Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date) 01/04/25 to end date 31/03/26

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name 255 Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts

Registered charity number 1164063

HQ registration number

Charity's principal address

32 Upper Perry Hill
Bristol
Postcode BS3 1NH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Alan Sweetman	Chair	
2	Christina Ransom	Treasurer	
3	Elaine Beckett	Lead Volunteer	
4	Andrew Luke		
5	Timothy Berriman		
6			

Names and addresses of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Bankers	Lloyds Bank	1 Legg Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JS

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 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 Trustee Board, 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 Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 3 Trustees and meets periodically throughout the year.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk and Internal Control

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 a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects 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 objects	The Group's main function is to support the Sections, comprising of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, achieving the aims of the Scouting Association. These Sections within the group provided weekly meetings for around 70 young people aged between 6 and 14, giving them fun, challenge and adventure through the Scout Method appropriate to their age. Activities provided are appropriate to the Sections and may include cooking, model making, crafts, team games, quizzes, mapping and outdoor activities. All Sections have the opportunity to participate in a camp or other outdoor activities/ challenges throughout the year. Several Adult Leaders, Young Leaders and other volunteers provide their time generously on an unpaid basis in order to support the Group’s Scouting activities.
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 Beaver, Cub and Scout sections all continued to provide good opportunities for their members to progress their learning and skills by participating in Scouting activities. Notable events included a Cub camp to Guernsey in July 2025 and in August 2025, the Scout troop participated in the Kent International Jamboree.

In 2022/23, at the request of the local Police service and with support of Bristol South District and Three Counties, the group started a new Beaver Colony in the nearby neighbourhood of Redcliffe. This is an area with few development opportunities for young people. This group is becoming increasingly establised and a Cub pack has now also been formed. It is hoped that this will become viable in the long term; financially and in terms of numbers of young people and volunteers.

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 Trustee Board considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months running costs, circa £8000 (covers rent, membership fees, uniform, badges, insurance, utilities, allowance for repairs and sundry expenses, but no events). The Group held excess free reserves against this at year end.
Designated funds	At the year end the Group held £10,254 of funds designated for the development and upkeep of the "Spyglass" site. During the year, £220 of expenditure primarily relating to upkeep and maintenance was allocated to this fund. Income totalling £1582 were received in year for the Redcliffe group. This consisted of a start up grant for Cubs from District and subs from families attending Beavers and Cubs sessions. This covered the £1411 running costs of the group (although the true costs are more that this as District kindly waived the Annual Fee for Redcliffe). At the end of the year £1258 of the designated funds remain unspent and will be carried forward for expenditure in the next year.
Further financial review details	**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 or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.
	The Group Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Group Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods

We will continue to monitor the viability of the Redcliffe group and will need to consider whether a Scout troop can be supported in the future. We hope to increase the number of local young people participating in, and local volunteers leading the Scouting activities.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	
Full name(s)	Christina Ransom
Position (eg Secretary, Chair)	Treaurer
Date	0 6 0 7 2 6

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	255 Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts		
On accounts for the year ended	31 March 2026	**Charity no (if any)**	1164063
Set out on pages	12-15		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	Jacqueline Uren	**Date:**	25/06/26
Name:	Mrs Jacqueline Uren		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Accountant (ICAS)		
Address:	11 Wathen Road, Bristol, BS6 5BY		

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts Annual Report 2025/26



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Dear Scouts, parents, friends and supporters,



Our recent Big Fiesta camp was the biggest I've ever known for 255th with nearly 100 participants. I was struck by how many parts contribute to the whole group working like a well-oiled machine. Leaders keeping children happy and safe as well as giving them the space and independence to develop resilience and strength of character. A huge supporting effort from transport and catering to finances and record keeping. Underpinned by our trustee board who keep us legal and well-governed in increasingly regulated times. Not forgetting the efforts from families in putting together kit, transport, and sometimes attending in person as extra adult helpers. All resulting in an adventurous and enjoyable outdoor weekend for all involved, with several of our younger members overcoming their worries and gaining a real sense of achievement in their first night away from family.

Other highlights of the year (too many to list them all) are a fantastic cub camp in Guernsey, a weeklong jamboree and a back- to-basics skills camp at Chelwood for scouts, a Beaver adventure day and an indoor sleepover at Brockmead.

