# 1st CROWBOROUGH SCOUT GROUP

# TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

**Charity No: 305839**

# 1st CROWBOROUGH SCOUT GROUP

## Charity Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Trustees** | Beesley, Michael John<br>Buckingham, Steven<br>Carmichael, Lauren<br>Carmichael, Robin (resigned 6.9.2025)<br>Davison, Jeremy<br>Everitt, Martyn Douglas<br>Hemsley, Valerie<br>Hockin, Gareth<br>Moon, Terry George<br>Pettitt Matthew Charles Kerr (elected 6.9.2025)<br>Ringe, Henry James George (resigned 6.9.2025)<br>Ringe, Sheila Ann (resigned 6.9.2025)<br>Robison, Oliver |
| **Charity Number** | 305839 |
| **Charity Address** | Scout Headquarters<br>Whitehill Road<br>CROWBOROUGH<br>East Sussex<br>TN6 1JA |
| **Independent Examiner** | T S B Lee ACIB |
| **Bankers** | Lloyds Bank plc<br>Victoria Branch |

# 1st CROWBOROUGH SCOUT GROUP

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# 1st CROWBOROUGH SCOUT GROUP

## Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

### Chairman's Report

I am pleased to present my Chairman's Report for 1st Crowborough Scout Group for the past year.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who continues to support the Group. Scouting is entirely volunteer-led, and once again this year has demonstrated just how much commitment, goodwill and quiet hard work goes into providing high-quality Scouting for our young people in Crowborough.

### The Year in Review

Over the past year, the Group has continued to deliver a wide range of activities across all sections, giving our young people opportunities to learn new skills, build confidence, and experience adventure in a safe and supportive environment. From regular weekly meetings to camps, hikes, community events and special celebrations, the programme offered by our Leaders remains varied, engaging and true to the values of Scouting.

It is especially pleasing to see strong attendance across the sections and continued interest from new families wishing to join the Group. This is a reflection of both the reputation of 1st Crowborough Scout Group and the dedication of the volunteer team who make Scouting happen week in, week out.

### Our Volunteers

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all our adult volunteers — our Section Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Occasional Helpers, Trustees and those who support behind the scenes. The time, energy and enthusiasm you give is appreciated far more than can ever be fully expressed in words.

Particular thanks must go to our Group Lead Volunteer for their leadership and support of the Section Teams, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and that young people remain at the heart of what we do. I would also like to thank the Trustees for their work throughout the year, overseeing governance, finance, safety, and the ongoing care of our premises.

### Facilities, Finance and Governance

The Trustees have continued to work hard to ensure that the Group remains on a sound financial and organisational footing. Careful management of finances, together with fundraising and the continued support of parents and the wider community, has allowed the Group to operate responsibly while still investing in equipment, activities and the upkeep of the Scout HQ.

Maintaining and improving our facilities remains an ongoing priority. The Scout HQ is central to our activities, and the work carried out — and planned — helps ensure it remains a safe, welcoming and functional space for our young people and volunteers alike.

# 1st CROWBOROUGH SCOUT GROUP

**Community and Looking Ahead**

1st Crowborough Scout Group continues to play an active part in the local community, supporting and taking part in events where possible and representing Scouting with pride. These occasions help young people understand the importance of service and belonging beyond the Group itself.

Looking ahead, the coming year will no doubt bring both opportunities and challenges. Recruitment and retention of volunteers remains an ongoing focus, as does managing waiting lists and ensuring that we can offer Scouting to as many young people as possible without compromising quality or safety.

I am confident, however, that with the support of our volunteers, parents, Trustees and community, the Group is well placed to continue thriving.

**Thanks**

In closing, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support, trust and encouragement, and most importantly, to thank the young people themselves. Their enthusiasm, energy and willingness to try new things are what make Scouting so rewarding.

It is a privilege to serve as Chairman of 1st Crowborough Scout Group, and I look forward to another positive and successful year ahead.

Thank you.

