ANNUAL REPORTS & ACCOUNTS

3rd Warrington East (1st Culcheth) Scout Group

For Year End 31 March 2026

Scout Association Reg. No:	27715	
Charity Registration Number:	521698	
Address:	Culcheth Scout Centre Jackson Avenue Culcheth WA3 4EJ	
Group President:	Susan Aldridge	
Group Vice President	Daphne Eastburn	
Trustees:		
Ex Officio Members:	Mike Timmins (DLV)	Group Lead Volunteer
Appointed Members:	Victoria Simpson-Forrest	Treasurer
	Alan Bennett	Chair
	Melissa Smith	
	Ruth Harrison	Fundraising Manager
	Danny Cramer	
Co-Opted Members:	Stuart Beddall	Centre Manager
Website:	http://1stculchethscouts.org.uk	
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc	

Scouts

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 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 three different categories of Trustees, namely;-

- Ex-officio Trustees – people who are on the Trustee Board automatically as a result of their role in Scouts. This person is the Group Lead Volunteer (GLV)
- Appointed Trustees – people who are appointed by the Group Scout Council
- Co-opted Trustees – people who are co-opted onto the Board, usually because of their specific skills or role.

The Trustee Board meets at least once every term.

This Trustee Board exists to support the Leaders in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment
- Group public occasions
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support
- Appointing any other sub-committees that may be required
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those elected
- GDPR

Objectives and activities

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.

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.

General Data Protection Regulations

To comply with GDPR we are committed to protecting privacy and the processing of personal data as dictated by European legislation of 25 May 2018.

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 them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment including theft.

The Scout Centre maintains security and fire alarm systems along with firefighting equipment. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate permanent loss. Should the Group require relocating on a temporary basis, we would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.

Scout Association rules exist to prevent injury and risk assessments are undertaken before all activities. Equipment is regularly checked and maintained and the Group, through the capitation fees, contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.

Reduced income from fund raising.

The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and hire charges for use of the facilities by other organisations. The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. Should income reduce, the Group could raise the value of subscriptions on an on-going basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders and helpers.

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 volunteers 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 6 to 14. 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.

Financial mismanagement

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

Financial Overview

	Last Year	This Year
Total receipts for the year:	21,531.25	43,683.66
Total payments for the year:	19,116.24	27,511.10
Net receipts for the year:	2,415.01	16,172.53
Cash, bank & similar funds brought forward:	17,888.18	20,303.19
Cash, bank & similar funds carried forward:	20,303.19	36,475.72

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the 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 £6k. It also holds £8k in reserve for future development or major repairs.

Investment Policy

The Group's income and expenditure is relatively small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. Working funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks and a £8,000 reserve is invested in a savings account with the groups chosen bank.

Plans for this year

- The group looks to continue to build on the successful recruitment of leaders for the Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout sections and their results in attracting new young members. The group remains actively seeking other new adult volunteers across all the sections and support roles.

- Following the loss of Liane as GLV due to personal reasons, the Group looks to recruit a new GLV to continue to work with the Scouting Leadership Team to further develop the delivery of the Scouting experience to the young people of the Culcheth community.

- Fundraising, grants and Gift Aid are integral to the success and continuation of our scout group. We are looking to continue to build on our successful fundraising activities, coordinated by our Fundraising Manager Ruth Harrison and her Team of parent volunteers, as well as searching for new opportunities within the wider Culcheth community. This not only increase our fundraising base, it also raises the awareness, and standing of the Scout Group within the local community.

- To provide a sheltered outdoor space within the backyard to ensure that the impact of any poor weather (yes it is known to occur in Culcheth) on planned yard activities is limited.

- To develop the use of OSM (Online Scout Manager) within the Group to help ease the various administrative aspects of Scouting, thus freeing up our volunteers valuable time to concentrate on delivering scouting to the young people

Longer Term Aspirations

- To see each scout member have the opportunity to attend an international scout camp, either at a jamboree or with the 1st Culcheth scouts.

- Introduce family camps, these being an opportunity for the whole family to come camping with the scout group where they can participate and experience all activities squirrels / beavers / cubs / scouts do on camp.

- To establish further Dreys, Colonys, Packs and Troops within the Group, in order to provide a greater number of the young people of Culcheth with the opportunity to experience their own Scouting journey. Specifically, we are looking to open a 2nd Squirrel Drey to allow those young persons on the waiting list to start their Scouting journey.

- To look into the provision of solar power panels within the scout centre premises to reduce our energy bills and possibly allow the Scout Group to be self supporting energy wise.

