

Scouts

Stockton, Thornaby & District

Stockton, Thornaby & District Scout Council

Registered charity no. 524704

Accounts for period 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2025

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Reference and Administrative Details

Scout Association Registration No: 15607

Charity Registration No: 524704

Contact Details: Mr S Jones
26 Briardene Court
Stockton-On-Tees
TS19 8UX

Trustees:

Name	Office (if any)	Dates Served
Alan Atkinson		1st Jan 2025 - 31st Dec 2025
Niall Bean		1st Jan 2025 - 31st Dec 2025
Adam Bell		1st Jan 2025 - 31st Dec 2025
Pauline Hyam		1st Jan 2025 - 31st Dec 2025
Shaun Jones	District Lead Volunteer	1st Jan 2025 - 31st Dec 2025
Antony Moody		1st Jan 2025 - 31st Dec 2025
Margaret North		1st Jan 2025 - 31st Dec 2025
Neil Scott	District Chair	1st Jan 2025 - 31st Dec 2025
Nicholas White		1st Jan 2025 - 31st Mar 2025

Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC
19-23 Wellington Square
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1NA

Virgin Money
46 High Street
Stockton on Tees
TS18 1SB

Cambridge & Counties Bank
Charnwood Court
5b New Walk
Leicester
LE1 6TE

Independent Examiner:

Jane Ascroft
Chartered Accountant
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT

Trustees Annual Report

Structure and Governance

Type of governing document:
The District's governing documents are those of the 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.
How the charity is constituted:
The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by):
The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Objectives & Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:
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.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects:
The District has continued to focus on providing exciting opportunities for young people of all backgrounds helping them to challenge themselves, learn new things, grow in confidence and develop skills for life. Following the COVID-19 pandemic the District has focused on returning to our range of pre-pandemic activities and increasing the number of young people able to access these.

Top awards, such as the Chief Scouts awards, Duke of Edinburgh awards and Queen's Scout award demonstrate that our young people have taken part in all manner of activities that might be new to them, worked together to achieve and explored faith, respect and the world we live in.

Strong attendance at our District led activities and our growth in membership show that our activity offering continues to engage and inspire our young people.

Public benefit statement:
The District 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

2025 has been another positive year for Scouting in Stockton, Thornaby & District.

Whilst membership numbers in the January 2026 census show a second consecutive drop in youth members tracking shows that this is mainly driven by drops in the number of Beavers. This is a known national trend and in other sections most groups remain stable.

Our young people continue to take part in all manner of activities including a wide range of camps and trips. Our District events programme continues to offer large group opportunities including the annual Cub quiz, a Beaver fun day and Christmas trip and our Squirrel drey's joined the first County-wide Squirrel event, a fun day, held here in Stockton. During the year we also started to make plans for a District camp in 2026.

Our young leaders continue to excel, proving to be valuable members of their leadership teams. They grow in confidence and ability all of the time and can be found in a wide range of sections across the District. We have put plans in place to increase the programme of training and support we offer to our young leaders in the year ahead.

Our communications team have again been busy this year, providing their services to all manner of events across the country. Their work for organisations outside of Scouting is constantly challenging public perceptions of Scouting and raising awareness of our District. The income received from these events allow the team to provide services to Scouting and continues to be a great asset to the District. The team continues to work closely with our Explorer Scout provision to deliver these events providing opportunities for our young people to develop transferable skills in a variety of areas.

Our District campsite has continued to be a consistent and valuable asset to the members of our District. We have implemented a range of improvement works this year and are continuing to develop a longer-term development plan.

Our District Shop shop sadly closed during the year, this is in part due to volunteer retirement however a pattern of declining sales lead the trustees to decide that it was not viable to continue this service and we are working through selling off the remaining stock.



