

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

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 to end date

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Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

255 Bristol (Channel) Sea Scouts

Registered charity number

1 1 6 4 0 6 3

HQ registration number

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Charity's principal address

32 Upper Perry Hill

Bristol

Postcode

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Alan Sweetman	Chair	
2	Christina Ransom	Treasurer	
3	Elaine Beckett	Lead Volunteer	
4	Andrew Luke		
5	Timothy Berriman		
6			

Names and addresses of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Bankers	Lloyds Bank	1 Legg Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JS

Section B**Structure, governance and management****Description of the charity's trusts****Type of governing document**

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.

How the charity is constituted

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

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

Additional governance issues

The Group is managed by the Group 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 the Chair, Treasurer and 3 Trustees and meets every 3 months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk and Internal Control

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C	Objectives and 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 Group's main function is to support the Sections, comprising of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, achieving the aims of the Scouting Association. These Sections within the group provided weekly meetings for around 70 young people aged between 6 and 14, giving them fun, challenge and adventure through the Scout Method appropriate to their age. Activities provided are appropriate to the Sections and may include cooking, model making, crafts, team games, quizzes, mapping and outdoor activities. All Sections have the opportunity to participate in a camp or other outdoor activities/ challenges throughout the year. Several Adult Leaders, Young Leaders and other volunteers provide their time generously on an unpaid basis in order to support the Group's Scouting activities.
Public benefit statement	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.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Beaver, Cub and Scout sections all continued to provide good opportunities for their members to progress their learning and skills by participating in Scouting activities. In August 2024, the Scout troop travelled to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland to take part in the permanent mini-Jamboree.

During the prior year, at the request of the local Police service and with support of Bristol South District and Three Counties, the group started a new Beaver Colony in the nearby neighbourhood of Redcliffe. This is an area with few development opportunities for young people. During the year this group became established and has started to grow. It is hoped that this will become viable in the long term; financially and in terms of numbers of young people and volunteers.

Section E	Financial Review
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	Reserves Policy The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable 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 6 months running costs, circa £8000 (covers rent, membership fees, uniform, badges, insurance, utilities, allowance for repairs and sundry expenses, but no events). The Group held excess free reserves against this at year end.
Designated funds	At the year end the Group held £10,474 of funds designated for the development and upkeep of the "Spyglass" site. During the year, £916 of expenditure primarily relating to upkeep and maintenance was allocated to this fund. Income totalling £805 were received in year from families attending Beavers sessions in the new Redcliffe colony. This just about covered te £828 running costs of the colony (although the true costs are more that this as District kindly waived the Annual Fee for Redcliffe Beavers). At the end of the year £1,087 of the set up grants remain unspent and will be carried forward for expenditure in the next year.
Further financial review details	Investment Policy The Group's Income and Expenditure is very 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. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service. The Group Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Group Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods

We will continue to monitor the viability of the new Redcliffe Beaver colony and consider whether a Cub pack can be set up. We hope to increase the number of local young people participating in, and local volunteers leading the Scouting activities.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Christina Ransom

Full name(s)

Christina Ransom

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Treasurer

Date

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255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Annual Report 2024/25



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

Dear Scouts, parents, friends and supporters,

Among many highlights of our year the ultimate has to be the trip to Kandersteg for some of our scouts and former scouts. Photos give just a taste of the fantastic scenery and activities that were on offer. Particular thanks to Tim and Iain for masterminding and delivering such a memorable trip. We are gauging interest in a repeat visit in 2028 so speak to a leader if you'd like to find out more.

We had other great camps including the Wye valley for Cubs, Glenny Wood and Chelwood for Beavers, a pioneering camp for Scouts as well as an adults-only camp organised by Iain with a Chippewa kitchen (build from sticks and mud and holding a whole side of pork). Another season of water sports is nearly over. Our own boat Spyglass has been used regularly by both scouts and explorers, and we've extended the invitation to parents who would like to row on several beautiful summer evenings. Bill Bennet Clark has passed the assessment for a stand-up paddleboard instructor permit, and Ben Brown has just earned his Night Away permit.

