



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date
From Day 01 Month 01 Year 2025
Period end date
To Day 31 Month 12 Year 2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name ST. PAUL'S RUSTHALL 2nd TUNBRIDGE WELLS SCOUT GROUP

Other names charity is known by N/A

Registered charity number (if any) 1165139

Charity's principal address Sitheil

Pennington Road

Tunbridge Wells

POSTCODE

TN4 0SS

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Margaret West	Chairperson		
2	Michelle Rule	Treasurer		
3	Kevin Powley	Scout Leader		
4	Gavin Cons	Group Lead Volunteer		
5	Helen Bigsby	Explorer Leader		
6	Natalie Hyder	Community Rep	Ended 1 st April 2025	
7	Louise Johnson	Beaver Scout Leader		
8	Bradley Johnson	Scout Leader		
9	Alice Morgan	Parent Rep	Ended March 2025	
10	George Parratt	Parent Rep		
11	David Edwards	Parent Rep		
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Scrutineer	Claire Gomez	1 Nellington Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8SH

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <i>(eg. Trust deeds, constitution)</i>	The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bylaws of the Scout Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
How the charity is constituted <i>(eg. Trust association, company)</i>	The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods <i>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</i>	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The Group is managed by the Trustee Board, in accordance with Scouts POR rule 3.22 & 3.24. Following an overhaul of Scouts POR in relation to roles and responsibilities within the Scout Association and Groups, the Exec committee was disbanded and a formal Trustee Board created, with limited representation from leaders (section volunteers) and a higher proportion of representation of non-members e.g. parents. This shifting structure led to changes in the Trustee Board in September 2024.

The Scout Group 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 up to 9 persons, with an approximate equal balance between section volunteers and independent trustees. We no longer appoint a secretary and the Chair kindly keeps records.

This Trustee Board exists to support the Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment
- Group public occasions
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those elected

Risk and Internal Control

The 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:

- Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 14. If there was a reduction in membership in a

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

A great contribution is made by all our volunteers whether they act as Volunteers or members of the Trustee Board or as parent helpers at the weekly meetings. We are grateful for the many hours volunteers have spent to provide the variety of opportunities open to the young people in our group. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much.

Any surplus funds which are not required to pay for activities are placed on deposit to either earn interest or be used for replacement equipment. Small sums are used to provide access to activities for young people who would not otherwise be able to afford to attend some events.

The Group holds significant residual funds above and beyond the reserves and the Group (with active encouragement from its treasurer) has sought to deploy these funds for the benefit of the members rather than to sit on the money "for a rainy day." The Trustee Board regularly discusses options for use of the funds and has continued a full programme of replacement of equipment as well as buying new technology in order to bring the equipment of the Group into the 2020s.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2025 continued to be a packed year for the Group, with robust membership and plenty of activities. We continue to encourage parents to become volunteers and have a steady stream of new adults becoming members of the Scout Association. Our relationship with the Explorer Group is still strong, with the Explorers growing in numbers.

The Group arranged another family camp and a series of section camps. The Group took 40 YP to KIJ for a week in August 2025.

The Explorer unit is financially independent of the Group and has a formal partnership with the Group.

The focus of much of the activity remains on badge work.

Our Group has worked with District to ensure all mandatory training is up to date and now has a robust process for maintain DBS checks.

Our Facebook profile is regularly updated.

Our financial position remained healthy at the end of 2025 but with a small reduction in reserves. This was mainly due to increased capitation and a mismatch in timing of receipt of funds for KIJ and disbursement. Our Gift Aid claim was slightly lower in 2025 to previous years, following a dip in subs collection. The Committee reviews the level of subs in relation to a budget each year and agrees the appropriate level of subs and allocation of meeting budgets for each section, as well as larger expenditure plans. We have not raised subs since the pandemic (despite inflation) but keep this under regular review.

