Scouts

1st Arlesey

Annual General Meeting 2025 - 2026
- Reports -

1st Arlesey Scout Group
Chair of the Board of Trustees' Annual Report 2025–2026

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present the Chair's Report for 1st Arlesey Scout Group for the 2025–2026 Scouting year.

The section reports demonstrate the considerable strength of Scouting in Arlesey. Our young people have taken part in an ambitious range of activities, camps, visits and community projects, supported by an exceptionally committed team of adult volunteers, Young Leaders, parents and supporters.

The role of the Trustee Board is different from that of our operational leadership teams. While the Group Lead Volunteer and section teams oversee the delivery of Scouting, the Trustee Board is responsible for the Group's governance, financial oversight, legal responsibilities, risk management, property and long-term sustainability.

Our responsibility is to ensure that the Group has the resources, policies, facilities and appropriate oversight needed to provide safe and effective Scouting, both now and in the future.

This year has demonstrated the scale of the organisation the Trustee Board supports. Beavers and Cheyenne Cubs are operating at capacity, Sioux Cubs continues to offer places for additional young people, and our Scout provision has grown significantly. Halifax Scouts now supports 43 young people, while Yellow Devil Scouts continues to rebuild and develop its membership.

The success of these sections' places increasing demands on our facilities, equipment, finances and volunteers. Growth is welcome, but it must be sustainable. The Trustee Board must therefore continue working closely with the Group Leadership Team to ensure that development is properly planned and supported.

Volunteer recruitment remains one of the Group's most significant risks. Several sections have experienced changes within their leadership teams, and Sioux Cubs has been particularly dependent on parent support and volunteers from other sections. Although cross-Group cooperation has been extremely positive, it cannot replace the need to develop stable and sustainable volunteer teams.

The Board will continue to support recruitment by helping the Group communicate clearly about the wide variety of volunteering opportunities available. These include practical, administrative, fundraising, governance and occasional-event roles, as well as weekly section volunteering.

We also recognise the importance of supporting and retaining the volunteers we already have. Volunteers must feel valued, appropriately trained and able to contribute without being placed under unreasonable pressure. The work undertaken by our volunteers is substantial, and the Trustee Board is grateful for the time, energy and expertise they provide.

Financial sustainability continues to be a central responsibility of the Board. The Group must balance the costs of maintaining its premises, purchasing and replacing equipment, supporting camps and activities, meeting insurance and regulatory requirements and keeping Scouting affordable for families.

Fundraising has therefore remained essential. The Group has benefited from the support of volunteers and families at events including the Summer Fayre, mulled wine and barbecue stalls, sponsored activities and other community fundraising. We are grateful to everyone who has donated, volunteered or helped promote these events.

The Trustee Board will continue reviewing how the Group raises and uses funds, ensuring that proper financial controls remain in place and that expenditure supports the Group's charitable purposes. We must also continue exploring grants, community partnerships and other funding opportunities that can support the improvement of our facilities and the future development of the Group.

The maintenance and development of our Scout Hall and other facilities remain important priorities. As membership and programme demands increase, we must ensure that our buildings remain safe, suitable and accessible. This includes planning for repairs, improvements, equipment replacement and the longer-term needs of the Group.

The year has also highlighted the importance of cooperation. Volunteers have supported sections other than their own, the Cub packs have attended joint events and camps, and the Scout leadership teams have coordinated more closely. This collaborative approach makes better use of the Group's resources and gives young people access to a broader range of experiences.

Good governance must support this cooperation rather than create unnecessary obstacles. The Trustee Board will continue to review the Group's processes, policies and decision-making arrangements to ensure that they remain proportionate, understandable and appropriate for a volunteer-led charity.

Safeguarding and safety remain fundamental responsibilities. The Board receives assurance from the Group Leadership Team that activities are appropriately planned and that volunteers complete the required learning and checks. We will continue working with the leadership team to maintain a culture in which concerns can be raised, risks are considered carefully and the wellbeing of young people and volunteers remains central.

Looking ahead, the Trustee Board's priorities will include:

- supporting volunteer recruitment and retention;
- maintaining effective financial controls and sustainable budgeting;
- securing funding for repairs, equipment and facility improvements;
- strengthening communication between the Trustee Board and operational teams;
- supporting the continued growth of existing sections;
- considering future section development only where sufficient volunteers, facilities and finances are available; and
- ensuring that the Group continues to meet its legal, regulatory and charitable responsibilities.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their work throughout the year. Trustees often contribute behind the scenes, but their oversight, professional knowledge and willingness to take responsibility are vital to the continued operation of the Group.

I would also like to thank Stuart McGuire, our Group Lead Volunteer, and every member of the Group Leadership Team for their commitment to supporting our sections and volunteers.

Finally, I would like to thank every leader, Young Leader, occasional helper, parent, carer, supporter and young person. The achievements described in the section reports are only possible because of the shared commitment of the whole Group.

