Flitwick Scout Group

Celebrating Scouting in Flitwick since 1910

Charity No. 300454

Chair, Group Scout Leader and Section Reports for Year ending 2025
Presented at AGM in May 2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2025 was another exceptional year for Flitwick Scouts; full of energy, achievement, and visible progress. We are incredibly proud of the continued enthusiasm and engagement of our Young People, supported by a fantastic team of Leaders and volunteers. We were pleased to welcome new Leaders and adult volunteers in 2025, bringing fresh energy and ideas. With their support, we're continuing to offer a vibrant and varied programme of activities and camps across all sections and explore the possibility of opening additional sections to offer even more young people in the area the chance to join Scouting.

Behind the scenes, our efforts to repair the existing hut and progress with the planning of a new hut continue to be a key focus for the Trustee Board. Our fundraising efforts remained strong with a number of successful events and generous support from the local community. This work will be crucial as we continue to build towards our long-term development goals.

As always, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our adult volunteers, both in uniform and behind the scenes. Your time, enthusiasm, and dedication are what make Flitwick Scout Group such a vibrant and successful part of our community. Here's to another great year ahead.

Jonathan Smith

GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER REPORT

As always, I would like to say an enormous thank you to all our Volunteers, Leaders and Trustees for their continued hard work and dedication. Adults and young people alike have had ample opportunity to have fun, learn new skills and build relationships. Our young people continue to engage with a rich and varied programme of activities, and challenge themselves to push their own limits. All groups continue to run at or near capacity and we continue to recruit new volunteers to join our Scouting community, but, we're always looking for more support if you're interested in helping young people directly, or carrying out background jobs!

We are incredibly proud of our contribution to various local community events. The Remembrance Day celebrations were attended by 137 young people and over 30 adult volunteers. We were well represented at various Icknield District events, as mentioned in Section Reports, and we joined the worldwide Scouting community through the Trail Jam hike and Jamboree on the internet.

Our young people took part in a number of amazing camps, as outlined below, but one of the highlights was the participation of nine of our young people at the World Scout Jamboree Selection camp. Four of those young people will join Scouts from around the world at a camp in Poland, and are now frantically fundraising for the event. A number of the other young people overcame their disappointment and decided to work towards an alternative camp in Sweden. We are incredibly proud of them all. What a display of initiative, resilience and teamwork.

Our Adult Volunteers continued to learn new skills to pass on to our Young People as well as earning well-deserved Awards themselves. A huge number of young people earned challenge and activity badges as well as Acorn (Squirrels), Bronze (Beavers), Silver (Cubs) and Gold (Scouts) Awards as well as one young adult achieving the Kings Award.

My sincere thanks to all of you for your continued ambition and support!

Yours in Scouting,
Darren Reeve

TREASURER'S REPORT FLITWICK SCOUT GROUP

Flitwick Scout Group remains solvent and in a good financial position. Leaders and the Trustee Board manage spending well and there are good financial processes in place.

This year was a normal operating year. Net income was £24,131.77. Significantly boosted by two annual gift aid applications £16k, fundraising £5k and grants £8.6k. Membership fees per month have remained constant in this FY at £15.00, despite increasing costs of living. This represents excellent value for money for parents and careers with regards to what they get out of the Group's activities.

This year saw a good fundraising effort by the fundraising committee. This raised a reasonable sum for the group to aid upgrades to the Scout Hut and we look to further this in the coming years. Income from hall hire remained fairly constant year on year, the booking secretary continues to work hard to balance external hirers and group use of the hall. Trustees hope that investment in the hut will encourage an increase in external hires where Group activity permits. This year was not a family camp year so income from events was lower.

Expenditure fell slightly year on year due to a reduction in venue maintenance costs, a credit balance on our utilities account, and a lack of family camp.

We are actively looking at reducing the number of bank accounts held within the group to reduce workload and increase centralisation of cash. We now have one Beaver, one Cub and one Scout bank account and are looking to reduce this further by closing the Scout account. This is in addition to the main Group account, Investment account and Subscription account. We have this year employed the active policy of moving funds into a higher interest bearing account to improve how the Scout Group uses its cash balances efficiently.

