



1st Hartford Scouts Group

Registered Charity Number 520202

Annual Report and Accounts
Year ending 31 March 2025

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Trustees' Report

Reference and Administration Information

Registered charity address: 19 Armstrong Close, Hartford, CW8 1GN

Operating premises: 1st Hartford Scout Hut, Bradburns Lane, Hartford

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Jon Flatman – Chairman

Danny Clarke – GSL

Rory Innes – Membership

Caroline Weeks – Treasurer

Kate Harford – Secretary

Structure, Governance and Management

The Group's governing documents are those of 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.

The Group is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

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 Group Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 3 Trustees and typically meets every 3 months. It 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.

The Group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss. These include dual authorisation for online bank payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

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.

The main activities include:

- Outdoor Adventures (Camping, Hiking, Survival Skills)
- Community Service Projects
- Leadership Training and Patrol System
- Merit Badge Programs and Skill Development
- Physical Activities and Challenges (Sports, Obstacle Courses)
- Ceremonies and Traditions (Investiture, Awards)

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.

Achievements and Performance

The Group consists of a Squirrels section, two Beavers sections, two Cubs sections and a Scouts section, and in early 2025 the Group welcomed an Explorers section, which was previously affiliated with District.

During the year, membership continued to be strong, with the leaders and volunteers delivering a full and engaging programme.

Our youngest section, Squirrels, particularly enjoyed their visit to the local allotments and a fire station, as well as doing a mini hike and lots of craft activities and games.

Our Beavers sections have been busy learning basic climbing techniques and sailing. They have also been supporting the community by collecting supplies for a local cat shelter and had interactive evenings with the local police and Merseyside fire and rescue.

Our Cubs sections have particularly enjoyed their annual Christmas sleepover and Pantomime, as well as a summer trip to Wildshore water park. They have also been busy completing numerous hikes, playing board games, learning to map read and doing lots of badge work.

Our Scouts section have had 12 nights away opportunities leading to 563 nights away; completed 2 expeditions and have been represented at every District and County event run for Scouts in the last year. Six Scouts have also completed their Gold Award, which is a great achievement.

Our Explorers section has enjoyed lots of activities in the year including Via Ferrata, climbing, the Cheshire Hike, cooking and laser quest, as well as supporting community projects such as helping to maintain the paths at Marbury Park.

46 of our young people made the trip to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in July 2025, and so they were incredibly busy fundraising through various events such as wreath making, raffles, Ceilidhs etc. During the year they raised approximately £30,000 (including some matched funding).

All of our sections came together for a Group Camp in May 2024, which was a fantastic weekend full of activities and camping experiences.

The Group has plans to extend and modernise its building. To help fund this, the Group has also been busy fundraising, with another successful Bedding Plant sale and matched funding.

Financial Review

Financial Review

The Group made a surplus of £47,782 (2024: deficit of £132) which increased our total funds to £138,062 (2024: £90,280). The most significant element of this being an increase in restricted funds of £44,216 as the Group fundraised for Scouts to attend Kandersteg International Camp in July 2025.

The full accounts are presented on pages 6 to 8 below.

Financial Highlights 2024-25

• Receipts in year:	£103,357
• Payments in year:	£55,575
• Total Funds 31 Mar 25:	£138,062
○ Unrestricted:	£83,682
○ Restricted:	£54,380

Subscriptions, fundraising, grants and donations

The Group is dependent upon membership subscriptions to fund its core activities, and additional sources of income to support the programme and for the maintenance, renovation, refurbishment and replacement of buildings and equipment. Net membership subscriptions retained after capitation totalled £9,084.

All parents and supporters are encouraged to subscribe to Gift Aid to maximise the tax relief on subscriptions and donations we can obtain through HM Revenue & Customs. During the year, the Group submitted a Gift Aid claim in respect of 2021-22 and 2022-23, with £1,975 being received after

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts and Payments Summary

	2024-25 Unrestricted Funds	2024-25 Restricted Funds	2024-25 Total Funds	2023-24 Total Funds
Total receipts for the year (page 7)	44,545	58,812	103,357	59,653
Total payments for the year (page 8)	(40,979)	(14,596)	(55,575)	(59,785)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	3,566	44,216	47,782	(132)
Balance brought forward at 1 April	80,116	10,164	90,280	90,412
Balance carried forward at 31 March	83,682	54,380	138,062	90,280

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2024-25 Unrestricted	2024-25 Restricted	2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total
Monetary assets				
Group current account	11,305	-	11,305	40,584
Group interest account	72,377	54,380	126,757	49,696
Total cash funds	83,682	54,380	138,062	90,280
Non-monetary assets				
Land and buildings	388,263	-	388,263	369,775
Equipment and other assets	110,875	-	110,875	102,455
Total non-monetary assets	499,138	-	499,138	472,230

Restricted Funds

Group restricted funds comprised of money raised in respect of international camps, primarily Kandersteg, Switzerland in July 2025.

