

**Suffolk County Scout Council**

Registered Charity No. 305682



# Annual Report

Trustees' Annual Report, Annual Review,  
& Statement of Accounts

**2024 / 2025**

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**#SkillsForLife**



**Scouts**  
Suffolk



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL**

**Hallowtree Activity Centre, Alnesbourne Priory, Nacton, Ipswich, IP10 0JP**

**Thursday 19th September 2024 at 7.45pm**

**PRESENT:**

Peter Jones (County Chair), County Commissioner, County Treasurer, County Secretary and Members of the County Scout Council (as per the Suffolk Constitution).

**Introduction by the Chair**

a. **Welcome:** the meeting opened with Peter Jones, County Chair, welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending especially Mark Brennan (Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk, Liz Harsant, Chair of Suffolk County Council, Ian Newbery, East of England Regional Commissioner and Katherine West, County Commissioner for Suffolk Girlguiding.

He noted the apologies from Gordon Biden, Vice President and the passing of John Ineson, Vice President in March.

The meeting was confirmed as quorate with 30 Council members in attendance and with 6 guests.

b. A **Thought for the Meeting** was delivered by the Deputy County Commissioner, Keith Barber.

c. **Apologies** for absence (47) had been received from – Andrew Bailey, Fergus Barber, Alison Barber, Kevin Bean, Sarah Britten, Martin Brooks, Martyn Bryant, Steve Challis, Richard Chaston, Alan Chilestone, Margaret Chilestone, Phil Clark, Celia Comber, Steve Cridland, Barbara Cutting, Leigh Foster-Green, Alfie Foster-Green, Matt Gilbert, Mike Golston, Alan Gosling, Juliet Grimes, Brian Harley, Jo Harley, Debby Hatcher, Paula Hollings, Paul Howard, Angela Humphrey, Anne Humphrys, Janet Jennings, Matthew Jordan, Lucy King, Steve Lovett, Bryan Mayles, Matt Mills, James Nunn, Stuart Parker, Michael Phillips, Alex Price, Vince Quattrucci, Max Raffe, Henry Slim, Ollie Southern, Jayne Vaughan, Emily Waller, Mickey Wardlaw, Stuart Wright

d. **The Minutes of the previous County Annual General Meeting** held on 21st September 2023 were **APPROVED**.

**Governance**

a. **Suffolk Constitution**

i. The Council was asked to APPROVE the recommendations of the Trustee Board as ONE ITEM as set out below in (i) to (iv)

ii. the Council re-adopts the Suffolk Constitution 22 Sep 2022 Rev 1.0b (Suffolk Constitution) as its governing document until midnight on the thirty-first day of March 2025 (the Appointed Day); and

iii. with effect from the Appointed Day the Suffolk Constitution shall lapse and fall away as

the Council's governing document and shall immediately be replaced by the model County constitution (Model Constitution) set out in Chapter Five (Rule 5.6) of POR to be adopted as the Council's governing document until resolved otherwise by the Council; and

iv. with effect from the Appointed Day those trustees: (a) elected in accordance with the Suffolk Constitution shall be entitled to serve out their respective term of office as an appointed trustee under the Model Constitution and (b) those nominated trustees approved by the Council in accordance with the Suffolk Constitution shall be permitted to serve out their term of office as an appointed trustee under the Model Constitution until the Council's 2025 Annual General Meeting; and

v. with effect from the Appointed Day any co-opted trustee on the Board shall serve out their term of office as a co-opted trustee until the Council's 2025 Annual General Meeting

**This was APPROVED by the members.**

#### **b. Financial Reporting Year dates**

Members were asked to note that the Council's Financial Year begins on 1st April in each year and ends on 31st March the following year.

i. Members **ACKNOWLEDGED** the dates.

#### **Review of 2023/2024**

##### **a. Receive and consider the Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24:**

**Howard Blackett** presented the Annual Report and highlighted the following points:

*i. He commended the 40-page document, which makes good reading, to all present*

*ii Many thanks to all those who contributed a section of the report. Particular thanks go to Carl Gloess, County Administrator, for ensuring that the report was made ready both electronically and in hard copy for this evening's meeting and to Jonny Emin, Treasurer, for the all-important finance report.*

*iii. Of note in the report:*

*a. The County's finances are in a strong position (Jonny Emin will elaborate).*

*b. Our young people have been busy at all levels of scouting.*

*c. There has been very encouraging growth in the number of participants, particularly, once again, at Squirrel level and we are on course to meet our 2026 growth target numbers. Details are available in Keith Gleen's excellent report on Growth & Inclusion.*

*d. Thanks to all our ACCs in charge of various sections:*

*i. A.C.C. (Squirrels)            Brian Harvey*

*ii. A.C.C. (Cub Scouts)        Jo Cracknell*

- iii. A.C.C. (Scouts)                      Angela Humphrey
- iv. ACC (International)                Heather Bridges
- e. *There is a very thorough county safety report written by Gary Burden*
- f. *The DofE Award has run across the county and there have been 28 Bronze, 8 Silver and 2 Gold Awards. There is plenty of scope for further growth in this area. Thanks to Ralph Hansby-Patterson and team.*
- g. *Training has gone well as ever – thanks to Jenny Roe, our County Training Manager, and her team. We have made significant progress towards the 100% target for mandatory training.*
- h. *Plenty of CMAT related activities and water-based activities have taken place. Thanks to Andy Black and Leigh Foster-Green for leading the CMAT programme (we'll be hearing more about our CMAT programme later this evening); a special thanks to David Clements who has taken on the role of Interim Water Activities Advisor.*
- i. *It's been another busy year for Bradfield Park campsite – thanks to Jenny Mullan and her team.*
- j. *Plenty of awards in recognition of the contribution made by our adult volunteers across the county.*
- iv. *In summary – the report paints a most encouraging picture. Scouting in Suffolk continues to recover from the ravages of Covid and is thriving.*

No questions were asked about the report.

Receive and consider the **Annual Statement of Accounts 2023/24:**

**John Emin, County Treasurer** provided the following commentary regarding the accounts:

*The year to 31st March 2024 at a county level was a quieter one than the year before in financial terms due to the much reduced income from events.*

*Income for the year fell to £112,000 down from £343,000 in 2023. The driver for this was the much-reduced income from events such as World Scout jamboree which received the majority of their income in the previous financial year. Remaining residual expenditure for these events carried over into the 2024 numbers. This meant that the county as a whole recorded a deficit or loss for the year of just over £35,000 for the period.*

*This deficit was therefore mainly a reflection of timing differences in income and expenditure over two financial years.*

*County bank balances at 31st March 2024 finished higher than the previous year at £418,000. This is mainly because as at the year-end, date county owed a higher sum to HQ for the annual membership fees than the previous year.*

*Of the £418,000 bank balances shown on the balance sheet, it must be noted that*

over this is by no means all generally available funds for the county. As at the year-end:

1. £216,000 of this sum was owed but not paid to HW for the membership fee. This has now been paid.
2. Additionally restricted and designated funds totalling £111,000 we also included.

Total county expenditure for the year was just over £28,000, the main items of note being:

1. County Secretary payroll and HMRC - £7,200
2. Loan Repayment re Bradfield debt - £5,000
3. Insurances - £5,500
4. Stores purchases - £5,000

Our remaining net free cash is comfortably in excess of our minimum reserves policy however we are faced with some potential significant future expenditure, most notably being the relocation the county office, the replacement of more stores equipment and a new storage facility for those stores.

A thankyou to all who provided their financial information in a timely manner and to Ian Brookman, our examiner, for pulling the consolidated numbers together.

No questions were asked about the report.

## **Make Appointments**

The County Commissioner's nomination for **County Chair, Rodney Turner**, was **APPROVED**.

The County Commissioner's **Nominated member** of the County Trustee Board was **APPROVED**

**Selina Noton**

Election of the **County Secretary – Carl Gloess - unanimously elected.**

Election of the **County Treasurer – Jon Emin - unanimously elected.**

The following people were Elected to sit on the County Trustee Board (2 years left).

