4th St Albans Scout Group

Registered Charity Number: 302569

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2026

Scouts
4th St Albans

4th St Albans Scout Group
Trustees' Annual Report
For the period: 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Section A - Reference and administration details

Charity name: 4th St Albans Scout Group

Registered charity number: 302569

HQ registration number: 10000769

Charity's principal address: Jim Green Memorial Hall, 25 Riverside Road, St Albans. AL1 1RX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Cameron Lavin	Chair	
Andrew Robins	Treasurer	
Ian Hamilton Woods	Group Lead Volunteer	
Kelly Drew		
Juliette Warren		
Renu Bansal		
Thomas Lutz		Appointed 29 June 2025
Alice Digby-Shipton		Appointed 9 July 2025

Section B - Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

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.

Section B - Structure, governance and management (continued)

How the charity is constituted

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees" of the 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.

During the financial year, the Trustee Board has consisted of the Chair, Treasurer and four to six Trustees (including one Ex Officio Trustee) and met formally every three to four months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete "Being a Scouts Trustee" learning within the first six 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 Group 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 main areas of concern that have been identified are:

- **Damage to the building, property and equipment.** The Group would seek to facilitate temporary use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such churches, community centres and other Scout Groups and / or could hold sectional meetings at outdoor locations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Section B - Structure, governance and management (continued)

Risk and Internal Control (continued)

• **Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.** The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

• **Reduced income.** The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and hall hire. The group does 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 and / or look for alternative sources of grants or other income.

• **Reduction or loss of leaders.** The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of all sections. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or 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 provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18 years. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the Group as 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.

Section C - 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.

Section C - Objectives and activities (continued)

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.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Scouts

Thursday and Friday Troops

This year has seen our Scouts continue to thrive, achieving 94 Challenge Awards and 6 Chief Scout's Gold Awards.

Outdoor adventure has been a key focus, with Scouts trying everything from flying and canoeing to hiking and cycling, from a trip to the snow dome to laser tag in the woods and orienteering. Meetings have focused on 'learning by doing' – a key part of the Scout method – with Scouts turning their hand to fire lighting, backwoods cooking, shelter building, learning knife and axe skills, building their confidence to enjoy camping at the spookily good Scarefest, an activity-filled weekend at Phasels Wood, our very own survival camp and the highlight of the term, a chippy hike complete with trip on the Abbey Flyer!

Scouts have continued to build their teamwork and leadership skills: working together to plan campsites, cook meals, and build go-karts; learning vital skills for life including first aid and water safety; and working as teams to challenge other patrols in wide games. They have also reflected on their Promise and what it means to be a Scout, remembered VE Day and learned to take care of their world by repairing, reusing and recycling and by community action including measuring river health and removing invasive species. Scouts have also showed their creative side with whittling, leatherwork, storyboarding their first films and lots of cooking!

Section C - Objectives and activities (continued)

Scouts (continued)

Thursday and Friday Troops (continued)

Scouting done well is youth lead - a particular highlight was a 'show and tell' evening where Scouts explained and demonstrated skills and hobbies to each other – so good they asked to run it twice! – with Scouts inspiring each other to try new things as demonstrated by the 168 activity badges they earned covering 27 different types. Our Scouts and leaders are all looking forward to the next year of adventure, fun and youth lead Scouting!

Cubs

Tuesday Pack

Tuesday Cubs have had a brilliant year.

In Summer 2025 the Pack made the most of the lovely weather and completed their Athletics and Athletics Plus badges and then also learned to find their way around with orienteering and navigation training, including a penny hike, where they flipped a coin at every junction to find our next direction and drew a map to keep track of their journey. The Pack rounded the term off with a sunny paddle boarding session and some of the Cubs enjoyed Summer Camp.

The Pack started back in September making a pizza oven out of a cardboard box and tin foil and managed to cook their own pizzas. They have also boiled pasta in tins, done pebble art and hidden the pebbles in their community. They have also completed their Home Help badge and raced stuffing duvets, learnt to knit and iron, made pancakes, made a Cubs Tapestry to mark the 110th anniversary of Cubs being established and have completed their Road Safety and Naturalist activity badges.

The Pack have also been working on covering Challenge Badges as part of the activities, learning about teamwork, personal challenges and their world amongst other things.

