Eastbourne District Scouts

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts

2025 - 2026

Scouts
Eastbourne

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Trustees for the year 2025 to 2026

District Trustee Board Membership

Ex officio

Andy Stevens	District Lead Volunteer (DLV)
Oscar Romero Neal	District Youth Lead (DYL)
Robert Hooker	District Youth Lead (DYL)

Appointed

Matthew Peskett	Chair
Philip Huggett	Treasurer
Gavin Gillam	Member
Ian Lewis	Member (EDSFAT)
Jane McMahon	Member (Girlguiding)

District President	Frank Woods
District Secretary	Julie Peskett
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC 63-67 Terminus Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3NE
Independent Examiner	Nathan Hover, Director, Cornfield Accountants Ltd, 5 Cornfield Terrace, Eastbourne, BN21 4NN

Scout Association

District Registration Number	17005
Charity Registration Number	305846
Charity Commission Contact	Matthew Peskett (Trustee) 49 Summerdown Road, Eastbourne, BN20 8DR

District Lead Volunteer – Andy Stevens



Andy Stevens

As Eastbourne's District Lead Volunteer, I have experienced firsthand the continued dedication from Eastbourne's Scouting community. Over the past year, we have embraced new adventures, navigated challenges, and driven steady growth – all aimed at supporting our mission to equip young people across the district with essential Skills for Life.

Highlights and Achievements

This year, our sections, groups, units, and the District have continued to deliver, reflect, and improve. Here are just a few of the standout moments:

- Growth in Membership: We are delighted to report that Eastbourne's youth membership has increased again since 2025's census return. Our biggest challenge in further increasing the membership is recruiting more adult volunteers.

	2024	2025	2026
Total number of Squirrels	39	45	51
Total number of Beavers	200	218	208
Total number of Cubs	277	253	257
Total number of Scouts	249	245	254
Total number of Explorer Scouts	99	107	105
Total number of YP	**864**	**868**	**875**

- Diverse Programme Delivery: Our young people have enjoyed a vast array of activities, from traditional camping, campfire cooking and hiking, to environmental conservation, community service, and an International trip to Austria.
- Active participation in local community events, including Remembrance Day parades, beach cleans, and charity fundraising initiatives.
- Scouting not only provides young people with skills for life, but our adult volunteers also have an opportunity for learning and developing new skills.
- Community Engagement: Our presence in the Eastbourne community continues to grow. We've forged stronger links with local schools, businesses, and community groups, ensuring Scouting remains a visible and valued part of the town.



30 Scouts, 5 Young Leaders, and Volunteers who visited Zellhof International camp in Austria

Challenges and Opportunities

While we celebrate our successes, it's important to acknowledge the challenges we faced and how we are working to address them:

- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention: Scouting wouldn't happen without our volunteers. Though we've had new recruits, the demand for adult support remains high.
- Inclusivity and Accessibility: We are committed to making Scouting accessible to every young person, regardless of their background or ability. This means continually reviewing our practices and programmes to ensure they are inclusive and welcoming to all.

Thank You!

This report would not be complete without expressing my deepest gratitude to our volunteers. The dedication, countless hours, and unwavering commitment which makes Scouting happen. Thank you for everything you do – the impact on young lives is immeasurable.

Let's continue to work together and make Scouting in Eastbourne District even better!

14-24 Team Lead – Ray Newman-Smith



Ray Newman-Smith

I am pleased to report that 2025 / 2026 has been another successful year for the 14-24 arena as detailed below:

Explorer Units

This year I am pleased to report we now have 3 established regular ESU. Spiro reopened just ahead of last year's AGM and has now been operating for a full 12 months, joining Team Bravo and Electra. Our unit numbers are at healthy levels, with Electra having 36 members, Team Bravo 37 and Spiro 27. All three units have stable leadership teams.

Kyros, our Young Leader unit has maintained its numbers at approx. 80 young people at any one time with our YP helping as YLs at our District Scout Groups. We welcomed Andrew Marsh to the Kyros Team, who has taken over the management side of leading Kyros.

The District Explorer waiting list remains healthy, and whilst we do lose some Scouts who transition from their Scout Troop, as is the trend nationally, both Team Bravo and Electra are near capacity, with Spiro being able to absorb any excess.



Theme Park Camp at Thorpe Park

Last year we repositioned our Explorer offering, giving each unit an area of focus covering the vast Explorer Scout programme. This has proved to be successful as we are now able to deliver a more tailored programme whilst offering all our YP the basic ESU experience:

