

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 3rd Weston-super-Mare (St. Paul's) Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 3rd Weston-super-Mare (St. Paul's) Scout Group for the year ended 31st March 2025

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 3rd Weston super Mare (St. Pauls) 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 3rd Weston super Mare (St. Pauls) 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 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: CATHERINE SLATER

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

Address: CARRYLARENCE, DUNGOURNEY, CO CORK, P25 CC90  
IRELAND

Date: 16/7/25



# Scouts

**3rd Weston-super-Mare  
(St Paul's)**

**Annual Accounts**

**1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025**

**3rd Weston super Mare Scout Group  
Account and Asset Summary**

Account Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
<b>Group Accounts</b>				
Group Account	£1,817.62	£8,065.80	-£7,546.91	£2,336.51
Petty Cash	£552.52	£1,032.50	-£1,371.62	£213.40
Jamboree Account	£11,952.77	£55.90	-£10,721.92	£1,286.75
Building Account	£71,296.44	£14,671.73	-£78,972.00	£6,996.17
<b>Sectional Accounts</b>				
Squirrel Account	£925.14	£515.00	-£980.43	£459.71
Beaver Account	£1,310.39	£2,503.00	-£2,347.38	£1,466.01
Cub Account	£2,146.03	£2,562.00	-£2,320.42	£2,387.61
Scout Account	£620.31	£4,143.00	-£3,646.93	£1,116.38
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£90,621.22</b>	<b>£33,548.93</b>	<b>-£107,907.61</b>	<b>£16,262.54</b>

**Total Assets  
as of 31st March 2025**

Total money held in all accounts	£16,262.54
Stock and Shares (held in the groups name)	3420 investment shares with foreign and colonial investment trust

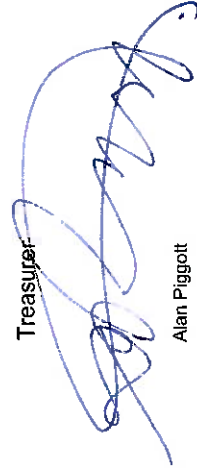
The above accounts were approved by the Groups Trustees on 3rd September 2025, and Signed on their behalf by

Chairman



Bruce Badman

Treasurer



Alan Piggott

Group Lead Volunteer



Nigel Needs

**3rd Weston-super-Mare Scout Group  
(Charity no. 305640)**

**Receipts and payments account**

	Year start date		Year end date
	For the year from	1st April 2024	T o 31st March 2025

**Receipts and payments**

	2024/25	2023/24
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£

**Receipts**

<b>Donations, legacies and similar income</b>		
Membership Subscriptions (Squirrels)	£515.00	£802.00
Membership subscriptions (Beavers)	£1,812.00	£1,894.00
Membership subscriptions (Cubs)	£1,836.00	£1,722.00
Membership subscriptions (Scouts)	£1,485.00	£1,426.00
Donations	£1,960.00	£205.00
Activities Income	£2,340.00	£3,284.00
Gift Aid	£787.12	£682.90
Transfers (from sectional A/c to General A/c)	£3,140.50	£1,942.00
Transfers (from Group A/c to group A/c)	£11,024.33	£41,205.00
Transfers (Section to Section)	£0.00	£500.00
Other similar income	£57.00	£296.10
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£24,956.95</b>	<b>£53,959.00</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
North Somerset Council Grants	£0.00	£0.00
Other grants	£4,218.00	£62,533.78
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£4,218.00</b>	<b>£62,533.78</b>
<b>Fundraising events (gross)</b>		
Easy Fundraising	£103.30	£111.23
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£103.30</b>	<b>£111.23</b>

<b>Scout hut income</b>			
Hire of building		<b>£3,681.00</b>	<b>£3,004.50</b>
Hire of equipment		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
Other Scout hut income		<b>£66.42</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£3,747.42</b>	<b>£3,004.50</b>
<b>Investment income</b>			
Bank interest		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
Building Society interest		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
Other investment income (Dividends)		<b>£523.26</b>	<b>£482.22</b>
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£523.26</b>	<b>£482.22</b>
	<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>£33,548.93</b>	<b>£120,090.73</b>
	<b>Asset and investment sales, etc.</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£33,548.93</b>	<b>£120,090.73</b>

