Scouts
293rd Birmingham
St Faith and St Laurence

Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	293rd Birmingham (St Faith & St Laurence) Scout Group
Other names charity is known by	N/A
Registered charity number	503303
Charity's principal address	The Scout Hut Hampton Court Road Harborne Birmingham B17 9AE

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee	Office (if applicable)	Date if not full year	Appointed by
Andrew Cartwright	Trustee Board Chair		Trustee Board
Graham Howard	Treasurer		Trustee Board
Prveen Cowan	Secretary	23 Oct 2025	Trustee Board
Emma Cawsey	Beaver Group Lead Volunteer		
Matthew Cawsey	Cub Group Lead Volunteer		
Kevin Payne	Scout Group Lead Volunteer		
Stephen Noble	Cub Group Assistant Lead Volunteer		
Bob Amatt	Scout Group Assistant Lead Volunteer		
Thomas McArdle	Group Lead Volunteer		

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Section B Structure, governance, and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	The Group's governing documents are those of the Scout Association constitution. 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.
How the charity is constituted	The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works.
- relationship with any related parties
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board , the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. 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.

The Trustee Board structure consists of three independent representatives (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) together with the Group Scout Lead Volunteer, individual section Lead Volunteers (if opted to take on the responsibility) and parent's representation and meets every three months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete *'Essential Information for the Trustee Board Executive Committee'* training within the first five months of joining the Board. .

The Group Trustee Board exists to support the Group Scout Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property.
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance
- The insurance of persons, property, and equipment.
  Group public occasions.
  Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support.
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those elected

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Risk and Internal Controls

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

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document.

The Purpose of Scouting

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

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by the following values:

- **Integrity -** We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy, and loyal
- **Respect -** We have self-respect and respect for others.
- **Care -** We support others and take care of the world we live in.
- **Belief -** We explore our faiths, beliefs, and attitudes.
  Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co- operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- Enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- Take part in activities indoors and outdoors - learn by doing
- Share in spiritual reflection
- Take responsibility and make choices-
- Undertake new and challenging activities
- Make and live by their Promise.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (including within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Summary of activities

There is a dedicated team of volunteer Group Leaders, supported by network of Young Adults and Young Leaders, who delivered a balanced programme of activities to engage, support and help the members in their personal development. The Group leaders have all received mandatory training in the basic areas of safeguarding, safety, GDPR and first aid. The programmes incorporated our core values of integrity, respect, care, belief, and co-operation.

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.

At the Trustees Board AGM on 30 June 2025, the Trustees Board appointed Andrew Cartwright as Chair. Graham Howard was re-appointed as Treasurer. During the 2025-26 fiscal year, Prveen Cowan was appointed to the vacant Secretary position.

The current mix of members is considered a good balance between leader and parent representation.

Beavers section

- Full colony of 24 Beavers
- 472 badges awarded, including eight Chief Scout Bronze Awards
- Five Adult leaders, plus network of four Young Adults providing support for camps/outings out with university terms.

Programme highlights include:

Three nights away, three hikes, kayaking, and ten meetings out of the hut. Day trips: Nature Centre, Golf, Black Country Living Museum, Cadbury World ; BBQ, Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston Reservoir, Rock Up, home skills.

Community service: litter picks, church gardening, food bank, toy bank
Charity: £1,229 raised for hospice cycle ride

Cub section

- 31-35 cub members though the year Waiting list of four. Close to full complement (40).
- Four regular adult Leaders plus a network of one young adult and six Young Leaders
- Awarded 247 badges, including seven Chief Scout Silver Awards

Programme highlights include:

Two nights away, two hikes, kayaking, twelve meetings out of the hut
Visits: Fire Station crazy golf, Blackwell Activity Day, Warley Woods night hike, bonfire night, cooking, Space badge, Easter activities District competitions: chess & football

Community service: litter pick

Scout Section

- 35 Scouts – full capacity (waiting list - 4)
- Seven Leaders
- 125 badges awarded including one Chief Scout Gold