**Trustees**

The Trustees named on Page 1 have served during the year. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association, which allows Warranted Leaders to opt-in as Trustees and for the Group Scout Council to elect others as is felt appropriate. As charity Trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

**Investment Policy**

The Group's Trustees are authorised to make and hold investments using the general funds of the charity. However, the Group does not hold sufficient funds to invest and has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy with all funds being held in cash using only banks or building societies that are included in the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

# 1st CROWBOROUGH SCOUT GROUP

## Constitution, Objects and Policies

The Group is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Scouts. Its governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to Bye Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
The Objectives of the group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The aim of which is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving this aim is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

## Reserves policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to maintain sufficient funds to continue the charitable activities of the Group for a minimum period of 3 months should income and fundraising activities cease and also sufficient to meet any major unforeseen cost generated as a result of necessary maintenance to the Group's freehold property. The Trustees consider that the Group should hold circa £15,000 in this respect. The Group held reserves sufficient to meet this target at the year-end wholly in line with the policy.
Separate unrestricted reserves may be held when it is felt appropriate to highlight funds that will be necessary to meet known upcoming expenditure.
The Sections hold sufficient funds to meet their immediate needs.

## Risk and Internal Control

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

## Public Benefit

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

## Financial View

Funds available are sufficient to permit the charity to continue in operation in the medium term.

# 1st CROWBOROUGH SCOUT GROUP

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The Group, which is an educational charity, is managed by its Trustee Board.
As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities including the registration, keeping of proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.
The Group Trustee Board exists to support the Group Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment, and is responsible for the maintenance of the property, the raising and administration of the Group's funds, the insurance of people, property and equipment, assisting with recruitment and appointment of necessary sub committees, administrators and advisors other than those elected.
The Trustees are responsible for the identification of major risks and for safeguarding the resources of the charity and to this end the Group has in place insurances and internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss. Damage to the building may require use of the premises of neighbouring organisations, reduced income could demand increased subscriptions, a material reduction in Leaders or members could result in a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the trustees on the 11 JULY 2026
and signed on their behalf

**Trustee**

STEVEN BUCKINGHAM
CHAIR

**Trustee**

OLIVER ROBSON
GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER

**1st Crowborough Scout Group**
**Registered Charity no 305839**
Year ending 31st March 2026

Income & Expenditure Account
for the period ended

| | 31st March 2026 | | | 31st March 2025 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME** | | | | | |
| Subscriptions | | £ 29,129.00 | | | £ 25,783.00 |
| Less Capitation Accrued | | £ 12,376.00 | Note 6a | | £11,330.00 |
| Net Subscription income | | £ 16,753.00 | | | £14,453.00 |
| **Less Expenditure** | | | | | |
| **Headquarters** | | | | | |
| Repairs and Maintenance | £ 3,909.00 | | | £ 1,828.00 | |
| Caretaking - | | | | | |
| Cleaners' wages | £ 7,390.00 | | | £ 6,643.00 | |
| materials | £ 553.00 | | | £ 319.00 | |
| Insurances | £ 3,258.00 | | | £ 2,229.00 | |
| Equipment purchases | £ 3,258.00 | | Note 1 | £ 1,792.00 | |
| Telephone | £ 367.00 | | | £ 308.00 | |
| Web site | £ 360.00 | | | £ 243.00 | |
| Utilities - | | | | | |
| Gas | £ 1,658.00 | | | £ 1,759.00 | |
| Electricity | £ 897.00 | | Note 2 | £ 1,459.00 | |
| Rates - | | | | | |
| Water | £ 1,034.00 | | Note 3 | £ 616.00 | |
| Council | £ 305.00 | | | £ 127.00 | |
| Refuse disposal | £ 733.00 | | | £ 699.00 | |
| Fire security | £ 138.00 | £ 23,860.00 | | £ 250.00 | £18,272.00 |
| **Other Costs** | | | | | |
| Money Transmission Costs | £ 134.00 | | | £ 230.00 | |
| Stationery & postage | £ 215.00 | | | £ 93.00 | |
| Gifts & Trophies | £ 319.00 | | | £ 50.00 | |
| Online Scout Manager | £ 365.00 | | | £ 398.00 | |
| Net Cost of T Shirts, Scarves & Badges | £ 1,691.00 | | | £ 2,021.00 | |
| Uniforms | £ 1,046.00 | | | | |
| | | £ 3,770.00 | | | £ 2,792.00 |
| **Depreciation** | | £ 1,096.00 | Note 4 | | £ 1,096.00 |
| **Camp** | | | | | |
| Income | £ 4,991.00 | | | £ 6,509.00 | |
| less costs | £ 4,626.00 | £ 365.00 | | £ 8,364.00 | -£ 1,855.00 |
| **Other Activities** | | | | | |
| Section Activities and Events - income | £ 4,959.00 | | | £ 2,656.00 | |
| Section Activities and Events - costs | £ 7,861.00 | -£ 2,902.00 | | £ 7,077.00 | -£ 4,421.00 |
| **Excess of Expenditure over Income before Fundraising** | | -£ 14,510.00 | | | -£13,983.00 |
| Tax Recovered - Gift Aid | | £ 5,869.00 | Note 5 | | £ 9,834.00 |
| **Fund Raising Activities** | | | | | |
| Donations | £ 861.00 | | | £ 5,026.00 | |
| Grants rec'd | £ 6,250.00 | | | | |
| Secondhand Uniforms | | | | £ 105.00 | |
| BBQ's | £ 2,691.00 | | | £ 1,750.00 | |
| Online Auction | £ 2,364.00 | | | | |
| Chocolate Tombola | £ 1,022.00 | | | | |
| Xmas Wreath Making | £ 378.00 | | | £ 400.00 | |
| Marquee Hire | £ 500.00 | | | | |
| Hire of Hall | £ 6,720.00 | | | £ 5,475.00 | |
| Interest rec'd | £ 349.00 | £ 21,135.00 | | £ 433.00 | £13,189.00 |
| **Excess of Income over Expenditure** | | £ 12,494.00 | | | £ 9,040.00 |

