

Scouts

89th Stoke on Trent &
Newcastle Sea Scouts

Annual Reports and Accounts for 2025

www.89thstokeseascouts.org.uk

Our Achievements in 2025

From the Group Lead Volunteer - David Smith



As Scouts, our aim is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. We do this through a programme of weekly activities, camps and outdoor adventure, helping young people to develop skills for life.

2025 has seen us deliver another full and varied programme across all sections. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all benefited from a wide range of activities, both at weekly meetings and through camps and wider events, ensuring a broad and engaging Scouting experience.

Our Beaver section has delivered a particularly active year, with three camps at Rudyard and a wide range of hands-on activities. These have included time on the water using, Juffa, our Devon longboat rowing boat, alongside craft, woodworking and STEM-based sessions such as building 3D printed models. Beavers have achieved a wide range of badges, including Space, Air Activities and Safety, supported by strong attendance at events such as St George's Day and Remembrance.

The Cub section has continued to deliver a varied programme combining camps, group events and weekly activities. Cubs have taken part in pioneering, air activities, team-building sessions and themed workshops, alongside wider Group events such as the Kibblestone camp and social events including the Pie and Pea evening, helping to maintain a strong sense of community.

The Scout section has built on this with a more advanced and adventurous programme. Highlights have included summer camp, backwoods and caving camps, as well as water-based activities such as sailing and kayaking. Scouts have also taken part in sessions covering first aid, geocaching, cooking and science-based activities, supporting both badge progression and personal development.

A highlight of the year for all sections was the Group Camp at Kibblestone, attended by approximately 50 young people and 15 adult volunteers. The camp included climbing, abseiling and a range of outdoor activities, alongside campfires and wide games.

The camp was made particularly memorable by exceptionally heavy rainfall on the Saturday evening. While this created challenges, the response from young people and volunteers was excellent. Activities were adapted, indoor space was used effectively, and the experience remained positive throughout. In many ways, the conditions became part of the adventure, reinforcing resilience and teamwork, and the camp was widely regarded as an enjoyable and memorable event for all involved.

Throughout the year, our facilities at Hanford Headquarters and the Rudyard Training Site have continued to support delivery of the programme. Both sites remain central to our activities and are well used by the Group and external hirers.

At Rudyard, however, we experienced water levels at lows not seen since records began. This

significantly impacted water-based activities, limiting access to the lake and preventing the use of some equipment, including larger boats. Despite these challenges, alternative activities were introduced and the programme continued with minimal disruption.

Membership has remained positive, with a modest overall increase of approximately 1.7%. Cubs continue to operate at capacity, Scouts numbers are increasing, and Beaver numbers have stabilised following targeted recruitment efforts. Retention remains strong across all sections.

Looking ahead, a key focus for the Group is the planned retirement of Frank and Anne in November 2026, following over 50 years of service. Their contribution to the management and development of both Hanford Headquarters and Rudyard has been exceptional, and we are extremely grateful for their dedication and commitment over many years.

A structured transition plan is now underway, initially focusing on Hanford before moving to Rudyard in the new year. This will require the recruitment of additional volunteers to take on a range of roles, ensuring the continued safe and effective operation of both sites.

As always, the success of the Group is dependent on the commitment of our volunteers. I would like to thank all leaders, trustees and supporters for their continued efforts in delivering a high-quality programme.

Looking forward, our priorities are to successfully manage the transition of our facilities, maintain a strong and engaging programme across all sections, support membership growth—particularly within Beavers—and ensure the continued sustainability and effective operation of both Hanford and Rudyard.

Chairman's Report

From our Chairman, Robbie Cormie,



It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to be the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the 89th Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle Sea Scouts during my first year in post. I Can't believe a year has gone by so quickly and lots of happy memories made.

2025 marked a period of both change and transition for all of us as we strive forward with developing our charity and ensuring all aspects of what we do yield more opportunities for our young people as the Trustees work hard to strengthen governance, meet new rules from the Scouting Organization as well as the Charity Commission, improved financial oversight and begin shaping a clear strategic direction for our Group.

Throughout the year, the Trustee Board has operated with a renewed focus on governance and compliance. The Annual General Meeting was successfully planned and delivered, last May supporting community engagement through agreed events. Work has continued to ensure that the Group meets its obligations as a registered charity, including the preparation, scrutiny and

submission of the 2025 accounts and is continuing to review and document and reduce risks using a more robust risk register approach.

Financially, the Group remains in a stable and positive position. Management accounts presented during the year show that income and expenditure have broadly remained in line with previous years, with continued strong performance from core income streams such as Hanford Headquarters and the Rudyard Training Site. Additional income generated through events, including the Bonfire Night, has further supported financial resilience. The Board has continued to prioritise investment in equipment and infrastructure, including the replacement of camping equipment to support future activities over the coming years.

