

1ST FENSTANTON AND HILTON SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1197037

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2021-12-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Ashcroft
The Fen
Fenstanton
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE28 9JT

Phone 07936751905

Email comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Website www.fenstantonhiltonscouts.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ACHIEVING THEIR FULL PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL; AS INDIVIDUALS, AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND AS MEMBERS OF THEIR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Activities: TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ACHIEVING THEIR FULL PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL; AS INDIVIDUALS, AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND AS MEMBERS OF THEIR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Cambridgeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£32,831	£30,048	-	-
2024-03-31	£33,916	£23,634	-	-
2023-03-31	£27,645	£19,368	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Charlotte Wendy Michele Harrison	Chair	2024-10-01
Catherine Mary Fewtrell		2015-09-24
Dr Emma Waldron-Smythe		2025-11-06
Heather Louise Bevan		2023-09-10
IAN FRANCIS HUCKLESBY		2021-11-25
James Anthony Ward		2021-11-04
John William Raine		2025-04-03

1ST FENSTANTON AND HILTON SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1197037

Accounts



**1st Fenstanton & Hilton
Scout Group**

**Trustees' Annual Report
September 2025**

Contents

1. Introduction - Chair's Report.....	3
2. Group Lead Volunteer's Report	4
3. Treasurer's Report	5
4. Squirrel's Annual Report.....	6
5. Beavers Annual Report.....	7
6. Cubs Annual Report	9
7. Scouts Annual Report.....	12
8. Other Information	15
8.1 Communication	15
8.2 Volunteering Opportunities Available.....	16
Appendix A – Accounts for 2024-2025.....	17
Appendix B – Accounts scrutineer's report.....	20
Appendix C – Annual Report	21

1. Introduction - Chair's Report

It's been another exciting and rewarding year for our Group, and as Chair of the Trustees, I am proud to reflect on what we've achieved together. Our leaders, helpers, and trustee members have once again shown remarkable dedication, without their energy and time, we would not have been able to achieve so much. This year John Raine and myself joined Jamie, Heather, Cathy and Ian to form our group of Trustees. Our focus has been on the financial, safe, legal and sustainable running of the group. This has included looking at the possibility of one day having our own HQ building, ensuring we comply with the Scouting regulations and guidelines, approval and monitoring of the budget (see the Treasurer's Report for more information) overseeing fundraising and ensure the groups longevity.

On behalf of the Trustees, I want to extend my thanks to every volunteer, parent, guardian and supporter who has helped our Group thrive this year. Scouting is a team effort, and our success is down to you all.

Many thanks

Charlotte Harrison
Chair

2. Group Lead Volunteer's Report

What an extraordinary year it has been for 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts, and what better way to mark our 55th birthday than by reflecting on all we have accomplished together! This milestone year has been packed with challenges, adventure, growth and fun, thanks to the energy and dedication of every single member of our Scouting family.

All the young people in our Group have embraced every opportunity to push themselves, work together, and learn new skills:

🏕️ We spent 20 unforgettable nights away from home, sleeping in tents, hammocks, in Gulliver's land, and a secret nuclear bunker under the stars

🔦 Our young people earned 837 badges this year, recognising achievements in everything from kayaking and climbing to science, navigation, photography, and pioneering

★ We also presented 14 Chief Scout's awards, the highest award a Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout can earn - everyone who achieved this should be very proud of themselves!

None of these achievements would be possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of our young people, who throw themselves into every activity and challenge we offer. Thank you also to parents and carers - your ongoing support, encouragement, and tireless badge sewing (!) make such a difference.

This year was particularly special as we welcomed Squirrels, our new section for children aged 4–6. Bringing the adventure of Scouts to our youngest members is a huge step forward, and the excitement and joy they have brought to the group is already making a difference. Our Squirrel Drey already has 20 members and is supported by a fantastic team of seven new volunteers. A big thank you to everyone who has made this happen - we look forward to seeing Squirrels continue to grow and thrive!

