

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26





Scouts

5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts

The 5th WOODBRIDGE (SEA SCOUT) GROUP TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
For the 12-month period ended 31st March 2026

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE:

Group Lead Volunteer	Dr N Notcutt
Group Executive Chairman	Mr M Bell resigned 1/1/26
Group Secretary	Mrs Caroline Smithson
Membership Secretary	Mrs Frances Holley
Group Treasurer	Dr J Douse
Tuesday Cub Scout Leader	Mrs M Ulph
	Mr D Russell
	Mrs J Perry

OTHER LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERING POSITIONS

Deputy GSL	Mrs Nicola Tooke
Friday Scout Leader	Belinda Bradley
Perisher's Scout leader	Mr S Owen
Woden Cub scout leader	Mr R Grey
Thursday Beaver Leader	Mrs P Calver
Monday Beaver leader	Mrs L Keer
Squirrels leader	Mrs K Wrenn
Explorer Scout Leader	Mr C Finch
Quartermaster	Mr R Webster
Bosun	Mr D Russell succeeded by Mr B Tooke
Fundraising Coordinator	Mrs J Perry
Design and Social Media Officer	Vacant

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES:	None
OTHER ADVISERS:	None
BANKERS:	Barclays Bank PLC, Woodbridge Business Centre, Suffolk Coastal Group, 4 Church Street, Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 1DJ
Scout Association Group Registration Number:	40674
Charity Registration Number:	268625
Royal Navy Registration Number:	93
Contact Name and Address:	Group Executive Chairman, 5th Woodbridge (Sea Scout) Group, 5-7 Tide Mill Way, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1BY

Group Lead Volunteer's report



William Barton and Noo Tooke at the inaugural 5WSS awards

5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts continues to thrive and go from strength to strength, thanks to our enthusiastic young members and dedicated volunteers.

Our young members

Membership remains steady, with 190 young people and over 50 adult volunteers supporting the Group. We continue to operate a waiting list for those aged four and under, which currently stands at 189.

In response to concerns that Debenside Explorers might not have capacity for all 5WSS Scouts wishing to continue their Scouting journey, we invited 5WARM Explorers to use our headquarters for their weekly meetings. This has provided an additional Explorer unit option for our Scouts.

In September, we celebrated the achievements of our young members at our first Awards Ceremony. This included recognition of top award holders across all sections, as well as presentation of the Star of 5WSS and Spirit of 5WSS awards to two nominated members from each section.

In the new year, we offered congratulations to William Barton of Debenside Explorers, who was selected as part of a small group from Deben District to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027.

Our volunteers

This year, the Leadership Team has worked hard to foster a more collaborative environment both within and between sections.

Following the example set by our Beaver sections, Cub and Scout sections are holding more joint activities and camps and are working together to develop aligned programmes.

This collaborative approach draws on the experience and creativity of all leaders and ensures that all young members have equal access to activities and #Skills for Life.



I would like to extend my thanks to Noo Tooke for her work as AGLV. She has played a key role in supporting leaders with joint programme planning and delivery, and in strengthening collaboration across the Group.

Additionally, thanks to her proactive and organised approach, parents are now offered greater choice when young people 'move up' between sections.

This has significantly improved section size planning and is greatly appreciated by parents, young members, and especially Section Leaders – thank you Noo!

Volunteer development

Building on last year's focus on water-based training, it has been encouraging to see several leaders take part in a paddlesports course in May, alongside a pulling boat course and assessment.

Our thanks go to Jonathan Douse for organising the pulling boat training, and to Leigh Foster-Green of Mildenhall Scouts for delivering the paddlesports course. As a result, the Group now benefits from a greater number of volunteers holding water permits.

Community involvement

5WSS has continued to play an active role in the local community. Highlights include hosting boat rides and a BBQ at the Woodbridge Regatta in June and participating in the Transition Woodbridge River Clean in October.

Special thanks to Brad Bowman, one of our parents, for organising the Regatta BBQ.

Fundraising

This has been an extremely successful year for fundraising. Alongside the Regatta BBQ, Jonathan Douse organised the ever-popular Autumn Family Quiz, which has now become a firm fixture in the Group calendar.

A standout event was the inaugural Walk the Deben, which was the brainchild of Oscar Hayter. Members from all sections walked stretches of the River Deben, finishing at Whisstocks for a BBQ and Awards Ceremony.

The event raised over £4,000, a significant contribution towards future building projects.

