

51st Bath Scout Group

2024 Annual Report

For the AGM on 17th Sept 2024



Our Particulars

Charity Name: 51st Bath (Ascension Church) Scout Group

Scouts Registration No.: 23288

County / District: Avon / City of Bath

Address:
Ascension Church Hall
Claude Avenue
Bath BA2 1AG

Website.: www.51bathscouts.org.uk

Trustees

| Name | Role |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Tanya Jackson | Group Chair |
| Ashley Russell | Group Scout Leader |
| Sam Ollason | Deputy Group Scout Leader |
| Claire Harewood | Group Treasurer |
| Emma Manners | Group Secretary |

Advisers

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc
25 Gresham St
London EC2V 7HN

Scrutineers: Lerica Tax Accountants
54D Frome Rd
Bradford on Avon BA15 1LA

What We Do

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 meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.



Our 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 (POR) 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 Trustee Board, a team of volunteers who work together as 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. The role of the Trustee Board is to make sure our Scout Group is run safely and legally. 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 Trustee Board currently consists of two independent representatives: the Chair and the Treasurer; together with the Group Scout Leader, plus two further volunteers: the Assistant Group Scout Leader and a further parent representative. The Trustee Board meets every 3-4 months, and exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities and is responsible for:

- Budgeting appropriately and ensuring finances are managed;
- Ensuring Scout policies and relevant legislation is followed
- The maintenance of Group property;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Managing risks;
- Helping the charity to operate well

Public Benefit Statement

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of citizenship or community development headings

Our Group

Young People (as at April 2024)

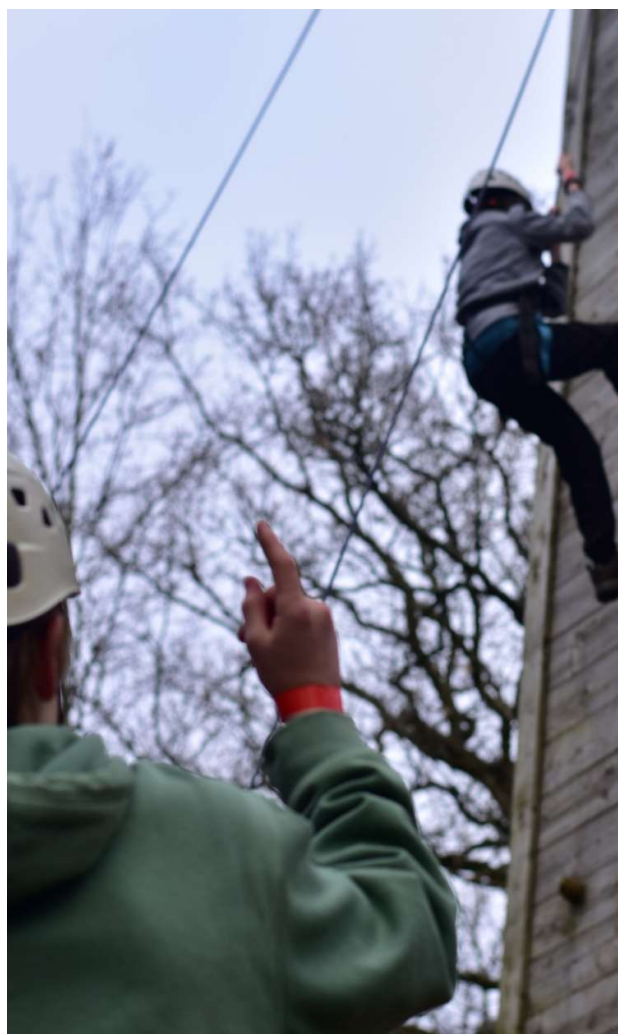
| Section | Active Members | Change from Apr 23 (active members) |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| Squirrels | - | Potential new section |
| Beavers | 20 | +5 |
| Cubs | 18 | -6 |
| Scouts | 30 | 0 |
| Total | 68 | -1 |

Volunteers (as at Sept 2024)

| Section | Active Volunteers |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Beavers | 5 |
| Cubs | 3 |
| Scouts | 4 |
| Trustees & Management | 5 |
| Total | 18 |

We have had challenges with Beavers and Cubs in the past year, with experienced volunteers moving on to other things, and as a result, our provision was diminished. We are pleased to report that we have new leadership in place for both sections and expect to restore them to full membership in the coming weeks.