**3rd Weston-super-Mare Scout Group  
(Charity no. 305640)**

**Receipts and payments account**

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	1st April 2024	To	31st March 2025

**Receipts and payments**

	2024/25	2023/24
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£

**Payments**

<b>Charitable Payments</b>		
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	£3,451.00	£3,420.00
Youth programme and activities (Squirrels)	£114.39	£1,144.86
Youth programme and activities (Beavers)	£1,072.07	£2,624.74
Youth programme and activities (Cubs)	£1,218.17	£1,767.29
Youth programme and activities (Scouts)	£2,542.21	£1,695.16
Adult support and training	£40.00	£40.00
Water and Sewerage	£340.00	£250.00
Electricity and Gas	£1,671.27	£3,143.83
Insurance	£1,715.90	£1,341.24
Repairs and Renewals	£79,040.69	£44,150.98
Accountant	£50.00	£0.00
Maintenance/Serviceing	£757.47	£387.40
Legal Fees	£0.00	£880.00
Misc Payments	£546.23	£12.00
Materials and equipment	£106.19	£391.06
Printing and photocopying	£37.91	£48.84
Contribution to camp/activity costs	£0.00	£36.76
Uniforms	£1,000.82	£0.00
AGM and trustee expenses	£38.46	£49.12
Transfers (From Group A/c To group A/c)	£11,024.33	£41,200.00
Transfers (From Sectonal accounts to General A/c)	£3,140.50	£1,947.00
Transfers (Section to Section)	£0.00	£500.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£107,907.61</b>	<b>£105,030.28</b>

<b>Fundraising expenses</b>			
Easy Fundraising		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>		<b>£107,907.61</b>	<b>£105,030.28</b>
<b>Asset and investment purchases, etc.</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£107,907.61</b>	<b>£105,030.28</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>		<b>-£74,358.68</b>	<b>£15,060.45</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>		<b>£90,621.22</b>	<b>£75,560.77</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>		<b>£16,262.54</b>	<b>£90,621.22</b>

## 3rd Weston-super-Mare Scout Group (Charity no. 305640)

### Receipts and payments account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	1st April 2024	T o	31st March 2025

### Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

		31st March 2025	31st March 2024
		Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
		£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>			
General Account		£2,336.51	£1,817.62
Squirrel Account		£459.71	£925.14
Beaver Account		£1,466.01	£1,310.39
Cub Account		£2,387.61	£2,146.03
Scout Account		£1,116.38	£620.31
Building Account		£6,996.17	£71,296.44
Jamboree Account		£1,286.75	£11,952.77
Cash/Floats		£213.40	£552.52
<b>Total cash funds</b>		<b>£16,262.54</b>	<b>£90,621.22</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account)	ok	ok
<b>Other monetary assets</b>			
Tax claim		£0.00	£0.00
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group		£0.00	£0.00
Insurance claim		£0.00	£0.00
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Investment assets</b>			
Scout Property, The Gilcraft Den, Totterdown Road (insurance Value)		£435,000.00	£435,000.00
3420 Shares held in F&C Investment Trust (Value of Shares on 31st March)		£36,936.00	£34,063.20
Other investments - No Other Investments		£0.00	£0.00
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>£471,936.00</b>	<b>£469,063.20</b>

<b>Non monetary assets for charity's own use</b>		
Squirrel Badge Stock	£343.80	£261.89
Beaver Badge Stock	£257.40	£154.83
Cub Badge Stock	£236.70	£489.58
Scout Badge Stock	£185.40	£218.80
Group Badge Stock	£100.00	£106.00
Shop stock	£0.00	£0.00
Other stock	£0.00	£0.00
Land and buildings	£0.00	£0.00
Motor vehicles	£0.00	£0.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	£0.00	£0.00
Other	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£1,123.30</b>	<b>£1,231.10</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts not yet paid	£0.00	£0.00
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	£0.00	£0.00
Subscriptions not yet paid	£0.00	£0.00
Loan - detail	£0.00	£0.00
Other liabilities	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>£489,321.84</b>	<b>£560,915.52</b>



