welcome everyone.

Whatever your background, identity or ability, there's a volunteer spot with your name on it.

Volunteering can be a brilliant way to boost your mental wellbeing. It's a great feeling knowing you're helping young people get skills for life, and you might even learn a lot about yourself along the way.

Scouts can make you feel good in other ways too.

- Make friends and meet people
- Try new things and challenge yourself
- Get outdoors and get stuck in
- Positively impact your community
- Create vital opportunities for young people
- Make memories that'll last a lifetime

If you can only occasionally help, that's OK. Whether you'd like to be an activity planner, tea-maker or craft creator, we appreciate any time you can spare.

Speak to one of our volunteers if you've got time to give.

# Summary of Accounts 2022/23

For the year from	01/10/2022	To	30/09/2023
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## Receipts and payments

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations, legacies and similar income	£ 14,459.10	£ 9,093.60
Grants	£ 6,975.20	£ -
Events	£ 7,585.37	£ 4,646.96
Investment income	£ -	£ -
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£ 29,019.67</b>	<b>£ 13,740.56</b>

## Receipts and payments

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
<b>Payments</b>		
Charitable Payments	£ 20,731.89	£ 10,291.18
Events	£ 3,843.02	£ 5,116.38
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£ 24,574.91</b>	<b>£ 15,407.56</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>£ 4,444.76</b>	<b>£ (1,667.00)</b>
Cash funds last year end	£ 5,789.57	£ 7,456.47
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>£ 10,234.33</b>	<b>£ 5,789.47</b>