Scouts

6th Medway




# Annual Report 2025-2026

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# The Charity

6th Medway Towns Group Scout Council is a registered charity in England and Wales: 294917. The Scout Group is established under the rules common to all groups within the Scout Association. The governing documents are those of The Scout Association, which consist of the Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the By-Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association.









# Make all the difference.

## Help young people in Medway step up and dream big.

6thmedwayscouts.org.uk/form-contact_us

#SkillsForLife

Scouts

6th Medway

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# Meet the Trustees

The following trustees held positions during the period of this report from our 24/25 AGM held on 13/09/2025:

| Trustee Name | Position |
|---|---|
| **David Albiston** | Chairman |
| **Elliott Reid** | Treasurer |
| **Matthew White** | Group Lead Volunteer (Ex-Officio) |
| **Jane Albiston** | Secretary |
| **Thomas Reid** | Trustee |
| **Hannah White** | Trustee |
| **Gail Couchman** | Trustee |
| **Violet Jones** | Trustee |
| **James Knight** | Trustee |
| **Suzanne Bull** | Trustee (Co-Opted after the 24/25 AGM) |

# Section Reports

## Trustee Board

The reporting year 25/26 has proven to be another extremely busy year for the group as we continue to grow.

The census data showed growth, enabling the group to deliver an engaging and varied programme to young people aged 4-14 years old. This was the first full year of our Squirrel Drey, bringing our section count to 6 which would not be possible without our supportive volunteers.

The group have continued to undertake development projects throughout the hut to ensure the building is fit for our future generations of scouts!

Looking forward to the next year we are looking to continue to grow the group by opening an additional scout troop, squirrel section and explorer scout unit to deliver the full 4-18 year old programme to young people in Lordswood. If anyone is interested in helping out with this, please reach out to enquiries@6thmedwayscouts.org.uk and we will help make this happen!

As always, a huge thanks to the Group Leadership Team, Group Trustees, all of the parents, carers and young people. Without the commitment and enthusiasm, the Group would not be able to exist as we do today. We would also like to take the time to say a huge thank you to Jean Chandler for her exceptional support over the 14 years as group Treasurer and wish her all the best in her new District roles. There are still plenty of opportunities for anyone who wishes to give a little extra to ensure the next year is even more successful.

**- Group Trustee Board**

# Group Lead Volunteer

I am delighted to report that the past year has been another one of real achievement and positive change for the 6th Medway Scout Group.

A highlight of the year was the successful refurbishment of our Scout Hut. The project gave the inside of the building a fresh, modern look while staying true to the theme and character our young people know so well — creating an even better space for them to learn, grow, and adventure in.

We also proudly opened our first 6th Medway Squirrels group, bringing Scouting to 4 and 5 year olds for the very first time. The response has been fantastic: the section filled every available place and now holds a long waiting list, a clear sign of the appetite for Scouting among the youngest members of our community.

Our growth has continued at pace. For the second year running, we received the Bronze Growth Award, reflecting that more than 10 new young members who joined our sections this year. This sustained increase reaffirms that the appeal of Scouting, outdoor adventure, and life-skill development remains as strong as ever in Medway.

None of this would be possible without the continued dedication of our adult volunteers and supporters. As our sections have grown, so too has our team, and I want to sincerely thank everyone who gives their time, energy, and skills to make these achievements possible. It is their commitment that allows us to deliver high-quality, memorable experiences to our young people week in, week out.

Looking ahead, we are building on this momentum. With our first Squirrels group now thriving, we will be exploring opportunities to expand Squirrels provision further to meet demand from our waiting list. We will also continue to invest in our facilities and volunteer base to ensure the Group is well placed to welcome even more young people in the year ahead.

We are also excited to announce plans to host our very first Jon's Camp in 2026. This special camp will be held in memory of one of our former Chairmen, who generously gifted the Group funds to make it possible, and will be a fitting tribute to his contribution and legacy within the 6th Medway family.

Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to the Group's success this year. I look forward to your continued support as we build on these achievements together.

