

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date) **10th September 2024** to (end date) **17th September 2025**

Section A Reference and Administration Details

Charity name **Alderley & Knutsford District Scout Council**

Other names the charity is known by Alderley & Knutsford District Scouts

Registered charity number (if any)

5	2	0	1	5	1
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HQ registration number

1	2	2	1	0	7	2	6
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Charity's principal address

97 London Road

Holmes Chapel

Cheshire

Postcode	C	W	4		7	B	G
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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity and the Charity Register if reporting for a Registered Charity with a charity regulator)

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Martin Relton	Chair	
2	Bruce Tulley	Treasurer	
3	Janet Williamson	Trustee	
4	Ian Ross	Trustee	
5	Janet Nicholson	Trustee	
6	Steve Wilkinson	Trustee	
7	Roger Turner	Trustee	
8	Tony Leadbeater	Trustee	
9	Will Burnham	Ex Officio	
10	Katie Davies	Ex Officio	
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity)

Type of advisor	Name	Address

Section B**Structure, Governance and Management**

Description of the charity's trusts	
Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)	The District'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.
How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)	The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)	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:	The District is managed by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District 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.
Policies and procedures adopted for: a) the induction and training of trustees; b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them	<p>The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 8 Trustees (including 2 Ex Officio Trustees) and meets every 3-4 months.</p> <p>Members of the Trustee Board complete the Scout Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.</p> <p>This District Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.</p> <p>Risk and Internal Control</p> <p>The District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed, these are reviewed on an ongoing basis at Board meetings and systems have been established to mitigate against them. Assessments are undertaken before all activities.</p> <p>The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.</p>

Summary of the objectives 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 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.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives

The District is comprised of 13 Scout Groups, 5 Explorer Scout Units and a Scout Network providing Scouting provision for boys and girls aged 4 to 25.

The District provides management and governance oversight along with training provision for all Scouting activities within the District. Scouting programmes are supported with shared equipment including a minibus and a Scout shop for uniform and badges.

In addition, the District organises District wide events such as camps and supports overseas trips.

Additional details of the objectives and activities

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about: The charity has no salaried staff and is run entirely by voluntary contributions of time which amounts to approximately 6500 hours per year.

- policy on grantmaking;
- contribution made by volunteers;
- policy on investments.

Public benefit statement

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year The Trustee Board has undergone its first full year since the amalgamation of Alderley and Knutsford into one charity and has continued the process of settling in the administration and governance of the combined board whilst putting in place all the new measures prescribed by the Scout Association for trustee boards.

At the September 2024 AGM treasurer, Bruce Tulley was appointed to the trustee board having been a co-opted member since April. The consolidated accounts have been operating successfully for 12 months and we are continuing to make improvements in the processes. The redundant Knutsford Gang Show bank account has been closed and the assets transferred to the District and further processes are being put into place to streamline the inclusion of the Knutsford bonfire accounts into the District.

The main focus has been on developing the risk register and much progress has been made on identifying and mitigating the perceived principal risks facing the charity. Areas for attention have included climbing wall inspections, fire assessments and air rifle storage.

All of the Trustees have completed the new updated safety training as required by the Scout Association as well as the requisite trustee training modules. The District has invested in new resuscitation equipment to improve the delivery and availability of first aid training within the District.

Over the last period the District has been involved in implementing a new digital system along with Scouting across the UK to improve the volunteering experience by providing volunteers with new digital tools which will help support them with the management of membership data, induction of new volunteers and learning. The transfer to the new system has proved challenging and time consuming for the District leadership team and further work remains to be done into the next period before we begin to realise the full benefits of the new system.

The District Scout Shop has become a regular fixture at Chelford Scout HQ and continues to provide a popular and worthwhile resource for the leadership team and parents.

District leaders team have continued to support events and activities across the District, including the District camp, and also in the local community such as marquees for the Knutsford Music festival. The District minibus has undergone regular maintenance ensuring that it complies with current legal and safety requirements. The team are also trialling an online booking system.

Operationally it is encouraging to report that the membership of young people in the District remained steady in the year overall, with some gains and falls within Groups, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Group volunteers and District team. The provision for Squirrels, the newest section for the 5-6 year olds, has been expanded in this period to 4 Groups. In June a very successful District camp took place over a weekend at Tatton Park attended by over 550 young members from 11 Alderley and Knutsford groups. Also this summer several Groups from the District had planned overseas trips and over 70 Scouts and Explorer Scouts experienced camping, activities and international friendship at Kandersteg Scout Centre in Switzerland.

Section E**Financial Review**

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy

The District Trustee Board's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Board considers that the District held reserves at year end well above the level required for ongoing operating expenses.

Quantify and explain any designations

Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)

Further financial review details

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

Investment Policy

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);

The District's Income and Expenditure is relatively low and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments. The District has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;

The District Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the District obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

- investment policy and objectives;

Section F**Other Optional Information**

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

The trustees have initiated a move to divest the land owned by the charity at Alderley Edge in order to reduce risk exposure. This is at the early stages and is expected to be a lengthy process over a number of years.