- Team Bravo is our Bushy Wood Site Service Unit whose primary role is to support our District Campsite with project work that needs completing, event support and other associated activities. Team Bravo meet once a week, alternating between site service on a Saturday and program unit nights on a Thursday. Kat (Fred) is the overall Lead for TB with Chris Penfold as the Site Service Lead.
- Electra is our mainstream all-round unit, giving the Explorers a taste of the whole Explorer programme, operating a similar model to that of a Scout Troop. Electra meet every other Tuesday Night. Julie Peskett continues to Lead Electra.
- Spiro, our new unit is an outdoor traditional scout skills unit. Focusing on the more practical outdoor areas of the Explorer program. Spiro meet every other Monday Night. Myself alongside Warren Sanders and Cordelia Mott share lead responsibilities for Spiro.
- Kyros our Young Leader unit continues to provide Young People who volunteer their time to help support sections within our District Scout Groups. It is a “virtual” unit in that they don’t meet regularly like the Explorer Units, although the 14-24 team do run regular Module A / Safeguarding and welcome to the Young Leader Scheme training sessions as well as two camps a year where we cover the Young Leader Modules. These camps are designed as a learning opportunity for the YL Leadership modules, but also so our YLs are offered a night-away experience, and they are also a great opportunity for the YP to meet other YLs from across our district. We have also started offering a once-a-year camp for those YLs who have graduated from the YL module camps so they can keep in contact with each other and are continued to be offered a night away experience.

We are keen for our 4 ESUs to keep their individual identities and areas of focus but also come together when we are attending big camps or events.



As well as offering their own events and activities as a combined Eastbourne Explorers Unit, they have attended large national events with Team Bravo attending Wings this year and all our units taking part in this year's Monopoly Run held across London in April of this year, Theme Park Camp at Thorpe Park, The Operation Triangle Night Hike, Gliding experience and more. A success we have had over the last year and a bit is offering our YP the chance to camp at different locations like Gilwell, Kernow, Polyapes and Broadstone Warren. Our Explorers have feedback on how much they enjoyed going to different sites.

Looking ahead, there is our District Explorer "Chill Out Camp" in October being held at Broadstone Warren, and we will continue to offer all the regular activities like Monopoly run, The Acorn Hike and so on, but also look to add new ones to the program as and when the opportunities present themselves.

We continue to plan and hold fundraising events for our 14-24 International Camp in 2027 to Kandersteg International Scout Centre. Next summer we will be heading to Switzerland with around 60 Explorers and 18 Network Scouts to attend the only international all-year-round Scout Activity Centre!

Adult Volunteer numbers continue to be steady. The same as last year, we have seen an increase in younger adults joining us who were Explorers and want to come back and give back to Scouting. These numbers do fluctuate, as they do have other commitments like university, new jobs etc. Finding and keeping volunteers so our units can offer the fantastic program, events and camps they do will continue to be a challenge!

I am pleased to report our units regularly collaborate and maintain a very positive relationship with each other.

Scout Network (18-25 yrs)

Avatar, the District's network unit continues to hold steady with 12/15 regular members. Attendance numbers do fluctuate due to University, work and other life commitments. Avatar meet on the first Friday of every month. Running a similar program to the ESU's it allows the younger adults to take part in "Scouty" evenings without having to consider being under 18's.



Avatar's Monopoly Run Team

The challenge has always been to define what the purpose of a Network unit is. Avatar has three core purposes that it focuses on:

- To support all those between the ages of 18 and 25 to complete their Top Awards and DofE awards.
- To provide a monthly Scout program for its members like an ESU as well as camps and a social side for our younger adults to enjoy and participate in.
- To provide support at District events where extra adult support is needed. Examples of this would be running a base at Cub Skills day or supporting the Acorn Hike amongst other activities.

Ben Peskett continues to lead Avatar.

Sub Teams of the 14-24 Arena

- 14-24 Fundraising Team – Lead by Wendy, this team has been and continues to be instrumental in organising innovative ways of raising funds for KISC 2027 so we can reach our target figure.
- DofE Offering – Very similar last year's report. We continue to have more subscribers who want to complete their DofE awards with us however, our skilled volunteer numbers are unable to match the resources needed to fulfil demand. We have approx. 60 YP registered to complete their DofE award with us. The plan is to try and recruit more adult volunteers outside of the 14-24 team across the wider district to help support and deliver the Expeditions.



Fundraising

Top Awards

Being able to offer the opportunity for all our YP to be able to work towards and achieve their Top Awards is a key measure of success. We do however need to remember that whilst Top Awards are important, around 50% of our YP are not interested in completing these and come to us to meet and socialise with similar-aged people, as well as taking part in the events and programs we offer.

We currently offer the following awards:



- Chief Scout Platinum Award – DofE Bronze Award Linked
- Chief Scout Diamond Award – DofE Silver Award Linked
- King Scout Award – DofE Gold Award Linked
- DofE Awards (Bronze, Silver, Gold)
- Young Leader Award (Belt Buckle)

It is our longer-term aim, with Avatar Scout Network being the provider, to be able to offer our YP the following awards:



- Explorer Belt Award
- Scouts of the World Award SOWA

Finances

I'm pleased to report that the 14-24 / Units financial position is healthy.

By now having our own bank account, the 14-24 and unit leads are able to see our available financial resources, helping to improve the program. Each unit now has OSM pre-paid debit cards so leaders are no longer funding events and purchases out of their own pocket and as it's all electronic purchases, payments can be tracked and logged in real time.

The Future

Our growth numbers continue to tick up as we continue to develop each unit's area of focus and program along with our whole district event offering this will drive future growth.

