Scouts
Stanstead Abbotts

Mud, paddles, rockets & community spirit

1st Stanstead Abbotts & St Margaret's Scout Group

Annual Report 2026

(Reporting period: 01 January 2025 – 31 December 2025)



Painting by Oli Combellack (

A whole lot of growing confidence: what an incredible year for our young people.

Highlights

- **Big adventure, big courage**: Green Beret, Nocturnal, Phasels ASAP, Ware Raft Race, plus paddle sports at ESSA.
- **Cubs going full-throttle**: night hikes, water sports, go-karts, laser tag, and camps which is the stuff they'll talk about for months.
- **Beavers & Squirrels with 'first big moments'**: sleepovers, summer camps, zoo day, fire lighting, water fun, and that magical 'I did it!' smile.
- **Community pride**: St George's Day parade/volunteering and Remembrance across the Group with our young people stepping up and showing real respect.
- **Creative, curious, brave**: Lego robots, rockets, and 'try-it-and-see' nights that turn nervous beginners into confident doers.

This year has been brilliant. The kind of year where you look around at the end of a session and think, 'How lucky are we to be part of this?' Because what we've seen, delivered by the volunteers, week after week, is young people having proper adventures, taking on real challenges, and quietly growing into more confident, capable versions of themselves.

And it is not just the big headline events (as amazing as they are). It's the moments that stick with you: the first time someone dares to try something new; the teamwork that suddenly clicks; the pride when they realise they've done something they didn't think they could do. That's the heartbeat of this Group.

Adventure that feels like adventure

We've had a programme across all our sections that genuinely gets young people out of their comfort zone and away from the digital world in which we now live, muddy, wet, laughing, learning, and coming home tired in the best possible way.

Our Scout Troops (Eagle & Falcon) have thrown themselves into major challenges like Green Beret, Nocturnal, and Phasels ASAP, plus the sheer excitement of Ware Raft Race and paddle sports at ESSA. That's not just 'activities', that's resilience, perseverance, teamwork, leadership and courage being built in real time.

Our Cubs (Panther & Jaguar) have been right behind them on the adventure pathway: district night hikes, ESSA water sports nights, go-karting, laser tag, and camp experiences delivering big memories, and huge confidence boost for them.

Even for our youngest sections, the 'big adventure' feeling has been there, sleepovers, summer camps, activity days like Hertfordshire Zoo District Beaver Day, and those first brave steps into outdoor skills like fire lighting and water activities.

Community spirit young people can feel proud of

Some of the proudest moments this year have been when our young people have shown what it means to belong to something bigger than themselves.

We have seen that through St George's Day parade and volunteering, and through Remembrance being marked by every section across the Group as part of the village community in age-appropriate ways. When you watch young people stand respectfully at the Remembrance service or turn up and volunteer as part of St George's Day, you realise that this is character-building you get nowhere else.

Curiosity, creativity and 'have-a-go' confidence

This year hasn't just been outdoor skills it's been bright, modern, and brilliantly varied.

Scouts have taken on Lego robots, rockets, and even nights like courtroom drama that stretch confidence, grow understanding of the world and engage with professionals they would otherwise not have the experience with in completely different ways, but in a safe environment.

Cubs built in themes like astronomy, science, maps & compass, and practical skills sessions, the kind of programme that catches different interests and helps every young person find a place to shine. and build on their skills for life.

Section spotlights

Oak Squirrel Drey (ages 4 – 6)

Squirrels is where the adventure begins, and it's been full of imagination, laughter, and those early 'I can do this' steps.

They've explored sessions like 'Space and beyond', teamwork through games, and early community themes like community heroes and first aid, all delivered in a way that feels like play, but quietly builds confidence and belonging.

They've also had their first taste of 'big Group moments' with St George's celebrations, a church visit, a village hike with litter picking, and being part of the wider Group's sense of occasion.

