Scouts
1st Sawbridgeworth
Scout Group

TO BE FORMALLY APPROVED BY
THE GROUP TRUSTEE BOARD
AT THE AGM ON 10th May 2026

1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group

Annual Report 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period from (start date) **01.01.2025** to (end date) **31.12.2025**

Charity name	**1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group**
Registered charity number (if any)	**302582**
Charity's principle address	**c/o Mr ED Harries (Group Volunteer Lead)** **1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group Headquarters** **Kecksys, Sawbridgeworth** **Herts** Postcode **CM21 9DT**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Mr N Goff	**Group Chairman**	**Started April 2025**
Mr T Bill	**Group Treasurer**	
Mr E Harries	**Group Lead Volunteer**	**Resigned as Chair on April 2025 and became GLV**
Mr T Payne	**Challenger Scout Section Team Member**	
Mr E Emery	**Blackfoot Cub Section Team Member**	
Mr P Overend	**Challenger Scout Section Team Member**	
Mr N Jones	**Trustee**	**Resigned as GLV April 2025 but remained as a Trustee**

Constitution for the 1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group

Preamble

This constitution describes the role, membership and operation of the Group Scout Council, and the Group Trustee Board. In the interest of openness, especially for new members of the Group Scout Council, the Group Scout Council should re-adopt their constitution at each Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Charitable Objects

Our purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Group Scout Council and the Group Trustee Board

The Group Scout Council has a governance role for the charity and, in particular, makes Group Trustee Board appointments other than ex officio and co-opted appointments. The Group Trustee Board is responsible for the governance of the charity. Although the Group Trustee Board is responsible for the charity, it is accountable to the Group Scout Council. The Group Scout Council has no Trustee responsibilities.

The Group Scout Council – membership

Membership of the Group Scout Council does not provide any membership status of the Scouts.

Group Scout Council membership

a) The ex officio members of the Group Scout Council are members by virtue of their role in The Scouts:

- all adult members of the Group – see Group roles listed in the Chapter 16 Roles Table of The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules
- all parents or carers of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the Group

b) The appointed members of the Group Scout Council are other supporters of the Group appointed by the Group Scout Council on the recommendation of the Group Lead Volunteer and the Group Trustee Board. The number of appointed members must not exceed the number of ex officio Group Scout Council members. A Group Scout Council does not need to have any appointed members.

c) The County Commissioner has the right of attendance at each Group Scout Council meeting in the County.

d) Membership of the Group Scout Council ends when the:

- member resigns
- member no longer qualifies as a member of the Group Scout Council
- Group Scout Council is dissolved
- Group Scout Council membership is terminated by UK Headquarters following a recommendation by the Group Trustee Board.

e) The total number of appointed members of a Group Scout Council must not exceed the number of ex officio members.

Group Scout Council – Annual General Meeting

Group Scout Council must hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) within six months of the end of the Group's financial year.

The AGM must:

a) Undertake governance oversight by

- approving the minutes of the previous Group AGM
- adopting (or re-adopting) the constitution of the Scout Group charity.
- noting the dates of charity's financial year
- approving appointed members of the Group Scout Council
- agreeing the maximum total number of members of the Group Trustee Board.

b) Review the previous year by

- receiving from the Group Scout Leader an overview of the past 12 months of activity in the Group
- receiving and considering the Group Trustees' Annual report and the annual statement of accounts approved by the Group Trustee Board.
- Before the AGM, the accounts must have completed their examination by an independent examiner.

c) Make appointments

- appoint a Chair of the Group Trustee Board.
- appoint a Treasurer of the Group Trustee Board.
- appoint other members of the Group Trustee Board.
- appoint (or re-appoint) an independent examiner.

Group Trustee Board - purpose

The Group Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure the Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance.

Effective Trustee support helps other volunteers run the Scout programme that gives young people skills for life.

Members of the Group Trustee Board must act collectively as charity trustees of their Scout Group, and in the best interests of the charity's members.

Governance roles must be distinct to help manage conflicts of interest. This means that the roles of Group's Chair and Treasurer must be kept separate and be done by two different people.

