

1st Stocksfield Scout Group

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2018-19



Scouts
1st Stocksfield



<https://1ststocksfieeldscouts.org.uk>

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About the Group

Formed in 1964, the 1st Stocksfield Scout Group is based in the village of Stocksfield, in rural Northumberland. Part of Hadrian Scout District, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. We encourage our young people (aged 6 to 14 years old.) to do more, learn more and be more.

The Group comprises Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, supported by adult leaders and a Group Executive Committee. It is registered as a charity (number 522405) with the Charity Commission.

Principal Address

The Scout Hut
Guessburn
Stocksfield
Northumberland
NE43 7QS

Note at the time of this report work on the new hut was nearing completion but remained a building site. As such an interim address is provided here.

Interim Address

c/o Murray
27 Apperley Road
Stocksfield
Northumberland
NE43 7PG

Website

<https://1ststocksfieldscouts.org.uk>

2018-19 Trustees

Dr Malcolm Murray
Group Scout Leader
Mrs. June Hunter
Group Chair

Suzanne Richardson
Secretary
Philippa Harpin
Treasurer
Carole Thirlaway
Helen Schooler
John Walker – until July 2018

Advisors

Bruce Lenton – District Commissioner
Dr Ben Mitchell – Gift Aid

External Auditor

Ronnie Gibson

Governing Document

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.
www.scouts.org.uk/por

Nature of Charity

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

Charity Objectives

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of The Scout Association.

The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of the local, national and international communities.

The Method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

Each week, Scouts give over 460,000 young people the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed, now and in the future. We're talking about teamwork, leadership and resilience – skills that have helped Scouts become everything from teachers and social workers to astronauts and Olympians.

We believe in bringing people together. We celebrate diversity and stand against intolerance, always.

We're a worldwide movement, creating stronger communities and inspiring positive futures.

Public Benefit Criteria

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 Scouting Movement complies with two key principles set by the Commission regarding public benefit:

1. Identifiable benefit

The way in which Scouting is carried out helps young people develop towards their full potential; this benefit is directly linked to the Purpose of Scouting.

2. Public benefit

Scouting is a national movement open to young people aged 6-25 and adults. Full membership is restricted to young people and adults who are willing to make the Scout Promise. The Association enables those in poverty to benefit from Scouting; while the Association charges a subscription to its members, the benefits of Scouting are not constrained by the member's inability to pay. Locally, there are arrangements to waive subscriptions and other costs for those who cannot afford to pay. Nationally,

there are funds available for uniform and activities so that young people are not excluded from activities if they are unable to pay. Any private benefits of Scouting are incidental.

The benefits of Scouting are further demonstrated throughout this report.

Selection of Trustees

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 three independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leader, individual section leaders and parents' representatives. It meets every 3 months.

This Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities

of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property;
- The raising of funds and administration of Group finances;
- 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 & Internal Control

The Group Executive Committee 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:

1. Damage to the building, property and equipment

The Group would request temporary use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as local churches, schools and other Scout Groups. The use of these alternative venues may limit the range

of activities the Group is able to offer.

The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance to mitigate against permanent loss.

2. Injury to leaders, helpers and members

The Group contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy (through capitation fees). Risk assessments are undertaken before all activities.

3. Reduced fundraising income

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 Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group on an on-going basis, either temporarily or permanently.

4. Reduction or loss of leaders

Like all other voluntary organisations, the Scout Group is totally reliant on having sufficient trained adult volunteers to run and administer its activities. The Scout Association defines minimum adult to child ratios. If the number of leaders fell to an unacceptable level in a particular Section, or the Group as a whole, then

there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or a closure of a Section.

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 comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.



Achievements and Performance

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts continue to operate a wide and varied programme offering exciting opportunities for our young people. For the first time in the Groups history, members of all three sections have obtained the highest award – The Chief Scout's Award. Adult Leaders are enthusiastic and display a wide range of skills. The Group is well supported by parents and the community.

Beavers

Beavers caters for young people aged between 6½ and 8½ years of age. The Beavers have had an exciting programme this year. They have learnt how a dairy farm works, questioned an astronomer about the stars in the sky and learnt to kick sample fish and other invertebrates with the Tyne Rivers Trust. They have also been learning new games, new songs and honing their cooking skills.

The quality of the programme can be seen in the fact that this year an amazing 13 Beavers gained their Bronze Chief Scout's Award.

Rhian Craddock
Beaver Scout Leader

Cubs

Cubs caters for young people aged between 8½ and 10½ years of age. It has been a busy year for our 23 Cubs. They have taken part in lots of activities including personal safety, cycling, navigation, tea and toast making, sewing poppies for Remembrance and cooking on a campfire.

They impressed with their roasted pineapple and muffins baked inside an orange. They visited Newcastle United football stadium and BBC television studios. They held their first camp at Whittonstall. Highlights include William Jefferson gaining his Chief Scout Silver Award with several others close behind him. The Cubs have grown in confidence, looked each after each other and worked as a team.

