3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group

.... Everyday adventure

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December 2025

1 Introduction

This Annual Report is issued by the Trustees of 3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group in conformity with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association, current edition, for the financial year ended 31st December 2025 and the census year ended 31st January 2026.

2 Reference and Administration Details

3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group
Open (Non-sponsored)
Established August 1957

Scout Registration Number 33420

Registered Charity Number 520209

Email: mike.wells@ladybrookvalleyscouts.org.uk
Website: www.3hg.org
Address: Adj. No.2 Macclesfield Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 6BD

Trustees

The Group is led by the Lead Volunteer and managed by the Trustee Board (the Trustees)

Ex Officio Members:

Group Chairman	Michael Wells
Lead Volunteer	Angela Massey
Group Treasurer	Lee Allsopp
Nominated Members	Robin Sheehan, Steve Holt
Elected Members	David Phillips, Alan Marsh, Nicola Hunt, Kath Shaw, Robin Kay, Quentin Blagg (Retired 16/6/2026)
Co-opted Members	-

Advisers

Independent Examiner	Richard M Lamb

3 Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

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.

Management

The Group is managed by the 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 Board consists of independent representatives, the Chair and Treasurer, together with the Lead Volunteer, and parents' representation. It meets regularly.

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

- The maintenance of Group property;
- The administration of Group finance;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Assessment and mitigation of risk;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Risk and Internal Control

The Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

- Damage to the building, property and equipment: The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as churches, community centres and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

- Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members: The Group, through the capitation fees, contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy and also takes out additional accident insurance for supporters. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

- Reduced income from fund raising: The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the

value of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

- Reduction or loss of leaders: The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the Group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

- Reduction or loss of members: The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18 (from Squirrels to young leaders). If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the Group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

The Group 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.

4 Objectives and Activities

The objectives of a charity are set out in its governing document and therefore the objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association.

The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

Public Benefit

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.

5 Achievements and Performance

Developments

Overall it is a major achievement to sustain a Group of the size and complexity of 3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group (3HG). This is done entirely by voluntary effort and support. (Note: the Group is an Open Group and is therefore not sponsored by any organisation e.g. religious bodies, schools, industrial/commercial firms, community associations, etc.).

The core business of the Group is the promotion of the development of its young people through the Scout Association's Training Scheme.

Composition of Sections within the Group

Numbers quoted are from the 31st January 2026 Census and do not include Young Leader helpers from Scout and Explorer sections at Cub packs and Beaver Colonies. Squirrel Drey numbers are included for the first time. Numbers in brackets refer to 31st January 2025 (For information 8 Young Leaders help with the sections).

Section		Boys/Girls		Leaders	
		2026	2025	2026	2025
Squirrels	Squirrels	5/5	(-/-)	1	(-)
Carrwood	Monday Beavers	13/5	(14/3)	5	(5)
Princes Wood	Thursday Beavers	11/10	(13/9)	3	(3)
Shawnee	Monday Cubs	12/1	(12/2)	4	(4)
Seneca	Thursday Cubs	21/15	(18/13)	8	(7)
Troop	Friday Scout Troop	22/9	(27/11)	5	(4)

3rd Hazel Grove Group 2026 Census

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Number of boys/girls	84/45	84/38	89/33	91/24	91/18
Number of adult members	31/11	26/10	27/8	27/9	28/12
Total Group Membership	171	158	157	151	149
Trustees (inc. in adult members)	8/3	8/2	8/2	6/2	7/2

The Group is one of the largest in the Greater Manchester East Scout County.

The Bullock Smithy Explorer Unit, operating under a 3HG Group partnership arrangement, is a separate District managed section and their figures are not included in 3rd Hazel Grove Group's census figures.

Section Activities

All sections actively follow the Scout's progressive training scheme within each Section through weekly meetings, badge work, County and District activities, outdoor activities, week-long and weekend camps (indoor and outdoor).

One highlight of 2025 was the introduction of a Squirrel section, very ably led by Rachel. Starting small with just 10 Squirrels, they have already made their mark on the group with the first 3 moving up to Beavers.