Finally, I'm hugely grateful to every one of our volunteers, from seasoned Scouters to the many new faces who have joined the fun this year, across every section and behind-the-scenes on our Trustee board. Your dedication, creativity, and willingness to give your time and skills ensures that Scouts continues to thrive in our community and we can offer all the opportunities we do to young people and adults alike.

We are always in need of more support to ensure our Group continues to thrive. Many hands make light work, and we have tasks that will suit you, your skills and other commitments so please do just reach out but in particular we need some help with:

- maintaining and organising our equipment
- admin support, e.g. taking notes at meetings, managing membership records, or supporting our section teams with behind-the-scenes tasks
- helping to organise our involvement at community and fundraising events
- organising and running activities for our young people (even if just as a one-off)

Maybe you could help us out or know someone who could? We are open to all offers and always happy to chat – please do drop me a message.

Looking forward, every section has an exciting programme planned for the new term, and it promises to be another full and busy year ahead for our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Thank you once again for all your support in our 55th year - and here's to many more years of Scouting adventures!

Jamie Ward
Group Lead Volunteer

3. Treasurer's Report

The following report covers the accounts for the 2024-25 financial year (year ending 31st March 2025). Please see appendix A and B of this document for the full breakdown of the accounts and the scrutineer's report.

Income

Subs have been held at £16 per month for another year. With a total of £14,576 collected, these make up the largest proportion of our income.

We have obtained further funds of £1,104.34 from Community Grants, which has been used to fund the initial set up of the Squirrels Drey.

We were also able to claim £3,501.81 in Gift Aid for 2023/2024. We would like to encourage all parents and carers that haven't already signed up for Gift Aid to consider doing so, as it allows us to claim up to an extra £48 per child each year, at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

Fundraising during the year raised £573.12. The scouting presence at village events is not only an opportunity to have fun and raise funds, it also publicises the group to potential new members and volunteers.

Expenditure

In 2024/25 we were able to increase the budget for the weekly programme and other events. This means that the children were able to experience more activities without the need to charge parents and carers any additional fees.

Having increased our numbers by introducing the Squirrels Drey, the cost of the UK Scout Association membership for the year has increased to £4,930.

£1,266 was spent on the training of volunteers. This year we invested in rifle shooting training, which means that these skills can be used during the meetings to give the children new experiences.

Investments

As of 31/3/25 there was £123,309.97 invested in savings accounts, which includes monies from Legacies, Land Grants and Reserves. The interest received was £4,891.23.

Independent scrutiny of the accounts has been completed.

Heather Bevan
Treasurer

4. Squirrel's Annual Report

What a great start to the new opening of the Squirrel unit.

Our opening term saw us getting to know each other, becoming scientists, get creative and have plenty of Christmas fun.

Straight back after Christmas welcoming even more squirrels to the drey. The adventures of spring term included creating stories and foxes, pancake day (someone please remind me to check when pancake day actually is this year!), our first hike, planting flowers, meeting different animals and Easter craft!

After a well needed break we returned after Easter to a session on Earth Day, a trip to the play barn, sports day and our first Squirrel camp in tents which was space themed! The term continues with a community hike and a joint session with the Scouts learning about cooking on fires!!

We have seen lots of badges earned including 3 Chief Scout Acorn awards with a few really close to finishing in the upcoming terms.

The unit is growing nicely with a fantastic team of leaders. We are soon approaching our first birthday; I can't wait to see what adventures we can have this year

Rachael Clowery
Squirrel's Team Leader

5. Beavers Annual Report

The Beavers have had brilliant, busy and fun year!



The Autumn term always means a change in the weather and darker nights, but we don't let that stop us. As well as busy evenings at the hall, we had visits to the St Ives Food bank, where the Beavers did a great job of sorting out lots of baked beans, we had fun Den building and ten pin bowling.

In the spring, we learnt how to do a few different knots, we also completed our disability badges – learning about what we can do to help people with different disabilities and how small things can impact someone's life. The highlight of the term, though, was our sleepover at Gulliver's Land, followed by the term closing with a chocolate Pokémon themed Eggimon hunt.





The summer term is always busy as we try to get out and about most weeks. Beavers explored new places and a favourite with archery, enjoyed a competitive Sports Day, and water themed games night. There was also the annual Beavers in Tents district camp, which gave us chance to camp, meet children from across the district and take part in lots of fun challenges.

