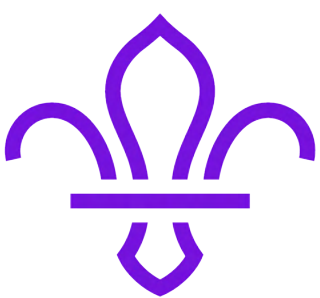


Scouts



1st Embsay and Eastby

Annual Report 2023



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Welcome – Andrew Gash (Outgoing Group Chair)

1st Embsay and Eastby Scouts was founded in 2022 with the formation of first Beavers, then Cubs, with Squirrels following in 2023. Each of these sections created a huge interest within the local community and all continue to thrive. As the Cubs members matured, a new Scout group was formed this year, creating yet another milestone in the history of the Group. 1st Embsay and Eastby Scouts is now able to prepare even more young people in the local area with skills for life by actively engaging and supporting young people in their personal development and empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. Young people in our villages can now take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities, where they learn by doing, by sharing in spiritual reflection and by taking responsibility. They make choices, undertake new and challenging activities, and they live their Scout Promise.

The Group success is again made possible through the extraordinary determination, generosity and positivity of volunteers who are visible at the forefront of sessions or working in supportive roles behind the scenes. Thanks also to parent volunteers who help out ad hoc and when our leaders request help at short notice to fill gaps and maintain safe parent/child ratios so sessions can run. Without the flexibility and support of parents, these sessions may be unable to run. If you would like the group to continue, but are unsure of how you can help, please do get in touch as there are many ways to support our cause.

As the group grows ever stronger, our members will be able to participate in an even wider range of activities, which we have worked hard to secure funding for. However, we will continue to fund raise for future activities and equipment. On the subject of finances, we appreciate the ongoing cost of living pressures and continue to keep subscriptions and fees as low as possible. Our initiative to bulk buy uniform and sell to parents without delivery charges is just one way we are mindful of cost. As always, if you do have any concerns about payments, please do not hesitate to contact us in confidence.

On a personal note, I will be stepping aside as Group Chair in March, a role I temporarily accepted in 2022, with a view to stepping back once a permanent Chair could be appointed. Although my tenure has lasted longer than anticipated, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the group and I am confident the future is safe and exciting under the direction of your new Chair, Katie Jameson, and I wish everyone involved with Group all the best in the future.

Overview from our Group Scout Leader – Laura Sobala

This has been another fantastic year for 1st Embsay and Eastby Scouts!

In May this year we opened our 3rd section, Squirrels, for 4 to 5-year-olds. We are only the second group in the district to have a Squirrel Drey. Our youngest members are already showing the same adventurous spirit as our older children, learning about fire-lighting, den building and nature spotting, all within their first few weeks! By the time you read this we will also have opened our final section – a Scout troop for 10 to 14-year-olds.

We will start 2024 with around 60 young people, a huge increase on last year's numbers and an achievement which has been recognised by both South Craven District and North Yorkshire Scouts.

This year we have enjoyed getting out and about in the community, working with a variety of community groups including Holme Grown Eastby and Incredible Edible, taking part in the village's Remembrance Day service and procession, visiting Skipton Fire Station and carol singing for residents at two local care homes. It has been great to see how our young people have engaged with community service – a very important aspect of Scouting – and we plan much more for 2024.

Both our Beavers and Cubs sections enjoyed their first camps. 11 Cubs attended a weekend camp at Thornthwaite Activity Centre along with 2 other Cub packs. 7 of our Beavers attended the North Yorkshire Jamboree at Askham Bryan (which included a visit to the wildlife park). Camping is such a fundamental part of Scouting, bringing young people together in close-knit groups and using so many of the skills they learn in their sessions. I was delighted to see our young people benefitting from these experiences, and the feedback from the children who attended was very positive. Next year we are planning even bigger and better things, with a family camp in May for all sections from Squirrels to Scouts, and all our young people will have the opportunity to attend North Yorkshire's first International Jamboree in July!

Our fundraising efforts this year stepped up a notch, with Embsay School Fair and Embsay with Eastby family fete raising over £300, which combined with a £500 grant from Tesco will be put towards camping and outdoor equipment. Our fundraising will continue into 2024 with an ambitious fundraising target of nearly £5000 to invest in good quality tents and cooking equipment.

Of course, with new sections come new volunteers, and I am delighted that we now have 11 Leaders and Assistant Leaders helping to run our sections – some on a weekly basis and some more occasionally. Finding volunteers is a challenge for groups across the country, so I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by a team of fantastic volunteers, most of whom were new to Scouting but all of whom have thrown themselves into everything with enthusiasm! We are constantly on the lookout for new volunteers, and especially at this time we would love new leaders in our Cubs section, so if you are interested, please let me know.