**Colin Winter    Keith Barber    Gareth Cox    [Two elected seats remain vacant]**

Jon Emin proposed the appointment of **Ian Brookman as Independent Examiner –**

seconded by Peter Jones which was ***approved unanimously.***

County Representative nominated to serve as a **Member of the Council of the Scout Association** (2 years left) – **Keith Barber**

County Representative nominated to serve as a **18-24 Member of the Council of the Scout Association** – **currently no nomination.**

It was confirmed that both of Suffolk's National Council Representatives are 'invited to attend' County Trustee Board meetings.

The Chair noted that **Co-opted Members** of the County Trustee Board are selected (if required) at its first meeting after the AGM.

### **Close of Meeting by the Chair of the Trustee Board.**

**The County Commissioner, Howard Blackett** was invited to address the meeting and gave the following commentary.

I would like to raise a few points from my own specific report and add a few comments to the ones I made earlier when presenting the report.

The highlight of the year was Camp Ohana, our County Cub Camp, led by Jo Cracknell and overseen by a team of over 80 adult volunteers. It was a hugely successful event attended by well over 650 cubs, young leaders and adult volunteers

The death of Graham Parker Acting DC Wolsey was the low point – Graham has given more than 50 years of service to Scouting...truly a lifetime of service/commitment.

#### Personnel

Thanks to the 2,000 adult volunteers who have supported scout groups across the county

The leadership/management of scouting across the county has been undertaken by the County Trustees, under Peter Jones' Chairmanship; operational matters have been led by the County SLT – thanks to all concerned

We have for much of the year had a full complement of DCs – they have done an excellent job

The transformation agenda has been led by Colin Winter supported by a team of District transformation leads

Gaps – of note we have been lacking a:

DCC (Programme)

ACC (Beavers)

CYC

There remain gaps in adult volunteers at every level

## Programme

Plenty of excellent stuff has happened at local level

The scouts' programme is good but there is scope for greater integration of the DofE

## Strategic plans

The county and district strategic plans have been updated in liaison with HQ

## Girlguiding Suffolk

Very warm welcome to Katherine West

We have been working with Girlguiding Suffolk on a planned county combined county event in summer 2026

## Thanks on a personal level to

County SLT

Carl Gloess County Administrator

County Trustees led by Peter Jones, County Chairman

Keith Barber DCC

**The Regional Commissioner, Ian Newbery** was invited to address the meeting and he noted that Suffolk had had a good year with some good growth – a credit to all the leaders and dedication they have. Two Explorer Scouts represented the region at the event announcing the new Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields which had a lot of good publicity. The Transition Programme will be launched by the end of the year and the data on Compass needs to be up-to-date before the three-week long shutdown for data transfer so compliance training should be completed as soon as possible. Transition will introduce new structures and job roles as lead volunteers, district lead volunteers, county lead volunteers, regional lead volunteers, and this gives us a real opportunity to reframe those roles and not to make them quite as frightening as they have broken them down into tasks and not roles, so you can spread what needs to be done over a much broader group of people who only need to pick up one or two or three bits of tasks.

He announced that Howard would be standing down as County Commissioner at the end of the year and he thanked him for his time in post; the task of finding his replacement has started with the formation of a search group. He encouraged people to put names forward if they knew of any candidates.

This year has been particularly busy as there has been a massive amount to do following the Great Orme disaster and the important task of regaining the trust of the public and parents which is now underway to avoid a similar situation happening again and great progress is being made in that regard now.

He concluded by thanking everyone for the work done and the Trustee Board and the new

Chair.

**The Chair** thanked the members for attending and noted the close of business.

### **The formal meeting closed at 8.14 pm**

**Awards:** The County Commissioner presented the following awards with citation where available (*presentations in bold*).

**Suffolk DoE Gold Neckerchief** (a County award for Gold DoE Award achievers)

James Gilchrist

Alexander Mayles

### **Good Service Awards**

#### ***Commissioners Commendation – Camp Ohana Team***

John Brown, **Jo Cracknell**, Chris Frost, **Keith Gleen**, Alan Gosling, Dan Last, Joe Long, **Matt Meyrick**, Stuart Phillips, Max Raffe, **Adam Thorpe**, Amy White.

### **Long Service Awards**

**Rodney Turner** (20 years)

### **Wood Badges**

**Colin Winter**

Heather Bridges

### **Thank You**

**Peter Jones** was presented with gifts for his service to Suffolk Scouts after 13 years as Chairman by **Jenny Mullan** who also gave some background to his time in the role and especially his support with Bradfield Park campsite and throughout the COVID pandemic. **Howard Blackett** also thanked him on behalf of the Trustees.

**Presentation** then followed from the **CMAT Team with commentary by Andy Black**

### **Address by Guests to the Meeting**

**Cllr Liz Harsant**, Chair of Suffolk County Council, addressed the meeting noting how much she thought we should celebrate the achievements over the past year, but also the spirit of adventure that defines Scouting. She recognised the incredible work presented by the Suffolk County Mountain Activities Team which highlighted the dedication to promoting

outdoor skills and fostering a love for nature among our Scouts was truly commendable. This ensured that our young members are not just learning important skills, but also developing teamwork, resilience and a deep appreciation for the great outdoors.

On behalf of Suffolk County Council, she thanked us for the hard work, passion and commitment to shaping the leaders of tomorrow. She also thanked Peter Jones and Howard Blackett both standing down and wished them good luck in whatever they were going to do in the coming years and to make the coming year one of great adventure and memorable experiences.

**Mark Brennan**, Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk was representing Lady Clare, Countess of Euston, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk and our President as unfortunately, she couldn't attend. She sent her apologies and the best wishes for the night and to thank you for the for the work done day in, day out in the county. Mark noted the incredible work just seen (*from CMAT*) as fantastic examples.

He informed us that Lady Clare is a great supporter of all the community groups and organisations, but especially those that are looking after youngsters as that's where it all begins and the development of our younger generation is so, so important, so from Lady Clare, he gave her thanks for everything that's being done.

Mark gave a personal thank you because a lot of what he'd seen today had reminded him he'd not really come across the scouts for a long time. He gave us some personal background about growing up in Bolton, Lancashire and that when he grew up in 60s and 70s in Bolton, it was pretty grim place but he thought he'd had it actually quite good. He decided to leave there in 1993 and joined the army which led to a 29 year career in the armed forces which eventually brought him into Suffolk which is now his home.

He was not planning on writing a book or any memoirs, but if he did, he would start off in the early chapters about childhood and there would be a massive chapter about his time with the 4th Bolton Scouts who for him were probably without doubt, the most influential thing in his life as a young person until the time he left Bolton. He said that school for him did not really exist and a comment made earlier that 'scouts are my people' resonated with him because that's exactly what it was like for him. He had fantastic time. He got to see places that he would not have had the opportunity to go and see otherwise. He spent nights under canvas in Wales and in the Lake District. He used to go on midnight hikes on the local moors and it just inspired in him a spirit of adventure which probably led to decide to want to join the armed forces.

During his time in the armed forces, he went on to do some crazy adventures all over the world from the Alps to Norway, in the Arctic Circle, all going back to that early start in life with that small scout group in Bolton.

He gave a heartfelt thank you for everything taking place in Suffolk and asked that we continue the good work as there are a lot of young people out there that that need that similar start in life and that's what Scouting provides.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT, ANNUAL REVIEW**  
**and STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024/25**

PRESIDENT	Clare Countess of Euston, HM Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk
VICE PRESIDENTS	Gordon K Biden (dec. Oct-24)
TRUSTEES	
Ex-officio Trustees	Gary Burden, County Lead Volunteer Charlie Everitt, County Youth Lead (Sep-25)
Appointed Trustees	<i>Rodney Turner, County Chair (Sep-24 to Dec-24)</i> Howard Blackett, County Chair (from Jan-25) Jon Emin, County Treasurer Colin Winter Keith Barber Gareth Cox Selina Noton Carl Gloess
Co-opted Trustee	Peter Jarvis
Bankers	Barclays Bank
Independent Examiner	I.C. Brookman F.C.A. Pakenham Accounting & Consultancy Chartered Accountants Bury St Edmunds, IP31 2LS
Charity Registration No	305682
Contact Address	Suffolk County Scout Office Hallowtree Scout Activity Centre, Alnesbourne Priory, Nacton, Ipswich IP10 0JP Tel: 01473 711678 Email: county.admin@suffolkscouts.org.uk

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**

The governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye-Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

### **CONSTITUTION**

The County is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Scouts. The County Scout Council has adopted the 'Model Constitution' based on the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association as from 1st April 2025. It is available on the [HQ POR - Chapter 5](#) link in its latest version.

