



**1<sup>st</sup> Weston Village Scout Group**  
**Axe District**

**Trustees Annual Report**  
**For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025**



## About our Scout Group

### History

Started in September 2009, 1st Weston Village is one of the 18 scout groups that form 'Axe District' within the scouting county of 'Avon'.

Our individual sections are named after helicopters, following Weston-super-Mare's association with Westland. We have two Beaver colonies (Wildcat and Apache), two Cub packs (Sea King and Lynx) and two Scout troops (Merlin and Blackhawk).

### Trustee Board

The purpose of the trustee board is for covering operations activity and to manage charity governance, to ensure that the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit. We do this through good governance by:

- Managing the Groups finances – our Treasurer provides and update at every trustee's meeting.
- Identifying and managing risk.
- Keeping up to date about current and new Safety and Safeguarding policies introduced by the Scout Association and/or Axe District Scout Council.
- Ensuring the group follows the Scouts policies and relevant legislation, to keep the young people safe.
- Adhere to all of our insurance and licensing requirements.
- Delivering an AGM

The trustees are appointed in accordance with POR. At its 2024 AGM, it was agreed that there should be a maximum of 12 trustees on the board.

Group Lead Volunteer:	Jeremy Long
Group Chair:	Jeremy Buchan
Group Treasurer:	Daniel Coatman

Neil Berril  
Jennifer Davey  
George Avrili-Stevens  
Roger Birch  
Natalie Birch  
Michelle Sims  
Kevin Chisholm

## **Charitable Objects, Activities and Public Benefit**

**The purpose of the Scouts** is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. For filling this purpose benefits the public by:

- Equipping young people to essential skills like teamwork, communication and leadership.
- Fostering personal growth and social responsibility.
- Contributing to a more positive and engaged citizenry.

### **The purpose of 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Village Scout Group is to:**

- Directly engage with 100+ young people between the ages of 6 and 14, and 7 young leaders from the ages of 14 and 18, across 6 sections.
- Provide our members a safe place to meet once a week (during school term times).
- Deliver regular camps throughout the year, across all the sections, including a week-long summer camp during the holidays for our oldest sections.
- Provide young people opportunities to develop skills they can take into their adult lives, such as teamwork, problem solving, communication.
- Instil our young members with an appreciation of nature and the environment.
- Prepare our young members preparation for adult life, facing challenges with independence, resilience and ethical judgement.

## **Charity Finances**

The annual statement of accounts and a full report will be provided and the AGM. The charities main source of income is through membership fees; it regularly receives grants and donations. The monthly membership fee is £15 per member.

## **Data protection**

1<sup>st</sup> Weston Village Scout Group takes its data protection responsibilities seriously with the introduction of the General Data Prevention Act (GDPR) on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2018. The work to ensure compliance is ongoing. The board of trustees is pleased to report that no breaches of the requirements have been advised or reported. There were no Subject Access Requests received during this reporting year.

## **Compliance**

At each trustee meeting, the Group Lead Volunteer keeps the trustees and section leaders updated with compliance with completing mandatory learning, people without disclosures and any data protection issues. This is inline with Scout HQ policy. The district now operates a zero-tolerance for leaders who do not hold valid First aid, Safety and Safeguarding certificate, or do not hold a valid disclosure.

## Declaration

The Group Trustees are satisfied that:

- This charity is well managed, carrying out it's purpose for the public benefit, complying with the charities governing document and the law, and is managing the charities resources responsibly.
- The charity is operating compliant with POR and the Charity Commission.
- The Group has sufficient resources (funds, people and equipment) available to meet the planned activities of the Group.

This annual report was approved by the trustees on the **21<sup>st</sup> of January 2025** and signed on their behalf.

**Jeremy Long**  
Group Lead Volunteer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jeremy Buchan**  
Group Chair

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a series of horizontal strokes followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

**1<sup>ST</sup> WESTON VILLAGE, GROUP SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**Annual General Meeting 01/09/25**

**Agenda**

**1, Welcome and Apologies for absence (JB)**

**In attendance**

Jez Buchan (Chairman)  
 Jeremy Long (Lead Volunteer)  
 Dan Coatman (Treasurer)  
 Clare Passarelli (Secretary)  
 Nat Birch (Trustee)  
 Roger Birch (Trustee)  
 KC Kev Chisholm (Trustee)  
 JD Jenny Davey (Trustee)  
 JAS George Averill-Stevens (Trustee/Quarter Master)  
 NeilB Neil Berrill (Trustee)  
 ..  
 Jeremy Birket (District Chairman)  
 Ali Kattana (District Lead Volunteer)  
 ..  
 Tom Payne, Jayne Smith (Merlin leaders)  
 Jo Bartlett (Seakings leader)

