



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**From** 1 April 2021

**Period start date To** 31 March 2022

**Period end date**

**Charity name:** Ninth Dartford Scout Group

**Charity registration number:** 271270

## **Objectives and Activities**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<b>Ninth Dartford Scout Group is a trust established under Scouting rules (see detail on the background on this point in the Governance section later in this report) and its purpose is that which is common to all scouts. 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 their 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.</b>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<b>As with other Scout Groups Ninth Dartford has the aim of promoting the development of young people by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive learning based on the scout promise and law. The hut is used for functions and as a base, the former is as diverse as visits from services such as the fire brigade, interest groups such as animal keepers, sleepovers and learning new skills such as cooking. The equipment – we are scouts, so think tents and camping- is now in containers, which has allowed us to increase the available space in the hut for use at meetings.</b>  <b>Like other groups the hut had closed during Covid, reopening during this year with Government and Council support.</b>

		<b>Further details on how that support was and is still being used are shown later in this report as a part of the financial review section.</b>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<b>The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</b>

### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

## **Achievements and Performance**

	SORP reference	
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Covid had a profound effect on our activities during his year. Having reopened in accordance within government guidelines we not only resumed providing the activities mentioned elsewhere in this report but we made substantial changes to the grounds and expanded the group to include Squirrel, bringing scouting to 4 to 6 year olds for the first time.
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#### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		



## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<b>This review takes the form of the annual accounts, which have been provided to the charity Commission and show that the charity is solvent and has sufficient reserves. But must be considered in accordance with other information in this section.</b>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<b>The policy is to hold reserves of at least £3,000, sufficient to cover at least three months essential running costs.</b>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<b>The balance sheet shows £35,342. This is as a result of funds from Covid restart and other Covid grants being held to allow the group to; keep the weekly subs at their present rate for at least another year; cover the cost of increased cleaning and other Covid related costs; develop the grounds so that they can be used for more outdoor activities (Covid safety) and to improve the fuel efficiency of the premises. Much of this work was done in the year to March 2023.</b>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	<b>Not applicable</b>
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	<b>Not applicable</b>
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<b>There are none.</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<b>For this year it was a Covid restart grant along with a grant from Children In Need. The latter was received towards the end of the year so, as with the earlier Covid grant, whilst most was spent in this year some will be seen in the 2023 accounts.</b>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<b>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:</b>

		<p>Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.</p> <p>Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.</p> <p>Reduced income from 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 raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently but as covered elsewhere in this report a decision has been made to use Covid grants, in part, to keep the subs at current levels until at least April 2023.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of leaders. The group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was 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. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of members. As at 31 March 2022 the group provided activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. It still does. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.</p>

Other		
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## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	<b>The Groups governing documents are those of the Scout Association . They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turns gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.</b>
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all scouts</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<b>The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders and parent's representation and meets every 2 months.</b></p> <p><b>This Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:</b></p> <p><b>The maintenance of Group property; The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; The insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;</b></p>
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		<b>Appointing any sub committees that may be required;</b> <b>Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;</b> <b>Appointing any sub committees that may be required;</b> <b>Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.</b>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	<b>Ninth Dartford Scout Group</b>
Other name the charity uses	<b>Informally it uses '9<sup>th</sup> Dartford Scout Group'</b>
Registered charity number	<b>271270</b>
Charity's principal address	<b>The Charity is a part of the Scouting Organisation.</b>



# Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gavin Wells	Chair		
2	Neil Gearing	Group Manager		
3	Philip Hamblin	Group Treasurer		
4	Shaun Ford	Trustee		
5	Wilson Couchman	Trustee		
6	Paul Warner	Trustee		
7	Desmond Harris	Trustee		
8	Pauline Daly	Trustee		
9	Julie Southcott	Trustee		
10	Jack Ford	Trustee		
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

## Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	Not applicable	

## Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
	Not applicable	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
		Not applicable

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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### Exemptions from disclosure

#### Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Not applicable
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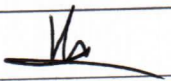

### Other optional information

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Philip John Hamblin	NEIL CHRISTOPHER GEARING
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	GROUP MANAGER
Date	22 January 2023	22-JAN-24



**9th DARTFORD SCOUT GROUP**

**Accounts**

**Year Ending 31st March 2022**

# 9th DARTFORD SCOUT GROUP

## Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022

Income	£	£
Subscriptions		
Beaver Section		2,384
Cub Section		1,320
Scout Section		1,660
Explorers		1,272
		<u>6,636</u>

Covid support from Government and Council Restart Grant		<u>8,000</u>
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Grant from Children in need		
Amount received if it could be spent by 31 March £14,877		
Amount not spent by March £1,271		
Final grant		<u>13,606</u>

Fund Raising & Donations		
Hall donations (excluding a £100 deposit repaid due to Covid)		5,796
Fundraising for Shelterbox before expenses		543
Bernard Sunley Foundation grant		<u>2,000</u>
		<u>8,339</u>

Other income		
Camp contributions		1,500
Section night contributions		378
Garment sales		221
		<u>2,099</u>

GROSS INCOME		<u>38,680</u>
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Opening Balance 1st April 2021		£
Bank current accounts (net of uncleared cheques)		36,408
Bank deposit account		87
Cash in hand		27
		<u>36,522</u>
Plus Income		38,680
Total		<u>75,202</u>
Less expenditure		39,860
		<u>35,342</u>
Closing balance at 31 March 2022		<u>35,342</u>

