1ST GREAT AMWELL SCOUT GROUP

(Registered Charity no 267345)

ACCOUNTS and REPORT

2025-2026

Year ended 31 January 2026

1ST GREAT AMWELL SCOUT GROUP

TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair	**Andy Verdin**
Group Lead Volunteer	**Gail Stretch**
Treasurer	**Christine Prince**
Trustee	**Daniel Buswell**
Trustee	**Richard Clayden**
Trustee	**Christina Coates**
Trustee	**Colin Haywood**

GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Group Lead Volunteer	**Gail Stretch**
Scout Team Leader	**Graham Paul**
Cub (Otters) Team Leader	**Colin Haywood**
Cub (Leopards) Team Leader	**Michelle Lang**
Beaver (Bears) Team Leader	**Sonia Cousins**
Beaver (Wolves) Team Leader	**Wendy Devonshire- Helps**
Squirrels Team Leader	**Leanne Couzens**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Group Registration Number with Scout Association	**35362**
Charity Registration Number	**267345**
Contact Address	**142 London Road** **Ware** **Hertfordshire** **SG12 9NH**

ADVISORS

Bankers	**Barclays Bank plc**
Independent Examiner	**Cleo McGovern**

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; and
- make and live by their Promise.

The Trustees confirm that the charity (or "Group") meets the Charity Commission's Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

We are pleased to report that Great Amwell Scout Group (the "Group" or "charity") has had a great year, with young people aged from 4 to 14 years enjoying the Group's facilities and programme of activities provided by our leadership team.

Our sections have taken part in several District events, including Otter Cubs coming runners up at the challenging Oxley Shield, as well as our Scouts winning the County Cooking Competition.

Our Group Lead Volunteer, Gail Stretch, comments further:

"The 'Race Across the World' themed Group Camp held last year was a highly successful event, thanks in no small part to Shere Khan, Team Leader for Cubs Otters, who led the effort. Unfortunately, we will not be hosting a Group Camp this summer, but plans are already in the making for 2027.

I was delighted to see our Beavers continue the tradition of a joint camp with 3rd Ware Scout Group – known as 'Wagawood' – which was again led by Ratti, with catering in particular amazing so thanks once more to Badger, John and Ann."

This year we have had a movement in our leadership team, with Vince and Robert Price transferring from Cubs to Scouts, whilst Jude Vinton visited with her daughters and liked the sessions so much she has signed up as a Cub leader.

As a Scout Group, we are very fortunate to have a solid member base, which coupled with important fundraising events during Ware Week and at Ware Fireworks, as well as successful lettings, enables continued investment, such as replacing our boiler and reconfiguring our kitchen to create more usable space.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year, the Group generated a surplus on general funds and activities of £20,743.65. As at 31st January 2026, the Group had cash of £53,595.58 in general funds and designated reserves of £2,400.00 were put aside as a contribution to the refurbishment of the HQ kitchen. Since the end of the accounting period work involving the new kitchen has been completed.

The Group has identified the major risks to which it is exposed and follows the policies and rules of the Scout Association to deal with them.

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 Trustee Board considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to at least 12 months running costs, which currently equates to around £35,000 in reserves. The Board is pleased to report that general reserves have remained over this optimum level throughout the year.

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is relatively modest and as a consequence it 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 as cash and/or liquid funds, using only mainstream banks or building societies.

The Trustee Board regularly monitors the level 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 Trustee Board reviews its cash flow requirements going forward.

Risk and Internal Control

The Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which it believes the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them, including maintenance of a Risk Register. 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 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.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Appropriate risk assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fundraising and lettings. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions, lettings and fundraising. The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Trustee Board 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 a worse case scenario, this would mean a complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 14.5 years. 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 a worse case scenario, this would mean the complete closure of the Group.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.

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

All Trustees complete The Scout Association trustee and mandatory learning within the first six months of joining the Trustee Board; they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning periodically as required.

The Group is managed by the Trustee Board (formerly Group Executive Committee), the members of which are the Charity Trustees of the Scout Group, which is deemed a charity set up to provide Scouting activities in Hertfordshire. As Charity Trustees, they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of seven trustees, registered with the Charities Commission: the Chair, Group Lead Volunteer (ex-officio), Treasurer, Secretary, Risk Registrar, Property Manager and Youth Representative; and meets 3 or 4 times a year. The Trustee Board is supported by a Board Administrator.

The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programmes that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintains appropriate governance policies and oversight.

The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly.

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules.