**Apologies**

Michelle Syms (Trustee)

**2, Confirm that the meeting is quorate – based upon the Constitution in place as at start of the AGM (JB)**

- 5 trustees (1/3+1) – confirmed meeting can go ahead (91%)

**Review of the previous year**

The meeting kicked off with a heartwarming video montage, thoughtfully put together by KC, showcasing a vibrant collection of photos from the past year. It beautifully captured the energy and excitement of all the adventures and activities enjoyed by our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts

**3. Group Constitution and membership of the Group Scout Council (JB)**

**a. Statement of Membership – of the Group Scout Council**

- Advise all present at this meeting continued to form 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Village Scouts and were eligible to vote when required to do so.

**b. Adopt/Re-adopt the Group's Constitution**

- It has had 1 minimal change since last year - we are adopting the recommended constitution. The wording from higher up is "we strongly recommend you adopt the model constitution". Adoption of the Model Constitution as defined in The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) chapter 5.4
- The constitution is available online, and hard copy available at the meeting for people to view
- Could it be posted on the 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Village Scouts web page?
- Please show your hands to approve – trustees KC, NB, NB, JL happy to adopt constitution
- No objections to adopt the constitution

#### **4, Minutes from previous meeting – for approval and signing (JB)**

- Hard copy available for viewing
- Minutes have been emailed to relevant committee members prior to meeting
- The Group Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of last year's AGM at the meeting held on 11/09/2024. I propose that these minutes are taken as read and ask the Group Scout Council to agree that they're a true record of that meeting. – agreed JD, JAS, NB, KC
- Requires signing – KC signed

#### **5, Matters Arising from the previous meeting – if not to be included as a separate item below (JB)**

None

#### **6, Group Chair's report (JB)**

- Treasures report will detail breakdown of finances
- During the current financial year (April 2024 – March 2025), two capitation payments have been made. Although the March 2024 capitation was paid in April 2024, it was accounted for in the previous year's financial records. As it stands, our current financial position reflects a deficit of £6,000, which includes both capitation payments. However, when assessed against a single year's capitation, we show a positive balance of £1,800
- Over the past year we have also purchased extra equipment and excellent paella hob

#### **7, Group Scout Leader's report (JL)**

"A heartfelt thank you to all section leaders for the outstanding work you continue to do. First Weston Village is proudly recognised as one of the leading groups in the district—a reflection of your dedication and passion. It is both an honour and a privilege to work alongside such a committed team. Your efforts are clearly valued by our young people, as demonstrated by the growing number of Scouts aspiring to become Young Leaders. This is a true testament to the positive impact you make"

- Thanked JB for all his support over the past year
- Thanked DC for all his work and support managing the accounts
- Thanked CP for all the minutes taking at meetings
- Accounts are healthy, but we do not want a large positive balance - money is reinvested for our YP
- We continue to face challenges in recruiting high-quality leaders, which has unfortunately resulted in some sections operating with reduced numbers. This highlights the importance of ongoing efforts to strengthen our leadership team and ensure every group can thrive

Ali Kattana (District Lead Volunteer) responded:

- Thanked JB/JL for the invitation to attend AGM
- 18 groups in district
- Weston Village is always successful
- WV always support the Remembrance Parade
- 2024 was the first district ball since 2019 (pre covid) – attended by 90 people. Planning May 2026 Spring Ball
- Yearly District Panto trips
- December 2024 was the first Ski trip since Covid, was a success so planning further Ski trip
- Spring 2025 – District parade in town, excellent turnout
- June 2025 – West Mendip Way hike – 200 YP./Scouts attended

- Hosted 9 Scouts from Germany recently, with several activities organised. Cultural exchange is planned for August 2026
- November 2025 – District Awards evening (Adult only event), to thank you for everyone's hard work
- District sections overall are up on last year, has been impacted previously by Covid. Will be keen to see how this progress over the coming years
- Squirrels – there are 2 sections for the district at present, with an additional one starting in the coming weeks
- JL would like to consider a Squirrels section, but the Campus are not able to accommodate at the present time
- AK thanks everyone in the room for attending AGM and the work WV does for the YP and the parents for allowing their YP to attend
- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - District AGM, 7.30pm, Weston Museum

## 8, Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts – for adoption (DC)

From 1st April 2024 1st Weston Village Scout Group  
To 31st March 2025 Profit & Loss Statement

