

Synthonia Scout Group
AGM

Annual Reports & Accounts
2026

Scouts

Photo: Christmas Party with the Mayor

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Introduction & Chairman's Report

It seems to me that our years are now only ten months long. Time is rushing past very quickly. The trustees meet monthly on the first Monday in the month. So to our normal business. All of the sections are doing very well. Squirrels have very quickly become part of the Synthonia Family and is settling to our scouting family culture. Beavers, cubs and scouts continue to impress the trustees with their organisation, programme planning and delivery of amazing activities. We do have an exceptional and close knit set of leaders at the coalface. They are all fantastic. All of the bills continue to be paid promptly. Thank you Neil.

The Scout Association has about completed a major overhaul of its Policy, Organisation and Rules. The trustees have looked at the latest issue of P.O.R. All good management practices that the best groups have been applying for a long time. We are comfy that we are doing our best. We have a couple of management tweaks to introduce over the next year.

I would like to draw your attention to 2028. The scout group will be 100 years old. An awesome achievement A century of helping our kids develop into positive members of society. The trustees have established a great project to celebrate our 100th birthday. We need a new roof. We need proper insulation, We need to improve our security. We need to make our building more attractive to the community, particularly our neighbours. Solar panels would be really helpful to better manage our bills. This job list has all been lumped together into “The Centenary Project” Initial costings suggest we need £180k to deliver the work.

Crikey that’s a few coffee mornings you will all have to attend!! Thank you all for your fund raising efforts towards our target. Michael for his sponsored running, Rachel and Mike for their IT support and their ideas. Shannon and Vicki for their Grant Applications. We have a massive £20k pledged to support us from the Bernard Sunley Trust. Thank you to them for their support.

This is our Just Giving link if you wish to add to our total.

A thanks to all our trustees and especially our administrative genius. Michelle

2025 Another mega year for the best scout group in the universe!!

Allan Neal Chair to the Trustees

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List of Group Officials & Leaders

Group Scout Leader:	Mark Anderson	**Deputy Group Lead Volunteer:**	Andrew Scrimshaw
Chair of Trustees:	Allan Neal	**Group President**:	John Taylor
Group Treasurer:	Neil Martin	**Group Secretary:**	Michelle Malkin
Group Trustees:	Tony Anderson, Michael Kilding, Linda Ransom, Rachel Dent (parents Rep), Anya Peković (young person rep)		

Beaver Scout Leaders

Beaver Lead Volunteer	Megan Coverdale, Leon Hobson,
Ass. Beaver Volunteer:	Dylan Hayes, Chris Scrimshaw, Sarah Warburton-Miln
Helpers:	Anne-Marie Clarkson,
Young Leaders:	Lacey Hobson, Ross McFadden

Squirrel Scout Leaders

Squirrel Lead Volunteer:	Charlie Towning
Ass. Squirrel Volunteers:	Jac Robson, Kathryn Northern, Sam Iddon, . Sam Green
Helpers:	Karren Towning, Shania Delaney,
Young Leader:	Anya Peković,

Cub Scout Leaders

Cub Lead Volunteer:	Michael Atkinson
Assistant Cub Leader:	Andrew Woods, Hollie Flanagan, Aidan Cairnie .
Helpers:	Julia Atkinson
Young Leaders	Anya Peković, Jacob Mills Ameila Mann,

Scouts Leaders

Scout Lead Volunteer:	Kevin McCabe
Assistant Scout volunteers:	Jordan McGrogan, Chris Whelan, Mark Robson, Sam Iddon, Graig Weedall, Sam Green. Liam Thompson, Amy Dixon
Helpers:	Tony Anderson, Colin Davies
Young Leader:	Matilda Mcarthy, Jess Green, Gracie Blenkinsopp

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Group Scout Leader's Report

A Quiet but uplifting year for the Group, as we gather our thoughts following the loss of Scott our Scout Leader, he will always be missed but never forgotten, at this point I would like to let you know that Kevin McCabe has been appointed as the new Scout section lead, with big boots to fill (I am sure he and the team will take the scout section from Strength to strength.

This year the number of young people in the group has fallen a little. We have had to reduced our maximum number of cubs in the section due to the lack of adult helpers and the Scout section numbers have reduced due to the generic age of the young people moving on and reaching leaving age. The great news is that the Squirrel section & Beaver section have both increased slightly. There are no places available and we have had to freeze the waiting list. Please have a think about Volunteering and join the Synthonia Leader Team, could you help us to Provide Scouting to more young people in Billingham.