This includes responsibility for:

- Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development;
- Developing, maintaining and regularly reviewing a Risk Register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations;
- Ensuring that finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting;
- Ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss;
- Ensuring that property is appropriately managed;
- Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees;
- Appointing Advisors as required;
- Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board;
- Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding;
- Ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy;
- Ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate;
- Ensuring transparency of operations, including preparation of accounts and holding an AGM;
- Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation; and
- Acting as a responsible employer for any employees, who are effectively managed.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We are fortunate to have an experienced and enthusiastic leadership team to provide a great fun and exciting programme and to make Scouting possible, and who look forward to introducing a variety of activities into the programme over the next year.

Having replaced the boiler earlier this year, as well as reconfiguring and improving the kitchen space, our next investment project is to redecorate and paint the inside of our HQ building during this summer. In addition, we have plans to replace the outside firepit, which remains a focal point for camps and nocturnal activities held at HQ.

The Group remains financially sound, however, we still need to raise funds to ensure the next projects happen. This is done by the Group's involvement in a number of set fundraising activities, such as marshalling at the Ware Rotary Fireworks Display in November and a BBQ & Tombola event at Ware Week in July. Both events are also great opportunities for us to raise the profile of the Group and to contribute to community events.

In recent years, we have seen some of our Leaders retire, as well as a need to rotate other areas of our leadership team. As always, we are conscious of the need to maintain a sufficiently experienced and enthusiastic team of Leaders and thus we continue with our recruitment campaign to ensure no disruption to our programme of Scouting activities.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

A Verdin	*C Prince*	*G Stretch*
Andrew Verdin	Christine Prince	Gail Stretch
Trustee Chair	Trustee Treasurer	Group Lead Volunteer
Date: 8 June 2026	Date: 8 June 2026	Date: 8 June 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE 1ST GREAT AWMELL SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st January 2026, which are set out in pages 7 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

C McGovern

10th June, 2026

Miss C McGovern
1341 High Road
Whetstone
London
N20 9HR

1st Great Amwell Scout Group (Registered Charity No 267345)
Receipts & Payments Account for the year to 31st January 2026

RECEIPTS

2025			2026
	Subscriptions		
14,333.69	Subscriptions		**15,869.16**
2,483.12	Income Tax Recovered		**3,134.91**
	Activities		
4,926.00	Camps & Activities		**7,445.54**
	Donations		
669.46	Donations and contributions		**1,052.00**
	Grants		
3,000.00	Grants		**5,400.00**
	Fundraising		
266.57	Ware week	**1,559.20**	
800.00	Fireworks	**800.00**	
53.00	Other Fundraising	**57.00**	
1,119.57			**2,416.20**
	Premises		
23,110.55	Lettings		**24,111.65**
	Investment Income Etc.		
314.80	Bank Interest		**403.19**
	Other Income		
-	Insurance Receipt		**2,404.90**
£ 49,957.19			**£ 62,237.55**

PAYMENTS

2025			2026
	Subscriptions		
6,785.00	To County & HQ	**7,402.50**	
	Activities		
1,340.25	Badges & Uniform	**1,330.24**	
-	Training	**260.00**	
1,565.45	Materials	**876.57**	
655.36	Equipment	**3,332.78**	
4,508.35	Camps, Trips etc.	**6,518.62**	
14,854.41			**19,720.71**
	Capital/Designated Expenditure		
43,067.96	Building Programme		**4,210.61**
	Administration		
1,315.01	General Expenses	**1,649.67**	
1,315.01			**1,649.67**
	Premises		
2,144.68	Insurance	**2,295.55**	
1,182.00	Grounds	**760.00**	
5,188.75	Repairs/Maintenance	**5,332.94**	
3,824.29	Cleaning	**3,785.45**	
2,518.74	Electricity	**1,939.27**	
849.59	Gas	**1,566.86**	
(472.68)	Water Rates	**232.84**	
15,235.37			**15,912.91**
74,472.75			**41,493.90**
(24,515.56)	**(Deficit)/Surplus for year**		**20,743.65**
£ 49,957.19			**£ 62,237.55**

1st Great Amwell Scout Group (Registered Charity No 267345)

Balance sheet as at 31st January 2025

2025		2026
296,738.24	Brought Forward	**272,222.68**
(24,515.56)	(Deficit)/Surplus for year	**20,743.65**
£ 272,222.68		**£ 292,966.33**