We ended with a 'thank you' to all the Leaders, Young Leaders (who put in way more than 'just an hour a week') and to our parents, who continue to support us via the parent rota or who come along and share their specific skills and expertise with our young people.

A big thank you to Emma (Ladybird) who stepped down from running Beavers, although she can't leave us properly as she has too much fun and you'll still see her helping with some sessions.

Here's to another busy year of Beaving in 2025-26.

Amy Taylor
Beaver Team Leader

6. Cubs Annual Report

Summary

It has been another fantastic year for our cub pack. To pick out specific photos and memories to share has been a challenge because of how much we have achieved in the past year. As always, what we have achieved as a pack, with the skills and adventures we have been able to equip your young people with could not have happened without our awesome team of leader volunteers.

This year we welcomed another new adult volunteer to our leadership team with Claire Parker taking on the role of Ziggy. Claire brings a wealth of Scouting experience with her after a successful 5 years as a beaver leader and has settled into our team immediately. Alongside Claire, we also had a new young leader join the team, Finley Riddoch, in the role of Rama. I remember Finley as a cub and he has continued to represent our group and develop his Scouting career through Scouts and explorers and brings with him a vast knowledge of Scouting, especially at 1st Fenstanton and Hilton. He also, as most cubs will tell you, runs a `take no prisoners game` of splat. Finally in terms of changes to our leadership team, Summer 2025 was Alice McMenamins last term with us as she turned 18 and has decided to leave the group to attend university in Belfast. She has offered so much to the pack over the last 2 years as a young leader in cubs, and before that with our Scout troop, and we wish her all the best for the future.

A big thank you then goes to the rest of our amazing volunteer team (who do give much more than just the 1.5 hours a week that your children spend time with us). A huge heartfelt thank you to Carly Harrison, Gareth Burrows, Georgia Graveling, Jamie Ward, Julianne Ince and Robin Evans.

During the year we said goodbye to eleven cubs, most of whom continued their journey into Scouts. With these places available we welcomed 5 new young people into the pack, taking one young person from the waiting list and giving them an introduction to Scouting. We ended slightly below our usual pack size of 30 but with 4 new starters joining us in September 2025 and then more to join next year, we will be back to our maximum pack size of 30 cubs before we know it.

This year we had the pleasure to present three Cubs with their Chief Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Cub can achieve, and a massive well done and shout out should go to Max Wilde, Evelyn Harris and Samuel Ince.

In total this year we awarded a total of 270 badges which is a 23% decrease compared to 2024 but a 3% increase on 2023 and still a very large number of badges so a big well done to all. If your young people do want to work towards earning more badges, there is lots they can do through badges at home and if we don't complete all badge elements in an evening, we will normally send home some additional material to be completed and uploaded quickly and easily.

Autumn Term 2023



Our Autumn terms was a busy one with another 2-day camp at Copley in St Ives where we undertook teamworking challenges including orienteering, bridge building, hiking and tenpin bowling. Later in the term we had a visit from a police officer, some activities developing our money skills, celebrated fireworks night and worked on other badges including communicator and road safety. Robin spent 2 evenings helping the cubs build wooden Christmas trees with our winning three displayed at the Xmas tree festival at the reformed church in Fenstanton. As always, we ended the term with our three Xmas themed evenings; Ice skating, card making for a local care home and Christmas carolling in Fenstanton.

Spring Term 2024



Alongside our annual pantomime trip, our spring term started with 2 teams representing our pack at the district water carnival where over 100 cubs participated in a variety of water activities and races. One of our teams placed 2nd overall across all the events and the other team won 1st place in the end of competition special event, The Ann Nicol Cup. A really great result and super proud of all of them.

Jacala led an evening helping the cubs celebrate the Chinese New Year and then Baloo returned to us to go through some knots before Chil helped us put the knots to good use by making giant catapults. Rasksha took us to Bar Hill Tesco where we undertook a supermarket community challenge, donating food to foodbanks. We also had visits from the Fenstanton Morris dancers, made pancakes to celebrate pancake day and took a trip to Inflatabounce for a private session with our Scout troop.