Last year's AGM was a quiet occasion due to circumstances and the show didn't happen and again this year due to my personal situation, I have been unable to do much scouting since November, so we decided not to go ahead with the show again this, hopefully over the next few months I will be able to give a little more time back to scouting and we will get back to our normal Calendar of events.

This past year we did manage to hold the, Mother day afternoon tea, Fathers day Breakfast, Chinese new year event and our normal Christmas party tea where we hosted the Mayor of Stockton and a top table full of past Scouters from Synthonia who still enjoy being around the group for our special events. We also ran an extremally successful race night which was held in the Catholic Club and we were able to raise around £2000 which included some match funding. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event, and for Chris, Kev & Craig for organising and running the event.

As I am sure you will be aware, the group is working on its Centenary Project where we aim to replace our failing roof and the ageing facia of the building, we are hoping to be able to externally insulate and clad the building, replacing the roof and possibly fitting solar panels in a bid to improve our Sustainability, to reduce our running coast and hopefully help us scout for years to come.

Our Centenary of Scouting with Synthonia, gets ever closer, the group is now 98 years old and in April 2028 we will be celebrating our 100 years with a special event and reunion of past Synthonia members, this is something we last undertook for the 90th anniversary and it was attended by lots of past members and we hope to be able to have a similar celebration.

The sections have all continued to push on with their exceptional and challenging programmes providing an excellent mix of activities for our sections and I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all the leaders for the outstanding level of scouting they provide. I would also like to extend that thanks to the Young Leaders, Trustees and Supporters of the group for there continued support.

Our young people are amazing, as long as they keep enjoying the Scouting experience we provide, we will all continue to have fun and love Synthonia for what it is, our big Scouting Family.

Mark Anderson
Group Scout Leader

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Squirrels Report

This year has been a fantastic one for our Squirrels (ages 4–6). Our main aim has been simple: to help the children try new things, have fun, and look back happily on their time at Synthonia—and we're proud to say they've done exactly that.

One of our biggest achievements was increasing our numbers from 12 to 18 Squirrels. This has allowed more children to join and be part of the fun.

We've had a busy year full of exciting activities. A highlight was the district Squirrels activity day, where the children met others and took part in outdoor activities like fire safety, archery, axe throwing, and den building. We also enjoyed trips to the fire station, Pets at Home, and the cinema, giving the children new experiences outside our usual meetings.

Themed nights for Christmas, Halloween, and Easter brought lots of fun, and activities like den building helped develop teamwork and creativity.

The Squirrels have worked hard on their badges this year, with 66 badges awarded across the group. Badges included *All About Me*, *All About Adventure*, *Explore Outdoors*, *Super Chef*, and more. We are especially proud that 4 Squirrels achieved their Chief Scout's Acorn Award.

We're really pleased that no children have left the section this year, showing how much, they enjoy being part of Squirrels.

Our Leadership Team

Our Squirrels are supported by a dedicated and enthusiastic team. The section is led by Kim (Charlie) as Squirrel Section Leader. The leadership team also includes Bambi (Jac), Roo (Kathryn), Big Sam, and Little Sam as Squirrel Leaders, with Anya supporting as a Young Leader. Their time, energy, and commitment ensure every session is safe, fun, and engaging for all our young people.

A big thank you to our leadership team for all their hard work, and a special welcome to Little Sam for joining us this year. Thank you also to all parents and carers for your continued support—it really makes a difference.

Looking ahead, we're excited for more outdoor activities, trips, and opportunities to work with other sections and groups.

Most importantly, thank you to all our Squirrels for making this year so much fun!

Kim (Charlie Towning) - Synthonia Squirrel Section Leader











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Beaver's Report

What a busy and rewarding year. We have provided a wide range of opportunities for the Beavers. to learn new skills, and have fun. We awarded over 400 badges, including five Chief Scout's Bronze Awards, the highest award a Beaver Scout can achieve.

We began the year in the summer term. The Beavers completed their Outdoor Challenge badge, taking part in a nature walk around Belasis Business Park, This was complemented by a community litter pick, helping them to understand the importance of caring for the world around them. The programme also included outdoor skills such as knot tying, as well as team games and activities,. The highlight of the term was the District Sandcastle Competition,

