

Squirrels

cubs

BEAVERS

SCOUTS

District AGM

2025

EXPLORERS

network




Scouts

Bury St Edmunds and District



**BURY ST EDMUNDS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 2025**

FOREWARD

Welcome to everyone joining us this evening for the 2025 District Scout Council's Annual general meeting.

This Annual Report provides a number of snapshots of what happened during the Scouting year which has proven to have been an active one for the Groups and Units District-wide. I will not single out anything in particular but instead simply ask you to read the reports from all the contributors.

Looking ahead for the year 2025/26, which incidentally we are already half-way through, the District Lead Volunteers have set three commendable priorities for the District to aspire to. Mindful of one of those in particular, the District Trustee Board has identified a number of governance areas which are in need of attention. It is picking those off progressively and has set about putting in place measures to meet the desired outcomes.

On behalf the District Trustee Board, I would like to express the Board's appreciation to Leigh and Steve (the joint District Lead Volunteers), their District Leadership Team, all Leaders and the many supporters in the Groups and Units for their time and commitment so freely given to Scouting. You are the people who make the delivery of Scouting a reality; without you Scouting quite simply would not happen.

Concluding this Foreword on a personal note, I wish to place on record and extend thanks to my own team of volunteers - my fellow trustees on the District Trustee Board. To each and every one of you, thank you for your contributions to the Board's work.

Keith Barber

Chair - Board of Trustees - Bury St Edmunds District Scouts

**BURY ST EDMUNDS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

25 September 2025

at The Riverwalk School Bury St Edmunds commencing at 7.30 pm

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction, welcome and Thought for the meeting**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Governance topics**
 - a. to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26 September 2024.
 - b. to confirm the adoption of the District model constitution from Policy Organisation and Rules (April 2025 Ed) as amended from time to time.
 - c. to note the District Council's financial year as ending on the 31 March in each year.
 - d. to approve the District Trustee Board's recommendation that the maximum number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board is twelve (12), subject always to the discretion of the Board to resolve that seats may remain vacant.
 - e. to confirm the quorum for meetings of the District Scout Council (including its AGM) is twelve (12) members of the Council excluding Trustees.
- 4. Review of the previous year**
 - a. the District Lead Volunteers' review of Scouts during the year ending on 31 March 2025 in the Bury St Edmunds District.
 - b. to receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts.
- 5. Making appointments**

Council:

 - a. upon the recommendation of the District Trustee Board appoints Keith Barber to the role of District Chair for a term of three (3) years expiring at the Council's 2028 annual general meeting.

- b. upon the recommendation of the District Trustee Board appoints Carole Seeley to the role of District Treasurer for a term of three (3) years expiring at the Council's 2028 annual general meeting.
- c. upon the recommendation of the District Trustee Board confirms the appointment of both Amanda Wade and Alan Chilestone to the Trustee Board each for a term of three (3) years expiring at the Council's 2028 annual general meeting.
- d. approves the District Trustee Board's recommendation to appoint (as announced in the meeting) as the Independent Examiner of the District's annual accounts for year ending 31 March 2026
- e. nominates representatives (as announced in the meeting) as the Council's to represent the District on the County Scout Council.

6. Closing remarks from the Chair

BURY ST EDMUNDS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Minutes of The District Annual General Meeting
26th September 2024 – Riverwalk School, Bury St Edmunds

1. Welcome – Chair

Steve Williams, acting as Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
He also welcomed Keith Gleen Deputy County Commissioner as County Representative
Steve thanked Andrew for use of building.

Present: 38 members attended, See attached list.

2. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from 24 members, See attached list

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Review held on 15th June 2023

The minutes were agreed as accurate and approved. Proposed by Steve Williams
Seconded by Anna Parker. Approved by a show of hands.

4. Governance Topics

a. District Trustee Board proposes we adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules

Seconded by Wendy Barnes, Approved by a show of hands.

b. Note the District's financial year

The District Scout Council noted our charity's financial year is 1 April to 31 March.

c. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board

The outgoing District Trustee Board proposes that 8 people be appointed. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees. Seconded by Graham Mackie and approved by a show of hands.

d. Agree the quorum for each of the District Scout Council (including this AGM), meetings of the District Trustee Board, meetings of any sub-committees.

The outgoing District Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be set at 12 people. Seconded by Margaret Chilstone. Approved by a show of hands.

5. Review of the previous year

a. The Acting District Commissioner's review of Scouting in the District

The Acting District Commissioner gave their review. The District is in a strong position but we need to work on Adult Recruitment. The County are still carrying

out a search for a permanent District Commissioner, with a decision expected in the next 2-3 weeks.

b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual Statement of the Accounts

The District Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and has received the report on the accounts from the Independent Examiner. The District Treasurer gave their explanation of the Statement of Accounts.

He noted that the District is strong financially, however the balance at 31/03/2023 is higher than it should be as some groups paid their subs early. Unfortunately, some groups are not paying invoices for their district activities, which is not good enough. Please pay in good time as the District often have to pay in advance.

The treasurer concluded that whilst this was supposed to be his last AGM, he is prepared to carry on until 31/03/2025 so that a successor can be found.

Questions were invited from the floor regarding the Trustee Annual Report, and the Annual Accounts. One member sought reassurance that the finances were in good shape.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer, Mike Golston for his long service as District Treasurer.

6. Making Appointments

a. To approve the nominations to the District Trustee Board

The Acting District Commissioner did not have a candidate to put forward as Chair. The Trustee board will look to fill this post urgently.