Forest & Woodland Beaver Colonies (ages 6 – 8)

Beavers are where we see young people start to surprise themselves: trying practical skills, discovering they're tougher than they thought, and learning how to work as a team.

Across Forest and Woodland we've packed in brilliant variety from disability awareness and communication to cooking, fire lighting, water fun, outdoor games and visits (including a walled garden visit and a church visit).

The events have been properly memorable including District Beaver sleepovers, summer camps, and the excitement of Hertfordshire Zoo District Beaver Day.

Panther & Jaguar Cub Packs (ages 8 – 10½)

Cubs is where the 'skills for life' really start to show, they have learnt so much in Squirrels and Beavers and now they can deploy it and have fun with what they know. They're old enough to take on bigger challenges, and they love it.

This year they've gone from hands-on skills like fire lighting, pioneering/rope skills, and wide games, to huge excitement nights like laser tag, go-karting, and ESSA water sports evenings.

They've also leaned into learning and community with experiences like a visit to Hertford Fire Station and a disability awareness evening at SPACE, alongside big, shared, moments like St George's Day and Remembrance weekend activities.

Eagle & Falcon — Scout Troops (ages 10½–14)

Our scouts have driven themselves to grow, perform and deliver their very best taking on major district experiences like Green Beret, Nocturnal, and Phasels ASAP, and throwing themselves into big-team events that build grit and camaraderie including a commendable second in the Ware Raft Race and a team paddle sports at day at ESSA.

The programme has also been packed with variety and confidence-builders: Adventure Night at the global home of scouts, Gilwell Park, Danemead Camp, and creative/skills nights like Lego robots, creative challenge nights, and drama.

And importantly, we've seen Scouts shaping their own journey through patrol planning and delivery one of the most powerful ways Scouting turns participation into leadership.

Group moments that made it feel like one big Scouting family

Some of the best bits this year have been the times we have had our sections together, the ones that remind the younger sections what's coming next, and the older ones that they're role models whether they realise it or not.

St George's Day parade and volunteering has become a real and visible statement: 'Scouts show up for the community', and Remembrance Day being marked across the Group.

Shared family moments that you have supported such as the transformed family games evening / picnic / AGM event that was such a success in June.

A huge, genuine thank you

This year's programme has been big with camps, trips, water activities, competitions, community events, and brilliant weekly sessions and that **only happens because volunteers** and families make it happen.

To every leader, volunteer, Young Leader, and parent supporter who's lifted kit, driven, prepped, planned, encouraged, or just turned up when it mattered: **thank you**. You've helped create a year that our young people will remember and that will quietly shape who they become.

If this year proved anything, it's that our young people are ready for big experiences and they thrive when we trust them with challenge and support them to succeed.

Next year, we'll keep pushing for the same magic mix: outdoor skills, community engagement, creativity, and proper adventure from the first step in Squirrels right through to the gruelling expedition challenge in Scouts.

Debbie Gilbert, Neil Johnson & Will Drury

Group Lead Volunteers

Awards and Achievements from the Year

Chief Scout's Award

The Chief Scout's Award can be awarded to Squirrels (Acorn), Beavers (Bronze), Cubs (Silver) and Scouts (Gold). They are each gained by completing a set of challenges and activities. The awards are the culmination of a huge amount of work on proven tasks by the participant over a period of time.

The Chief Scout's Awards celebrate the highest level of award that a Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout can achieve in their section and are rightly recognised and celebrated as a major achievement. The awards are often presented at special events when friends and family are invited.

The awards require the Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout to complete a variety of tasks that include: new skills, working on projects, trying out new activities and showing their colony, pack or troop and their Volunteer Team what they have managed to achieve / make / learn.

Since our last AGM, the following have been presented with their Chief Scout's Award.

Chief Scout's Acorn Award



- Anthony L.
- Arabelle C.
- George K.
- Isla-Rose D.
- Ivy L.
- Jessica M.
- Kylo C.
- Mario C.
- Olivia M.
- Rhys V.
- Vienna H.