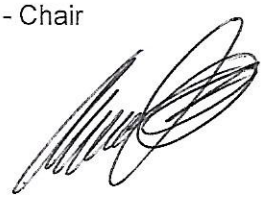
The Group encourages and welcomes input, suggestions and support in these aims and in order that we may continue to offer a fulfilling and rewarding scouting programme and continue our work as custodians of the scout centre.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the attached receipt and payments account.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

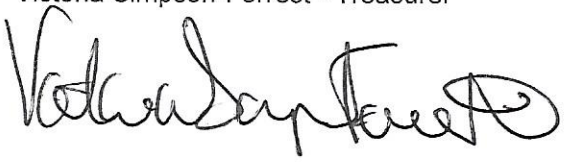
Alan Bennett - Chair



Mike Timmins – Group Lead Volunteer



Victoria Simpson-Forrest - Treasurer



Date

23-06-2026

Annual Accounts

Receipts

	Last Year 2024/25	This Year 2025/26
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	7458.01	10,810.00
Less subscriptions paid on (National/County/District)	-3068.00	-5104.50
Net membership subscriptions retained:	4390.01	5,705.50
Donations	967.00	794.00
Gift Aid	883.41	1,522.22
Photocopying receipts	0.00	0.00
Receipts towards activity costs	7037.82	12,066.75
Other similar income - Insurance Claim	0.00	0.00
Sub total:	13,278.24	20,088.47
Grants	0.00	1,730.00
Maintenance grants	0.00	10,000.00
Other grants - COOP	500.00	1,706.00
Sub total:	500.00	13,436.00
Fundraising (gross)		
Clothes Collection	48.00	77.40
Christmas Markets	750.79	974.23
Community Day	273.64	540.13
Easy Fundraising	389.72	542.63
Sale of Group activity wear	132.00	281.50
75th Celebration	1,068.85	0.00
Other fundraising - Artisan Market	150.00	478.88
Sub total:	2,812.75	2,894.77
Investment income		
Bank interest	66.26	51.93
Property Rent income	4,190.00	6,518.00
Other investment income - Trailer Hire	50.00	0.00
Sub total:	4,306.26	6,569.93
Refunds	634.00	694.49
Sub total:	634.00	694.49
Asset and investment sales, etc.		
	0.00	0.00
Total Reciepts:	**21,531.25**	**43,683.66**

Payments

	Last Year 2024/25	This Year 2025/26
Charitable Payments		
Youth programme and activities (plus refunds)	7,166.66	13,500.76
Scout Shop purchases	1,041.57	908.04
Adult support, training and uniform	20.00	0.00
Donations to specific charities	0.00	0.00
Ground Rent	625.00	625.00
Water and Sewerage	490.97	577.77
Electricity	1628.61	622.26
Gas	658.00	1,231.00
WIFI	521.45	634.16
Refuse removal	292.76	296.92
Insurance	1,217.35	1,993.64
Repairs, Renewals and Maintenance	2,088.24	3.925.05
Equipment and Materials	189.10	1,648.00
Printing and photocopying	411.09	465.99
Group Contribution to camp costs	0.00	0.00
Uniforms (Adult and Child)	0.00	0.00
AGM and trustee expenses	31.30	174.12
Admin costs (inc. website, leaflets, etc)	129.25	208.99
President's Award	0.00	0.00
Centre Cleaning	1,482.00	0.00
Sub total:	17,993.80	26,811.70
Fundraising expenses		
Christmas Fair	0.00	11.96
Community Day	30.90	10.00
Group Activity Wear	0.00	669.60
Other fundraising costs – 75th Celebration	1,091.99	0.00
Sub total:		
Bank Charges	0.00	7.81
Adjustment	0.00	0.03
Total Gross Expenditure:	**19,116.24**	**27,511.10**
Asset and investment purchases, etc.		
Total Payments:	**19,116.24**	**27,511.10**
Net of receipts/(payments):	2,415.01	16,172.56

Statement of assets & liabilities

	Last Year	This Year
Cash funds		
Bank current accounts	14,811.81	26,928.14
OSM Prepayment Cards	302.23	1,356.26
Lloyds Short Term Savings	5,066.26	8,118.19
Cash/Floats	122.89	73.13
Total cash funds:	20,303.19	36,475.72
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock	1,142.00	603.50
Clothing stock	675.00	922.00
Other stock	0.00	0.00
Land and buildings	425,330.00	764,000.00
Motor vehicles & trailers	1,645.00	1,648.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	42,657.00	45,643.00
Other	0.00	0.00
Sub total:	471,449.00	812,816.00
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	0.00	0.00
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions not yet paid	0.00	0.00
Loan - detail	0.00	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00	0.00
Sub total:	0.00	0.00

Scrutineer's Report

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2026

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer.

As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out in this report.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Signed: 

Date: 16/08/2026

Name: LUCY THORNE