Looking to the future, we would seek to increase fundraising for further hut redevelopment having now secured the longer term lease on the land on which the Scout Hut resides. Continued good management of the Scout Groups funds are essential for this and I would seek buy in from all members of FSG to facilitate this.



During 2025 we had a fantastic and busy time in both Squirrel Dreys. We welcomed new members and saw all of our Squirrels grow in confidence, independence and teamwork.

Throughout the year, the Squirrels worked extremely hard earning a range of activity, challenge and staged badges, not forgetting a blanket badge or two aswell.

We are proud of the Squirrels who gained their Acorn Award.

We celebrated Squirrel Appreciation Day by making pine cone squirrels, completed our staged 1 musician badge having fun with lots of musical instruments.

For the first time we earnt the staged 1 Digital maker and Digital citizen, the squirrels enjoyed talking about passwords and staying safe online and also looking at their digital footprint. For the craft they drew around their foot then drew picture of the things they do online.

We enjoyed trips away from the hut, going to Manor Park, completing a History comes alive walk, a welly walk around Greenfields, completing shape rubbings as we went round.

For our Marvel camp blanket badge, we studied Black Panther and made Kimoyo beads. We had lots of fun for Internation Robin Hood day with an Archery competition.

As the nights got darker we loved using the compound for camp fires, silly songs and hot chocolate.

We celebrated all our hard work at the ended the year with a party.



Our planning is done jointly before the beginning of each term. During the year we worked towards numerous Challenge and Activity Badges with a number of Beavers achieving their Bronze Award.

During Spring Term we celebrated Chinese New Year - great fun doing dragon dances! We had a visit from the Reptile Road Show and went to Climb Quest. Pancakes were eaten, gifts made for Mothering Sunday and we hunted for Easter Eggs in Flitwick Woods.

Summer Term saw us making VE Day decorations, lighting fires and making s'mores, building dens in the woods, making gifts for Father's Day and ending the term eating ice cream and playing at Ampthill Park. We joined with the group for the TrailJam in May and in June a number of the Beavers attended Group Camp - a first camp for many.

Autumn Term began with us painting the bottom of plastic bottles to make them look like poppies; these were then used to decorate the front of the Scout Hut for Remembrance. We visited the Parish Church, planted bulbs to sell at the Friday morning coffee at the village hall. We had a sleepover at ClimbQuest and attended the District STEM morning. We decorated baubles, made Christmas cards and decorated cookies with a Christmas theme. The term ended with all three colonies wearing something festive and playing festive games

As always, our thanks go to all the parents and carers who support us in all we do.



The Cubs and the leaders had another action-packed year in 2025.

From January to Easter, we had some indoor activities, which included working towards the pioneer badge, celebrating the very colourful Holi Festival, and a Judo taster evening presented by one of the Cubs, a Scout and their Dad. Away from the hut, we were lucky to have the opportunity to visit the Open University Observatory and the Planetarium at Bedford School, both of which were very interesting and informative, and covered much of the Space activity badge. February was the 80th anniversary of the Mosquito plane crash in Woodside Field, Flitwick, so after viewing the model displayed at The Rufus Centre, the three Packs were led on a walk to the crash site, and were given a talk about the field and crew of the plane.

During the summer term, we continued to enjoy the Great Outdoors; firelighting, backwoods cooking, earning the cyclist and athletics badges were the main activities. The Cubs also all had a wonderful evening at the newly opened Clophill Lakes and Cainhoe Castle in June, and enjoyed spotting the many varieties of wildlife at the site. Many of the Cubs attended Cub Camp at Henlow in July and had a great time! The Cubs also celebrated VE Day and finished off their Space badge.

September to December was equally busy. We concentrated on some activity badges; including Chef, Communicator and Global Issues (where we able to celebrate Toilet Day and had some great discussions about toilets - or lack of - around the world …. And poo….)! We also had an evening modelling clay, and a Hallowe’en film night. Closer to Christmas, we made some yummy chocolate reindeer cakes to sell at the Christmas Fair.