The Chief Scout's Acorn Award is gained by completing the following:

- All About Adventure Challenge Award
- All About Me Challenge Award
- All Around Us Challenge Award
- All Together Challenge Award

and completing any two activity badges or staged activity badges.

Chief Scout's Bronze Award



- Ellie C.
- Elsie S.
- Freddie B.
- Gwilym S.
- Hadley S.
- Harry F.
- Jamie T.
- Lexi H.
- Niamh F.

The Chief Scout's Bronze Award is gained by completing the following:

- My World Challenge Award
- My Skills Challenge Award
- My Outdoors Challenge Award
- My Adventure Challenge Award
- Teamwork Challenge Award
- Personal Challenge Award

and completing any four activity badges or staged activity badges.

Chief Scout's Silver Award



- Caitlin D.
- Cianna M.
- Evie B.
- Finlay T.
- Harriet F.
- Hattie E.
- Joshua L.
- Libby P
- Ralph L.
- Robyn W.
- Stanley S.

The Chief Scout's Silver Award is gained by completing the following:

- Our World Challenge Award
- Our Skills Challenge Award
- Our Outdoors Challenge Award
- Our Adventure Challenge Award
- Teamwork Challenge Award
- Team Leader Challenge Award
- Personal Challenge Award

and completing any six activity badges or staged activity badges.

Chief Scout's Gold Awards



- Alex H.
- Ellie N.
- Maya S.
- Ruby G.
- Sim M.

The Chief Scout's Gold Award is gained by completing the following:

- World Challenge Award
- Skills Challenge Award
- Creative Challenge Award
- Outdoors Challenge Award
- Adventure Challenge Award
- Expedition Challenge Award
- Teamwork Challenge Award
- Team Leader Challenge Award
- Personal Challenge Award

and completing any six activity badges or staged activity badges.

Our congratulations to all those who have achieved these awards and who can be easily recognised with their Chief Scout's Award Badge sewn on their uniform.

The adventure continues...

EXPLORERS

At about 14, our young people must leave the Scout Troop and can move up to Explorers which is run by Ware & District Scouts.

Explorers provides the ideal opportunity to both develop and broaden skills, as well as taking on even more challenging "adventures".

Young Leader training



Many Explorers choose to volunteer as Young Leaders and join the national Young Leader training programme. Our Young Leaders are given the opportunity to undergo training specific to their role and often progress to becoming Adult Volunteers when reaching 18.

Some Young Leaders volunteer with us for four years, while others contribute for a shorter period as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. We have Young Leaders supporting sections from Squirrels through to Cubs, and their numbers continue to grow. They provide invaluable support to the adult volunteer team, and we are very grateful for their continued help.

The Young Leader Scheme provides a structured programme of development, combining formal training with practical leadership experience. To gain their Young Leader badge, participants must complete the initial core training module, which introduces the fundamentals of leadership, safeguarding and their role within the section.

To achieve the full Young Leader Award, Young Leaders must complete the entire training programme, which consists of eleven modules covering leadership, programme delivery, behaviour management, communication and first aid, alongside four practical missions carried out within their section.

These missions require Young Leaders to apply their learning in practice, including planning and delivering games and activities, contributing to programme planning, and taking responsibility for leading elements of the section programme.

Progress is recognised throughout the scheme, culminating in the award of the Young Leader belt buckle on completion of all modules and missions. This represents the highest achievement within the scheme and reflects a significant commitment to developing leadership skills, supporting younger members, and contributing positively to the wider Scout movement.

Since our last AGM, the following have been presented with their Young Leader Award:

- **Remi S.**



Adult Wood Badge Award



The Wood Badge is a special milestone in Scouting. It was first presented in 1919, when Baden-Powell visited the first leader training course at Gilwell Park and awarded successful volunteers the “Wood Badge”, not a cloth badge, but wooden beads worn on a leather lace. The original beads were inspired by a necklace of wooden beads Baden-Powell found during his military service in Southern Africa, which he believed had belonged to Chief Dinuzulu of the Zulu nation; those beads were later broken up to create Wood Badge awards.