Wednesday Pack

The past year has been a busy and rewarding time for the Wednesday Cub Pack, with a balanced programme that fostered learning, creativity, and fun. Throughout the year, the 34 members met weekly and engaged in a wide range of activities, from learning about road safety, recycling, robotics, 3D printing and design technology to fire lighting and backwoods cooking. Various exciting meetings included games that encouraged team spirit and friendship, a visit to the De Havilland Aircraft Museum alongside activities like archery, orienteering, wide games, rifle shooting, tracking, crafts, cooking and tomahawk throwing. These sessions were designed to not only develop skills but also to enhance the Cubs' experience within the group.

Section C - Objectives and activities (continued)

Cubs (continued)

Wednesday Pack (continued)

The Cubs also enjoyed several memorable events throughout the year. The St George's Day parade provided an opportunity for the Cubs to showcase their pride in Scouting, while the annual Cub Funday at Gilwell Park delivered a day of games and fellowship. The much-anticipated Cub Camp allowed members to immerse themselves in outdoor activities, while Movie Morning offered a relaxing day filled with entertainment. Additionally, ring-sledging and bushcraft afternoons added to the variety, ensuring all Cubs could explore different interests. The pack has been shortlisted in the Varta battery recycling competition run by Scouts UKHQ (we await the results). The pack completed the Cubs Earth Tribe Award which saw the cubs learn about an environmental issue and take action on it through video media presentations. The cubs have learnt first aid gaining the level 2 Emergency Aid award. It's worth noting that twelve Chief Scout Silver Awards were presented, highlighting the dedication of Cubs in achieving this esteemed recognition alongside nearly 400 other badges and awards between them.

Thanks must go to our leaders, Mark and Louise, who will be moving on to Scouts. Their contributions have been invaluable, providing guidance and support to the Cubs throughout the year. Their efforts have truly shaped our programme and made a lasting impact on our members.

Looking forward, there are several exciting activities planned for the coming year, including Camp, the 110th Cubs birthday celebrations, a water activities day, Gilwell Park Funday and opportunities for more target sports, climbing and high ropes. These events promise to be engaging and fulfilling, ensuring that the Cubs continue to build on their experiences and skills.

As we close this chapter, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the children for their enthusiasm and spirit, which has made each session enjoyable. A special thanks also goes to the parents for their unwavering support, as well as the volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes and organising activities, making our Scouting journey possible. Here's to another year of adventure and growth in Scouting

Beavers

Monday Colony

It has been a fantastic year, packed with a huge variety of experiences spanning the outdoors, the arts, faith and culture, safety skills, sport, and lots of creative fun.

The Summer Term kicked off in style with an outdoor camp craft session and water fight in April, before settling into weekly Monday evening meetings. The term opened formally with a Welcome

Section C - Objectives and activities (continued)

Beavers (continued)

Monday Colony (continued)

Meeting – a chance to meet new leaders and Beavers, set expectations, revisit Beaver values, and get everyone sorted into their lodges (Ratties, Moleys, Toads, and Badgers).

Highlights of the term included a visit to the Alban Arena, giving the Beavers a fantastic behind-the-scenes experience of a real performance venue. They also took part in sessions with the Phoenix Model Flying Club, with the group split across two weeks to keep numbers manageable – those not flying got stuck into gardening at the hut instead. A trip to Heartwood Forest was a real favourite, with the Beavers exploring the woodland, observing nature, and building dens together to work towards their Explore badge.

The warmer weather was well used with two Water Games sessions, plus an introduction to touch rugby for Health & Fitness. The term wrapped up with a community-minded chippy walk combined with litter picking, and the rather thrilling addition of axe throwing – always a memorable session!

The Autumn Term brought a rich mix of creative, cultural, and safety-focused sessions. It got off to a creative start with a visit from local artist Lizzie, who led the Beavers through abstract art and collage making. Camp craft skills continued over two sessions, followed by an Outer Space Week that proved a big hit.

A particularly meaningful part of the term was a two-week focus on Judaism as part of the Faith badge. The Beavers learnt about the festival of Sukkot, made celebration cards, and were joined by a Rabbi who spoke with the group. The Beavers then wrote their own reflections, shared them with each other, made a reflection paper chain, and thought about how they could help others – a really thoughtful and inclusive set of sessions.