We are constantly renewing our teams of volunteers and supporters and order to bring new energy and ideas and ensure continuity during times of change. A large enough pool of adult helpers keeps our high-quality programme and activities going while making sure no one is over-committed or unsupported. Please look at the range of areas where we can use support - the AGM is an ideal opportunity to find out more and ask questions. We can fit around your skills and interests to make a positive experience and a chance to develop for our adults as well as our young people.

Elaine Beckett

Lead Volunteer

Beaver Section report



Welcome to the Annual Report for the 255th Bristol Channel Beavers Colony for 2025-26. This report highlights the exciting adventures, achievements, and growth of our fantastic Beaver Scouts.

Membership

- We started the year with 17 eager Beavers and ended with 15 (a few more will be invited to join soon), and have a healthy waiting list showcasing continued interest in our Colony. Through the course of the year, we've seen 10 Beavers move up to cubs and welcomed 9 new Beavers in to the Group.

Activities and Highlights

- This year, our Beavers participated in a variety of activities aligned with the Beaver Scout program, fostering teamwork, creativity, community impact and outdoor exploration.
- Some memorable highlights include:
    - Activities to involve our Beavers in planning and shaping our programme (including a 'snowball' fight!)
    - A 40th Birthday Party for Beavers
    - A trip to Crazy Climb at Red Point
    - The Beavers Adventure Day at Woodhouse Park
    - Gardening with Dame Emily Park Project
    - Learning and creating our own dances
    - Cooking (Including Pancakes, Sushi & Cookies)
    - Den Building in Leigh Woods
    - Canadian Thanksgiving & Communication with a Canadian Beavers Section
    - Learning & practicing some new campfire songs
    - Fire building & lighting (with flint & steel) at Spyglass
    - Visit to Bedminster Library for book badge with Rabbit
    - Shopping for & donating to our local foodbank
    - An Everest Base Camp experience
    - Our very own Highland Games

- We also had two fantastic camps: an indoor sleeping camp with the Redcliffe Beavers & Cubs at Brockmead and a summer camp at the Bristol South District Big Fiesta with the whole of 255th a few weeks ago. Both camps involved a huge number of exciting activities and many of the Beavers proudly gaining their first nights away badge.

Bronze Awards

- As well as the dozens (192 at last count!) of badges earned by all Beavers, four Beavers proudly earned their Chief Scout Bronze award, demonstrating completion of all six challenge badges and a great deal of hard work.

Leadership and Volunteering

- We said goodbye (for now, at least) to Ellen “Panda” Roberts and saw Flo “Flamingo” Johnson-Marshall move to join the Cub section Leadership team, and extend many thanks to them both for their help in the Section. We were also very pleased to welcome our new leaders Liz “Lark” Pope and Emmeline “Moose” Rodman and Young Leader Riley “Fox” Morris, alongside continued strong support (especially with heroic badge admin for all Sections) from Kate “Rabbit” Myers. Special thankyous are also due to Sam “Rat” Jones and Martha “Penguin” Entwistle for continuing to support in their Young Leader roles, including through various exams and other external commitments.
- We are of course incredibly grateful to all of our Leaders and to all of our parent helpers who volunteer their time and expertise to create a fun and enriching environment for the Beavers.
- We are always keen to welcome new parent helpers and leaders, particularly those who might have a particular skill or hobby to share with the Beavers.








Redcliffe Beaver and Cub Report

The Redcliffe cub and beaver section of 255 have, thanks to the hard work of leaders and supporters, enjoyed a diverse programme of activities, including camps, where we joined the camps planned, organised and catered by our Southville counterparts. We are very grateful for their expertise and warm welcome. Our young people have earned badges, enjoyed activities such as a paper plane derby, fire lighting, making 'mocktails, bin bag balloons and semaphore, Scavenger hunting at Ashton Court, The 255th traditional Chip Shop review, and a night hike in Leigh woods.

Most of our beavers have, or are about to move up to cubs, and due to extensive building works at Faithspace, we have been meeting at St Paul's since Easter. We are on schedule to return to Faithspace in September and hopefully offer scouting to a new 'generation' of beaver scouts.