### **TRUSTEE SELECTION**

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The County Trustee Board, the members of which are “the Charity Trustees” of the Scout County, an educational charity. As charity trustees, they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping of proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The County Trustee Board exists to support the County Teams and the Districts and Groups within the County.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The County Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the County is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are damage to:

- Reputation
- Finance
- buildings
- property
- equipment

The County has sufficient Personal, Buildings and Contents Insurance in place to mitigate against loss.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objectives of the County Scout Council are to support Districts and Leaders within the Scout County.

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of balanced training based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

The Council is indebted to the Development Grants Board of the Scout Association and

individuals for their continued financial support.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

An increasingly varied programme of Scouting activities has been implemented at Group, District and County levels.

The Annual Review 2024– 2025 on pages 12 to 27 forms part of this report.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The County's current reserves policy is now £50k plus 1 year's general fund of County expenditure and is set at £100,293. It is anticipated this figure will rise next year as general fund expenditure is planned to increase.

## **MATERIAL ASSETS**

Capital assets are as detailed in the Accounts. Material assets include:

### **Bradfield Park Camp Site**

The County has joint ownership of the Camp Site with Bury St. Edmunds and Sudbury Districts in accordance with the Bradfield Park constitution.

### **Hardwick Park Camp Site**

Although the legal ownership is with Bury St. Edmunds District, in the event of any future sale, the proceeds are to be divided equally between the County Scout Council and Bury St. Edmunds District.

### **Other Assets**

Training and camping equipment is stored at Hallowtree Activity Centre and Bradfield Park.

## **STAFF**

The County has a part-time Administrator. All other members are unpaid volunteers.

## **BENEFIT STATEMENT MADE BY THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.



Howard Blackett, County Chair

15 September 2025



Jon Emin, County Treasurer

## **ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-2025**

### **Programme (All Section Activities)**

The Transformation project that matured in December 2024 offered Suffolk Scouts the opportunity to restructure the core county teams. The Programme Team is therefore a new structure that is significantly different from its previous incarnation.

As a new team we have the opportunity going forward to work in a more collaborative manner to offer interesting opportunities for young people in Suffolk. Existing special interest groups have had a busy season and there are plans to expand opportunities over the next year or so. We are hoping to offer a county skills competition in the new year, and planning for Suffolk Punch next summer are at an advanced level.

Please do look out for events that are publicised on the website and on social media channels. Book early as this helps us plan better activities and opportunities. If you have skills that the county team could use to support events in Suffolk please feel free to get in touch with your ideas.

***Colin Winter***  
***Programme Lead***

### **Squirrels**

Squirrel scouts have continued to grow and following last year's AGM, we had other dreys which opened at 32nd Ipswich and 1st Oulton Broad.

I was honoured to join the Squirrel Scouts of Bury St Edmunds April for St George's Day parade; I was also impressed to have some of my children from my class join me in their uniforms at school.

In June we all gathered once again as a county at Easton Farm Park, Woodbridge, this was the second time all Suffolk's Squirrels gathered for fun and friends. We met many animals, explored the pond area and went on a minibeast hunt. A lot of fun was had by all despite having one downpour. I personally enjoyed reading 'What the ladybird heard' to the dreys whiles sheltering from the rain.

I was very proud to award two Acorn Awards at Easton Farm Park and the number of awards presented continue to grow.

Sadly, only two Squirrel dreys participated in the county competition to see how many animals they could have their photo taken with along with their scarves. A huge congratulations to 1st Brandon on winning this competition.

All Squirrels have been extremely active within their communities, showing respect at their Remembrance parades and pride at their St George's Day Parades and other events in their districts.

I have enjoyed working with and continue to work with all the leaders of the dreys and thank everyone for all they do for the Squirrel Scouts of Suffolk.

**Brian Harvey**  
**Programme Team - Squirrels**

**Beavers**

New appointment is awaited but has been covered by Brian Harvey in the interim.

**Cubs**

**Camp Ohana, County Cub Camp, 3rd – 6th May 2024**

41 packs - 442 cubs, 24 young leaders, 193 adult volunteers, 6 non-participating children, Service Team comprising 4 youth members, 71 adult volunteers, 7 young people attending with parents, 4 core team.

It was a wet start to camp. As everyone arrived the rain fell, but not for too long. At the opening ceremony, packs paraded their flags as we welcomed the sub-camps – Aladdin's Cave, Cobra Bubbles, Hakuna Matata, Monstropolis, 101 Dalmatians, Rifiki's Place, Star, and The Jungle Book. Disney music played, we sang and danced then watched as fireworks exploded marking the official opening of Camp Ohana.

On Saturday morning the sun shone down on us and continued through to Sunday. Throughout the weekend the cubs had fun joining in with a variety of activities. Daytime programme included Aerial Runway, Amateur Radio, Archery, Assault Course, Climbing Tower, Craft, First Aid Fun, Go Carts, Inflatable Assault Course, Lego, Orienteering, Rifle Shooting, Robot Challenge, Rope Making, Science, Tomahawks, Tyre Ravine, Vintage Litter Museum, Water Zorbs. The evening entertainment was Bingo, board games, camp fire, disco, films, and watching the stars with the Orwell Astronomical Society Ipswich.

Our theme was Disney. Our aim was to have fun together as one big family at Camp Ohana. **'Ohana means family. Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten.'** As a family we looked out for each other to make sure everyone had a great weekend. And we did. All who attended the camp, adults and young people, had a weekend of fun, spending time with friends old and new. Everyone who camped, or helped with the camp, was presented with a 'Camp Ohana' badge.

Thank you to all who attended. Thank you to all who helped plan, prepare and present the Suffolk County Cub Camp 2024.

**Jo Cracknell**  
**Programme Team - Cub Scouts**

**International**

We have had two very different trips abroad from Suffolk this year. After a year of fundraising and preparations eight Network and Explorers made their way to Norway for Roverway 2024. Although the Pathway given to them was not what they wanted they made the most of the experience. Many friends were made from different countries hopefully for a lifetime.

After some last minutes transport changes the 11th Ipswich enjoyed a week Exploring Holland using public transport.

Next year we have a group going to Kandersteg, an Explorer Unit enjoying Holland and Orwell District Explorers trip to Cyprus.

The build-up also starts for the 26th World Scout Jamboree in Poland.

### ***Heather Bridges Programme Team - International***

#### **Duke of Edinburgh Scheme & Top Awards**

It has been another great year for Top Awards & DofE in Suffolk with an array of amazing expeditions at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, including Bures Bronze, Eye/Stowmarket Silver cycling and Lowestoft Bronze, Silver and Gold, which included three on their Kings Scout expedition.

Our young people continue to amaze us with their dedication and commitment to gaining their awards with a number electing to continue from Bronze through Silver to Gold. They continually come up with weird and wonderful ideas for the award sections, from campsite warden for volunteering and origami for skill to trying new sports for physical and getting creative with expedition aims.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our team of mentors, leaders, supervisors and assessors who tirelessly work to support our young people in achieving their goals, without you we would not be able to facilitate this success. However, something that does continue to be an issue is when a young person comes to us and says "I've got my Scout awards can I get my DofE signed?". It is truly heartbreaking to have to tell them "no" and that all their efforts must be repeated. [A young person must register on the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme in order for the effort to be recognised.](#)

Please encourage all young people to do this so they can achieve both their Scout awards and DofE simultaneously. We look forward to another great year with more Top Awards achieved. Thank you all for your continued support, dedication and commitment. If you would like to know more about

Top/DofE in Suffolk please visit the county website or contact us at [Ralph.hansby@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:Ralph.hansby@suffolkscouts.org.uk)

***Ralph Hansby-Patterson  
D of E Coordinator***

#### **Growth & Volunteering Development**

##### ***Growth***

A little disappointing that this year's Census in January 2025 was down overall by 3% on 2024. The number of Young People (YP) was down 2%, adults down 5% (Leaders up 0.5% but Management Governance and Support down 13%)

This means that there was a total of 5921 YP and 1965 adults, giving an overall total of 7886.