**- Matthew White (Group Lead Volunteer)**

# Squirrel Team

From exploring new places to meeting some very special visitors, our Squirrels have had a fantastic year of fun, discovery and adventure. It has been wonderful to watch our youngest members grow in confidence, try new things and learn through play and exploration. Every week has brought something different, and our Squirrels have certainly made the most of it!

Our Squirrels have enjoyed getting out of the meeting place and exploring the world around them. We had a fantastic time visiting the allotment, where we got to discover more about where food comes from, explore the growing spaces and get stuck into some hands-on activities. We also enjoyed a visit from Mable, our therapy dog. This was a lovely opportunity for our Squirrels to spend time with a very special four-legged visitor and learn about being calm, kind and gentle around animals.

We also headed to the skatepark in Rochester, giving our Squirrels the chance to explore somewhere new, burn off some energy and have lots of fun together. Another highlight was our visit to Rochester Airport, where the Squirrels had the opportunity to learn more about aviation and see the airport in action. It was a fantastic experience and certainly gave everyone plenty to talk about afterwards!

A huge thank you goes to all of our Squirrel leaders and helpers for the time, enthusiasm and effort they put into making every meeting special. Running Squirrels is all about allowing our youngest members to try something new, build confidence and have fun, and none of this would be possible without the amazing team supporting them.

Most importantly, a huge well done to all of our Squirrels!
You have had a fantastic year, and we have loved watching you learn, explore, make friends and grow in confidence. We can't wait to see what adventures the next year brings!
Well done, Squirrels! What a brilliant year!

**- Squirrel Team**

# Beaver Team

What a fantastic year it has been for our Beavers! It has been a busy year packed with adventures, new experiences, creative challenges and lots of fun. Our Beavers have thrown themselves into everything we've done, and it has been fantastic to watch their confidence grow along the way.

Buckmore Park has been a particular favourite this year, with plenty of opportunities for our Beavers to get outdoors and get stuck in. We've put up tents, taken part in scavenger hunts, toasted marshmallows and cooked sausages. We even ventured underground for some caving at Buckmore, giving everyone the chance to try something a little different.

We've been working towards a number of badges throughout the year, including the Health and Fitness and Cook badges. There has been plenty of cooking and creativity along the way — from making shortbread biscuits for our Scottish-themed evening to decorating cakes.

Our Beavers have also been busy making lots of wonderful crafts for Mother's Day and Father's Day, as well as creating poppies for our Remembrance Day poppy reef.
We learned about water safety, including a brilliant visit from the RNLI, who came along to talk to us about staying safe around water. MAST (Medway Active Support Team) joined us for an evening of rope making, giving our Beavers the chance to learn a completely new skill and have a go themselves.

None of this would be possible without our fantastic Beaver leaders and helpers.
A huge thank you to everyone who gives up their time, energy and enthusiasm to plan activities, run meetings, organise adventures and, most importantly, support our young people. Your dedication makes such a difference and is very much appreciated.

And finally, a massive congratulations to all of our Beavers! You have worked incredibly hard this year, taken on new challenges, learned new skills and shown so much enthusiasm for everything we've done. From camping and caving to cooking, crafting and learning about staying safe, you've certainly packed a lot into the year!
You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves.

Here's to another year of adventures, laughter, learning and fun!

**- Beaver Team**

## Cubs Team

What an amazing year it has been for our **Cub Packs!**

It has been a year that has seen lots of new Cubs join us, while some of our older Cubs have moved on to the next step of their Scouting journey. Along the way, we've enjoyed so many adventures both in and away from the hut, tried new experiences, taken on creative challenges and, most importantly, had lots of fun!

**Buckmore Park** is always a firm favourite of ours. We've enjoyed some fantastic times there this year, including our Easter Egg Hunt, toasting marshmallows around the campfire and, of course, cooking sausages over the fire.

Another of our yearly favourites in Army Pack is our **Father's Day/Special Person Day**, when parents/guardians/carers join their Cubs for an evening of den building followed by a sausage sizzle. Although judging by the enthusiasm, we're never entirely sure whether the Cubs or the adults enjoy the den building more!

