Scouts
1st Gadebridge

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026

1st Gadebridge Scout Group

Registered Charity Number

302539

Website:

www.gadebridge-scouts.org.uk

Email address:

gadebridgescouts@hotmail.co.uk

Chair of Trustees Report

As we reflect on the past year, 1st Gadebridge Scout Group has continued to evolve and strengthen despite the challenges that naturally come with growth and change.

The success of the group is built on the commitment of our volunteers, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, skills, and enthusiasm throughout the year. Whether you are a long-standing volunteer, have recently joined the team, or have moved on to new opportunities, your support has played a key role in the development of the group. We are grateful for everything you have done to help make 1st Gadebridge what it is today.

As our membership and volunteer teams continue to grow, one of our key priorities has been to improve communication and ensure that we have a clear vision for the future. By working together and sharing ideas, we can continue to provide the best possible Scouting experience for our young people while supporting the volunteers who make it all possible.

We have also continued to invest in our facilities. Improvements to the Scout Hut have included new cooker, outside session area and the purchase of equipment to help maintain the building and grounds. These developments help ensure that our facilities remain safe, practical, and fit for purpose for current and future members.

Looking ahead, we remain ambitious for the future of the group. Fundraising will continue to be a major focus as we work towards further improvements, including the development of our open-sided extension to create additional space for activities and events. We are excited about the opportunities this will bring and look forward to seeing what can be achieved in the years ahead.

On behalf of the Trustees, thank you to all our volunteers, young people, parents, and supporters for your continued commitment to 1st Gadebridge Scout Group. Your support enables us to grow, improve and provide life-changing opportunities for young people in our community.

Please find attached the Annual Report for 1st Gadebridge Scout Group

Ben Whittle

Chair of Trustees

Group Lead Volunteer’s Report

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for joining us today.

As another successful year ends, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved together and to recognise the many people who make 1st Gadebridge Scout Group such a thriving and welcoming community. Our group continues to go from strength to strength, with 150 young people currently enjoying Scouting across our sections. This growth is a testament to the dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment of our volunteers, who give their time so generously to ensure that young people can access exciting opportunities, develop new skills and create lasting memories. As a charity run entirely by volunteers, every contribution makes a difference. Whether it is leading weekly meetings, organising camps and events, managing administration, maintaining our facilities, or supporting fundraising activities, the collective effort of our volunteers enables us to deliver high-quality Scouting experiences throughout the year. I would like to extend particular thanks to Alison, our Membership Coordinator, whose hard work behind the scenes ensures that families are supported and that the administration of the group runs smoothly. Her contribution is invaluable and often unseen, but it is essential to the success of the group. My thanks also go to Janette, our Treasurer, whose careful management of the group's finances helps safeguard our future and ensures that we remain in a strong position to continue serving young people for the coming years. I would also like to recognise Ben, our Chair, whose dedication, and leadership help guide the group forward. Alongside the wider leadership team, he works tirelessly to support our volunteers and create the best possible environment for our members.

Special thanks must go to all our Section Lead Volunteers and their teams across Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Their commitment extends far beyond the weekly meetings that parents see. Countless hours are spent planning programmes, organising camps, coordinating activities and ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to learn, grow and enjoy their Scouting journey. We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of our Young Leaders. Their enthusiasm, energy and willingness to help, provide a fantastic example to younger members and make a real difference within our sections.

Together, we continue to provide experiences that challenge, inspire, and develop our young people in ways that are often unique to Scouting. We remain committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment where every young person can thrive, while also preserving and improving our facilities for future generations. Thank you to every volunteer, parent, supporter, and young person who contributes to the success of 1st Gadebridge Scout Group. Your support is greatly appreciated and everything we achieve is only possible because of your continued dedication.

Thank You

Zoe Whittle

Group Lead Volunteer

Trustees

1st Gadebridge Scout Group is a Trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Trustees Serving on the Group to 19th July 2026

Name	Role	Term of Office
Mr Benjamin Whittle	Chairman	to July 2028
Mrs Janette Frewin	Treasurer	to July 2028
Mrs Zoe Whittle	Group Lead Volunteer	Ex Officio
Mr Dan Tucker	Elected Member	to July 2026
Mrs Tracie Green	Elected Member	to July 2028
Mr James Green	Elected Member	to July 2027
Mrs Ellie Pynaert	Elected Member	to July 2028
Mrs Jenny Ivory	Elected Member	to July 2026

Trustees elected at AGM on 19th July 2026

Name	Role	Term of office.
Mr Benjamin Whittle	Chairman	2 Years to July 2028
Mrs Zoe Whittle	Group Lead Volunteer	Ex- Officio
Mr Dan Tucker	Elected Member	1 Year to July 2027
Mrs Tracie Green	Elected Member	2 Years to July 2028
Mr James Green	Elected Member	1 Years to July 2027
Mrs Ellie Pynaert	Elected Member	2 Years to July 2028
Mrs Jenny Ivory	Elected Member	1 Year to July 2027

Bankers

Lloyds Bank, Hemel Hempstead, Herts

The Trustees confirm that during 2025/26 there were no serious incidents or matters which needed to be reported to the Charity Commission.