1st Arlesey Scout Group has a proud history and an exciting future. The Trustee Board remains committed to protecting that future and ensuring that Scouting continues to thrive in Arlesey for generations to come.

Yours in Scouting,

Sarah Colley
Chair of the Board of Trustees
1st Arlesey Scout Group

1st Arlesey Scout Group
Group Lead Volunteer's Annual Report 2025–2026

The past year has been another busy, successful and rewarding one for 1st Arlesey Scout Group. Across our Beaver, Cub and Scout sections, our young people have enjoyed an extensive programme of activities designed to build confidence, independence, teamwork and practical Scouting skills.

Our sections continue to be well attended. Beavers and Cheyenne Cubs are both operating at their full capacity of 24 young people, while Sioux Cubs currently has 20 members and space available for four more. Halifax Scout Troop has grown to 43 Scouts, supported by nine adult volunteers and four Young Leaders. Yellow Devil Scouts has also welcomed a number of new members, with the restarting of regular movement from our Cub sections helping to strengthen the troop.

Across the reports where figures were provided, our young people have earned more than 1,150 badges during the year. We have also celebrated five Chief Scout's Bronze Awards, eleven Chief Scout's Silver Awards and one Chief Scout's Gold Award. These awards represent a considerable amount of commitment from our young people, supported by their families and section volunteers.

The range of opportunities offered across the Group has been exceptional. Activities have included water sports, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, paddleboarding, rafting, scuba diving, climbing, caving, high ropes, archery, air-rifle shooting, fencing, hiking, navigation, fire lighting, camp cooking, axe and saw work, gardening, community projects and survival skills.

Our young people have also attended residential experiences at the Scout Hall, Leslie Sell, Phasels Wood and other campsites. Camps have included indoor Christmas camping, District camp, survival activities, summer camps and preparations for a week-long Scout camp that will include a visit to Brownsea Island, the birthplace of Scouting.

The programme has extended well beyond traditional outdoor activities. Young people have visited the National Space Centre, local churches, libraries and wildlife centres. They have taken part in sessions covering communication, home safety, international awareness, first aid, local history and engineering. Guest speakers have included a beekeeper, a battlefield tour guide and the Chief Engineer from the Airbus Mars Rover project.

Community involvement has remained an important part of our programme. Members have taken part in the Remembrance Parade, St George's Day celebrations and promise renewals at St Peter's Church. They have planted hundreds of bulbs, completed litter picking and maintenance work at Boyd Field, supported fundraising events and contributed to the wider local community.

One particularly encouraging development has been the increasing cooperation between our sections. Cheyenne and Sioux Cubs have attended camps and events together, while the Scout troops have worked more closely to offer joint activities and share leadership support. This cooperation strengthens the experience available to our young people and helps our volunteers use their time and skills more effectively.

There have been several changes within our volunteer teams during the year. We have welcomed new adult volunteers, Young Leaders and former Scouts returning to support the Group. It has been especially encouraging to see young people who have benefited from Scouting begin their own volunteering journeys.

We have also said goodbye, or temporarily farewell, to a number of valued volunteers due to university, family, work and other commitments. I would like to thank every volunteer who has stepped down or moved to another role for everything they have contributed.

Some sections continue to experience pressure because of limited volunteer capacity. Sioux Cubs has been particularly reliant on regular parent helpers and support from volunteers across the wider Group. The willingness of volunteers to step across section boundaries has allowed activities to continue that may otherwise have needed to be cancelled.

Volunteer recruitment and retention will therefore remain one of our most important priorities for the coming year. We need additional people who can support weekly meetings, camps, administration,

practical activities and occasional events. Volunteering does not always require a weekly commitment, and there are many ways parents, former members and supporters can become involved.

I would like to thank every Section Team Leader, Section Team Member, Young Leader, parent helper and occasional volunteer. The programme described in these reports represents thousands of hours freely given by people who believe in the value of Scouting.

I would also like to thank our parents and carers. Your support with transport, equipment, badge work, events, fundraising, camps and volunteering enables us to provide opportunities that would not otherwise be possible.

Most importantly, I would like to congratulate our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. They have embraced new experiences, overcome fears, developed new skills and supported one another. Their enthusiasm remains at the centre of everything we do.

Looking ahead to 2026–2027, we will continue to strengthen cooperation across the Group, develop our volunteer teams and provide a varied programme that balances traditional Scouting skills with new and exciting experiences. Planned activities include further camps, outdoor adventures, community projects, section visits and participation in the Bigg Birthday Bash celebrating 40 years of Beaver Scouts and five years of Squirrel Scouts.

It is a privilege to serve as Group Lead Volunteer for such an active and committed Group. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this another successful year for 1st Arlesey Scout Group.