Our Trustee Board has been working with representatives of Sunnyside Community Hall Limited (another registered charity) in relation to settling and documenting both parties shared ownership of the land where Sunnyside Community Hall and the store are located and agreed the terms for the preparation of legal documentation in 2023. The legal work began in 2022 but stalled because Sunnyside Hall received legal advice not to enter into the lease. Despite our attempts, no compromise solution has been found and both sides are in the status quo without final affirmative resolution. Following a challenge from the Sunnyside Trustees, the Group agreed to recognise its financial contribution and ownership in its 2024 accounts for the first time and this has

Section D

Achievements and performance

been repeated in 2025 by merely applying a modest inflationary increase in the value of the property – the real value of the interest is likely to be considerably higher.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

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 12 months running costs, circa £11,500 on an income basis.

The Group held reserves of more than £34,000 against this at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses but represents a small dip from 2024. This was in line with expectations in 2024. The high level of reserves is explained by fund raising in prior years to finance the expansion of Sunnyside hall (which is part owned by the Group) to allow it to be used by the Beavers and Cubs as well as the Scouts.

The budgeting process was undertaken for 2025.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

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 our CAF account.

The Group Executive 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. The CAF banking arrangements includes a "Gold" interest bearing account, and as such, the Group have split their funds across both the current and the Gold accounts. No period of notice is needed to transfer funds. The interest rate on the Gold account is comparable to the Scout Charity Deposit Service.

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.

- Damage to the buildings we use, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, and other Scout Groups.
- Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities. Additional personal injury insurance is provided for all leaders and adult helpers.
- Reduced income from fund raising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions. 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.
- The Group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 authorisers for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.
- Rent increases and cost of living crisis. The Group has been in dispute with Sunnyside Hall Trustees regarding its ownership and use of Sunnyside Hall for a long time. A resolution to the dispute was agreed in 2021 but has since been refuted by the SS trustees. Sunnyside has not implemented the rent increases that were proposed in 2021. The Group is now recognising its capital interest in SS Hall in its accounts on a prudent basis – merely inflating the value of the original contribution to the purchase price.
- Other risks are documented, monitored and mitigations put in place using a risk register in accordance with guidance from the Scout Association.

Section C

Objectives and activities

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

The objectives of the group are as a unit of the Scout Association.

The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local national and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The focus of the Group is to provide opportunities for young people to enable them to meet their potential through activities which include badge work, outings and camps. We welcome all young people regardless of personal background, faith or gender.

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.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

Section F**Other optional information**

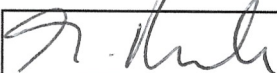
- In 2026 the Group intends to "just keep Scouting."

Section G**Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Michelle Rule

Gavin Cons

Position (eg Secretary, Chair,
etc)

Treasurer

Group Lead Volunteer

Date

13 May 2026

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the year

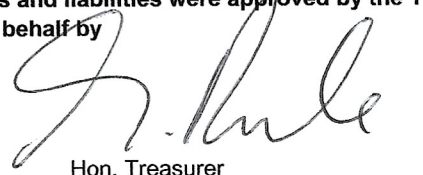
	31st December 2025 Unrestricted Funds £	31st December 2024 Unrestricted Funds £
Cash Funds		
Bank Current Account	34,065.20	34,358.54
Bank Deposit Account	-	
Building Society Account		
The Scout Association Short Terms Investment Service		
Cash/Section Floats	-	
Total cash funds	34,065.20	34,358.54
Other monetary assets		
Tax Claim	-	
Debts due from County/Area/District/Group	-	
Insurance Claim	-	
Sub total	-	
Investment Assets		
Investment property - detail	-	
Quoted investments	-	
Other investments - detail	-	
Sub total	-	
Non monetary assets for charities own use		
Badge stock	50.00	50.00
Shop stock	-	
Other stock	-	
Land and buildings	83,232.00	81,649.88
Motor vehicles	-	
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	14,667.09	15,052.77
Other	-	
Sub total	97,949.09	96,752.64
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid - Hall hire	-	-
Expenses incurred but not paid	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total	-	-