Rob Warr
Cub Scout Leader

Scouts

Scouts caters for young people aged between 10½ and 14½ years of age. Numbers in the Scout Section remain at a record high, with 26 young people (including 5 girls). Two Scouts: Archie Murray and Oscar Mitchell received their Chief Scout's Gold Award.

This year we have tried to introduce some different activities into the programme – such as sub aqua, stand-up paddle boarding and a visit to Hexham Police Station. There was also the

welcome return of some old favourites: the international Scout Bowling "Jambowlree" competition, night hikes and constructing things out of spaghetti. Thanks to the support of Scout parent Tina Evans, we had a fantastic survival weekend camp – despite the freezing conditions. Highlights were definitely the pheasant goujons and cooking on Swedish candles.

Competition was fierce for our second annual Midwinter MasterChef competition held in Wheelbirks Woods. Both Stocksfield patrols performed strongly in the District Night Hike – we successfully retained the trophy for the third year in a row. The Troop also excelled at the District Mountain Biking challenge – winning the team trophy and five of the top six places.

A number of our Scouts joined the County Winter Camp at Hawkhurst. We have also had a series of weekend troop camps. The Troop will join Hexham Scouts, camping with them

in Austria in the Summer of 2019.

Jo Mitchell
Assistant Scout Leader

Adult Leaders

Scouting depends on the availability of a pool of trained adult volunteers.

This year we have managed to expand the leadership team in some areas, but vacancies still remain.

Beavers

The Beaver Colony is led by Rhian Craddock and Helen Greer. Over the year they have been supported by a range of parents. Particular thanks go to Holly Lowery and Matthew Jefferson.

After three years leading the Group, Rhian and Helen will be retiring at the end of the summer. We thank them for their efforts and are actively recruiting a new leadership team.

Cubs

There are two Cub leaders: Rob Warr and Dave Meddings, who have been quickly working through their Wood Badge and Nights Away training this year. They have been supported by a regular team of parent helpers, other leaders and Oscar Mitchell, one of our Scouts who is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Scouts

There are two Scout Leaders: Jo Mitchell and Paul Sweetman. They both

hold the role of Assistant Scout Leader and are supported by the Group Scout Leader, Malcolm Murray. Paul has been working through his Wood Badge and Nights Away Training.

Group Executive

The Group Executive is led by June Hunter (the Chair). Suzanne Richardson is the Secretary and Philippa Harpin the Treasurer. Carole Thirlaway has continued to provide sage advice. Helen Schooler (a past Cub Leader) has been co-opted as a member of the Executive. John Walker resigned from the committee in July 2018 after many years service as both a committee member and Cub Leader. Philippa Harpin has been co-ordinating the Group's fundraising activity for the new hut.

The Group would like to thank Durham University, which has released Malcolm Murray for two days this year as part of its work to promote community volunteering.

Wider Appointments

Malcolm Murray sits on the Hadrian District Appointment Advisory Committee. Dave Meddings has been appointed a County Climbing Advisor. Malcolm Murray remains a County Training Advisor.



Scout Hut

This year we have made fantastic progress, able to approve work to create the new kitchen and external store for the new hut., as well as continuing to finish the main building. This acceleration of the final building phases is the result of generous donations and will result in considerable construction savings. Whilst the Group has continued to work to raise funds the progress to date would not have been possible without the support of local charities and successful grant applications. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all these bodies and also Phillippa Harpin and Colin Roberts for their tireless efforts to attract funding. We plan to re-open the hut in September.

Progress Update

At the end of 2017-18 we were planning to build the new hut in stages – having laid the foundations for the full plan, we would start with a basic rectangle and then add extra components such as the kitchen and external store later as funds allowed. This would mean some interim arrangements (e.g. temporarily repurposing a meeting room as a kitchen) and the later demolition of walls.

We were delighted that part way through the year we received a substantial donation from **The Enterprise Trust** which allowed us to speed up the construction process and skip the interim arrangements. The extra wooden hut parts were duly commissioned and installed on site. Other donations from **Tynedale Lions** and **Stocksfield Parish Council** allowed us to progress work on the Disabled Access ramp that now runs almost two sides of the building.

As well as the professional trades, we have had a solid band of volunteers helping with tasks such as painting, digging trenches and boarding-out walls. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped.

We would like to officially thank Jules Mainwaring and colleagues at **Mainwaring Brothers Limited** for their continued progress and great tact and words of encouragement when working with a range of volunteers, some less than a third of their height!

We are hoping that the core features of the hut will be in place for the start of the new Scouting year in September.

Thanks to the keen eyes of Paul Sweetman, the Group has managed to find kitchen fittings that can be installed to make the building serviceable. We have also been able to find a new home for tables and chairs from Broomley First School that will be great for the

Beavers and other smaller users of the hut.

Grants and Supporters

We are keeping a list of all donations and grants. Rather than include them piecemeal in annual reports (where the list would only ever be partial) we are collating them on the [Group website](#).

The Group has raised a significant amount of money towards their new hut. This year the Group's activities include collecting, sorting and delivering the Stocksfield Scout Post, working with the **Tynedale Lions** at the Tynedale Beer & Cider Festival and supporting Santa as his sleigh rides through the local villages.