The Group Trustee Board must act in the charity's best interests, acting with reasonable care and skill and take steps to be confident that:

a) The charity is:

- well managed
- carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- complying with the charity's governing document and the law
- managing the charity's resources responsibly

b) the charity is operating compliant with POR and the local charity regulator, including effective management of each of the Key Policies listed in Chapter 2 of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules.

c) young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels

d) the Group has sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the Group including delivery of the high quality programme and resource requirements of the training programme (Rule 4.2.2 of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules)

The Group Trustee Board members must themselves collectively:

a) develop and maintain a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations

b) ensure that the Group's finances are properly managed, including development and maintenance of appropriate budgets to support the work of the Group

c) maintain and manage:

- a reserves policy for the charity including a plan for use of reserves outside the 'minimum'
- an investment policy for the charity
- a public benefit statement for the charity

d) ensure that people, property and equipment are appropriately insured, and that any property and equipment owned or used by the Group is properly protected and maintained

e) ensure the appointment and management and operation of any subcommittees, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-committee. This should normally be one of the Group's Trustees.

f) ensure that effective administration is in place to support the work of the Group Trustee Board

g) appoint any co-opted members of the Group Trustee Board

h) ensure transparency of operation, including:

- prepare and approve the Annual Accounts and arrange their examination by an independent examiner and as appointed by the Group Scout Council at their AGM
- prepare and approve the Group Trustees' Annual Report (which must include the Annual Accounts and include the report from the independent examiner)
- present the approved Group Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the Group Scout Council for their consideration at the Group's AGM
- following the Group AGM, ensure that a copy of the Group Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is sent to the District Trustee Board administration and, if the Group is a registered charity, is filed with the appropriate charity regulator (if the regulator's rules require it).

i) take responsibility for the Group's adherence to Data Protection Legislation recognising that, dependent on circumstances, it will at different times act as a Data Controller and as a Data Processor

j) individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate Group Trustee Board business

k) put in place annually an open and transparent selection process to recommend to the Group Scout Council appropriate members to be appointed members of the Group Trustee Board, including Chair and Treasurer.

Group Trustee Board - membership

Subject to the conflict of interest rules, a Trustee may be a member of more than one Trustee Board.

A Group Trustee Board should comprise a maximum of 12 Trustees (the total of all ex officio, appointed and co-opted Trustee Categories), with a minimum of five Trustees The maximum number of Trustees should be agreed by the Group Scout Council at its AGM.

Each ex officio, appointed and co-opted member of the Group Trustee Board is a charity Trustee of the Group.

People invited to attend a meeting of the Group Trustee Board, or with right of attendance, may be present at the meeting but are not charity Trustees and have no voting rights.

Certain people are disqualified from being charity trustees by virtue of the Charities Acts.

All Trustees must complete learning as specified in Rule 16.2.1, 16.2.3, 16.2.4 of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules and the Chapter 16 Roles Table. of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules

The members of the Group Trustee Board are:

a) The Group Lead Volunteer is an ex officio member of the Group Trustee Board.

b) The Group Trustee Board must initiate a selection process to propose a Group Chair to the Group Scout Council for appointment at their AGM.

c) The Group Trustee Board must initiate a selection process to propose a Group Treasurer to the Group Scout Council for appointment at their AGM. The proposal from the Trustee Board is received by the Scout Council at their AGM. The action of the Scout Council is to approve (or not) the proposed name from the Trustee Board.

d) The appointed members of a Group Trustee Board are persons appointed by the Group Scout Council at the Group's AGM. This should follow a selection process initiated and overseen by the Group Trustee Board. The proposal from the Trustee Board is received by the Scout Council at their AGM. The action of the Scout Council is to approve (or not) the proposed name(s) from the Trustee Board.

e) The co-opted members of a Group Trustee Board are persons co-opted annually by the Group Trustee Board. They are not appointed by the Group Scout Council at its AGM. The number of co-opted members must not exceed the actual number of appointed Trustees (excluding Chair and Treasurer).

f) The District Commissioner, the District Chair and the County Commissioner each have the right of attendance at meetings of each of the Group Trustee Boards in the Districts in the County.