The Scouts have just released a new Explorer Program nationally with new badges that are more relevant to today's young people. The Scouts have set a target date for all ESU's to be using the new program/badges by the summer of 2027. Our 3 main units have started to already migrate to the relaunch.

Like areas of Scouting, adult volunteer numbers will always impact how good our offering is. Our 4 ESU's all have stable and strong leadership teams but it's important we continue to recruit new volunteers to keep the momentum going.

Much as last year, DofE continues to be the biggest threat, as we are unable to deliver consistency at present. We desperately need more trained Expedition assessors, which can only be accredited by DofE via online learning.

Avatar holds steady and we will continue to develop its program and offering over the next year. Similar to Explorers the Scouts are working on new program/badges offering for Network Scouts, and once released, we will integrate into our Scout Network Unit

Our longer term ambitions remain the same as last year, with these being:

- Developing the Willows 4 Campsite at Bushy Wood into a fully serviced Explorer / Network campsite along with an undercover Learning / Program delivery area that all our units can use throughout the year.
- The vision to either acquire or lease a Minibus for use by the 14-24 operation as well as the wider district if needed. Having access to our own Minibus will allow us to be able to vastly expand our program offering. By the time our Explorers have reached us they have covered most of the South Downs and local area for activities and events. By having access to our own transport, we can start to offer activities and events in other areas of the UK where the terrain and events are totally different to what they will have done at this stage in their Scouting journey. The Acorn Hike across the South Downs is vastly different and more challenging when competing in similar activities across the Moors, Lakes, Peaks or other National Parks.
- KISC 2027 – As previously mentioned, we will be taking around 75 YP in the 14-24 age to Kandersteg International Scout camp high in the Swiss Alps in August next year. KISC 2027 will be the first international offering with this age range since Spiro's USA 2019 trip.

Conclusion

We have had a very successful year and continue to develop and improve our offering with the future looking great for the 14-24 age range. We do have some threats that we need to work on but also so many opportunities that we will continue to capitalise on as they present themselves.



Frost & Flame Camp

I would like to thank **ALL** the Unit Team Leads and Team Members for the never-ending work and commitment they give to the 14-24 operation. They are all vital, and without them, none of what we do would happen. I continue to work with a team who believe in the cause, delivering the best programs, events and opportunities, sacrificing so much of their time to deliver great experiences to our YP – thank you team you're all amazing!

I would also like to thank the Team at Bushy Wood who have supported us no end, many times at short notice, prioritising our needs over their own workload.

Thank you to all of you!

Ray Newman-Smith

14-24 Team Lead

Programme Team Lead – Joe Firth



Joe Firth

What an exciting and action-packed year we've had in Eastbourne! The Programme Team has delivered a wide range of fun, educational, and engaging events for every section – from Squirrels to Explorers. These activities not only built new skills but also forged friendships and lifelong memories.

Here is an in-depth look at the highlights from Eastbourne District Scouts' incredible year:

First Aid Weekend with EDSFAT

A comprehensive First Aid weekend event, delivered by Eastbourne District Scouts First Aid Team (EDSFAT).

The event provided Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorer sections the opportunity to learn and apply essential first aid techniques through realistic scenarios. From treating cuts and breaks to understanding how to respond in emergencies, with guidance from trained professionals.

The attendees had the opportunity to practice CPR and learnt how to safely place a casualty into the recovery position.



Supporting England v France W6N Rugby



In April, Scouts, Explorers, and Volunteers were proud to visit the Allianz Stadium for the Women's Six Nations (W6N) rugby final. The Scouts and Explorers demonstrated T1 rugby, which can work toward the Physical Recreation Activity badge, relaunched last year in Eastbourne.

After hours of training, in front of an excited crowd, Eastbourne's members unfolded the huge England Rugby Red Roses flag and, under immense pressure, quickly rolled up the flag and carried it off the pitch so play could be underway. The practice meant that everything went to plan!

The nail-biting game concluded with England beating France by a single point to secure their fourth consecutive Women's Six Nations Grand Slam title!





Cubs' Skills Day

Cubs' Skills Day, a favourite annual event, was once again a hit. Organised by Cordelia Mott (Squash) and her team, 122 Cubs attended Bushy Wood and practised key Scouting skills such as:

- Fire lighting
- Backwoods cooking
- Map reading and compass use
- Knot tying and shelter building
- Engaging science experiments

The event provided Cubs from across the District a day of adventure and hands-on learning in a supportive and fun environment, and encouraged teamwork and confidence-building among all of the participants.





Oakleaf Hike

Led by Mike Standen and his team, the Oakleaf Hike gave Cubs a real taste of adventure. Teams hiked a 10-mile route through East Sussex, navigating between checkpoints, completing problem-solving tasks, and demonstrating resilience.

New teams embraced the challenge, and the spirit of teamwork was strong throughout. This event continues to grow in popularity and importance for our Cub section. 1st Anderida Cub Scouts were the triumphant winners, with 1st Seaside runners-up.



The Oakleaf Hike Winners

Acorn Hike

The Acorn Hike, for Scouts and Explorers, was delivered over two days and managed by Joe Firth and Ray Newman-Smith's teams. It tested navigation, endurance, and collaboration. Several teams from across the county participated, making it a county-wide celebration of outdoor adventure.