### Turnover

General	£0.00
Membership Fees	£20,351.92
Activities and Trips - Fees	£19,006.68
Fund Raising	£2350.64
Gift Aid	£3,029.53

<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>£44,738.77</b>
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### Cost of Sales

General Purchases	£1,132.89
Activities and Trips - Expenses	£23,988.64
Capitation	£15,438.00
Equipment	£1,069.19

<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>£41,628.72</b>
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<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>£2,610.05</b>
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### Expenses

Rent	£7,960.39
General Rates	£7.00
Hosting Fees and IT	
Consumables	£243.16
Bad Debt Written Off	£0.00
Subscriptions	£0.00
Training Costs	£140.00
Insurance	£226.97

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£8,577.52</b>
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<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>-£5,467.47</b>
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Apache	£ 254.34
Wildcat	£ 47.93
Sea King	£ 1706.81
Lynx	£ 852.82
Merlin	£ 1635.89
Black Hawk	£ 328.25
Group	£1870

- DC - Capitation and minus balance already explained in the Group Chair's report
- JL – asked for another push for parents to sign up for Gift Aid, this has no cost to parents
- JB – Thanked everyone for continued efforts in keeping costs to a minimum. Careful management of resources plays a vital role in ensuring the group remains financially stable and able to operate effectively

### **The year ahead**

#### **9, The Trustee Board – its role and purpose (JB)**

- Remind everyone that here are 4 types of trustees: Ex-officio, Elected, Nominated and Co-opted. A description of each is stated in the new Model Constitution just adopted.
- Trustees are required to complete a series of learning modules within the first few months of becoming a trustee. Some are one-offs whilst certification of others needs to be renewed every three years.
- JL – Volunteers are up to date with training.
- JL – Notes the system can have its challenges
- AK – it is acknowledged that the new system presents certain challenges. Notably, there is no flexibility if training becomes outdated which results in volunteers are automatically suspended until the required modules are completed. At present, there is no notification system in place to alert volunteers when their training is nearing expiry. The District team is actively reviewing this issue to identify a suitable solution

#### **10, Agreement to the number of people that may be elected to the Trustee Board (JB)**

- Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees. Chairman, Group Lead Volunteer, Treasurer, Secretary, 6 leaders, one spare.
- The Group Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that 11 +1 people are appointed.
- Proposed the Group Scout Council approves that recommendation, which has been approved and seconded.
- No objections



### **11, Agree the quorum for meetings of the Trustee Board and its sub-Committees**

- The Group Scout Council must agree its quorum – the minimum number of Group Scout Council members that must be present at Group Scout Council meetings. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be **set at 5 people** for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (the quorum for this AGM was agreed at last year's AGM).
- Does the Group Scout Council approve that recommendation, which has been seconded.
- Please show your hands to approve
- No objections

### **12, Approval, election and naming of ex-officio trustees**

- Group Lead Volunteer – Jeremy Long:      Approved by: JC, KC, NB

### **13, Appointment of Elected trustees**

- Chairman – Jerney Buchan    Approved by: NB, KC, JD
- Treasurer – Dan Coatman    Approved by: NB, RB
- Secretary - Clare Passarelli:    Approved by: KC, NB
- Kev Chisholm - Lead Volunteer Merlin
- Roger Birch - Lead Volunteer Wildcat
- Jenny Davey - Lead Volunteer Black Hawk
- Michelle Syms - Lead Volunteer Apache
- Natalie Birch - Lead Volunteer Lynx
- Vacancy for Lead Volunteer Sea King
- George Avrili-Stevens – Quarter Master
- Neil Berrill - Parent representation

### **14, Appointment of the Scrutineer/Independent Examiner for the Group's accounts for y/e 31.3.2026**

- To confirm scrutineer – must have financial background
- Previous years finances are required to be scrutinised (year ending 31/03/2024)

### **15, Section reports for the year**

- **Roger Birch – Wildcat**

Young People: 14 (18 have moved up to Cubs this year)

Young leaders: 0 - Fin and Louis have gone to university

Leaders: 3

Badges awarded: 365

Chief Scout awards: 10

Activities:

Air rifle and forest school at Mendip, Park to park hike, Bowling, Panto, Summer camp, St George's and remembrance parades

Looking to the year ahead:

Joint camp with Apache Oct & Nov 2025, Santa Trail with Apache Panto with Apache. Rock Up for last night of term

- **Michelle Syms – Apache (Taken from OSM)**

Young People: 30

Young leaders: 3

Leaders: 3

Badges awarded: 33 to be awarded

Chief Scout awards:

Activities:

Earth badge work, Night hike, Halloween activities, Gromit Trail in Bristol, Wild Place Bristol, Community visits, Camps, first aid

- **George Avrili-Stevens - Sea King**

Young People: 25 (3 have moved up to Scouts)

Young leaders: 3

Leaders: 4

Badges awarded: 199

Silver Chief Scout awards: 4

Activities:

The section has participated in several activities during our regular Tuesday meetings, including Emergency Aid, making ice cream in a bag, and Swimming at Cheddar Woods, as well as focusing on the 'World' challenge and the Earth Tribe award.

