



1st Barton Scouts 2024 AGM Report

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Group Trustee Board Members

Ex Officio

Group Lead Volunteer: Gavin Ions

Appointed

Group Chair: Stuart Veitch

Group Treasurer (retiring): Jenny Veitch

Group Treasurer (incoming): Al Deavin

Deputy Group Lead Volunteer: Bex Brookes

Member Management: Richard Vart

Coopted

Squirrels Team Lead: Christine Elliott

Beaver Team Lead: Jon McCourt

Half Moon Partner: Chris Gibson

Group Lead Volunteer Report

Last year I promised that the AGM would creep forward in your calendar. This year it has slid back for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, it's been a Gang Show year and it's taken an extraordinary effort from the team to make that happen but it has diverted our attention from administration for a while. Secondly, and more importantly, we haven't had quite the enthusiasm to do another Pinewood Derby and that was a primary reason we got a good turnout last year.



There could be plenty of reasons not to get sorted for the Derby this year, but foremost in my mind was that we were missing a vital piece of the puzzle in the shape of Kevin. He was the technical mastermind behind the timing system in last year's event, and while I could probably have worked out his system there was a big part of me

that couldn't face doing it without him. To do that would be to admit he's really gone, and I don't think I have fully accepted that yet. It's going to take a while.

The year has been typically busy, across the sections, and I will leave it to individual section leads to talk about their activities, but on a group level there are some things which stand out in 2024.

Larkin Jamboree was a huge success with a large contingent of young people and adults enjoying possibly the only warm week of the summer at North Yorkshire's first major jamboree in 15 years. The organisers have been keen to learn from our feedback, and they'll be back, better than ever, in 2028. Massive thanks to James Allison and his team for their support in planning and providing food and drink for our hungry troops across the week. Our menu was the talk of the jamboree.

Gang Show has been another enormous success which packed houses, wonderful audiences and great reviews. Bottle the magic folks, we go again in 2026.

Numbers across all our sections remain stable although in Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs we are arguably a little over-subscribed. Scouts numbers have improved over the past year by taking in some older names from our waiting list. Thanks go to Rich for

support in overhauling our joiners and movers process.

Our waiting list still has over 50 names on it and there is no prospect of immediate entry for anyone over the age of 4. Projections show our older section numbers peaking at over 50 in the coming years based only on intake from existing names on the waiting list. I can't stress enough that getting a child on the list well before they are 4 is the only way to guarantee a place.

Half Moon Explorers continue to have great numbers of very enthusiastic members. The programme continues to be challenging and exciting and long may it continue. This year has seen Chris seamlessly move over from Cubs to Explorers and we're very glad to welcome the extra hands in the section.

This year sees a structural move from having an Executive Committee to a Trustee Board. We will approve our new board (hopefully!) at this AGM, and it will see a fairly substantial change from a group consisting of the entire adult leadership team to a more streamlined group. While we will continue to co-opt members from the wider team and from outside the group we won't have quite the numbers we once had. So I would like to thank all the former members of the committee for their time and effort and reassure them that I'll still be holding plenty of boring governance chats in the years to come.

Our 2024 AGM sees the end of Jenny's term as treasurer for the group. I can't thank her enough for stepping in early in my time as GSL and taking the financial reins. She's quietly and competently dealt with all our madcap schemes and events and made sense of the financial comings and goings of the group without a word of complaint. She leaves with the group on a steady financial course and with improved financial processes in place to keep us there long into the future. Thanks for everything Jenny.

Next is an especially sad goodbye. After an 18 year career in 1st Barton (longer than mine!) starting in Beavers in 2006, Caitie is leaving for pastures new as she moves out of the area. She's a prime example of what makes this group so great; a youth member whose love for the group and the movement led her into a leadership role where she has been able to communicate that love and enthusiasm to the next generation of young people. We'll miss her, but I don't think we'll have seen the last of her just yet. Thank you Caitie.

As usual I'll close with a few words of thanks.

The most important people come first; the young people. Their enthusiasm in turning up every week is vital to keeping the group alive. Thanks to them and thanks to the people who get them here every week.

Next, thanks to every single adult volunteer. From the ones who are here

every week running out programme, to the ones who have been able to give an odd hour here or there over the year. This is not possible without you.

Thanks as always to the Barton Village Institute management committee for looking after us and working in partnership with us to provide such an excellent space. And thanks to the other hall users who have their access revoked for a week every two years so we can put on a mad show!

Special thanks to the Westgarth family for the continued use of the field in Melsonby. And a huge thanks to Darren and Sam for making it such an attractive place to spend our summer evenings.