2025			2026
	FIXED ASSETS		
1.00	Land		**1.00**
236,969.75	Building - brought forward	**236,969.75**	
-	additions	**-**	
236,970.75			**236,969.75**
	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		
33,340.43	Barclays Group - unrestricted	**49,908.34**	
1,500.00	Barclays Group - restricted	**2,400.00**	
383.85	NatWest Scouts	**504.12**	
27.65	Cash Cubs (Otters)	**48.21**	
35,251.93			**52,860.67**
-	Accrued Income (HMRC)		**3,134.91**
£ 272,222.68			**£ 292,966.33**

1st Great Amwell Scout Group (Registered Charity No 267345)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st January 2026

Unrestricted Funds 2025	Designated Funds 2025	TOTAL 2025		Unrestricted Funds 2026	Designated Funds 2026	TOTAL 2026
			INCOME & EXPENDITURE			
			Incoming Resources			
14,333.69		*14,333.69*	Membership Subscriptions	**15,869.16**		**15,869.16**
4,926.00		*4,926.00*	Activities	**7,445.54**		**7,445.54**
669.46		*669.46*	Donations	**1,052.00**		**1,052.00**
1,500.00	*1,500.00*	*3,000.00*	Grants	**-**	**5,400.00**	**5,400.00**
23,110.55		*23,110.55*	Premises	**24,111.65**		**24,111.65**
1,119.57		*1,119.57*	Fundraising	**2,416.20**		**2,416.20**
2,483.12		*2,483.12*	Income Tax Recovered	**3,134.91**		**3,134.91**
314.80		*314.80*	Bank Interest & Investment Income	**403.19**		**403.19**
-		-	Other Income	**2,404.90**		**2,404.90**
48,457.19	*1,500.00*	*49,957.19*	**TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES**	**56,837.55**	**5,400.00**	**62,237.55**
			RESOURCES USED			
			Direct Charitable Expenditure			
14,854.41		*14,854.41*	Members Activities & Services provided	**19,720.71**		**19,720.71**
1,315.01		*1,315.01*	Administration	**1,649.67**		**1,649.67**
50,303.33		*50,303.33*	Premises	**15,623.52**	**4,500.00**	**20,123.52**
66,472.75	*-*	*66,472.75*	**TOTAL RESOURCES USED**	**36,993.90**	**4,500.00**	**41,493.90**
(18,015.56)	*(6,500.00)*	*(24,515.56)*	**NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS**	**19,843.65**	**900.00**	**20,743.65**
			Other recognised Gains & Losses			
-		-	Revaluation of Property	**-**		**-**
-		-	Surplus on sale of Investments	**-**		**-**
(18,015.56)	*(6,500.00)*	*(24,515.56)*	**NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**	**19,843.65**	**900.00**	**20,743.65**
288,738.24	*8,000.00*	*296,738.24*	Balance Brought Forward	**270,722.68**	**1,500.00**	**272,222.68**
270,722.68	*1,500.00*	*£ 272,222.68*	**BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD**	**290,566.33**	**2,400.00**	**£ 292,966.33**

Unrestricted Funds	*Restricted Funds*			**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	
			FIXED ASSETS			
236,970.75		*236,970.75*	Tangible Fixed Assets	**236,970.75**		**236,970.75**
-		-	Investments	**-**		**-**
236,970.75	*-*	*236,970.75*		**236,970.75**	**-**	**236,970.75**
			CURRENT ASSETS			
			Payment in advance			
-			Debtors	**3,134.91**		**3,134.91**
33,724.28	*1,500.00*	*35,224.28*	Bank & Building Society	**50,412.46**	**2,400.00**	**52,812.46**
27.65		*27.65*	Cash	**48.21**		**48.21**
33,751.93	*1,500.00*	*35,251.93*		**53,595.58**	**2,400.00**	**55,995.58**
			CURRENT LIABILITIES			
-		-	**Creditors** (amount falling due within 1 year)	**-**		**-**
33,751.93	*1,500.00*	*35,251.93*	**NET CURRENT ASSETS**	**53,595.58**	**2,400.00**	**55,995.58**
270,722.68	*1,500.00*	*272,222.68*	**TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABIITIES**	**290,566.33**	**2,400.00**	**292,966.33**
-	-	-	**Creditors** (amounts falling due after more than 1 year)	**-**		**-**
270,722.68	*1,500.00*	*£ 272,222.68*	**NET ASSETS**	**290,566.33**	**2,400.00**	**£ 292,966.33**

Approved on behalf of the Executive Committee on 8th June 2026 and signed on their authority

G Stretch	*A Verdin*	*C Prince*
Gail Stretch	Andrew Verdin	Christine Prince
Group Lead Volunteer	Chairman	Treasurer