The recommendation to the District Scout Council is that Mike Golston should be appointed as District Treasurer until 31/03/2025.

Approved by a show of hands.

The recommendation to the District Scout Council is that Leigh Foster-Green, Steve Williams, Tony Millburn, Alan Chilstone and Amanda Wade should be appointed as members of the District Trustee Board.

Approved by a show of hands.

The Chair thanked the Trustees for their work during the year, and particularly Dylan Watkins who is standing down.

At this point the Acting DC asked for further volunteers to join the Trustee board. Four volunteers were forthcoming, however we had set the limit at 8, (item 4c). Concern was raised from the floor that this would take us over this limit. A check, subsequent to the meeting showed that including the Treasurer, we had 6 Trustees. We would need to leave space for a chair to be recruited,

and for the Treasurers replacement, as the current treasurer would work with his replacement to ensure a smooth handover. That would take us to 8.

Whilst we thank Wendy Barnes, Anna Parker, Kate Parnum and Laura Lambell for volunteering, there was no space for them at present.

b. To appoint the Independent Examiner

The Treasurer reported that we need to find a new scrutineer as the prices charged by the current firm were rising. Alan proposed that authority is given for the Trustee Board to appoint a suitable scrutineer in time for the 2024 / 2025 financial year end. This was seconded by Margaret Chilstone and approved by a show of hands.

c. Nominate representative of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council

Graham Mackie volunteered. This was proposed by chair and seconded by Amanda Wade and approved by a show of hands.

7. County Representative- Keith Gleen, Deputy County Commissioner

Keith said he was impressed by all the things that have been done in the District. He particularly mentioned that our growth was outstanding, as we continue to attract young people. He commented that we had more Squirrel Scouts in the District than in the rest of the County and that we have also reduced waiting lists.

He encouraged us to ensure we are fully prepared for Transformation, stating that Bury obviously already runs with teams, so well done and carry on.

8. AGM Close and Awards

The chair closed the AGM, thanked everyone for attending and outlined the arrangements for the rest of the event.

Lesley Biden award: In recognition of the growth in numbers that they have achieved, The Acting District Commissioner was pleased to Award the Lesley Biden Award to Mildenhall Scout Group.

Adult Awards: Wendy Barnes GSL Wood Badge.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm

District Lead Volunteers' Report

It's been quite a year!

Firstly, our sincere thanks to all adults who give their time week-in, week-out to provide fun, excitement and personal development for our youth members aged 4-18. Aside from programmes run at group level, our young people continue to benefit from an enviable programme of District events.

We have just about got to grips with the new digital system (not sure how much longer we can call it 'new'!) Much work went on behind the scenes to ensure that we were ready for the transition to this new system. Thanks to Alan Chilestone and all Group Lead Volunteers, who, with us, have made sure that the District continues to be in a strong position regionally and nationally in terms of learning and appointments compliance.

The District continues to lead in the County with Squirrel Scout provision, with two more groups looking to open Dreys soon. Looking to the other age extreme, it is great to see the Invictus Scout Network has been revived with membership from across the District. The Network meets monthly as well as weekend camps. They are currently planning an Explorer Belt expedition to Italy, so watch this space.

There has been a significant increase in Young Leaders gaining their Young Leader belts for completion of the Young Leader Training Scheme. We have a high retention rate of young leaders transitioning into adult leader roles which is great to see and testament to the nurturing environment that leadership teams across the District provide for our Young Leaders.

Looking to the future, sustainable growth will be a focus, recognising that for more young people to be able to benefit from Scouting, we need to constantly recruit more adults. We know there is no golden bullet for this, but what we do know works is forging closer links with families at group level. Let's make sure that the parents really get to know you as leaders, as parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, big brothers... people just like them who just so happen to volunteer with Scouts too. We will continue to work with District Trustee Board Chairs network and Group Lead Volunteers to share ideas and support each other with our adult recruitment.

Whilst we await the renewed national Scout strategy to be released, we will focus on the following priorities in the next year:

- 1: Ensure effective governance of the District and Groups.
- 2: Improve the proportion of Top Awards gained in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts.
- 3: Reduce waiting lists by growing existing provision and opening new sections.

Looking forward to another successful year.

Leigh Foster-Green & Steve Williams

District Lead Volunteers

Squirrel Section Report

Squirrels continues to go from strength to strength. All four Drey's are running with good numbers on a weekly basis.

This year has been a busy one for our Squirrels. As a District, we have had a visit to Church Farm, our annual Halloween Party, St George's Day Games, District Bowling competition, our County Trip to Easton Farm Park alongside Beavers, our first District sleepover and we finished the year with the much-loved water activities at Lackford Lakes. Quite often these events are firsts for our young people. It is wonderful to see them making new friends among the other Dreys and giving new things a go with unwavering enthusiasm.

Sadly, we have said Goodbye to Jase and Megan from Mildenhall and Red Lodge, huge thanks to both for all of your hard work with both your individual Dreys and your valuable contributions towards District meetings and events. In their place we are happy to welcome Harry and Sarah, who have already hit the ground running in their new roles.



Sally Wooldridge
Squirrel Scout Programme Lead

Scout Section Report

It's been a busy and exciting 12 months for District Scouts, packed with activities, learning, and lots of fun.

Last year's summer camp at Thriftwood in Essex was a fantastic week full of adventure. Scouts enjoyed a wide range of activities — far too many to list — and a highlight was the day trip to Adventure Island in Southend. While Scouts took part in evening sessions, the leaders also had a chance to relax and enjoy their own activities.