Junior Class Winner – 1st Hampden Park



Senior Class Winner - 1st Hampden Park 1



Explorer Class Winner -Kyros ESU

District Awards

Eastbourne District Scouts hosted a special ceremony to honour over 100 young people with their Chief Scout's award. The Chief Scout's award mark the highest level of achievement in each Scouting section, from the Squirrels' Acorn Award to the prestigious King's Scout Award. Young Leaders who have completed their learning were also recognised, having demonstrated that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver Scouting to others.



Scouts, Explorers, and Young Leader Award Recipients

The celebration was graced by local dignitaries, including the Worshipful the Mayor of Eastbourne, Councillor Margaret Bannister; Willingdon and Jevington Parish Councillor, John Pritchett; and Deputy Mayor of Polegate, Councillor Stephen Shing.



Squirrels, Beavers, and Cubs Award Recipients

JOTA (Jamboree on the Air)

JOTA once again gave the District's young people a unique opportunity to connect with fellow Scouts around the world via radio. Supported by EDSFAT and the Southdown Amateur Radio Society.

The weekend's activities included:

- Using handheld radios in coded team challenges using the phonetic alphabet and J codes.
- Using VHF and HF radios to communicate with Scouts around the world using the District's callsign G0EDS .
- Learning about international Scouting traditions.
- Understanding how digital mode communication can use the radio waves to communicate around the world without the need of the internet
- Soldering and creating flashing tent peg markers.
- Learning how various communication technologies work, and how they are used.





Remembrance Day Parade

Over 150 members of Eastbourne District Scouts attended Eastbourne's Remembrance Day parade, the highest attendance numbers for many years. The town centre was filled with smart uniforms and proud faces, and many groups participated in their own local ceremonies, honouring the sacrifices of past generations with dignity.

Big Shoot

A competitive and high-adrenaline event, the Big Shoot returned and allowed Scouts and Explorers to test their aim and control in a variety of activities:

Led by Ray Newman-Smith and his expert team, the day was structured to challenge individuals while encouraging friendly competition. Personal improvement, focus, and discipline were key themes.



Archery



Frisbee Golf



Archery



Angel Throwing

Looking Ahead

With such a full and successful year behind us, the Eastbourne Scouts are looking ahead with excitement. Thank you to all the volunteers, leaders, parents, and young people who made these events possible.

Here's to another year of growth, adventure, and community spirit!

Volunteering Development Team Lead – Carl Bird



Carl Bird

The District, County & National Volunteering Development Team coordinates efforts to ensure all volunteers in the District have an effective and accessible volunteering experience. The team facilitates the process for individuals to join and acquire new skills through the membership training system.

Membership & Learning System

The "Welcome Team" continues to support Welcome meetings with 25 accredited volunteers, we also have a Slack channel now to contact members and arrange meetings. The "District Support Team" - with two current members, continues to support district events and offers help to both groups and the district. Individuals interested in joining the team may contact the Growth & Development team lead for more information.

Recruitment

A main responsibility of Growth & Development is to assist groups by attracting new Volunteers, managing external enquiries and advising groups on recruitment ideas, pathways and media. In the past twelve months, on top of local group recruiting, a good number of volunteers have been recruited externally. We have been able to open a Beaver Colony at 1st Old Town with support from Sam Hugget. Whilst it is evident that it is much more challenging to recruit leaders it is key that the focus is always kept and always recruit more than you need as you never know what's round the corner. Going forward, we will be holding the first open event at the Beacon Shopping Centre. If successful, this will become a regular event, and if you can support these events, please let us know.

Looking after and supporting your volunteers at group level will help to reduce turnover and ensure they are up to date with training, keeping them and your young people safe, 44 Members received service awards during the period from 5 years to 25 years – Thank you all for your service to Scouting.

Youth Members Waiting List

There are presently over 240 young people waiting to join. Over the last year, 194 young people were placed into groups, the waiting list continues to be an effective district system for placing young people and recruiting new volunteers.

Learning

The Membership training system is designed to encourage self-development and support Volunteers in completing required and additional training. Compliance training levels are maintained, with compliance emails sent out at regular intervals from the membership system to help the GLVs keep their group's volunteers on track. As a district, we also benefit enormously from having EDSFAT, who provide outstanding First Response training for our volunteers.

Permits

Volunteers in Eastbourne District hold a range of permits, including Nights Away, YPS (Air Rifle), and Archery. We will soon be putting together a climbing team for use of the new climbing wall, watch out for the call to arms.

Having permit holders throughout each section ensures access to camps and adventurous activities for young people. Information and guidance on acquiring permits are available, and additional Nights Away assessors have been introduced to increase assessment capacity.

Janice Gillam is now the District Lead for nights away, the Membership system enables online booking for assessments. The Nights Away team are always happy to support the permit journey and have put together some really helpful information sheets.

Support Team Lead – Emma Binfield



Emma Binfield

The District Support Team continues to play an important role in supporting local groups across the district. Working closely with District leadership and volunteer teams, we help ensure that leaders have access to the guidance, resources, learning opportunities, and encouragement they need to deliver quality Scouting programmes.

