Scouts

Keighley District

Charities Commission Annual Return 2026

Date of Report to AGM: 15 June 2026

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Trustees Report

Joe Gallucci

District Chair

It is once again time to reflect on a year of significant positive impact for the hundreds of young people across Keighley. As a Trustee team, we maintain a sense of great pride in the work we continue to do for those in our care. Our core responsibility remains the proper governance and oversight of the charity on behalf of the Keighley District Scout Council.

This year, our governance responsibilities have been brought into sharper focus following the Regulatory Advice and Guidance issued by the Charity Commission in February 2026. This guidance follows the movement's response to a Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) Report, and it is a reminder that safety is not just an operational task, but a fundamental trustee duty.

As Trustees, we are committed to ensuring that the measures aimed at transforming safety across the movement are fully embedded here in Keighley. The Commission has made it clear that all Trustees share the responsibility for keeping everyone safe who comes into contact with our charity. To meet these expectations, we have focused on:

- Compliance with Controls: Ensuring all volunteers and trustees comply with permanent controls, including mandatory training and the permitting processes.
- Serious Incident Reporting: Adhering to the established practices for the prompt reporting of serious safety and safeguarding incidents to ensure transparency and protection.
- Continuing Education: As part of our duties, the Board is engaging with essential guidance and ongoing training to ensure our decision-making remains robust and compliant.

We have continued to support our District Lead Volunteer, JY, and her team. While the transition to new digital systems was 'monumental' last year, we have now shifted our focus to ensuring these systems are used effectively to maintain accurate records and support safe scouting. My thanks go to JW for her continued support in making these administrative transitions as smooth as possible.

Last year, we committed to securing our officer roles with new three-year terms. Following the retirement of KM, who served us with meticulous detail for many years, I am pleased to report on our progress with his successor.

Supported by our new treasurer, we have implemented new systems to ensure clear

transparency of the district finances for the trustees. We have also taken steps to ensure that the finances continue to be managed carefully and vigilantly. My sincere thanks go to Martin for his hard work and dedication in establishing these systems this year.

Finally, it falls to me to recognise the "back-room" volunteers across our district. To all the group trustees and the people working behind the scenes to ensure our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network, and Young Leaders have amazing experiences—THANK YOU!

Treasurer's Report

Martin van der Boon

District Treasurer

2025/2026 was a transition year where the treasurer role was handed over from KM to MVB. KB maintained the cashbook and accounts until MVB's Natwest bank account access was enabled by the bank in November 2025 after which point MVB took full responsibility for District and Low Wood finances.

Bank account management

District and Low Wood maintain 4 bank accounts with Natwest, these are the operational accounts managing day-to-day monies for District and Low Wood.

The following are signatories on the Natwest bank accounts:

- MVB
- JG
- JY
- TP

These accounts do not have a dual authorisation capability due to the current version of online banking used. A migration to the Bankline for Communities service will provide dual authorisation, this is underway.

The district also has a cashbook savings account with Skipton Building society. We still have to arrange Martin's access to this account, it is in progress but as there is no online access to this it will take more time. This account holds savings only, there are no transactions made against it.

The following are signatories on the Skipton Building Society account:

- KM
- JY
- TP

This account does have a dual authorisation enabled.

Accounting capability

District and Low Wood accounts are now managed using OSM Accountancy tools providing cashbook, budgets, reporting and expense cards (see below). It also provides transparency as it

is available online and supports read-only access, a number of trustees now have access to the online accounts.

Expense cards

District & Low Wood operated expense cards for convenience in place of manual purchase and expense claims. This service was provided by EQUALS Money, however they introduced a significant cost to their platform in November 2025 and as a result we migrated to use free OSM expense cards instead. This provides a more integrated solution for expenses as it directly feeds the OSM accounts. The migration was completed in January 2026.

Goals for 2026/27

The following are goals for the next financial year:

1. Complete the mandate changes on the Skipton Building Society accounts so they align with the Natwest accounts
2. Complete the move to Bankline for Communities service from Natwest which will enable dual authorisation of payments from all Natwest accounts.
3. Onboard KSSN and Fellsman accounts into District. KSSN (including the Fellsman organisation committee) is a sub-team of Keighley District, they currently operate and report independently to the District accounts. A handover will be targeted in Q1 2027 and the 2026/27 District accounts will include KSSN & Fellsman transactions & balances.
4. In line with the District constitution, a reserves policy will be proposed by the finance committee and agreed by the Trust board.