Yours in Scouting,

Stuart McGuire
Group Lead Volunteer
1st Arlesey Scout Group

1st Arlesey Scout Group
Treasurers Annual Report 2025–2026

This year we decided to move our year end from 31st March (almost in line with the tax year) to 31st December to align with the calendar year, therefore please bear this in mind when comparing any figures to the previous year(s) as this year does not represent a full 12 months

Income

Subscriptions

Subscriptions remain unchanged this year at £12.50/month. All subscriptions are collected online via OSM.

A total of **£14,772** in subscriptions was collected this financial year. This income to the Group was offset by the payment of our membership fees of **£83.00** to the Scout Association.

Fundraising

A total of **£4,741** was raised through a variety of fundraising events. Fundraising activities provide valuable funds to run the group and provide activities for our young people and helps us to keep subscriptions and the cost of camps and events as low as possible.

Rental Income

We have a small number of long-term rentals of the Scout Hut that generated **£1,574** of rental income.

Expenditure

Premises

Maintenance costs for the Scout Hut and grounds totalled £1,071 this year This year **£29,401** was spent on camps and youth activities.
Neckers/Badges

£1,436 was spent on neckers, woggles, badges and handbooks.

Net receipts for the year

The accounts show an operating profit of **£7,739** for this financial year. However due to the short (9 month) financial year some major expenses are not included in the figure.

Yours in Scouting,

Chris Livermore
Treasurer of the Board of Trustees
1st Arlesey Scout Group

1st Arlesey Beavers Annual Report
2025 - 2026

It has been another fantastic year for 1st Arlesey Beaver Colony, with our 24 Beavers enjoying an exciting programme full of adventure, learning, and fun. Every week our Beavers have challenged themselves, developed new skills and created lasting memories while building friendships and confidence.

This year has also seen the introduction of our new Beaver Leadership Team: led by Rachel (Bubbles), supported by Carrie (Moose), Vanessa (Raven), Lerryn (Willow) and Josh (Robin), alongside our fantastic Young Leaders and parent volunteers. As a team, we have worked hard to build on the success of the colony, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm while continuing to provide a varied, exciting, and safe programme for all our Beavers. We would like to thank everyone especially Paulette and Andrew for their support throughout the year as we settled into our new roles.

We are currently a thriving colony of 24 Beavers, running at full capacity. Throughout the year we have proudly invested 15 new Beavers into Scouting, helping them make their Beaver Promise for the first time. We also celebrated our older members moving on to Cubs, ready for the next stage of their Scouting adventure with Cheyenne or Sioux Cubs.

Our Year of Adventures

Autumn Term

We kicked off the year straight with plenty of fun and meaningful activities! We held a spooky Halloween party full of games, crafts, and fancy-dress fun. Later in November, we joined the local Remembrance Parade, where our Beavers behaved beautifully and showed profound respect as we remembered those who have served our country. We also got to grips with our very first Scouting skills – learning how to tie basic knots, which took lots of patience and practice! To finish the term, we got stuck into our community, planting hundreds of spring bulbs around the local area to bring colour to our neighbourhood for everyone to enjoy.

Camping continues to be one of the highlights of the Beaver year. During the winter we held a memorable Christmas Camp, where the Beavers transformed the Scout Hall into an indoor campsite by pitching their tents inside the hall. They enjoyed a full festive programme, shared a traditional Christmas dinner together, and celebrated the season with their Beaver friends.

Spring Term

We started the new term with lots of hands-on learning and celebration! We marked Founder's Day, learning all about our founder Lord Baden-Powell and the story of how Scouting began – plus we could not miss the traditional fun of making and flipping pancakes! We also enjoyed a special visit to St Peter's Church, learning more about our local community.

We started working towards our Gardening badge, getting our hands dirty as we planted our own potatoes to look after and watch grow. We also headed outdoors for our Easter egg hunt hike – searching for treats along the way while enjoying fresh air and exercise together.

A real highlight of the term was joining Beavers from across the district for the fantastic Teddy Bears' Picnic at Boyd Field, a wonderful day full of games, friendship, and fun!
Towards the end of the term, we joined the whole Scout Group for our St George's Day service at St Peter's Church, where we renewed our Beaver Promise together in an incredibly exceptional group celebration.

Summer Term

As the weather brightened, we made the most of outdoor learning. Our Summer Camp was another enormous success and was particularly special as it was the first camp for many of our new Beavers and several members of the leadership team. The weekend was packed with adventure, including hikes, water games, an outdoor cinema experience and plenty of opportunities for the Beavers to develop their independence and teamwork. It was wonderful to see every Beaver embracing the experience with such enthusiasm.

Achievements

The hard work and enthusiasm shown by our Beavers has been reflected in their achievements. This year they earned an impressive 170 badges, recognising their commitment across a wide range of activities and challenges. We were especially proud to present five Chief Scout's Bronze Awards – the highest honour available in the Beaver section – celebrating the dedication of those who completed their full Beaver journey.

None of this would be possible without our fantastic team of volunteers. We would like to thank all our leaders, Young Leaders, parent helpers, and supporters for giving their time, energy, and encouragement throughout the year. Your commitment allows us to provide such an exciting and varied programme every week.