Cost of activities continues to rise and we are grateful to Christina our treasurer for being vigilant in terms of grant opportunities, gift aid, and high interest accounts and so helping to keep our prices affordable.

We welcomed a number of new and returning leaders and helpers. Becky Porter and Paul Palmer have long associations with the group and it is great to see them back in the scout section. There are new leaders in every section: Eudald Rossell Vivo and Steve Ransom in cubs, Ellen Roberts and Flo Johnson Marshall in Southville Beavers and Duncan Arnold and Peter Grant in Redcliffe Beavers. Our new leaders were undeterred by the teething problems in the new scout computer system and are now ready to muck in and share the load with the others.

With these extra helping hands we must consider growing the group and spreading our great work to even more young people and families. We can always use more help in front-line leader roles or in background support so please look out for our requests for help – there is a role to suit everyone!

Elaine Beckett

Lead Volunteer

Beaver Section report



Welcome to the Annual Report for the 255th Bristol Channel Beavers Colony for 2024-25. This report highlights the exciting adventures, achievements, and growth of our fantastic Beaver Scouts.

Membership

We started the year with 15 eager Beavers and ended with 17, with a healthy waiting list showcasing continued interest in our Colony.

Activities and Highlights

- This year, our Beavers participated in a variety of activities aligned with the Beaver Scout program, fostering teamwork, creativity, community impact and outdoor exploration.
- Some memorable highlights include:
 - Visit to Temple Fire Station (yes, including squirting the hoses!)
 - Christmas Party with cubs
 - Ferry trip on the harbour with Redcliffe Beavers
 - Trip to Pets at Home to learn about animal care
 - Dame Emily gardening and litter picking
 - Pancake making
 - Night Hike in Leigh Woods
 - Easter hunt in Greville Smyth Park
 - Cycle maintenance and a bike ride
 - Outdoor cooking at Spyglass
 - Visit to Bedminster Library for book badge with Rabbit
 - Crazy Climb at Redpoint
 - Chip shop hike
 - Sports and games in Greville Smyth Park

- We also had two fantastic camps with the Redcliffe Beavers: an indoor sleeping camp at Glenny Wood in the Autumn and a summer camp at Chelwood a few weeks ago, with a huge number of exciting activities and many of the Beavers gaining their first nights away badge.



Bronze Awards

- As well as the dozens of badges earned by all Beavers, six Beavers proudly earned their Chief Scout Bronze award, demonstrating completion of all six challenge badges and a great deal of hard work.

Leadership and Volunteering

- We said goodbye to Ed “Raccoon” Hodge after more than 6 years with our Beaver colony, but are pleased that the group are now being led by the very capable Ben “Bat” Brown with strong support from Kate “Rabbit” Myers, Ellen “Panda” Roberts, new leader Flo “Flamingo” Johnson-Marshall and Young Leader “Penguin” (Martha Entwistle). A special thankyou to Sam “Rat” Jones for continuing to support in his Young Leader role, including through his GCSEs, and to Kes Shields for his support as a Young Leader in the earlier part of the year.
- We are of course incredibly grateful for our parent helpers who volunteer their time and expertise to create a fun and enriching environment for the Beavers.

We are always keen to welcome new parent helpers and leaders, particularly those who might have a particular skill or hobby to share with the Beavers.



Redcliffe Beavers Report

In 2023, 255th were approached to support the establishment of a new Beaver colony in Redcliffe following an approach from Avon and Somerset police to Bristol South District.

With thanks to supportive parents, and an enthusiastic and committed leadership team, we have together managed to create a thriving beaver colony.

Our beavers have enjoyed a diverse programme, playing countless games, earning badges, through creativity including; firework art, tie-dye t-shirts, mocktails, marzipan fruits, pancakes and reindeer biscuits.

They have planted spring bulbs for the benefit of our local community, and visited Bedminster fire station. Toured the harbour side on foot, stayed overnight at Glenny Wood, and just last week, joined with 255th Beavers to share a camp at Chelwood.

We've made great progress this year in recruiting more beavers and some extra leaders. The next stage will hopefully be opening a cub section that our oldest beavers can move up into - watch this space!