I can't believe how far we've come in under two years, and we couldn't do it without your support – both by trusting us with your young people, and by helping out enthusiastically at meetings and events. I want to thank all our parents and carers for your support of our group, and here's to another brilliant year in 2024!

Squirrels Report – Joanne Preece

At the close of January 2024 Squirrels is well on the way to completing our first year. It's been amazing! We maintain a full section of 16, with a waiting list, and have been pleased to welcome a mix of both boys and girls to our new drey.



In our first year we've awarded 87 badges and have earned aspects of others too. As Squirrels we earn all our badges during sessions and achieve these through varied means. We have been on plenty of adventures including hikes, visits to the local Holme Grown and Skipton Fire Station as well as den building (in the woods, the park and in the hall!). We quickly completed our first campfire session in the woods and it was brilliant to see the children learning new skills as well as their excitement to be able to participate in such an activity. They have tried foods from around the world and learnt "hello" in different languages, to celebrate calendar events and towards our All Around Us badge. They have also created and decorated a Chinese dragon to celebrate Chinese New Year, which we intend to use in our local procession for St George's day in 2024.



For our Feel-Good badge, we've visited a local care home and enjoyed playing games and reading our favourite books with some of the residents there.

We were pleased to represent Scouts at our first Remembrance Sunday and we were exceptionally proud of all our Squirrels on the day. Many of our Squirrels have signed up to attend our first family camp and the International Larkin, both coming up in 2024, how exciting!

Beavers Report – Heather Best

What a busy year Beavers have had! The Beavers have earned a whopping 222 badges between them! In the sessions we have covered parts of many badges, some Beavers have then gone on to complete the rest of the tasks at home.

We have had a few visitors to help us explore some of the tasks – Sam from the Canal and River Trust, with volunteers, to talk to the children about wildlife in and around our local waters. We are fortunate to have a lot of open spaces around for these activities, in particular we have brilliant access to the park for wide games. Mick came to help the children complete a Tyrolean traverse in the woods for an adventurous activity. We visited Holme Grown Eastby a few times to gain information towards the wildlife and gardening badges, including planting, growing and harvesting their own pumpkins. We have been out on plenty of adventures around the local area building dens, lighting fires, cooking treats, exploring and navigating (at night). We particularly enjoyed a trip to Brimham Rocks to climb, abseil and explore, as well as an indoor climbing session. During the summer, some of the Beavers were lucky enough to go to Jamboree and experience their first Jamboree and Scout camp. Whilst the winter makes getting out on an evening a little more challenging, we've tried to ensure our programme is still varied and engaging. I think a particular highlight of this was a pioneering competition where the Beavers worked in teams to complete tasks.

We finished off the first year with a festive trip to Abbeyfield Care Home where the children sang to, played with and talked to the residents (and ate lots of chocolate). We are looking forward to more camping trips this year with the family camp in May and Larkin in July.



Cubs Report – Caroline Thornborrow

Cub numbers have grown steadily to 19 members with 3 of our cubs moving up to Scouts in January.

During the lighter nights we took every opportunity to get outside and practised pitching tents, lighting camp fires, cooking various pot meals and of course making lots of smores (always a favourite!). We also walked Halton Heights and had a hike through Skipton Woods. Highlights of our darker nights programme were cardboard box caving, making catapults to fire rubber ducks and interesting talks by a clock maker and bee-keeper.



On a warm weekend in May cubs headed to camp for the first time and they all thoroughly enjoyed the activities on offer to them, particularly the crate stacking and building a bridge. For some cubs this was their first weekend away from parents and their first night spent under canvas and all agreed they would like to do it again.

Whilst having fun the cubs achieved 152 badges. This year many cubs enjoyed participating in the district swimming gala and 5 a side football competition outside of their usual Tuesday meetings and 2 cubs also enjoyed activities on the water with a parent.

What another busy year for cubs, thanks to the parents and carers for your support and to the young children for your enthusiasm each week. Here's to the next 12 months!

Treasurer's Report – Andrew Sobala

The group remains in good financial health. We end the year with £8,830 in cash; this includes £1,350 from our fundraising campaign for camping and outdoor equipment, as well as £154 of members' payments that we are holding for Larkin Jamboree 2024. It is our policy to hold 6 months of reserves (£2,887) and will be paying an estimated £4,095 of membership subscriptions to Scouts Headquarters/County/District in Spring 2024. The small surplus we have after these amounts have been taken into account will be reinvested in the Group's activities during 2024. The Trustees have been able to keep membership fees frozen for the third year in a row, despite inflationary pressures.

