Scouts
King Alfred District

King Alfred District Scout Council

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

For year ended 31 March 2026

Registered Charity 300518

King Alfred District Scout Council

Annual Report of the district Executive Committee

For year ended 31 March 2026

Scout Registration Number **14813**

Charity Commission Number **300518**

Trustees:

District Chairman	Chris Harrison	
District Treasurer	Mark Turner	
Trustee	Peter Trafford	
Trustee	Paul Brame	
Trustee	Robert Cotter	

Treasurer contact name & address:

Mark Turner
The Cobb, Muster Point
Featherbed Lane
Wantage
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JF

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc
17 Market Place
Wantage
Oxfordshire
OX12 8AG

Main achievements and activities of the Trustees Board

The Census towards the end of this reporting period showed that the number of Young People (YP) in the District fell slightly from 746 to 725, a decline of about 3%. The fall is largely due to the closure of Hanney Scout Group (see below).

In setting the membership fee to be collected in the 26/27 financial year, we maintained the principle of determining the District element by setting a District budget and then dividing the total funding requirement across all the Young People in the District. This is done more accurately now by waiting until the census figures are finalised so that the calculation does not depend on predicting the census outturn as it did previously. The District budget has increased by less than 3% due solely to inflationary increases in key services. The fall in the number of Young People across the District however has resulted in a larger increase in the District element of the membership fee which has gone up from £8.79 to £9.61 (+£0.82, +9%).

The transfer of District Headquarters (DHQ) to Wantage Scout Group (WSG) a year ago continues to be considered a very good decision. WSG is mobilising significant resources for the site's maintenance, adaptation and investment and the District costs associated with ownership have been eliminated with no loss of use.

It is disappointing to report that due to lack of adult volunteering, Hanney Scout Group has had to close. The Leaders tried very hard to keep the Group going but with changes in personal circumstances this became unviable. All those that wanted to continue in Scouting have been taken on elsewhere, largely by Grove Scout Group and Wantage Scout Group to whom we are very grateful. Not all wanted to continue which represents the main contribution to the fall in District YP headcount. The formal closure process has now been completed and the assets handled in accordance with Scouts' policies.

Following the departure of Katharine Murkett and Steve Houseman, the search for a new District Lead Volunteer (DLV) or additional DLV Team members has not yet borne fruit. The County Lead Volunteer, Wendy Tatham, has been supporting Fiona Stovold and Nathan Reade as they valiantly maintain the key functions of the DLV Team and we are very grateful to Wendy for this and to Fiona and Nathan for their dedication. The search continues.

A special vote of thanks is due to Steve Houseman who continues in the role of WSG Group Lead Volunteer. Steve had two other significant roles in the District, leading Hanney Scout Group and serving as part of the DLV Team. Steve brought nothing but hard work, dedication and professionalism to these roles and we are immensely grateful to him for all he has done in these roles to the benefit of Scouting in the District.

The search for a new Chair of the District Trustee Board has taken a while but we are delighted that Brian Stovold has agreed to take on the role which he will do at the District AGM in June.

Signed Chris Harrison

Chris Harrison, District Trustee Board Chair

Notes to the Accounts for The King Alfred Scout District Council 2025-26

The annual Charity Commission Return for the 2024/25 year was completed and returned in November 2025

Provision has been made for the outstanding liabilities for the year ending 31 March 2026. These have been settled shortly after the end of the reporting period.

There are no endowment funds within the committee's management. The Stuart Rae fund is designated and carried forward from year to year.

The Scout District is made up of six Groups along with four Explorer Scout units: Goodlake ESU, Ridgeway ESU, White Horse ESU and the newly formed Shackleton ESU. The Hanney Scout Group closed late in the year bringing the number of Scout Groups at the end of the year to six. Membership income for the District, after settling the County and National components, was £7k for the 2025/26 year, almost the same as the previous year.

District level Scouting activities - Stuart Rae Challenge, District Canoes and District Patrol Camp 2025 each did not quite cover their costs during the year. The shortfall of £1,400 is planned to be reversed in 2026-27.

There was no grant income received during the financial year.

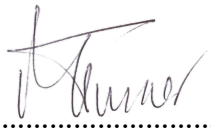
With the handing over of District HQ to Wantage Scout Group on April 1st 2025, there has been no income and only modest hand-over expenses relating to the Springfield Road buildings.