A breakdown by Section shows that

- Squirrels UP 31%
- Beavers down 2%
- Cubs down 7%
- Scouts down 2%
- Explorers UP 1%
- Network up 50%

A similar breakdown by District showed that one District (Waveney Valley ) grew both YP and adults giving an overall growth of 2.7%. Two Districts grew the number of adults Lowestoft (1.6%) and Orwell (7.2%), whilst Wolsey grew YP (2%)

Waiting lists all sections except Beavers went up with an overall increase of 12% to a total of 1180

As a result, whilst the County is now close to the pre-COVID-19 2020 figures, we have fallen behind on the strategic target set for 2026 for growth in Young People, whilst we are above target for Adults.

Key Targets	Census 2020	Census 2025	% progress towards return to 2020	Target by Census 2026	% progress towards 2026 Target
<b>Total number of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers (Young People 6 and under 18)</b>	5,747	5,677	98.8%	6,035	94.1%
<b>Total number of Squirrels</b>	0	235		785	29.9%
<b>Total number of Explorer Scout Young Leaders</b>	234	290	123.9%	246	117.9%
<b>Total number of Leaders and Team Members</b>	1,067	1,214	113.8%	1,221	99.4%
<b>Total number of Adult Volunteers</b>	2,498	2,002			

In more detail the 2025 Census shows that the number of Squirrels has increased by nearly a third and there was a slight increase Explorers. Unfortunately, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all lost members over the year. Scout Network is difficult to judge as the recording method has changed year on year.

The overall number of adults shrank compared to 2024, although the number of Leaders has increased every year since 2020.

This gives us overall figures shown in the following tables

Totals							
	2025		2024		2023	2022	2020
	Total	Diff	Total	Diff	Total	Total	Total
Squirrel Scouts	235	56	179	86	93	0	
% change		31%		92%			
Beaver Scouts	1389	-34	1,423	82	1,341	1,340	1,558
% change		-2%		6%			
Cub Scouts	1814	-135	1,949	144	1,805	1,715	1,919
% change		-7%		8%			
Scouts	1874	-40	1,914	236	1,678	1,592	1,687
% change		-2%		14%			
Explorer Scouts	600	8	592	55	537	518	583
% change		1%		10%			
Scout Network	9	3	6	-44	50	60	239
% change		50%		-88%			
Total YP	5921	-142	6,063	559	5,504	5,225	5,986
% change		-2%		10%			
Compare to 2020	-65		77				
% change	-1%		1%				

	2025		2024		2023	2022	2020
	Total	Diff	Total	Diff	Total	Total	Total
Adult Leaders	1214	6	1,208	92	1,116	1,105	1,067
% change		0.5%		8%			
Young Leaders	290	18	272	29	243	213	234
% change		7%		12%			
Total Leaders	1504	24	1,480	121	1,359	1,318	1,301
% change		2%		9%			
Management etc	751	-111	862				
		-13%					
Adults *	1965	-105	2,070	54	2,016	2,089	2,259
% change		-5%		3%			
Compare to 2020	-294		-189				
% change	-13%		-8%				

\* Includes County level (41 in 2025)

This gives us overall figures

	2025		2024		2023	2022	2020
	Total	Diff	Total	Diff	Total	Total	Total
TOTAL	7,886	-247	8,133	613	7,520	7,314	8,245
% change		-3%		8%			
Compare to 2020	-359		-112				
% change	-4.4%		-1.4%				

Unfortunately, as in previous years, our Waiting Lists grew and we now have nearly 1200 young people in Suffolk waiting for a place. However, the Squirrels figure is a little misleading as there are many Groups who are yet to have a Drey and their waiting list is, in reality, a pre-Beaver age list.

Waiting Lists Summary				
	2025	2024	2023	2020
<b>Squirrels</b>	420	336	316	0
%	25%	6%		
<b>Beavers</b>	325	372	390	336
%	-13%	-5%		
<b>Cubs</b>	269	194	191	119
%	39%	2%		
<b>Scouts</b>	166	149	95	90
%	11%	57%		
<b>Overall Total</b>	1180	1051	992	545
%	12%	6%		

Overall, we now have 17 Dreys up from 13 last year, 87 (-2) Colonies, 97 (-1) Packs, 91 (-1) Troops and 40 (+1) Units. If your section could take on two additional young people, we could nearly halve the waiting list.

The Census figures also reveal that we have fewer Managers and Supporters and of the 87 Groups, there were only 67 GSLs and 73 Chairs. Further, out of 339 Sections there are 58 Sections (with over 770 YP) that have no dedicated Leader, and 223 Sections (with nearly 3000 YP) have only 1 Leader (although they may have had Section Assistants).

## Volunteering Development

Part way through the year the Transformation project changed volunteering experience and created Volunteering Development Teams at County and District level.

Volunteering Development Teams make sure all volunteers have a positive and enjoyable volunteering experience. They make it easy for people to join and learn new skills.

They will

- Attract and welcome new volunteers to District and Group teams:
- Use Scouts branded resources to attract new volunteers and show the diversity of Scout volunteers and young members.
- Reply quickly and positively to possible new volunteers.
- Make sure volunteers are welcomed easily and smoothly, including supporting volunteers to share any reasonable adjustments or any other needs they may have, such as faith-based needs.
- Hold inductions with Group Lead Volunteers and other Group and District

Leadership Team Members.

Ensure volunteers are well supported:

- Support all District teams (including Group Lead Volunteers) to follow our approach to equity, diversity and inclusion, safer volunteer recruitment, joining, reviews, and processes for leaving Scouts.
- Help and encourage Team Leaders (including Group Lead Volunteers) to have regular reviews with volunteers in their teams.

Help volunteers with learning:

- Help volunteers and Young Leaders find and engage in opportunities for learning and development.
- Coordinate Scouts learning that needs to be delivered by an accredited Trainer - including organising and supporting the Trainers.
- Use learning delivery materials developed by Scouts (such as training sessions, workshops, activities and so on), and make changes (when necessary) so the environment and activities are accessible for everyone.
- Help volunteers connect across the District and beyond to learn, share best practices and overcome shared challenges.
- Set up learning opportunities with external organisations (if relevant and helpful).
- Support and recognise volunteers for their prior learning and experiences, and credit this in their records.
- Learn from people in other Volunteering Development Teams.

At County level, Jenny Roe and her team have taken on these tasks

Recognise volunteers:

- Recognise and appreciate volunteers for their brilliant work, formally and informally.

Whilst the transformation to a team-based approach earlier this year, may have helped, our priority should be to recruit more adult team members. If you need some help on recruiting a good place to start is <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/recruitment-toolkit/>. Or contact me at [keith.gleen@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:keith.gleen@suffolkscouts.org.uk).

***Keith Gleen***

***County Leadership Team - Volunteering Development Lead***

## **Communications and IT**

The County continues to utilise the Microsoft Office 365 platform, which now supports around 600 adult members. Over the past year, the team has worked on integrating with the new HQ membership platform. While full automatic syncing has presented challenges, a reliable manual process is in place, with development underway on an automated system to improve efficiency. Looking ahead, the team plans to update the legacy County Directory system to make use of automatic syncing with HQ membership data.

The team also continues to provide support across County systems and websites, ensuring tools remain up to date and accessible for all members.

External provision of the Facebook sites for the County (public), Programme (closed) and County Support (closed) are actively maintained and monitored.

***Rob Gloess***  
***County IT Manager***

## **Learning (formerly Training)**

Well it has been a year of many changes, we are no longer a training team but a learning team.