Amidst all of that, I think the highlight this term for most was our visit and sleepover at the Secret Nuclear Bunker in Essex. With a fish and chip tea, a private tour of the bunker and an experience on high ropes the following day, it was another exciting one-day camp for our cubs and a truly special experience.



Summer Term 2024

Summer term is often considered the most fun by our young people (and leadership team too) as we can get outdoors and enjoy the longer evenings and better weather more often. This summer term was no different.

We helped our cubs with their gardener badge before spending an evening in Cambridge with our Dinky Doors and college tours walk. Alongside this we had our cub district sausage sizzle, an orienteering evening at Hinchingsbrooke park, a nature hike at Knapwell as well as archery and pond dipping split evenings at Meadow Lodge Farm.

We got some time on the water with our own private evening at Holt Island for the Weekend on the Water event and then had a great time with the Scouts at Little Paxton Aqua Park. Closing off the term with a lesson in bowls at Fen Drayton Bowls Club.

You would think that was enough fun but amongst all of that we also had our summer camp at Thirtwood Scouting Centre in Essex and for a lot of our cubs this was their first 2-night camp. With peddle karts, axe throwing, crate stacking, fire lighting, and pioneering it was a jam-packed camp full of fun and adventure.



In Closing

It has been another fantastic year of Scouting within our cub pack, and I am so grateful for all the support our parents have given us as this year we enacted a parent rota. As I said, we have achieved a huge amount across the year and that couldn't be done without the awesome leadership team we have. Our young people have made a lot of memories and thrown themselves into a lot of different challenges and experiences they would normally never have done. Sleeping with mannequins, high ropes and some of our water activities as well as a 2 night camp were some milestones our cubs had challenges with yet but were able to overcome without trouble. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the leadership team when I say it is an absolute pleasure working with your children and seeing them grow and develop each week.

With three cub camps already being planned and discussed for 2026, as well as a mapped out autumn term working towards an air ambulance challenge badge with our usual end of term Christmas festivities, I am looking forward to what the next year of cubs has in store for us all.

Yours in Scouting,

Dave Bevan/Akela

P.S. Please feel free to get in touch with me directly if you want to join the team 😊 While we have an awesome bunch of people already supporting the pack, many hands make light work, and we are always on the lookout for more volunteers.

7. Scouts Annual Report

Another busy and enjoyable year for the Scout troop in 2024/25.

We started the autumn term at Paxton lakes building rafts using logs, barrels and ropes, and then taking them out on the water. When building a raft the goal is generally to make it robust so that falling in is not inevitable. But somehow most of the Scouts ended up in the lake even if their raft did stay in one piece.

At the end of September, we went on camp for the weekend at John's Lee Wood campsite near Leicester. We slept in hammocks and tents, cooked all of our meals on campfires, and did caving, shooting, peddle karting and bushcraft activities.



Later in the term we spent an evening at Fenstanton Parish Church, where we learned all about the history of the church, the vestments and accoutrements used throughout the year, the organ (some Scouts showed off their keyboard skills), bell ringing, and a tour of the bell tower. Very many thanks to Rosie and the team at the church for hosting us and providing such an interesting evening. Thanks also to young leader Cameron who organised this event.



Another highlight of the term was an evening learning how to paint watercolours, led by local artist Chris Lockwood. We also managed to pack in a troop forum, bonfire night, a creepy ghost tour in Cambridge, night hike, careers night, first aid and ice skating with the cubs.



In October a number of our Scouts joined a Cromwell Mountaineering Club (CMC) trip to Yr Hafod in North Wales, where they had the opportunity to do some more challenging hiking and navigation than we're able to offer here in Cambs.

We held our indoor winter camp this year at the Leslie Sell campsite. On arrival Scouts were divided into teams and earned points by erecting flag poles. On Saturday morning the Scouts competed in an orienteering competition, and in the afternoon in the "pizza challenge": Each team designed their own pizza, shopped for ingredients, designed a pizza box, and then made the pizzas which we cooked in a wood-fired oven.