Programme highlights include:

Camps: Whitsun (Taunton), Forward Camp, Autumn Camp, Expedition weekend: six Scouts unaccompanied, District bowling night, Samba

drumming, DIY key rack building Strong participation in District Forwards Badge Weekend (24 Scouts)

Group-wide achievements

- Installation of new kitchen at Scout hut to upgrade improve facilities and enhance scope of activities
- Successful Group Activity Day
- Strengthened relationship with tenant (Mila Moos Nursery)
- Continued engagement with church, district, and county events
- Strong parent involvement in maintenance days

Section D Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to ensure that sufficient resources are available to support the charitable activities of the Group, in the event of a temporary income shortfall in income over the fiscal year.

Further financial review details

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)
- How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Financial Overview - year ending 31 March 2026

Total Group funds stand at c£49,400.

Principal Sources of re-occurring funding

- Section subscriptions
- Rental income from Mila Moos Nursery
- Gift Aid
- 100 Club

The Group Board of Trustees has undertaken a series of financial reviews. This has included forecasting Group funds for the next 5 years; review of reserve and surplus funds are held to optimize returns; inflation-linked rent increase for the use of the premises.

Following these reviews, the Trustees Board agreed to increase the weekly subscription, with effect from the start of 2025-26 fiscal year, to £3.50. This was in recognition of:

- The rising cost of providing activities
- The length of time since last increase
- Comparison with other groups
- Avoiding the need for steeper increase in the future

A Gift Aid refund of £2,047 was received. As agreed, the Trustees Board decided these funds were to be allocated to the sections, for the 2025-26

fiscal year, to support individual section activities.

2025-26 additional income sources (non-recurring):

During the year income was boosted by one-off grants to fund the replacement and refurbishment of the scout hut kitchen facilities.

- £10,643 – Social Investment Business (SIB)
- £1,500 – Robert Hall Foundation
- £2,000 – Leslie Sell Trust

How Expenditure Supported the Charity's Objectives

Scout hut kitchen replacement and refurbishment (completed Feb 2026)

Key objectives and Impact:

- Enables safe food preparation for camps, cooking badges, and life-skills activities
- Supports enhanced section programmes e.g. home skills, Mother's Day tea)
- Improved facilities for tenant to support and increase rental income value
- Strengthened medium-long-term sustainability of the hut
- Enhanced safeguarding compliance through modernised layout and equipment

Cash reserves & fixed-term investments

Reserves are routinely reviewed to ensure Group requirements are met, including any planned capital expenditure and managing where funds are held, to achieve competitive interest rates and liquidity/access requirements.

- The Group bank account stand at c£14,165.
- £20k is invested equally between two 2-year fixed rate bonds, maturing in successive years, to enhance returns whilst managing the accessibility to funds.
- Reserve funds are held in a savings account for charities

Other expenditure supporting objectives

- Hut maintenance (inc. emergency lighting, electrical works, repairs)
- Equipment servicing (including the defibrillator installed)

Section E Plans for future periods

Plans for future periods

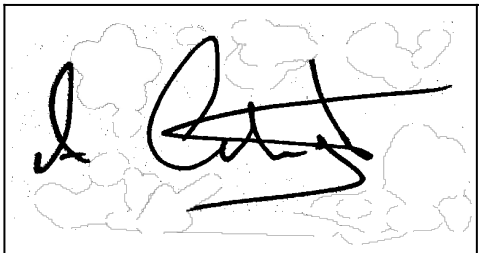
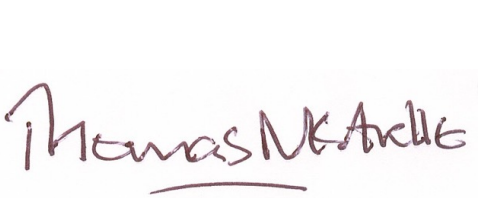
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The Trustee Board intends to continue strengthening governance processes, including establishing an online calendar for Leaders' meetings, Trustee Board meetings and the AGM. Planned improvements to the Scout Hut include ongoing maintenance and safety testing. The Board will also review section capacity and volunteer recruitment to support programme delivery.