**1st Crowborough Scout Group**
**Registered Charity no 305839**

| **Balance Sheet as at** | **31st March 2026** | | | **31st March 2025** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed Assets** | | | | | |
| Land & Buildings | | £ 52,160.00 | | | £ 52,160.00 |
| Building Improvements | £30,093.00 | | | £30,093.00 | |
| LESS Depreciation | -£30,093.00 | £ - | | -£28,997.00 | £ 1,096.00 |
| Equipment at Cost | £18,507.00 | | | £18,507.00 | |
| LESS Depreciation | -£18,507.00 | £ - | | -£18,507.00 | £ - |
| Total Fixed Assets | | £ 52,160.00 | | | £ 53,256.00 |
| **Current Assets** | | | | | |
| Balance at Bank- Group | £37,980.00 | | | £31,564.00 | |
| unrestricted reserves: | | | | | |
| General Reserve | £15,000.00 | | Note 6b | £15,000.00 | |
| Grants Received Reserve | £ 5,000.00 | | | | |
| Capitation Reserve | £12,376.00 | | | | |
| Sections etc. | £ 9,348.00 | | | £ 6,899.00 | |
| Cash in Hand- Group | | | | | |
| Sections etc | £ 5.00 | | | £ 5.00 | |
| | | £ 79,709.00 | | | £ 53,468.00 |
| Total Assets | | £ 131,869.00 | | | £ 106,724.00 |
| **LESS Current Liabilities** | | | | | |
| Sundry Creditors | | £ 275.00 | | | |
| Accruals | | £ 12,376.00 | Note 6c | | |
| Net Assets | | £ 119,218.00 | | | £ 106,724.00 |
| REPRESENTED BY- | | | | | |
| General Fund balance as at | 1st April 2025 | £ 106,724.00 | | | £ 97,684.00 |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure | | £ 12,494.00 | | | £ 9,040.00 |
| General Fund balance as at | 31st March 2026 | £ 119,218.00 | | | £ 106,724.00 |

Notes to accounts:

Note 1 — Equipment Purchases
increased expenditure on camp equipment including tentage, altar fires and solar generator

Note 2 — Electricity
October '25 supplier change on expiry of fixed contract, no direct debits initiated. £633 paid 8 May 26 re Oct to 31 March 26

Note 3 — Water
Previous year £365 waste water charge direct debited 19 March 24

Note 4 — Fixed Assets
depreciation is provided at the following rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life

| | |
|---|---|
| Building Improvements | 20% on cost |
| Equipment at Cost | 25% on cost |

Note 5 — Gift Aid
Previously return completed biennially

Note 6 a, b and c — Reserves
General Reserve - Funds held in case of unforeseen circumstances
Grants Received Reserve - Funds received for expenditure yet to be undertaken
Capitation Reserve - Annual Payment to Scout Association invoice awaited and payment yet to be made

Approved by the trustees on 11 JULY 2026
and signed on their behalf

Trustee

STEVEN DUCKINGHAM
CHAIR

Trustee

OLIVER ROBYSON
GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER

# 1st CROWBOROUGH SCOUT GROUP

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 1st Crowborough Scout Group**

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 6 and 7.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.
It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act.
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Dated 9th June 2026

Thomas Lee
ACIB (ret'd)