We had the change to the new membership system in November and this caused a number of problems with some training both mandatory and Woodbadge not being moved over correctly, this all seems to have been sorted now and we have to remember that this was an enormous undertaking and some mistakes were bound to happen.

*Growing Roots* was introduced which is all online to replace getting started , this is all online and includes programme planning, inclusion and leading adult volunteers which replaces the independent learning modules for managers, the 3 skills courses for managers still have to be done.

One of the other changes is all the Sectional assistants who had completed getting started who have now become team members now have to do inclusion and if working with a Section programme. Extra people have also have had to do first response so we have run a large number of these courses around the county, if you have an external 1st aid course you now have to have a discussion with a scout 1st aid Trainer before this counts for your mandatory training as not all courses cover the required content

Team members will find obtaining a Wood badge is not now compulsory, but please remember that the learning is to help you do the role you are doing. If you wish to do a woodbadge you can register on the my learning portal and the system will tell you which modules you need to do as yet these are still by courses as the online branching out is not yet completed by HQ.

We have not yet set any dates for this coming year as we won't know until October at the earliest what we will need to provide which does not make planning easy.

We are working closely with Essex with regards to permit applications and assessors to the

advantage of both counties as we have assessors for different activities. Looking forward we have a regional update workshop for assessors but numbers are limited and places need to be booked in advance through me.

I would like to thank all the learning team for their hard work this past year under difficult circumstances, your support has kept me going.

**Jenny Roe**

***Volunteering Development Team - County Training Lead / MAPS***

## **THE ACTIVITY TEAMS**

### **County Mountain Activities Team (CMAT)**

The team have been highly active this year and increasing our scope and activities to give young people a range of activities .

The team has actively run a series of events for young People and leaders from across the county and team members.

### **Activities for Young People and Volunteers**

We have run weekend events at Gradbach in Staffordshire in autumn 2023 climbing on the Roaches, Whitely Woods near Sheffield as replacement venue for Glenbrook which has been closed by Girl Guiding UK .The activities offered were climbing and walking involving some night navigation. plus a highly successful leaders and explorers' weekend at Waddecarr Scout centre ( February 2024) located in the Forest of Bowland , a new and exciting venture for the team. In summer 2024 we undertook a summer expedition to North Wales utilising the Felin Bach Centre owned by Carnarvon guides this involved 70 young people and volunteers . The week offered whitewater rafting , Coasteering and the worlds fastest zip wire all via external providers. The team utilising its permitted leaders provided walking, camping, paddle boarding and canoeing activities .

### **Training**

The team have actively been helping volunteers gain and renew permits running.

- Two-day wilderness and Wild country first aid open all those involved in adventurous activities not just CMAT. We had 20 participants' from across the county
- Hill walking Assessment weekend in some particularly interesting conditions in March in North Wales
- Stand up paddle boarding course to gain permits to support our summer camp at lackford lakes

**NB all of these have been at least part funded by team volunteers and for our trips leaders pay exactly what the young people do**

### ***Important reviews and reflections***

#### **Safety**

The team have been keen to review and scrutinise our behaviours and processes in light of

the coroners report for the great ORME section 28 prevention of future deaths report.

## **Funding**

We acknowledge support from County on training support and equipment and especially support from the county Treasurer with challenges with Barclays bank .

We have a full programme for 24 /25 season and team members continue to support other scout events such as the Long Melford Church Abseil fund raiser.

Advanced warning next wild county and wilderness first aid course is 30<sup>th</sup> November 1<sup>st</sup> December at Bramford scout HQ

***Andy Black***

***CMAT Co-ordinator***

## **Water Activities Team**

Historically county water activities have organised 2 activities jointly with the Guides, The Wet Weekend at Ramsholt on the River Deben and Thorpeness Meare Day. Unfortunately, the Wet weekend in 2024 had to be cancelled at the last minute because of very bad weather. The organiser took some time considering various nautical weather forecasts before it was called off; the actual weather on the Saturday completely justified the decision. Not only were the conditions on the water unsafe, the wind speeds across the campsite were equally unsuitable for camping. It is important that we offer adventurous activities but only in a safe environment. The Meare Day on the other hand was very successful with 140 scouts and guides having a great day. We are allowed use of the boats on the Meare on the last day of the season. Our thanks to the operators and to Jo Saggi and her team for organising the event.

We continue to operate on Oulton Broad on Friday evenings through our SWACOB set up. Lackford Lake also continues to operate on a regular basis, our thanks to Lawrence Chapman and Leigh Foster-Green who take the lead in the teams that operate these centres.

The Suffolk Groups that do water Activities as a major activity within their groups are still working well all be it a challenging activity. Power Boating is on the up, and recently I witnessed the return of two power boats that had take a team of explorer scouts away for the weekend.

In a County like Suffolk, we should be doing more water activities, at the moment we are looking on how to extend sailing opportunities. Those scouts that do water activities have a great time

***David Clements.***

***County Lead Volunteer Water Activities***

## **Bradfield Park Scout Campsite**

Once again it has been a very busy year. It is very pleasing that so many groups are coming

back year after year. Groups as far as Hertfordshire are rebooking as leaders like the combination of the activities and the parkland for traditional scouting The team of probationers under the watchful eye of Phil Holland have finished the extra parking by Lunney Lodge, have cleared most of the sheds and done many refurbishments.

Our Facebook page has been brought up to date and it is maintained by Joss Holland Chris Richardson our treasurer is looking after the bookings and I have taken over the hunt for instructors I have to say at this point many thanks to the leaders who have come along to take the sessions it is very much appreciated. We would ideally like volunteers to take over the bookings so if anyone is interested please do get in touch you will be joining a fabulous team. We are still looking for weekend wardens and offer free camping to you and providing all adults have a current DBS your family.

Not strictly in this year's reporting however I have to mention that our dear Bill Evans died suddenly in May. He was a stalwart worker at Bradfield which he loved dearly - he will be greatly missed. I end with giving my heart felt thanks to the Bradfield team Phil Holland, Chris Richardson, Joss Holland, the two district lead volunteers Charmaine Southgate and Steve Williams, the Sudbury Chair Vince Quattrucci all of whose support has been exceptional. Gill Phillips our secretary who somehow manages to keep up with us and producers first class minutes. Thank you all for keeping Bradfield Park a fabulous campsite.

***Jenny Mullan***  
***Bradfield Park Chair***

## **County Trustee Board**

At the 2024 AGM, Peter Jones was in the Chair. Following Peter's resignation at the 2024 AGM after a long period in office, Rodney Turner took on the position of Chair. In Jan 2025 Rodney stepped down, having moved permanently to Stratford-upon-Avon. My tenure as County Chair began officially on 9 January 2025. I would like to pay tribute to both Peter Jones and Rodney Turner for the support and guidance they both gave Suffolk Scouts during their time in office as County Trustees.

Prior to the end of 2024, the County Board of Trustees met monthly; this year meetings will move to take place quarterly as follows:

Thursday 6 March  
Thursday 5 June  
Thursday 4 September

Our final meeting of the year will take place on Thursday 4 December

Board meetings follow a routine/established agenda which enables members of the Board to monitor their responsibilities regularly. The agenda is as follows:

- Welcomes, apologies & declarations/conflicts of interest
- Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising

- County Lead Volunteer report (including safeguarding and safety matters)
- Finance (Expenditure against budget; bank statements)
- Risk assessment register
- Other matters of relevance e.g. County Events

This pattern of meetings and agenda items enables the County Board of Trustees to execute its duties of good governance by focussing on oversight and strategy rather than operational issues, which are the responsibility of the CLV, Gary Burden and his team, and to meet its obligations as laid out in Chapter 5 of the Scouts' POR (Local governance and finance of Groups, Districts, Counties).

The change from County Executive Committee to County Board of Trustees has not been entirely smooth but there is now a very clear understanding of what the Board is there to do i.e. its purpose is governance not operational matters.

In alignment with all the above, the County has now adopted the model constitution laid out in Chapter 5 of the Scouts' POR.

During the course of the year, the County Board of Trustees has produced 3 new policy documents to help/assist with the governance of Suffolk Scouts.