Term limits for Trustees are specified in POR rule 5.3.1.6.

If a Trustee Board Chair or Treasurer resigns, then Rule 16.6.3 of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules must be followed.

Group Scout Council - Conduct of meetings

The Group Scout Council meets at their AGM. It would be unusual for there to be additional meetings of the Group Scout Council.

A Group Scout Council meeting should normally be convened with at least four week's notice. A meeting may be convened on shorter or no notice with the agreement of at least three quarters of the members of the Group Trustee Board.

Group Scout Council meetings are chaired by the Group Chair. If the Group Chair is unable to be present, the Group Chair may appoint a delegate to chair a meeting of the Group Scout Council subject to such appointment being approved at the start of the meeting by a majority of the Group Scout Council members present.

Only Group Scout Council members may vote in Scout Council meetings.

The quorum for a Group Scout Council meeting is agreed by the Group Scout Council at their AGM. If there is no quorum present at a meeting of the Group Scout Council, the meeting must be closed and reconvened at the earliest available opportunity.

Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by those present at the meeting. in the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side, the Chair does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.

All meetings of the Group Scout Council must be properly recorded and minuted.

Group Trustee Board - Conduct of meetings

Meetings of the Group Trustee Board normally consist of 4 between the Group Scout Council (AGM).

Meetings of the Group Trustee Board should be convened on at least two weeks' notice. Meetings may be convened on shorter or no notice with the agreement of at least half of the members of the Group Trustee Board.

Group Trustee Board meetings are chaired by the Group Chair. If the Group Chair is unable to be present, they may appoint a delegate to chair a meeting of the Group Trustee Board subject to such appointment being approved at the start of the meeting by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

Only members of a Group Trustee Board may vote in its meetings.

The quorum for a meeting of a Group Trustee Board is one third of the Trustees (ex officio plus appointed plus co-opted) plus one.

If there is no quorum present at a meeting of the Group Trustee Board, the meeting must be closed and reconvened at the earliest opportunity.

Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by those present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side, the meeting Chair does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.

In order to discharge their responsibilities, the Group Trustee Board may meet by telephone or video conference as well as face to face when agreed by the Group Chair. This includes 'hybrid' meetings, where some members are present at an agreed meeting place and others join by telephone or video.

Where urgent matters arise between scheduled meetings of the Group Trustee Board and if it is not practicable to convene a meeting of the Group Trustee Board then an electronic voting method (such as email) is allowed for decision making of the Group Trustee Board when deemed appropriate by the Group Chair. In such circumstances, at least 75% of the members of the Group Trustee Board must approve the decision, and the outcome of the voting must be reported at, and recorded in the minutes of, the next Group Trustee Board meeting.

Summary of the main activities 2025

By maintaining eight sections throughout 2025 (1 Squirrel Drey, 3 Beaver Colonies, 3 Cub Scout Packs and 1 Scout Troop), the 1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group delivered a wide range of Scouting activities throughout the year for around 192 members plus leaders.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year 2025

Squirrel Report 2025

The past year has been exceptionally successful for our **Squirrel Drey**, made possible by the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer team—Sarah (Bobcat), Carina (Chipmunk), James (Pine Marten) and Bruce (Moose). Their commitment has enabled a year filled with significant milestones and memorable experiences.

We proudly celebrated our first full year as an established Drey in September. During this period, our first five Squirrels achieved their **Acorn Award**, and we welcomed two new adult volunteers, James and Bruce, into the Squirrel team. We were also delighted to see Sarah recognised as *Squirrel Leader of the Year* at the District Awards.

The Squirrels have been active and visible within the community. Highlights include:

- A visit to the local library for World Book Day, where the children arrived dressed as their favourite characters and earned their Story Time badge.
- Multiple local hikes, during which they developed early map-reading skills and explored the natural environment.
- Several enthusiastic litter-picking sessions, helping to keep Sawbridgeworth clean and demonstrating strong **community engagement**.

As part of Parliament Week, the Squirrels visited the Sawbridgeworth Council Chambers, meeting the mayor and learned about voting—an activity that led to Bruce's Squirrel name. They also conducted a democratic biscuit-tasting session to determine the group's favourite.

