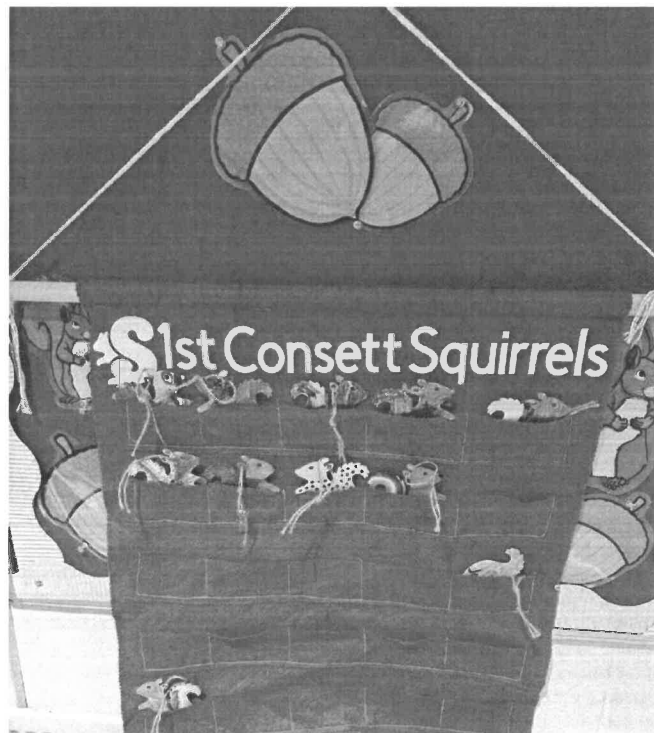


A year of firsts!

1st Consett Scout Group
Annual Report & Accounts 24/25



1st Consett Scouts
Charity number: 520349

THE GROUP

It's been another fantastic year at 1st Consett Scout Group — bigger, busier, and more adventurous than ever! Our youth membership continues to grow, and we were proud to launch the first Squirrels section in the area, welcoming 8 enthusiastic 4-5-year-olds into the Consett Scouting family. Alongside this, our team of adult volunteers has grown too, bringing fresh energy and commitment to our thriving group.

Nationally, Scouting has seen significant changes this year, with new digital systems, updated terminology, and a refreshed leadership structure. Training has also evolved, and while these changes take time to embed locally, our team has embraced them with resilience and adaptability.

Our programme remains as exciting and varied as ever, with a strong focus on adventure. Across all sections, young people have taken part in climbing, rifle shooting, lazer tag, skiing, archery, snow tubing, canoeing, paddleboarding, and more. We've taken part in some group events including our Halloween Fun day and Clarty Bairsns. We've also continued our commitment to community service — from food bank collections and litter picks to supporting the Royal British Legion through poppy sales.

Badgework has flourished, with hundreds awarded across the group. Notably, eighteen young people achieved the prestigious Chief Scout Award in their respective sections, with some honoured at the County Awards Ceremony by the County Commissioner — a proud moment for all involved.

This year was record-breaking for nights away, with over 530 completed! From Beavers enjoying their first sleepover at the Scout Hut to older sections heading off on adventurous camps further afield, the experiences have been unforgettable:

- **Beavers** enjoyed several indoor nights away, including a sleepover at Beamish Museum with the Cubs and a Harry Potter themed 2 night adventure. They also camped outdoors at the County Pitch Up alongside hundreds of Durham Beavers.
- **Cubs** took part in a tech-themed camp at the Scout Hut and joined the Beavers at Beamish for their indoor camps. They camped with hundreds of County Cubs at Cubboree, visited the home of Scouting at Gilwell for a three-night national adventure camp, and even attended a two-night international camp at Larkin in

North Yorkshire with Scouts and Guides from around the world.

- **Scouts** embraced adventure with an indoor weekend camp at Great Towers in the Lakes. They completed a survival weekend under the stars (building shelters and cooking over fires), too part in a week-long national adventure camp at Gilwell, and celebrated at Confido with Scouts from across Durham County.

None of this would be possible without our incredible adult volunteers. From section leaders and parent helpers to the behind-the-scenes heroes who maintain our Scout Hut, build our resources, and serve as trustees — your dedication, creativity, and time are the backbone of our success. It's far more than "an hour a week," and we are endlessly grateful for your inspiration and support.

Looking ahead, our priorities for the coming year include:

- Growing and training our adult volunteer team
- Securing funding and grants to support activities and camps
- Developing engaging programmes across all sections and helping more young people achieve top awards

Thank you for being part of our journey — here's to another year of growth, adventure, and community spirit!

**Jennifer Wright
GLV**



THE TRUSTEES

1st Consett Scout Group 31 March 2025

Trustees –

Phil Harnby – Chair
Kevin Holmes – Treasurer
Jennifer Wright – Lead Volunteer
Alistair Constable – Leadership Team Member
Shaun Spence – Beaver Team leader
Judith Liddle – Parent Trustee
Neil Jukes – Parent Trustee
Andrew Murray - Parent Trustee

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
Lloyds Bank Plc

Independent examiner

Mrs C McCormick

Charity Registration Number

520349

Contact Name & Address

Jennifer Wright GLV
Scout HQ,
Constance St,
Consett
DH8 5DU

info@consettscouts.org.uk

www.consettscouts.org.uk



THE CHARITY

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The legal and administrative details of the Group are shown elsewhere in this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (POR), and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2005).