During the spring term our Monday meetings included making and flying rockets, an electronics evening, learning about the sorts of food to take hiking, a team challenge competition, a treasure hunt around St Ives, campfire cooking and our end of term treat at InflateBounce. We also had a visit from volunteers from Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue, who told us all about





what they do and taught the Scouts how to use defibrillators.

Other activities outside of our Monday meetings included going to a panto, a CMC day trip to Norfolk and a CMC weekend trip to Beddgelert in North Wales. In February Neil, Jess and David attended an NSRA training course so that we can run air rifle shooting activities.

We entered three teams into the Forward Hike this year, which is excellent. Team A were unchaperoned, and so had to navigate a 10 mile course and complete challenges along the way without help. Teams B and C were accompanied by Caitlin and David. All three teams completed the course and did really well, with Team A coming 5th in the competition. (Hoping for a win in 2026!)

During the summer term we took full advantage of the light and warmth to do lots of outdoor activities. Our programme included an athletics evening; a pioneering challenge (building a bridge over a ditch); navigation training; sailing at Paxton lakes; cycling; archery; litter picking; campfire cooking and our ever popular visit to the water park. (Parents I strongly recommend joining in with this one if we do it again next year – it is so much fun!)



In June we camped at Two Mile Bottom in Thetford forest. While the younger Scouts practised camp skills, cooked meals, played games and did archery and shooting, the older Scouts undertook the Expedition Challenge Hike. This is a two day hike carrying full kit in a rucksack: Clothing, toiletries, food and drink, stove, fuel, tent, bedding and first aid kit. The Scouts must complete training beforehand, complete the hike as a team and then report back to the troop afterwards. Many congratulations to Lewis, James, IslaE, Lola, IslaR and Dan for completing the challenge. Extra congratulations to IslaE who then completed her Chief Scouts Gold Award, which takes a lot of hard work and dedication, and is the highest award in Scouts.



In June we also attended Weekend On Water: A day of water activities organised by the 2nd St Ives Sea Scouts, with kayaking, coracling, paddle boarding and tomahawk throwing. And finally several Scouts and leaders joined a weekend CMC trip to the Peak District.



All of this happens thanks to the support of a hard working team, all of whom are volunteers. Very many thanks to the Scout leaders Jess, Paul, Neil, Caitlin and Poppy; to our young leaders Greg and Cameron, to Jamie (GSL) and the other section leaders, and to the board of trustees and other supporters. And thank you, parents, for your help.

If anyone is interested in joining in the fun we would very much welcome having another adult and/or young leader. Please get in touch!

David Riddoch
Scout Leader

8. Other Information

8.1 Communication

Alongside using OSM (onlinescoutmanager.co.uk) to contact you, we have individual email addresses for our Group, which can be used if you need to contact the sections or members of the executive committee directly. These are as follows:

Squirrels - squirrels@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Beavers - beavers@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Cubs - cubs@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Scouts - scouts@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Group Lead Volunteer - gsl@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Trustees Chair – chair@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Treasurer - treasurer@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Membership - membership@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Communications - comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Working with so many different families, we do appreciate that the way we communicate works really well for some families and less well for others, whilst acknowledging that whatever we do (with this or indeed anything else) we are unlikely to please everyone. We use OSM as our primary communication channel. Please make sure all your details are up to date by regularly “checking in” and please do check your email and spam filters to ensure important information about events and activities doesn’t get missed.

If you have any suggestions for consideration (about this or any other topic) please do raise them directly to gsl@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

8.2 Volunteering Opportunities Available

You look like a role model!

At 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts, we LOVE doing what we do – empowering young people with skills for life, helping them make friends for life and starting them on the adventurous journey through Scouting – which can last for life.

But with more than 50 children waiting to join our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections, we need your support. Could you be one of our amazing volunteers who can guide the next generation through their Scouting journey?



With roles to fit around your skills and commitments, volunteering with us is a hugely rewarding experience – and looks great on your CV too!

To find out more about starting or continuing your Scouting journey with us, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/1stFenHilScouts>, or email us at comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk.