We were fortunate to host the Guide Dogs Association, giving the Squirrels the opportunity to learn how guide dogs support individuals who are blind or partially sighted.

We were immensely proud of how well the Squirrels represented the group during the St George's Day, VE Day and Remembrance parades. Their behaviour, uniform and composure were exemplary.

During the Autumn term, the Squirrels explored music by learning about different instruments, practising songs and performing with Boomwhackers for friends and family. They also completed a range of cooking activities—chocolate apple doughnuts, pitta pizzas, coconut ice and biscuit decorating—as part of their Super Chef badge.

Across the year, the Squirrels earned an impressive range of badges, including: Be Active, Explore Outdoors, Super Chef, Story Time, Navigator Stage 1, Community Stage 1, You-Shape, Let It Grow, Go Wild and Musician Level 1.

It has been inspiring to see each Squirrel grow in confidence, teamwork and early leadership skills. Their enthusiasm for learning, earning badges and embracing new challenges remains boundless.

We look forward to welcoming more Squirrels and volunteers in the coming year. With such energy and curiosity within the Drey, we are excited for the adventures and achievements that lie ahead.

Beavers Report 2025

Activities for the Spring 2025 programme included activities towards the Book Reader & Health & Fitness badges including making high energy bars for the fun outdoor fun walk with "Muddy Manoeuvres in the Dark" at Pishiobury Park. This was followed up by a learning set of activities towards the Disability badge and regular favourites of Special Beaver Services, Egg themed Games, Pancake fun & lighting fires. Beaver Scouts and their parents enjoyed a full day of bushcraft at Priory Woods in March, where activities included fire lighting with natural materials, basic cooking on the fire, shelter building & wide games.

Key activities for the Summer 2025 Programme included a Beaver/Parent camp at "Thriftwood Scout Activity" centre. Activities for Beaver Scouts included climbing, pedal cars, cave bus, the famous "Cresta" cart run and the usual campfire, camp blanket time, marshmallows and singing to finish off the day. The activities and catering were all planned and supported by our Group Beaver Team members ably led by Sarah Wright with help in the catering & kitchen from Jackie Williamson, Tim Payne, Stuart Jeffrey & Maureen & Tim Bray; our special thanks to them for all their efforts.

The term also included a train ride & river hike; the Beavers were extremely excited and did a great job at hiking 3km back. During our weekly sessions, they achieved their Campcraft badge, Hikes badge stages and their Outdoor and Adventure Challenge badges, with most of the time being outdoors. The Southern Country park gave them a chance to remember their newly learned compass points. The regular St George's Day, the VE Parade event and the annual May Fair events were well attended by the Beaver Scouts; we were very proud of their behaviour at the parades and service. The term finished with a soft archery session, enjoyed by all.

Autumn term 2025 started off with fires & global issues, followed by a really fun trip to the North Weald Air Ambulance where those attending were able to experience seeing the Augusta Westland 169. This proved to be a real favourite with the Beaver Scouts and all the leaders/helpers! Key activities for the Autumn 2025 programme again included outdoor fun and learning with a road safety session in the Sawbridgeworth local roads. They also enjoyed "Lights, Camera, Action" sessions where they had photography fun and made an art display for parents.

Beaver Scouts all had a chance to carve a pumpkin to take home and we would like to thank Hatters Farm for the pumpkin donations and Stuart Jeffrey for his efforts to transport them all (>100) to our Scout HQ.

The Beaver Scouts and family members attended the annual Remembrance Parade and Service, again their attendance and behaviour were superb. The Sawbridgeworth Lights On event is a regular feature of the Sawbridgeworth Winter calendar, the Beaver Scouts enjoyed making 'lighthouse" lanterns to be displayed at Gt. St Mary's church at the event, which was a wonder to behold again!
The term finished with team skills challenges and finally a special Circus Skills workshop. Great fun was by all a great way to break for Christmas!

Well done to all the Beaver Scouts, thanks to their amazing leaders and fantastic help from so many parents to enable a great 2025 Scouting year! Thanks also to our regular young leaders and DoE volunteers, your support is really valued by us and the Beaver Scouts!