Infrastructure and Buildings

At the beginning of 2025, the Trustees concluded that, due to the high cost of the proposed new build, it would be more practical to invest in improving and maintaining our existing facilities.

A condition survey of the Customs House was carried out, and plans are now being developed to improve access and refurbish the upper floor. Additional improvements are also planned for the Scout Hut, including upgrades to the kitchen, toilets, and flooring.

Boats

Following September's AGM, Duncan Russell stepped down as Bosun after several years in the role. We thank him for his contribution. Brad Tooke has since taken on the role, supported by Ian Horsely and the wider Boat Team, ensuring that the Group's fleet remains well maintained and serviced.

Looking ahead

The year 2026–2027 will be a period of continued renewal and growth. We aim to redevelop the Customs House to provide an additional, safe meeting space for all sections.

We also plan to build on our collaborative approach by organising more Group-wide events, including a Group camp.

None of this would be possible without the continued commitment and support of our volunteers. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Nicola Notcutt

Treasurer's report

During 2025-26 income was £82,023 and expenditure was £63,641.

This surplus was due to an excellent year of fundraising, a higher than expected income from rental of the HQ and more parents signing up for Gift Aid.

This year, we have replaced the engine for Isla and got her back into service. The cost of this expense was largely covered by grants from the Royal Navy and Suffolk County Council. We had expected to use some of our reserves for this.

Janet Perry was able to secure a grant of £12,760 from Sport England to secure new paddle sport equipment.

I am very grateful to all those who helped with the year's fundraising events including boat rides, Walk the Deben, the BBQ and the quiz.

The budget for 2025-2026 has been set on the basis that we will break even.

The costs of all of our regular expenses has gone up again in the last year.

The Trustees committee made a decision to increase subscriptions to £52 per term from October 2025. The trustees intend to spend reserved funds on repairs to the customs house this year.

Jonathan Douse

Squirrels' report



We continue to have a full drey with 20 Squirrels regularly attending weekly meetings, *writes leader Katie Wrenn.*

The children have participated in a wide range of activities and earned a range of interest badges, including:

- continuing to develop links with the Woodbridge community through visits to Sutton Hoo, The Longshed, Foxburrow Farm, Woodbridge Tide Mill and Deben Community Farm, and parading on Remembrance Day (above)
- participating with the wider 5th Woodbridge group in Walk the Deben, hiking from Melton back into Woodbridge to raise money for 5WSS.
- learning about the importance of the environment through nature hikes, pond-dipping, minibeast hunting, nature scavenger hunts, making bird feeders and planting nature-loving plants at the Scout Hut. This began work towards the 'Earth Tribe' badge, which challenges children to become planet champions and take action to protect our world.
- taking part in new experiences, such as cardboard caving at the Scout Hut, boat trips and hikes on the Deben, kayaking at Deben Leisure Centre's pool, a paddleboarding taster session at Waldringfield, and trying tobogganing at the dry ski slope.
- continuing to develop new skills for life through cooking, playing teamwork games and developing navigational skills.
- completing their level 1 First Aid badge with a visit from a nurse, and learning more about science through their Space Explorer and Exciting Experiments badges.
- We have had four Squirrels gain their Chief Scout Acorn Award, the highest award in the section, and almost all children who have left the section have remained in the group, joining one of the two Beaver groups.

Monday Beavers report

Monday Beavers have had a fun, busy and fulfilling year.

Whenever the tides and weather has allowed, we have been out on the water in kayaks and on the power boats.

The Beavers have cycled in Rendlesham Forrest, won a tug of war against the leaders and made parachutes for their eggs which landed safely with the eggs intact.

They played bingo and sang carols with the residents of Haughgate House and they participated in Remembrance Sunday.

They loved their joint camp with Thursday Beavers at Hallowtree and we celebrated St George's Day with the whole 5WSS group.

Along the way many badges and awards, including the Bronze Award, have been earnt.

Laura Keer, Leader





Thursday Beavers report

We've been learning lots of new things and earning badges along the way. The Beavers completed their photography badge by going for a hike along the river wall, taking lots of pictures and the following week making them into a collage. They've also earned their Global Issues badge with the help of the Deben Climate hub and also learned first aid skills.

We came together in September with Monday Beavers for our joint annual camp at Hallowtree. This is always a great opportunity for both groups to come together and share experiences.

In the run up to Christmas, we joined forces with the Shoebox appeal where all the Beavers donated some items for those children who are less fortunate.