It’s an international award that recognises a volunteer’s personal commitment and achievement in learning and development, and it’s awarded once someone has completed the learning that’s relevant to their role. What makes it particularly meaningful is that completing it is optional for our volunteers, so when someone chooses to work towards their Wood Badge, they’re choosing to invest extra time and effort in their own training, not because they have to, but because they want to be even better at what they do. That learning is role-specific and focused on developing volunteers so they can deliver (or support) the best possible Scouting experience which, in the end, means more confident leaders, stronger teams, and even better adventures and support for our young people.

Since our last AGM, the following volunteers have completed their Wood Badge:

- **Clare Johnson**

Our congratulations to all those who have achieved these awards during their time volunteering and who can be easily recognised with their Wood Beads worn with their uniform.

Adult Good Service Awards

Scouting doesn't happen by magic or by paid people, it happens because ordinary people give their time in extraordinary ways. Week after week, behind every campfire, every soaked-through night hike, every badge presented with pride, there are volunteers who turn up early, stay late, carry the kit, take the calls, plan the programme, and make sure young people get the adventures and support they deserve.

Good Service awards for adults exist to recognise that service, not just "showing up", but the kind of commitment that goes above and beyond what anyone could reasonably expect. Good Service awards are specifically intended to thank volunteers whose contribution consistently stands out.

At, and since, our last AGM, the following have been presented with adult good service awards.

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service



- **Will Drury**

Awarded in respect of not less than 5 years good service, which stands out. It should be regarded as the Chief Scout's recognition of the very real contribution made to the Scouts by the individual concerned.

The Award for Merit



Awarded for outstanding service. It implies keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service over a sustained period, of at least 10 years duration.

Bar to The Award for Merit



- **Neil Johnson**

Awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award for Merit.

Silver Acorn



Awarded after at least 20 years' service, which should be specially distinguished and appreciably better than outstanding.

Adult Long Service Awards

Alongside the Good Service Awards, Length of Service awards are one of the ways the Chief Scout marks and celebrates long-term volunteering, at 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70-year intervals.

These awards matter because they shine a light on something we sometimes forget to say out loud: our young people get their skills for life because our volunteers quietly give theirs.

At, or since, our last AGM, the following adults have been recognised with awards for service and commitment:

5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
		
▪ Danielle Cottiss ▪ Kerime Cedras ▪ Sinead Slater	▪ Micky Harvey ▪ Michael Williamson	▪ Anne Sauntson ▪ Clare Johnson ▪ Lucy Isham

What an achievement and commitment, thank you for everything you do for the young people and our group.

Group Chair's Report

Activities during the calendar year 2025

It's a real privilege to present this Chair's report, reflecting on our Scout Group's activities during the calendar year 2025. I'm speaking as Group Chair, but I want to recognise the many people who make this Group what it is, our young people, our volunteers, our families, our supporters, and our Trustees who help ensure the Group is well run, safe, and sustainable.

A year of growing confidence and "proper" Scouting

If I had to sum up 2025 in one phrase, it would be: growing confidence. Across every section, we've seen young people step forward, sometimes boldly and sometimes quietly, into new challenges and new experiences. The programme has continued to deliver that unmistakable feel of real Scouting: hands-on, outdoors, adventurous, and full of opportunities for young people to try, learn, lead, and belong.

People: stable numbers but and a clear need for more adult volunteers

Our numbers of young people and adults have remained stable, which is a good base, but it also highlights our biggest ongoing need: more adult volunteers. To keep offering the very best programme, and to build resilience across all sections, we need more adults willing to step into leadership and supporting roles. If you have ever considered helping, please do speak to any of us. Many roles can be flexible, shared, or behind-the-scenes, and you'll be warmly welcomed.