The Trustees have also taken steps to improve financial transparency and efficiency. Discussions have been held regarding the consolidation of legacy accounts and the simplification of financial processes, with the aim of providing clearer oversight and more effective reporting. Budget-setting for future years has been approached prudently, ensuring the Group remains resilient in a changing financial environment, with many steps undertaken to reduce overhead spending wherever possible, such as utility and insurance rates etc.

Our individual unit leadership teams continue to offer an exciting and learning environment for our young people. The Board has continued to support the leadership team in delivering a high-quality Scouting programme. Highlights of the year included the Group Camp at Kibblestone, which, despite challenging weather conditions, was successfully delivered and widely regarded as a positive and memorable experience.

A key area of focus during 2025 has been the future management and sustainability of the Group's facilities at Hanford and specifically plans for the Rudyard Site. With the planned retirement of Frank, who has been with us since 1974 and clearly the "mainstay" of the group and the Trustees board we have begun implementing a structured transition period. This includes reviewing maintenance budgets, supporting operational planning and identifying the volunteer roles required to ensure the continued safe and effective management of both sites.

The Trustee Board has also continued to support the development of policies and systems that strengthen the Group's long-term sustainability, including improvements to health and safety processes and compliance oversight as part of a 5 year business development plan including proposals for increased income but also increased targeted expenditure, investing heavily on both Hanford and Rudyard.

Finally , I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Trustees, including our Group Lead Volunteer David, all of our Section Leaders, other dedicated volunteers and finally to all the all the parents who without your support and commitment throughout the year assisting with transport, cooking, active participation in a number of events adds an incredible amount of increased value to every Scout experience and activity under taken.

Beaver Colony Review 2025

From Team Leader, Nicki Kenney



This last year we have had a healthy group of adult leaders and we could not meet as we do without the incredible dedicated support of Pam Steed, Carl and Fran Blakey, Paul, Helen and Rachel. Rachel's dad, David has shown the children some of his woodworking skills which was incredible for the children to see. Rachel has shared some amazing art techniques with the children. Huge thanks to Dan Palmer who made 3D printed wind up cars with the children. We were well and truly wowed.

We had 3 camps at Rudyard and the children had the chance to have a try at pulling on our Devon rowing boat Jaffa and are well and truly inducted into life on the water at Rudyard. We had great fun on camps which were well supported by adult helpers and visitors from RSPB. We had a great turnout of children at both the St George's day parade and at the Remembrance Day service in Stoke. Thank you for supporting the children to attend. We achieved a range of challenge badges including space, air adventure, healthy eating, hobby, animal friend gardener, safety, and there were lots of badges secured by children working towards the criteria at home including sports, music, book reader, builder.

We are always looking to include new parents and family members and new volunteers. It's easy to complete. Scouting DBS check and you can support events and activities right into your child moving on to Cubs.

Hanford and Rudyard

From Honorary Commadore, Frank Lewis



Hanford H.Q. and our Rudyard training site were again used by all members of the Group in 2025.

The Rudyard site had camps and sleepovers held by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, plus the Osprey Explorer Unit. Other bookings for weekends and activity days also took place, despite the fact that the water levels dropped a lot during the summer.

The bunk bed frames in the Franklands were painted along with some of the walls and window frames and the emergency exit light was replaced. One of the outside windows was repaired by Julie's dad and the others painted. Due to the low water levels repairs and painting of the safety boat slipway were done and the beach area tidied. General maintenance was carried on through the year and all mandatory checks completed. As usual the season ended with another successful Bonfire.

Hanford H.Q. was again very busy with our Group sections evening meetings along with the Osprey Explorers. Our regular hirers hours increased along with one off bookings for parties and meetings.

New toilet roll dispensers were fitted and all the kitchen cupboards were relined. Regular maintenance was carried out and all the mandatory checks completed. More work and improvements are planned for 2026.

Trustees Report & Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

89th Stoke-on-Trent & Newcastle Sea Scout Group

President:	Malcolm Smith	
Trustees ex officio:	David M. Smith	Group Scout Leader/Lead Volunteer
Trustees	Robbie Cormie	Chair
	Ben Upson	Treasurer
	Paul Billington	Resigned 10th May 2025
	Nicola D. Kenney	
	Julie A. Hemmings	
	Alexander Martin	
	Adam Marshall	
	Frank Lewis	
	Georgia Bratt	Resigned 10th May 2025
	Alfie Moxan	
	Ade Tarala	
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc	
Custodian Trustee:	Scout Association Trust Corporation (for both Rudyard and Hanford Sites)	
Scout Association Charity Registration No:	306101	
Charity Registration No:	524543	
Principal Address:	89th City Sea Scout Group Diarmid Road Hanford Stoke-on-Trent Staffs ST4 4QL	
Contact:	David Smith 62 Keary Street Stoke-upon-Trent Staffs ST4 4AT	

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.