We continue to offer a well-balanced, youth-led programme of activities across age 4 to age 14 range, with emphasis on individual development measured against the Chief Scout's Award programme. Beavers, Cub and Scout Sections all managed to camp on at least one occasion but usually more during the year and there have also been various outdoor activities including Climbing, and of course, Archery and Tomahawk sessions. We are continuing to work towards gaining more Nights away permit holders, with support from the existing permit holders.

We are very fortunate to have many truly amazing young leaders from the Explorer unit. They are a vital part of the leadership team, supporting and running evenings on meeting nights and attending nights away.

Awards

Scouts: - achieved 8 (3) Gold Chief Scout Awards.
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts: - achieved 7 (8) Bronze, 9 (13) Silver Chief Scout awards and various and numerous core 139 (147). Challenge 231 (233), activity 289 (226) and staged badges 173 (197). Squirrels were awarded 41 badges from September to December 2025.

The Scouts Strategy to 2035 - A Place to Belong

Building on the 2018 strategy Skills for life that ended in 2025, A Place to belong was launched in early 2026.

Why this strategy exists
Young people today face rising loneliness, anxiety about the future, and fewer safe spaces where they can simply *be themselves*. Scouts provides that "third place" — not home, not school — where they can belong, grow, and connect. The strategy responds to this urgent need by strengthening what Scouts does best: community, adventure, and trusted adult support.

Core of the Strategy
The strategy is built around two pillars that must be equally strong:

- Delivering an adventurous and inclusive Programme - a programme rooted in the outdoors, filled with adventure, and accessible to every young person. Belonging is central — when young people feel they belong, they stay, grow, and thrive.
- Supporting our volunteers - Volunteers need to feel confident, valued, and equipped. Without strong volunteer support, nothing else is possible.

The strategy will be delivered through three rolling three-year plans, focusing first (2026–2029) on:

- Programme — fun, safe, inclusive delivery
- Volunteering — improving support and motivation
- Support — building a sustainable, effective movement

The Strategy to 2035 is about giving every young person a place to belong — through adventure, inclusion, youth leadership, strong volunteer support, and a sustainable, community-rooted movement.

What this means for 3rd Hazel Grove:

- Keep delivering brilliant, adventurous Scouting - We'll continue giving Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts the fun, outdoors-first, inclusive programme they love — with more chances to build confidence, skills and friendships.
- Support and grow our volunteer team - Our leaders and helpers are the heart of the Group. The strategy reinforces what we already know: volunteers need to feel supported, valued and confident. We'll keep making roles flexible, welcoming and enjoyable.

- Make sure every young person feels they belong. We continue to be a warm, inclusive Group where every child is seen, heard and encouraged — reflecting the diversity of our community.

We will keep giving every young person in Hazel Grove a place to belong — through adventure, community, youth leadership and strong volunteer support — so they can thrive now and into 2035.

- *Growth:* Census figures show that we have grown in youth membership, with higher growth in female membership. We have gained adults as our Young Leaders have turned 18 and we are delighted that so many have taken on adult roles. We need to encourage a regular flow of parents willing to start with us at Squirrel level and either move on through Beavers or stay with a section. Waiting lists are well managed, although there is high demand for Squirrels places which, without more regular adult support, means we will be unlikely to place some.
- *Inclusion/Diversity:* Scouting's Equal Opportunities policy supports the principle that no member should be discriminated against based on class, gender, ethnic background, nationality, sexuality, mental or physical ability and political or religious belief. As an open Group our membership is not in any way restricted and we welcome all.
- *Youth Shaped:* Young members have always been encouraged to get involved with the organisation of their section via 'Log Chews' (Beavers), pack and troop forums, patrol leaders' councils, etc. Their ideas are respected and where possible incorporated into the section programmes by the leaders.
- *Community Impact:* Community involvement is a regular feature offered by 3HG.

