Scouts
3rd Aberystwyth

Trustee's Annual Report

For the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026

Section A: Reference and Administration Details

Charity Details

Charity name: 3rd Aberystwyth Scout Group

Also known as 3rd Aberystwyth Scouts

Registered charity number: 509115

Charity's principle address: 14 Cwm Aur, Llanilar, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 4NT

Charity Trustees

Names of trustees who manage the charity:

- Holly Davis (Chair)
- Danielle Ruston (Treasurer)
- Callum Edward Pope Jones (Lead Volunteer)
- Andrew Rhys Morel Du Boil
- Gerwyn David Slinger
- Gillian Lavina Clissold
- Matthew Lee
- Molly Reed

Charity Advisors

Independent Examiner: Christine Glasson; CAVO, 67 Bridge Street, Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 7AB
Solicitor: Awel H. Jones LL.B. (Wales); Crynfryn, 17 Eastgate Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2AR

Section B: Structure, governance and management

Governing document and constitution of the charity

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

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The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.

The Board of Trustees, its purpose, composition and selection process

The Scout 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 consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 6 additional Trustees (including the Group Lead Volunteer who is an Ex Officio trustee) and meets at least every three months. They are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association and complete the Scouts' Growing Roots learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board as well as other mandatory learning as periodically required.

The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programs that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintain appropriate governance policies and oversight.

The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly.

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules. This includes responsibility for:

- Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development
- Developing, maintaining and regularly reviewing a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations
- Ensuring that the finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting
- Ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss
- Ensuring that property is appropriately managed
- Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment

- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support
- Having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees
- Appointing Advisors as required
- Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board
- Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding
- Ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy
- Ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate
- Ensuring transparency of operations, including in the preparation of accounts and holding and AGM
- Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation

Section C: Objectives and Activities

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 these 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 in which we live.

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

Additional details of the objectives and operations

3rd Aberystwyth Scouts is entirely led and operated by volunteers without whom the Group would not exist. From the trustees who oversee the risks, finances, and legal and regulatory responsibilities of the charity to the members of the support team who help us with translating, maintaining the Scout Hut and our equipment. Of course, there would be no Scout Group without the section leaders that run the program for the young people each week. I would take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work this year and in advance of next year. You really are crucial to the Group's operations and without you all, the young people wouldn't have the life changing experiences they have in Scouts.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that the charity meets the Charity Commission's Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Section D: Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the Group

It's been another fantastic year for 3rd Aberystwyth Scouts. As always, we've been camping, hiking, making, climbing, shooting, paddling and having enormous fun. Our young people have learned skills in money, cooking, navigating. They've learned about the world around them (and what lies beyond it) while growing in confidence, resilience and teamwork. Squirrels have hiked trying to find the Gruffalo, Beavers have explored the outdoors and learned how to care for pets, Cubs have made friends from across Wales at All Wales Cub Fun Day, and Scouts have connected with young people from across the UK at summer camp and around the world through JOTA-JOTI.

We've done **a lot** of camping. Scouts went to the Lake District for a week in August and hosted the other troops in Ceredigion for a muddy night hunting Zombies in December. They connected with other Scouts around the world during JOTA, the Jamboree on the Internet. But Scouts weren't the only section to get out camping: Cubs had a couple of camps and sleepovers and Squirrels held their first sleepover with Penparcau's Drey.

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The highlight of last year's camps was undoubtedly our 75th anniversary Group Camp where we brought the whole group together (including our brand new Squirrels) for a weekend of fun and adventure.

But it's not all been about the young people. Each week the dedicated team of volunteers deliver a great programme full of a variety of activities. We're fortunate to be supported by about 25 volunteers who do everything from induct new volunteers, manage our equipment, administer joining enquiries, and, of course, run the programme which is integral to our members learning skills for life and feeling like they have place to belong with us. But we're always searching for more help and more people can help us deliver bigger and better adventures for our members.

This year we have continued to benefit enormously from the town's students who come with different perspectives, experiences and, most importantly, bags of enthusiasm. We have built possibly the closest relationship ever between Aber's Student Scout and Guide Organisation (SSAGO) and the group which really helps us out with volunteer recruitment. That doesn't mean we don't also hugely value the non-student volunteers that keep the group going during the holidays and compliment the students brilliantly. I would take this opportunity to appeal for anyone who would like to join the team to get in touch.

To conclude this report, it would be prudent to reference a quantitative representation of where the Group is compared to previous years. Every January, we complete an annual census of our members and volunteers to Scouts UK. Between January 2025 and January 2026, we saw an 88% increase in youth membership – a testament to the hard work of our section teams (and the programme they deliver) and those working behind the scenes to make joining and being part of the group an ever smoother process.

Section E: Financial Review

Summary of Finances

Income: £27821.48

Expenditure: £29593.28

Net Deficit: £1771.80

Balance at End of Year: £15090.22

The main source of income was Membership Fees (circa £13300) with additional income from events (circa £11700), grants (circa £1200), and donations (circa £1200). The most significant expenditure categories were Events (circa £14000), Membership Fees (circa

£4400), Rent (circa £2000), and Badges (circa £2000). Full income and expenditure can be seen in the Accounts Annual Report.