More detail on our operations provided by our Group Scout Leader (GSL).



Charity Policies

All the Group's policies can be found at www.51bathscouts.org.uk

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 3-6 months running costs, circa £1,500.

The Group held reserves of approximately £5,300 against this at year end, but this includes a sum of £3,400 to cover the year's capitation costs

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Hardship Policy

The Group believes that every child can benefit from Scouting and seeks to be as inclusive as possible. This includes an active policy not to exclude anyone on financial grounds. The group therefore has a policy, and a budget to support any family struggling with financial hardship to pay for activities.

Financial Position (as at 5th April 2024)

The following table contains a simplified summary of our financial position as of the financial year end:

| | Income | Expenditure |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | £ | |
| Subscriptions | 4,862 | |
| Event Income | 4,486 | |
| Fundraising Income | 2,212 | |
| Grant Income | 109 | |
| Total Income | 11,669 | |
| | | |
| Capitation | | 3,312 |
| Events | | 6,469 |
| Section Activities | | 741 |
| Group | | 3,131 |
| Payment Collection | | 304 |
| Total Expenditure | | 13,216 |
| | | |
| Surplus (Deficit) for year | (1,546) | |
| Net Assets | 5,289 | |

Our full set of accounts is available in the Appendix for further scrutiny.

Overall, it is pleasing to see that we are covering our costs and keeping reserves within policy; this is largely due to careful setting of subscription charges and a continued drive for efficiency in necessary costs.

Chair of Trustees Report

Two years after agreeing to be chair of the Trustees, I remain hugely impressed at how a relatively small number of volunteers can combine to provide the amazing learning opportunities and vital life skills that the 51st Bath Scouts deliver. Whether it's a chance to do something adventurous, to explore the outdoors, or to learn real practical skills (barbecuing sausages, for example!) our young people undoubtedly grow and develop in our care. And we want to continue to deliver those opportunities, with the avowed ambition to deliver more 'wow!' moments, and to be **the best Scout Group in Bath**.

Of course such an ambition depends upon the willingness and commitment of our volunteers in all the various roles to give their time, energy and imagination to make it all happen. A particular thanks to Group Scout Leader, Ashley Russell, who somehow manages to juggle a hugely demanding shift-based day-job with effective leadership of all our sections; and to Sam Ollason our Deputy Scout Leader who is taking personal responsibility for the volume of 'wow!'. We've had to deal with changes to our section leaders in the past year, but nevertheless, our section leaders, section assistants and parent helpers have consistently delivered interesting, engaging section nights both indoors and outdoors, immense thanks to all of them for getting involved and really making it happen. Finally, thanks to the trustees who meet regularly to make sure that we're doing all those things that our governance arrangements demand, even though they all have busy lives of their own.

Some structural changes are being implemented by the Scouts organization this year, not least re-naming our executive committee to a Trustee Board, to better reflect the role they play in the governance of our Scout Group. Broadly, the changes are being implemented to make sure that we're set up to meet current legislation, comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission, and that it's straightforward to understand for our volunteers. Recruitment and retention of committed volunteers is undoubtedly one of the organisation's challenges; with all the pressures of modern life, finding those with the time and mental bandwidth to take on a volunteer role is becoming increasingly difficult. So the changes are welcomed insofar as they aim to make roles clearer, make volunteers feel welcomed and further resources are being made available to support our volunteers, in whatever role they fulfil.

We have reached out looking for further volunteers, but so far with no success, so I would encourage any member of our wider community to consider whether they could suggest someone who might be willing to stand for a trustee or indeed any other volunteer role.

Tanya Jackson, 14th September 2024

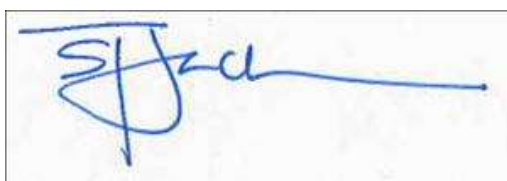
Trustee Approval

The Trustees would like to give special thanks to all the volunteers who give up their time, without remuneration, to allow the young people of 51st Bath (and wider Scouting) to go on some brilliant adventures, try new things and learn some extremely valuable skills for life.

The Trustees would also like to recognise the families of both our young people, who enable them to take part in our adventures, and of our volunteers who put up with the time they dedicate to their voluntary work.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T Jackson', is written on a light-colored background.

Tanya Jackson

14th Sept 2024