Faith Activities

The Group is open to everyone; we do not identify exclusively with one faith. Scouting is open to people of all faiths and of none. As an inclusive and values-based movement, we support our members to engage with spirituality in an exciting and meaningful way. Celebrating and understanding differences, including differences in faiths and beliefs, is an important part of the educational and developmental side of Scouts. Belief and its exploration help Scouts to learn from other faiths and develop their personal beliefs and values. The Group encourages Scouts to be open and willing to explore faiths, whether established or defined or not. The Group offers young people safe, exciting and open spaces to explore faiths and beliefs and engage in personal reflection, as they question and develop their opinions and understanding of the world around them by:

- Reflections at weekly meetings.
- Visits to a Buddhist temple, a Baptist Church, a Mosque, and other places of Faith.
- Scouts' Own (informal, non-structured services) at camps.
- Attendance at the District's annual St. George's Day parade and service.
- Representation at the local Remembrance Day Service.

Community Activities

We are fully involved in supporting, or working with, the following:

- District & County Camps and events
- November 5th Bonfire Night - the Group uses properly certified operators for our community fireworks display
- Bullock Smithy Hike. This is a national event organised mainly by past and present 3HG supporters and members
- St. Ann's Hospice
- Hazel Grove Carnival, Pixie Cheer, 1st Hazel Scout Group, Torkington Primary School PTA, through Christmas float collection

Fund Raising Activities

The Group's regular fund raising events and activities are:

- Bullock Smithy Hike (a national long distance walking event registered with the LDWA)
- Bonfire night
- HQ party hires
- Gift Aid
- Community Father Christmas float
- Daffodil 10k and Stockport 10 running events

Sustaining such a large unsponsored Group is a major task for the Trustees and Leaders who are grateful for help given by parent supporters enabling them to get on with their leadership responsibilities.

Leader Training

Most leaders already hold their advanced training award (the Wood Badge).

All leaders are up to date with Safeguarding and Safety courses which must be renewed every 3 years before role renewals. All sections are attended by leaders with first aid certification which must be renewed every 3 years.

Leaders have 1 x Terrain 2 (T2) mountaineering certification for leading walks above 800 m, 1 x T1 award (up to 800m), 3 x archery, (1 awaiting practical assessment) 2 x shooting, 3 x Katta Tomahawk throwing. 1x High ropes Linnet Clough More authorisations are always desirable for our active Group.

Awards

Claire Jarvis – Silver Wolf

Equipment & Maintenance

It is important to keep the HQ and equipment in good repair. The upgrading of the toilets and kitchen continues to be a major goal, and it is intended to include facilities for improved accessibility. With improved facilities our HQ would be more appealing and provide a better service to the wider community. Options for investment are currently under development. In the summer of 2025 we replaced the roof of the old hall and centre stores.

6 Financial Review

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 Trustee Board considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months' running costs; this coming year estimated to be £47,000 in normal circumstances (2025: £40,000).

The Group made a surplus on normal activities of £21,959 in the year (2024: surplus £19,213 before major asset purchases), with a deficit of £11,045 after major asset additions. The Group held reserves of £134,135 (2024: £145,180) at the year-end. This is above the level required for operating expenses but it includes, less known liabilities, provisions now totalling around £87,000 for future major purchases and building improvements.

Investment Policy

The Group's income and expenditure is very small and, as a consequence, does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. Therefore, the Group has adopted a low-risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

The Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the Group 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 Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Fund Raising

The Group, being non-sponsored, is entirely dependent upon raising all its required funds. Raising funds to support the large membership and for the maintenance, renovation, refurbishment and replacement of buildings, vehicles and equipment is a major task. To maximise on Inland Revenue allowances all parents have been asked to pay subscription by Gift Aid. An increase in the number paying this way has been achieved and efforts will continue to make best use of our charitable status, ensuring advantage is taken of the more relaxed Inland Revenue rules for charitable giving. In addition to membership subscriptions there are several regular fund-raising activities organised by supporters and leaders (See section 5). The table

below identifies key fundraising activities in the year and demonstrates that surpluses in the year are not generated from Scouting activities.