Risk & Reserve Policy Statement

Financial risks are reduced by the preparation and consideration of regular Receipts & Payments Accounts by the Trustees Board. Payments are made electronically and approved by two of the Trustees or by Direct Debit.

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District. The District Trustee Board considers that it should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £14k, which will be reviewed annually as circumstances change.

We are grateful to Domenic Grillo at Chapman Worth, for undertaking the independent examination of the accounts and providing helpful advice and comment.

Signed.....

Mark Turner, District Trustee Board Treasurer

Balance Sheet

King Alfred District Scout Council
As at 31 March 2026

	Account	31 Mar 2026	31 Mar 2025
Current Assets			
	Cash at bank and in hand		
	Community Account	4,149.26	18,539.29
	Total Cash at bank and in hand	**4,149.26**	**18,539.29**
	Accounts Receivable	22,621.35	37,242.13
	Prepayments and other debtors	49,662.50	48,863.00
Total Current Assets		**76,433.11**	**104,644.42**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	Accruals	56,629.75	61,096.34
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		**56,629.75**	**61,096.34**
	Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	**19,803.36**	**43,548.08**
	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	**19,803.36**	**43,548.08**
	Net Assets	**19,803.36**	**43,548.08**
Capital and Reserves			
	Current Year Earnings	(23,744.72)	(7,970.41)
	Retained Earnings	42,121.32	49,536.21
	Stuart Rae Fund	1,426.76	1,982.28
Total Capital and Reserves		**19,803.36**	**43,548.08**

Statement of Receipts and Payments

King Alfred District Scout Council

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	Account	2026	2025
Income			
	Membership		
	Annual membership	55,420.34	50,543.85
	District Headquarters		
	Rent - Scout use	0.00	8,345.00
	Rent - leisure activities	0.00	1,555.00
	Rent - other	0.00	960.00
	Total District Headquarters	**0.00**	**10,860.00**
	Activities		
	Activities: Beavers/Cubs	0.00	138.00
	Activities: District Patrol Camp income	2,047.50	0.00
	Stuart Rae Challenge	1,218.90	3,644.03
	Total Activities	**3,266.40**	**3,782.03**
	Miscellaneous income	0.00	219.50
	Activities: Canoeing trips	545.00	335.00
	Contribution to DHQ improvement	0.00	250.00
Total Income		**59,231.74**	**65,990.38**
Expenditure			
	Membership		
	Annual membership paid	48,863.00	43,257.50
	District Headquarters		
	Cleaning Contract	295.01	4,236.08
	Electrical maintenance	0.00	120.00
	Electricity	1,038.29	2,746.38
	Fire/heating system maintenance	0.00	1,317.27
	Gas	368.96	3,600.46
	General repairs	0.00	1,564.28
	Insurance and licences	882.16	2,713.13
	Scout Lodge electricity	(205.40)	402.00
	Telephone and broadband	429.74	1,079.25
	Water	15.45	620.64
	Total District Headquarters	**2,824.21**	**18,399.49**
	Activities		
	Activities expenditure	0.00	48.98
	Activities: Beaver/Cubs	0.00	565.00
	District Patrol Camp expenditure	2,568.90	0.00
	Stuart Rae Challenge expenditure	1,774.42	5,190.37
	Total Activities	**4,343.32**	**5,804.35**
	Other		
	District Executive expenses	5,866.84	5,706.20
	Miscellaneous	0.00	66.00
	Total Other	**5,866.84**	**5,772.20**
	Activities: Canoes & trailer	869.09	547.25
	DHQ improvements	20,000.00	0.00
	Website	210.00	180.00
Total Expenditure		**82,976.46**	**73,960.79**
	Surplus / (deficit)	**(23,744.72)**	**(7,970.41)**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the King Alfred District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the King Alfred District Scout Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out above.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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 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 charity 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.

Anna Chapman

Signed:

Name: Anna Chapman FCA
Relevant professional qualification: Chartered Certified Accountant
Address: Unit 2 The Old Estate Yard, High Street, East Hendred, Wantage, OX12 8JY

11 Jun 2026

Date:

Signable

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Parties involved with this document

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