Finally, we would like to thank all our Beaver families for their continued support. Whether helping at camps, volunteering at events, sending in items for badge work or encouraging your children to try new experiences, your support is appreciated.

We are incredibly proud of everything our Beavers have achieved this year. Looking ahead to 2026/27, we have lots more adventures planned, including more outdoor trips, visits to local groups and even more opportunities to learn and grow. We cannot wait to see what the next Scouting year will bring!

Looking Ahead to 2026/27

We have so much to look forward to in our next Scouting year! Most excitingly, we will be joining in the Bigg Birthday Bash – a special district celebration at Boyd Campsite on Saturday 26th September 2026. This party marks two huge milestones: 40 years of Beaver Scouts, and 5 years of Squirrels! It promises to be a brilliant day of fun and festivities for everyone.

We are also busy planning more outdoor adventures, badge work challenges, group visits and plenty of opportunities for our Beavers to keep learning, growing and making new friends.

Yours in Scouting,

Rachel Snelling (aka Bubbles) and the 1st Arlesey Beaver Team
1st Arlesey Beavers

1st Arlesey Cheyenne Cubs Annual Report
2025 – 2026

1st Arlesey Cheyenne Cubs have had another awesome year, still going from strength to strength.

We kick-started September 25 with our ever-enthusiastic leadership team, with myself at the helm, assisted by Assistant Cub Leaders; Badger (Tasha Davis), Ziggy (Jo Eatock-Musk), King Louie (Andrew Hall) and our fantastic Section Assistant Siobhan right alongside me and our amazing continuing Gold D of E volunteer Emily.

The adventures begin with a fantastic water activity day at Luton Hoo where our cubs got to try their hand at kayaking, sailing, rafting, canoeing and stand up paddleboarding. Then, 5 days later we had a great District camp at Leslie Sell campsite where we joined forces with Arlesey Sioux cubs and made rope, whittled, polished up our map reading skills, cooked our dinner on fire pits, slept in shelters and much more. The remainder of our Autumn/Winter term saw us joining many other groups within the district on a trip to the Space Centre, hiking, football training with ATFC and rifle shooting.

November was a very special month for us. Siobhan (Dizzy) decided she wanted to join our leadership team in an official role, so we eagerly invested her during our visit to the library. We also invested our D of E volunteer Emily (Mowgli) as she loved doing her DofE with us so much, she decided she wanted to become a leader, and we also welcomed Evie to Cheyenne Cubs in a Young Leader role as she finds her feet in preparation to become an adult leader towards the end of 2026. All have become valued members of our leader family, and we look forward to Evie's investiture.

We bounced 2025 out with a Christmas Party with Sioux Cubs and leaders at Gravity in Stevenage.

January 2026 and Cubs are celebrating 110 years of Cub Scouts…
Our first half term of the year saw us complete the Communicator, International, Home safety and Chef badge with the help of our parents. No February Scouting calendar would be complete without pancake making and marking the birthday of our Founder Lord Baden-Powell
.
With the weather very changeable during January and February, we focused on badge work inside the hut. Mother's Day gave our Cubs an opportunity to bring their mums to Boyd Field for a floral clue solving scavenger hunt.

Towards the end of March we took the Cubs on our annual indoor camp. This was held at Phasels Wood Activity Centre. There were 45 young people altogether including Sioux Cubs and Arlesey Scouts. Cubs did rolling rock climbing, Cresta run, High ropes and team challenges. This was a great camp and truly showed how brave our cubs can be when faced with their fears.

As we settled into our Spring term we were very lucky to be able to take part in a whole Scout Group service at St Peter's Church for St George's Day. This was our opportunity to come together and renew our Cub Scout promise. A very important part of our Scouting year.

Cubs then really got stuck into our outdoor scouting making the most of the Great British weather. Cubs completed their Community Impact badge over at Boyd Field where they weeded, cleaned, litter picked, washed and swept whatever was needed. Over the next couple of weeks Cubs tried their hand at archery, tent pitching, fire lighting, caving, Climbing wall and First aid.

At the end of April, we said farewell to Siobhan (Dizzy) as she stepped back from Cubs due to other commitments. Siobhan has been sorely missed since she left, and we continue to wish her well and again thank her for her time and commitment to Cheyenne Cubs.

Cheyenne Cubs held a fantastic birthday camp at our hut to celebrate our 110 years; this was organised by our awesome leader Tasha (Badger). We incorporated a sponsored hike on the Friday

night to raise funds for our own group and help towards new toilet facilities at Boyd, benefitting us all. It was a very relaxed camp as we were lucky once again to be blessed with fantastic weather. Lots of badge work completed for all of our attending cubs.

Father's Day gave our Cubs the opportunity to invite their dads/father figures to join them on our pond dipping evening where the pleasant weather and lighter evenings made for a very enjoyable evening for all, if not a tad wet for some. Our Cubs did great catching fish, shrimp and cray fish.

