Scouts
Ware & District

Ware District Scout Council
Trustees Annual Report
1 January to 31 December 2025



Explorer Scout Summer Camp, Bude, Cornwall

Contents

A. Reference and Administration Details 3
B. Objectives and Activities 4
The Purpose of Scouting 4
The Values of Scouting 4
The Scout Method 4
Public Benefit Statement 4
C. Structure, Governance and Management 5
D. Achievements and Performance 7
Trustee Board 7
Programme 7
Growth & Development 7
Safety & Training Compliance 8
E. Financial Review 9
Treasurer's Report 9
Reserves Policy 9
Investment Policy 10
F. Accounts 11
Receipts & Payments 11
Statement of assets and liabilities 13
Independent Examiner's Report 14
G. Declaration 15

A. Reference and Administration Details

Report for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Charity name:	Ware District Scout Council
Other names the charity is known by:	Ware & District Scouts
Registered charity number:	302624
Scout Association registration number:	10001449
Principal address:	District Scout Headquarters, Broadmeads Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9HY
Website	warescouts.org.uk

Trustees for the period 1 January to 31 December 2025

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for the whole year
David Allen	Chair	To 11 March 2025
Mark Buswell	Chair	From 11 March 2025
Geoff Addy	Treasurer	To 17 June 2025
Cheryl Shepherd	Treasurer	From 1 October 2025
Paul Stretch	District Lead Volunteer	
Megan Allen		
Vivienne Griffith		From 1 April 2025
Keith Jennings		
Peter Raymen		
Ollie Rose		

B. Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are as a part of The Scout Association.

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 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.

The activities of the District are:

- the provision of the Scouting programme for 4–25 year old members
- support and administration for the management and activities of the Groups within Ware and District.

Public Benefit Statement

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

C. Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter which in turn gives authority to the By-laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association and the Constitution of Ware District Scout Council.

Ware District Scout Council ('the District') is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.

The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees". As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and several other Trustees (including Ex-Officio Trustees, and co-opted Trustees) and meets several times a year.

The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programs that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintain appropriate governance policies and oversight.

The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly.

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order, and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules.

This includes responsibility for:

- promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development;
- developing, maintaining and regularly a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations;
- ensuring that the finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting;
- ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss;
- ensuring that property is appropriately managed;
- maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees;
- appointing Advisors as required;
- ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board;

- ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding;
- ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy;
- ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate;
- ensuring transparency of operations, including in the preparation of accounts and holding and AGM;
- ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation;
- acting as a responsible employer for any employees, who are effectively managed.

D. Achievements and Performance

Trustee Board

The District Trustee Board was delighted to recruit two new Trustees to the Board in 2025. Viv Griffith joined in April, bringing her experience of governance roles and an external perspective to the Board. Cheryl Shepherd stepped into the role of Treasuer, formally starting in October 2025. Cheryl has very quickly come up to speed and significantly improved management of the district finances. I very much look forward to continuing to work with Viv and Cheryl.

We have continued to make progress on the on-going HQ Lease and have instructed lawyers to act on our behalf to finalise. Although a very slow and drawn out progress to date, the board believe we are nearing confirmation of our lease which will be a big milestone and allow the board to be much more ambitious with the further development of the HQ.

The Trustees would like to thank District Lead Volunteer, Paul Stretch, and his team for all their hard work organising district events and running our Explorer units.

Mark Buswell, District Chair

Programme

The programme across the groups and district events continued. with the Programme Team growing into their role of supporting sections.

The Explorer Scout section has continued to build on its successful programme of activities for 14-18 year olds. The highlight of 2025 being a week camping in Bude, Cornwall. By combining resources with the Dartside Explorer Unit from Devon, the team were able to deliver a 7-day expedition, taking their programme to new levels with coasteering, surfing, bodyboarding, kayaking, canoeing, rock climbing and hiking in the Cornish countryside and beaches.

149 Chief Scout's Awards were achieved across the District in 2025, compared with 156 in 2024. As the number of Squirrels grows, so should the number of Chief Scout Acorn awards. One group recorded zero top awards, which indicates under reporting. Also, the Explorer section recorded zero top awards. Further focus is need in this area to ensure that top awards are achieved and recorded.