# Scouts

**3rd Weston-super-Mare  
(St Paul's)**

**Annual Reports  
2024/25**

3rd Weston super Mare SCOUT COUNCIL  
Annual General Meeting

Agenda

- 1 - Introduction and welcome
- 2 - Apologies for absence
3. Approve the minutes of last year's AGM
- 4 - Governance topics
  - 4A. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
  - 4B. Note the Group's financial year
  - 4C Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (exc this AGM)
- 5 - Review of the previous year
  - 5a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review
  - 5b. Receive and consider the Annual Reports and accounts of the Group Trustee Board
- 6 - Making appointments
  - 6a. Appoint the Group Chair,
  - 6B. Appoint the Group Treasurer,
  - 6C. Appoint Board of Trustees
  - 6D. Independent Examiner for the current financial year
- 7 - Awards
  - 7A Young People Awards
  - 7B Adult Awards
8. - District/County Report
9. - Closing remarks

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Meeting started at 7:42 pm

### **Introduction and welcome**

Bruce Badman (Group Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and gives thanks to the venue for the use of its facilities. Health and safety and domestic announcements were made.

Also, welcomes members of the group scout council and district representative Graham Meikle (Deputy District Commissioner Training and compliance).

### **Present**

The following people were present at the meeting, Nigel Neads (GSL), Bruce Badman (Chair), Allan Piggot (Treasurer), Scott Mchaddan (Secretary), Graham Meikle (DDC), Les Abraham, John Moon, Nikki Woodfield, Emma Welch, Maria Neads, Tori Ditch, Joshua Woodfield, John Wheatley, Khali Kattana, Julia Kattana, Jasmine Ditch, Rob Hase, Dan Abraham, Richard Abraham

### **Apologies**

Nigel received apologies from Ann Coombs, Christopher Batten, Gary White, Barbara Murlis and Adam Cashmore for their absence today.

### **Minutes approved from previous AGM meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

No matters arising from the previous minutes, Bruce explained that the minutes were distributed to the Board of trustees in the November meeting.

All agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting

## **Governance topics**

### **Adapt the model constitution from policy and organisation and rules(POR)**

Bruce explained that following recommendations from scout headquarters, the group trustee board proposed we adopt the model constitution from chapter 5 of POR. A copy was made available for inspection and review prior to this meeting and copies are available throughout the meeting for the members to look through.

Nigel Explained that although the Model constitution will be adapted, based on the model constitution taken from March 2024 (June updates of POR), The group want to remove the following rules from the constitution as they are not relevant to the group.

### **Removal of rules**

**Rule 5.4.4.2A** which relates to explorers, explorer's parents and sponsoring authority

**Rule 5.4.5.2C** which relates to appointing of group president and vice presidents

**Rule 5.4.7.10A** Which relates to joint GSL roles

**Rule 5.4.6.4L** which relates to employed staff

### **Creation of Rules**

Nigel then went on to explain that we intend to add the following rule into the constitution which relates to the disposal of assets should the group merge or fold (as per the holding trustees trust deeds)

**Rule 5.4.6.4I** which relates to disposal of assets as per trust deeds

The meeting agreed to adopt the model constitution, with the above modifications

### **Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council**

Bruce would like the Scout Council to approve the Bot's recommendation that the quorum for the scout council be 10 members

### **Group financial year**

Bruce explained the Groups financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March

### **Review of previous year**

Bruce hands the meeting over to Nigel to give his review of the previous year.

Nigel plays a video that shows the activities the young people, and adults have done over the past 12 months, as well as progress of the Gilcraft Den refurbishment.

Bruce thanks Nigel for the presentation and they both thank the teams for their efforts in the past year.

### **Receive and consider the annual statement of accounts**

Bruce explains that the trustee board has approved the annual report and statement of accounts and received this report from Katerine Slater at KS bookkeeping

Allan Piggot explains copies of the accounts have been circulated at this meeting

Bruce thanks the treasurer for compiling the accounts and Asks if anyone has any questions regarding the accounts. No questions from the floor about the accounts.