Cubs Report 2025

Key activities for the Spring 2025 programme included First Aid, a session of Scouting knots & games, a gnome whittling session, a fun Taekwondo learning session, and a climbing session at Essex Outdoors. The Cubs enjoyed a fabulous Spring Camp Activity Day with Fires, Shelter building and active fun in the woods. Special thanks to Andy E for all his efforts to make these happen and support from Scout leaders. There were our regular spring favourites of Chinese New Year games and Pancake Week fun. Water Week involved learning from a young leader (Ed) presentation about his trip to Gambia distributing water filter equipment and learning how water filters are built. A fun Easter themed session completed this term's programme activities.

Key activities for the Summer 2025 Programme included a trip to the river to sail wooden rafts made at Scout HQ the prior weeks, fires & cooking and a special Cub "Park run" event at Harlow Town Park. All Cub sections attended a fabulous Group Cub Camp at Skreens Park Scout Activity Site where they enjoyed the full range of adventurous outdoor activities, fires and a giant cardboard monster competition. Thanks to Dan for taking the lead for this camp. The Cub Packs also had great fun building rafts and rafting at the Essex Outdoor Centre later in the term. The St George's Day, VE Day and May Fair events were well attended by the Cub Scouts, we were very proud of their behaviour at these parades and events.

The final weeks of term saw water games (who can forget the amazing water slides) and a soft archery session; the leaders were then very ready for some some well-deserved downtime.

Key activities for the Cub Autumn 2025 programme kicked off with lighting fires, an evening of twilight Canoeing on the river at Whoosh Explore Canoe Club, and many Games sessions; jump rope is still at the top of the list! This was followed up by a cooking challenge, a Sixer led games night and the always popular Home Help badge (HQ windows shone like never before).

Another great trip to Essex Outdoors for High All Aboard or Crate Stacking fun was organised by Dan, and Maureen took the lead organising a trip to Bayfordbury Observatory for the Cubs (and their parents) to get an insight into Astronomy and astrophysics; then followed a session making CD inspired lanterns for the Sawbridgeworth Lights On event.

Cubs were invited to and many attended Christmas Carols run by the District Scout team at the Barnabus Centre where Chief Scout Silver awards were also presented to some of our Cubs. The term finished with the Cubs showing off their collections and books from home to earn their Hobbies badges, followed by fun Christmas themed games to round the year off.

All packs engaged their young leaders to run games and activities as often as session time allowed! Thanks go to Freya, Eddie & Gethin for their amazing support at Mohawk Cub Pack, Orlaith, Ed, Harry & Teddy for their support for Blackfoot Cub Pack and Thomas for his help at Cheyenne Cub Pack.
Big thanks again to all Cub Scout Lead Volunteers (Andy, Dan, Teddy, Jesse, Ross, Niamh, Stuart, Maureen), and importantly our willing Section Assistants and Parent Helpers who gave the support to make the practical sessions safe & fun; your continued support is valued and appreciated.

Again, special thanks to all our Young Leaders who attended every week and help run activities, your ideas and time offered was and is truly appreciated by leaders, parents and the especially the Cub Scouts!

Scout report 2025

Spring Term 2025

The programme for Spring Term concentrated on the Teamwork, Expedition and World Challenge awards.

For the Teamwork Challenge we had a night playing Team Building games and patrol challenges, designed a Patrol Emblem and had a night of games and activities run by the Patrol leaders. Later in the term we continued with a couple of nights dedicated to pioneering and knots making a set of footy skills training targets.

For the Expedition Challenge we learnt about Route planning and using Maps, how to correctly pack a Rucksack, and the safe use of light weight stoves.

For the World Challenge we celebrated Chinese New Year with a cooking night making Stir Fry which we then ate using Chopsticks. We had a World Quiz and learnt Taekwondo with a qualified Black Belt teacher.