Main Activities in Relation to These Objectives

The main activities carried out by the group are those expected of Sections in the Scout Association, namely training young people in skills and ways of conducting themselves to form mature and competent young people and ultimately well-rounded adults by various activities as are appropriate to the ages of the Sections. In the Beaver Section the activities are based on craft and play as well as outdoor activities at 'Sleepovers' and supervised water activities at our Rudyard training site. In the Cub Section activities include trips to local community sites such as Fire Stations, District camps activities with other Groups leading to improved tolerance and social skills. In the Scout Section these activities have included train trips, outdoor activities, camps at our Rudyard site and hikes and water expeditions.

Income is provided to support the above activities by Subscriptions (including Gift Aid) and Licensing of our facilities at our Hanford Headquarters and Rudyard Training Sites.

Investment in our Hanford and Rudyard Sites is reviewed and overseen by our Trustee Board with the primary aim to ensure the facilities meet our needs - enabling the delivery of the Scout Programme and additionally to continue to provide a revenue stream that further supports investment in the Scout Programme.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that the charity 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

All of our sections have delivered a robust programme throughout 2025, ensuring all our young people have the opportunity to complete their core badges and undertake a number of camping experiences, our membership numbers remain strong, with a 1.7% year on year increase across the total of all our sections. We have continued our Implementation of the associations Volunteer experience and new Digital tools.

Throughout the year, our sections have made extensive use of both the Rudyard Training Site and Hanford Headquarters, enabling the delivery of a varied indoor and outdoor programme. These facilities continue to play a central role in supporting activities ranging from water-based experiences and camps to regular meetings and community events.

The Group continues to benefit from a committed and capable team of volunteers who enable the consistent delivery of a high-quality programme. Alongside programme delivery, we have continued to invest in our facilities at both Hanford Headquarters and the Rudyard Training Site, with a focus on improving safety, compliance and overall functionality. This ongoing investment ensures that our buildings and sites remain fit for purpose, supporting the safe delivery of Scouting activities now and into the future, in line with the approach set out in the prior year's report

Further details are provided in Annual Reports provided at the Annual General Meeting.

Financial Review

Building on last years success, there has been a further increase in our core income streams - across Hanford HQ hiring, Rudyard Training Site, membership fees, social activities, grants and gift aid has resulted in an £8,421 increase in the income of the Group. The majority of the income comes from the fees paid by hirers of the Hanford HQ.

The new contract for utilities to supply gas and electric to Hanford made a small impact to overall costs with a £188 reduction in annual costs. With the recent events affecting energy supply, the usage and costs for this expense will be closely monitored, though the contract with reduced unit costs will protect the group from rises in this cost.

The key change to the accounts presented this year is the inclusion of the Scout Camp / Activity account. This was brought into the annual accounting following scrutiny and challenge from the Trustees and brings more visibility to the contribution of income and expenses from the Scout section. This can be seen in the new lines showing income and expenses for Scout events that were

showing zero last year and the increase in ‘other expenses’, which are the starting balance for the bank account brought into the accounts.

The reinstatement costs of the property assets of the Group (Rudyard and Hanford sites) have been revalued for insurance purposes in 2025 and this is reflected in the updates costs presented in the accounts.

The Group has continued to invest in equipment for future with £1,156 spent on new tents for all section to use in more adventures

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group for at least a year should income and fundraising activities fall short.

Our basic running costs are ~£25k per annum. Given our current monetary assets, we are able to meet this objective of holding sufficient reserves to continue operations for at 12 months.

During 2025, interest from the at the cash assets in the instant access, 32-day and 95-day notice accounts with Lloyds Bank increased by £699, with balances increased to offset the reduction in the interest from rates being reduced in 2025. The Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the charity obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Where this involves a period of notice before funds maybe the withdrawn, the Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Risk and Internal Control

The Group 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. In the event of any of the foregoing, the Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements may 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. 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 on-going 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 may be necessary.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. 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 may be necessary.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity'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 (POR) of The Scout Association.

The charity is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

All Trustees complete The Scout Association trustee and mandatory learning within the first six months of joining the Trustee Board, they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning periodically as required.

The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees". 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 the Chair, Treasurer and upto 12 Trustees (including Ex-Officio Trustees and co-opted Trustees) and meets at least 3 times a year.

The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programs that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintain appropriate governance policies and oversight.
The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly.

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order and everyone follows legal requirements and

Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules.
This includes responsibility for:

- Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development;
- Developing, maintaining and regularly a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations;
- Ensuring that the finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting;
- Ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss;
- Ensuring that property is appropriately managed;
- Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees;
- Appointing Advisors as required;
- Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board;
- Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding;
- Ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy;
- Ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate;
- Ensuring transparency of operations, including in the preparation of accounts and holding and AGM;
- Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation;
- Acting as a responsible employer for any employees, who are effectively managed.