Cub Section Report

It's been another fantastic year for the Cub Scout section, bookended by two brilliant camps.
Last summer we spent five unforgettable nights in Guernsey, exploring castles, relaxing on beaches, jumping off cliffs, and eating far too much ice cream and so much more. It was an amazing trip that we'll have to look at repeating some point in the future.
Then, just the other week, we rounded off the year with another brilliant Big Fiesta at Woodhouse Park. There were loads of fantastic activities, plenty of laughs, and definitely not enough sleep (possibly something to do with all the sugar...). I'm still not convinced I've fully recovered!
We've also packed loads into our weeknight meetings, including:

- Plenty of hikes
- Stop-motion films (which were genuinely brilliant!)
- Bridge building
- Several determined attempts at teaching the Cubs what maps are...
- Photo challenges
- Lots of cooking
- And even a great evening lighting fires at Spyglass (although giving Cubs saws is still mildly terrifying!)

A huge thank you, as always, to our fantastic Young Leaders – Sam, Finn and Hugh. Your help is always massively appreciated, Finn the treasure hunt you organised was particularly good!
The same goes for Steve and Dale for all their help throughout the year, and to Flo, who's recently joined us from Beavers. It's been great having you on the team. It was also brilliant to have Eleanor helping us for most of the year before she moved to London. Although I have to admit, having one of my old Cubs come back as a leader definitely made me feel... old!
Finally, a massive thank you to Chloe for everything you've done over the last few years. It's going to be a real shame not having you around as much. You've always been fantastic with the Cubs and have made my job so much easier, not to mention a lot of fun. We wish you all the best with the chaotic adventure of motherhood to come. You'll always be welcome back!




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SCOUTS



Scout Section Report



This past year has been eventful as ever for our scout group, a highlight of which was undoubtedly the participation in the Kent International Jamboree camp. This memorable Jamboree was impressively run for such a size, activities were run from morning through evening with a special Friday performance from “Scouting for girls,” we had a variety of other events that the members took part in. For instance, the Green Beret challenge in November provided a platform for teamwork and personal growth. The Sodbury Challenge that we entered three teams into. With a consistent link with the Benjamin Perry Boat House Scouts have had the opportunities for several boat maintenance days which helped our scouts learn practical skills while also enjoying time outdoors.

We also organised an adult camp, fostering a sense of community among leaders though our wet experience did not dampen spirits. A simple weekend at Chelwood provided opportunities for our scouts to build fires, whittle sticks to use cooking over fire, pushing their boundaries while developing resilience.

This year, we have presented four Chief Scout Award, signifying the commitment of four of our members in their scouting journey, which is commendable and reflects well on the ethos we strive to cultivate within our group.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming trip back to Kandersteg in 2028, keeping the spirit of adventure alive for future generations.

This year’s water sports have (so far) been successful even providing respite in the most recent heat wave, another 12 weeks of amazing opportunity to see Scouts grow in competence, skill, bravery and in places ability to get on with the task at hand even when in a group of peers. Some true lessons for our young people, thanks to the support of leaders and parents.

The summer 2026 Scout camp at Buddens has been cancelled, this is due to only 6 Scouts signing up, we will be reaching out to parents to find out why we currently have such a low uptake and what we can do to improve this going forward. We as leaders see each time how the Scouts grow when they have these long camps, their communication with each other, confidence and ability to look after themselves grows significantly through each of these experiences.





Financial Report

Year ended 31 March 2026 Financial Report

It's been a busy year for the group, with plenty of camps and events across the sections. We are particularly grateful to the Leslie Sell Charitable Trust who donated £2,000 towards summer camps. The leaders do an excellent job of bringing their activities in on budget, and I hope you agree that Scouting represents excellent value for money for families. We are committed to the principle that family finances should not be a barrier for participation, so if you need financial assistance please speak confidentially to your leader, or Elaine, to see what support is available.

We finish the year with reserves of £33,670, of which around £10,000 is earmarked for upkeep and development of the Spyglass site next to St Paul's church. To have a healthy bank balance is an enviable position for a Scout group to find itself in, but we shouldn't ignore that we ran at a deficit of around £2,300 for the year to 31 March 2026. If this continues, then these reserves would be severely depleted within a few years, so we must ensure that action is taken to prevent this from becoming an issue.

We have managed to avoid raising subs for a number of years and we remain committed to keeping them as low as possible. Whilst there are no immediate plans for subs to increase, it may become necessary in the future.

There have been some fantastic fundraising activities in the year, with the Victoria Park BBQ raising over £1,500 and the Spring Walking Challenge over £1,100. The Victoria Park BBQ is an annual event that requires a huge group effort to plan and run the day – please put Saturday 19 September in your diaries to help this year. Many hands make light work!