Signed for the Trustees By:

Chair of Trustees Board



Structure, governance and management.

Type of governing document

The 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.

How the charity is constituted

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. This document is known as Policy, Organisation & Rules (POR) and can be found at: www.scouts.org.uk/por.

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with POR.

Additional governance issues

The Group is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the 1st Gadebridge Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 4 Trustees (including the Group Lead Volunteer as an ex-officio member) and meets every approximately 2 months. Members of the Trustee Board complete "Being a Scouts Trustee" learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board. This 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."

Risk and Internal Control

The Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The principal areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property, and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property, and equipment from all users of the premises. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters, and members.

The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fund raising.

The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The Group does also hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders.

The Group is reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or to the group as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation, or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members.

The Group directly provides activities for all members aged 14 to 25. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation, or closure of a section.

Material mismanagement or loss

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include two signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Buildings & Contents Insurance

The buildings and contents are insured through Unity Insurance – details of which are obtainable via the Group Treasurer and a copy is at the hut.

Public Liability Insurance

The Scout Association arranges a Legal Liability Policy for claims by third parties, alleging legal liability arising out of loss, injury or damage occurring during any authorised Scout activity. A copy of the certificate and further details are available from the link below:
https://www.unityinsuranceservices.co.uk/scout-insurance/public-liability-insurance

Employers Liability Insurance The group does not directly employ staff, so does not hold an Employer Liability policy.

Objectives and activities

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.

Public benefit statement

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.

Financial Review Reserves 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 Group Trustee Board considers that the group should hold a sum of circa £25,000 in liquid funds – either in the current account or short term, easy access savings accounts. All funds are held in mainstream banks. The Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances, and the interest rates received to ensure we obtain maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements and a rolling programme of fixed term investments are made to ensure fund become available every few months to reinvest or bring back in the current account if required.

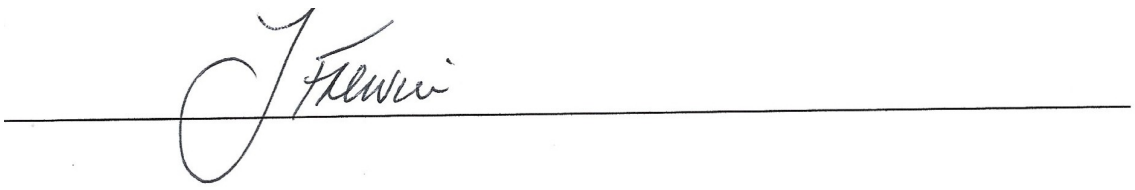
1st Gadebridge Scout Group

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

	2024-2025	**2025-2026**
Balance brought Forward from previous year	**£16,930.07**	**£14,993.37**
Total Receipts	£26,248.74	£34,783.94
Total Payments	-£28,185.44	£30,049.89
Net receipts/payments	-£1,936.70	£4,734.05
Balance carried forward	**£14,993.37**	**£19,727.42**
Cash, Bank & Deposit Account Balances	£14,993.37	£19,727.42

The Treasurer prepared the above accounts.

Mrs D J Frewin (Maat)



The above accounts were approved by the Trustees on 19th July 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Chair of Trustees



Notes to the Accounts.

1. Receipts and payments for group events include events which span two or more financial years, so cannot be used to draw any conclusions about the financial success of the group's programme. Reports on individual events can be produced by the group treasurer on request and are monitored by the treasurer and trustee board.
2. We have commenced hiring the hall to a business during term time during the day and this will hopefully, if successful, will increase our reserves and put us in the right direction to be able to do building works on the hut. Subscriptions and other charges have had to be raised, and we will have to fundraise to increase our reserves and fund the building works. There is a robust budget in place for 2026/27 which should stop the uncontrolled overspend of previous years.
3. The group has accounts with Stripe and Sum Up for handling card payments for activities – these are treated as bank accounts for the purposes of these documents.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the 1st Gadebridge Scout Group:

I report on the accounts of the 1st Gadebridge Scout Group for the year to 31st March 2026.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Group's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have been met.

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Name: KRISTY LEWINGTON

Signature: KLewington

Date: 10th July 2026