Growth & Development

Ware & District Scouts Census	2026	vs 2025
Young people aged 4-18 years	970	-1.8%
Adults	262	-6.8%
Total	**1,232**	**-2.9%**

Squirrels continued to grow across the district, with eight dreys running in seven groups by the end of 2025. These now provide Scouting for 108 young people aged 4-5 years old. As these dreys mature, they are experiencing increased pressure around adult recruitment and retention, as well as managing what can be challenging behaviour from this age range.

Explorer Scouts continued to grow strongly across the district, with numbers growing 31% to 105 young people aged 14-18.

The number of young people aged 4-18 in Ware & District declined by 1.8% compared to 2025. While most groups held their membership steady, with small or no changes, a couple of groups saw noticeable decreases. The overall increase in Squirrels and Explorers was outweighed by the decrease in young people in other age ranges.

The small decrease in youth membership is similarly reflected across Hertfordshire county. Ware is the fifth largest District (of 18) in Hertfordshire by 4-18 year old members.

Areas for future growth are the continued expansion of Squirrels, plus the opportunity to re-open Network as the growing Explorer membership move into that age range. Additional work is needed to ensure that Beaver, Cub and Scout membership remains strong, with some active youth recruitment now necessary.

Safety & Training Compliance

A strong proactive focus was maintained on training compliance, with zero adults non-compliant in most months. The handful of adult volunteers who did become non-compliant throughout the year were supported to recover their compliant position very quickly. The number of first response courses run in Ware, and the number of adults able to deliver these, was increased during the year. This enabled an increasing number of adults to obtain or renew their first response.

Together, these actions ensured that we kept our young people safe and minimised disruption to programme delivery.

E. Financial Review

Treasurer's Report

2025 saw several changes happening in the District's financial management, including welcoming Cheryl Shepherd to the Treasurer's role. We want to thank Geoff Addy for his valuable contribution over many years.

We are now using ClubTreasurer, an online finance system built for charities and small club accounts. This has enabled us to better analyse the monies coming in and out in more detail. You will find that this has led to a review and changes to descriptions on the Receipts and Payments schedule, which will not always align with prior years.

We have also consolidated several sections' bank accounts into just the one account. This reduces the complexities of managing multiple bank accounts under modern banking regulations. We are continuing with the 14-24 Team still having their own bank account, plus the Expedition bank account for the time being.

As part of the ongoing bank account changes, our independent examiner required us to temporarily write off the closing balances in the redundant Beaver and Scout bank accounts. This was due to having insufficient supporting evidence at the time of the account examination. We have subsequently regained access to these bank accounts but too late to change the 2025 accounts. These balances will therefore show as receipts in the 2026 accounts.

As of 31 December 2025, the accounts showed a surplus of £12,388 compared with 1 January 2025. The main contributors to this include the following items:

- £9,051 from the District's Lochearnhead Expedition. Deposits have been received throughout the later part of 2025 for expenses planned in summer 2026.
- The Explorers' Bude Summer Camp 2025 made a surplus of £1,500 after a reduction in actual costs compared to initial budget figures.
- Reduction in insurance costs – a change in insurer for a similar level of buildings and contents cover resulted in a reduction in premium of £1,366 from the previous year and avoided a potential premium increase.
- Hall rent of £1,200 for Ignis Explorers due in 2025, still be to be paid in the first quarter of 2026.

Further changes are planned for 2026 which will continue the improvements in the District's financial management and health.

Reserves Policy

The Trustee Board's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities in the district should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustee Board considers that the Charity should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £16,000.