Gavin

Squirrels Report

Squirrels continues to go from strength to strength – we now have 14 members (even though I said 10 was enough at the beginning!) and there is a continuous flow of Squirrels going up to Beavers and new Squirrels joining us. We continue to meet on a Monday 5.30-6.30pm upstairs in the hall or at various locations.

I will continue to believe that the sessions are the best start for any child who has an interest in Scouting. We embed the values and the expectations of Scouting and we see children building their confidence in a small group situation. When a Squirrel does something for the first time, when they

overcome any fear or when they jump for joy following an achievement, I know that we are doing something right.

In April we celebrated our 1st Birthday with a party and saw 10 Squirrels receive their Acorn Awards from the District Commissioner. A very special night indeed.



Some highlights of the year – a trip to the fire station, our Christmas party with a visit from the man himself, a sleepover at Clervaulx, a trip to Little Larkin for the day, making our own bread and butter, a visit to one Squirrel's grandparents garden where we played at being pirates and toasted marshmallows, taking part in the Remembrance and St George's Day parades, a hike, a trip to Pets at Home and much much more. Remember we only have an hour a week!

The best measurement tool we have is the smiles on the Squirrels' faces and we certainly have plenty of photographs documenting the joy when their homemade boat won the

race at the beck, their rocket fired the furthest, when they opened the door of a hen coop to find eggs, when they reached the top of the climbing wall to name just a few.



Another thing is the feedback from the parents who continually report that their "Squirrel" has loved the sessions, that it is their favourite of all the after school activities they go to and that they are upset when it's not on for any reason.

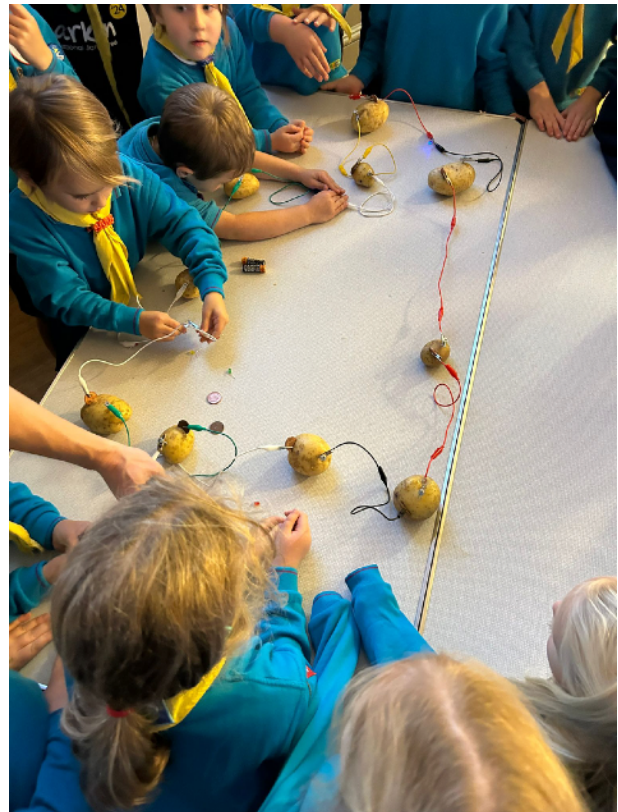
We continue to plan and prepare a range of activities and will keep doing what we're doing – it seems to be working 😊

Christine, Sally, Lucy, Ella and Megan

Beavers Report

The Beavers have had a busy term so far, and with the Gang Show too!

The Beavers have learnt how to make potato powered lights and made wreaths for Remembrance Day.



The Gang show was a huge success and all those who took part did an excellent job!

We have a busy Xmas period with a group trip to the pantomime (oh no you haven't - though I'd get the joke in!) There is a Xmas party and craft evening to come.

We will be saying goodbye to our older Beavers over the coming weeks and

will welcome 4 new members, 3 from the Squirrels!

Jon

Cubs Report

We have a busy group of 28 cubs at the moment who are keen to get stuck into everything we've offered them.

Outside of section nights the past year has involved a sleepover at Beamish, Little Larkin Jamboree and most recently the Gang Show!

We are looking forward to our Winter Camp, at West Hall Scout Campsite, at the end of February. We've also got plans for a trip to the pantomime coming very soon... (oh yes we have!).

Week to week our section nights have included T-Shirt decorating, Pioneering and visiting a Gurdwara.