We're looking forward to the last few weeks of term with junk boat making at the boating lake, a water session and a campfire at Hallowtree to practice our campfire songs ready for our camp!

Pippa Calver, Leader

Tuesday Cubs report



We have had a good year with regular attendance from 24 cubs, seven leaders and parental help when we have requested it. Thank you to all.

During the year, we have had a wide range of activities. Highlights are many but here's a few mentions:

- Joint Cub camp at Hallowtree with Woden Cubs
- A whole group event joining in the St George's Day Celebration at Hallowtree
- Bike maintenance session followed by off road biking in Rendlesham
- DIY session
- Robots and digital maker

We aim to keep a mix of new and old activities in our programme and we have been working with Woden leaders to swap ideas ideas and offer a programme that offers a similar experiences to both sections.

Thank you to everyone who supports and helps our Cub Sections.

Maggie Ulph, Leader

Woden Cubs report

Daisy Bell ran her last summer term as leader, in a fun and efficient way as always before a big goodbye and thank you from all in July 2025.

Rich Grey and Ricardo Romero took over in September and ran a fun programme trying to get out and about where possible.

We charged for three additional activities (skiing, climbing and a light trail), but feel one additional charge event is enough per term to ensure affordability. We had a new leader in John, who has been very regular and excellent all round, taking on several sessions.

For the winter and spring terms, we have done joint planning sessions with Tuesday Cubs. The programme included lots of cooking, some technical challenges, a few hikes and some practical skills like DIY and knife use.

The pack was at 22 Cubs in the autumn and 24 in the winter. We have three young leaders who are great to have around, and the parent rota continues to work well.

Rich Grey and Ricardo Romero, co-leaders



Perisher Scouts

What an action-packed year Perisher Scouts have enjoyed!

Activities include biking and den building in Rendlesham Forest, making promotional videos about 5WSS, trying out archery and air rifle shooting, creating and performing their own entertainment, making and selling wreaths at Christmas and paddleboarding at Shingle Street.

There was also a VERY muddy walk across the River Deben at low tide, plus a wonderful trip to a nearby farm to visit newborn lambs.

If that weren't enough, many of our Scouts headed to Skreens Park Activity Centre in May, coming together with their counterparts from across the Deben district for an amazing camp.

Thanks as always to our brilliant team members: Claire, Emma, Katherine, Jonas and Oscar, plus our young leaders Jim and Will. We were really sad to say goodbye to one of our original leaders Cat, though she was thrilled with the many farewell cards our Scouts made for her!

Si Owen, leader



Friday Scouts



Friday troop has had a very exciting year, with a programme packed full of events, really 'pushed the boat out' with some new badges and collaborated with the community.

First and foremost, two of our Scouts, Jane Villiers and Maximilian Rennesland, achieved their Chief Scout's Gold Award in November.

Our Scouts tried some very unique activities, including Cèilidh dancing with Woodbridge Dance Folkus in February!

They did bike riding again in Rendlesham Forest after gaining professional experience in bike safety and maintenance.

And they even learned how to forage local food after learning from local expert Matt Driver.

They also combined forces with Monday Scouts as often as possible and got 'stuck in' with things like the Save the Teddy paddleboard challenge (where there was no water and parents were greeted with more mud than children), the Intra-Scouts Sports Championships, and SUPs and sausages at Shingle Street.

We're especially proud of our Scouts for helping their community and showing up when needed. They helped Woodbridge out with some road sign cleaning, which is still proving useful today.

They also volunteered at the Woodbridge 10k, giving out water and encouragement. They proudly represented 5WSS at Remembrance Day and took part in the parade.

A huge honour was bestowed upon six of our Scouts as they attended the wedding of Belle and Jacob, volunteers at 5WSS. They braved the rain (as Sea Scouts can't stay dry) and held their Guard of Honour for the confetti exit with pride. They did an utterly excellent job of representing our troop and cheering on the newlyweds.

The troop had many adventures away from home, including going on the Norfolk Broads, where they slept, explored and lived on a boat.

They also raised money by sleeping under the stars at the Great Tommy's Sleepout despite gruelling weather.

And they showed great commitment at the District Scout Survival Camp, making us proud by attempting every challenge thrown at them. We had a fantastic year for achieving badges, with 192 awarded. We are very proud of our Scouts, thankful for our volunteers and community help and excited to build upon our success for next year.

Belinda Bradley, leader



Explorers

This year, Debenside Explorers has been active both on and off the water. Highlights have included a night kayak on the Deben, a session with Suffolk Swords, and the now-traditional Suffolk Ditch Boating paddle from Ufford Hole.

