

1st Helsby Scout Group

Trustees Annual Report

01 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2021



1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: First Helsby Scout Group
Charity Number: 1018532
Principal Address: Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, Cheshire WA6 0BW

Trustees:

Anna Tiplady	Chairperson (from 23/6/20)	Ex-officio Member
Deborah Marsden	Secretary	Ex-officio Member
James Bainbridge	Treasurer undergoing handover	Ex-officio Member
Judith Potts	Group Scout Leader	Ex-officio Member
Diane Jones	Assistant GSL	Ex-officio Member
Martin Horsley	Cub Scout Leader (To 22/9/21)	Ex-officio Member
Fiona Barry	Scout Leader	Ex-officio Member
James Foreman	IT Coordinator	Elected Member
Brian Doran	Building Manager, Ass't Cub Leader	Elected Member
Colin Ashcroft	Beaver Leader	
	Inclusivity & Membership	Ex-officio Member
David King	Quartermaster, Ass't Cub Leader	Elected Member
Karen Thomas	Deputy Treasurer	Elected Member
Robert Berrie	Deputy Chair	Elected Member

2 Structure, Governance and Management

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.

Constitution:

The Group is a trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

Trustee Selection:

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

Group Executive Committee:

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 3 independent representatives, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together with the section leaders and parents' representatives.

The Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property
- The raising of funds and administration of Group finance
- The insurance of Group persons, property and equipment
- Group public occasions
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support
- The appointment of sub-committees
- The appointment of Group Administrators and Advisors other than those elected

Risk and Internal Control:

The Group Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed which are:

- **Damage to the building, property and equipment**
The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- **Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters or members**
The Group supports compliance with the Safety Policy and ensures appropriate risk assessments, elimination, reduction and control measures are taken to reduce the likelihood of any injuries. In addition, through membership fees, the Group contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.
- **Reduced income from subscriptions and 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 committee could also raise the value of subscriptions to increase the Group income 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 were 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 or, in the worst case, the closure of the Group.
- **Reduction or loss of members**
If there were a reduction in membership of a particular section or the Group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section or, in the worst case, the closure of the Group.

3 Objectives and Activities

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

4 Achievements and Performance

2021 has been another extremely busy year for Leaders, Young People, Helpers and Executive Committee at 1st Helsby Scout Group. The 2021 programme delivery details can be seen in the reports for our sections: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We were proud to receive a special award in 2021 from the High Sheriff of Cheshire Robert Mee DL. The Award was for 'Outstanding Contribution to Scouting in Cheshire & the Local Community during the Coronavirus Pandemic.' The citation said '1st Helsby worked as a team under the amazing leadership of Judith (Potts) GSL and Diane (Jones) DGSL and put on an engaging & interesting programme of weekly meetings and camps'. A certificate was awarded at a special ceremony in November 2021.

4.1 Group Scout Leader's Report

2021 was a rollercoaster year for us all at 1st Helsby but thanks to some amazing teamwork from our volunteers and the enthusiasm and support of our young people and their families, the Group continues to grow and flourish.

The year began with another Lockdown which saw us returning to virtual Scouting once again. Our hopes of face to face activities had been high as the new year arrived but it turned out that we had to find more inventive ways of Scouting for most of the Spring term. As the year progressed, we were able to get back together although various Covid outbreaks in schools meant that at times our young people had to complete challenges at home with the support of their parents instead of at section nights.

The District 365 Steps to Wellbeing challenges have provided a great focus for our young people and they have benefitted from these – a big thank you to Jake and the Explorer Scouts who put this initiative together. Events such as the Super Saturdays and Sundays were also embraced and enjoyed by many of our youngsters.

Over the summer months, children and adults from each section worked together with artist Rebecca Jones to produce our “Akela wall” to celebrate the enormous contribution that our Cub Leader Martin Horsley made to both the Group and the young people of our District. Martin was too poorly to visit the wall in person by the time it was completed but we sent him lots of pictures and he loved it. Thank you to Rebecca for volunteering her time and expertise and to our “backroom maintenance gang” for doing all of the necessary DIY!

The autumn term was bittersweet – Scouts camped for the first time in two years which was very exciting and we also opened the first Squirrel Drey in Mersey Weaver where our youngest members are thoroughly enjoying their first taste of Scouting but very sadly our wonderful Akela passed away, leaving a very large hole in our team. Martin was talented, empathetic and inclusive with a cracking sense of humour and he will be missed very much. Rest In Peace Martin. I am sure, however, that he would be touched to know that our team of adults completed a fundraising walk in aid of the Hospice Of The Good Shepherd and that, along with monies raised at our HOHO Helsby stall and our carol service collection, raised a total of £1,657.21 for the hospice that cared for him and his family.