#SkillsForLife

Appendix A – Accounts for 2024-2025

Year start date		Year end date	
01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025	

Receipts and payments

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions + programme extras	£14,576.00	£16,923.31
Events/Camp income	£7,906.55	£7,451.00
Donations	£201.47	£1,358.08
Gift Aid	£3,501.81	£3,193.65
Uniform income	£0.00	£180.00
Group income	£0.00	£899.40
Sub total	£26,185.83	£30,005.44
Grants		
Huntingdon Futures Grant	£880.00	£0.00
Fen Drayton Community Café Grant	£224.34	£0.00
Sub total	£1,104.34	£0.00
Fundraising events (gross)		
EasyFundraising	£42.78	£64.92
Big Picnic	£0.00	£331.00
Village Fun Day	£376.50	£205.70
Badge Sewing	£43.50	£21.00
Christmas Lights	£146.42	£197.37
Equipment Hire	£40.00	
Sub total	£649.20	£819.99
Investment income		
Bank interest	£4,891.23	£3,090.50
Sub total	£4,891.23	£3,090.50
Total Gross Income	£32,830.60	£33,915.93
Asset and investment sales, etc.	£0.00	£0.00
Total receipts	£32,830.60	£33,915.93

Receipts and payments

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Membership subscriptions	£4,930.00	£4,266.00
Youth programme and activities	£5,243.57	£4,290.01
Squirrels Set Up	£769.35	£0.00
Events/Camps	£9,656.00	£5,537.70
Rent	£2,039.88	£1,606.30
Badges, woggles, neckers	£1,263.69	£1,293.43
Insurance	£506.95	£457.01
Equipment	£1,871.30	£1,350.45
Group expenses	£1,199.78	£3,007.22
Discretionary Fund	£0.00	£120.00
Uniforms	£683.53	£995.52
Activity Day/AGM	£0.00	£380.49
Training	£1,266.03	£0.00
OSM costs	£224.00	£218.66
Bank Charges	£317.74	£72.00
Sub total	£29,971.82	£23,594.79
Fundraising expenses		
Big Picnic	£0.00	£19.00
Village Fun Day	£59.77	£20.00
Christmas Lights	£16.31	
Sub total	£76.08	£39.00
Total Gross Expenditure	£30,047.90	£23,633.79
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	£0.00	£0.00
Total payments	£30,047.90	£23,633.79
Net of receipts/(payments)	£2,782.70	£10,282.14
Cash funds last year end	£125,630.94	£115,059.30
Cash funds this year end	£128,413.64	£125,341.44

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	£4,814.17	£30,341.44
Bank deposit account	£123,309.97	£95,000.00
Cash/Floats	£289.50	£289.50
Total cash funds	£128,413.64	£125,630.94
Total net assets	£128,413.64	£125,630.94

Appendix B – Accounts scrutineer’s report

**Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of
1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts]**

I report on the accounts of the Group/District for the year ended .31 March 2025.....

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's/District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's/District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on pages ...1..... to1.....

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.



Name:Keith White.....

Address:49 Pitfield Close.....

.....Fenstanton.....

.....PE28 9FE.....

.....

Date:23/08/25.....

Appendix C – Annual Report

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date) 0 1 0 4 2 4 to end date 3 1 0 3 2 5

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scout Group
Other names the charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1 1 9 7 0 3 7
HQ registration number	
Charity's principal address	Ashcroft, The Fen Fenstanton Huntingdon Postcode P E 2 8 9 J T

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity and the Charity Register if reporting for a Registered Charity with a charity regulator)

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Charlotte Harrison	Chair	
2	Heather Bevan	Treasurer	
3	Jamie Ward	Group Lead Volunteer	
4	Cathy Fewtrell	Trustee	
5	Ian Hucklesby	Trustee	
6	John Raine	Trustee	
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity)

Type of advisor	Name	Address

Section B Structure, governance and management

1 LT700001 (27 February 2024)

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

The Group'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

(e.g. trust, association, company)

The Group 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.

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

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

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.

Policies and procedures adopted for:
a) the induction and training of trustees;
b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair Treasurer and 4 Trustees (including 1 Ex Officio 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.