Throughout the year, the team has provided advice, shared good practice, and supported volunteers in addressing challenges and finding practical solutions. By maintaining strong links between groups and District leadership, we help strengthen communication, collaboration, and the sharing of ideas across the district.

Our aim remains to support volunteers to feel confident, valued, and equipped to provide safe, engaging, and rewarding Scouting experiences for all our young people.

As District Support Lead, I would like to say a huge thank you to each and every volunteer who makes up the support team within Eastbourne District Scouts. To every person involved with Bushy Wood, EDSFAT, and the Eastbourne District Support Team, your time, commitment, energy and dedication are truly appreciated. Your contribution makes a real difference to our District and most importantly, the young people we support.

Thank you for everything you do!

Eastbourne District Support Annual Report

The Eastbourne District Support Team is made up of a group of volunteers with many years of experience in Scouting. Their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm provide a valuable source of support to the District throughout the year.

Team members regularly volunteer their time to support District events and activities, helping with practical tasks and ensuring that events run smoothly. They also provide valuable assistance at Bushy Wood, helping with the upkeep and preparation of the site and supporting groups when required.

Their experience means they are able to offer practical advice, guidance and encouragement to other volunteers, while also being willing to step in and help wherever needed. The team's flexibility and commitment make them a dependable resource for the District.

The continued contribution of these experienced volunteers is greatly appreciated. Their willingness to share their time, knowledge and skills helps strengthen Scouting across Eastbourne District and ensures that groups, events and Bushy Wood continue to receive the support they need.

Bushy Wood Annual Report

Bushy Wood continues to be an important part of Eastbourne Scouts, providing a dedicated space where young people can learn, explore and enjoy a wide range of Scouting activities. Throughout the year, the site welcomes camps, training, events and community activities, making it a busy and valued part of the District's programme.

The combination of beautiful woodland, well-equipped facilities and purpose-built activity areas provides an ideal environment for adventure, teamwork and practical learning. Bushy Wood plays an important role in helping Eastbourne Scouts deliver memorable experiences that develop confidence, independence and skills for life.

The following provides an overview of the key improvements, developments and news from Bushy Wood over the past year.

It has been another highly successful year, with significant progress made in the development, improvement and ongoing maintenance of the site. Continued investment is ensuring that Bushy Wood remains safe, accessible and fit for purpose, while providing an even better experience for the many young people, volunteers and visitors who use the site throughout the year.

New Adult Shower Facilities

A welcome highlight was the opening of the new adult shower facilities in April. The new showers provide a significant improvement to the site, with underfloor heating and Bluetooth speakers, allowing users to enjoy their own choice of music. This modernisation has greatly enhanced the facilities available to adult volunteers and visitors.



Woodland Management and Safety

Throughout the year, essential tree work and coppicing have been carried out across the site. Work was undertaken in the crate stacking area, climbing compound and other locations to address safety requirements, maintain the woodland and ensure that the site continues to be managed responsibly. This ongoing work is essential to maintaining a safe and attractive environment while also supporting the long-term health of the woodland.

Driveway Improvements

Further improvements were made to the site infrastructure with additional concrete pads installed along the driveway, up to Pad 15. The driveway is one of the most heavily used parts of Bushy Wood and is vital to the day-to-day operation of the site. It provides access for visiting groups, deliveries, contractors, emergency vehicles and, of course, the many people arriving for camps and events. Keeping it in good condition is therefore essential.



These improvements will help to maintain the driveway and provide more robust and practical areas for site users. The work represents a significant ongoing investment in the site and will help to improve access for many years to come. It also reduces the need for continual temporary repairs and provides a more reliable route for vehicles using the site throughout the year.



This work has been made possible through the combined efforts of our dedicated volunteers, Team Bravo, Bushy Wood staff and Buzz Active staff, who have all given their time, skills and hard work to help deliver these improvements. Their teamwork is making a real difference and helping to ensure Bushy Wood remains a safe, accessible and welcoming site for everyone.

Accessibility has also remained an important priority, with the Blue Badge parking areas reinstated along the drive. This ensures that Bushy Wood remains as accessible as possible and enables visitors with mobility requirements to access the site more easily.

Archery Range Upgrade

One of the most exciting developments of the year has been the major upgrade to the archery range. This has been a significant project, made possible through successful grant applications and an impressive crowdfunding campaign, which together raised the funds needed to bring the ambitious plans to life.





After many months of planning, preparation and hard work, the fantastic new archery range opened for bookings in April, thanks to the dedication, skills and commitment of the volunteers and staff at Bushy Wood. From planning and preparing the site, through to the construction and finishing touches, the project was delivered entirely 'in-house', with no outside contractors involved. This not only highlights the incredible skills and teamwork of

our volunteers and staff, but also maximised value for money, ensuring that investment in the facility directly benefits Scouts and other groups.

The new range provides a safe, modern and exciting environment where young people can develop their skills, build confidence and enjoy archery. This significant investment in the future of Bushy Wood is a fantastic example of what our volunteers and staff can achieve through hard work and commitment, expanding the activities available and creating a facility that generations of young people to come can enjoy.