- County events policy (completed)
- International WSJ Young Person Inclusion Fund Policy (completed)
- Financial policy (still in draft)

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support of all members of the County Board of Trustees for their commitment to Suffolk Scouts and the excellent administrative support we all receive on a routine basis from our County Administrator, Carl Gloess

***Howard Blackett***  
***County Chair***

## **COUNTY LEAD VOLUNTEER'S REPORT**

This report covers the period from April 2024 to the end of March 2025. I took on the role of County Lead Volunteer in December 2024, succeeding Howard Blackett who served with great dedication until that time. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Rodney Turner, who stepped down as Chairperson of the County Trustee Board in December 2024, his valuable service and was succeeded by Howard. My sincere thanks go to both Rodney for his leadership and ongoing contributions, and Howard for his time as County Commissioner and continued commitment as a Trustee providing invaluable guidance and support.

Over this reporting period, Suffolk has embraced important changes in how we volunteer. Our role structure has been re-designed to better support volunteers at all levels, ensuring clarity of responsibilities while fostering greater collaboration across teams. Alongside this structural change, a new membership system and linked but separate learning platform have been introduced. These digital tools along with programme plans and other digital tools are

intended to help us modernise while maintaining our core values. Importantly we recognise that this transition has been challenging for most and I'd like to thank all volunteers for their patience and persistence whilst HQ resolved problems. We are now in a position where user confidence is growing and generally we are finding that these online resources do support effective volunteer management and efficient programme delivery.

**Strengthening our Leadership & Governance;** Adult volunteers remain at the heart of everything we do. The leadership team including County Trustees has regularly met under experienced chairmanship ensuring robust governance supporting growth ambitions.

**Volunteer Growth, Recognition and Adult Awards;** Our volunteer recruitment campaigns are ongoing to sustain capacity for expanding membership. We also celebrated the achievements of our adult volunteers during this period. Several members received national awards for their dedication and service to Scouting, including the Silver Wolf, Award for Merit and the Bar to the Award for Merit. These recognitions highlight the commitment and hard work of our volunteers who make Scouting possible in Suffolk.

**Youth Membership Growth and Recovery Post-Pandemic;** Suffolk Scouts has demonstrated strong resilience following pandemic disruptions. Our membership numbers have rebounded well during this reporting year—with over 5,000 young people actively engaged in Scouting activities county-wide—aligning with our strategic goal to rebuild pre-pandemic levels.

**Programme Quality Initiatives;** Our strategic plan emphasizes delivering inspiring programmes led by amazing volunteers who nurture inclusivity throughout all sections. Our CMAT and Water Activities Team, who's report feature later continue to promote inclusive and exciting activities.

**Youth Member Top Awards:** In the period Suffolk Scouts saw 2 members achieve their King Scout Award, congratulations to both of them and the wide network of volunteers that enabled their personal success. Data from census gives that the number of Chief Scout Awards achieved in sections is similar to previous years. The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is enabled by the Scout Programme and Method and well supported in districts. The emerging growth of this award in Suffolk, will likely realise an increase of youth members achieving the King Scout Award.

**Community Impact;** Members, Sections and Groups have benefits greatly from financial support through grants which enable continued development projects enhancing facilities available locally. The impact we have had as a community within Suffolk extends beyond the development of youth members. Their actions have and continue to make positive impacts to society and the environment. I am very proud to have read the many stories in the press and heard accounts from our members of the good work they have done, be that helping on litter picks or raising funds for others in the community.

**District Highlights;** The following summary reflects my thoughts of each district, informed by my personal experiences visiting sections, group and district events and how their collective efforts have contributed to fulfilling both national Skills for Life objectives as well as tailored county goals outlined in our Strategic Plan (2022-25).

- **Lowestoft District;** has been a hub of activity focusing strongly on community engagement through environmental projects such as beach cleanups that foster responsibility among youth members. Two King's Scout Awards were presented here during this period highlighting excellence within its groups.
- **Waveney Valley District;** continues thriving with diverse activities tailored especially towards older youth via its Explorer programme which promotes leadership skills through challenging expeditions alongside active community service involvement supporting local charities.
- **Deben District;** leads youth-led initiatives empowering young people's voices in shaping their Scouting experiences. The exciting Explorer programme has led to strong growth and while integrating wellbeing champions into sections reflecting their focus on member wellbeing alongside adventure opportunities.
- **Orwell District;** has excelled particularly in outdoor activities including camping expeditions combined with environmental conservation efforts engaging local partnerships that enrich both Scouting experiences as well as community impact across its area.
- **Wolsey District;** was recognized for achievements in award schemes highlighted by recipients demonstrating skill development success complemented by active participation in community events strengthening ties locally through service contributions.
- **Sudbury District;** excels at comprehensive skill-building programmes coupled strongly with Duke of Edinburgh Award participation showcasing commitment toward personal growth aligned closely with Scouting values.
- **Stowmarket District;** stands out for vibrant community engagement visible via participation in parades plus charity fundraisers the underscoring emphasis placed upon teamwork and leadership being demonstrated consistently across group activities during this year-long period.

Suffolk Scouts remains focused on delivering inspiring programmes led by amazing volunteers who nurture inclusivity and diversity throughout all sections. I have visited sections, groups, and districts during my tenure, read countless press articles, social media posts and nominations for awards. I am immensely proud of all that has and continues to be delivered by our community without doubt our collective efforts continue to deliver positive outcomes for children and young people in Suffolk.

I thank all adult volunteers whose dedication makes these successes possible, each of whom should be very proud of their contribution. Our new way of working, membership system and emerging strategic national plan will I'm sure bring challenges, but as we strive to overcome these together we move towards an even stronger future for Scouting in Suffolk.

**Gary Burden**  
**County Lead Volunteer**

## Good Service Awards for Reporting Year Apr-24 to Mar-25

Award	Recipient	District	Award
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**Chief Scouts Commendation**



Jamie Mortimer	Stowmarket	01/2024
Hannah Wallace	Stowmarket	01/2024
Richard Stacy	Stowmarket	01/2024
Bobbie Thompson	Stowmarket	01/2024
Abi Britten	Sudbury	04/2024

**Award for Merit**



Mark Pernot	Stowmarket	01/2024
Martin Foreman	Stowmarket	01/2024
Joanne O'Brien	Stowmarket	01/2024
Kari Fountain	Stowmarket	01/2024
Simon Oakley	Stowmarket	01/2024
Susan Black	Waveney Valley	01/2024
Ruth Salmon	Stowmarket	04/2024
Mary Snow	Waveney Valley	10/2024

**Silver Acorn**



Julian Dean	Stowmarket	02/2024
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**Silver Wolf**



Graham Parker	Wolsey	05/2024
Max Raffe	Orwell	02/2025

***Our warmest congratulations to all the Good Service Award recipients on their awards and our thanks for their services to Scouting.***

Awards in 1st Quarter 2024 were not available for the last Annual report so are included here for completeness.