Our main income is from membership subscriptions, gift aid and from grants; can I take this opportunity to urge all members who are able to sign a Gift Aid declaration to do so if they have not done already, as it makes a big difference to the resources we have available for our young people. This year we were successful in applying for grants from the following organisations:

Organisation	Amount	Funds remaining (for reserved funds)
North Yorkshire County Council	£962 for starting the Squirrels section	£256
Tesco	£500 for camping and outdoor equipment	£500
Scouts Jamboree	£500 for camping and outdoor equipment	
North Yorkshire Scouts Council	£250 for starting the Squirrels section	

The sections have run a large number of events for the members. We have aimed to keep events close to cost-neutral, and for events run in 2023 we have taken a total of £1534.75 and spent a total of £1603.96. We have started to take payments and incur costs for Larkin Jamboree (which takes place in 2024) and as our accounts are prepared on a cash basis these additional receipts and payments are incorporated in the accounts.

We have recently started an online uniform shop for the convenience of members, as well as trying to minimise costs by preventing members from having to pay postage from the Scout Store for individual uniform items. This shop is run close to cost-neutral, but as we have bought an amount of stock it has made a small monetary loss in the accounts.

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Reference and administration details

1st Embsay and Eastby Scouts

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1	Andrew Gash	Chair	
2	Sarah Siddons	Secretary	26/03/2023 -
3	Andrew Sobala	Treasurer	
4	Laura Sobala	Group Scout Leader	
5	Joanne Preece	Squirrels Section Leader	
6	Heather Best	Beaver Section Leader	
7	Caroline Thornborrow	Cub Section Leader	
7	Erika Wormald	Trustee	26/03/2023 -
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Section B**Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

The Group's governing documents are those of the 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.

How the charity is constituted

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

Trustee selection methods

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

Additional governance issues

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, Treasurer and Secretary) together with the Group Scout Leader, individual section leaders (if opted to take on the responsibility) and parent's representation and meets every 3 months. Members of the Executive Committee complete '*Essential Information for Executive Committee*' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

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 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;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Section B	Structure, governance and management (continued)
	Risk and 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: Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the Village Institute, other childcare groups and other Scout Groups. The Group has sufficient contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss. Change of ownership of the Methodist Hall. The meeting place is in the process of being sold by the Skipton & Grassington Methodist Circuit. If it stopped being used for community use, the Group would be left without a meeting place. The Group is participating in the community effort to transfer the meeting place to community ownership and is actively supporting this effort. In the event of the Hall being lost for community use, the Group would attempt to identify and use an alternative meeting place. Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities. 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. 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. Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for young people aged 6 to 10 1/2. 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 or in the worst case scenario the Group.

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document	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.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives	Members have taken part in a range of activities for their Challenge Awards which promote our Scout values, including: - Campfire cooking, den building and trail following - Investitures, Remembrance Day and St George's Day - Teambuilding activities and team games - Active sessions including sports and agility activities - Community aid sessions where young people help others in their community (for example carol singing in care homes) Members have also attended overnight and weekend camps and taken part in a range of adventurous activities
Additional details of the objectives and activities	In addition to the above, Beavers and Cubs are organised into Lodges and Sixes, which allows them to work together constructively and take responsibility within a small group. - Sixers, Seconders and Lodge Leaders often take responsibility for others in their Six or Lodge.
Public benefit statement	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.

Section D	Achievements and performance
Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	The Group has opened a third section (Squirrels, for ages 4-6). This takes the group numbers to over 50 children from Embsay, Eastby and the surrounding area. Members have achieved badges and awards, reflecting the many new activities they have undertaken and skills they have learned. Members have taken part in a wide range of activities, including competitions with other District Scout groups. Beavers and Cubs have attended camps, sleeping under canvas and taking part in a range of adventurous activities.
Section E	Financial Review
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	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 6 months running costs, which the Trustees estimate at £7000. The Group held reserves of just below £9000 at year end. This is chiefly due to an ongoing project to raise funds for camping and outdoor equipment. Any operating surplus will be
Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)	n/a
Further financial review details	Sources and uses of funds The Group obtains the majority of its funds through membership subscriptions. Additionally grants are applied for and fundraising opportunities taken advantage of where appropriate. Funds are spent on activity equipment, meeting equipment and events for the young members of the Group to support them in their personal development, as determined by the section leaders. Investment Policy The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Section F	Other Optional Information
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Plans for future periods

Future plans for the Group include opening Scouts in January 2024) to cater for all ages from 4-14.
Once all sections are up and running, the plan is to organise a family camp for all sections to promote unity within the group and involve those who otherwise might not go camping, as well as attending Larkin International Jamboree in summer 2024. The group also plans to continue to raise money to invest in camping and outdoor equipment.