Cub Section Report



Cubs Section – Year in Review

What a brilliant year it's been for our Cub Scout section! Here's a quick look back at everything we've packed into the last 12 months.

Major Event

- **Spy-Themed Winter Weekend in the Wye Valley**
A real highlight of the year – full of mystery, missions, and lots of sneaky fun. The Cubs loved getting into character and solving spy challenges in such a great setting.

Weeknight Adventures

We've had loads of fun (and learned a lot!) during our weeknight meetings:

- **Hikes and Navigation** – Exploring the outdoors and building up our map skills.
- **Treasure Hunts** – Putting those skills to the test in fun and fast-paced adventures.
- **Cycling** – Getting active and learning bike safety and skills.
- **Movie Making** – Lights, camera, action! A creative night where Cubs turned into directors and actors.
- **So Much Cooking!** – We've chopped, stirred, grilled, and baked our way through some tasty evenings.
- **Pioneering** – Building cool structures and learning knots and lashings.
- **Science Nights** – From explosions to experiments, our inner scientists had a great time.

Badges Galore

We've handed out **hundreds of badges** this year – massive thanks to **Kate** for keeping everything running smoothly on that front!

Big Thanks

As always, none of this would be possible without the amazing adults who give up their time to help. Huge shout-outs to: **Chloe, Dale, Steve, and Olly** – thank you for everything you do. And of course, our awesome young leaders: **Silas, Tommy, Elsie, and Sam** – you've been brilliant role models and a big help.

Looking Ahead

Here's to another amazing year of Cub Scouting ahead – full of adventure, fun, and new memories to make!

Matt Hill, Cub Section Leader



Scout Section Report



This past year has been quite eventful for our scout group, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the participation in the Kandersteg camp. This remarkable experience was held over ten days, which allowed our scouts to immerse themselves in various activities, create lasting memories, and develop valuable skills. In addition to Kandersteg, we had a variety of other events that the members took part in. For instance, the Green Beret challenge in November provided a platform for teamwork and personal growth. The Sodbury Challenge that we entered three teams into, one of those teams coming first and bringing home the trophy. With a closer link to Spinnaker and the Benjamin Perry Boat House Scouts have had the opportunities for caving and several boat maintenance days which helped our scouts learn practical skills while also enjoying time outdoors.

We also organised an adult camp, fostering a sense of community among leaders and parents alike. A pioneering weekend provided opportunities for our scouts to build and create, pushing their boundaries while developing teamwork and resilience. It is worth noting that our leaders continued to gain additional permits, enabling us to broaden the activities available to our scouts.

This year, we presented one Chief Scout Award, signifying the commitment of one of our members in their scouting journey, which is commendable and reflects well on the ethos we strive to cultivate within our group.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming Kent International Jamboree, which promises to be another enriching experience for our scouts. Additionally, we are considering planning a trip back to Kandersteg in 2028, keeping the spirit of adventure alive for future generations.

A particular thanks goes to "Mr Tim Sir" for his immeasurable contributions, especially regarding the Kandersteg trips and the effective planning that made them possible. His efforts have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. BRAVO.

We have said a farewell to Tyler Wakeford whose skills and enthusiasm are missed already. He hasn't gone far and is still a part of the scouting journey for our young people as they progress to Spinnaker Explorers they will find him there, I am glad though truth be told that he has gone to help them even if he leaves a void in our ranks, his passion for scouting and the Explorer section are evident and happy leaders are only a positive for the youth they influence on their journey of growth through the movement. BRAVO.

As we close this year, we want to extend our gratitude to all the children involved, for their enthusiasm and spirit have made our events enjoyable and rewarding. We also wish to thank the parents for their unwavering support especially during fundraising events and the volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Your dedication enables us to provide enriching experiences for our scouts. We look forward to another year of scouting, filled with fun, learning, and growth.