Our **Summer Camp** also took place at Buckmore Park this year, where we joined up with the Marine Cubs for another great adventure together.
We've made plenty of visits to **Lower Grange Farm** too, enjoying activity days as well as evenings of shooting and climbing. And, of course, we couldn't forget the Lower Grange Farm Christmas Party!

Throughout the year, our Cubs have worked towards a number of badges, including personal challenges, external activities, creativity and pioneering ; these are only a few. Every badge represents something new learned, attempted or achieved, and it has been wonderful watching their confidence and skills grow. There has been plenty of creativity along the way too! Our Cubs have made some wonderful crafts, including snow globes, taken part in science experiments and created poppies for our special **Remembrance Day poppy poem**.

We also held an evening focusing on **anti-bullying**, which went down really well and gave the Cubs an opportunity to learn and talk about an important subject.
Then there was our **Army Christmas sleepover at the hut** – another evening filled with fun, friendship and plenty of memories!

Every January, we join packs for our annual trip to the **Christmas Panto** at one of our local churches. It is always an evening filled with laughter and audience participation – **oh yes it is!** And that is still only a small part of everything our Cubs have experienced throughout the year.

None of it, however, would be possible without our **amazing leaders and helpers**.
A huge thank you to everyone who gives up their time, energy and enthusiasm to plan activities, run meetings, organise adventures and, most importantly, support our young

people. Your dedication makes such a difference and is very much appreciated.

And finally, a **massive congratulations to all of our Cubs!** You have worked incredibly hard this year, taken on new challenges, learned new skills and shown so much enthusiasm for everything we have done. From camping and climbing to crafting, pioneering and learning how to keep yourselves and others safe, you have certainly packed a lot into the year!
We have watched you try things you've never done before, overcome challenges, help one another and grow in confidence along the way. You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves. We certainly are.

Here's to another year of adventures, challenges, friendship, laughter and making memories together!

**- Cub Team**

## Scout Team

The 6th Medway Valhalla Scouts currently has 27 members – 17 boys and 10 girls – ranging in age from 10½ to 14 years old. We're delighted to see a steady flow of Cubs moving up into Scouts, which is a great sign for the future of our group.
Over the past year, we've been busy with badge work. In total, we've awarded 180 badges – although whether they've all been sewn onto uniforms is another matter! Some of the badges earned include: Local Knowledge, Communicator, Craft, Digital Citizen, Digital Maker, Meteorologist, Model Maker, Navigator, Chef

Currently, the Scouts are working towards their Personal Challenge Badge.
We've taken part in several District events, including Arrowhead, Troop Night, and the Conker Bash– where Scouts battled valiantly with conkers and only a few fingers were mildly bruised in the process. We'll be back again this year, ready to defend our honour (and our conkers).
Our Scouts proudly represented the group at the St George's Day Parade in Rochester and the Remembrance Parade, where they made the wreath themselves – something they'll be doing again this year.

Activities have been varied and exciting. At Buckmore Park, the Scouts enjoyed caving, shooting, fire lighting, and den building– basically everything that makes parents nervous and Scouts excited. We also visited Moat Park, where they took part in kayaking and pedaloing, earning their On the Water badges and thankfully, no one ended up *in* the water unintentionally. In addition, they've completed several hikes.
In August, we took 17 Scouts to Belchamps Activity Centre in Essex for a full week of adventure. Activities included: Climbing, Archery, Shooting, Caving, Bouldering, Orienteering, Tomahawk throwing, Circus skills

Most night ended with a campfire, and one evening we even had an outdoor film night Scouts trying to stay awake after a day of non-stop action. The highlight? Our Scouts won the camp talent show – surprising the leaders and proving that acting, singing, and interpretive dance are alive and well in Medway.
Midweek, we hiked to the local train station, boarded a train to Southend, and walked to Adventure Island. The Scouts – and a few brave leaders – had a blast on the rides. I, however, stayed firmly on the ground, clutching my coffee and dignity. After a full day of thrills, we stopped at McDonald's for dinner – ordering 22 meals in one go, which felt like a military operation. We returned to camp tired.