Signed .....	Gavin Willis
Dated .....	Group Manager

Expenditure	£
Group expenses	
Section night costs; Beavers	914.00
Cubs	303.00
Scouts	1,064.00
Explorers	50.00
	<u>2,331.00</u>

Capitation	
Group	2,266.00
Explorers	618.00
	<u>2,884.00</u>

Other expenses	
New tents and cooking equipment	6,908.00
Other equipment	1,161.00
Scout and explorer camp	1,382.00
AGM, group Software,	164.00
Clothing, badges, scarves (minus £30 refund)	1,821.00
Leader expenses	78.00
Cleaning and maintaining grounds	1,021.00
Fire safety check	74.00
	<u>12,609.00</u>

Overheads	
Rent (land)	1,000.00
Insurance (hall)	948.00
Water (see notes )	1,867.00
Electricity	382.00
Performing rights society (01 and 02)	198.00
Gas	1,308.00
	<u>5,703.00</u>

Group improvements and repairs	
Metal boundary fence	7,109.00
Line underground waste pipe	3,840.00
Internal wooden fence	1,224.00
Clearing grounds, including for fire pit	1,148.00
Cage for inflammables	865.00
Replace lighting (£345) and other	582.00
	<u>14,768.00</u>

Advance Payments	
Deposit for 2022 Jamboree	1,080.00
	<u>1,080.00</u>

Charity contributions	
Donation to Shelter Box	485.00
	<u>485.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>39,860.00</u>
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## Bank and cash reconciliation at 31 March 2022

Cash and cheques on hand;	£
Beavers	351.00
Cubs	178.00
Scouts	3.00
Explorers	0.00
	<u>532.00</u>

Cash in current accounts*	34,723.00
Cash in deposit account	87.00

Closing balance at 31 March 2022	<u>35,342.00</u>
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\*Excludes £2,495 for the following;  
£1,224 Cheque for material for wooden fence,  
cleared early April  
£1,271 repaid to Children in need on 4 July.



**Water**

Despite having access to water readings and telling the group that their payments were sufficient Castle Water, the collecting agents for Thames Water, found that they had been undercharging the group since 2018, sending us a bill for £1894 in June and refusing to reduce it by one penny despite their negligence. The Group Exec are considering their options as all attempts to have the bill reducing have been refused.

**Susan Hoey**

We were very sad to hear of the passing of Susan Hoey in during 2022. Susan had been our Cub Scout Leader for well over 25 years during the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Like her late husband Tom, Susan was a main-stay of the Scout Group and led the Cubs at all District-run events, carnivals, as well as providing yearly Cub camps. Hundreds of children owe Susan a great debt for providing fun and excitement during their formative years

**Records**

I would like to thank the leaders for their records. The Explorers records were limited to subs, capitation and a couple of expense as the other expenses were met by the explorers.

**Legal action**

The attempt by a member of the Dartford Amateur Dramatic Society to sue the Group for alleged injury caused by her driving straight into a gate which he had been using for year was successfully challenged. The company which insured the now re-arranged car was not a party to this egregious nonsense claim which was made through a no win no fee lawyer.

**Squirrels**

Thanks to the efforts of parents - for which a big thank you- we were delighted to set up a Squirrel group on 21 March 2022. Those first few weeks were funded through a grant which was received in May 2022 and which will be shown in the 2023 accounts.

**Covid-19 Pandemic**

The Hut was reopened for use within Government Guidelines during this year, and as mentioned below the Group is grateful for the Covid restart Grant which was instrumental in funding the required

**Donations**

The group would like to thank Dartford Borough Council for including them in the recipients of Covid restart grant recipients. The £3,500 'salute for youth' grant mentioned in last years accounts was supplemented by another generous contribution from the Bernard Sunley Foundation and group funds to pay for a new fence, which was built this year. We also thank Vodafone for providing free wi-fi and Bellway Homes for providing our fire pits, which they built during this year. During March The Group were the recipient of a generous Grant from Children in Need, using that grant to update our camping equipment and the hut, the latter includes making it more energy efficient.

**The Hall**

A number of improvements and repairs were made during this year, as identified in the profit and loss account. Many were funded by outside bodies as shown in the above account note 'Donations'.

**Scout Bank**

The 'scout bank' balance forms a part of the opening and closing funds in the current accounts. The opening balance stood at £3,070 and with £1,369.27 having been spent on troop nights and camps it now stands at £1,700.81 of which £1,639.38 is general funds and £61.43 is specific to an individual.

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

	£		£		£
Opening funds	36,522	Assets		Closing funds	
Income	38,680	New equipment costs	8,069	Deposit account	87
Expenses	39,860	Hall improvement costs	14,768	Current accounts	34,723
Decrease in funds	-3,338	Taken to P+L account	22,837	Cash and cheques in hand	532
Closing funds	35,342	Net improvement costs	0		35,342
Signed .....		Philip Hamblin		Date .....	Treasurer



## Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the 9<sup>th</sup> Dartford Scout Group Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the Group/District for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's/District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

### Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's/District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts.

### Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Signature..... .

Name: Helen Hooper

Address: ...7 Leyton Cross Road.....

.....Dartford.....

.....Kent.....

.....DA2 7AP.....

Date: 13/1/23.....