Financial Review

Reserves policy:

The trustees have identified the need for the District to hold reserves for a variety of purposes and have reviewed this in light of the changing financial climate and continue to reflect on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purposes and amount of amount of reserves held is outlined below:

Title	**Amount (£)**	**Purpose**
12 months District running costs	5,600	Maintained indefinitely to act as a buffer in time of financial difficulty.
12 months Pybus running costs	14,500	
12 months Communications Team running costs	5,500	
Emergency fund	10,000	A flexible "rainy day" fund available to be used for a variety of purposes to support the continuity of Scouting.
Group Hardship fund	15,000	To support any group/unit within the District that falls into financial difficulty to ensure continuity of provision.
New provision	4,000	Costs associated with starting and developing new Scouting provision including: • Taster events • Start-up costs • Training
Events	5,000	Subsidising large scale District events and avoiding charging the young people attending the full amount.
Equipment	6,000	Renewal of District equipment and resources (aside from those at Pybus) as and when required.
Pybus expansion	63,000	Expansion and improvement of Pybus Scout Campsite. This could include: • Major building projects • New facilities • New equipment
Pybus maintenance and development	15,000	The ongoing maintenance and development of Pybus Scout Campsite. This could include: • Repair/renewal of plant, machinery and equipment • Larger scale maintenance work falling outside of the scope of the annual budget
Fergus McLellen Memorial	2,500	These funds were donated to 1st Hartburn Sea Scouts from the estate of Fergus McLellan and with the intent that they were spent in his memory therefore are kept in reserve until such time as the trustees determine an appropriate use.
Residual funds from 1st Hartburn Sea Scouts	11,812	Residual funds from the closure of 1st Hartburn Sea Scouts before the trustees develop a longer term aim for these funds.

The total level of allocated reserves therefore equals **£157,912**. The actual level of reserves held at 31st December 2025 equals **£158,079**.

Whilst the designated funds are not counted within the District's total reserves, the trustees acknowledge, on the advice of the event support team, that the van and equipment they use has a limited useful life and as such funds should be set aside regularly towards the eventual renewal/replacement of these items. An amount of **£20,389** is currently allocated within the District's designated funds for this purpose.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually however it may also be reviewed at other times should a new risk, need or opportunity be identified by the District Trustee Board.

Investment policy:
During 2022 the trustees reviewed the District's funds and determined that current funds were insufficient for longer term investments. The trustees adopted a risk adverse strategy whereby funds are invested in a mixture of short term cash bonds (1-2 years) and instant access savings accounts using mainstream, financial services compensation scheme registered, banks or building societies in order to get as best return as possible. The returns shown during 2025 continue to demonstrate that this has been a worthwhile endeavour and the income from interest is now much greater than in previous years. This allows us to minimise the overall amount per person that we need to collect by way of the District levy each year and continue to offer the camp site facilities to our District Groups/Units at a preferential rate.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

N Scott
Neil Scott
District Chair

S Jones
Shaun Jones
District Lead Volunteer

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the District for the year ended **31st December 2025** which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes set out on pages **25-29**.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The District's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:
Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Charities Act);
To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the District and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Jane Ascroft
Qualification: Chartered Accountant
Address: Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT
Date: 19th August 2026

Receipts and payments account summary

	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Total Receipts	49,601	71,274
Total Payments	(70,970)	(47,143)
Receipts less payments	(21,369)	24,131
Balances brought forward at 01/01/25	254,825	230,694
Balances carried forward at 31/12/25	**233,456**	**254,825**

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 30th October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