We were especially proud of the Scouts when members of the public commented on how polite and well-behaved they were – both at McDonald's and on the train. It's moments like these that remind us why we do what we do and why we carry on
Looking ahead, we've already planned activities right up to Christmas. There's plenty more fun, learning, and memory-making to come
So let's continue to have fun, learn new skills, and build lasting memories – one badge, one campfire, and one slightly chaotic McDonald's order at a time.
**- Scout Team**

# Charity Commission Trustee Annual Report

**Reporting period: 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026**
Details on charity achievements and performance are detailed in the various reports on page 3 onwards.

## Charity Details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Registered Charity Name:** | 6th Medway Scout Group |
| **Other names the Charity is known by:** | N/A |
| **Registered Address:** | Phoenix Hall<br>Hatton Road<br>CHATHAM<br>Kent<br>ME5 8BD |
| **Registered Charity Number** | 294917 |
| **Email** | enquiries@6thmedwayscouts.org.uk |
| **Website** | www.6thmedwayscouts.org.uk |

## Trustees

| Trustee Name | Position | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| David Albiston | Chairman | |
| Elliott Reid | Treasurer | |
| Matthew White | Group Lead Volunteer (Ex-Officio) | |
| Jane Albiston | Secretary | |
| Thomas Reid | Trustee | Appointed at 24/25 AGM on 13th September 2025 |
| Hannah White | Trustee | Appointed at 24/25 AGM on 13th September 2025 |
| Gail Couchman | Trustee | Appointed at 24/25 AGM on 13th September 2025 |
| Violet Jones | Trustee | Appointed at 24/25 AGM on 13th September 2025 |
| James Knight | Trustee | Appointed at 24/25 AGM on 13th September 2025 |
| Suzanne Bull | Trustee | Co-Opted after 24/25 AGM |

## Governance

**6TH MEDWAY SCOUT 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. The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The **Group Scout Council** is responsible for providing management, and support to sections

across the group as well as events and activities. The members of the Group Trustee Board are charity trustees of the Scout Group and are appointed under POR through nomination or election at the AGM, they serve for one year and are eligible for re-election or re-appointment if so willing. Other trustees may be co-opted during the year to serve until the next AGM as see fit by the Group Trustee Board.

**The 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.

This Board exists to support the Group Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of their role and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment
- The safety of all volunteers and young persons
- Risk management and mitigation
- Appointing any sub-committees that may be required

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

## 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

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.

# Finance

## Report

The accounts are for the period 01/04/2025 – 31/03/2026. These accounts have been prepared and audited in accordance with The Scout Association rules and are submitted alongside the Trustee Report to the Charity Commission.

The group have had a busy year once again, with lots of activities. The sum at the end of the year also includes camp funds for the following year so is slightly inflated compared to the actual income.

The group has kept our membership fees the same throughout the year at £25 every two months.

To support the charity, we share our building with two groups whose contributions help us to maintain the building, pay the essential bills and ensure we put as much of our subs back into the young people as possible. These groups are.:

- A group that cares and supports people with disabilities
- New life in Christ

## Reserve 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 the sum of £20,000 in reserve to allow for 12 months of running costs (Membership Capitation Fees and building running/maintenance costs).

At the closing of accounts for the financial period, the charity held £14,817 in our savings account. This is below the £20,000; however, can be explained due to the group having increased operational expenditure for running and maintaining the hut. The group have now moved to an online payment system, which will help the group ensure payments are received on time and allow us to claim gift aid more easily. We are on track for having our reserves in place for the 26/27 reporting year.

## Investment Policy

The Group's Income and expenditure are relatively low and consequently, do 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.

The Group Trustee Board monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the Group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements.