Section B	Structure, governance and management (continued)
	<p>Risk and Internal Control (Specimen 1)</p> <p>The Group 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:</p> <p>Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group does not own any property and rents meeting spaces for section meetings from third-parties (local village hall and local school). These meeting places are covered by independent insurance held by the third parties. The Group has sufficient contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss, and is covered by the Public Liability insurance of the Scout Association.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Reduced income from fundraising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions, Gift Aid, and fundraising. The group holds sufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently, if required.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 14. If there was a reduction in membership in a 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.</p> <p>Risk and Internal Control (Specimen 2)</p> <p>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.</p>

Section C	Objectives and activities
<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects</p>	<p>The Group delivers a programme of fun, challenging and adventurous activities through weekly section meetings, day trips, and nights away, which are all run in accordance with the Policies, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association. The programme is delivered by adult volunteers and is shaped by young people through their input of ideas and age-appropriate peer leadership roles.</p>
<p>Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)</p>	
<p>You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy on grantmaking; • contribution made by volunteers; • policy on investments. 	
<p>Public benefit statement</p>	<p>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.</p>
Section D	Achievements and performance
<p>Summary of the main achievements of 4 LT700001 (27 February 2024)</p>	<p>Established a Squirrels section for young people age 4 to 6,</p>

the charity during the year plus continued to run successful Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections. Maintained a healthy youth membership of 84 young people (as of Scout Census in January 2025) (2024: 75 youth members). The Group has also recruited and retained a strong team of adult volunteers who have successfully worked together to deliver the programme in a safe and sustainable manner (2025: 23 adult volunteers, 2024: 23 adult volunteers).

Section E	Financial Review
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	<p>Reserves Policy</p> <p>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 3 months running costs, circa £5000.</p> <p>The Group held reserves of approximately £5000 against this at year end. This is at the level required to cover operating expenses in the event of a shortfall in income. The Group also has significant additional funds ringfenced for other purposes to secure the long-term future of the group (see Section F below).</p>
Quantify and explain any designations	
Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)	N/A
Further financial review details (optional information)	
<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); • how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; 	<p>Investment Policy (Specimen 1)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

5 LT700001 (27 February 2024)

• investment policy and objectives;

Investment Policy (Specimen 2)

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

A significant proportion of the Group's capital funds are ringfenced for the potential development of a Scout Hut on land which is due to be leased to the Group from the Parish Council (subject to securing the lease agreement). These funds were raised through a generous grant following the closure and disposal of the former Literary Institute in Fenstanton.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

C Harrison

C Harrison

Full name(s)

Charlotte Harrison

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Chair

Date

0 2 0 3 2 0

1ST FENSTANTON AND HILTON SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1197037

Accounts



**1st Fenstanton & Hilton
Scout Group**

**Trustees' Annual Report
September 2024**

Contents

1. Introduction - Chair's Report	3
2. Group Lead Volunteer's Report.....	4
3. Treasurer's Report	6
4. Beavers Annual Report	7
5. Cubs Annual Report	9
6. Scouts Annual Report.....	16
7. Other Information.....	18
7.1 Communication.....	18
7.2 Volunteering Opportunities Available.....	19
Appendix A – Accounts for 2023-2024.....	20
Appendix B – Accounts scrutineer's report.....	23

1. Introduction - Chair's Report

The last 12 months have seen the Group Executive Committee move to the Trustee Board. The Board will now focus on governance tasks rather than operational tasks. With this in mind, recent meetings have concentrated on finance, policies, legislation, premises, risks and governance.

I would like to thank all those volunteers that have previously served on the Group Executive Committee for many years and have now decided to stand down and take their place on the support team.

You may be aware I have been your group chair for the last two years however I will be standing down at the annual general meeting.

Therefore, the Group are looking for a volunteer to step forward as chair to lead the Trustee Board by coordinating trustee activity to support the Group Scout Leader (Group Lead Volunteer) in meeting the aims of the charity.

The chair is a rewarding and interest role. Those of you wishing to apply please contact me (chair@chromwellscouts.org.uk) and I can explain what the role entails.