The end of year activities did not go exactly to plan with both Covid outbreaks and bad weather curtailing our Christmas celebrations but we did manage a carol service where we bid a happy retirement to Scout Leader Fiona after a decade of service to 1st Helsby. We thank her for all of her hard work and dedication over the years and very much hope that she will continue to make “guest appearances” – you will always be made very welcome Fiona!

So a year of highs and lows for 1st Helsby but thanks to the support of a fantastic team of adults and young people, we weathered the storm. We have remained active and full across all of our sections and awarded a total of 808 uniform badges including 23 Chief Scout awards, thanks to the volunteer leaders and exec committee members who work so hard and also to 1st Helsby families for their continued support. From our youngest Squirrels to our “more mature” adult volunteers, 1st Helsby is a Scout Group to be proud of and I am so glad to be a part of it. However, in order for us to continue to go from strength to strength we do need more volunteers on the team, both running section nights and on our exec committee that work more behind the scenes. If you can spare some time to get involved in any way, please let us know. Yours In Scouting, Judith Potts GSL

4.2 Beavers Section Report

We would like to preface this report to acknowledge the support and guidance we have received from Martin Horsley since forming our leader team. He was such a great help and guide to our efforts and is such a great loss to us all.

Programme

We continued to be challenged by the Covid pandemic but also continued to take opportunities to make the most of being on line and outdoors wherever possible. Our Beavers and their families really rose to the occasion and many embraced opportunities to 'scout at home'. Our highlights included being on line with Au Wai Ming 'live' from Hong Kong to celebrate Chinese New Year, our fabulous annual space night, and other new activities included a tennis coaching evening at the new community sports facility, our JOTT walk and a hike around Lewis Carroll's Boyhood Walk near Warrington. Our summer 'treat' to Go Ape was brilliant and it was great to see so many Beavers swinging through the trees (a sentence David Attenborough has never been able to use !!). Unfortunately we were unable to hold our planned sleepover at Christmas but look forward to planning sleepovers in 2022.

Numbers

Beaver numbers continue to remain at its maximum (24) and we have seen a steady flow joining cubs where it is great to see so many of them flourish on the next stage of their scouting journey. There continues to be a high demand to join Beavers and we look forward to welcoming our first Squirrel.

Leaders and Young Leaders

We have a great leader team and they have continued to support the hybrid model of activity with great skill and commitment. In September we welcomed Bubbles to the team and Jenny Wren moved over to the Cub section. We have a fantastic 'team' of Young Leaders who bring lots of skills and enthusiasm to their roles. Our Beavers think they are great and they are linked in to the District Young Leader training programme.

District Events

We continue to be well supported by the Mersey Weaver District and a number of our Beavers availed themselves of the opportunity to attend district hosted activity days.

Badge Achievement and Bronze Awards

Given that we have had yet another challenging year, our Beavers have really risen to the challenge of achieving badges and, where possible, have gone on to achieve the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Thank you to our Beavers and, of course, our families for this fantastic effort ! The annual report provides us with the opportunity to present special awards to our Beaver of the Year and a Runner Up. Deciding who this should be gets more and more difficult.

Thank You

As ever we'd like to offer a big thank you to all the Beavers for making it so enjoyable and well done on all you have achieved. Thank you to parents for helping your Beaver make it happen. Thank you to our DGSL for organising the steady flow of badges to award and to

our GSL for her support and supervision. Thank you to our other section leaders for being so supportive and thank you to everyone who works so hard in the background to make sure things happen.

The Beaver Leader Team

4.3 Cubs Section Report

The cub section has enjoyed returning to a slightly more recognisable form of normal Scouting this year, although we have been glad of 'online' on occasion. It has been fantastic to see all of our young people taking part in a range of exciting activities and we've been able to make use of outdoor spaces as well as returning to indoor meetings in the hut.

Akela

The biggest challenge faced by the Cub group this year has been the passing of our much loved Akela, Martin Horsley. All of us who worked with him in Cubs and the many parents whose children have passed through the Cub section during his time as leader have been touched by him. Many of the Cub leaders consider him to have been an inspiration to them and he was a good friend to all of us. We miss him greatly and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the other members of the 1st Helsby Group and the wider community who have been so supportive in this difficult time. RIP Martin.

Numbers

As in previous years, Cub numbers have remained high and steady this year. The pack remains full with 36 members and unfortunately we are still unable to take children from our waiting list as all of our places have been filled by Beavers who are moving up.

Leaders

We have been very pleased to welcome 3 new leaders to the Cub sections this year. Kerry Ann Holloway (Rama), Jenny Mills (Hathi) and Jennifer Tiplady (Riki). They are all fantastic additions to the Cub team and we are really happy that they have chosen to join us. The Cub section currently doesn't have any young leaders, but we would welcome any who would like to come and join us.