## MEMBERSHIP CENSUS REPORT SUMMARY - JANUARY 2025

	Male	Female	Self Identify	Prefer not to say	Total	2024
<b>YOUTH MEMBERSHIP</b>						
Squirrel Scouts	160	75	-	-	235	179
Beaver Scouts	1,081	302	-	6	1,389	1,423
Cub Scouts	1,368	441	2	3	1,814	1,949
Scouts	1,295	571	2	6	1,874	1,914
Explorer Scouts (including Young Leaders)	410	189	1	-	600	592
Network Members	8	1	-	-	9	6
<b>TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>4,322</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5,921</b>	<b>6,063</b>
<b>ADULT ROLES</b>						
Leadership	606	603	1	4	1,214	1,208
Management	49	31	-	-	80	78
Support	158	105	-	-	263	340
Governance	215	221	-	-	436	444
<b>TOTAL ADULT ROLES</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>2,070</b>
<b>ORGANISATIONAL VIEW OF ADULT ROLES</b>						
Group	890	881	1	4	1,776	1,807
District	101	68	-	-	169	107
County	37	11	-	-	48	43
<b>TOTAL ADULT ROLES - ORG VIEW</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>1,957</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>						
<b>TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>4,322</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5,921</b>	<b>6,063</b>
<b>TOTAL ADULT MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>2,070</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7,914</b>	<b>8,133</b>

<b>WAITING LISTS</b>						
Squirrels	305	109	-	6	420	336
Beavers	232	80	-	13	325	372
Cubs	199	66	-	4	269	194
Scouts	106	52	1	7	166	149
<b>TOTAL YOUTH MEMBER WAITING LISTS</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,051</b>

**SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL - STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>	<b><u>Unrestricted</u></b>	<b><u>Restricted</u></b>	<b><u>2025 Total</u></b>	<b><u>2024 Total</u></b>
Donations and similar income		1,196		1,196	-
<b>Income from Charitable Activities:</b>					
Membership Subscriptions	2	48,456	-	48,456	43,632
Income from Activities	3	119,786	-	119,786	65,470
Grants	3	670	-	670	1,000
Bank Interest		3,049	-	3,049	2,890
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>173,157</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>173,157</b>	112,992
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>					
Scouting Activities	4	128,288	18,219	146,507	148,229
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>128,288</b>	<b>18,219</b>	<b>146,507</b>	148,229
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Net Income before Transfers</b>		<b>44,869</b>	<b>(18,219)</b>	<b>26,650</b>	(35,237)
Transfers		-	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Net Income and net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>44,869</b>	<b>(18,219)</b>	<b>26,650</b>	(35,237)
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>	8 & 9				
Total Funds brought forward		297,288	33,276	330,564	365,801
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>		<b>£342,157</b>	<b>£15,057</b>	<b>£357,214</b>	£330,564
		=====	=====	=====	=====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

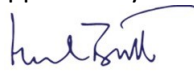
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

# SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL - BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2025

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>			
Tangible Assets	6	110,023	132,501
		-----	-----
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>			
Debtors		2,577	1110
Prepayments		10,921	1,869
Bank and Deposit Balances		313,571	418,993
Cash Held		753	-
		-----	-----
		327,822	421,972
<b><u>Current liabilities</u></b>			
Creditors falling due within 1 year	7	80,631	223,909
		-----	-----
<b><u>Net current assets</u></b>			
		247,191	198,063
		-----	-----
<b><u>Total assets less current liabilities</u></b>			
		357,214	330,564
Creditors: falling due in more than 1 year	11	-	0
		-----	-----
<b><u>Net assets</u></b>			
		<b>£357,214</b>	<b>£330,564</b>
		=====	=====
<b><u>The funds of the charity:</u></b>			
<b><u>Restricted funds</u></b>			
Restricted funds	8	15,057	33,276
<b><u>Unrestricted funds</u></b>			
Designated	9	105,506	78,303
General	9	236,651	218,985
		-----	-----
		<b>£357,214</b>	<b>£330,564</b>
		=====	=====

Approved by the trustees on 15 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Howard Blackett, County Chair



Jon Emin, County Treasurer

The notes on pages 30 to 37 form part of these accounts

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

For the year ended 31 March 2025

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### *Basis of preparation*

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Ireland FRS 102 issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s).

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities or income and expenses unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

The trustees have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis based on the budgets and forecasts for 2025/26

#### *Funds structure*

- Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.
- Restricted income funds are funds which the donor has specified are to be used solely for particular areas of work or specific projects being undertaken by the County Scout Council.

#### *Incoming Recognition*

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is more likely than not the charity will receive the income; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Membership subscriptions which gives a member the right to services are recognised as the income is earned from the provision of services and disclosed as income from charitable activities.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

### *Expenditure recognition*

Liabilities are recognised as where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Support costs have been allocated between governance and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Other support costs include central function and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it is incurred.

### *Fixed Assets*

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost. Depreciation is charged from the year of acquisition on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Freehold property additions (excluding land)	10 years
Other fixed assets	5 years

### *Debtors*

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

### *Creditors*

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

<b><u>2. MEMBERSHIP FEES</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
Total Membership Fees Collected	278,622	239,976
National Membership Fees	(227,138)	(193,617)
District Refunds	(3,029)	(2,727)
	-----	-----
	£48,456	£43,632
	=====	=====

### 3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Income from activities</u>				
Activities	£75,930	-	£75,930	£14,660
World Jamboree		-	-	£14,207
Bradfield Campsite	£43,856	-	£43,856	£36,603
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£119,786	-	£119,786	£65,470
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Other Grants</u>				
World Jamboree	-	-	-	£1,000
Climbing Team	£670		£670	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£670	-	£670	£1,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----

### 4. DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activities	£71,330	£716	£72,046	£27,205
World Jamboree	-	-	-	£34,133
Training	£3,432	-	£3,432	£1,245
East of England Region	£266	£1,330	£1,596	£654
Campsites - Bradfield	£27,538	-	£27,538	£42,501
- Bradfield Depreciation	£11,428	£16,173	£27,601	£24,762
Support costs - County Team	£10,959		£10,959	£12,749
Governance costs	£3,335	-	£3,335	£4,980
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£128,288	£18,219	£146,507	£148,229
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The County Team includes the cost of one part-time employee £8295 (2024 - £6,690, one part-time employee).

The cost of the County Team and governance includes £1,549 (2024 - £913) and restricted activities £716 (2024- £716) in respect of depreciation of equipment.

#### 4. DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

The breakdown of support costs and how these were allocated between governance and other support costs is shown in the table below.

##### Current Year

Cost type	Total allocated	Governance costs	Other support costs	Basis of apportionment
	£	£	£	
Staff costs	8,295	1,659	6,636	Staff time
Office rental and administration	2,380	476	1,904	Staff time
County team expenses	870	-	870	County team time
Depreciation	1,549	-	1,549	County team time
Independent examiners	1,200	1,200	-	Actual
	-----	-----	-----	
	£14,294	£3,335	£10,959	
	=====	=====	=====	

##### Previous Year

Cost type	Total allocated	Governance costs	Other support costs	Basis of apportionment
	£	£	£	
Staff costs	6,960	1,740	5,220	Staff time
Office rental and administration	8,160	2,040	6,120	Staff time
County team expenses	496	-	496	County team time
Depreciation	913	-	913	Actual
Independent examiners	1,200	1,200	-	Actual
	-----	-----	-----	
	£17,729	£4,980	£12,749	
	=====	=====	=====	

#### 5. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION & RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The trustees all give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind except Carl Gloess who received salary as County Administrator of £8,144 (2024 - £6,690).

No trustee during the year had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Council this year or the previous year except as disclosed above.

£443 (2024- £379) was reimbursed to 3 trustees (2024 - 3) of the County Scout Council during the year.

## **6. FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>Property</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Cost</u>			
As at 1 April	444,952	123,606	568,558
Additions	3,828	1,295	5,123
	-----	-----	-----
As at 31 March	448,780	124,901	573,681
	-----	-----	-----
<u>Depreciation</u>			
As at 1 April	319,419	116,638	436,057
Depreciation	24,672	2,929	27,601
	-----	-----	-----
As at 31 March	344,091	119,567	463,658
	-----	-----	-----
<u>Net Book Value</u>			
As at 31 March 2024	£104,689	£5,334	£110,023
	=====	=====	=====
As at 31 March 2023	£125,533	£6,968	£132,501
	=====	=====	=====

The Bradfield Campsite is a joint project by the County Scout Council with Bury St Edmunds and Sudbury Scout Districts, who would share equally in any surplus realised on a disposal of the site after payments made by the County Scout Council are deducted and paid.

The County Scout Council have invested directly and through loan repayments £133,507 in the Bradfield campsite to date.

The Hardwick Park Campsite, Bury St Edmunds is a joint project with Bury St Edmunds Scout District and any surplus realised on a disposal of the site are shared equally.