As we moved into the colder months, our annual Dodgeball Competition in November was a big hit, with Great Barton taking home the trophy. January saw the return of the 10-pin Bowling Competition, where Lakenheath claimed the win.

Despite the cold, our Winter Camp at Hardwick Heath in February was a great success. Plenty of activities were packed into the one night camp, with scouts learning important survival and outdoor skills.

The Quiz and Chips evening was another well-attended event. With some tricky questions, it made for a fun and competitive night. Congratulations to Honington for taking the win! March brought the Patrol Competition with Horringer coming out on top. All groups that attended showed great teamwork and leadership throughout.

The Zombie-themed night hike at Hardwick Heath in April was a spooky success! A big thanks goes out to the Explorers, who dressed up as zombies, running the bases and being on checkpoints for the evening. Congratulations to Horringer who won for the second year in a row.

In May we held our Archery and Air Rifle Camp and it was fantastic to see Scouts challenging themselves throughout the weekend. A huge well done to Red Lodge, who came out on top in both archery and air rifles.

Finally, the Beginners camp in July saw younger Scouts joined by older Cubs for the first time. It was great to see everyone working together, learning back-to-basics skills and showing the Cubs what we do on scout camps for when they transition up to us.

Thank you to all the Scout leaders for sharing the workload in organising this year's events and camps. Your teamwork and commitment have made everything run smoothly and ensured great experiences for all our Scouts.

Rob Flack
Scout Programme Lead

District 14-24 sections

Explorer unit meetings continue to be well attended with new Explorers moving up from Scouts and new arrivals from out of area too. Our older Explorers are moving up to Invictus Network, which is continuing to grow, and taking on section leadership roles.

Current numbers for Units are:

Endeavour – 28 explorers + 6 Leaders

Columbus – 10 explorers + 4 Leaders

Discovery – 10 explorers + 3 Leaders

Invictus Network – 20 members

Discovery Explorers have had some joint events with their local groups to help with transition from Scouts to Explorers and they have more events planned.

Several district unit events have taken place, and our next event will be an archery/air rifle camp in September. All units are invited to these including the Apollo Young Leader Unit, so please encourage your Young Leaders to take part.

Harriet Samuel (District Youth Lead) has also been visiting Explorer units to talk about Invictus and future Network events. They are currently planning to take on the challenge of an Explorer Belt in 2026.

We held an introduction to DofE meeting in July and plans are in progress to do more structured DofE training and support later in the year.

It will soon be summer holiday time, and I hope that the 20 explorers joining BSE Scouts on their weeklong summer camp will have an amazing time. I thank all the adults who give up their time to plan and run all the activities we offer our young people.

Karen Pettitt

District 14-24 Lead

District Young Leader Unit

At the time of the January 2025 census, we had over fifty Young Leaders providing support for younger sections and thereby developing their own leadership skills and Skills for Life.

All Young Leader modules have been delivered in the past year, with attendance averaging at 18 Young Leaders. This has enabled an increasing number to gain their Young Leader Belt (one of Scouting's Top Awards) through completion of all modules and the 'Missions' to put the learning into practice with the sections that they work with. During the year ending 31 March 2025, three Young Leaders gained their Young Leader Belts, with three more awarded since. All of those who have gained their Young Leader Belts have gone on to adult roles within their Group.

The mandatory Young Leader Module A continues to be delivered regularly throughout the calendar year to ensure that all those undertaking a Young Leader role (including those for the Duke of Edinburgh Award 'Volunteering' element) can completed this within the mandated three months.

A big thank you in particular to Ellen, Kate and Alfie who have supported with Young Leader training this year. Thanks also to those groups who have provided use of their HQ. We are looking to expand the pool of those dipping-in to deliver some of the Young Leader modules. Please speak to me if you are interested.

Leigh Foster-Green

Team Leader, Apollo Young Leader Unit

Water Activities Report

Over the past year, the District Water Team has continued to deliver exciting and engaging water-based experiences to young people across the district, helping them develop skills, confidence, and a love for water activities.

One of the highlights of the year was the kayak sessions, which successfully introduced 30 Scouts to paddling skills and water safety. The course was run over three different weeks, allowing for smaller group sizes, more personalized instruction, and a better learning experience. Scouts made excellent progress, with many achieving their staged paddlesport badges and growing in confidence on the water.

30+ Squirrels attended the Squirrel Water Day and many others attended an afternoon session with their dreys. For many, this was their first time trying out some paddling on the bell boats and having lots of fun.

We also ran multiple Beaver water evenings, spreading these across several nights throughout the summer term to accommodate as many groups as possible. These sessions allowed Beavers to experience time out on the water in bell boats and some got to try rafting too. On other evenings we hosted some Cub and Scout groups, getting them out on the paddleboards and the MegaSUPs which were a big hit with everyone.

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather forecasts, we had to postpone the planned Cub Water Day and the Scout Water Competition. While disappointing, the safety of our young people is always our top priority. We are currently working to reschedule both events in September, and we're hopeful that the weather will be on our side for a successful ending to the season.

We're incredibly grateful to all the permit holders and leaders who give their time and energy to support these events, but we would like more permit holders on the books with an aim to put on more evenings and to get even more young people out on the water. We have already increased our Bell Boat permit holders within the district by putting on two courses during the summer term.