Crate Stacking Area

Safety improvements have also continued, with new fencing installed around the crate stacking area. This provides additional security and helps to ensure that the activity area remains safe and well managed.



Crate Stacking Area

Shackleton Lodge Kitchen

Another substantial project has been the complete refurbishment of the Shackleton Lodge kitchen. This extensive work included repairing damaged walls and flooring, completely replacing the plumbing, installing new wall cladding and cabinets, and fitting a new microwave, water heater and boiler. The project was completed with the addition of a much-anticipated new dishwasher, significantly improving the functionality of the kitchen for groups staying at the lodge.

Events

As well as welcoming a huge variety of groups to camp throughout the year, Bushy Wood has also been incredibly busy hosting a wide range of events and activities. From festivals and hikes to activity days and specialist Scouting events, the programme has been varied, exciting and well supported. These events bring the site to life, making great use of the facilities while showcasing the versatility of Bushy Wood and the fantastic opportunities it provides for young people, volunteers and the wider community.

These have included:

- Home Ed Festival
- Cub Skills Day
- Emergency Aid Weekend
- Oakleaf Hike
- Acorn Hike
- Strange Games Festival
- Big Shoot

The variety of events held throughout the year demonstrates the flexibility and importance of Bushy Wood as a venue. The site continues to provide opportunities for young people to enjoy outdoor activities, develop new skills, challenge themselves and experience everything that Scouting has to offer.



Emma Binfield



Marc Fallon

EDSFAT Annual Report

Introduction

The Eastbourne District Scout First Aid Team (EDSFAT) is made up of a group of volunteers with many years of experience in Scouting. Their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm provide a valuable source of support to the District throughout the year.

Team members regularly volunteer their time to support District events and activities, helping with practical tasks and ensuring that events run smoothly.



Their experience means they are able to offer practical advice, guidance and encouragement to other volunteers, while also being willing to step in and help wherever needed. The team's flexibility and commitment make them a dependable resource for the District.

The continued contribution of these experienced volunteers is greatly appreciated. Their willingness to share their time, knowledge and skills helps strengthen Scouting across Eastbourne District and ensures that groups, events and Bushy Wood continue to receive the support they need.

Report

EDSFAT have had another busy year providing first aid training and first aid and medical cover to Scout events locally and further afield. We have particularly enjoyed the emergency aid badge sessions for the young people in the district.



Members of the team have also run some Mental Health first aid courses, which have been very well received, and we believe they help equip volunteers to support each other, young people and friends and colleagues outside of Scouting as they navigate difficult situations.

We were fortunate to be able to provide assistance to NORJAM 25 during the year, where we treated around 1.5% of the camp population, keeping the majority of them onsite to continue enjoying their activities. We also treated a small number of critically unwell patients who benefitted from the life saving equipment EDSFAT brings to site.

The year ahead is challenging, legislative changes are looming, and Safety Advisory groups are already implementing recommendations from the Manchester arena enquiry and others, even prior to the changes in law. EDSFAT are well placed to become one of the first, and probably few, Scout first aid and medical teams to survive this process. EDSFAT members have already spent many hours creating and revising new policy to make us compliant and preparing to apply for CQC registration. We hope to move this forward to the next step in the coming months.



Another group of our members have undertaken their Level 4 First Response and Emergency Care training. This challenging course upskills first aiders to work more independently and as part of an ambulance crew. We offer this training at cost price to all EDSFAT members.



We are continuously receiving requests to support more events, so if you do know anyone who would be interested in joining us, or any young people who are approaching 18 and may be interested, then please do point them in our direction.

Thank you to everyone in the district who support the team, and we look forward to providing care and training over the next 12 months.

Matt Jones

EDSFAT Team Lead



Matt Jones

Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2025-26

Structure, Governance and Management

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

The Scout District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The District Scout Council

"The District Scout Council is the electoral body which supports Scouting in the District. It is the body to which the District Board of Trustees is accountable."

Membership of the District Scout Council is open to Volunteers, Network Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District, all parents of Explorer Scouts, persons elected and reselected annually by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Lead Volunteer and the Board of Trustees.

The County Lead Volunteer and County Chair are ex-officio members

The District Board of Trustees

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

"The District Board of Trustees exists to support the District Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and to provide support for Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and any District Scout Network in the District."

The District Board of Trustees' administration tasks include:

- Working with the Chair to prepare meeting agendas
- Distributing agendas and meeting documents
- Preparing meeting logistics, including booking meeting place(s)
- Taking minutes
- Maintaining records
- Supporting the completion of the annual census return
- Administering the Trustee selection process agreed by the Trustee Board
- Preparing and advertising the Annual General Meeting
- Coordinating and collating the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

The District Board of Trustees meets formally four times a year and is made up of members elected at the District Annual General Meeting, members nominated by the District Lead Volunteer and the District Chair and members co-opted by the District Board of Trustees.