There were also many other actives outside of our weekly meetings that the Cubs had an opportunity to take part in. Many took part in TrailJam in May, Group Camp at Bromham in June, Cub Camp at Henlow at the beginning of July, back to Henlow for Summer Camp at the end of July, a District hike (in the rain) around Dunstable Downs - including a strenuous climb up The Hill of Doom - in September, and a Water Activity Day in September at Stewartby Lakes.

Again we were delighted to award a number of our hard-working Cubs with their Chief Scout’s Silver Award. Congratulations to all of them!

As always, we are very grateful for all the help, support and encouragement from parents and carers over the year.

Foxes’, Falcons’ and Tigers’ leadership teams

SCOUTS

Ruxox and Joey’s Scout Troops

Both sections started off the year for a couple of meetings inside, covering a wide range of topics such as wood carving, engineering, meteorology, as well as planning for future Scouting activities. During March about 20 Scouts slept in tents in the compound for the Great Tommy Sleepout, raising money for the Royal British Legion, where we also welcomed some RBL members to come and talk to the Scouts about what the organisation does.

The summer term started off with games, Trailjam/JOTT and preparation for Group camp which was well attended. Scouts also took part in some community engagement in Manor Park by clearing some of the river and making a bug hotel. Nearing the end of the summer

term, Scouts had a meeting at Climb Quest and prepared themselves to attend Summer camp.

Summer camp was very well attended (oversubscribed this year) and included a lot of activities at Boyd Campsite in Henlow. Scouts did archery, air rifle shooting, tomahawk throwing, paddleboarding, rafting, hiking and many more. In three patrols, Scouts took it in turn to put on an evening's meal cooking and entertainment, representing different countries.

After the summer break ended, Scouts were back with an early Water Activity Day, with 30 Scouts attending alongside 20 Cubs to take part in 5 different activities on the water at Stewartby lakes.

Shortly afterwards, Scouts were brushing up on their navigation, cooking and planning skills as some of our Older Scouts took part in a weekend expedition to Bromham that they planned and took on by themselves. As is usual with our expeditions, some of the slightly younger Scouts came along with leader guidance to take part in a practice expedition, ready for the next year.

The early Autumn term included a lot of preparation for district activities. While it was ultimately cancelled due to weather, Scouts were still prepared to take park in a backwoods cooking competition. A Glow Walk model was made by both troops and were displayed in Luton alongside many other models from other Scout and Guide groups in the district.

The next World Scout Jamboree will be in 2027 in Poland, and on October Bedfordshire County Scouts held a selection camp for 100 Scouts and Explorers keen to attend. Of those attending, we had 9 from Flitwick Scouts/Dauntless Explorer Scouts, of which 4 were selected to attend the Jamboree! Well done to all those who attended, and those who were selected.

Nearer to the end of October, Scouts enjoyed a Ghost Walk in the local areas, complete with stories to tell along the way. The remembrance parade was very well attended by the whole group, and was followed by our annual remembrance hike at Ampthill Park where Scouts learnt about the history of the involvement of Ampthill during the wars.

Green Beret, a Hertfordshire County Scout competition, was well attended with 140 total teams of 6, two of which make up of Flitwick Scouts. Having taken part the previous year, Scouts had a much better idea of what to expect and did well, with one team coming second place for the visitors trophy. With the help of three young leaders, we were able to give back to the competition with two day bases and one night base being run by the group. As a lot of the Scouts who attended this year will be too old to compete again, we expect there may be a larger interest in the now Explorer Scouts attending to help run day and night bases.

The year ended with our usual Christmas meetings – LEGO Masters, and a Christmas Light hike, prepared by one of the Scouts to view a large range of festively decorated houses.

During this year, ten of our Scouts have completed the Chief Scout Gold Award, the top award for the Scout section, which is a fantastic achievement – congratulations to all!