It would be great to have a team of volunteers to arrange fundraising events, large or small. If you feel able to help organise a raffle, bake sale, sponsored event (we have a JustGiving page 255 Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts - JustGiving, which is a convenient way to collect donations), or have any other ideas then please do get in touch – your help and support is appreciated.

Finally, a big thank you to all the families for helping to make the financial arrangements of the group run so smoothly. As well as being a convenient way to collect money for subs and events, OSM is also a handy way for us to collect gift aid, so if you are eligible, we would be grateful if you ticked the box to allow this. This year, our funds have been topped up by gift aid payments of nearly £2,500, which amounts to a subsidy of around £30 per young person.

Christina Ransom

Group Treasurer

Income and Expenditure

	2025-2026			2024-2025
Income	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds**	**Total Funds**
Bank Interest	687.79		687.79	1,112.11
Donation		2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Events - Group	917.00		917.00	0.00
Events - Beavers	2,262.18		2,262.18	1,085.00
Events - Cubs	4,059.28		4,059.28	5,042.00
Events - Scouts	7,600.76		7,600.76	10,376.64
Fundraising	4,506.45		4,506.45	4,493.50
Gift Aid	2,468.16		2,468.16	2,262.20
Membership Fees	11,100.00		11,100.00	10,750.00
Redcliffe group	1,582.00		1,582.00	805.00
Uniform	518.02		518.02	746.00
Expense				
Activity Equipment	147.58		147.58	0.00
Admin	241.57		241.57	119.34
Annual Fee District South	4,228.00		4,228.00	3,930.00

Badges	511.19		511.19	590.89
Bank Fees	10.02		10.02	464.58
Council tax	219.56		219.56	219.56
Events - Beavers	2,276.72		2,276.72	699.86
Events - Cubs	7,914.13		7,914.13	1,690.31
Events - Scouts	10,678.91	2,000.00	12,678.91	30,192.70
Fundraising expenses	1,408.50		1,408.50	1,470.06
Group events	641.52		641.52	2,670.44
Insurance	420.01		420.01	365.40
Meetings - Beavers	415.22		415.22	132.06
Meetings - Cubs	325.80		325.80	282.96
Meetings - Scouts	169.76		169.76	204.62
Membership Costs	400.95		400.95	387.41
Rent	5,367.50		5,367.50	5,435.50
Redcliffe Group expenses	1,411.36		1,411.36	827.85
Training	240.00		240.00	610.00
Uniform	663.35		663.35	1,652.92
Utilities	313.43		313.43	324.38
Venue Maintenance	0.00		0.00	372.00

Account balances				
255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOU	5,433.00		5,433.00	6,796.30
Petty cash	59.77		59.77	42.70
Expense Account	1,092.34		1,092.34	2,790.82
Redcliffe Petty Cash	84.88		84.88	343.61
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit 2153	0.00		0.00	26,000.00
Lloyds Fixed Term 62LS	27,000.00		27,000.00	0.00
Summary				
Account balance brought forward	35,973.43		35,973.43	51,943.82
Total income	35,701.64	2,000.00	37,701.64	36,672.45
Total expenditure	38,005.08	2,000.00	40,005.08	52,642.84
Net income	-2,303.44	0.00	-2,303.44	-15,970.39
Account balance carried forward	33,669.99		33,669.99	35,973.43

Fund movements by type

Period 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026						
Fund and type	**Fund balances 1 April 2025**	**Incoming resources**	**Outgoing resources**	**Transfers**	**Gains and losses**	**Fund balances 31 March 2026**

Grant funding						
(Restricted)	0	2,000.00	-2,000.00		0	0
Building fund						
(Designated)	10474	0	-220	0	-220	10254
Redcliffe group	1087	1582	-1411	0	171	1258
(Designated)						
General fund	24412	34120	-36374		-2254	22158
(Unrestricted)						
Totals	35973	37702	-40005	0	-2302	33670

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scout Group Board of Trustees 2025/26

Chair	Al Sweetman – chair@255th.org.uk
Deputy Chair	Andy Luke - andyluke2001@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Christina Ransom – treasurer@255th.org.uk
Secretary	Rebecca Miller – secretary@255th.org.uk
Trustee	Tim Berriman – timberriman@gmail.com
Trustee	Matt North – mattrnorth@gmail.com
Lead Volunteer	Elaine Beckett – lemur@255th.org.uk