Activity Surplus	**2025**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Community Bonfire Night	2,838	3,582
Gift Aid	5,638	4,428
Room Hire income	2,200	3,310
Bullock Smithy Hike	9,174	8,810
Santa Float	2,040	3,335
Total	**21,890**	**23,465**

7 Conclusion

The trustees would like to thank all leaders and supporters for their enthusiasm and commitment. The older Scouts and Explorer Unit members also provide much appreciated help but there is always a need for more leaders in all sections. New leaders are always welcome and working with youth is very rewarding.

8 Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:	*MJ Wells*	*A Massey*
Name:	**Michael Wells**	**Angela Massey**
Position:	Chair	Lead Volunteer
Date:	16th June 2026	

9 Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group (Charity No. 520209) for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on pages 11 and 12 of this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of 3rd Hazel Grove 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 3rd Hazel Grove 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 Hazel Grove 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: *RM Lamb*

Name: Richard M Lamb

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

Bank Manager

Address: 138 St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 7PS

Date: 16th June 2026

10 Statement of Income & Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December 2025

			2025 £	2024 £
Receipts				
Subscriptions		**19,133**		**17,697**
Activity Income				
Beavers	535			1,185
Cubs	3,543			5,360
Scouts	8,127			6,497
Squirrels	-			-
Room Hire	2,200			3,310
Bullock Smithy Hike	13,417			12,809
Bonfire Night	4,554			5,182
Santa Float	4,811			4,976
Total Activities		**37,187**		**39,319**
Other Income				
Donations	2,644			2,125
Gift Aid	5,638			4,428
Other	2,498			1,427
Interest Receipts	1,636			1,920
		12,416		**9,900**
Total Receipts			**68,736**	**66,916**
Less Payments				
Capitation Fees	7,490			6,645
Transport	507			634
Premises Maintenance	3,992			6,203
Premises Utilities	6,087			5,886
OSM Fees	964			915
Insurances (Inc. Vehicle)	3,528			3,285
Equipment & Consumables	55			2,329
General Expenses		**22,623**		**25,897**
Beavers	136			1,360
Cubs	5,290			6,416
Scouts	6,808			4,686
Squirrels	542			-
Bonfire Night	1,716			1,600
Bullock Smithy	4,243			3,999
Santa Float	2,771			1,641
Training & Badges	1,671			698
Other	977			1,406
Activity Expenses		**24,154**		**21,806**
Total Expenditure			**46,777**	**47,703**
Net Receipts on Activities			**21,959**	**19,213**
Less Major Asset Purchases			**(33,004)**	**-**
Opening Balances				
Deposit Accounts		99,611		97,691
Current Accounts		40,482		18,548
Section Accounts		4,488		4,488
Cash		599		5,240
			145,180	**125,967**
			134,135	**145,180**
Closing Balances				
Deposit Accounts			101,247	99,611
Current Accounts			26,161	40,482
Section Accounts			4,400	4,488
Cash			2,327	599
			134,135	**145,180**

11 Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year ended 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Assets		
Cash Funds		
Deposit Accounts	101,247	99,611
Current Accounts	30,561	44,970
Cash	2,327	599
Total Cash Funds	**134,135**	**145,180**
Non Monetary Assets		
Insurance Schedule:		
Premises	764,400	735,000
Motor Vehicles (Inc. trailers)	13,000	13,918
Scouting Equipment	52,085	48,678
Total Non Monetary Assets	**829,485**	**797,596**
Total Assets	**963,620**	**942,776**
Liabilities		
Receipts in advance	-	-
Amounts owed	-	1,257
Total Liabilities	**-**	**1,257**
Total Net Assets	**963,620**	**880,397**

Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Assets & Liabilities signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:	*MJ Wells*	*LC Allsopp*
Name:	**Michael Wells**	**Lee Allsopp**
Position:	Chair	Treasurer
Date:	16th June 2026	