Programme

We started 2021 with meetings back 'online' and had lots of fun with a range of activities including dancing, drumming and who can forget Chil's cress seed bonanza. During the summer term we were very pleased to once again be able to offer face to face activities and we took the opportunity to visit Castle Park and Delamere forest as Cubs tackled activities and worked towards the athletics, astronomer and scientist badges. During the autumn term we were finally able to return to activities in the scout hut and we enjoyed working towards the environmental conservation and naturalist badges.

Nights Away

Continuing restrictions have meant that we have been unable to do a residential camp in the last year. During the autumn we had planned a full day activity at Queen Charlottes Wood but storms in the evening before the event brought down trees and meant that at the

last minute we had to divert to using the hut. We still managed to work on our pioneering skills, play lots of games and we were treated to a lovely meal. Many thanks to those who helped out with the event.

District events

Many of our cubs have taken advantage of opportunities to take part in activities organised by the district including a series of “Super Saturday” and “Super Sunday” events plus district shooting events. These provided fantastic opportunities for adventurous scouting activities and were much enjoyed by the Cubs. Many thanks to those from all over the Mersey Weaver District who were involved in organising and running the events. Many of our Cubs have also been very active in working towards a new set of badges called the Mersey Weaver 365 steps of wellbeing awards. With regular challenges set by our Group Scout Leader, along with other sections, the Cubs have worked on these over the last 6 months and many have been very busy at home achieving these awards.

Silver Awards

Despite the challenges of the last year, we are delighted to report that seven cubs were successful in completing their silver challenge awards during 2021. Congratulations to Imogen, Harry, Lucas, Noah, Lucy, Harry A and Henry.

Finally, we’d like to thank all of the Cubs and parents who have been part of our pack for the last year. The Cubs make is so much fun and we’ve really appreciated the support from parents. We look forward to another exciting year of scouting in 2022.

Bagheera, Baloo, Chil, Hathi, Kaa, Raksha, Rama and Rikki.

4.4 Scouts Section Report

A varied year, beginning with another lockdown

The final Scout meeting of 2020 had been two firelighting sessions at Queen Charlotte’s Wood (QCW), our first meeting in more than 6 weeks, and hopes were high that 2021 would see a return to regular face to face meetings. However....this was not to be the case, as the new January lockdown lasted for most of the spring term.

Leaders became more inventive, and again we attempted badges never tried before – circus skills theory, craft activities like paper cutting, a drumming workshop, which was very popular. As part of the science badge, Lucinda from the Catalyst Museum helped us survive on a desert island, and Karen led a homemade ice cream activity that was very energetic!

In the summer term, it was a great release to play socially distanced wide games, cycle round the Greenway in Chester, do some orienteering in Delamere, complete the circus skills, and go on a treasure hunt around Alvanley. Axe work and knife work was done at QCW and the term ended on a high at Wild Shore Aqua Chimp, where the weather was kind to us.

To prepare for the autumn term, and a planned return to patrols, leaders drew up challenging activities for a Patrol leader training day, which was held in July at Forest Camp. The scouts all had a chance to lead an exercise, and they all worked well together.

We were also the first Scouts on the site in two years!

September started with Ed Halliwell leading an orienteering night at Marbury Park. The following week, outdoors in fading light, patrols had to dramatize sections of the Countryside Code for the rest of the troop to interpret, which was both inventive and entertaining. We held a Jamboree on the Internet evening, for scouts to make contact with others around the world. Colin led a series of activities for the DIY badge, including making boards with castors on, which the scouts then played Hungry Hippos with. There were lots of craft activities, a wreath of plastic bottles for Remembrance Sunday, items to sell at HoHo Helsby, and some ghoulish edible creations for Halloween. Lucy spent a whole Sunday creating an escape room which was run twice because of keeping numbers to the correct levels, and was very disappointed with the speed at which the Scouts manage to solve all the tricky problems! The year ended with the carol service at St Paul's, and tubing, tobogganning and lugeing at the Chill Factor, followed by our first ever investiture on the snow.

Leaders

Fiona, Lucy, Karen and Colin have run the Scout section this year, as John Kerr's role as a key worker has made it difficult for him to attend meetings. Edward and Russell have helped occasionally, often at short notice when Covid at home has meant that leaders are not able to attend, or are isolating.

Numbers

Numbers remained constant at about 25, however Covid outbreaks in schools impacted at different times, making it hard for older Scouts to complete their challenge badges.

Achievements – Gold Award

Scouts were encouraged to take the initiative and work on parts of badges independently. To fulfil the Expedition badge, parents became their walking partners, and Leaders visited Scouts at home, to observe tents being put up and discuss cooking plans. The Scouts were required to give much more detail than usual in their written reports!