### **Making Appointments**

Bruce explained the next part of the meeting will appoint the Board of Trustees for the year ahead. The Board of trustees have made the following recommendations for the approval of the Group scout council at this meeting

### **Appoint the group chair**

Bruce hands over the meeting to Nigel for the approval of the group Chair

Nigel states that the BoT's recommendation is that Bruce Badman should be appointed group chair for another year. The Scout Council Agreed this recommendation with no objections

Nigel thanked the scout council and passed the meeting back to bruce to make the next recommendations

### **Appoint the group treasurer**

Bruce states that the BoT's Recommendation is that Allan Piggot is appointed as group treasurer. This was agreed by the Scout Council with no objections

### **Appoint group secretary**

Bruce states that the BoT's recommendation that Scott Mchaddan is appointed as group secretary. This was agreed by the Scout council with no objections.

Graham mentioned that after transformation that this role may not exist, If the role ceases to exist then The BoT's will co-opt Scott on the Trustee board, for the purpose of recording the minutes at the BoT meetings

### **Group trustee board**

At this point of the meeting Nigel Explained that the agenda had been copied from last years Agenda and that agenda points 6D and 6E were now going to be merged together. All other members of the BoT's are now referred to as appointed members, and not elected and nominated members

Nigel states that the BoT's recommendation is that the following are appointed as Board of Trustee members - Rob Hase, Adam Cashmore, Gary White, Angus Donald, John Moon, Christopher Batten, Ann coombs, Helen Badman. This was agreed by the scout council with no objections.

Bruce thanks the trustees for their work during the year.

### **Independent examiner for the current financial year**

Allan Piggot proposes that we use Katherine Slater at KS Booking.

Bruce confirms that Katherine is qualified for the role, and asks for approval from the scout council from Allans recommendation. The Scout council approves with no objections

## **Awards**

### **Awards for the young people.**

Bruce hands the meeting over to Nigel for the next part of the meeting.

Nigel Explains that it is at the AGM, the group likes to recognise the achievements of the YP in the past 12 months, and that these YP have all achieved their chief scouts award. They have already been presented with their awards, but we would like to celebrate their achievements this evening.

### **Chief scouts award Gold**

Bailey underhay

### **Chief scouts award Silver**

Joseph Knight and Penny Underhay

### **Chief scouts award Bronze**

Lyla hedges, Finley wells and Harper hedges

### **Chief scouts award Acorn**

Brio Page, Hannah Wheatley, Zachariah Crockett, and Robyn Godfrey Keyte

Nigel Explains every year the Sectional Leadership teams are asked to nominate a young person in their section for an award. Nigel says he enjoys presenting these awards every year.

### **Squirrel of the year**

Robyn Godfrey Keye

### **Beaver of the year**

Berty Anvil Gittens

### **Cub of the year**

Elana gradian

### **Scout of the year**

Jasmine Ditch

### **Adult awards**

Nigel Explains that there are a couple of adult awards this year to be presented.

### **The Abraham Trophy**

Nigel explained the story of the Abraham Trophy and that although it is the GSL's Recommendation on who the trophy gets awarded to, that the trophy is presented by the sons of the Dick and Betty Abraham. Nigel invites the Abraham brothers up for the presentation..

Nigel says that this year, he would like to recommend that Rob Hase receives the Abraham trophy this year in recognition of his efforts towards The gilcraft Den Refurbishments from the planning, Funding and overseeing the project.

Graham Meikle takes the floor in the presentation of the next 2 awards.

Graham presents a 5 year length of service award to Nickki Woodfield, Graham then goes on to present a Commendation award to Rob Hase,

Nigel and Brue congratulate Nicki and Rob in their awards, as well as all the young people that have received awards.

## District review

Bruce passes the meeting to Graham who gives the district review.