We see June out with a hike around Langford Wind Turbines finishing with a well-deserved portion of chips.

Our last session in our programme will take us to Herrings Green Bird of Prey Centre for an exciting evening with the Owls.

We don't finish there though, we are also super lucky to be able to attend a water activity day at Stewartby on 18th July where our Cubs will take part in kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, rafting and more.

It is with much sadness and gratitude that we say farewell and a massive thank you to our lovely Assistant Cub Leader Emily (Mowgli) as she leaves us to begin her university journey. Emily has been a much-valued part of the Cheyenne leadership team and it won't be the same without her. We wish her lots of fun filled fabulous adventures and of course lots of studying and I'm sure we will see Emily when she comes home for visits.

Wow what another amazing 12 months it's been…
We have kept Cub numbers at a great level this year (24), running at full capacity with a waiting list. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing leadership team who are all here with the same goal in mind, to give our cubs the best experiences and opportunities.

Total number of badges awarded… 548
Total number of investitures… 10
Total number of Chief Scout Silver awards… 3

Thank you…
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with Cheyenne Cubs this year, especially our Cheyenne Assistant Cub Leaders, Tasha, Jo, Andrew and Emily and Siobhan and our awesome Young Leader Evie. Our pack wouldn't run half as efficiently and funny without you.

Thank you to all our parents for your support, I know our WhatsApp chat can sometimes be a tad overwhelming but it's all a part of the running of a busy, enthusiastic, amazing group. The programme wouldn't run so smoothly without you there helping the Cubs with whatever we need them to bring in.

Thank you to all of those that have supported our fundraising this year. The Summer fayre, Mulled wine and BBQs again were a huge success.

Thank you to our parent helpers, whether you've helped at any of our sessions, camps or donated equipment, your help is invaluable and hugely appreciated.

Yours in Scouting,

Paulette Reid (aka Akela) and the 1st Arlesey Cheyenne Cubs Team
1st Arlesey Cheyenne Cubs

1st Arlesey Sioux Cubs Annual Report
2025 – 2026

Another great year for Sioux cubs following on with our traditions of being outside as much as possible and focusing on the core scouting skills.

Badges

Over the past year we have presented 436 badges
On top of this we have also presented 8 Silver awards.

Our Year of Adventures

Activities over the last year have included but not limited to, Luton Hoo water day, District camp, shooting comp and space centre visit, Xmas party at gravity, remembrance Sunday, Phasels Camp and St Georges service.

We've also enjoyed several hikes, usually rounded off with well-earned pizza or chips. Our visit to Therfield Heath for an evening of map-reading practice was another lovely outing.

We also had two very special guest speakers, Andre the honeybee man was a fantastic evening, not to mention the great evening with the chief engineer from the Airbus Mars Rover project.

As a change to the norm, instead of Jamie's Pre-Remembrance Day history lesson, this year we had his friend Jules (a battlefield tour guide) drive over from Suffolk to do an evening's presentation on tanks during the Great War. For all three presentations Sioux cubs were a pack to be proud of.

Activities held on a normal cub night included the likes of portrait painting, robot wars, bridge building and as always cooking, the cream tea night was not slimming world friendly.

Cub numbers during the year are slightly lower than previously, this will be the impact of only having one Beaver colony feeding into two cub packs. We currently have 20 cubs with space for 4.

On the leader front we have had lots of movement so have been very dependent on parent help. A big thank you has to go out to those regular parent helpers; you know who you are and your help has enabled us to run evenings when we may have had to cancel.

A big thank you also to all the leaders in 1st Arlesey Scout Group, many have stepped in to assist when required, Sioux leaders have always helped out other groups when required and it is lovely to see that in our time of need this has been reciprocated.

Sioux Team Update

Jamie stepped back in March and can now be found over at Henlow Air Cadets but will still be seen on odd occasions to lend a hand if needed. Jo has taken the Akela Woggle with Richard also still a Sioux leader. Bradley and Carol have both stepped back and we would like to pass on a big thanks also for all your help with Sioux cubs.

This clearly shows that going forward we will be on the lookout for future leaders and most definitely parent helpers to enable us to give the very best cub experience we can.

Please speak to Jo or Richard if you can assist.

Yours in Scouting,

Jamie Reid (aka Akela) and the 1st Arlesey Sioux Cubs Team
1st Arlesey Sioux Cubs

1st Arlesey Yellow Devil Scouts Annual Report
2025 – 2026

This has been another busy year for our Yellow Devils Troop and we have seen continued growth in the independence and confidence of our Scouts in completing a variety of tasks both on their own and with other Scouts. After a few years of feeling quite "top heavy" in terms of the number of older Scouts in our troop, we are now completely the opposite with two-thirds of our Scouts aged just 10 or 11 - this has posed some challenges but we have a good bunch of Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders and are looking at the situation as a good opportunity to refocus on some basic Scouting skills..