Section G	Declaration
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The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)								
Full name(s)	Katie Jameson	Andrew Sobala						
Position	Chair	Treasurer						
Date	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>		2	1	0	4	2	4
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1st Embsay and Eastby Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2023	To	31/12/2023
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Receipts

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	7,705	-	7,705	3,870
Donations	-	-	-	317
Gift Aid	1,087	-	1,087	-
Other similar income	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,792	-	8,792	4,187
Events				
Squirrels	20	-	20	-
Beavers	919	-	919	150
Cubs	1,066	-	1,066	-
Sub total	2,005	-	2,005	150
Sales				
Online shop sales	95	-	95	-
Sub total	95	-	95	-
Grants				
Startup grants	250	-	250	1,000
Other grants (see note 1)	500	1,462	1,962	1,840
Sub total	750	1,462	2,212	2,840
Fundraising events (gross)				
Embsay School Fair	137	-	137	30
Embsay Fete	222	-	222	38
Other fundraising activities	2	-	2	-
Sub total	361	-	361	68
Investment income				
Interest	14	-	14	-
Other investment income	-	-	-	-
Sub total	14	-	14	-
Total Gross Income	12,016	1,462	13,478	7,245
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,016	1,462	13,478	7,245

1st Embsay and Eastby Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2023	To	31/12/2023
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Payments

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Charitable Payments				
Activity equipment	225	-	225	167
Badges	582	80	662	475
Insurance	114	-	114	104
Meetings - Squirrels	104	204	308	-
Meetings - Beavers	385	-	385	387
Meetings - Cubs	238	-	238	336
Membership subscriptions paid to Scouts Headquarters/Country/District	1,736	-	1,736	-
Rent	960	198	1,158	690
Uniforms (young people)	145	-	145	370
Uniforms (adults)	390	206	596	278
Web	170	19	188	125
Sub total	5,050	706	5,756	2,933
Fundraising expenses				
Promotional materials	-	-	-	27
Other fundraising costs	21	-	21	13
Sub total	21	-	21	41
Events				
Squirrels	101	-	101	-
Beavers	951	-	951	125
Cubs	868	-	868	-
Group-wide	128	-	128	-
Sub total	2,047	-	2,047	125
Sales				
Online shop stock	336	-	336	-
Sub total	336	-	336	-
Administration				
Administration costs	112	-	112	39
Bank fees	-	-	-	36
Membership subscription processing costs	304	-	304	146
Sub total	415	-	415	220
Total Gross Expenditure	7,868	706	8,575	3,318
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,868	706	8,575	3,318
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,148	756	4,903	3,927
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	3,927	-	3,927	-
Cash funds this year end	8,075	756	8,830	3,927

1st Embsay and Eastby Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2023	To	31/12/2023
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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st Dec 2023			31st Dec 2022
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Bank current account	7,420	756	8,175	3,263
Expense cards account	605	-	605	664
Card payment provider	20	-	20	-
Cash/Floats	30	-	30	-
Total cash funds	8,075	756	8,830	3,927
Other monetary assets				
Tax claim	-	-	-	-
Debts due from the County/District	-	-	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use				
Badge stock	243	-	243	24
Shop stock	275	-	275	-
Scouting equipment for meetings etc.	1,332	-	1,332	860
Other	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,850	-	1,850	884
Liabilities				
Accounts not yet paid	-	-	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	157	-	157	39
Loans	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities (see note 2)	154	-	154	-
Sub total	311	-	311	39
Total net assets	9,613	756	10,368	4,772

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 12th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
	Katie Jameson Chair
	Andrew Sobala Treasurer

Notes

1. Income included in this line are NYCC Get Going Grant (£962; restricted funds); Tesco Community Grant (£500; restricted funds); Damboree Grant (£500; unrestricted)

2. We currently hold £154.31 of Larkin Jamboree participants' advance fees that will be 'paid on' in 2024

Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the 1st Embsay and Eastby Group Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the Group/District for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group'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 constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out in this Annual Report.

Scrutineer's Statement

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

Signed:

Name: Joe Walshaw-Scott

Address: 3 Brackenley Lane, Embsay, Skipton, BD23 6NW

Date: 21st January 2024