N Scott

Neil Scott
District Chair

S Jones

Shaun Jones
District Lead Volunteer

Receipts summary

	General funds £	Designated funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Membership subscriptions	34,858	-	34,858	33,107
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on	(29,634)	-	(29,634)	(28,350)
	5,224	-	5,224	4,757
Investment income				
Bank interest received	3,282	368	3,650	3,465
	3,282	368	3,650	3,465
Activities				
Pybus campsite	15,071	-	15,071	13,320
Shop	3,998	-	3,998	4,847
Communications team	-	8,292	8,292	17,519
District Explorers	-	9,117	9,117	-
Pirates ESU	-	9	9	114
Aliens ESU	-	180	180	4,993
Vikings ESU	-	620	620	6,153
Events	-	3,070	3,070	3,000
	19,069	21,288	40,357	49,946
Other income				
1st Hartburn Sea Scouts	-	-	-	1,210
Insurance claim for marquee	-	-	-	11,896
Other receipts	370	-	370	-
	370	-	370	13,106
TOTAL RECEIPTS	27,945	21,656	49,601	71,274

Payments summary

	General funds £	Designated funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Activities				
Pybus Campsite	19,012	-	19,012	9,871
Shop	1,816	-	1,816	3,771
Sectional allowances	1,250	-	1,250	-
Communications team	-	15,396	15,396	8,809
District Explorers	-	4,978	4,978	-
Pirates ESU	-	11	11	142
Aliens ESU	-	1,541	1,541	5,368
Vikings ESU	-	2,452	2,452	5,162
Events	1,000	1,567	2,567	5,943
1st Hartburn Sea Scouts	-	-	-	3,476
Distribution of funds from 1st Hartburn	11,900	-	11,900	-
	34,978	25,945	60,923	42,542
Overheads				
Printing, postage, stationery & telephone	122	-	122	20
Insurance	560	-	560	307
Garage rent	666	-	666	641
Professional fees	300	-	300	300
Travel	77	-	77	59
Reserve expenditure	7,056	-	7,056	2,400
Room hire	240	-	240	195
Online Scout Manager	626	-	626	626
Other costs	400	-	400	53
	10,047	-	10,047	4,601
TOTAL PAYMENTS	45,025	25,945	70,970	47,143

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General funds £	Designated funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Bank and cash funds				
District current account	52,476	-	52,476	47,445
Pybus current account	14,261	-	14,261	18,202
Shop current account	5,433	-	5,433	3,312
Virgin Money savings account	28,455	-	28,455	28,455
Cambridge & Counties 2 year bond (2023)	32,228	-	32,228	30,635
Cambridge & Counties 2 year bond (2024)	30,659	-	30,659	29,332
Event Support team current account	-	31,021	31,021	44,665
Event Support team savings account	-	20,389	20,389	12,067
Virgin Money current account	-	12,718	12,718	-
Pirates ESU current account	-	-	-	3,010
Vikings ESU current account	-	-	-	3,187
Aliens ESU current account	-	-	-	3,926
1st Hartburn Sea Scouts current account	-	-	-	217
1st Hartburn Sea Scouts savings account	-	-	-	25,995
Events current account	-	-	-	4,313
	163,512	69,944	233,456	254,761
Other monetary assets				
Cash (Vikings ESU)	-	-	-	54
Cash (Pirates ESU)	-	-	-	10
Debts due to the communications team	-	-	-	1,017
	-	-	-	1,081
Invoice outstanding				
Event Support Team	-	7,554	7,554	-
Pybus campsite	1,417	-	1,417	-
	1,417	7,554	8,971	-
Assets retained for the charities own use				
Land & Buildings:				
Campsite[1]			715,423	795,606
Contents of buildings[2]			60,440	56,119
Grass cutter			11,871	11,500
Water filtration system[2]			6,423	6,222
Metal container[2]			4,465	4,318
Shop stock			5,000	5,000
Radio, PA and Lighting equipment[2]			54,062	54,062
Van & trailers[3]			13,258	12,510
Containers[2]			6,876	6,121
			877,818	951,458

Liabilities

The District has no liabilities.

[1] Warren Cottage (£627,278) / Teesdale Building (£88,145). The figures shown are reinstatement / insured values and not market values as per our Insurance Policy at renewal on 5th March.

[2] Insured value

[3] Van shown at market value and trailers shown at insured value

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