Our Winter camp, at the end of January, was a weekend camp at Belchamps Scout Camp near Southend. We stayed in the very nice Pack Holiday Centre, so we all had a comfy bunk bed each. There was a large separate activity hall, with a big kitchen to use in the evenings (just in case the weather was inclement (actually it was quite nice, if a little chilly). Saturday morning saw us doing a range of on-site activities; Air Rifles, Pedal Karts and Tomahawk throwing. After lunch we had time to practise using axes & saws safely and then had a fire building challenge, which group could build a fire big enough to burn through a length of string first. In the late afternoon we had a session on the indoor climbing wall that was great fun, especially using the auto descenders to get back down. In the evening we had a session of Paracording and watched Harry Potter before bedtime. On the Sunday morning we had Caving and Archery to round off the weekend.

On a lighter note we attended a District Swimming 'Wacky Races' night at the Bishop's Stortford College, our well attended traditional Pancake night, where everyone enjoyed making and eating lots of pancakes and a night Whittling.

Summer Term 2025

The first night back after Easter saw us on a hike, walking from Thorley Church back to the Sawbridgeworth HQ.

As part of the Creative Challenge award we had a night building and making Kites for flying later in the summer and on Thursday 8th May we joined in with the town's VE day celebrations. We also had a Crystal Maze challenge, with the patrols competing for prizes.

In preparation for our Spring camp, we had a night practising making Shelters and Dens, putting those knots and lashing from last term to good use and another night checking and putting up the sleeping tents.

Spring Camp was held at the Priory Woods Scout campsite with a theme of Survival. We looked at different survival techniques, bushcraft and backwoods camping ideas. The main activity was to build a shelter to stay in on the Saturday night, together with all the usual camp activities we ticked off lots of the Outdoor Challenge award items.

As the summer term progressed we did many of our favourite summer evening activities including, cycle maintenance evening in preparation for our annual cycle ride along the Flitchway on the longest day. We had a night in Pishiobury Park attempting to fly the Kites we made earlier in the term, unfortunately we had chosen a warm night with very little wind, but fun was had by all trying.

We had two evenings out on the river with Whoosh Canoe Club, the first evening was for more experienced paddlers, who paddled up to Spellbrook Lock before returning. The second night was for all and by the end of the night everyone could just about paddle in a straight line. Some managed to go all the way to Tednambury Lock and back (about 5 km).

Towards the end of the term we had an exciting evening at the Lea Valley Whitewater centre, rafting on the legacy course. I think just about everyone found themselves in the water at some stage, all very enjoyable and exciting.

We concluded the term with our traditional family BBQ, Widegame and Investiture and Awards night at the Priory Woods campsite.

Autumn Term 2025

As Eifion had taken on the exciting new role of Group Lead Volunteer (GSL), Lewis took up the challenge of running the Troop as our new Troop Lead Volunteer (Scout Leader).

Autumn term saw us continuing with the World Challenge award and Environmental Conservation badges, with several Scouts helping out at the Apple day in Rivers Nursery or joining in with the Tidy-Up Sawbridgeworth (TUS) Community events. We also had a Paralympic games night, were we tried to understand the problems people with disabilities face daily, and a Scrapheap Challenge where we had to make things from recycled items. Other nights included a Town History trail where the Patrols had to follow the cryptic clues to find out more about our local history and a quick stop at the fish & chip shop to buy a bag of chips, together with an evening with Patrol Challenges and activities run by the Patrol leaders

We also started our preparations for the Green Beret competition with a night orienteering in Pishiobury Park and another practising tent pitching in the dark.

We joined twelve other teams from the District for the District Dodgeball championship at Birchwood School gym.

Mid-November saw us turn our attention to the annual Cooking Competition which ties in with the cooking section of the Creative Challenge award. This year we had William the District Commissioner, plus the Sawbridgeworth Mayor and Deputy Mayor, all wanting to come and

judge the competitions. As usual the judges had a hard job deciding the winners of the competition due to the excellent cooking and team work of all the Patrols.

For our main Autumn camp in October we had a weekend camp at the Two Mile Bottom Scout campsite in Thetford forest. We camped out overnight, but had use of the very nice Bidwell centre, just in case the weather was inclement. On Saturday morning we still had plenty of time to practise our fire lighting and making camp gadgets. But the main activity of the weekend was canoeing on the River Little Ouse which was fun, but as there was not a lot of water flowing over the rapids, a lot of the Scouts and Lewis spent more time wading than paddling, pulling the canoes and kayaks up to deeper water. In the evening we had a session Paracording before watching Star Wars (A New Hope) before bedtime. On Sunday morning we went on a local Ramble through Thetford forest to Santon Downham Bridge.