Iain Timmons, Scout Section Leader



Financial Report

Year ended 31 March 2025 Financial Report

It's been a busy year for the group, with plenty of camps and events across the sections. The Scout jamboree to Kandersteg in August 2024 was an event that families had been saving and fundraising towards for over a year and resulted in our bank account having an unusually high balance at 31 March 2024. Now that it has been paid for, reserve levels have fallen, but still stand at a healthy £36,000 in 2025.

The leaders have done a tremendous job planning a range of activities that we hope you agree provide excellent value for money for families. We are committed to keeping subs levels as low as possible and have managed to avoid raising them for a number of years.

Fundraising has become increasingly important and we would encourage families to get involved if they can. It really is a case that many hands make light work! This year the Victoria Park BBQ raised over £2000 - this was a massive group effort, so please put 13 September 2025 in your diaries to join us for the next one. If you are inspired to organise your own fundraising event then we now have a JustGiving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/255th-bristol-scout-group>), which is a convenient way to collect donations.

Finally, a big thank you to all the families for helping to make the financial arrangements of the group run so smoothly. As well as being a convenient way to collect money for subs and events, OSM is also a handy way for us to collect gift aid, so if you are eligible, we would be grateful if you ticked the box to allow this. This year, our funds have been topped up by gift aid payments of over £2200, which amounts to a subsidy over around £30 per young person.

Christina Ransom

Group Treasurer

Financial Reports for year ended 31 March 2025

Income and Expenditure

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Income		
Bank Interest	1,112	929
Donation	0	1,805
Events - Beavers	1,085	632
Events - Cubs	5,042	630
Events - Scouts	10,377	18,215
Fundraising	4,494	2,404
Gift Aid	2,262	9,120
Membership Fees	10,750	10,607
Redcliffe group	805	1,428
Uniform	746	624
Expenses		
Activity Equipment	0	5
Admin	119	300
Annual Fee District South	3,930	3,885
Badges	591	407
Bank Fees	465	38
Camping Equipment	0	656
Council tax	220	225
Events - Beavers	700	584
Events - Cubs	1,690	771
Events - Scouts	30,193	12,468
Fundraising expenses	1,470	997
Group events	2,670	229
Insurance	365	456
Meetings - Beavers	132	88
Meetings - Cubs	283	201
Meetings - Scouts	205	28
Membership Costs	387	384
Rent	5,436	5,362

	2024-2025	2023-24
Expenses cont.		
Redcliffe group expenses	828	318
Training	610	80
Uniform	1,653	1,002
Utilities	324	79
Venue Maintenance	372	3,168
Account balances		
255 BRISTOL (CHANNEL) SEA SCOU	6,796	15,834
Petty cash	43	38
Expense Account	2,791	0
Lloyds fixed term deposit 83LS	0	11,000
Lloyds fixed term 30LS	0	25,000
Redcliffe Petty Cash	344	73
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit 2153	26,000	0
Summary		
Account balance brought forward	51,944	37,281
Total income	36,672	46,395
Total expenditure	52,643	31,732
Net income	-15,970	14,663
Account balance carried forward	35,973	51,944

Fund movements by type

Fund and type	Fund balances 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances 31 March 2025
Building fund						
(Designated)	11390	0	-916	0	-916	10474
Redcliffe group	1110	805	-828	0	-23	1087
(Designated)						
General fund	39445	35867	-50899	0	-15032	24413
(Unrestricted)						
Totals	51945	36672	-52643	0	-15970	35975



255th Bristol Channel Sea Scout Group Board of Trustees 2024/25

Chair	Al Sweetman – chair@255th.org.uk
Deputy Chair	Andy Luke – andyluke2001@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Christina Ransom – treasurer@255th.org.uk
Secretary	Rebecca Miller – secretary@255th.org.uk
Trustee	Tim Berriman – timberriman@gmail.com
Lead Volunteer	Elaine Beckett – lemur@255th.org.uk



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

255th Bristol Channel Sea Scouts

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2025

Charity no (if any)

1164063

Set out on pages

1-14

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2025**.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Jacqueline Uren

Date:

14/09/2025

Name:

Mrs Jacqueline Uren

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Chartered Accountant

Address:

11 Wathen Road, Bristol, BS6 5BY

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Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None