Governance strengthened and the Group in good shape

Over the past year, it's been encouraging to see our governance continue to strengthen, with a clear focus on doing things properly and setting the Group up well for the future, from compliance and training, to safeguarding, to active succession planning and recruitment for Trustee capacity.

My thanks go to the whole Trustee team for their commitment and the time they give to support the Group.

I also want to extend a special thanks to our new Trustees, Tim and Phil, for stepping forward and getting involved, your support makes a real difference and strengthens the foundation of the Group.

And a very particular thank you to Mark Canham, who began his journey, following election at the 2025 AGM, with us as a Trustee but has had to stand down due to work commitments. We are genuinely grateful for the time and energy he gave, and we wish him well.

Facilities and HQ: significant improvements

We have continued to make significant improvements to our facilities and HQ, the practical work that helps ensure the space is safe, welcoming, and fit for purpose for young people and volunteers. This has included ongoing building and premises attention and maintenance activity that strengthens the environment we deliver Scouting in.

As always, please do refer to the Treasurer's report for the detail of spending and how we've invested in the Group over the year.

A genuine invitation

None of this happens without volunteers. To every leader, helper, Young Leader, parent supporter, and Trustee who has given time, energy, planning, lifting, driving, organising, and encouraging: thank you. You create the conditions where young people can have experiences that stay with them for life.

Looking ahead, our ambition remains the same: to keep delivering the best mix of outdoor skills, community engagement, creativity and proper adventure, while building the adult volunteer capacity that will enable even more young people to benefit.

Thank you for your continued support.

Phil Buckle & Tim Sullivan
Co-Chairs of the Group Board of Trustees

Group Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2025. The Group remains in a sound financial position, underpinned by stable income and careful stewardship of resources. This year, we recorded a net deficit of £4,829, compared with a surplus of £919 in 2024. This reflects a conscious decision by the Trustees to invest significantly in the improvement and long-term sustainability of our facilities.

Total income for the year was £36,926, an increase on £34,353 in 2024, while total expenditure rose to £41,755 (£33,434 in 2024). These figures demonstrate both continued strength in income generation and an increased level of planned investment in the Group's activities and infrastructure.

Membership subscriptions increased to £22,289 (2024: £19,955), reflecting continued growth in participation across all sections. Gift Aid receipts also rose to £4,892, and we remain very grateful to parents and carers who have completed declarations, allowing the Group to benefit from this valuable additional income stream. Income from group activities increased to £7,453 (2024: £6,653), demonstrating the continued vibrancy and attractiveness of our programme.

We are also grateful for the continued support of grant providers and local partners, which makes an important contribution to the delivery of high-quality Scouting experiences and the ongoing development of our facilities.

Expenditure increased materially during the year, most notably in relation to repairs and renewals, which rose to £8,454 (2024: £919). This reflects a programme of significant building improvements undertaken during the year. These works represent an important investment in the future of the Group, ensuring that our Scout hut remains safe, modern, and fit for purpose for all our young people.

In addition, expenditure on youth programme activities and general running costs has increased in line with both higher activity levels and wider cost pressures, including utilities and services. These costs are closely managed to ensure that resources are directed towards delivering the best possible experience for our members.

At the year end, the Group held cash reserves of £41,184 (2024: £46,013). While reserves have reduced as a result of this year's planned investment, they remain at a level that provides financial resilience and supports the Group's ongoing operations and future plans.

The Trustees continue to exercise careful oversight of the Group's finances, holding regular meetings and ensuring full compliance with the requirements of the Charity Commission and The Scout Association.

Looking ahead, the Group is well placed to build on this year's investment, with improved facilities supporting an expanding membership and an increasingly ambitious programme.