In September, the Beavers agreed a new Code of Conduct, setting the tone for a positive and inclusive year. Autumn was packed with creative activities , air activities, and the Disability Awareness badge, helping to build understanding and inclusion. They also took part in Jamboree on the Air, giving them the opportunity to connect with Scouts across the world.
We visited Billingham Foodbank, helping the Beavers understand how they can support others. The term included the World Challenge badge, exploring different cultures through art, crafts, and a place of worship visit. The Beavers developed practical life skills through the Cooking Activity badge, learning about food preparation, hygiene, and safety.
We held a pirate-themed sleepover, which proved to be one of the highlights of the year. The Beavers gained valuable experience of staying away from home.
In November, the Beavers joined the rest of the group with pride at the Remembrance Sunday Parade, showing great maturity and respect throughout. They also enjoyed an exciting visit to the Fire Station,. The festive season saw us Christmas crafting and taking part in the Synthonia Scout Group Christmas Party, ensuring a memorable end to the term.
The spring term saw the Beavers learning practical skills such as safely lighting candles, folding their neckers correctly, and working as part of a team. They also completed the Safety Activity badge, gaining a better understanding of hazards and how to stay safe.
Communication skills were developed through the Communicator Activity badge, where the Beavers explored different ways to send and receive messages, including Morse code and the phonetic alphabet. The Navigator Stage badge, saw the Beavers putting their map-reading skills into practice. A key highlight of the year was the March Camp based on wildlife, . For many Beavers, this was their first night away from home, and they rose to the challenge brilliantly, showing confidence and resilience,

Throughout the year, the programme has been carefully balanced to include outdoor adventure, practical skills, creative activities, and community engagement. The Beavers have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, developing confidence, teamwork, and independence along the way.

My sincere thanks go to our Beaver Leader Team for their continued dedication and support in delivering such a varied and successful programme your support really doesn't go unnoticed and we are extremely grateful for all you do.

Ko and Chip























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Cub's Report

This past year has been quite engaging for our Cub Scouts, who have participated in a multitude of activities and events, fostering skills and friendships along the way. Our meetings have been varied, from DIY and Backwoods Cooking badge activities to themed nights and the World Challenge Award. During these sessions, Cubs explored knots, camp safety, and enjoyed games nights and BBQs, allowing them to connect with each other and leaders in a relaxed atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the year was our November Camp, where Cubs had an excellent visit to the Magna Science Museum. This interactive experience was both educational and fun, allowing the Cubs to explore scientific concepts in an engaging environment. Additionally, we had a memorable visit to the Planetarium, where Cubs were fascinated by the wonders of space, enhancing their understanding of astronomy. The Summer Camp, where Cubs immersed themselves in the great outdoors, also stands out as a significant highlight. Furthermore, our District Camp - Spy Camp provided an adventurous experience, encouraging teamwork and problem-solving. Our recent March Camp focused on Aviation, allowing Cubs to learn about flight and further enhance their skills and knowledge.

Throughout the year, our Cubs also participated in various competitions and themed events. The District Sandcastle Competition showcased their creativity, while the Remembrance Sunday Parade fostered a sense of community and respect. Special events, like the tree planting presentation, highlighted our commitment to environmental awareness, which is essential in today's world. Furthermore, our Cubs had opportunities to give back to the community, such as erecting bird boxes and participating in a library visit, promoting reading and engaging with local resources. Half-term activities like the Digital Maker Day proved to be a fantastic way for Cubs to explore technology and creativity.

This year marked the presentation of 8 Chief Scout Awards, reflecting the dedication and hard work of our Cubs in all their activities.

As we look ahead, we anticipate continuing with our diverse programme, with more of the same enrichments in store for our Cubs.

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to all the Cub leaders, young leaders, and helpers who have tirelessly dedicated their time and effort to the group this past year. Their commitment has been invaluable in providing the Cubs with enriching experiences and memorable learning opportunities.

I look forward to yet another successful year of cub Scouting!

Akela

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Scout's Report

This year has been one of the most memorable in the history of our Scout section — filled with adventure, friendship and achievement From camps, badge work, challenges and hikes our Scouts showed resilience, kindness, and true team spirit throughout every challenge and success.

Sadly, this past year has also been marked by the heartbreaking loss of our much-loved leader Scott, whose dedication and encouragement helped shape the section into what it is today. His passion for Scouting inspired countless young people to gain confidence, learn new skills, and support one another. He led with patience, humour, and genuine care, leaving an impact that will never be forgotten.

We held 4 Camps last year, Started off with weekend backwards camp at Dilston where the scouts cooked their meals on open fires. This was followed by Summer Camp which we had a brilliant week away at Waddecar. The week included activities such as crossbows, climbing, sledging and a water obstacle course. It was then onto our November camp which we had at Kettleness. The Scouts hiked to Whitby and on return took part in a trading post challenge. Our camping finished off with a weekend at the Snowball Plantation near York where the Scouts had a Cluedo style challenge around York and a visit to the Railway Museum.
During the year we have visited places like Roseberry Topping, Stockton Fire Station, Billingham Forum for the Ice Hockey, Rock Climbing @ROF59, Castle Eden Walkway and Paintballing at District 23
We've also taken part in group events such as Remembrance Day parade and Group Christmas party.