Explorer Will Barton has been selected to join the 26th World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027, along with leader Craig Finch. To raise money for the event, the pair completed the River Deben Triathlon in June; walking, cycling and kayaking the length of the river, accompanied by other members of the section.

Membership has remained steady at 23 members, with a number of new joiners moving up from Scouts, and several former Explorers remaining involved as adult leaders.
Former Explorer Oscar Hayter and leader Ellie White have been involved in establishing a new Network section in the district.

The section leaders are looking ahead to next year, with plans for camps and other activities. As ever we'd like to give a huge thankyou to all Explorers, leaders, helpers and parents for helping the section go from strength to strength.

Craig Finch, leader



Network

The Network Section remains the quietest section. The Network is not a traditional activity section but was set up to keep contact with young members who have departed for university, during their term breaks the members are invited back to help with water and land activities for the younger sections.

In time these members may become the Group's Leaders of the future.

3. Group policy and objectives

At the end of the period, cash reserves amounted to £17,272.67 after deduction for current liabilities due within the year. The Group's policy on reserves is to hold an amount sufficient to cover the essential running costs for the next three to six months and to budget for longer term maintenance and capital replacement to ensure the long term viability of the Group.

The executive committee has reserved £77,804.20 for refurbishment/replacement of the headquarters building. The group has reserved £957.01 of donations for the support the training of leaders and £2,678 to subsidise the attendance of young people from families suffering from hardship

The objectives of the group are to follow the aims of the Scout Association to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential. The Group is a trust established under the rules of the Scout Association, which are common to all Groups/Districts. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation & Rules of The Scout Association.

The accounts, which cover a 12 month period, have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis, which is consistent with the previous year.

Approved by the trustees on 28/4/26



Receipts & Payments Account Summary for the year ended 31st March 2026

	2025-2026	2024-2025
Total receipts for year	£82,023.48	£65,312.83
Total payments for year	£63,641.32	£56,377.69
Receipts less payment	£18,382.16	£8,935.14
Cash brought forward	£80,329.72	£71,394.58
Cash carried forward	£98,711.88	£80,329.72

The above account and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on April 28, 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Jonathan Douse
Group Treasurer

Receipts for the year ended 31st March 2026

	2025-26	2024-25
Subscriptions	£25,894.30	£24,629.10
Bank interest	£663.32	£779.02
HMRC gift aid and GADS	£6,130.92	£4,335.67
Activities	£12,663.70	£17,152.9
Fundraising	£8,984.52	£5,116.87
Rent	£6,918	£6,764.69
Boat insurance	-	£350
Uniform and kit	£603.18	£596.60
Other group attend training course	£90	-
Training course not attended refunded direct to	£220	-
Water refund	£2,118.77	-
Total	**£64,286.70**	**£ 59,724.80**
Grants		
East Suffolk Locality	-	£3,000
Suffolk County Council (Isla)	£1,000	-
Sport England/Lottery (paddlesports)	£12,760	-
RN (Isla)	£2,500	-
Total	**£16,260**	**£3,000**
Woodbridge Shufflers	£200	£100
Easy Fundraising/Amazon	-	£63.81
Long distance walk	£150	-
Various donors	£662.26	£310
Town council Potter Cup	£50	-
Kay Yule RIP	£45	-
Co-op	£369.50	-
Allan Harber RIP	-	£614.21
Suffolk COmmunity Foundation (Isla)	-	£1,000
Hallett family	-	£500
Total	**£1,476.76**	**£2,588.02**
Total receipts for the year	**£82,023.50**	**£65,312.80**