Another particularly pleasing development has been how we have been coordinating much more closely as a leadership team across both of our 1st Arlesey Scout Sections. This has led to a better experience for our volunteers and also a better range and quality of events for our Scouts, as we aim to run most of our non-troop night events as joint events.

Notable achievements

Had three Scouts complete their Expedition Challenge Award, involving a largely independent hike and camp, which is always a really gratifying milestone to see as a Leader; and
One Scout completed a Chief Scout's Gold Award, the highest award possible in the Scout Section (and we have several more likely to complete the award before the end of this calendar year).

This has all been supported by our great joint Scout Section leadership team and by a great group of Young Leaders.

Programme

We have focused on two main things: (1) having the Scouts spend as much time as possible working together as Patrols, outside; and (2) rebuilding some traditional Scouting skills. Alongside this we've included some great new experiences. For example, over the last year our Scouts have tried or had the opportunity to try:

Scuba diving;
Independent hikes (without leaders present);
Fencing;
Cooking on gas stoves and on fires;
Building a giant catapult/ avoiding an escaped tiger;
Problem solving and team building skills;
Kite making;
Axe and saw work;
Wide games including making our own "ghillie cloaks";
Air-rifle shooting and archery; and
Navigation skills

Leaders

Our troop couldn't run without our leaders, every one a volunteer, and I am exceedingly grateful for all that they do. Every member of the team brings something new and we work together very well. It is a privilege to be able to work with our Scouts and if you have ever considered volunteering in any capacity, I'd encourage you to go for it!

At the end of last year it was particularly pleasing to see two of our former Scouts join us as (newly!) adult leaders, and at the end of this year we have two former Scouts come back to join us as Young Leaders - I am excited to see what they will bring to the troop!

Finally, I also want to thank our Scout parents, many of whom have given up one or more evenings (sometimes very late evenings!) to support our activities. We couldn't carry out our programme without this.

Looking forward

This year our numbers have stabilised due to a lot of new joiners (mostly young people who have been invited by their friends to come and try us out) and also due to intakes from our Arlesey Cub sections re-starting. During this time we will continue to build our patrols and will look to run some more smaller-scale camps to build confidence and to work on traditional Scouting skills like campfire cooking and navigation.

Once again, my sincere thanks to our Leaders, our Scout parents, and to our Scouts for all doing their parts for a brilliant Scouting year.

Yours in Scouting,

Gareth Rowlands and the 1st Arlesey Yellow Devil Scouts Team
1st Arlesey Yellow Devil Scouts

1st Arlesey Halifax Scouts Annual Report 2025 – 2026

This has been another busy and successful year for Halifax Scout Troop, with a varied and exciting programme that has provided our Scouts with opportunities to develop new skills, challenge themselves, and create lasting memories.

Throughout the year, we have taken part in a wide range of activities. Highlights have included a Monopoly Run around London, a water activities day, and a self-organised survival camp, where our Scouts put their outdoor and teamwork skills into practice. We are also looking forward to our week-long summer camp, which will include a visit to Brownsea Island the birthplace of Scouting where the troop will spend one night camping. Alongside these events, we have enjoyed many other evenings and activities that have continued to support the personal development of our young people.

The troop continues to grow and thrive. We now have 43 Scouts regularly attending Halifax Troop, supported by a fantastic leadership team of 9 adult leaders and 4 Young Leaders who give their time and enthusiasm each week. Their commitment is invaluable and helps us deliver a safe, enjoyable, and adventurous programme for all our members.

While we have not had any Scouts achieve their Chief Scout's Gold Award this year, this reflects the current age profile of the troop. Following the four Scouts who achieved the award previously, the majority of our current members are younger and are still progressing through their Scouting journey. We look forward to seeing many of them work towards this prestigious award over the coming years.

Thank you to all our leaders, Young Leaders, parents, volunteers, and supporters for their continued commitment throughout the year. Their support enables Halifax Troop to continue providing exciting opportunities and adventures for our Scouts, and we look forward to another successful year ahead.

Yours in Scouting,

Ryan Hughes and the 1st Arlesey Halifax Scouts Team
1st Arlesey Halifax Scouts

1st Arlesey Archers Annual Report
2025 – 2026

It has been another successful year for Arlesey Archers, with our members continuing to develop their skills, enjoy new experiences, and achieve excellent results in competition.

Membership

Our current membership consists of:

- **4 Cubs**
- **14 Scouts**
- **5 Explorers**

It is encouraging to see young people from across all three sections taking part in archery, and we look forward to continuing to grow the group over the coming year.

Activities

In September, we held our annual **Welcome Competition Camp**, providing both new and returning members with an enjoyable start to the scouting year. The weekend offered a great opportunity for everyone to get to know one another, develop their skills, and take part in friendly competition. Unfortunately, the **National Scout Archery Competition** did not take place this year. Rather than miss out, we organised our own dedicated **Archery Weekend**, which proved to be a fantastic success.