We are sad to say that we are losing Caitie from our regular leadership team as she moves down south after Christmas. We're sure we'll manage to get her back up for camps so hopefully this isn't a goodbye, more a see you later! This does leave a hole in our leadership team though so if anyone would like to come along and give a hand in Caitie's place that would be gladly received.

Bex, Caitie, Izzy and George

Scouts Report

Although our scout troop hasn't been this small for a very long time, we still managed to fit a lot into the last twelve months. Since our last AGM, we have:

- Had our first visit to the panto at the Georgian Theatre at Richmond with the added bonus of seeing two of our own scouts on stage
- Completed a leap year night hike
- Enjoyed some creativity with Chinese inspired Shadow Puppets
- We made the most of our time outdoors at the Melsonby field with the increasingly popular capture the flag and a night of leaders versus scouts games. Spoiler alert - leaders won!
- We also visited a new outdoor space that a kind grandparent has allowed us to use in Middleton Tyas for a spot of shelter building
- We finished off the summer term with some water fun with a wet night - yes

the Beavers did leave us some water



During the summer a number of our Scouts enjoyed the opportunity to spend a week at a major scouting event - Larkin. Despite some challenges it's fair to say that much fun was had and some stunning TikTok action tells some of the stories of our adventures: <https://www.tiktok.com/@bartonscouts>

On the lead up to the AGM we've enjoyed the preparation for the Gang Show, a life auction and the firm favourite of Trading Post.

More will be said elsewhere about Gang Show but it's fair to say our scouts did us proud. Onwards for 2025 and more scouting Adventures.

Anth and Rich

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 2023/24

1st Barton Scout Group Receipts and payments account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	01/10/2023	To	30/09/2024

Receipts

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Subscriptions	£ 12,609.38	£ 7,666.41
Donation	£ -	£ 1,306.98
Gift Aid	£ 2,463.00	£ 4,195.65
Refund	£ 787.50	£ 140.86
Miscellaneous Income	£ 100.00	£ 1,149.20
Sub total	£ 15,959.88	£ 14,459.10
Grants		
Maintenance grant	£ -	£ -
Grant	£ 250.00	£ 6,975.20
Sub total	£ 250.00	£ 6,975.20
Events		
Family Camp	£ -	£ 2,163.98
Larkin	£ 1,144.08	£ -
Gang Show	£ -	£ 2,654.44
Event	£ 292.46	£ 2,741.79
Fundraising	£ -	£ 25.16
Sub total	£ 1,436.54	£ 7,585.37
Investment income		
Bank interest	£ -	£ -
Building Society interest	£ -	£ -
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	£ -	£ -
Other investment income	£ -	£ -
Sub total	£ -	£ -
Total Gross Income	£ 17,646.42	£ 29,019.67
Asset and investment sales, etc.	£ -	£ -
Total receipts	£ 17,646.42	£ 29,019.67

1st Barton Scout Group Receipts and payments account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	01/10/2023	To	30/09/2024

Payments

	2023-24 £	2022-23 £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Membership	£ 3,622.50	£ 4,147.50
Group Expenses	£ 2,087.67	£ 2,935.31
Squirrel Expenses	£ 17.66	£ -
Beaver Expenses	£ 111.50	£ 122.30
Cub Expenses	£ 565.67	£ 691.05
Scout Expenses	£ -	£ 102.00
Training	£ -	£ -
Barton Institute Rent	£ 3,300.00	£ 3,300.00
Insurance	£ 273.57	£ 353.14
Equipment	£ -	£ 5,701.60
Badges	£ 1,444.96	£ 1,962.94
Leader Uniform	£ -	£ -
Website	£ 61.91	£ 64.55
Online Scout manager OSM	£ 141.00	£ 134.00
Charity Donation	£ -	£ 27.50
OSM Float	£ 1,350.00	£ 1,190.00
Sub total	£ 12,976.44	£ 20,731.89
Events		
Family Camp	£ -	£ 608.26
Larkin	£ 3,882.40	£ -
Gang Show	£ -	£ 1,584.76
Beamish trip	£ 1,631.00	£ -
Event	£ 110.73	£ 1,650.00
Other fundraising costs	£ -	£ -
Sub total	£ 5,624.13	£ 3,843.02
Total Gross Expenditure	£ 18,600.57	£ 24,574.91
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	£ 18,600.57	£ 24,574.91
Net of receipts/(payments)	£ (954.15)	£ 4,444.76
Cash funds last year end	£ 8,719.16	£ 5,789.57
Cash funds this year end	£ 7,765.01	£ 10,234.33