Interim Arrangements

Whilst the new hut is under construction, the Group has led a "nomadic" existence. Once again we have been supported by the Stocksfield community and other local Scout Groups.

We would like to extend our most grateful thanks to the following individuals and organisations who have made Scouting possible this year:

Broomley First School for allowing the Beavers to meet in the School on Tuesday nights.

Stocksfield Baptist Church for allowing the Cubs to meet there on Monday nights.

1st Hexham Scout Group for allowing the Scout Troop to use their hall when required on Thursday nights.

Hadrian Scout District for allowing us to use the Dilston Campsite as an evening venue in the Summer.

Tom Richardson for allowing the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to make use of Wheelbirks Woods for outdoor activities and also for storing our equipment in his barn.



Financial Review

The Group's accounts continue to be dominated by the size of the transactions relating to the construction of the new hut. Looking only at recurring costs, the Group's finances are continuing to grow. In the last 12-month period, expenditure on the new hut marginally exceeded income. This one-off negative balance is not considered a cause for concern over the four-year hut construction project. The Group ends the year firmly in the black.

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 2 months running costs, circa £1,500 in the current account.

The Group held reserves of approximately £3,900 against this at the year end. As such it met the Reserves Policy again this year.

Extra Income

The accounts show extraordinary income this year of £115,742.38, funds raised towards the replacement of the Scout Hut.

Investment Policy

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in long term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse investment strategy. All funds are held in cash deposited in mainstream banks.

Gift Aid

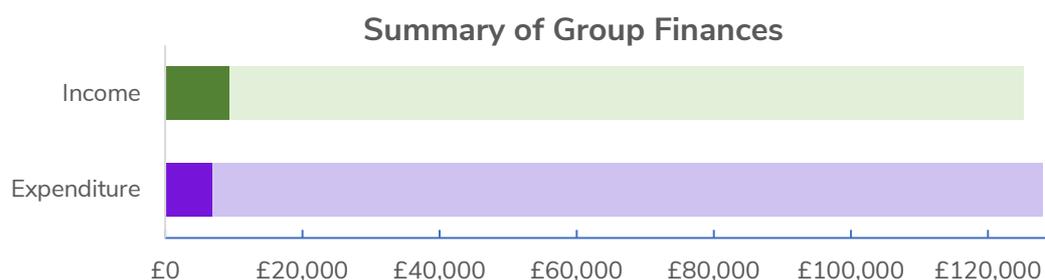
The Group is registered with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC).

Where possible Gift Aid is gathered at source (e.g. via online payment of subscriptions). The Group has authorised Go Cardless Ltd to automatically claim Gift Aid on its behalf from HMRC where appropriate.

Audited Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31 March 2019

Over the period the total income for the Group was £125,121.33 and the total expenditure was £128,021.86. This gave a negative balance of £2,900.53, which largely reflects the funds raised and money spent on the new hut. If we remove the fundraising and grant income relating to the new hut (£115,742.38) then the recurrent/business as usual income is £9,378.95. Similarly, if we remove the spending of £121,075.28 on the new hut, we are left with a recurrent/business as usual expenditure of £6,946.58, resulting in a positive overall balance of £2,432.37.

The diagram below provides a summary of the Group's finances (splitting income and expenditure into recurring costs (dark shading) and separately those related to the construction of the new Scout hut (paler shading). The regular income exceeds the regular expenditure for this year, but spending on the new hut has exceeded the funds raised in this year.



Full accounts are listed below.

Income

	£
Subscriptions (incl. Gift Aid)	5,540.00
Fundraising	2,137.23
Donations & Grants	114,000.00
Camps	1,054.00
Activities	1,021.00
Bank Transfers	1,000.00
Interest	229.95
Rebates	139.15
Total	125,121.33

Expenditure

	£
New Hut Construction	121,075.28
Capitation	2,898.50
Utilities	785.79
Insurance	579.97
Camps	1,052.20
Activities	48.00
Equipment, Repairs & Maintenance	0
Badges	372.29
Bank Transfers	1000.00
Online Banking Fees	209.83
Total	128,021.86

Balance **-2,900.53**

Bank Accounts

The Group held two accounts over the audit period. Day to day expenditure is carried out using the Barclays current account. The Virgin Money savings account is only used to hold funds relating to the construction of the new Scout hut. Opening balances as at 01 April 2018. Closing balances as at 31 March 2019.

Name	Opening Balance	Credits	Debits	Closing Balance
Current Account (Barclays)	2,047.86	8,808.12	6,946.58	3,909.40
Scout Hut Savings Account (Virgin)	31,961.33	116,313.21	121,075.28	27,199.26
Total	£34,009.19	£125,121.33	£128,021.86	£31,108.66

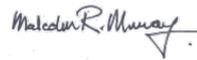
This summary is drawn from the Group's accounts - audited by Ronnie Gibson.

Notice of Approval

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.



Mrs June Hunter
Chair, Group Executive Committee
1st July 2019



Dr Malcolm Murray
Group Scout Leader
1st July 2019