Our plan in the future is to expand our permit holders on other crafts to include kayaks, paddleboards and canoes. An adult taster day is planned for next year and winter kayaking sessions are in the works and will be open to adults and Explorers to practice their skills and to get enough knowledge and confidence on the water to obtain permits in the future. If anyone would like to know more information or has an interest in obtaining water based permits please contact bsewaterteam@gmail.com

Rob Flack

Water Activities Programme Lead

Volunteer Development Team

Following Transformation, my two roles were effectively combined into Volunteer Development Team Lead, covering learning as well as appointments admin.

On the appointments side, we spent time tidying up the records ready for transformation, as well as seeing as many people as possible through the old system, including Appointments Committees as appropriate.

After transformation, most members signed in and completed their various actions. This process has not been easy for some, as the system is taking time to settle down, with some having more difficulties than others. However, it is here to stay so we must get used to it. I have spent a lot of time making sure all the records are correct and in place, and I am starting to see light at the end of the tunnel.

The appointments process is, in the long run simpler, with the new Welcome Conversations going well, and people able to apply for their DBS Disclosures. Technically, the Appointments Secretary role disappeared, but our DLVs have asked me to keep a similar overview of the process. The biggest problem I have is that I do not get notifications of what is happening with appointments, e.g. when a DBS clears, so I have to regularly check the system. That is why I ask that if anything is changed, added, a DBS started etc., that GLVs and team leads drop me an email. I would rather have too many emails than too few.

Another problem I have is references, I cannot see whether they have been added when necessary, or if incomplete, whether it is one or both that are not returned, so we do need the applicant to keep watch.

As far as learning (formerly training) is concerned, the new system of "Growing Roots" learning seems to be working well, and most are completing in the required time frame. Thank you also to all who completed the new Safety Learning by the deadline. I know it may seem like I send a lot of emails, but it is to ensure that the learning is completed. I believe we are one of the best Districts in the County for learning compliance. Again, it is helpful when members let me know they have completed a module.

Well done to all who completed their Wood badges prior to Transformation. The Wood Badge is no longer compulsory, but I would encourage all Team Members to complete this. Learning Modules are provided at County, along with others locally. Thanks to our trainers for laying these on.

With all who were previously Section Assistants, now being required to complete First Response Training, Denise, our First Aid Trainer, has been very busy and led a large number of courses in the District, along with the added pressure that all who

had completed an external qualification needed to complete areas of our syllabus, not covered by theirs. Thank you, Denise, for your work.

So, we are now in this new world of “Digital Tools” which we hope will settle down as HQ bring in fixes and improvements. I will try and help you where I can, but I don’t have any magic fixes.

Thank you to everyone who supports me in the role, especially the DLVs, the GLVs and Team Leaders, and all who have worked to complete their learning.

I would like to particularly thank all the former Training Advisers and members of the Appointments Advisory Committee, for all the support they have given to me pre Transformation.

Alan Chilestone
Volunteer Development Team Lead

1st Brandon

I am pleased to have been a part of Brandon group for the last year. We have a great team of leaders and young leaders across the 4 sections.

I would like to thank the leaders, not only do they volunteer on a weekly basis to run the section meetings, but they also give up their weekends and holiday time to take our young people on camps and trips so a massive thank you to them from me!

As always, we need to build our Trustee Board and help focus on fund-raising, updating our policies and reviewing our Development Plan. Looking ahead, we will unfortunately have to increase our subs from Sept from £30 - £35 a term. Costs are increasing from badges, utilities and general activity costs but I think you will all agree that this is still great value.

I am also pleased to announce that from September, Alan Chapman will be taking on the role of Group Lead Volunteer! My time with Brandon was always temporary until we could find a replacement and having worked closely with Alan over the last year, I can tell that you will be in safe hands. I will continue to work alongside Alan until Dec to ensure a smooth transition but hope you will all join me in congratulating him on his new role and support him.

Wendy Barnes
Group Lead Volunteer

1st Bury St Edmunds

1st Bury have had a successful year with the group working well as a team across all sections, highlights of this has been the whole group sleepover at Gullivers Land, Day trip to Birmingham for scouts the musical and most recently our 3 day camp at Eaton Vale which saw us recruit several parent helpers in the months leading up to the camp to support us also, the camp was a huge success and really strengthened the entire team encouraging us to plan a similar large camp for next year. The young members all worked incredibly well together at all our whole group adventures and it was a real joy to see them encouraging each other and working side by side at many different challenges.

Beavers have had an incredibly busy year with 8 nights away, Christmas camp and sealife were very popular and have been requested by the Beavers to do again in the coming year, they have also attended several day trips and evenings out on their usual group nights and finished the year awarding 11 Bronze awards at the AGM.

Cubs are going from strength to strength with the addition of easier scouting to support their programme planning and have enjoyed trying new things especially a guided Bat detection walk at Lackford, we also have a previous member returning to join us as a leader in September now they've turned 18. Two members earned their silver award this year and many more are on their way to achieving it before moving to scouts.

Scouts has grown in numbers in the past year and as always offer their unique challenges, things have improved with clear rules with consequences that they helped put together with the leadership team to create a nicer environment for everyone, the scouts really did themselves proud at the recent group camp at Eaton vale supporting each other and the younger members especially. The majority of scouts have also enjoyed completing the padi scuba diving course over a number of sessions.

We have had several successful fundraising events, the most successful was our recent summer fete and carwash with bakesale earlier in the year. With the support of two new parent helpers supporting Laura we hope to make these an annual event along with other new ideas.