Members took part in shooting at **10 yards**, **20 yards**, and **field archery**, with the field course featuring targets designed by the young members themselves. Their creativity and enthusiasm helped make the event both challenging and enjoyable.

Throughout the year, we have held **seven meetings**, giving our young members regular opportunities to improve their archery skills while working safely and confidently.

Competitions and Achievements

Our Scouts represented 1st Arlesey Archers at the **District Big Shoot Competition**, where they achieved an outstanding set of results:

- **1st Overall**
- **1st in Archery**
- **1st in Rifle Shooting**
- **4th in Tomahawks**
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The individual performances in the archery competition were particularly impressive, with our members securing **1st, 2nd, and 3rd places**, demonstrating the high standard of shooting within the unit.

Thanks

These achievements would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteer leaders, instructors, helpers, parents, and supporters. Thank you to everyone who has given their time and encouragement throughout the year.

Most importantly, congratulations to all of our Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers for their enthusiasm, commitment, and excellent sportsmanship. We look forward to another successful year of archery and scouting together.

Yours in Scouting,

1st Arlesey Archers Leadership Team
1st Arlesey Archers

BIGG SHOT SCOUTS COMPETITION

MARCH 2025

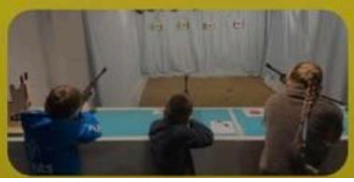
OVERALL





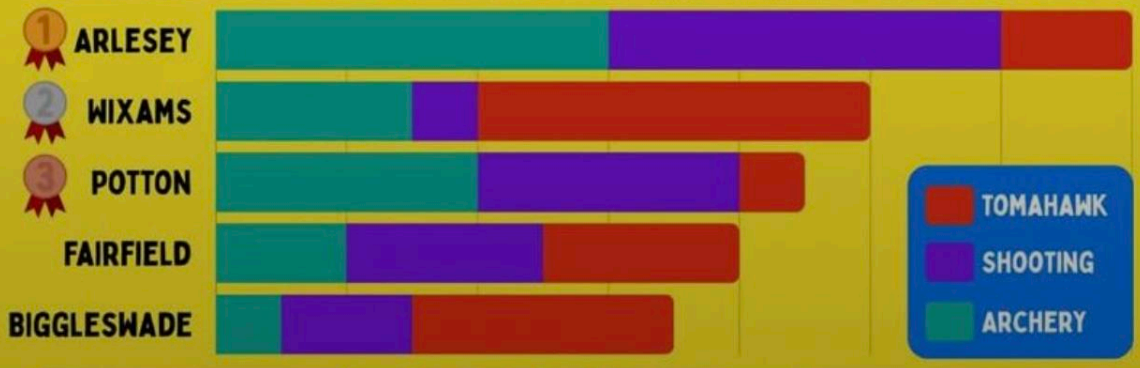












1st Arlesey Dambusters Explorers Annual Report
2025 – 2026

Prepared by the Leadership Team (and mostly translated from teenage grunt to English)
The Dambusters Explorer Scout Unit continues to thrive, meeting on Thursday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, primarily operating out of Arlesey Scout Hut.

We welcome any young person aged 14 to 18 from across the District who has a taste for adventure, a tolerance for damp socks, and a desire to learn how to cook something other than pot noodles.

Skills for Life: Running the Show

Our core mission is preparing these "nearly-adults" with genuine Skills for Life. We are proud to report that over the last year, our Explorers have taken part in planning their own activities and taking responsibility. The ultimate goal? By the time they turn 18 and we kick them out into the real world, they should be able to look after themselves and thrive.

The Young Leader Powerhouse

We currently have a number of incredible Young Leaders actively supporting the Arlesey and Stotfold groups. They are a massive asset, showing up week in, week out often several evenings each week to pass on their scouting knowledge to the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts. I think the other section leaders will agree they are a big asset.
To recognise young leaders, they can be awarded The Young Leader Belt. We are hoping a number of the young leaders complete their belt this year in time for the county awards ceremony. There is a great sense of pride seeing them receive the awards.

We've had a busy calendar of adventure over the past year. Here's a quick rundown of what we got up to:

- **Summer Camp 2025 – Botany Bay (Wye Valley):** We traded the traditional comforts of home for the slopes of the Wye Valley. It was a brilliant week of hiking, kayaking, site seeing and chilling on a quiet campsite.
- **Water Activity Day:** A great success, mostly measured by how many leaders we managed to soak.
- **Chip-Shop Hikes:** Navigational skills are always remarkably sharp when there is battered cod waiting at the end of the route.
- **Arlesey Summer Fete & The AGM:** You may have heard the explorer band at the summer fete and if you crossed the surprisingly sturdy monkey bridge at the AGM, you have our pioneering Explorers to thank for that engineering masterpiece.