District is looking at future proposals to permanently locate the Scout Shop on land behind Chelford Scout HQ for ease of administration and to improve storage.

One of the event marquees is planned to be replaced in the next period for the continued support of District and community events.

Section G**Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Martin Relton

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Chair

Date

17th September 2025

Alderley and Knutsford Scouts

	31/03/2025	31/03/2025	31/03/2024	31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure				
Subscriptions				
Received from Groups and Units	62,042.60		106,677.50	
Less: Paid to County and HQ	(54,325.00)		(92,707.50)	
Total Subscriptions Retained	7,717.60		13,970.00	
Income				
Interest	0.00		10.78	
Swimmer Badge Testing	425.00		1,215.00	
World Scout Jamboree	0.00		740.50	
Minibus (Including Hire, May Day 50%, and Car Boot Sale)	8,253.06		7,663.51	
Bonfire	15,774.61		19,444.62	
Wilmslow Running Event	0.00		700.00	
Camp	0.00		21,970.00	
Climbing	76.00		1,107.00	
District Dinner	624.20		476.00	
Other Income	1,843.52	34,713.99	1,244.80	68,542.21
Expenditure				
Swimmer Badge Testing	360.97		1,081.31	
World Scout Jamboree	0.00		1,670.00	
Minibus	3,158.64		514.63	
Bonfire	15,774.61		19,444.62	
Wilmslow Running Event	0.00		382.70	
Camp	257.67		22,423.24	
Climbing	203.25		436.00	
Website	180.00		180.00	
District Dinner	672.30		941.85	
Insurance	114.00		0.00	
Other Expenditure	2,303.37	23,024.81	4,480.68	51,555.03
Net Income over Expenditure		11,689.18		16,987.18

Notes to the accounts

1. Capitation (subscriptions) - In 2024, there were 2 payments in 1 year, as the separate Knutsford and Alderley accounts didn't show the 2023 monies. We started up the new Bank account for Alderley and Knutsford in February 2023 and transactions were in this new account.
2. Capitation - All Income and payments were made before 31 March 2025
3. Bonfire Income - we again had late income - and balance on the account has been paid back in 25-26 to the Knutsford Scout groups - adjustment made to the accounts
4. Alderley Explorer account - still not included in the accounts, and we need to add it next year
5. Total Funds of £84,763.45 includes Minibus account £18,213.83 and World Scout Jamboree £740.50

Alderley and Knutsford Scouts

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

12 MONTHS TO 31ST MARCH 2025

£ STERLING

	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
OPENING BALANCE	73,074.27	56,087.09
EXCESS OF INCOME (LOSS)	11,689.18	16,987.18
CLOSING BALANCE	<u>84,763.45</u>	<u>73,074.27</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
ALDERLEY AND KNUTSFORD BARCLAYS CURRENT	81,336.13	70,186.64
	<u>81,336.13</u>	<u>70,186.64</u>
CREDITORS (Bonfire net income to be paid to Knutsford Scout Groups)	(7,822.61)	(9,674.62)
DEBTORS (Bonfire Income)	11,249.93	12,562.25
CLOSING BALANCE	<u>84,763.45</u>	<u>73,074.27</u>
Variance	0.00	0.00

Other Accounts		
	As at 31/12/24	As at 31/12/23
Knutsford Explorer		
Opening Bank Balances	8,613.55	12,806.70
Deposit		
Current	192.18	184.87
	<u>8,805.73</u>	<u>12,991.57</u>
Receipts	7,621.95	10,617.43
Payments	(7,786.42)	(14,803.27)
Total	<u>8,641.26</u>	<u>8,805.73</u>
Closing Bank Balances	8,527.87	8,613.55
Deposit		
Current	113.39	192.18
	<u>8,641.26</u>	<u>8,805.73</u>
Scout Shop		
Opening Bank Balances	4,151.09	1,814.31
Current		
Receipts	11,951.52	12,181.72
Capitation refunded	(2,561.50)	0.00
Payments	(9,372.67)	(9,844.94)
Total	<u>4,168.44</u>	<u>4,151.09</u>
Closing Bank Balances	4,168.44	4,151.09
Current		
Creditor (Capitation received in error)	0.00	(2,561.50)
Revised Balance	<u>4,168.44</u>	<u>1,589.59</u>

Bruce Tulley
Treasurer
31 August 2025

B.W. Tulley

Rebecca Strong
Auditor / Scrutineer
8 September 2025

R.A.Strong

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Alderley & Knutsford District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Alderley & Knutsford District Scout Council for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Alderley & Knutsford District Scout Council 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 Alderley & Knutsford District Scout Council 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 Alderley & Knutsford District Scout Council 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.

Signed: *R.A.Strong*

Name: Rebecca A. Strong

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

Address: Sandbach, Cheshire

Date: 8th September 2025