Andrew Lambell
Group Lead Volunteer

6th Bury St Edmunds

I write this year, having taken on the role of Group Lead Volunteer, with the transformations in the Scout movement, it was the right time to take on the group and help to drive the changes that have happened within the movement.

I would like to thank all the 6th Bury leaders, now team leads and volunteers, for their support and dedication. Without their efforts, it would not have been possible for the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts to run a full and varied program across all sections. With all sections reaching capacity and now having waiting lists, our challenge is to make more places available. This will require more support and more leaders for the sections.

I would like to extend my thanks to the trustee board for all their support, hard work, and help over the last year. With the many changes to the structure of Scouting and the consequential changes these have required at the Group and section level. We still have vacancies in all areas, but with the roles being split up, this should mean we can spread the jobs around more individuals. Our most pressing need now is a Group Chair.

For the year going forward, it is going to be tough, and we are having to review our finances as the costs of running our buildings and sites are still rising, we are making every effort to keep our fees low to continue doing this and provide the equipment for the sections we are going to have to fundraise and will need to form a fundraising committee volunteers are required.

For the Scout HQ, we need a new development plan to focus on supporting and developing the HQ. We still have more work to do, including upgrading the fire doors and rebuilding the hall's entrance. The work is needed to allow us to continue to deliver safe and inclusive Scouting, now and into the future. We are looking for volunteers to develop a plan and work with local tradespeople who can help us achieve these goals.

Our plans also need to cover Hardwick Heath to continue doing up the buildings and carry out further improvements at the site. We are growing the income from the site, which is being used for camps by various groups.

Currently, we are looking for volunteers to mow and help maintain Hardwick Heath. Over the coming year, we are forming a maintenance committee to manage the site. My thanks go out to everyone who has already helped with the site this year.

I look forward to the next year and continuing to improve the assets that are the Scout HQ and Hardwick Heath, so we can get as much benefit for the Scouts and the local community as we can.

We need to grow the group to deliver a successful scouting program to as many young people as possible. The challenge is to recruit enough Volunteers to open a Squirrels section and possibly expand and open second sections within the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

I would ask everyone to give a few hours to the group to help us grow and strengthen the group for the future.

Giles Lillistone

Group Lead Volunteer

Great Barton

At the start of this year, I took on the role of Group Lead Volunteer, following in the footsteps of Duncan Ayling. I'd like to thank Duncan for his dedication and support during his time in the role. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have run varied programmes and taken part in many District events and camps. 5 Chief Scout Awards have been awarded across the sections. Congratulations to the Scouts for winning the District Dodgeball competition.

One of our Young Leaders has just recently taken the next step in her Scouting journey to become an adult Team Member. It has been fantastic to see her journey through the group since she joined as a Beaver. She joins 3 other young adults who have also taken the same step in recent years. We've also seen an upsurge in Young Leaders coming up from Scouts, 4 of them taking the next step this year.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Gordon Biden, a dear friend to many and for many years our Group Scout Leader. Gordon played a huge part in shaping the group into what it is today. We are incredibly grateful for his generous bequest to the group, which will be used to support future generations of young people here in Great Barton.

This year, we've seen some improvements to our facilities. The inside of the Scout Hut has been redecorated, and it's looking brighter and more welcoming. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the decorating. In addition, the trustees have been hard at work behind the scenes ensuring the hut remains safe and functional – including overseeing rewiring and replacing some of the electrical fittings earlier in the year.

As ever, we are immensely thankful to all of our volunteers. We currently have 11 adults helping across the sections, 7 Trustees, and 6 on our fundraising and maintenance committees. There are several people who overlap on more than one of these. Every adult who helps at the group has a personal connection – either as a parent or as someone who came through the group themselves. Your time, energy, and commitment are what make this group possible. Whether you're a team leader, occasional helper, or one of the many who've quietly helped out this year, thank you. We couldn't do it without you.

Currently, we have 16 Scouts, 12 Cubs and 7 Beavers. This is a little lower than last year, so we're keen to grow our numbers again. If your children are enjoying their time in the group (and we hope they are!), please do spread the word to friends and families. Personal recommendations are one of the best ways to help us grow.

Looking to the future, our trustees have started exploring the idea of launching a Squirrel section for 4–6 year olds, following some interest from local families. We'd love to be able to offer Scouting to even more young people – but we can't do this without more adult volunteers. If you or someone you know might be able to help, even occasionally, please speak to me – we'd love to hear from you.

Jonathan Corwin
Group Lead Volunteer (Acting)

1st Honington (RAF)

We currently have 17 Beavers in our Colony with 4 Young Leaders and 5 Adults. In the past year we have awarded 2 Chief Scout Bronze Awards with more to follow very soon. We have also awarded 335 Challenge and Activity Badges. We have camped, hiked, learned to tie knots, taken part in fundraising activities, learned about our community, cycled, learned about the world, talked about our hobbies, found out about disabilities and the work of the Riding for the Disabled, taken part in Parliament Week and attended the Remembrance Day parade. We have asked our Beavers what they want to do and made it happen for them.

Our Young Leader Team have worked tirelessly supporting the adults and helping the Beavers to achieve. We have made our Programme accessible to everyone and continue to adapt activities to make sure everyone is able to take part in a way that means they succeed and see the reward for their effort.