At the beginning of November as a change to our normal inside meetings we had a night time Ramble from the HQ and along the river up to Spellbrook Lock, returning across the fields to the Cemetery and back to the HQ.

We entered a team at the 40th annual Green Beret challenge weekend. The competition was held at Phasels Wood and this time the weather was quite kind, if a bit wet underfoot. Our team made it into the top 20, considering there were over 150 teams altogether, that's a very good achievement.

The year concluded with a trip to Laser Quest in Harlow and Christmas party on our last meeting night of the term. The theme was 'How bad is your "Onesie" or Christmas Jumper? No Uniform allowed!
With pizza and silly Christmas games, great fun was had by all.

For and on behalf of the Challenger Troop volunteer leadership team:
Lewis - Lead Volunteer (Scout Leader),
Sean, Helen, Phil, Niamh, Neal, Andrew and Tim - Troop Volunteers (Assistant Scout Leaders) and
Simon, Matthew, Ben and Peter (Regular Troop Volunteers)

Statement of the charity's Financial reserves and investment 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 Executive Committee considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs.

At the end of the year, income reserves amounted to £4,873.28 plus £36,413.81 in the Building Contingency fund.

Public Benefits Statement

1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group is part of a national movement open to young people 6 - 14 and adults who are willing to make the Scout promise. People in deprived circumstances are able to benefit from our programme, and accessing our benefits is not constrained by a members ability to pay a subscription.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature		
Full name	Nick Goff	Timothy Bill
Position	Chairman	Treasurer
Date	10/5/26	10/05/26

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Receipts and Payments Accounts

CC16a

For the period from (start date) 01.01.25 to (end date) 31.12.25

(A1) Receipts

Budget 2025		Unrestricted Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024
	MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS		
12,200	Subs from Sections	12,173.78	10,629.16
0	Less Levy Paid	0.00	0.00
12,200		12,173.78	10,629.16
	INVESTMENT INCOME RECEIVED		
0	Go Cardless Fees	0.00	0.00
7,800	Hall Rent	7,835.00	8,220.00
7,800		7,835.00	8,220.00
	DONATIONS / GRANTS		
0	Donations	40.00	0.00
0	Discount on Levy	0.00	0.00
3,000	Gift Aid	0.00	0.00
3,000		40.00	0.00
	ACTIVITIES		
10,000	Group Activities	12,450.65	9,788.81
10,000		12,450.65	9,788.81
	FUND RAISING (gross)		
0	Fund Raising	2,901.13	1,120.96
0		2,901.13	1,120.96
	OTHER INCOME		
0	Miscellaneous	472.98	549.15
0		472.98	549.15
	SUNDRY RECEIPTS		
0	Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
0	Transfer of funds	0.00	0.00
0		0.00	0.00
33,000	**TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR**	**35,873.54**	**30,308.08**

Receipts and Payments Accounts

CC16a

For the period from (start date) 01.01.25 to (end date) 31.12.25

(A2) Payments

Budget 2025		Unrestricted Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024
	PREMISES		
3,000	Electricity	2,478.34	3,774.39
1,500	Insurance	1,374.28	1,428.88
4,000	Building Repairs/ Maint	3,159.74	3,588.69
150	Water	226.33	207.82
8,650		7,238.69	8,999.78
	DONATIONS / GRANTS		
0	Donations	0.00	0.00
0		0.00	0.00
	ACTIVITIES		
16,000	Group Activities	19,445.99	15,386.69
0	Loan Repayment	0.00	0.00
0	Training	0.00	0.00
16,000		19,445.99	15,386.69
	FUND RAISING EXPENSES		
200	Fund Raising	10.00	30.00
200		10.00	30.00
	ADMINISTRATION / ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES		
300	Administration	303.78	278.00
0	Cleaning	0.00	0.00
756	Lease	0.00	755.94
13,745	Annual Levy	13,744.50	10,309.00
14,800		14,048.28	11,342.94
	PURCHASE OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT		
3,000	New Equipment	4,393.05	1,745.93
0	New Build	0.00	0.00
3,000		4,393.05	1,745.93
	SUNDRY PAYMENTS		
2,000	Badges	1,468.32	1,654.06
0	Miscellaneous Expenditure	50.98	858.58
0	Contingencies	0.00	0.00
2,000		1,519.30	2,512.64
44,650	**TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**46,655.31**	**40,017.98**

