Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date) **0 1 0 4 2 5** to end date **3 1 0 3 2 6**

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name: Royal Tunbridge Wells District Scout Council

Other names the charity is known by:

Registered charity number (if any): 3 0 3 4 6 6

Charity's principal address:

34 Prospect Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
Postcode: T N 4 0 E L

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	
1	Ian Wadey	Chair	
2	Stuart Watt	Treasurer	
3	Nick Burgess	District Lead Volunteer	
4	Nigel Piper	District Lead Volunteer	
5	Joeseph Day-George	District Youth Lead	
6	Brian Hobden	Trustee	
7	Mel Leigh	Trustee	
8	James Budd	Trustee	
9	Steve Dennis	Trustee	
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

–

Section A Reference and administration details (continued)

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

Type of advisor	Name	
Independent Examiner	John Ridley	39 Prospect Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0EN

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)	The District'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.
How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)	The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about: Policies and procedures adopted for: a) the induction and training of trustees; b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them	The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, together with the District Lead Volunteer and elected members and meets on a minimum of 3 occasions per annum. The Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for: • The maintenance of District property; • The raising of funds and the administration of District finance; • The insurance of persons, property and equipment; • District public occasions; • Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; • Appointing any sub committees that may be required; and • Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Risk and Internal Control

The District Trustee Board has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss; these include 2 signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	The objectives of the District are as a unit of the Scout Association. The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local national and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	In order to achieve these aims the District relies heavily on its volunteer leaders who all undertake training relevant to their appointments. All young people across the district have had the opportunity to experience a wide and diverse programme of activities. The trustees also provide a district camp site - Adamswell.

Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about: • policy on grant making;	The Trustee Board will assist with 50% of the cost of a relevant training course up to a maximum of £150, subject to the following criteria: • The course is good value;

- contribution made by volunteers

- Other avenues of funding have been explored by the applicant; and
- There is a binding agreement for the individual to support the District.

The Trustee Board will also make grants, up to 50%, to young people who will represent the District at International Jamborees up to a maximum of £6,000 in total.

The Trustee Board also provides support to adult leaders attending international events organised by the District up to a maximum of £5,000 in total.

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.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Over the past year, the District has continued to do everything it can to support Scouting in Tunbridge Wells.
The period that this report covers, April 2025 – March 2026 seems a long time ago now.
The year started as normal with us meeting as a District in late April to celebrate St George's Day with our now established yearly Fun Day at Adamswell. The weather was fine and a great afternoon was enjoyed by all.
Over the summer, several District Groups held camps and activities both locally and further afield around the UK for the benefit of the young people of Tunbridge Wells.
Other District Events which took place during the year included: -

- DofE Expeditions
- District Scout & Explorer Water Camp at Bewl Water
- District Beaver & Cub Camp at Bewl Water
- Remembrance Parade

Our annual census this year showed a very slight drop in membership due to the closure of a couple of sections during the year. We still have a substantial waiting list showing the demand for scouting is at an all-time high all over the town.
Adamswell has had its busiest year ever with lots of young people enjoying the activities and facilities that the site has to offer.
The trustees continue to look at what improvements can be made at the site as well as what other potential developments could be made to improve the usage the site gets and to add value for our existing visitors. Reduced rates continue to be offered to Tunbridge Wells groups for use of their District Site.

As always, a massive Thank You to all Adults and Young People for their efforts supporting Scouting in Tunbridge Wells and I look forward to seeing you all around the district.

Section E	Financial Review

Accounts

The gross income for the district in the year 2025-2026 (“2026”) was £255,165 and the expenditure was £250,205 giving an overall surplus of £4,951 (*2025 - £124,428*). The reduction in the surplus generated in the period is due to the timing of capitation payments.

Adamswell had income from camping fees of £78,979 and expenditure of £65,342, giving a surplus of £13,637 - so a healthy situation. The main expenditure relates to the running of the site, including sewerage and waste management, light and heat, and site cleaning and maintenance activities as set out in the charity’s income statement.