We currently have 11 Cubs. Our numbers have fluctuated this year as many have moved on to Scouts but having a younger Beaver Colony, a similar number were not ready to move to Cubs. We have 3 Leaders and 4 Young Leaders. This year we have camped, hiked, fundraised, built Airfix models, been bowling, tried our hand at pancake art, been to Planet Laser, learned some basic navigation skills, made Christmas cakes, built tents and put up bivvies, taken part in Parliament Week, done DIY and made our own knot boards, learned to tie knots and attended the Remembrance Day parade. We have awarded 320 badges to Cubs in the past year including 5 Chief Scout Silver Awards.

Again, our Young Leader Team have been amazing, working hard to set up our sessions and help to run them ensuring that everyone can achieve. Our Programme is adaptable and accessible, and we continue to make adjustments to ensure everyone can join in.

We currently have 18 Scouts, having had an influx from Cubs. We have 3 Leaders and 5 Young Leaders. Scouts have been awarded 123 badges including 3 Chief Scout Gold Awards.

We have concentrated on building on their Scouting knowledge and have been working on map reading, knots, camping, hiking, safe use of knives, axes and saws fire lighting and outdoor cooking as well as Planet Laser, fundraising and dodgeball. We came away victorious from the District Quiz. This term several of our Scouts took part in a two-day expedition to the North Norfolk Coast where their map reading, and survival skills were all put to the test by self-navigating using route cards they planned.

Our Young Leaders have joined in tirelessly, helping with setting up, clearing away, and aiding the activities.

Our Young Leaders work incredibly hard, attending training sessions and completing training modules, they help plan and run sessions and are an absolute asset to our team. They help pitch and strike camps, build campfires, unpack and pack kit and tie endless shoelaces. They help with air rifle sessions, axe throwing sessions and climbing wall sessions. Several attend all three Sections every week and we encourage them all to take periods of leave during exam season.

We do remember though that they are still young people and encourage them to have fun too. They are included in camps, hikes, expeditions, quizzes, Planet Laser and given the downtime to just sit by a campfire and be youngsters.

Martin and Judy Brooks
Group Leader Volunteers

1st Ixworth

Over the past year, all 3 sections have been busy in their weekly meetings & attending district events. Some of the highlights have been camps, sleepovers, trips, joining other groups in the district, & gaining badges. As you can see in the section reports, how busy the sections have been.

This past year has been a remarkable journey for all our young members, filled with multitude of activities that contributed to personal growth & learning new skills. Between the 3 sections a total of 81 challenge badges, 126 activity badges, 96 staged badges & 7 Chief Scout Awards. The Chief Scout Award is the highest badge our members can gain. It is with their hard work & great determination, that they achieve their badges.

In September, we officially welcomed Jan, Katie & Kelvin into the group, who joined the Cub leadership team. We said goodbye to Helen from cubs after 15 years of being involved in the group & also to Liz, who was our treasurer, stepping down from the role after 10 years. Thank you to both Helen & Liz.

I wish to thank Andy (my Assistant) for his help & support in running the group, & all the leaders for their commitment to scouting, & to giving up their weekends & evenings to make sure our young members experience scouting in full. I would like to thank our members of the Trustee Board, for their support.

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate our group's 50- year anniversary, a significant milestone that promises to be filled with special events & opportunity for our young members to engage & grow within scouting.

As we prepare for another year, we would like to send our best wishes to Hathi (beavers), who has stepped back on maternity leave. Congratulations to Hathi & her husband, Matt, on their forthcoming arrival. We look forward to meeting the new addition.

Lastly, thank you to all the young members for making our activities enjoyable & engaging. Also thank you to the parents for bringing & supporting your child to our meetings & events.

Ruth Nunn

Group Lead Volunteer

1st Lakenheath

I cannot believe another year has passed so quickly, our group has grown in numbers both in youth and adults. Due to the number of Cubs, we opened a second pack which has proved a success, and this will continue from September. We are looking to open another Beaver and Scout section to accommodate the growing numbers on our waiting list.

As always, we are very grateful for all our leaders who give up so much of their spare time to ensure scouting in Lakenheath continues.

Not only do they volunteer on a weekly basis to run the section meetings, they also give up their weekends and holiday time to take our young people on camps and trips so a massive thank you to them from me!

Reading the section reports always makes me proud of the young people and all that they achieve in the year, some of the activities are challenging but I am never surprised to hear that they gave it their best.

We have a growing team of Young Leaders who support all sections with the programme and I would like to thank them for giving up their time to help and continue their journey with us onto their Young Leader training.

As always, we need to build our Trustee Board and are looking for a Chair Person and Trustees to join us and help focus on fund-raising, updating our policies and reviewing our Development Plan.

Wendy Barnes
Group Lead Volunteer

Mildenhall

It has been another busy year at Mildenhall Scout Group. The group continues to grow both in terms of adult volunteers and youth members. A second Cub Pack will open in September, and a second Scout Troop will soon be needed. We are particularly pleased about the growth in Young Leaders working with the group.

The group continues to be active at District level, with all sections being regular features at District events, giving our young members opportunities that the group on its own could not provide. This has contributed to the growth in top awards that we have seen in the Beaver and Cub sections. We continue to host the Endeavour ESU and the Invictus Scout Network at our HQ.

At group level, we are active in our community, having a presence at community events and undertaking visits to the local museum, church and fire station. Sections have also taken part in litter picking and carol singing at our local care home. We continue to run events that get the whole group together, including families. This has included a family activity day, family sponsored walk, family campfire evening and Group Camp where we had 70 Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in attendance. We also make sure our adult volunteers can get together without our lovely young people, through our leaders and trustees Christmas meal, adult activity day and our termly leaders meetings.