Section F Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Cartwright	Thomas McArdle
Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc.)	Trustee Board Chair	Group Lead Volunteer

Date	20 September 2026

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St Faith & St Laurence Group Bank Account
1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026

Opening Balance	Incoming	Outgoing	Closing Balance		
£8,499.18	£35,651.14	£29,985.33	£14,164.99	Bank + Petty Cash Closing Balance	**14,164.99**

Date Charity No.503303	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Year end
Income													
MM rent	£1,020.00		510	£510.00	£524.28	£524.28	£524.00	£524.00	£524.00	£524.25	£524.28	£524.28	6,233.37
Explorers rent													0.00
MM electricity		1163.76		£662.64				£266.49		£667.33			2,760.22
MM water		124.72		£147.70				£277.18		£185.41			735.01
100 Club	£244.00	163	£181.00	£172.00	160	£184.00	£172.00	£212.00	£69.00	£193.00	£247.00	£175.00	2,172.00
Gift Aid	£2,047.93												2,047.93
Interest	£985.00							£179.81					1,164.81
Other income	1935.5						27.98	£164.96		£11,700.26	£2,000.00	£4,709.10	20,537.80
Investments													0.00
													0.00
Total £	£6,232.43	£1,451.48	£691.00	£1,492.34	£684.28	£708.28	£723.98	£1,624.44	£593.00	£13,270.25	£2,771.28	£5,408.38	35,651.14
Expenditure													
Hut maintenance	£180.96	357.61			£7.79	£674.56			£81.46	£11,642.16	£655.00	£256.06	13,855.60
Electricity	395.68	167.33	217.48	£155.33	£126.42	£44.73	£145.02	£255.87	£385.13	£328.17	£545.34	£393.42	3,159.92
Water	£54.91	57.1	61.96	£57.10	273.03	£19.76	£65.55	£70.41	£82.43	£74.63		£113.59	930.47
Council tax	£26.48	26	26.00	£26.00	£26.00	£26.00	£70.65		£69.00	£69.00			365.13
Insurance				£1,144.24									1,144.24
Equipment incl defib	£331.96	64.96	14.98	14.97	£29.95	£29.95	£29.95		£29.95	£29.95	£29.95	£29.95	636.52
100 Club prize money	£90.00	30	90.00	£180.00		£90.00	£90.00	£60.00	£30.00	£90.00	£90.00	£90.00	930.00
Miscellaneous		232.75		£38.98		£1,174.75	£63.39	£8.00	£119.99	£55.73	£109.50	£45.43	1,848.52
Investments	£2,047.93												2,047.93
Scout Membership section fees												£5,067.00	5,067.00
													0.00
Total £	£3,127.92	£935.75	£410.42	£1,616.62	£463.19	£2,059.75	£464.56	£394.28	£797.96	£12,289.64	£1,429.79	£5,995.45	29,985.33
Income - Expenditure £	**3,104.51**	**515.73**	**280.58**	**-124.28**	**221.09**	**-1,351.47**	**259.42**	**1,230.16**	**-204.96**	**980.61**	**1,341.49**	**-587.07**	5,665.81

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Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 293rd Birmingham (St Faith & St Laurence) Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 293rd Birmingham (St Faith & St Laurence) Scout Group for the year ended 2026

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 293rd Birmingham (St Faith & St Laurence) Scout Group you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the 293rd Birmingham (St Faith & St Laurence) Scout Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have 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 293rd Birmingham (St Faith & St Laurence) Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Kirsty Cartwright

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies:

- *Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment*

Address: 20 Hales Manor Drive, Halesowen, B62 8FG

Date: 21 September 2026