Firstly, I want to thank you for inviting me here today. It is a privilege to stand before you as a representative of Axe District Scouts. Like many areas of our society, Scouting in the UK is still recovering from the effects of the pandemic but has been growing steadily. Locally, our numbers at the last census (January this year) were 2060 young people and adult volunteers, up 4% on the figure from 2019. This means we are still offering more and more young people the opportunity to experience the huge variety of activities Scouting has to offer. The number of activity notifications for camping and outdoor activities is quite inspiring and you can find our young people and adult volunteers out somewhere in the area pretty much every night of the week – and weekends.

Having said that, as we emerge from the challenges posed by the pandemic, we understand that some of our groups are still dealing with the aftermath. A few of our dedicated leaders have taken this time to reflect on their commitments, not just to Scouting, but to their own lives as well. This is quite natural. However, it does present us with the task of ensuring that our Scouting sections continue to thrive.

We recognise the value that each leader brings to their respective Group and Section and to our wider Scouting community. We understand the importance of providing the necessary support.

The Scout Association's transformation process is still ongoing which when completed by the end of this year, will see changes to the ways we welcome new volunteers into Scouting and support them with their learning, changes to the way we support Scouting through Group and District Boards of Trustees and changes to our overall structure and our role titles. None of these changes however will affect the quality of the Scouting provided to our young people.

Scouting offers our young people and adult volunteers the opportunity to experience activities and events around the globe and we are extremely proud that members from Axe District are able to play their part in this. We had several young people and an adult volunteer go to the World Scout Jamboree in Korea last year – it wasn't perhaps the experience they thought they would have, but for the time they were onsite, they shared in that unique atmosphere that you can only get by being with 43,000 participants from 143 countries. In July this year we had young people and an adult volunteer attending Roverway in Norway, where they were promised an unforgettable adventure "North of the ordinary". We have two Network members attending the World Scout Moot in Portugal next year and one of our Network members (and an Assistant ESL) is one of only about 30 chosen from right across the whole of the UK to attend an expedition to Madagascar in 2025. None of these adventures are free and we are proud of every single one of them and proud also that as a District we have been able to support each young person and adult volunteer towards the cost of their trips and will continue to do so in years to come, so long as we are able to do so.

In closing, we are looking forward to the future and being able offer even more Scouting to an increasing number of young people and want to thank all our dedicated adult volunteers and supporters who are the backbone to making this happen.

Bruce Thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

Meeting ended at 8:15 pm

## Group Report

At the last AGM we reported that we had refurbished the outside of the building Finally making it a water tight and warm building again, This year the team have been working quietly in the background making some changes to the internal of the building, We have installed a new kitchen, and the toilet area has undergone a much needed face lift. Please feel free to look at them later this evening, if you haven't done so already.

The Next Project we are aiming to undertake is to give the main hall a facelift. This is in the early stage of planning, and costing, but we are hoping that it will be completed by the next AGM!

Over the past couple of years The Scout Association has undergone a transformation, They have made some changes to the names of things (The Exec committee has been renamed as a board of trustees, The 'job titles' of the leaders have changed slightly, and they have launched a new digital platform for the leaders to work from, and do their learning on). Whilst the changes are small, the 1 thing that hasn't changed is the programme that the young people get on a section evening,

At the census in January 2025, The number of young people in the group remained static year on year, (2 sections remained the same size, 1 grew slightly, and 1 shrank slightly).

I have had the privilege of seeing the young people (or hearing about) what the young people have been up to over the past year (you will see a few of the things they have been up to later in the AGM. Every section this year has offered a nights away experience to the young people, and more young people have gained their chief scouts awards, We have awarded 8 Chief scouts acorn Award (Squirrel Section), 2 Chief scouts bronze awards (Beaver Section), 4 chief scouts silver Award (Cub Section) and 6 chief scouts gold award (Scout Section).

Congratulations to all the young people who have achieved them, and a massive thank you and well done to the leadership teams for giving the Young people the opportunity to earn these awards.

On top of the Chief scouts awards,, We have loved reading the citations for this year's Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout of the year awards. We feel honoured to be supporting the leadership teams to make these young people grow and become great young people.