The County Lead Volunteer and County Chair have a right of attendance

Charity Trust Statements

- The District is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scout Districts.
- The Charity is governed by a constitution as laid down by the Scout Association.
- The Accounts comply with statutory requirements, the governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by the Charity Commission.
- Resources Policy, retained resources are kept at a level adequate to service the activities of the Charity.
- Investment Policy - It is the policy of the Charity to hold all reserves in deposits to allow for instant access to funds as required.
- Risk Policy - The Trustees regularly review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and have taken appropriate insurance to mitigate these risks.

Risks and Internal Control

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

Objectives

The objectives of the District are as a Unit of the Scout Association.

The Purpose of Scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

Method

Scouting uses a method which is young people, in partnership with adults, enjoying what they are doing, learning by doing, participating in varied and progressive activities, making choices for themselves, taking responsibility for their own actions, working in groups, taking increasing responsibility for others, taking part in activities outdoors, sharing in prayer and worship, and making and living out their promise.

Achievements and Performance

I am happy to report that the District Board of Trustees has met its responsibilities as detailed in the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association during the 2025–26 financial year.

Reserve Policy

The Trustees undertake to hold sufficient resources to continue the various activities organised by the District, should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Board will review annually the level of resources necessary and the level at which they should be maintained.

Future

The District Board of Trustees is aware of the need to continue the District growth and the opportunities which Scouting, at all levels, gives to so many young people. With the high levels of young people unable to obtain a place within a Group in the District, it is imperative to continue assisting the District leadership team to recruit adults into Scouting, particularly uniformed Leaders.

Bushy Wood is the District's primary resource, continuing to provide a focus for all Groups and Sections in our District. The District Board of Trustees are aware that the site continues to require continued large-scale investment, both financially and physically, to ensure it is fit for purpose in the future.

Matthew Peskett (signed)

District Chair



Matthew Peskett

District Constitution for the year 2025-26

Eastbourne District Scouts has adopted the model constitution of the Scout Association, more information can be found here:

https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5c-constitutions-of-groups-Districts-and-counties-except-scotland/#5c.2

Finance Report – Philip Huggett



Phillip Huggett

The end of year accounts have been assembled by the Accountants, Cornfield Accountants Limited, and are attached to the end of the Annual Report.

They show that a surplus for the year arose across all funds amounting to £11,993 against a deficit of £38,103 for 2025. This is largely due to an increase in income from charitable activities in Bushy Wood and by Explorers.

The accountant added some notes on VAT matters, advising on small amounts of money still to be claimed.

The accounts are due for filing with the Charity Commission by 31st January 2027.

District Treasurer

Philip Huggett

Scouts
Eastbourne

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 Unrestricted £	2026 Restricted £	2026 Total £	2025 Total £
Incoming resources	3				
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		37,484	4,594	42,078	50,569
Activities for generating funds		129,437	-	129,437	107,183
Investment income		350	-	350	431
Incoming resources from charitable activities		195,132	-	195,132	122,461
Total incoming resources		362,403	4,594	366,997	280,644
Resources expended	4-6				
Costs of generating Funds					
Fundraising trading costs		81,486	-	81,486	73,064
Charitable activities		272,599	919	273,518	245,683
Total resources expended		354,085	919	355,004	318,747
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		8,318	3,675	11,993	(38,103)
Gross transfers between funds	10	-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other gains/(losses)		8,318	3,675	11,993	(38,103)
Other recognised gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		8,318	3,675	11,993	(38,103)
Total funds brought forward	10	215,146	11,609	226,755	264,858
Total funds carried forward	10	223,464	15,284	238,748	226,755

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 7th September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

M. Peskett

Chair - M Peskett

Trustee - Andrew Stevens

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 Unrestricted £	2026 Restricted £	2026 Total £	2025 Total £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7	156,384	3,675	160,059	163,614
Total fixed assets		156,384	3,675	160,059	163,614
Current assets					
Stock		15,391	-	15,391	15,400
Debtors	8	74,108	-	74,108	14,583
Cash at bank and in hand		79,009	11,609	90,618	105,090
Total current assets		168,508	11,609	180,117	135,073
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	101,428	-	101,428	71,932
Net current assets/(liabilities)		67,080	11,609	78,689	63,141
Total assets less current liabilities		223,464	15,284	238,748	226,755
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-	-	-
Net assets		223,464	15,284	238,748	226,755
Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted funds		223,464	-	223,464	215,146
Restricted income funds		-	15,284	15,284	11,609
Total funds	10	223,464	15,284	238,748	226,755

Notes to the accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:
- Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102)
- and with Accounting Standards
- and with the Charities Act 2022

Note 2 Accounting policies

Incoming resources

Recognition of incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: - the charity becomes entitled to the resources; - the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and - the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Membership subscriptions	Membership subscriptions collected on behalf of other parts of the Scout Movement are reported in the SoFA net of any amount paid out. This is because these subscriptions are in effect held as agents before being paid out.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Contractual income and performance related grants	This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included although the reliance placed on this vital resource is referred to in the annual report.
Investment income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Investment gains and losses	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Notes to the accounts (continued)

Note 2 Accounting policies (continued)

Grants payable without performance conditions	These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.
Pensions	The charity operates a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.
Assets	
Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over the expected useful lives.
Investments	Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.
Stocks	These are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