Creativity continued with a visit from book illustrator Caz, and the Beavers also learnt some basic British Sign Language. Animal care featured in the Animal Friends session, and safety skills came to the fore with a visit from the Fire Brigade, followed by a dedicated Fire Safety and Emergencies session. The term ended on a festive note with carol singing and a Christmas party.

The Spring Term was every bit as varied as those before it. The Beavers covered a wide range of skills – from learning how to call the emergency services and practising what important information to give in an emergency, through to basic first aid and fire drills. A very special visit from the Hertfordshire & Essex Air Ambulance was a real highlight, and the crew made a brilliant impression on the young people.

Section C - Objectives and activities (continued)

Beavers (continued)

Monday Colony (continued)

On the creative side, the Beavers tried litho print making, made paper flowers, and performed magic tricks. Sustainability was a key theme too, with sessions exploring how to reduce your environmental footprint, including a fantastic, preloved clothes swap that went down brilliantly. The term also included sessions on communication skills, looking after pets, and a Book Reader evening.

In summary, it has been an exceptional year for the Monday night Beavers. Across all three terms, the young people have had the chance to develop practical life skills, explore different cultures and faiths, get creative, enjoy the outdoors, and have a great deal of fun along the way. The leadership team are incredibly proud of everything the Beavers have achieved, and are grateful to all the volunteers, parents, and fantastic guest visitors who made it all possible.

Thursday Colony

Over the course of the year, the Thursday Beaver Colony has had around 20 Beavers and has continued to meet weekly during term time, delivering a varied and engaging programme shaped around the interests and feedback of our young people through our continued focus on the You Shape approach.

The weekly programme included a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities designed to help Beavers develop skills for life while having fun and building friendships. Sessions throughout the year covered topics such as Scottish culture, VE Day, gardening, road safety and the Green Cross Code, health and fitness, outdoor escape rooms, cycling, photography, local history, first aid, animal care, science experiments, UK Parliament Week, RNLI water safety, upcycling crafts, Chinese New Year celebrations, air activities, camp craft, and creative arts and games evenings. We also continued to welcome new Beavers and volunteers throughout the year, alongside investiture and swim-up ceremonies.

The Colony placed a strong emphasis on outdoor adventure and Nights Away experiences. Highlights included a hike to a local chip shop, exploring the River Ver, a visit to Pets at Home, bowling, a Ringo slide session at the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead, and our Beaver Winter Olympics themed session. A particular highlight of the year was our Beaver Survival Sleepover at the Scout Hut, which introduced many of our younger Beavers to their first overnight experience away from home in a safe and supportive environment, while also supporting one of our volunteers with their Nights Away Permit assessment.

The Thursday Colony also participated in several wider Scouting events including the St George's Day Parade (April 2025), Gilwell Fun Day (June 2025), Beavers in Tents camp (June 2025), and a

Section C - Objectives and activities (continued)

Beavers (continued)

Thursday Colony (continued)

joint Cub and Beaver Christmas movie morning (December 2025). Beavers in Tents was especially successful, with 18 out of the 20 Beavers in the colony able to attend.

Over the financial year, the Colony awarded 282 badges, including 4 Chief Scout Bronze Awards, recognising the enthusiasm, effort, and achievements of our young people.

The Colony has continued to benefit from a dedicated volunteer team and supportive parents, helping us provide a balanced, inclusive, and adventurous programme that encourages young people to gain confidence, make friends, and develop skills for life.

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.

Section D - Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As can be seen from the sectional reviews, the Group has continued to run and engage its young people throughout the year with all sections running a wide range of activities throughout their programmes.

The Group remains indebted to the efforts of all Section Leaders as well as parents, supporters and other volunteers who give time, skills and support to enable Sections to run so successfully and for the full and varied programme to be provided.

Section E - Financial Review

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy: The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group, including on-going repair and maintenance of the headquarters building and grounds should income from subscriptions, hall hire, fundraising activities and other income sources fall short.

Section E - Financial Review (continued)

Investment Policy: The Group's income and expenditure is relatively small and consequently the Group does 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 a mainstream bank (Barclays Bank PLC). The Group seeks to obtain maximum value and income from these banking arrangements through the use of both a current and interest-bearing deposit account.

Section F - Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods

The Group intends to continue to offer a full programme of activities, camps, meetings and events throughout the next financial year.