As Lead Volunteer, I love seeing young people join the group as a squirrel/Beaver and seeing them leave as a 14 year old Knowing the teams have given them skills for life and a sense of adventure they might not have got if they hadn't joined Scouting.

Our booking Secretary, Helen, has worked hard this year, booking in parties, and answering questions about hall hire etc. This is a vital part of the group's operation, without hall hire bookings, (both regular and occasional users), We would have to find money for the running of the building for the young people. As things stand the income from hall hire currently pays for the electricity, gas, and insurances for the premises. This means, we can keep the subs for the young people to a minimum.

We ask every year for the parents and supporters of the group to sign up for 2 things.  
The first thing is Gift aid, We can claim gift aid back from the Government, which ensures the money you for scouting, goes further, as every £1 you pay in subs, we can claim an additional 20p back from the government,

The second thing we ask, if that you sign up for easy fundraising.

I'm sure most of you shop online (albeit ebay shopping, grocery shopping, shopping for random stuff on amazon or shein). If you do, Please sign up to easy fundraising, (it costs you nothing to sign up) and then every time you shop online though the platform, then we receive a donation from the online retailer.

We would like to thank the Board of Trustees, for their efforts in the background making sure the group remains compliant and have a safe premises for you young people,

We would also like to thank the Leadership teams for their efforts, time and dedication they put into making sure the young people have a great time. A lot of people think it's just an hour or 2 a week, Well that's what you see. Behind the scenes they have to plan the programme, complete risk assessments, communicate with parents, attend district meetings, write letters/emails etc.

Bruce Badman  
Group Chair

Nigel Needs  
Group lead volunteer

## Holding Trustee Report 2024/2025

This evening we have heard how the Transformation of the Scout movement in the UK has progressed in particular the adoptions of new titles and names. Focussing on the changes made over the last couple of years, from group executive committee to Board of Trustees I would like to remind the scout council we as a group have had Group trustees dating back to 1932 when the Gilcraft Den was obtained from a farm for the use of scouting, yes it was a cow shed and on occasions still smells like one!

Numbering four in total we the Holding Trustees are responsible for holding the title deeds of the Den and the share investments in trust for the good of the group. In the light of these recent changes we are now known as Holding Trustees to avoid any confusion with the new board of trustee titles. We also hold seats on the Board of Trustees.

The past year has seen more progress in the refurbishment of the property making the Den more appealing. A new kitchen has been fitted, with attention being paid to ease of cleaning and a modern look and its usability. The WC area was also decorated and the hand basins repositioned adding extra appeal for visitors and groups alike. Consideration also given to the ease of access to one of the WCs for those with mobility concerns. Interior decoration is continuing along with the general upkeep of the plot and building. The old street gas lamp on the lawn has been refurbished and returned to operation albeit electric with timers and other wizardry making it automatic and energy efficient. This lamp was originally sited in the street and was "adopted" by the group when the lights in Totterdown Rd were electrified. We all hope the scout council will agree that the progress made this year has complemented the overall appearance and usability of the Den.

The Holding Trustee line up remains the same and I would like to express my thanks for the work and input volunteered by Adam, Gary and Angus to achieve what you see in the Den tonight. It should also be noted that a good deal of thanks should be given to Nigel and the Board of Trustees as a whole for their support with this ongoing project.

Our solicitors Powells have finalized the voluntary registration of the Den with the Land Registry. This was deemed necessary because the property had not changed hands or been subject to any conveyancing since 1932, and to gain access to some grants a Land Registry number is required.

The share holding remains unchanged and continues to provide the group with a steady income, please see treasurers report.

With the remaining and future funds raised for the improvements, we in the next year aim to concentrate on the inside, namely the walls and floor as major projects. We therefore consider that once these areas are addressed the Den will be a superb building to facilitate first class scouting at 3rd and be actively used by local community groups. This helps to provide an income for the group, which in turn achieves growth in the number of young people and volunteers who all enjoy scouting at the Gilcraft Den.

Robert Hase  
(Senior Trustee)

## Den Hire Report

This year has been quieter than last year in terms of hall usage. We have secured a couple of regular bookings and recently had someone visit who may be interested in hiring the hall. At present, most bookings come from the same regular groups.