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 06 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Caroline Weeks
Group Treasurer

year end. The Group has not yet submitted the claim for 2023-24 and 2024-25 although claims may be backdated so there is no overall detriment to our financial position.

The Group did not receive any donations from unknown sources or have any unusual activity. The Group did not receive any non-UK income. The Trustees did not receive any payments other than reimbursement of expenses.

Assets and liabilities

In addition to the monetary assets shown in the balance sheet representing bank balances, the Group has non-monetary assets representing land, buildings and equipment, as well as three trailers. These non-monetary assets have been recorded in the statement of assets and liabilities at their insured value as at the most recent insurance renewal in March 2025.

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on 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, approximately £10,000.

The Group held unrestricted reserves of £83,682 at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses, as the funds will be used to extend and modernise the building in the coming years.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees



Caroline Weeks
Group Treasurer

Date: 06 October 2025

Receipts for the year

	2024-25 Unrestricted Funds	2024-25 Restricted Funds	2024-25 Total Funds	2023-24 Total Funds
Membership subscriptions				
Membership subscriptions	18,074	-	18,074	16,702
	18,074	-	18,074	16,702
Donations, legacies and gift aid				
Donations	581	3,000	3,581	2,698
Grant	-	-	-	5,000
	581	3,000	3,581	7,698
Fundraising income				
Bedding Plant Sale	3,858	-	3,858	3,375
Matched funding	-	3,000	3,000	2,750
Easter Raffle	-	2,728	2,728	-
Wreath making	-	2,583	2,583	2,264
Ceilidh	-	2,575	2,575	-
Cheshire Hike Stalls	-	1,680	1,680	-
Other fundraising	170	14,316	14,486	4,851
	4,028	26,882	30,910	13,240
Activities and events				
Section activity income	15,208	28,930	44,138	21,909
Group camp	3,925	-	3,925	-
	19,133	28,930	48,063	21,909
Investment and property income				
Other income	140	-	140	-
Interest received	2,589	-	2,589	104
	2,729	-	2,729	104
Total receipts for the year	44,545	58,812	103,357	59,653

Payments for the year

	2024-25 Unrestricted Funds	2024-25 Restricted Funds	2024-25 Total Funds	2023-24 Total Funds
Membership Fees				
Capitation paid to District	(8,990)	-	(8,990)	(18,890)
	(8,990)	-	(8,990)	(18,890)
Youth programme and activities				
Core meetings and activity expenses	(12,567)	(5,855)	(18,422)	(17,964)
Group camp	(2,755)	-	(2,755)	-
	(15,322)	(5,855)	(21,177)	(17,964)
Badges, uniform and training				
Badges and uniform	(2,196)	(688)	(2,884)	(2,587)
Kit bags	-	(2,560)	(2,560)	-
Training	(328)	-	(328)	(150)
	(2,524)	(3,248)	(5,772)	(2,737)
Buildings and equipment				
Building project costs	-	-	-	(3,096)
Activity equipment	(1,469)	-	(1,469)	(997)
	(1,469)	-	(1,469)	(4,093)
Running costs				
Insurance	(2,551)	(2,439)	(4,990)	(2,553)
Venue maintenance	(1,925)	-	(1,925)	(4,482)
Cleaning	(1,002)	-	(1,002)	(1,060)
Utilities (water, gas and electricity)	(3,406)	-	(3,406)	(3,402)
Other (broadband, accountancy fees)	(1,352)	-	(1,352)	(1,430)
Bank fees	(60)	(25)	(85)	(104)
	(10,296)	(2,464)	(12,760)	(13,031)
Fundraising expenses				
Bedding Plant Sale	(2,051)	-	(2,051)	(2,189)
Easter Raffle	-	(178)	(178)	-
Wreath making	-	(223)	(223)	(706)
Ceilidh	-	(829)	(829)	-
Other fundraising	(327)	(1,799)	(2,126)	(175)
	(2,378)	(3,029)	(5,407)	(3,070)
Total payments for the year	(40,979)	(14,596)	(55,575)	(59,785)

Independent Examiner's Report

a fresh perspective...

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1st Hartford Scout Group Financial Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2025

Independent verification

Testing was carried out on a sample of 55 transactions from the Income and Expenditure Accounts. The transactions were agreed back to the source documents.

Explanations and evidence of the authorisation of bank payments was received and checked & the opening and closing bank balances per the Accounts agreed back to the actual Bank Account Statements.

Findings

I can confirm that the testing identified no differences between the source documents and the Accounts & that the bank payments appear to be authorised by the appropriate parties.

As always with these type of businesses, it is impossible to confirm with 100% assurance that all of the income generated at events was paid into the business' bank account as there are no sales invoices generated for each and every transaction.

Recommendations

No recommendations made.

Sign off

I can confirm that the information contained in the monthly summaries for the year to 31 March 2025 are in line with the underlying transactions and that they fairly represent the data that is available to review.

Signature:  Date: 20/10/2025

Name: Paul Lounds, FCA