We continue to work on upgrading our HQ. Thanks to grant funding, the old wooden front door has been replaced with a UPVC unit, and the rather heavy old roller door on the garage has been replaced with a motorised roller-shutter. Following a programme of fundraising and thanks to £45,000 in grants from local organisations, work has commenced on an extension to include an accessible toilet and wet room, with an adjoining shower and toilet block from outside. This will not only ensure that we can be more inclusive as a group to those with physical needs- it also means that the HQ can be secured at night if there are young people sleeping both in the HQ and camping outside, as the campers will have a toilet they can access. Building work will conclude in September.

Thanks as always to the fantastic group of volunteers who truly work as a big team to provide for the youth members of the group, whether they be members of leadership teams or Trustees- it couldn't be done without you and it's a pleasure to work with you.

Leigh Foster-Green
Group Lead Volunteer

1st Red Lodge

The Group continues to be successful with all 4 sections being very active and with a good number of young members. The annual census saw the group register around 80 young members. The continuing success of the group is the result of the section adult volunteer teams planning fun programmes each week and giving their time to enable the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to take part in some weekend activities too. All 4 sections continue to be very active within the district taking part in most of the events including the Nights Away.

Although we have said goodbye and thank you to some of our adult volunteers, we have continued to recruit new ones to replace them. A big welcome to them all. It's rewarding to see the teams developing and sharing skills with everyone taking turns to plan, prepare and deliver activities.

We continue to have some whole group events. Last Autumn, all sections worked together to hold a coffee afternoon to raise funds for Macmillan. In November, we attended the village Remembrance Service and Parade and during the Spring did a village litter pick. Not forgetting the annual Group Camp fire at the end of March. Our annual family camp took place in May 24 and once again was a great success. It's a wonderful opportunity for our volunteers to get to know the parents attending and for parents, a chance to find out a bit more about scouting and try some new activities themselves, including of course camping. It takes a lot of organising, but well worth the effort.

Unfortunately, we are no further forward in our quest to secure a piece of land within the village for Group outdoor use but the Leadership team, Support committee and the Trustee Board will continue to strive for this to happen and we hopefully we have some more contacts to pursue to support us.

In recent months we have been able to recruit a few parents to volunteer for a Support Team to look after the group equipment and to fundraise. They got off to a good start by completely sorting and reorganising the equipment in the group storage container and also checking most of the group tents ready for the summer camping events.

The Group Trustee Board have settled into their responsibility of the governance of the Group, ensuring we operate within the rules of the Association with Safety a big priority. My thanks to the Members of the Group Trustee Board, in particular to the Chairman Emily Bridge who after a tenure of over 10 years has now stood down. Emily has given her undivided support to me as GLV and has definitely contributed to the success of the group.

My thanks to all the present adult volunteers who so readily give up their time throughout year. Thank you also to the team of Young Leaders, many of them former scouts who support the adults in delivering activities. It is very rewarding seeing them developing leadership skills

I consider myself very fortunate to be part of a Group with dedicated adult volunteers and Trustees who all have the best interest of the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at heart.

I myself will be stepping down from the role of Group Lead Volunteer and scouting in Red Lodge in 2 year's time. By then, I will have reached the age of 80 and feel it is time to hand over to a younger person.

Margaret Chilestone
Group Lead Volunteer

1st Thurston

Reflecting on this past year within the 1st Thurston Scout Group, we have celebrated not only our members' growth but also welcomed new leadership into our teams.

Harrison transitioned from a Young Leader an adult leader in Cubs, having been with us since he was a Beaver! We were also pleased to welcome Pete, who has recently joined our Cub team and Sam and Ash who both joined the Beaver team - we extend our warmest welcome to them. Michelle transferred from Cubs to Scouts. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and energy that they all bring to our group. Their contributions have already made a noticeable impact, and we appreciate their dedication.

Beavers

This year has been quite active and enriching for the Beavers. Throughout the past months, the group successfully engaged in a variety of meetings designed to be both fun and educational. The autumn session started with a focus on community impact, which took place at the local church. Subsequent activities encouraged creativity, such as sessions themed around nature and book reading. The group ventured out for a night hike and took part in skill-building challenges through various games and activities and celebrated Chinese New Year with special investitures. A highlight was Pancake night, which added a festive touch to the winter months. Additionally, the engaging sessions included visits from the police and a visit to the fire station which enabled Beavers to learn about their local services in an interactive manner.

Beavers also created wonderful memories at several outings. A visit to Colchester Zoo allowed the children to explore wildlife, while the Panto brought delightful entertainment. The tobogganing excursion was a thrilling experience, and the Elf training camp instilled a sense of teamwork. The District Beaver sleepover was a chance for fellowship and fun.

Cubs

Throughout the year, we ensured engaging experiences for our Cubs through a range of meetings and events, including activities such as chair football, personal safety discussions, and festive crafts, all aimed at enhancing the Cubs' skills and fostering a strong group dynamic.

The year also included several exciting events. The District Night Hike offered a chance for outdoor adventure, and the delightful Aladdin Pantomime brought laughter and joy. The recent District Cub Hike and Stopover further provided our members with opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and build lasting memories.