Investment Policy

The Charity does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Charity has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

F. Accounts

Receipts & Payments

		Year start date		Year end date	
	For the year from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025	

Receipts and payments	2025				2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations, legacies and similar income					
Membership subscriptions	76,710	-	-	76,710	60,214
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	- 62,738	-	-	- 62,738	- 51,461
Donations	981	-	-	981	1,030
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	1,019	-	-	1,019	
Youth Programme and Events	40,581			40,581	14,570
Other similar income	340	-	-	340	
Sub total	56,894	-	-	56,894	24,353
Grants					
Maintenenace grant	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants	150	-	-	150	3,500
Sub total	150	-	-	150	3,500
Fundraising events (gross)					
Christmas Tree Collection	500	-	-	500	501
Charity Event for Lochernhead	163	-	-	163	-
Scout Shop/Uniform	2,783	-	-	2,783	513
Other fundraising activities	-	-	-	-	187
Sub total	3,447	-	-	3,447	1,201
Scout hut income					
Hire of building	270	-	-	270	-
Hire of equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Other Scout hut income	-	-	-	-	2,369
Sub total	270	-	-	270	2,369
Investment income					
Bank interest	41	-	-	41	128
Building Society interest	-	-	-	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-	-	-	-
Other investment income	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	41	-	-	41	128
Total Gross Income	60,802	-	-	60,802	31,551
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	60,802	-	-	60,802	31,551

	Year start date		Year end date	
For the year from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025	

Receipts and payments

	2025				2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Payments					
Charitable Payments					
Youth programme and activities	34,190	600	-	34,790	12,242
Adult support and training	214	-	-	214	-
Rent	810	-	-	810	5,122
Water and Sewerage	236	-	-	236	-
Electricity and Gas	1,557	-	-	1,557	681
Insurance	970	-	-	970	2,336
Repairs and Renewals	1,461	-	-	1,461	1,494
Telephone Costs	20			20	
Professional Fees		-	-	-	5,831
Materials and Equipment	896	-	-	896	2,945
IT Software	214	-	-	214	10
Uniforms	1,755	-	-	1,755	1,134
AGM and trustee expenses	97	-	-	97	13
Donations/Grants	980	-	-	980	1,078
HQ Supplies	114			114	
Travel Costs		-	-	-	-
Unknonwn Bank Receipts	2,429			2,429	
Bank Charges/Card Charges	1,135	-	-	1,135	-
Sub total	47,078	600	-	47,678	32,886
Fundraising expenses					
Transfers to Groups	74	-	-	74	-
Purchase of clothing for resale	661	-	-	661	-
Detail 3	-	-	-	-	-
Other fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	100
Sub total	736	-	-	736	100
Total Gross Expenditure	47,814	600	-	48,414	32,986
Asset and investment	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	47,814	600	-	48,414	32,986
Net of receipts/(payments)	12,988	- 600	-	12,388	- 1,435
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	42,438	7,462	-	49,900	51,335
Cash funds this year end	55,426	6,862	-	62,288	49,900

Statement of assets and liabilities

		Year start date		Year end date	
	For the year from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025	

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2025				2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
Bank current account	35,521	6,862	-	42,383	49,900
Bank Expedition account	9,401			9,401	
14-24 Account	7,433			7,433	
Scouts Account				-	
Beavers Account		-	-	-	-
Natwest Lygean Deposit Account		-	-	-	-
Natwest Lygean Current Account	3,071	-	-	3,071	-
Card Accounts		-	-	-	-
Total cash funds	55,426	6,862	-	62,288	49,900
ee balances with receipts and payments a/c)	- 0	ok	ok	ok	ok
Other monetary assets					
Tax claim	-	-	-	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Investment assets					
Investment property - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-	-	-	-
Other investments - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Non monetary assets for					
Badge stock	-	-	-	-	-
Shop stock	-	-	-	-	-
Other stock	-	-	-	-	-
Land and buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicles	-	-	-	-	-
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities					
Accounts not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	55,426	6,862	-	62,288	49,900

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Ware District Scout Council for the year ended 31 December 2025

Responsibilities and basis for report

As the charity trustees of the Ware District Scout Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

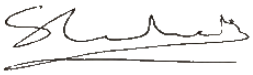
I report in respect of my examination of the Ware District Scout Council accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 Ware District Scout Council 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: Sarah Edwards ICAEW Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA)

Date: 20 May 2026

G. Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.

Signature: 

Name: Mark Buswell

Position: Chair

Date: 10 June 2026

Signature: *P Stretch*

Name: Paul Stretch

Position: District Lead Volunteer

Date: 10 June 2026