Plans for future period

Looking ahead, the Group will continue to focus on delivering a high-quality Scouting programme that provides young people with a wide range of opportunities for adventure, skills development and personal growth. Building on the strong programme delivered in 2025, plans are in place to maintain a balanced mix of weekly activities, camps and outdoor experiences, while continuing to support young people in achieving their badges and top awards. Particular emphasis will be placed on maintaining strong membership across all sections, with targeted efforts to recruit and retain members, especially within the younger age groups where numbers require continued attention.

A key priority for the coming period will be the ongoing management and development of the Group's facilities at Hanford Headquarters and the Rudyard Training Site. This includes continued investment to improve safety, compliance and overall functionality, ensuring both sites remain sustainable and fit for purpose.
Alongside this, the Group will develop a multi-year strategy to guide future investment decisions across its key assets, including the Hanford and Rudyard facilities, the fleet of boats, and general and camping equipment. This approach will support a more structured and sustainable programme of investment, ensuring resources are prioritised effectively to maintain and enhance the quality of Scouting provision.

The Trustee Board will also continue to strengthen governance, financial oversight and strategic planning to support the long-term sustainability of the Group. This includes further development of the Group's development plan, careful management of income and expenditure, and continued exploration of opportunities to enhance income from facilities and events. In parallel, focus will remain on the transition of key operational responsibilities, including identifying and supporting volunteers to take on critical roles, alongside the recruitment of additional trustees and volunteers to broaden capacity and capability, ensuring the Group remains well-positioned for the future.

89th Stoke-on-Trent & Newcastle Sea Scout Group Accounts 2025
DRAFT Income & Expenditure Statement

Income	2025	2024
Bank Interest	1,096.74	397.82
Boat Launch Fees (RLL)	0.00	60.00
Donation	0.00	160.40
Events	2,550.00	214.00
Events - Beavers	4.00	624.70
Events - Cubs	1,465.00	1,772.30
Events - Scouts	3,477.12	0.00
Gift Aid	1,814.44	1,722.88
Grants	0.00	1,955.08
Hanford HQ - Fees	17,137.25	14,571.00
Membership Fees	9,485.06	9,701.13
Less Mem Fees Paid to District	(3,355.00)	(3,200.00)
Other Income	2,768.29	1,239.37
Rudyard Site - Fees	4,534.48	4,436.00
Social Activities - Fees	458.00	743.85
Uniform and Grp Clothing	268.00	398.00
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Total Income	**41,703.38**	**34,796.53**

Expenditure	2025	2024
Activity Equipment	32.48	164.57
Badges	708.30	534.40
Boating Equipment	314.23	67.07
Camping Equipment	1,533.43	61.32
Communication and Technology	606.18	143.97
Events	3,006.71	1,372.61
Events - Beavers	391.15	78.86
Events - Cubs	3,087.67	1,409.37
Events - Scouts	3,484.22	0.00
Hanford HQ - Maintenance	711.58	236.38

Hanford HQ - Other Expenses	178.27	4,510.98
Hanford HQ - Safety	86.00	169.45
Hanford HQ - Utilities	2,995.54	3,183.95
Insurance	4,027.54	4,446.58
Meetings - Beavers	1,133.53	288.71
Meetings - Cubs	224.68	199.02
Meetings - Explorers	0.00	1,014.65
Meetings - Scouts	529.82	442.23
Membership Costs	389.58	976.02
Other Expenses	320.00	23.98
Other Organisation Member Fees	391.25	393.75
Rudyard Site - Maintenance	952.27	1,390.34
Rudyard Site - Other Expenses	24.40	0.00
Rudyard Site - Safety	403.91	1,513.52
Rudyard Site - Utilities	1,582.43	1,088.93
Training	175.00	165.39
Uniform and Group Clothing	153.85	360.60
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Total Expenditure	**27,444.02**	**24,236.65**
Surplus(Deficit)	**14,259.36**	**10,559.88**

Summary of Assets

	2025	2024
Account Balances at Year End		
Group Account	9,351.06	7,004.07
Expense Account	735.82	576.64
Instant savings account	11,327.98	19,226.12
32 day notice account	23,540.81	15,073.01
95 day notice account	18,625.77	10,098.69
Troop Camp/Activity Account	2,656.45	0.00
Property Assets (insurance Values)		
Rudyard Buildings	357,210.90	205,233.00
Hanford Buildings	517,900.00	497,054.00
Boats	28,000.00	29,000.00
Furniture & Scouting Kit (both sites)	36,901.00	35,144.00
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Total Property Assets	**940,011.90**	**766,431.00**