District Accounts for the year 2025/2026

Martin van der Boon

District Treasurer

DISTRICT 2025-2026				
Income			**Expense**	
Category	**Amount**		**Category**	**Amount**
Admin	£ 40.00		Admin	£ 1,635.52
Badges	£ 81.00		Badges	£ 300.00
Bank Interest	£ 727.83		Bank Fees	£ 70.03
Events	£ 8,212.00		Donation (Inclusion)	£ 250.00
Events - Young Leaders	£ 540.00		Events	£ 8,227.00
Fundraising	£ 2,367.73		Events - Beavers	£ 69.00
Membership Fees	£ 34,768.00		Events - Explorers	£ 132.90
Reserved Funds	£ 128.27		Events - Young Leaders	£ 739.13
			Expeditions	£ 6,513.00
			Insurance	£ 94.00
			Meetings	£ 519.08
			*1 Membership Costs	£ 66,962.00
			Utilities	£ 136.53
Total	**£ 46,864.83**			**£ 85,648.19**
Bank Accounts	**Balance**		**Balances**	
BUSINESS RESERVE	£ 2,613.41		**Balance brought forward**	**£ 89,923.48**
EXPEDITIONS	£ 2,028.73		***2 24/25 Correction**	**£ 921.66**
SKIPTON ISS	£ 26,312.14		Total income	£ 46,864.83
DISTRICT	£ 19,690.93		Total expenses	£ (85,648.19)
***3 Total**	**£ 50,645.21**		***3 Balance carried forward**	**£ 52,061.78**

*1 The 2025/26 accounts include membership cost expenditure totalling £66,962, comprising £33,578 relating to the 2024/25 membership year and £33,384 for 2025/26. This treatment has been adopted to align membership costs with the corresponding membership fee income within the same financial year going forward.

*2 The 24/25 Correction of £921.66 represents the EQUALS MONEY account balance at 1 April 2025. This balance was not included in the 2024/25 accounts or balance carried forward, and has therefore been excluded from the 2025/26 balance brought forward to maintain continuity with those submitted accounts. The associated spending is correctly recorded within each section's expenditure. EQUALS MONEY closed in January 2026 with a nil balance. From 2026/27 this will not recur: the account is permanently closed and the Expense Account is funded solely from LOW WOOD, with DISTRICT making a monthly transfer to reimburse its share of Expense Account spending.

*3 The variance between the bank accounts balance and the balance carried forward arises from payments received into or made from the other section's bank account during the year. The combined balance across DISTRICT and LOW WOOD is unaffected. This has been corrected by an inter-account transfer made subsequent to the close of the 2025/26 financial year.

Low Wood Scout Activity Centre

Accounts for the year 2025/2026

Martin van der Boon

District Treasurer

LOW_WOOD 2025-2026				
Income			**Expense**	
Category	**Amount**		**Category**	**Amount**
LOW WOOD Activity Fees	£ 1,870.50		LOW WOOD Activity Equipment	£ 168.81
LOW WOOD Admin	£ 98.99		LOW WOOD Admin	£ 876.04
LOW WOOD Campsite Fees	£ 8,671.30		LOW WOOD Insurance	£ 1,182.71
LOW WOOD Donations	£ 3,080.00		LOW WOOD Maintenance	£ 7,779.11
LOW WOOD Utilities	£ 17.12		LOW WOOD Meetings	£ 73.33
			LOW WOOD Rates	£ 389.22
			LOW WOOD Utilities	£ 3,864.82
Total	**£ 13,737.91**			**£ 14,334.04**
Bank Accounts	**Balance**		**Balances**	
LOW WOOD	£ 38,940.94		Balance brought forward	£ 39,102.20
Expense Account	£ 981.70		Total income	£ 13,737.91
			Total expenses	£ (14,334.04)
***3 Total**	**£ 39,922.64**		***3 Balance carried forward**	**£ 38,506.07**

*3 The variance between the bank accounts balance and the balance carried forward arises from payments received into or made from the other section's bank account during the year. The combined balance across DISTRICT and LOW WOOD is unaffected. This has been corrected by an inter-account transfer made subsequent to the close of the 2025/26 financial year.

Accounts Independent Examiner's Report

Ed Wright

Nominated Independent Examiner

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Keighley District Scout Council for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of Keighley District Scout Council 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 Keighley District Scout Council 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 Keighley District Scout Council 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.