This deficit was partially planned for by budgets including an approximate £900 subsidy of our 75th anniversary celebrations. The nature of our accounting model also means that events such as Summer Camp where income is collected throughout the year but expenditure falls wholly in the year mean small cashflow variances can exacerbate deficits and surpluses. Additionally, the growth in membership throughout the year means that some costs – particularly the membership fees we pay to Scouts Ceredigion, ScoutsCymru and Scouts UK – were based on a higher than expected number of members without the time to accrue the necessary income throughout the year. For example, a young person joining in December will be charged to us at a flat per person rate without having time to recoup those costs from their membership fees. Throughout the year, the trustees were aware of the deficit and confident that they were manageable and not uncontrolled. In 2026-27, we don't expect such a sharp growth in young people and have made several attempts to cut cost including ending our possession of the Scout Hut on Plascrug Avenue. These measures will remove this feature of our accounts for future years.

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on unrestricted reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Trustee Board considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £15000.

The Group held unrestricted reserves of £2000 at year end. This is below that required by the reserves policy set out by the trustees and the trustees are attempting to build this through surpluses without negatively impacting the experiences of our members,

The Group may also hold, from time to time, restricted funds as deemed necessary by the trustees.

At year end, the Group held £11301.87 in restricted funds. These include a new support fund for those to whom cost is a barrier. Full details are available in the accounts.

Investment Policy

The Group does not currently have any investments. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Fundraising, Grants, and Loans

The Group's policies on fundraising, grants, and loans can be found in POR Chapter 5.f.

Section F: Other Optional Information

The Scout Hut, Plascrug Avenue

Our 2024-25 annual report detailed the trustee's plans regarding the Scout Hut on Plascrug Avenue. They have since taken the view that, following the end of our existing lease, the Scout Hut site would be returned to the freeholder, Ceredigion County Council. As such, the Group is currently going through the process of preparing for the disposal of the site.

Section G: Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

Signed on behalf the charity's trustees:

Signature:_____

Full Name: Holly Davis

Position: Chair

Date: 28/10/2026

Signature: D. Ruston

Full Name: Danielle Ruston

Position: Treasurer

Date: 27/10/2026

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2025-2026 Financial Year Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report

Annual Accounts

	2025-2026		2024-2025	
	£		£	
Income	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**
Clothing/Merchandise	307.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donation	266.81	1,000.00	770.00	0.00
Events	2,611.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
Events – Beavers	0.00	0.00	128.00	0.00
Events – Cubs	329.88	0.00	500.00	0.00
Events – Scouts	8,390.09	0.00	2,370.32	0.00
Events - Squirrels	402.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grant	0.00	1,219.25	0.00	572.00
Membership Fees	13,324.27	0.00	7,165.00	0.00
Total	25,631.76	2,219.25	10,933.32	572.00
	27,851.01		11,505.32	
Expenditure				
Activity Equipment	471.39	0.00	368.29	0.00
Admin	229.90	0.00	338.08	0.00
Badges	1,974.66	0.00	679.13	0.00
Transaction Fees	680.17	0.00	341.47	0.00
Camping Equipment	430.16	0.00	102.55	0.00
Clothing/Merchandise	291.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Events	3,168.82	0.00	27.50	0.00
Events - Beavers	15.49	0.00	120.00	0.00
Events - Cubs	615.89	0.00	175.00	0.00
Events - Scouts	9,838.28	0.00	2,079.92	0.00
Events - Squirrels	334.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
Failed Payment Fee	29.53	0.00	3.27	0.00
Insurance	846.72	0.00	0.00[1]	0.00
Meetings	318.22	0.00	38.31	0.00
Meetings - Beavers	461.07	0.00	83.86	0.00
Meetings - Cubs	336.46	0.00	202.95	0.00
Meetings - Scouts	495.13	0.00	227.96	0.00
Meetings - Squirrels	314.70	74.15	69.83	63.98
Membership Costs	4,402.00	0.00	2,481.00	0.00
Public Perception	304.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rent	2,006.10	0.00	1,400.00	0.00

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Utilities	1,327.41	0.00	800.84	0.00
Vehicles	248.48	0.00	0.00	0.00
Venue Maintenance	174.18	0.00	62.55	0.00
Volunteer Costs	233.26	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	29,548.66	74.15	9,602.51	63.98
	29,622.81		9,666.49	

Cashflow Summary

	2025-26	2024-25
	£	£
Account balance brought forward	16,862.02	15,023.19
Total income	27,851.01	11,505.32
Total expenditure	29,622.81	9,666.49
Net income	-1771.80	1,838.83
Account balance carried forward	15,090.22	16,862.02

Balance Sheet

	2025-26	2024-25
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
Barclays Current Account	2,083.42	3,345.11
Cash	7.82	0.00
Stripe	697.11	1,080.89
Unrestricted Reserves	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Unrestricted Funds	4,788.35	6,426.00
Restricted Funds		
Financial Support Fund	940.00	0.00
Premises Restricted Fund	10,000.00	10,000
Squirrels Restricted Fund	361.87	436.02
Total Restricted Funds	11,307.87	10436.02

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of 3rd Aberystwyth Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **3rd Aberystwyth Scout Grop** for the year ended **31 March 2026.**

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the **3rd Aberystwyth Scouts** 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 accounts of **3rd Aberystwyth 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 **3rd Aberystwyth Scouts** 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: A. C GLASSON

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: Frondeg, Llanllwni, Pencader, Carmerthenshire. SA39 9EA

Date: 8/06/2026