Receipts and Payments Accounts

CC16a

For the period from (start date) 01.01.25 to (end date) 31.12.25

Receipts and Payments summary

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	35,873.54	30,308.08
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	46,655.31	40,017.98
NET RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	-10,781.77	-9,709.90
CASH, BANK & SIMILAR FUNDS LAST YEAR END	52,068.86	61,778.76
CASH, BANK & SIMILAR FUNDS THIS YEAR END	41,287.09	52,068.86

Receipts and Payments Accounts

CC16a

For the period from (start date) 01.01.25 to (end date) 31.12.25

(B) Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

	2025	2024
B1 CASH FUNDS		
Cash in Hand / Floats	0.00	0.00
Treasurer's A/C	41,287.09	52,068.86
Business A/C	0.00	0.00
Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	0.00	0.00
	41,287.09	52,068.86
B2 OTHER MONETARY ASSETS		
n/a	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
B3 INVESTMENT ASSETS		
n/a	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
B4 ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHARITY'S OWN USE		
Motor vehicles	0.00	0.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc.	20,725.96	18,635.80
	20,725.96	18,635.80
TOTAL ASSETS	**62,013.05**	**70,704.66**
B5 LIABILITIES		
n/a	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**0.00**	**0.00**

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees at the meeting of the 1st Sawbridgeworth Group Executive on xxxx 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee and position	Signature	Date
Nick Goff - Chair		10/5/26
Eifion Harries - Group Lead Volunteer		10/5/26

1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account - 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Subs from Sections	12,173.78	Electricity	2,478.34
Less Levy Paid	0.00	Insurance	1,374.28
Go Cardless Fees	0.00	Building Repairs/ Maint	3,159.74
Hall Rent	7,835.00	Water	226.33
Donations	40.00	Donations	0.00
Discount on Levy	0.00	Group Activities	19,445.99
Gift Aid	0.00	Training	0.00
Group Activities	12,450.65	Fund Raising	10.00
Fund Raising	2,901.13	Administration	303.78
Miscellaneous	472.98	Lease	0.00
		Annual Levy	13,744.50
		New Equipment	4,393.05
		Badges	1,468.32
		Miscellaneous Expenditure	50.98
Total	**35,873.54**	**Total**	**46,655.31**
Excess of Receipts over Payments			**-10,781.77**

Cash / Bank Balances at 31.12.2024		Cash / Bank balances at 31.12.2025	
Cash in Hand / Floats	0.00	Cash in Hand / Floats	0.00
Treasurer's A/C	52,068.86	Treasurer's A/C	41,287.09
Business A/C	0.00	Business A/C	0.00
Scouts STIS	0.00	Scouts STIS	0.00
Total	**52,068.86**	**Total**	**41,287.09**
Increase in Cash / Bank Balances			**-10,781.77**

I certify that the accounts as presented above are correct

David Sheppard
Independent Examiner

Signed David M Sheppard Date 08/05/26

Group Executive Committee

~~*Mr Eifion Harries*~~ NICK GOFF
Chair

Signed _____ Date 10/5/26

~~*Mr Nick Jones*~~ EIFION HARRIES
Group Scout Leader

Signed _____ Date 10/5/26.

Mr Tim Bill
Group Treasurer

Signed _____ Date 10/05/26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the 1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group (Registered Charity No 302582)

I report on the accounts of the 1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group ('the charity') for the year ended 31st December 2025, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account, the Balance Sheet and related notes. This report is made solely to the Trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you 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 the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as 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:

1. 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 requirements of the Act

   have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



D L A Sheppard BA (Hons), FCA
21 Avenue Road
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 5NT
8th May 2026

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