I have reviewed our hire charges and compared them with other local halls, which range from £15–£25 per hour. For new bookings, I have increased the rate to £13.50 per hour, with a further increase planned for April. Current regular bookings remain at the same rate for now, but we should look to review these in April as well.

A few issues have arisen regarding the use of confetti, glitter cannons, and party poppers, which leave a considerable amount of mess and require extra cleaning. I have begun advising hirers not to use them, or that an additional cleaning charge will apply if they do.

The renovation of the kitchen and toilets has been very well received, with hirers giving good feedback on the improvements. Overall, feedback has been positive, and people are happy with the service provided.

One area to consider going forward is waste and recycling. With recent changes to collections in North Somerset, we currently do not recycle from the hall. After events, the waste generated often fills a bin bag. Going forward we will be exploring options for recycling to help reduce mixed waste.

If you would like to hire the hall, Please email [3rdwsmbookings@gmail.com](mailto:3rdwsmbookings@gmail.com)

Helen

Booking Secretary

## Squirrel Report

We've given out 8 Chief Scout Acorn Awards in the last 12 months:

- Ivan P
- Matilda S
- Hadley S
- Jasmine L
- Theo H
- Ava-May J
- Amber-Rose M
- Charlie O

Autumn 2024: We explored space, had a bonfire party, had a visit from a paramedic and learnt some first aid from her. We also celebrated Diwali, hearing the story, painting paper hands, dancing to Bollywood music and making lanterns.

In January 2025 Cathy Wheatley took lead of the drey as Trudy needed to step down due to personal reasons.

Spring 2025: "Feel Good January" exploring ways to be healthy and look after our wellbeing. Including a trip to the community garden / allotment to see where food comes from, and a healthy eating session with the council's food and nutrition public health specialist making overnight oats and fruit salad. We started the Earth Tribe badge; visitors helped us to build bug houses, make solar powered fans and litter pick. We then set ourselves personal challenges such as turning out lights, reducing our food waste (by trying more of our meals) and helping with the recycling at home and thought about which pathway we might take for Earth Tribe.

Summer 2025: The Squirrels loved litter picking and wanted to do a lot more of it. We decided to "adopt" Totterdown Road through the Adopt a Street scheme— vowing to carry out regular litter picks (4-6 times a year). North Somerset Environment bought smaller litter picking PPE and equipment and send a member of staff every time we want to do a litter pick, to help out – we've done three already! Besides this, we explored cultural diversity with an international night where we heard from people from Germany, France and Romania. We learnt the word for "Squirrel" in each language, tried some food, found countries on a map, learnt the flags and some interesting facts about each country. We celebrated our own diversity during Pride month – by making flags with pictures of our families on and marching around the hall waving them, singing and making music with instruments, to show that we are proud of who we are.

On the penultimate week of the year we joined the other sections in den building in Weston Woods, and on the last week we had a garden party back and campfire back at the community garden.

The group as it stands now is entirely different to those we started the year with, with a complete change over of children. All 8 of the children named as having received a chief scout acorn award have now moved on and the 8 children we've now got on role have started since January. We have four new children starting over the coming term, three in September and one after October half term, bringing us to a comfortable total of 12. More than that would require more team members who could commit to every week.

Cathy Wheatley

Team Leader (Squirrels)

## Beaver Report

The beavers have completed many tasks through this year towards their badges. They have completed creative activities, where beavers have explored the space badge, completed some Christmas activities, and worked together as teams to complete problem solving activities.

The beavers have been to some interesting places in weston and had some visitors to the hut. Some of these were visiting the food bank, the helicopter museum, we attended a local church and had a paramedic attend a session to help us with our first aid. We also learnt about our planet and how to look after it. While exploring this badge we went litter picking and did some work around endangered animals.

The beavers have completed many hikes through the year counting a night hike through the woods and some navigation work around weston with maps.

They attended a district trip to Noah's ark zoo which gave the beavers the opportunity to meet other beavers from different sections. We also completed some adventure activities such as axe throwing and archery.