Anne Sauntson
Group Treasurer

Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet

Receipts and payments

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	22,289	19,955
Donations	195	780
Gift Aid	4,892	4,590
Sub total	27,376	25,325
Grants		
Maintenance grant	-	-
Other grants	1,161	1,300
Sub total	1,161	1,300
Scout Group Activity Income		
Group	20	
Scouts	4,019	3,950
Cubs	2,267	1,982
Beavers	986	632
Squirrels	106	
Purchase of uniforms	55	89
Sub total	7,453	6,653
Fundraising events (gross)		
Fundraising	121	216
AGM income	100	288
County Lottery	-	-
Sub total	221	504
Scout hut income		
Hire of building	-	-
Hire of equipment	150	-
Refund from British Gas	82	-
Sub total	232	-
Investment income		
Bank interest	483	571
Property Rent income	-	-
Sub total	483	571
Total Gross Income	36,926	34,353

Receipts and payments

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments	138	136
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	9941	8,496
Youth programme and activities	11889	10,906
Cleaning and refuse disposal	1864	1,901
Water & sewerage	794	375
Electricity & Gas	1087	1,513
Insurance	1697	1,874
Repairs & renewals	8454	919
Broadband	555	466
Other HQ Costs	457	407
Materials & Equipment	2385	2,281
OSM/Go Cardless annual costs	402	342
Uniforms & badges	2052	1,618
Training	0	50
AGM & Open Evening costs	82	1,448
Garden Equipment	3	119
Loss on credit cards (repaid 2025)	-660	217
Administration and general	507	366
Sub total	**41,647**	**33,434**
Fundraising expenses		
Branded Clothing	-	-
Other fundraising costs	**108**	-
Sub total	**108**	-
Total Gross Expenditure	**41,755**	**33,434**
Total payments	**36,926**	**34,353**
Net of receipts/(payments)	**(4,829)**	**919**
Cash funds last year end	**46,013**	**45,094**
Cash funds this year end	**41,184**	**46,013**

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st December 2025	31st December 2024
	£	£
Cash funds		
Bank current account	3,683	2,386
Bank deposit account	36,594	43,112
Cedit cards	907	515
Total cash funds	41,184	46,013

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 9th February 2026

Independent Examiners Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 1st Stansted Abbotts Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 1st Stanstead Abbotts Scout Group for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 1st Stanstead Abbotts 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 1st Stanstead Abbotts 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 1st Stanstead Abbotts 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: 

Name: Geoffrey Addy

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): ACMA

Address: 34 Furlong Way, Great Amwell. Ware SG12 9TF

Date: 27th May 2026

Trustees Annual Report

A. Reference & administration details

Details

Charity name: 1st Stanstead Abbotts & St Margaret's Scout Group

Scout Association registration number: 11590

Charity Commission (England & Wales) registration number: 302583

Principal address: Scout Headquarters, Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbotts, Hertfordshire, SG12 8QT

Trustees who served during the year (dates included where not the full year):

Trustee Name	Office
Anne Sauntson	Treasurer
Will Drury	Group Lead Volunteer
Clare Johnson	
Debbie Gilbert	
Elaine Alles	
Mara Hougham (resigned Jun. '25)	
Mark Canham (appointed Jun. '25)	
Mark Watt (resigned Jan. '25)	
Neil Johnson	
Oliver Combellack	
Phil Buckle (appointed Jun. '25)	
Sinead Slater	
Tim Sullivan (appointed Jun. '25)	

B. Structure, governance & management

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 that are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection and appointment

Trustees are appointed in accordance with The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules. The Trustee Board includes the Chair, Treasurer and Group Lead Volunteer, alongside other trustees elected at the AGM or co-opted by the Board in line with The Scouts' requirements.

Governance in practice

The charity is managed by the Group Trustee Board, whose members are the Charity Trustees of the Scout Group and are responsible for complying with charity law and The Scout Association's rules, including maintaining proper accounting records and making required returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

Trustees are expected to complete Trustee Board learning/induction in line with The Scouts Association's requirements.

Risk management and internal control

The Trustee Board regularly considers the major risks to which the Group is exposed and has systems in place to mitigate them, consistent with good practice guidance for Scouts Trustee Boards.