	2025	2024
Income		
Bank Interest	1,682.27	385.87
Donation	30.00	2,002.00
Events	13,403.07	16,553.06
Events - Beavers	1,858.50	36.00
Events - Cubs	0.00	1,409.59
Events - Scouts	1,490.00	1,683.58
Events - Squirrels	408.25	0.00
Fundraising	5,088.04	6,816.55
Gift Aid	16,646.70	0.00
Grants	8,625.00	11,384.03
Membership Fees	42,490.20	39,179.92
Rental Income	678.00	556.00
Uniform - Beavers	906.05	1,066.65
Uniform - Cubs	1,363.85	1,183.83
Uniform - Scouts	185.71	152.32
Uniform - Squirrels	499.39	630.05
Expense		
Activity Equipment	1,646.17	1,231.08
Admin	2,958.79	311.37
Badges	2,016.30	4,634.43
Bank Fees	1,721.67	1,650.32
Camping Equipment	261.60	0.00
Donations & Gifts	577.50	1,301.50
Events	13,248.45	15,262.16
Events - Beavers	1,780.24	0.00
Events - Cubs	661.00	3,342.22
Events - Scouts	1,621.70	2,425.62
Events - Squirrels	186.00	0.00
Fundraising	524.66	1,569.66
Hardship	0.00	230.25
Insurance	1,108.93	1,036.35
Meetings	0.00	25.00
Meetings - Beavers	3,034.31	2,402.15
Meetings - Cubs	1,236.09	694.54
Meetings - Scouts	414.14	1,268.11
Meetings - Squirrels	1,119.28	394.05
Membership Costs	15,663.00	11,300.50
Rates	60.63	21.61
Rental Income Refund	330.00	100.00
Training	0.00	558.25
Uniform	3,666.75	3,127.40
Uniform - Cubs	0.00	180.00
Utilities	1,003.00	1,292.98
Venue Maintenance	16,383.05	20,509.35
Account balances		
Joey's Scout Troop	3,190.33	382.29
FSG - Investment Account	134,470.39	135,788.12
FSG - Subs Account	48,051.02	32,546.51
FSG Main Account	15,530.55	7,432.79
Beavers	450.32	2,596.35
Cubs	2,189.14	1,003.92
Expense Account	108.92	108.92
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Summary		
Account balance brought forward	**179,958.90**	**171,788.35**
Total income	95,355.03	83,039.45
Total expenditure	71,223.26	74,868.90
Net income	24,131.77	8,170.55
Account balance carried forward	**204,090.67**	**179,958.90**

Flitwick Scout Group			
Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year			
		2025	**2024**
		Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
		£	£
Cash funds			
Bank current account		£69,411.36	£43,961.86
Bank deposit account		£134,470.39	£135,788.12
Expense Cards Account		108.92	108.92
Cash/Floats		100.00	100.00
Total cash funds		**£204,090.67**	**£179,958.90**
Other monetary assets			
Tax claim		£-	£-
Debts due to the Group		£-	£-
Insurance claim		£-	£-
Sub total		£-	£-
Investment assets			
Investment property - detail		£-	£-
Quoted investments		£-	£-
Other investments - detail		£-	£-
Sub total		**0**	**0**
Non monetary assets for charity's own use			
Badge stock		£-	£-
Shop stock		£-	£-
Other stock		£-	£-
Land and buildings		£341,826.00	£320,025.00
Motor vehicles		£-	£-
Scouting equipment, furniture etc		£63,822.00	£61,649.00
Sub total		**£405,648.00**	**£381,674.00**
Liabilities			
Accounts not yet paid		£-	£-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced		£-	£-
Subscriptions not yet paid		£-	£-
Loan - detail		£-	£-
Other liabilities		£-	£-
Sub total		**0**	**0**
Contingent liabilities and future obligations			
The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by			
Signature			
	Kathryn Singleton	Treasurer	Treasurer
	Jonathan Smith	Chairman	Chairman
Notes to the accounts			
1- Comparisons shown where applicable. The Scouting equipment is valued in 2008 with additional equipment added at cost			
2- The value of land, buildings and property were taken from the insurance valuation			

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: FLITWICK SCOUT GROUP

On accounts for the year ended: DEC 2025

Charity no (if any): 300454

Set out on pages: 1 + 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [ ] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 16/4/26

Name: W. J. POUGHER.

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: ACCOUNTANT (RET'D)