Payments for the year ended 31st March 2026

		2025-6	2024-25
MEMBERSHIP	Association fees	£10,986	£10,212
	OSM	£153.80	£182.55
	Total	**£11,139.80**	**£10,.394.55**
PREMISES	Light, heat and water	£3,765.04	£1,330.03
	Insurance	£1,287.61	£1,160.25
	Repairs and renewals	£1,579.08	£3,188.34
	Customs House works	£219.66	£4,203.03
	Customs House survey	£1,769.98	-
	Garden and fence	£83.02	£786.15
	Hall storage	-	£853.05
	Total	**£8,704.39**	**£11,520.85**
BOATS	Insurance	£2,905.32	£2,562.82
	New boat	£13,000.56	£180
	New radios	£569.99	-
	Isla engine	£3,654.01	-
	Isla trailer	£375.35	-
	Moorings, repairs and renewals	£3,499.88	£3,868.77
	Total	**£24,032.21**	**£6,611.59**
ACTIVITIES	Day-to-day section running	£1,662.21	£1,256.44
	Activities	£11,216.09	£21,454.19
	Equipment	£368,07	£371.26
	Total	**£13,246.37**	**£23,081.89**
MISC	Fundraising expenses	£1,040.54	£1050.56
	Training	£1,216	£710
	Personal group insurance	£52	£52
	Books and badges	£1,783.59	£1,672.72
	Misc	£148.92	£27.50
	Uniform and kit	£2,061.50	£1,136.03
	Website	£216	£120
	Total	**£6,518.55**	**£4,768.81**
	Total payments for year	**£63,641.32**	**£56,377.69**

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st March 2025

	2025-26	2024-25
Current account	£14,816.92	£6,122.42
Subs account	£2,455.75	£9,611.42
Hardship and training reserve	£3,635.01	£8,715
Bank deposit account for HQ	£77,804.20	£55,880.88
Cash in hand	-	-
Other monetary assets	-	-
Investment assets	-	-
Net Monetary Assets	**£98,711.88**	**£80,329.72**
Land and buildings (insurance valuation)	£800,000	£396,699
Boats and marine equipment (insurance valuation)	£71,244	£69,739
Scouting equipment (insurance valuation)	£42,175	£42,175
Total	**£913,419**	**£508,613**
Cheques issued and not yet presented	-	-
Expenses incurred but not yet invoiced	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees of 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts (charity number 268265) on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:  Date: 16 June, 2026

Name: Julie Braggins | Professional Qualifications: Retired financial director

Address: 7 Coombe Close, Daventry, Northants, NN11 2PW

Budget for the 12month period to 31st March 2025: Essential running costs

	Association fees & OSM	£1,200
PREMISES	Light/heat/water	£1,800
	Insurance	£1,400
	Repairs and renewals	£10,000
BOATS	Insurance	£3,000
	Mooring, running costs, repairs and renewals	£5,000
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	Tents and camping	£1,000
	Books and badges	£1,800
OTHER	Admins/establishment expenses	£150
	Trustees expense	-
	Personal accident insurance	£52
	Website	£250
	Uniform	£1,500
	Training	£958
	Day to day activities	£2,000
	Total essential running costs	**£40,910**

Estimated income for year

Subscriptions	£26,000
Gift Aid	£5,000
Rent of hall	£6,700
Reserves for training	£958.00
Fundraising less expenses	£2,500
Total	**£41,158**

Appendix A

Accounts relating to Debenside Explorer Unit
Lloyds Bank
Sort code 309985
Account 5101676

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st March 2026

		2025-26	2024-25
MONETARY ASSETS	Bank current account at end of year	£220.19	£271.53
	Cash in hand	-	-
	Other monetary assets	-	-
	Net monetary assets	**£220.19**	**£271.53**
NON-MONETARY ASSETS	Investment assets	-	-
	Land and buildings	-	-
	Boats and marine equipment	-	-
	Scouting equipment	-	-
	Total non-monetary assets	**-**	**-**
LIABILITIES	Cheques issued, not yet presented	-	-
	Expenses incurred not yet invoiced	-	-
	Net liabilities	**-**	**-**
RECEIPTS	Fundraising	-	-
	Receipts for activities	£3,388	£5,188
	Receipts for kit	£25	-
	Receipts for subs	£30	£45
	Transfer from 5WSS for purchase of kit	£488.50	-
	Donation from Town Council (sand pit)	£500	-
	Total receipts	**£4,431.50**	
PAYMENTS	Payments for kit	£488.50	-
	Transfer to 5WSS for subs	£50	£45
	Bank charges	£51	-
	Payments for activities	£3,893.34	£5,112.94
	Total payments	£4,482.84	-
	Net receipts (payments)	**-£51.34**	**-**

Transactions relating to Debenside Explorer unit included in 5th Woodbridge accounts during year 31st March 2026

	2025-26	2024-25
Subscriptions	£3,322	£2,040
Association fees	-£1,206	£-1,330.50
OSM	-£43	£-43
Badges	-£7.79	£-13.30
Kit	-£488.50	£-500.50
Camp/activity costs	-£407.76	-
Camp/activity fees collected	£340	-
Use of hall and equipment	-£1508.95	£-152.70
Balance	-	-