Congratulations to Ben A, Jack, Joshua, Callum, Oliver, Anna and Ben W, who achieved the top award in the Scout section in a difficult year.

Also congratulations to Oscar, who applied to go to the World Scout Jamboree to be held in South Korea in 2023, and participated in a district selection event.

Chief Scout's Personal Award

Three Helsby Scouts were nominated for the Chief Scout's Personal Award, for tackling anti-social behaviour in the village. Covid slowed down the presentation of the award, but our District Commissioner visited one evening to give the medals and certificates to Caleb, Oscar and Blake. This award is in the gift of the Chief Scout, and for three Scouts to achieve it in one troop is exceptional. Many congratulations to those Scouts.

District

The District offered Patrol Leader training in a weekend's camp at QCW, which Ben, Oscar and Callum all attended.

Camp 2021

Our first camp for almost two years was held at Forest Camp in September, where Karen achieved her camp permit, made more challenging by the additional Covid risk assessments. Thanks are due to Lorna McTeague of 3rd Frodsham and her daughter Ella who delivered a kayaking session on Sunday. The weather was warm and sunny, and we had a lot of parent help with putting up and striking camp.

Badges

Our Scouts have continued to earn their badges despite being at home during parts of the year, and leaders would like to thank Diane Jones for the amount of time she spends ordering and delivering the badges, which is much appreciated.

Thanks

The leaders would like to thank all our parents for their support this year, and for their encouragement of their scouts. A sincere thanks to all the leaders who give their time to offer this range of activities, in what been a challenging year juggling home schooling and working from home.

And it's goodbye from Fiona

After a decade of scouting at 1st Helsby, and 5 years before that at 4th Frodsham, Fiona gave notice in January of her intention to retire at the end of 2021. It has been a wonderful ten years, and she would encourage any parent thinking about joining as a leader not to hesitate. Fiona would also like to thank the Executive for all their support to her as Leader.

Fiona, Karen, Colin, Lucy, and John.

5 Financial Report

Financial Report and Independent Examination

The financial report for 2021 has been subject to independent examination and has been found to be an accurate reflection of the Group's financial position.

Phase two of 2019 accounts examination was also completed with no changes to 2019 accounts.

Financial Status

During 2020 the group received a donation of £14,850 from MCBF for the purchase of camping and catering equipment. This had been ringfenced until the equipment could be purchased once Covid restrictions were eased – some expenditure has taken place in 2021 to purchase camping equipment for the Scout Camp in September. Remaining funds will be spent in 2022.

In addition to this £16,907 grant money has been received from CWAC, this has helped support further adaptations to the hut and the programme for Covid safe Scouting.

Gift Aid has not yet been claimed for 2019, 2020, 2021.

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 appropriate

level is judged to be circa £14k.

The Group ended 2021 with total funds, including reserves and grant monies, of £47k.

Investment Policy:

The Group 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 and all funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

6 Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:	<i>Anna Tiplady</i>	
Name:	Anna Tiplady	
Position:	Chair of Executive Committee	
Date:	21/4/22	

1st Helsby Scout Group - Statement of Account
1st January 2019 to 31st December 2021

Receipts and Payments	2019	2020	2021
Receipts			
Subscription Receipts	£12,250	£12,230	£11,985
Refunds			
Camp Receipts	£5,681	£640	£1,060
Donations	£1,057	£15,250	
Gift Aid Tax refund		£4,692	
Interest	£31	£28	£7
Scouting Activities		£300	£70
Other		£179	£82
Grants		£12,368	£16,907
Total Receipts	£19,019	£45,686	£30,111

Payments			
Membership	£3,645	£4,361	£4,046
Camp Expenses	£4,464	£1,432	£1,261
Badges and Uniform	£1,573	£1,295	£1,560
Donations		£19	
Insurance	£1,293	£1,321	£1,301
Utilities	£1,981	£1,763	£1,615
Equipment	£327		£4,016
Building Maintenance / Lease	£4,653	£6,306	£3,776
Other Scouting Activities	£3,217	£1,850	£5,109
Bank Charges	£2		£0
Subscription Refunds			£38
Total Payments	£21,155	£18,346	£22,721

Surplus / Deficit	-£2,137	£27,340	£7,390
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Opening Net Funds	£14,494	£12,357	£39,697
Closing Net Funds	£12,357	£39,697	£47,087

Assets and liabilities as at 31st December 2021

Cash Funds			
Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	£3,948	£3,973	£3,978
Barclays Premium Account	£3,013	£3,015	£36,853
Barclays Current Account	£5,397	£32,709	£6,257
Total Funds	£12,357	£39,697	£47,087

James Bainbridge, Treasurer



08/05/2022

Cath Mudford, Independent Examiner



08/05/2022

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