Name: Edward Wright
Address: provided
Date: 11 May 2026

Low Wood Scout Activity Centre Report

Alex Thewlis

Chair of Low Wood Sub-Committee

The year to May 2026 has been quite busy at the Low Wood Scout Campsite and Activity Centre. Perhaps unfortunately, the bulk of the long, hot summer of 2025 coincided with the school summer holidays – a typically quiet time for bookings – and the latter part of the season suffered from continual wet weather. Nevertheless, bookings came in steadily and best use was made of the opportunities available.

The continuing theme for the past few years, has been the ongoing efforts to secure the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) from Bradford Council. Once this has been completed, we will be in a position to commence serious development of the site and its facilities, as this piece of paper will open the possibility of obtaining funding through grants and loans. As each year passes, we feel that we are getting closer but we continue to be amazed at the amount of time needed.

As of today, the terms of the lease have been agreed by us, Bradford Council and Scout Association HQ. Now we need only to get all parties to sign. Watch this space!

Site maintenance continues to be performed by our very small Maintenance Team on Monday and Wednesday mornings, to tend the site and support the availability of the various activities. Grass cutting, tree management, maintenance of buildings, pathways, walls and fences, water capture and treatment, all need to be constantly attended to, such that the facilities can be available for use when needed.

The wet and windy weather has also necessitated some prompt tree management and additional water treatment maintenance work. This has unfortunately resulted in other tasks on the extensive 'to-do' list being reprioritised.

As reported last year, any larger development projects remain effectively 'on-hold' until completion of the CAT can support grant and planning applications.

Working days are essential to this maintenance of the site. They give us the opportunity to undertake larger tasks – needing either a large number of willing hands or the specialised knowledge / skills / equipment that are available in the wider Keighley District community. Unfortunately these working days are proving ineffective due to: (i) very disappointing turnouts and/or (ii) the date being used by rescheduled or late-booked District activities. This is a concern for the viability of the centre.

This year, we have lost regular bookings for two schools, using the site as part of their 'additional provision' programmes. This is no fault of Low Wood – but policy and staffing changes within both schools. They know we will welcome them back if/when their situations change.

Other days booked over the past year, include:
Keighley District activities = 14 (last year = 10)
Keighley scout groups = 37 (last year = 28)
Other scout groups = 42 (last year = 30)
Non-Scouting bookings = 45 (last year =76)

Site use from outside Keighley District continues to be strong, although the non-Scouting bookings have reduced due to the loss of the regular school sessions. Duke of Edinburgh groups continue to provide regular one-night stays.

The Keighley District activities included the hosting of Easter egg hunts, Challenge Flag competitions for all sections and the annual Master-at-Arms weekend.

Those of us who work at Low Wood are few in number. As always, therefore, we ask for your assistance in a number of areas...

- Make use of the site, its facilities and the activities we offer. Camps, activity days, weekly meetings. How correct was I, when I predicted a 'long, hot summer' in my 2025 report? Book early and make the most of it!
- Come to the planned working days (see the District Diary). There are always plenty of jobs to be done – from easy, safe tasks suitable for a group of youngsters, to larger construction projects. If you can give us an idea of numbers beforehand, we can ensure there's a suitable task ready (and buy more biscuits).
- Volunteer (or persuade someone you know to volunteer). We have many available roles to be filled, such as:
    - Duty Warden - Be on-site to welcome new site users. Open the building and show them where everything is. Be a point of contact during the weekend (mobile phone provided). Inspect the site and lock up when the users leave. A

team of a dozen such wardens (we currently have three) would limit duties to three weekends per year.

- Activity Instructor - We need more instructors for the various activities (crate stacking, archery, shooting, axe-throwing, kayaking, laser-tag, etc.) This will enable you to lead your own group / section in these activities and run the odd session for other groups. Contact us for details of the training and certification requirements.
- Maintenance Staff - An opportunity for anyone with an interest in DIY to undertake projects much more adventurous than usual. Discrete tasks can be performed at any time to suit and may involve any or all of the design, planning, procurement and delivery phases. Ideally, we'd like to put together a 'service team' to manage the upkeep of the site and maintain its user readiness. Such a team would report to the Management Committee (who will supply strategic planning, project approval and funds) but would be essentially self-managing. Maintenance staff and Service Team members would not need to be part of Scouting, so this is an ideal role for parents and friends.
- Funding Guru - As we approach completion of the Community Asset Transfer, a wider scope of funding opportunities (grants, loans, donations, gifts, legacies, bursaries, etc.) will become available. An individual with an interest in seeking-out and obtaining funding is needed to work with the Management Team to leverage the considerable financial offers available. This will truly enable us to convert the massive potential we have into a class-leading facility to rival the best activity centres in the country. Again, this role is not limited to members of Scouting. It would be ideal for someone looking for a career in the corporate charity or associated sectors, who is wanting to build a project portfolio to support their CV.