Events showed an income of £45,202 and an expenditure of £49,397. These figures reflect significant activities by the Explorer Units as well as District itself. Five District events completed in the financial year (St George`s Day and Beavers’ and Cubs’ Day).

Cash

The reserves represented by cash in hand and at bank were £210,102 (*2025 - £209,868*).

Savings and Investments

The District continues to utilise long-term deposit accounts, ranging between 35 and 95 days in order to manage its cash reserves. The total of amounts held on deposit in addition to cash at bank was £91,768 (*2025 - £87,939*).

The District has retained its quoted investments portfolio, valued at £2,675 at the balance sheet date (*2025 - £6,739*).

FundsUnrestricted Funds

At the yearend the District had unrestricted cash and investment funds of £298,776, subject to the designation of funds as set out below.

Designated Funds

The unrestricted funds of the District are subject to the following designations:

- £6,000 for the replacement of a toilet block at Adamswell Campsite
- £10,000 in the sinking fund towards the replacement of the hall roof at Adamswell Campsite
- £10,000 in the sinking fund for replacement or upgrade of the sewerage solution at Adamswell.

Endowment Funds
The balance of £6,000 endowment funds continues to be set aside.

Revaluation Reserves
Land and buildings (namely Adamswell Campsite) have been revalued in line with its insurance valuation. All other assets are included at cost. The total value of non-monetary assets is £706,433 (*2025 - £836,433*).
.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient funds to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short.

The District Executive Trustee Board considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, being £60,000.

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:
• the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);

Investment Policy

The District's Income and Expenditure is relatively small and as a consequence has limited funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. Most funds are held in cash using banks but some funds are invested in bonds and shares.

Due to the amount held in CAF bank which exceeds £150k regularly, the committee ,opened another account at Hampshire trust to minimalize risk. This will be added to later in 2026

The District Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the District obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Executive considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

The Trustee Board will concentrate next year on improving the facilities at Adamswell and will also be working with Group Lead Volunteers to establish if there is a need for other resources in the District which they

can support with. Kent Scouts “Project Re-Draw” which proposes to see Royal Tunbridge Wells and Weald Districts merged into one new District is being proposed to take place during the next year. This is a very significant process for the District to go through and will take a lot of time and effort from everyone to ensure the process runs smoothly.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair)		
Date	D D M M Y Y	

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Royal Tunbridge Wells District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Royal Tunbridge Wells District Scout Council ('District') for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the District 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 Trust's 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

Whilst I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination that would prevent a proper understanding of the accounts being reached, I do wish to draw the trustees' attention to the following matters:

1. **Reserves policy**
   The Charities Commission guidance notes (CC32 para 9.3) requires that the trustees disclose their reserves policy and manage their reserves accordingly. I note the District's reserve policy and plans for the following financial year but current reserves are still well in excess of the stated policy.

2. **Going concern and financial risks**
   Also in the guidance notes (CC32 para 9.9) is the requirement to document the trustees' assessment of the District as a going concern. Whilst I do not have any concerns over the District as a going concern, I have not seen sufficient documentary evidence to show that the trustees have considered this matter.

.....

John Ridley
39 Prospect Road
Southborough
Kent
TN4 0EN

Date: 11th October 2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Royal Tunbridge Wells District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Royal Tunbridge Wells District Scout Council ('District') for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the District 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 Trust's 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

Whilst I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination that would prevent a proper understanding of the accounts being reached, I do wish to draw the trustees' attention to the following matters:

1. **Reserves policy**
   The Charities Commission guidance notes (CC32 para 9.3) requires that the trustees disclose their reserves policy and manage their reserves accordingly. I note the District's reserve policy and plans for the following financial year but current reserves are still well in excess of the stated policy.

2. **Going concern and financial risks**
   Also in the guidance notes (CC32 para 9.9) is the requirement to document the trustees' assessment of the District as a going concern. Whilst I do not have any concerns over the District as a going concern, I have not seen sufficient documentary evidence to show that the trustees have considered this matter.

.....

John Ridley
39 Prospect Road
Southborough
Kent
TN4 0EN

Date: 11th October 2026