We also completed some group activities to support the beavers to interact with our whole section, squirrels, cubs and scouts such as a Halloween party and a family den building activity.

There was 2 camps this year that the beavers attended at our hut.

The end of term we managed to spend loads of time out of the hut and made the most of the weather. We went on a hike in uphill, and Worlebury woods, made floating boats and floated them at a pool down the beach, and ended our summer term with laser tag in the woods which was a brilliant and engaging term.

Sierena Richardson  
Team Leader (Beavers)

### Cub Pack Report

We currently have 19 Cubs in the pack. Between April 2024 and March 2025, four of our oldest Cubs achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award, the highest award in Cubs, which is a fantastic achievement for them all.

As well as working towards a number of the Challenge Awards during that time, we also completed several activity badges including Collector, Scientist and Emergency Aid. We took part in a wide range of activities, such as fire lighting, team challenges, held an Olympic evening, Christmas craft, Street Dance, a spy themed evening and celebrated St Andrews Day. We also went tobogganing, and tried Street Dance and karate.

We held a summer camp for 3 nights at Uphill Scout Hut in August 2024, and held a sleepover in November 2024. More recently we had another sleepover in May 2025 and are looking forward to two nights away in Backwell later in the year. The Cubs have enjoyed the experience of staying away from home, while taking part in activities including shooting, archery, craft, games and of course a hot chocolate and a game of bingo before bed!

This year we have been fortunate to have two new adult leaders. Imogen, who was one of our Young Leaders, has now continued with us as an adult leader. We have also welcomed Lucy to our leadership team. I am as always very grateful to Anthea, Nikki, Barbara and Shelley, as well as Imogen and Lucy for their commitment, support and dedication in everything they do for our Cubs.

We are also very privileged to have had several Young Leaders over the last year who have given up their time each week. They are a vital part of our leadership team as they help support the Cubs, and bring new ideas – a big thank you to Joshua, Bailey and Dylan.

We are always looking for more adult help and if anyone is interested in finding out more about joining our leadership team as a leader, or helping on an occasional basis, please let me know, or speak to our Group Scout Leader Nigel Neads. We have a fun, supportive team and it is a rewarding role!

Emma Welch  
Team Leader (Cubs)

## Scout Section Report

As we close the scouting year, we're proud to reflect on the energy, creativity, and resilience shown by the 3rd Weston Scout Troop. With 15 scouts currently in the troop, we've enjoyed a wide variety of activities that brought us closer to nature, built new skills, and strengthened our sense of community.

One of the most memorable evenings was our Seafront Photography, where scouts captured the changing light and scenery from Marine Lake to Beach Lawns. The evening ended with a relaxed games in the Sea Monster Garden. We also spent much time in Weston Woods, where scouts built their own bivouacs and dens. These sessions helped deepen their understanding of the natural world and gave them a real sense of independence. Our climbing trip to Rock Up was a highlight for many, offering a chance to test physical limits and support one another through challenging climbs. The troop also enjoyed cooking over open fires at the allotments, where they prepared a range of dishes while learning fire safety and outdoor cooking techniques.

The year ended on a high with our Summer Camp at Woodhouse Park in Bristol. It was a hot weekend packed with fun and adventure. Scouts took part in laser tag, tackled the adventure course, played crazy golf, and cooled off with a lively water fight. They also cooked on open fires, strengthening their outdoor skills and teamwork. The camp was a joyful celebration of everything scouting stands for.

We're especially proud of the scouts who completed their Chief Scout Gold Award this year: Gabby, Flo, Doug, Sapphire, Grace, and Lillie. These young people have been important and valued members of our troop, and we wish them all the best as they move on—two of them to Explorers.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated leadership team: John, Jay, Chloe, Sarah, Maz, Nigel, and Young Leader Dylan. Your commitment and enthusiasm make all of this possible.

Looking Ahead... Next year, we're excited to focus on the Challenge Badges, plan an expedition, and explore new activities like watersports, hiking, and even a bit of geocaching.

We look forward to another year of growth, adventure, and fun.

John Wheatley  
Team Leader - Scouts