In the immediate future, the focus will remain on getting the CAT signed and completed and to continue preparing the site for the 2026 summer season.

And finally, the Management Team would like to thank everyone who has played a part, however large or small, to enable and support the operation, maintenance and development of the site and the activities we are able to offer.

I would also like to add my own thanks to the very few members of the Management Team, who put in so much time and effort to keep things running and to plan the future development of the site. Like all areas of Scouting, we often don't appreciate how much goes on 'behind the scenes'.

Scout District Report

Jeanette Young

District Lead Volunteer

Scouting in Keighley has been extremely busy this year with all volunteers, especially the district team, taking on extra work and commitment. However, we always seem to surmount all the challenges set for us in a positive way. Scouting still encourages the same spirit of adventure and challenges it initially set out to achieve all those years ago.

Our volunteers do a fantastic job of encouraging all our young people to have fun while building friendships, taking part in indoor and outdoor activities, across the district and further afield. Lots of work goes into developing our young leaders of today into leaders of tomorrow by training, supporting and encouraging them in all aspects of scouting. Our numbers have dipped slightly this year, but given Network have been counted in the adult section in the census rather than young members section, I don't think we need to worry too much. We still need to and will continue to promote scouting and growth, following in the ethos of scouting and all its values by holding exciting and challenging activities and events both in the section room and outdoors, making memories that are passed on by word of mouth for years or even a lifetime. Once again, we are gaining more new volunteers, which is great news. Our young volunteers are growing in numbers, giving them a position of responsibility and leadership that is challenging and fun. This can be a great addition to their CVs when applying for jobs, university, apprenticeships or college. Remember they are the Scouters of the future; this can only happen with great leadership ensuring their development.

We seem to have settled down with the new system, although there are still some issues, however help is at hand and easily accessed now. Mandatory training is going well with everybody now aware first aid is also mandatory. Hopefully, we will have our own first aid instructor shortly, which will make life easier for everyone. DBS still creates a few problems, many of which are incorrect data added, so please take care when adding details to the system.

The activities offered to our young people in groups across the district are amazing and becoming increasingly challenging and exciting, going to new and higher levels of achievement and this will surely impact on the lives of the young people taking part. Our District campsite is very busy with lots of groups booked in. Thanks to all our volunteers, wardens and all those attending working party days throughout the year who make this happen.

Another fantastic Fellman and Dart was held this year, thank you to the organising committee, all the volunteers, the entrants, and supporters, who contributed to its success. We have a team of young people travelling to Peru this summer, they have worked so hard to complete their fundraising before their exams begin. Well done to them all and of course their parents for their support throughout. We now have two teams who are just beginning their fundraising journey to travel to Poland and to Canada if you can once more support them in their quest.

Thank you to our Trustee board who continue to work behind the scenes ensuring governance and stability for our District. Thank you all for your support especially in the past months ensuring the groups understood and completed their trustee meetings within the time limit. If I can also thank TH (County Lead Volunteer) and the County Team, for all their support throughout the year.

We held our Celebration of St George's day this year at Victoria Hall. It has been a challenge to resurrect the Celebration but according to all the comments, texts, and emails it was a huge success enjoyed by all, hopefully to be repeated next year. Thank you to our standard bearers who paraded the flags with pride. Thank you to our district Team who gave their time, patience and expertise in planning and organising the day.

Congratulations to T and R who have both achieved their King's Scout and Gold D/E Award so well done.

Thank you to everyone who plan, organise, and help at all our district events throughout the year. There are too many to mention and the range of events is so varied. Everyone working so hard giving many hours to scouting, contributing to the success of our District.

I want to say from the heart, a huge thank you to all our volunteers, helpers and parents/carers all working together to make a difference. As I have said on many occasions:
The secret of our success in Keighley is, I believe, the loyalty, commitment and the ability to embrace change while staying true to the core beliefs of our Scouting family. There is no other organisation, or I believe ever will be any other, able to offer what we offer as passionately as we do. Thank you.