		2026 £	2025 £
Voluntary income	Membership subscriptions	-	60,871
	Less: Membership subscriptions paid to National Scout Headquarters	-	(43,834)
	Net membership subscriptions retained	-	17,037
	Grants and donations	42,078	33,532
	Total voluntary income	42,078	50,569
Activities for generating funds	Badges	-	-
	Shop & fundraising	129,437	107,183
	Total activities for generating funds	129,437	107,183
Investment income	Bank & short term investment interest	350	431
Incoming resources from Charitable activities	Youth programme and activities	195,132	122,461

Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

		2026 £	2025 £
Cost of generating voluntary income	Badges	-	-
	Shop	81,486	73,064
		81,486	73,064
Charitable Activities	Youth programme and activities	270,068	244,006
	Governance	3,450	1,677
	Adult training	-	-
	Other activities	-	-
		273,518	245,683

Notes to the accounts (continued)

Note 5 Expenses and fees

Trustees expenses

The total amount of payments or reimbursement of out of pocket expenses made to trustees or to third parties for expenses incurred by trustees was as follows:

	2026	2025
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	Nil	Nil
	£	£
Total amount paid	-	-

External examiner fees

The following fees were paid for the statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by the external examiner:

	2026	2025
	£	£
	2,100	1,677

Note 6 Paid employees

Staff costs

	2026	2025
	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and on-costs	69,462	63,646
Included in the above is pension contributions to a defined contribution scheme totalling	851	1,314

Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year

	2026	2025
Employees - charitable activities	3	3

No employee emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year

Note 7 Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Land	Bushy Wood Buildings & Equipment	Band Instruments	1st Aid Equipment	Total
Balance brought forward	110,000	42,785	15,039	57,216	225,040
Additions	-	6,635	-	4,713	11,348
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,000)	(3,000)
Balance carried forward	110,000	49,420	15,039	58,929	233,388
Accumulated depreciation or impairments	0% Not depreciated	Various Reducing balance	5% Straight line	20% Straight line	
Balance brought forward	-	13,521	14,589	33,316	61,426
Charge in year	-	4,305	25	10,573	14,903
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,000)	(3,000)
Balance carried forward	-	17,826	14,614	40,889	73,329
Net book value					
As at 31 March 2025	110,000	29,264	450	23,900	163,614
As at 31 March 2026	110,000	31,594	425	18,040	160,059

Note 8 Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	21,615	12,022
Other debtors	7,430	2,561
Prepaid expenditure	45,063	-
	74,108	14,583

Notes to the accounts (continued)

Note 9 Creditors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	50,763	45,063
Accruals and deferred income	41,863	16,092
Taxation and social security	-	986
Other creditors	247	375
Loans	8,555	9,416
	101,428	71,932

Deferred income arises on events which relates to the following period.	£
Balance brought forward	14,292
Released in year	(14,292)
Relating to the following period	39,563
Balance carried forward	39,563

Included within other creditors is £186 (2025 - £375) relating to unpaid pension contributions at the year end. This amount was settled shortly after the year end.

Note 10 Fund analysis

The charity held the following funds at the year end:
(General Fund - GE, Designated Fund - D, Restricted Fund - R)

Restricted Funds	**Purpose and Restriction**
1st Aid Team	Specific grant for purchase of equipment
Explorer Scouts	Specific grant for purchasing tents

Movement of major funds

Fund name	Type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
General Fund	GE	158,660	5,977	(8,878)	(10,753)	145,006
1st Aid Team	GE	43,161	26,538	(33,282)	-	36,417
Band	GE	450	-	(25)	-	425
Explorers	GE	2,676	50,218	(35,097)	(3,526)	14,271
Bushy Wood	GE	10,199	279,670	(276,803)	14,279	27,345
Sub total general funds		215,146	362,403	(354,085)	-	223,464
1st Aid Team	R	10,971	4,594	(919)	-	14,646
Explorer Scouts	R	638	-	-	-	638
Sub total restricted funds		11,609	4,594	(919)	-	15,284
Total funds		226,755	366,997	(355,004)	-	238,748

Movement of major funds (prior period to 31/03/2025)

Fund name	Type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
General Fund	GE	166,947	15,338	(13,667)	(9,958)	158,660
1st Aid Team	GE	54,829	26,399	(38,067)	-	43,161
Band	GE	475	-	(25)	-	450
Explorers	GE	2,511	24,527	(24,362)	-	2,676
Bushy Wood	GE	29,717	213,150	(242,626)	9,958	10,199
Sub total general funds		254,479	279,414	(318,747)	-	215,146
1st Aid Team	R	9,741	1,230	-	-	10,971
Explorer Scouts	R	638	-	-	-	638
Sub total restricted funds		10,379	1,230	-	-	11,609
Total funds		264,858	280,644	(318,747)	-	226,755

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EASTBOURNE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Eastbourne District Scout Council
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Eastbourne District Scout Council (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2022 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Nathan Hover ACA BFP of
Cornfield Accountants Limited

Cornfield Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants
5 Cornfield Terrace
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 4NN

Date: 08/09/2026

End of report