Structure, governance and management

The Group was registered with the charity commission on the 9 April 1965 under the Scout Association Trust Deed 1955. The Group is managed by the Group Executive committee the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees.' Trustees are appointed in accordance with POR. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping of proper accounting records and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. The committee comprises both nominated and elected representatives as required by POR.

Aim and objectives

The Group's aim, in common with that of the Scout Association, is the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people.

Public benefit

The objectives of the group are as a unit of the Scout Association.

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

In partnership with adults, young people take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities. They learn by doing, by sharing in spiritual reflection and by taking responsibility. They make choices, undertake new and challenging activities, and they live their Scout Promise.

The Trustees have complied with the duty under Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and the trustees have paid due regard to this guidance in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Investment policy

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its

funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks.

Review of activities and future developments

It has been another remarkably busy year for the group with lots of activities and overnights. Overall, our accounts remain relatively healthy, and we can continue to subsidise some of the activities within the sections. Over the next year we plan to maximise HQ & Minibus bookings, focus on fundraising within the sections as well as apply for any funding/grants we are eligible for, to generate more income. Clearly problems such as the continuing rise in cost of living means that we need to monitor our finances carefully and an increase in membership fees may have to be considered.

Policy on reserves

The reserve fund remains the same as last year, at £5,000. 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 Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months building running costs.

Risk management

The trustees have 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 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 a comprehensive insurance policy to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Approval of the trustees' report

Approved by the trustees on 4 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Phil Harnby
Group Chair



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 1st Consett Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2025.

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's 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.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 1 ***the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or***
- 2 ***the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or***
- 3 ***the accounts did 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.***

As Independent Examiner I was unable to obtain any documentary evidence to support the basis on which income, expenditure and cash assets are reported in the 1st Consett Accounts in relation to the HQ building shared with 1st Blackhill. I would therefore recommend to the Trustees that they ensure that there is a document specifying the allocation of HQ income, expenditure and cash assets on which to base the 2024/25 and future years' Accounts.

I have no further 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.

Mrs C McCormick

Date *CMS* *18/11/25*

Howden Bank Farm, Maiden Law,
County Durham



BALANCE SHEET

	31st March 2025	31st March 2024
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Cash funds		
Cheque account	18,137.34	20,361.82
Deposit account	5,079.06	5,019.55
HQ Account	2,163.39	4,531.52
Stripe account	519.83	1,221.48
Total Bank Accounts	25,899.62	31,134.37
Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Net Assets	25,899.62	31,134.37
Unrestricted Funds		
Brought forward	31,134.37	28,217.35
Incoming resources - page 7	46,506.55	54,504.16
Outgoing resources - page 8	(51,741.30)	(51,587.14)
Carried forward	25,899.62	31,134.37

The Group notes that we own the building that we operate from jointly with 1st Blackhill (St Aiden's) Scout Group. The above Accounts include the 1st Consett Scout Group share of the costs, income and cash funds in relation to the HQ building.
The Group also owns a minibus.

The above account and accompanying payments and receipts were approved by the Trustees on 4 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:-

J Wright
P Harnby



Group Lead Volunteer
Group Chair

RECEIPTS

	31st March 2025	31st March 2024
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	17,477.50	18,257.50
Gift aid	0.00	11,816.82
Sub total	17,477.50	30,047.32
Grants		
General	500.00	62.78
Sub total	500.00	62.78
Fundraising		
Events	3,236.98	0.00
Sub total	3,236.98	0.00
Activities		
General activities and camps	19,238.00	20,355.85
Sundry	0.00	0.00
Sub total	19,238.00	20,355.85
Other income		
Bank interest	58.88	65.41
HQ Income	4,644.48	2,520.00
Donations	288.31	0.00
Minibus	1,062.40	1,425.80
Sub total	6,054.07	4,011.21
Total receipts	46,506.55	54,504.16
Less total payments (Page 8)	(51,741.30)	(51,587.14)
Net (outgoings) / income for the year	(5,234.75)	2,917.02

PAYMENTS

	31st March 2025	31st March 2024
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Premises Costs		
Utilities	3,598.57	4,532.40
Insurance	2,142.59	1,748.68
Repairs and cleaning	2,944.45	2,059.53
Sub Total	8,685.61	8,340.61
Activities		
Youth Programme and Activities	27,014.55	28,423.56
Purchase of Badges & Uniform	1,562.38	1,412.69
Purchase of Equipment	1,789.50	286.60
Membership fees	8,994.00	7,906.00
Leaders training	0.00	118.30
Sub Total	39,360.43	38,147.15
Administration Expenses		
Miscellaneous	89.37	19.25
County loan	0.00	843.75
Bank charges	1,698.73	1,192.63
Sub Total	1,788.10	2,055.63
Fundraising Expenses		
Fundraising Expenses	0.00	250.00
Sub Total	0.00	250.00
Minibus Expenses		
Minibus Running Costs	1,907.16	2,793.75
Sub Total	1,907.16	2,793.75
Total payments	51,741.30	51,587.14

Scouts

1st Consett Scouts