# Receipts and Payments Account

| | 2025/2026 | 2024/2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
| | £ | £ |
| **Receipts** | | |
| **Donations, legacies and similar income** | | |
| Membership subscriptions | 15,496 | 11,344 |
| Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District) | - 6,930 | - 4,885 |
| Donations | 389 | 528 |
| Youth Activities & Camps | 9,994 | 5,955 |
| Membership fees rebate | | 168 |
| Gift Aid | 1,924 | - |
| Sale of Uniforms/ teeshirts | 485 | 404 |
| **Sub total** | 21,357 | 13,514 |
| **Grants** | | |
| Refund of Gas/electricity | - | 127 |
| Other grants | - | - |
| **Sub total** | - | 127 |
| **Fundraising events (gross)** | | |
| Group Fund raising | 595 | 1,560 |
| Detail 2 | - | - |
| Detail 3 | - | - |
| Other fundraising activities | - | - |
| **Sub total** | 595 | 1,560 |
| **Scout hut income** | | |
| Donations for use of Building | 9,686 | 6,715 |
| Hire of equipment | - | - |
| Other Scout hut income | - | - |
| **Sub total** | 9,686 | 6,715 |
| **Investment income** | | |
| Bank interest | 177 | 184 |
| Building Society interest | - | - |
| The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service | - | - |
| Other investment income | - | - |
| **Sub total** | 177 | 184 |
| | | |
| ***Total Gross Income*** | 31,814 | 22,100 |
| | | |
| **Asset and investment sales, etc.** | - | - |
| | | |
| ***Total receipts*** | 31,814 | 22,100 |
| | | |
| **Payments** | | |
| **Charitable Payments** | | |
| Youth programme and activities | 11,574 | 5,270 |
| Adult support and training | 29 | 100 |
| Premisies costs | 4,204 | 3,714 |
| | - | |
| Utilities | 4,406 | 3,561 |
| Insurance | 2,715 | 2,639 |
| Repairs and Renewals | - | |
| Materials and equipment | - | - |
| Printing and photocopying | - | - |
| Contribution to camp costs | - | - |
| Uniforms and Badges | 1,628 | 1,490 |
| AGM and trustee expenses | - | 113 |
| Bank charges and Stripe fees | 627 | 424 |
| Group expenses | 599 | 84 |
| Internet and Website | 394 | 369 |
| **Sub total** | 26,176 | 17,764 |
| **Fundraising expenses** | | |
| Detail 1 | - | - |
| Detail 2 | - | - |
| Detail 3 | - | - |
| Other fundraising costs | 112 | 1,141 |
| **Sub total** | 112 | 1,141 |
| | | |
| ***Total Gross Expenditure*** | 26,288 | 18,905 |
| | | |
| **Asset and investment purchases, etc.** | - | - |
| | | |
| ***Total payments*** | 26,288 | 18,905 |
| | | |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | 5,527 | 3,195 |
| **Cash funds last year end** | 14,756 | 11,561 |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 20,283 | 14,756 |

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

| | 31st March 2026 | | 31st March 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted funds | | Unrestricted funds |
| | £ | | £ |
| **Cash funds** | | | |
| Bank current account | 5,253 | | 5,090 |
| Bank deposit account | 14,817 | | 9,641 |
| Building society account | - | | - |
| | - | | - |
| Cash/Floats | 212 | | 25 |
| **Total cash funds** | 20,283 | | 14,756 |
| (agree balances with receipts and payments account) | ok | | ok |
| **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 | - | | - |
| Scouting equipment, furniture etc | - | | - |
| Other | - | | - |
| **Sub total** | - | | - |
| **Liabilities** | | | |
| Accounts not yet paid | - | | - |
| Expenses incurred but not invoiced | - | | - |
| Subscriptions not yet paid | - | | - |
| Loan - detail | - | | - |
| Other liabilities | - | | - |
| **Sub total** | - | | - |
| | | | |
| **Total net assets** | 20,283 | | 14,756 |

**The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 12th September 2026 (the date of the Trustee Board meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by**

| Signature | Print Name |
|---|---|
|  | DAVID ALBISTON Chair |
|  | ELLIOTT REID Treasurer |

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 6th Medway Scout Group (Charity no 294917)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 6th Medway Scout Group for the year ended 31st March 2026.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 6th Medway Scout Group 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 6th Medway Scout Group 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 examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 6th Medway Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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*:* *G J Hancock*

Name: G J HANCOCK

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: 120 Taverners Road,
Rainham, Kent ME8 9AQ

Date: 16/06/2026