Badges – During the past year we have give out nearly 300 badges such as Skills, Adventure, Money Skills, Artist and DIY. We also have 4 Scouts who have completed the highest award as scouts the Chief Scout Gold Award!! A massive well done to Amelia Mann, Imogen Davies, Rosie Hindhaugh and Joseph Robson for all your hard work.
As always we have a lot planned with a lot more exciting activities and camps to come over the next few months

My thanks must go to all the leaders and young leaders for all their help and support and for really stepping up over the last twelve months without you all it wouldn't be possible.

Kevin McCabe - Scout Section Team Lead

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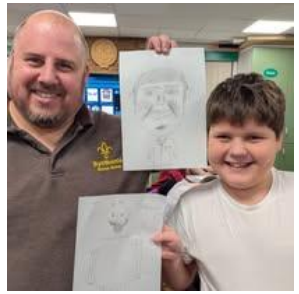












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Section's Accounts,
Group Accounts
and
Financial Statement
for 2025

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Section Accounts 2025

Income

Squirrels

Membership fees	1,750.00	
Events	29.94	1,779.94

Beavers

Membership fees	3,610.22	
Events	645.60	4,255.82

Cubs

Membership fees	5,023.63	
Events	5,820.75	10,844.38

Scouts

Membership fees	4,438.00	
Events	11,090.06	15,528.06

Group

Membership fees-Young Leaders	714.00	
Group Fund raising Events	1,057.13	
Joining fees	440.00	2,211.13

	Total Income	34,619.33

Expense

Squirrels

Meetings	129.13	
Events	33.30	162.43

Beavers

Meetings	108.82	
Events	1,430.60	
Scout Shop	128.99	1,668.41

Cubs

Meetings - Cubs	504.05	
Events	5,721.06	
Scout Shop	451.14	6,676.25

Scouts

Meetings	101.09	
Events	11,883.03	
Scout Shop	349.83	12,333.95

Group

Fund raising income to group	1,057.13	
Camping/Activity Equipment	580.83	
OSM/Go Cardless Fees	1,197.85	
Subs & Joining fees To Group	9,940.61	12,776.42

	Total Expenditure	33617.46

Year End Balance for 2025

Balance in bank at 31st December 2025	3,512.94
Balance on expences cards at 31st December 2025	1,063.42

Summary

Account balance brought forward from 2024	3,572.85
Total income	34,619.33
Total expenditure	33,617.46
Total Account balance as 31st December 2025	4,576.36

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Group Audited Accounts 2025

INCOMING		OUTGOING	
BALANCE B/F	**£3,608.35**		
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£9,940.61	CAPITATION FEE	£5,670.00
DONATIONS	£10,821.71	UTILITIES	£3,183.63
SAVINGS TRANSFER	£20,264.00	GROUP INSURANCE	£2,777.00
MINIBUS LOAN/REPAYMENT	£14,268.00	MINIBUS EXPENSES	£28,728.14
MINIBUS DONATIONS	£3,174.05	MINIBUS LOAN/REPAYMENT	£14,268.00
CHINESE NY TAKINGS	£816.21	WEBSITE FEES	£421.64
MOTHER'S DAY INCOME	£811.97	EQUIPMENT FOR HQ	£417.81
FATHER'S DAY INCOME	£442.00	MOTHER'S DAY EXPENSES	£304.02
HQ HIRE	£60.00	SQUIRREL'S ROOM REFURB	£270.03
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	£1,700.00	CHINESE NY EXPENSES	£266.44
CHOIR FUNDRAISER	£1,220.00	SCOUT SHOP	£250.00
		FATHER'S DAY EXPENSES	£245.09
		FUNERAL FLOWERS	£220.00
		HQ MAINTENANCE	£212.60
		CHRISTMAS PARTY EXPENSES	£126.00
		AGM TROPHIES	£29.00
		BALANCE C/F	**£9,737.50**
TOTAL	**£67,126.90**	**TOTAL**	**£67,126.90**

VIRGIN MONEY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.2025

INCOMING		OUTGOING	
BALANCE B/F	**£30,879.54**		
INTEREST	£229.60		
		TRANSFER TO GROUP	£6,000.00
		TRANSFER FROM GROUP	£14,264.00
		BALANCE C/F	**£10,845.14**
TOTAL	**£31,109.14**	**TOTAL**	**£31,109.14**

CAPITAL STATEMENT

BUILDINGS INSURANCE VALUE	£1,146,087.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED
CAMPING EQUIPMENT INSURANCE VALUE	£51,674.00 FULLY DEPRECIATED