The main risks identified and mitigations include:

- **Damage to the building, property and equipment.** The Group maintains appropriate buildings and contents insurance and plans maintenance to keep facilities safe and serviceable.
- **Injury to volunteers, helpers, supporters and members.** Risk assessments are completed for activities and the Group benefits from The Scout Association's insurance arrangements via membership.
- **Reduced income.** The Group is primarily funded through subscriptions and fundraising; reserves are held to support continuity if income fluctuates.
- **Reduction or loss of volunteers.** The Group relies on volunteers; insufficient adult volunteer capacity could require contraction, consolidation, or (in the worst case) closure of a section.
- **Reduction or loss of members.** If membership reduced materially, the Group may need to consolidate provision; the Board monitors membership trends and capacity constraints

C. Objectives & 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.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The Group delivers public benefit by providing structured, supervised activities for young people that develop skills for life, confidence, leadership, teamwork and community engagement through a balanced programme of indoor and outdoor activities, delivered by trained volunteers.

Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes

During the year, the Group delivered an active programme across its sections, providing weekly meetings and a range of events and activities designed to develop young people in line with the Scout Method. In addition, the Group invested time in volunteer recruitment and development, compliance activities (including training and safeguarding), and maintaining facilities and equipment to support safe delivery.

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 cooperate 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.

D. Achievements & Performance

The Trustees consider 2025 to have been a positive year in terms of programme delivery and the confidence and development shown by young people across the Group. The main activities and achievements of the Group are described in the Group Lead Volunteers' report included in the AGM papers (and should be read alongside this Trustees' report).

From a Trustee Board perspective, key areas of performance during the year included:

- Maintaining delivery at broadly stable levels while recognising that adult volunteer capacity remains the primary constraint on growth and resilience across sections.
- Strengthening governance practices, including routine consideration of safety, compliance and risk, and maintaining the discipline of recording decisions and actions through Board meetings.
- Progressing facilities and HQ improvements and maintenance to support safe, welcoming Scouting, with expenditure details set out in the Treasurer's report and accounts.

E. Financial Review

Financial position and principal funding sources

The Group's income is derived primarily from membership subscriptions, fundraising and donations/grants (where applicable). Expenditure is focused on programme delivery, premises, equipment, insurance and support costs.

Reserves policy

The Group's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising fall short. The Trustee Board considers an appropriate level to be approximately 12 months of running costs (circa £10,000).

Reserves held at 31 December 2025: £[insert from accounts] (unrestricted).

Investment policy

The Group does not hold long-term investments and adopts a risk-averse approach, holding funds as cash with mainstream banks/building societies.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The charity did not hold funds as custodian trustee on behalf of others during the year.

Independent examination / external scrutiny

The accounts for the year were subject to independent examination/audit as required, with details provided in the accounts.

F. Plans for future periods

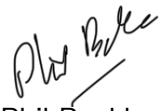
In the coming year the Trustee Board's priorities are expected to include:

- **Volunteer capacity and succession planning:** continuing to recruit more adult volunteers and trustees to strengthen resilience and sustain programme quality.
- **Facilities and HQ:** continuing maintenance and planned improvements, including progressing solutions to premises issues identified through the year (with spending decisions taken in line with budget and governance processes).
- **Compliance and safety:** maintaining strong safeguarding, training and risk-management practices, and keeping policies and assessments under review.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees





Phil Buckle Tim Sullivan

Co-Chairs of the Group Board of Trustees

31st May 2026

Scouts

Stanstead Abbotts

The Scout Promise

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best,
To do my duty to God and to The King,
To help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

The Cub Scout Promise

I promise that I will do my best,
To do my duty to God and to The King,
To help other people and to keep the Cub Scout Law.

The Beaver Scout Promise

I promise to do my best,
To be kind and helpful and to love God.

The Squirrel Scout Promise

I promise to do my best,
To be kind and helpful and to love God.

Contact Us

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