## **7. CREDITORS**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Income in Advance	79,431	216,224
Loan	-	5,000
Accrued Expenses	1,200	2,685
	-----	-----
	£80,631	£223,909
	=====	=====

## **8. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

### Current year

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1 April</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>31 March</u> <u>2025</u>
Bradfield Campsite	16,173	-	(16,173)	-	-
Water activities	5,213	-	(716)	-	4,497
Africa	3,261	-	-	-	3,261
East of England Region Fund	8,629	-	(1,330)	-	7,299
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£33,276	-	£(18,219)	-	£15,057
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

### Previous year

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1 April</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>31 March</u> <u>2024</u>
Bradfield Campsite	35,935	-	(24,762)	5,000	16,173
Water activities	5,929	-	(716)	-	5,213
Africa	3,261	-	-	-	3,261
Events	-	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
East of England Region Fund	9,163	-	(654)	120	8,629
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£54,288	£1,000	£(26,132)	£4,120	£33,276
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Bradfield Campsite Fund represents the proceeds of appeals to purchase and develop the campsite and the fund balance is represented by part of the net book value of the campsite.

The East of England Region Fund represents funds received and expended in connection with the Scout Association's regional activities and is represented by bank balances.

The Water Activities fund is restricted grants for these activities and is represented by the net book value of water activity equipment.

The Africa fund is represented by bank balances and is for the development and activities

## **9. GENERAL AND DESIGNATED FUNDS**

### Current Year

	<u>Balance</u>				<u>Balance</u>
	<u>1 April</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>31 March</u>
	<u>2024</u>				<u>2025</u>
General	218,985	173,157	(128,288)	(27,203)	236,651
Bradfield Campsite	57,507	-	-	-	57,507
Assistance with Campsites	3,650	-	-	-	3,650
World Jamboree	777	-	-	12,236	13,013
Cub Scout Event Fund	-	-	-	6,967	6,967
Fixed Assest Replacement Fund	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Young Person Inclusion Fund	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Hardship Fund	7,000	-	-	(7,000)	-
Explorer Belt Expedition	1,746	-	-	-	1,746
Richard Freeman Bequest	1,096	-	-	-	1,096
Water Activities	6,527	-	-	-	6,527
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£297,288	£173,157	£(128,288)	-	£342,157
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

### Previous year

	<u>Balance</u>				<u>Balance</u>
	<u>1 April</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>31 March</u>
	<u>2023</u>				<u>2024</u>
General	214,284	97,785	(87,964)	(5,120)	218,985
Bradfield Campsite	57,507	-	-	-	57,507
Assistance with Campsites	3,650	-	-	-	3,650
World Jamboree	19,703	14,207	(34,133)	1,000	777
Hardship Fund	7,000	-	-	-	7,000
Explorer Belt Expedition	1,746	-	-	-	1,746
Richard Freeman Bequest	1,096	-	-	-	1,096
Water Activities	6,527	-	-	-	6,527
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£311,513	£111,992	£(122,097)	£(4,120)	£297,288
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

## **9. GENERAL AND DESIGNATED FUNDS (continued)**

The Water Activities Fund has been designated for the development of water activities in the county.

The Explorer Belt Expeditions Fund represents the funds held in respect of these expeditions.

The Assistance with Campsites Fund is to help with the development of group and district campsites.

The World Jamboree Fund represents a designated fund which represents the support and transactions related to the county contingent to the World Jamboree.

The Hardship Fund was established to help scout groups experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID and has now been closed.

During the year the following amounts have been transferred to new designated funds £6,967 to support county Cub Scout events, £10,000 to a Young Persons Inclusion Fund to assist with attendance at major events and £5,000 to a Fixed Asset Replacement Fund.

All the designated funds are represented by bank balances except the Bradfield Campsite Fund

The Bradfield Campsite designated fund represents the council's original contribution towards the purchase and construction of the site and is represented by a share in the assets of the site. The balance of the net book value of the site is part of the general fund.

## **10. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY FUNDS**

	<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Designated Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Unrestricted Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Fixed Assets	9,646	57,507	42,870	110,023
Debtors and Prepayments	-	-	13,498	13,498
Bank and Deposit balances	5,411	47,999	260,914	314,324
Creditors due in less than one year	-	-	(80,631)	(80,631)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£15,057	£105,506	£236,651	£357,214
	-----	-----	-----	-----

## **11. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

At the year end, the County Scout Council had authorised expenditure of £Nil (2024- £NIL).

## **12. CREDITORS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

The loan was due to The Scout Association and was to assist with the development of the Bradfield Campsite. The loan is repayable over 10 years from 1 December 2015 and the loan bears interest at 2% over base. The loan was fully repaid in the year.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS TO THE  
TRUSTEES OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL (Charity No. 305682)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (“the Trust”) for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 28 to 37.


As the charity's trustees, 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 Charity’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a ‘true and fair’ view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

  
.....

I C BROOKMAN, FCA, DChA

Pakenham Accounting & Consultancy  
Chartered Accountants  
BURY ST EDMUNDS

5th September 2025

## **Suffolk Scouts — Useful Information**

**County Website** : [www.suffolkscouts.org.uk](http://www.suffolkscouts.org.uk)

**Contact e-mail** : [contact@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:contact@suffolkscouts.org.uk) or 01473 711678

### **Joining In / Find Your Local Group**

Information where scout groups in Suffolk are is available via the HQ website and entering your postcode. A message may be sent to a chosen group by selecting it.

### **Facebook :**

**Suffolk Scouts** (public) - [www.facebook.com/suffolkscouts](http://www.facebook.com/suffolkscouts)

The following groups are 'private' and require scout membership and approval to join. Members post questions and updates about events from around the county and wider if of interest.

**Suffolk Scouts Programme** —[www.facebook.com/groups/suffolkscouts](http://www.facebook.com/groups/suffolkscouts)

**Suffolk Scouts Support Centre**—[www.facebook.com/groups/suffolkscoutssupport](http://www.facebook.com/groups/suffolkscoutssupport)

### **Learning Booking System**

Learning courses are published to the on-line booking system via the Learning page—link in the website main menu items.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Scheme / Top Award**

The county operates a scheme for all levels of the DofE. Check the website link under Programme for sign-up details and contacts. Gold level is an element to achieve the prestigious Kings Scout award and attracts a special neckerchief which is presented to the recipient.

### **Microsoft 365 App, Teams and 'Scouting e-mail'**

Suffolk County, along with Wolsey & Stowmarket Districts and some local Scout groups offer the Office application suite free of charge to enable groups to set up teams for interacting and saving documents such as Risk Assessments in a central place accessible to all with accounts. It is recommended that 'scouting emails' are kept separate from personal or work accounts for safety & safeguarding good practice. They can be requested via an email to [support@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:support@suffolkscouts.org.uk) or your M365 administrator.

### **Inclusion Fund**

The county has an 'Inclusion Fund' that can provide limited financial support for members to attend scouting activities and events in the UK and abroad. The policy of how this operates is published on the website under About/Local Policies/Grants. Many of the Districts also operate similar schemes and should be approached in the first instance for help.

## Suffolk Scouts: Upcoming Events

For all events, please keep an eye on the website and Facebook for notices

### Water Sports:

3-5 July 2026 Wet Weekend

26 Sep 2026 Thorpeness Meare Day

### County Mountain Activities Team

Oct 10-12 - Hill Walking and Climbing

Nov 29-30 - Adventurous Activity First Aid Course

=== 2026 ===

Feb TBA - Training Weekend (for permit assessment in March / Skills update)

Mar 13-15 Assessment Weekend

Apr 17-19 Walking/Climbing event at Hebden Hey

Registration by OSM/email to [cmatevents@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:cmatevents@suffolkscouts.org.uk)

### Suffolk Punch 2026 - 20th-25th August 2026

Registration now open—see website News for links

### World Scout Jamboree will be held from 30 July to 8 August 2027 in Gdansk, Poland

Application deadline 10th Oct 2025—see website for details.

Selection Day for Suffolk Contingent 26th Oct 2025, Hallowtree.

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This report is printed for Suffolk Scouts by [Seale Print & Direct Mail](http://www.sealeprint.co.uk), 16  
The Quadrangle Centre, The Drift, Nacton Road, Ipswich IP3 9QR  
[www.sealeprint.co.uk](http://www.sealeprint.co.uk).








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