Section G - Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature		
Full name	Cameron Lavin	Ian Hamilton Woods
Position	Chair	Group Lead Volunteer
Date	28 June 2026	

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 4th St Albans Scout Group Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 4th St Albans Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 4th St Albans 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 4th St Albans 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 4th St Albans 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:



Nicolae Vleju

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

St Albans, Hertfordshire. AL4 0XH

28 June 2026

4TH ST ALBANS SCOUT GROUP

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH

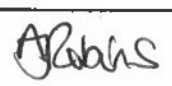
	RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	£	£	£	£
	2026	2025	2026	2025
SUBSCRIPTIONS				
Scouts	7,068	8,780	-	-
Cubs	7,372	8,074	-	-
Beavers	4,332	5,245	-	-
Membership Fee (capitation)	-	-	11,628	11,372
Subscriptions subtotal	**18,772**	**22,099**	**11,628**	**11,372**
SCOUTING ACTIVITIES				
Youth Programme & activities	12,948	12,775	17,082	13,246
Scout shop	50	-	2,658	1,173
Group clothing	448	459	361	632
Administration & training	-	-	350	292
Equipment	-	-	642	-
Scouting activities subtotal	**13,446**	**13,235**	**21,093**	**15,343**
OTHER SCOUTING				
Gift Aid (Note 1)	10,030	-	-	-
Interest received	931	663	-	-
OSM & Go Cardless fees	-	-	1,043	1,129
Other Scouting subtotal	**10,961**	**663**	**1,043**	**1,129**
SCOUTING NET RECEIPTS	**9,415**	**8,153**		
HEADQUARTERS				
Hire – Morris Men	795	833	-	-
Hire - OLRPS	11,161	11,298	-	-
Hire - Explorers	840	800	-	-
Hire - Other	370	172	-	-
Utilities	-	-	4,373	4,784
Maintenance	-	-	4,501	5,413
Insurance	-	-	1,746	1,717
Headquarters subtotal	**13,166**	**13,102**	**10,620**	**11,914**
HEADQUARTERS NET RECEIPTS	**2,546**	**1,188**		
TOTAL RECEIPTS / PAYMENTS	**56,345**	**49,098**	**44,384**	**39,758**
TOTAL NET RECEIPTS	**11,961**	**9,341**		

4TH ST ALBANS SCOUT GROUP

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH

	£ 2026		£ 2025
CASH FUNDS			
Barclays current account	1,131		15,601
Barclays deposit account	89,302		62,871
Cash Funds subtotal	**90,433**		**78,472**
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS			
Prepaid Youth Programme & Activities	1,556		-
Other monetary assets subtotal	1,556		-
NON-MONETARY ASSETS			
Land and Buildings (Note 2)	-		1
Non-monetary assets subtotal	-		1
LIABILITIES			
Accruals (Note 3)	(785)		(1)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**(785)**		**(1)**
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**91,204**		**78,472**

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 28 June 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature		
Full name	Cameron Lavin	Andrew Robins
Position	Chair	Treasurer

4TH ST ALBANS SCOUT GROUP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH 2026 AND 2025

NOTE 1 GIFT AID

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Group on eligible subscriptions and donations made by UK taxpayers. As an excepted charity, the Group is registered with HMRC to reclaim basic rate tax (25p for every £1 donated) on income where a valid Gift Aid declaration is held. Income is recognised in the accounts on a cash received basis.

The Group recovered Gift Aid for the financial periods from 3 March 2023 to 31 December 2025 during the financial year ending 31 March 2026.

NOTE 2 LAND AND BUILDINGS

The Group occupies land held under a charitable trust. Legal title to the land was transferred to the Scout Association Trust Corporation by a Conveyance dated 11 December 1970, to be held on trust for the benefit of the 4th St Albans Scout Group in accordance with an earlier Declaration of Trust. The property is subject to historical easements and covenants, including fencing obligations and third-party rights of access and development. The Scout Association Trust Corporation holds the land as custodian trustee, with powers to sell, lease or otherwise deal with the property only on the direction of the Group and in accordance with charity law.

NOTE 3 ACCRUALS

	£ 2026	£ 2025
Utilities	481	-
Maintenance	304	-
Other	-	1
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**785**	**1**