Scouts

This past year has been a busy and engaging one for our Scout Troop. We had a range of meetings and events that focused on nurturing skills, teamwork, and camaraderie. Our past meetings included a variety of activities such as games and several troop meetings where members participated in practical skills like digital making, pumpkin carving, and even had a visit to Rougham Tower. These meetings provided an excellent opportunity for our Scouts to get to know each other, learn new skills, and build friendships.

Among the highlights of our year was the Scout Summer Camp 2024, which filled with various activities. Our Scouts participated enthusiastically in competitions such as the District Dodgeball Competition and the District Bowling Evening. It was also a pleasure to witness our group's achievements during the Family Carol Service and awards presentation where three Chief Scout Awards were presented.

Group-wide

We renewed our Promises on St George's Day and held our Annual Review, combined with a Family BBQ, strengthening our connection with the local community. Our Family Carol Service and awards presentation was a heartwarming event, which brought everyone together to celebrate achievements and was enjoyed by parents and children alike during the festive season. A Family Bingo evening added to the fun and community spirit. One significant highlight was the Woolpit Steam Rally Group Camp, which will serve as a major fundraising event as we sell programmes to the general public. We have plans for a Family Camp in August, which promises to be a delightful experience for both Scout members and their families.

We have recently been able to purchase new tables and benches, a set of new radios and lots of heavy duty pegs through grant money from the District Council Locality Budget.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the leaders, particularly for their support during my illness last year. Their commitment ensured the running of activities and continuity for our members during that challenging time. Moreover, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the leaders for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. Their dedication helps create a supportive environment for our Scouts to grow and thrive.

I look forward to another year filled with fun, learning, and excitement.

Melanie Johnson
Group Lead Volunteer

BURY ST EDMUNDS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Executive Committee and Trustees

District Lead Volunteer	L Foster-Green
District Lead Volunteer	S Williams
District Chairman	K Barber
District Treasurer	M Golston
District Secretary	Vacant
Youth Lead	H Samuel
Committee	A Chilestone
	A Wade

Bankers	Barclays
	Buttermarket
	Bury St Edmunds

Independent Examiner's	Andy Doogan
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Registered Charity Number	305673
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BURY ST EDMUNDS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

BUDGET	2025	2024
	£	£
Membership subscription	65656	64693
Less (Paid out)	58006	37400
5940	7650	27293
DONATIONS		
Scout shop	0	6000
OTHER INCOME		
600 Capitation refund	630	425
Car Parking income	0	410
6540	8280	34128
CAMP/ACTIVITY ACCOUNT		
District Camps	11200	11521
District Events/Activities	11214	7567
Scout Summer Camp	10000	7300
Water Activities	1000	220
Mem.Fees & Donation in wrong Acc,	1005	0
	34419	26608
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Scout Association Investment	0	9
	0	9
TOTAL INCOME	42699	60745

BURY ST EDMUNDS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

BUDGET	2025	2024
	£	£
1180 Trustees Expenses	1815	630
1370 Section Expenses	1082	558
OTHER EXPENSES		
1200 St George's Day	2039	0
500 Training	417	348
140 General Insurance & Water Activity Equipment	1122	1091
300 Hire of Rooms	0	20
1000 General Expenses	135	0
Independent Examination fee	690	570
District Website	0	1200
Grants for World Jamboree	0	1515
Grant to Mildenhall Scout Group	5000	0
New equipment for use at Bradfield	1803	0
Works to District shed at Bradfield	3569	0
District trailer repairs	2468	0
6540	20140	5932
CAMP ACCOUNT		
District Camps	9770	12230
District Events/Activities	14262	9792
Water Activities	0	604
Summer Camp	10313	6400
Summer Camp deposit	600	0
	34945	29026
TOTAL EXPENSES	55085	34958
0 Income over Expenses	-12386	25787

BURY ST EDMUNDS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

BALANCES AT THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

BARCLAY GENERAL ACCOUNT	2025	2024
Receipts	8280	34128
Payments	20141	5932
	-11861	28196
BARCLAY CAMP ACCOUNT		
Receipts	34419	26608
Payments	34945	29026
	-526	-2418
SCOUT ASSOCIATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT -Interest	0	9
	-12387	25787
TOTAL		
CASH AT BANK & OTHER FUNDS B/F	127071	101284
CASH AT BANK & OTHER FUNDS C/F	114684	127071
MONETARY ASSETS		
Barclay Community Account	88191	100051
Barclay Camp Account	26493	27020
	114684	127071

The above accounts and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved on behalf of the Trustees on2025

Signed L Foster-Green & S Williams
District Lead Volunteers

M J Golston
District Treasurer

BURY ST EDMUNDS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current Assets - Cash at Bank	114684	127071
Liabilities - Storage Creditor	1600	1600
Accruals	0	0
Deferred Income	45955	39253

Bury St Edmunds District Scout Council

Independent Examinators Report

I have conducted an Independent Examination of the Balance Sheet of the Bury St Edmunds District Scout Council together with the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025. My examination was conducted in accordance with approved accounting standards having regard to the matter referred to in the following paragraph.

Bury St Edmunds District Scout Council, in common with other organisations of similar size, derived a substantial proportion of its Income from membership fees and voluntary donations which cannot be fully controlled until they are in the accounting records and are not therefore susceptible to independent audit and verification.

Income is treated on a cash receivable basis. Expenditure is treated as an accruals and prepayment basis to give a true and fair view of the expenditure for the period.

Subject to the foregoing the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the Income and Expenditure for the year ended.



A Doogan
Independent Examiner

July 2025

Chartered Accountant ICAEW