Camps:

First Group Cub Camp at Huish Woods involving winter-themed activities and of wide games. Camped with Merlin Scouts over Easter 2025 - first time pitching and sleeping in a tent for the cubs. Summer camp with Lynx Cubs.

Looking to the year ahead:

Spooktacular at Woodhouse, Sleeping with Sharks, currently in the early stages of planning our Winter Camp in Taunton

\*\* Thank Kev, Jacob and Jo for their continued support in running the section and continuing to provide the Cubs with such a range of adventurous experiences and helping them to develop skills for life.

- **Lynx – Nat/Neil**

Young People: 24

Young leaders: 2

Leaders: 2 (plus 1 onboarding currently – Michelle)

Badges awarded: 300 (150 still to be awarded)

Chief Scout awards: - 5 to be awarded around Christmas 2025

Activities:

Swimming at Cheddar Woods, Night @ the museum, West Mendip Way hike, Gromit Trails, Backwards cooking, air rifle shooting. 2 joint camps with Seakings

Looking to the year ahead:

Spooktacular at Woodhouse, Sleeping with Sharks, Rock Up before Christmas

- **Kev Chisholm – Merlin**

Young People: 30

Young leaders: 2

Leaders: 4

Badges awarded: 200

Gold Chief Scout awards: 6

Activities:

Weekly activities have included swimming, climbing, forest skills, rifle shooting, go karts for the seniors and a visit from the Police. Section likes to get out as often as they can and have done many hikes, including a night hike and a trifle hunt.

Camps:

Winter Camp was most memorable due to being flooded in. Some scouts were shipped out on a tractor.

One was literally carried over the flood by his dad. The leaders finally managed to leave site at midnight!

Joint Easter Camp with the cubs at Bishops Lydiard. Summer Camp this year was in South Wales including a trip down a coal mine, bowling, water park, laser quest and a trip to The Mall.

Looking to the year ahead:

Plans under way for Christmas Camp, next year's summer camp and another expedition.

\*\*Had to say a temporary goodbye to Gemma following the birth of little Mitzi. However, Jane has been able to attend more recently, and this has also allowed us to do some activities at Mead Vale school.

\*\*Thanks to Tom, George, Jane, Isaac and Tobie for helping keep the scouts active and engaged.

- **Jenny Davey – Black Hawk**

Scouts: 16

Leaders: 5

Badges awarded: 94

Gold Chief Scout's Award: 1

Activities:

Night Hikes, Air Rifle Shooting, Bowling, Warhammer Model Making Session, Ice Skating, Fundraising Event for The Daisy Garland (we raised £200!), Coding Session at Apple, Circus Skills, Trip to the Royal International Air Tattoo, Trip to the National Outdoor Expo, Easter Camp @ Huish Woods, Summer Camp in North Devon

## **16, Close of meeting**

JL – thanks everyone and parents for trusting us with your children.

JL - Thanks guests' visitors for attending

**AGM 2026 – date TBC**

## Consolidated Accounts

**From: 1st April 2024**  
**To: 31st March 2025**

**21st Weston Village Scout Group**  
**Profit & Loss Statement**

### Turnover

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**Total Cost of Sales**    £41,628.72

**Gross Profit**    £3,110.05

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Subscriptions	£0.00
Training Costs	£140.00
Insurance	£226.97

**Total Expenses**    £8,577.52

**Net Profit**    £5,467.47

Account	Opening Balance	Closing balance
1st Weston Village Group	£5,607.30	£1,870.81
Wildcat	£0.46	£47.93
Apachi	£3,115.60	£254.34
Lynx	£1,020.18	£852.82
Sea King	£898.15	£1,706.81
Merlin	£1,337.70	£1,635.59
Black Hawk	£163.43	£328.25









## 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Village Scout Group

Charity Number: 1137590

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025.

### Independent examiners statement

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:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the charities act; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 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.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination which attention should be drawn in the report in order to enable a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

Examiner:

Signature: *Rory James Andres*

Date: *28 January 2026.*