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

None

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 2 - May - 2026 and signed on their behalf by


Group Executive Chairperson


Hon. Treasurer

**St Paul's Rusthall Scout Group
Receipts and Payments Account**

For the year from	1st January 2025	To	31st December 2025
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Receipts and payments

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Unrestricted Funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Youth programme and activities	31,998.13	25,215.23
Adult support and training		
Rent	2,500.00	2,480.00
Water and Sewerage		
Electricity and Gas		
Insurance	470.44	410.87
Repairs and Renewals	246.27	856.34
Materials and equipment	1,119.60	3,938.18
Printing and photocopying		
Contribution to camp costs		
Uniforms	285.99	1,295.90
AGM and trustee expenses		
Christmas Flares		
Fund Raising Expenses		
Miscellaneous	1,304.23	1,275.29
Sub total	37,924.66	35,471.81
Sub total	-	
Total Gross Expenditure	37,924.66	35,471.81
Assett and investment purchases, etc		
Total Payments	37,924.66	35,471.81
Net of receipts/(payments)	(293.34)	5,704.57
Cash funds last year end	34,358.54	28,653.97
Cash funds this year end.	34,065.20	34,358.54

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Group Executive Chairperson

Hon. Treasurer

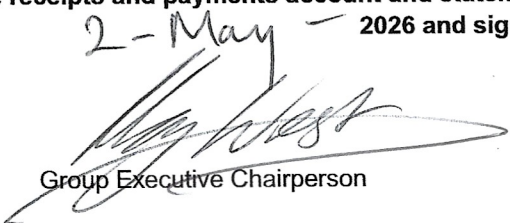
St Paul's Rusthall Scout Group **Receipts and Payments Account**

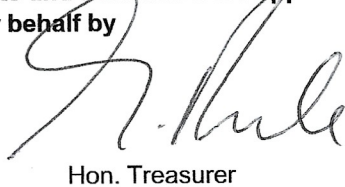
For the year from	1st January 2025	To	31st December 2025
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Receipts and payments

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Unrestricted Funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	15,371.50	16,170.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	8,893.50	8,037.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	6,478.00	8,133.00
Donations, legacies and similar income	1,585.00	153.00
Legacies		
Gift Aid	2,690.36	3,115.03
Other similar income - Uniform Commission/Sales		14.00
Sub total	10,753.36	
Grants		2,500.00
Maintenance grant		
Other grants		
Sub total	-	2,500.00
Fundraising (Gross)	204.78	572.81
Activities	26,279.00	26,218.50
Misc	71.04	69.76
Other fundraising activities		
Sub total	26,554.82	26,861.07
Investment income		
Bank interest	323.14	400.28
Building Society interest		
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		
Property Rent income		
Other Investment income		
Sub total	323.14	400.28
Total Gross Income	37,631.32	41,176.38
Assett and investment sales, etc		
Total Receipts	37,631.32	41,176.38

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Group Executive Chairperson


Hon. Treasurer

Re: Independent Scrutineer - 2026 - Message (HTML)

FileMessageHelp

Tell me what you want to do

Delete

Archive

Move

Reply

Reply All

Forward

All Apps

Move to: ?

Mark Unread

Find

Zoom

Re: Independent Scrutineer - 2026

CG

Claire Gomez <claire.gomez2018@gmail.com>

To: Michelle and David Rule

You replied to this message on 15/04/2026 15:32.

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Wed 15/04/2026 21:43

Hi Michelle,

The accounts look clear and complete.

Only comment I have is an obvious one; the 2025 income from subs and activity revenue decreased but the spend on activities increased, creating a small deficit for the year. It is tiny and understandable in the current economic climate but not sustainable in the long term.

Kind regards

Claire

On Tue, 24 Mar 2026, 10:08 Claire Gomez, <claire.gomez2018@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Michelle,

Of course I will. The spreadsheet is fine. Let .e take a look and come back with any questions.

Kind regards

Claire