The Next Horizon: A New Era of Scouting

The Scout Association recently published the **brand-new Explorer badge and programme structure**. We are incredibly excited to announce that we will be officially adopting and transitioning to this new programme over the coming months.
It's modern, incredibly youth-shaped, and aligns perfectly with our hands-on, skills-for-life approach. Expect to see some shiny new badges on sleeves very soon!

Join the Circus (We Need You!)

We are actively searching for **Explorer Leaders** to join our team. If you have a sense of humour, a bit of spare time, and want to help support teenager-shaped humans as they develop character and confidence, please get in touch. They are a fantastic, witty, and charming bunch to work with (and occasionally do exactly what we ask them to do).

A massive, heartfelt thank you to the team keeping the wheels on the wagon: **Josh Dodds, Jake Livermore, Josh Winter, Harry Domingo and James.**

Yours in Scouting,

Chris Dodds
14-24 Team Lead Biggleswade District
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1st Arlesey Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account

		Period start date			Period end date	
For the period	**From**	**01/04/2025**		**To**	**31/12/2025**	

Receipts and payments

		31/12/2025			31/03/2025	
		Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**		**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**
		£	**£**		**£**	**£**
Receipts						
Donations, legacies and similar income						
Membership subscriptions		**14,772**			**19,657**	
Less:Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Are		**83**			**-9,233**	
Less: Membership Subscriptions Refunded						
Net membership subscriptions retained		**14,855**			**10,424**	
Donations					**1,000**	
Legacies						
Youth Programme and Activities		**21,583**			**25,845**	
Gift Aid		**3,248**			**2,018**	
Other similar income		**51**				
Sub total		39,737			39,286	
Grants						
Maintenenace grant		**-**			**-**	
Other grants						
Sub total		**-**				
Fundraising (gross)		4,741			11,577	
Other fundraising activities						
Sub total		**4,741**			**11,577**	
Investment income						
Bank interest		**-**			**-**	
Building Society interest		**-**			**-**	
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		**-**			**-**	
Property Rent income		**1,574**			**1,374**	
Less: Deposit Refunds						
Net Property Rent Income		**1,574**			**1,374**	
Other investment income		**-**			**-**	
Sub total		**1,574**			**1,374**	
Total Gross Income		**46,052**			**52,237**	
Asset and investment sales, etc.						
Total receipts		**46,052**			**52,237**	**-**

		£	£		£	£
Payments						
Charitable Payments						
Youth programme and activities		**29,401**			**34,116**	
Group donation to Explorers Section					**500**	
Activity Refunds		**250**			**860**	
Adult support and training		**70**			**275**	
Rent		**-**			**-**	
Water and Sewerage		**468**			**624**	
Waste Collection		**416**			**217**	
Electricity and Gas		**1,071**			**1,673**	
Telephone and Internet					**-**	
Insurance		**1,108**			**1,372**	
Bank Charges (GoCardless)		**1,417**			**1,812**	
Repairs and Renewals		**1,071**			**3,952**	
Materials and equipment		**562**			**3,131**	
Printing and photocopying					**24**	
Web Hosting and Online Services		**218**			**241**	
Contribution to camp costs						
Badges, Woggles and Neckers		**1,436**			**2,700**	
AGM and trustee expenses		**439**			**443**	
Charitable Donations		**105**			**105**	
Subscriptions Refund						
Sundries						
Sub total		38,032	-		52,045	-
Fundraising expenses		281			15	
Other fundraising costs						
Sub total		**281**			**15**	
Total Gross Expenditure		**38,313**	**-**		**52,060**	**-**
Asset and investment purchases, etc.		**-**			**-**	
Total payments		**38,313**	**-**		**52,060**	**16,540**
Net of receipts/(payments)		**7,739**	**-**		**177**	**16,540**
Cash funds last year end		**19,937**			**19,760**	
Cash funds this year end		**27,676**	**-**		**19,937**	**-**

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/12/2025		31/03/2025	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
	£		£	
Cash funds				
Bank current account	24,647		16,284	
Bank deposit account	-		-	
Pre-Paid Cash Cards (for camps)	2,832		3,207	
Building society account	-		-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-		-	-
Cash/Floats	197		447	
Total cash funds	27,676	-	19,938	
Other monetary assets				
Tax claim	-		-	
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-		-	
Insurance claim	-		-	
Sub total	-		-	
Investment assets				
Investment property - detail	-		-	
Quoted investments	-		-	
Other investments - detail	-		-	
Sub total	-		-	
Non monetary assets for charity's own use				
Badge stock	-		-	
Shop stock	-		-	
Other stock	-		-	
Land and buildings	-		-	
Motor vehicles	541		982	
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	2,678		4,754	
Other	-		-	
Sub total	3,219		5,736	
Liabilities				
Accounts not yet paid	-		-	
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-		-	
Subscriptions not yet paid	-		-	
Loan - detail	-		-	
Other liabilities	-		-	
Sub total	-		-	

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on XXXX 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name	
	SARAH COLLEY	Chair
C. M/n	CHRISTOPHER LIVERMORE	Treasurer