TRUSTEE'S STATEMENT

The Group is a trust established under its rules which is common to all groups.
Trustees are appointed in accordance with P.O.R. Of the Scout Association
The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payment basis, which is consistent with previous years
Approved by the trustees on 13th April, 2026

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2025 AGM Minutes

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2025

MINUTES OF THE 2025 AGM OF THE SYNTHONIA SCOUT GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2025 AT 6PM

Present: The President (John Taylor), Chairman (Allan Neal), GSL (Mark Anderson) Secretary (Michelle Malkin) and Treasurer (Neil Martin) together with DC Paul Elliott.

1-Wlecome and Introduction by the Chairman. The Meeting started at 6 pm a number of Leaders and 10+ parents and supporters. We stood for a time to say a Prayer for Scott Hutchinson.

2-Chairman's Comments. Reading through his report and commenting on pictures as shown in the 2025 annual report various and exciting activities took place.

3-Apologies were received from: Tony Anderson, Andy Scrimshaw and Barbara Neal.

4-Minutes of the last Meeting were approved and accepted, seconded by the meeting.

5-Approval of the Annual reports were approved and accepted, seconded by the meeting.

6-Approval of the Annual Accounts 2025 were approved and accepted, seconded by the meeting. Having discussed the Turnover looks higher due to Mini Bus payments in from insurance claim then replacement Mini Bus purchased. Expenditure on Squirrel Section meeting room, energy prices are always considered got HQ and we always consider Subs for Members. Finance was discussed at how money was spent on activities.

7-Appointment & Election to Group Executive. The Group President (Mr John Taylor) continued with the Meeting by confirming the election of the Group Executive committee for 2025/26
Chairman: Mr Allan Neal Secretary: Michelle Malkin (Re-Elected) Treasurer: Neil Martin Re-Elected)
Committee: Allan Neal Michelle Malkin Neil Martin Mark Anderson Andrew Scrimshaw Tony Anderson, Linda Ransom, Anya Pekovic, Michael Kielding, Leon Hobson, Charlie Towning and Rachael Dent (Beaver Parent)
Examiner of Accounts: was Alan Davis / now Vicki Gardiner
The Group Scout Leader (Mr Mark Anderson) with support from The Chairman (Allan Neal) continued with the Meeting.

District Commissioner Paul Elliott comments: The Bronze Award for Growth achieved by Synthonia Scout Group for increase of 14 members (mainly Squirrels) is impressive. The Growth Challenge of Members is ongoing for 2025/26 for every Scout Group in the area. Paul said it was always a pleasure, to come to this Group, so busy, so active and so well achieving. A joy to see so many happy young people.

AOB - Trustee Parent Rep – shared many wonderful, kind words from grateful parents.

The Evening concluded with more thanks of continued support to Leaders, Young People, family and friends.
Michelle Malkin (Secretary)
20.06.25

Comments by Parents

Thank you for teaching them life skills

You are all amazing. Can't thank you enough for putting so much thought and time into all of the activities and organisation of this weekend away. My child has had the best time, memories he will cherish forever

My child has had a blast. He's really enjoyed himself. Thanks to all the leaders for their time and effort into making this extra special for our little ones. My child has loved everything about the aviation themed camp the personalised tickets, learning all about the history of planes at the museum, spending quality time with his cub friends and also Mrs Akelas food. His favourite part was 'making an Airfix model to add to his growing collection'. I'm so happy he's also overcome his big feelings of being homesick and I'm so proud of him X

We really appreciate you all giving up your time to make opportunities like this possible. It was an absolutely fantastic experience for my child, he absolutely loved it.

Fantastic to see the Chief Scout's Silver awards being given out tonight. Our children can only achieve this thanks to the dedication of Akela and leaders. Thanks to all the leaders and volunteers

Thanks everyone the kids had a blast

Thank you all. My child really enjoyed his first camp with Scouts!

Thank you so much to all the leaders for making it such a fantastic experience and for creating memories that will last a lifetime. We really appreciate all the time and effort you put in.
Thank you again

My child has had an amazing time in Carlton with the Beavers this weekend and has not stopped taping about it! Shout out to KO, Chip and the leaders for making this happen, they are a credit to the scouting family

Thank you all. My child really enjoyed his first camp with Scouts!

How happy those Beaver faces are, enjoy the rest of your adventure

Thank you for giving up your weekend. Muy child had a brilliant time! His airplane model is now pride of place on his shelf

The scout group as a whole do so much for the children we can't thank you all enough! Please pass on our thanks to everyone!

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