Many thanks

Mike Wenham
Chair

The Trustees' annual report statement for 2024 is separate to this document, in Annex A.

2. Group Lead Volunteer's Report

It's been another fantastic year at 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts! I'm extremely proud of what all our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have achieved this year, made possible by the dedication of our 20+ strong team of adult volunteers and young leaders. In just the last year, together we have:

🌸 earned almost 900 badges covering everything from kayaking and climbing to photography, science, pioneering and navigation

★ presented 17 Chief Scout's awards, the highest award a Beaver, Cub or Scout can earn - everyone who achieved this should be very proud of themselves!

🏕️ spent 12 nights away from home where we've slept in tents, hammocks, onboard a battleship and at a zoo

👤 welcomed seven new adult volunteers to the team

🏠 supported our local community, for example by carol singing to our elderly neighbours, serving hot chocolates at the Christmas Lights switch on, and contributing to the Fenstanton summer funday with archery sessions, the slippery pole, and singing campfire songs.

A big thank you to all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for always being enthusiastic to try new things and get involved with all that we offer; to parents/carers for your ongoing support (and badge sewing!); and to the young leaders, leaders, and other volunteers who make Scouting happen.

Our volunteer team is always growing, and I'm thrilled to have welcomed new volunteers to every section team this year – welcome to Chris, Amy, Gareth and Caitlin! We've also said goodbye to other volunteers who have moved on or stepped back for various reasons, so thank you to Claire, Sarah and Claire for all you've done for Beavers and Cubs, and a special mention and big thank you goes to Jess Jardine (aka Jay), who decided to step down after 10 years as a Beaver leader. We're also very grateful to Marilyn and Becca who have both felt now is the time to step back from their vital behind-the-scenes roles as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively - a big thanks for your support and hard work. However, we were also very pleased to welcome Heather as our new Treasurer!

With our team changing and our waiting list growing, we are in need of more support to ensure the Group continues to thrive and to take the pressure off our current volunteers (many hands make light work). We have tasks that will suit you, your skills and other commitments so please do just reach out - but in particular we need some help with:

- admin support, e.g. taking notes at meetings, managing membership records, or supporting our section teams with behind-the-scenes tasks
- maintaining our equipment
- helping to organise our involvement at community and fundraising events
- chairing our Trustee Board (one meeting per term)
- helping oversee the running of the group as a trustee (one meeting per term)
- organising and running activities for our young people (even if just as a one-off)

Maybe you could help us out or know someone who could? We are open to all offers and always happy to chat.

Looking forward, every section has an exciting programme planned for the new term, and it promises to be another full and busy year ahead. What's more, **we have also set the ball rolling for the youngest members of the Scouts family, Squirrels (age 4-6), to join us soon! We will be holding an open evening on Wednesday 2nd October (5.30pm at Fen Drayton Village Hall) for any potential Squirrels - come along if you have children age 3, 4 or 5, and please help us spread the word!**



Thank you once again for all your support and here's to another action-packed year of Scouting adventures!

Yours in Scouting,

Jamie Ward
Group Lead Volunteer

3. Treasurer's Report

The following report covers the accounts for the 2023-24 financial year (year ending 31st March 2024). Please see appendix A and B of this document for the full breakdown of the accounts and the scrutineer's report.

Subs continued at £16 per month for the financial year.

The cost of the UK Scout Association membership for the year was £4,266.

Our net of receipts over payments was £10,282.14.

We were able to claim £3,193.65 for 2022/2023 from HMRC for subs and donations. This emphasises the importance of all parents and carers who pay income tax signing up for gift aid to enable us to claim money each year to spend on your children at no cost to you.

Fundraising during the year raised £780. The highlights were the events we ran at the Big Picnic, Sports Day and Christmas Lights. These events not only raise money but publicise the scouts and aid in recruiting volunteers.

The monies from grants and previous years' surpluses for potential land costs have been invested in safe savings accounts which have yielded £3,090.50 in interest.

Independent scrutiny of these accounts is complete.

Marilyn Hollingdale
Treasurer

4. Beavers Annual Report

The Beavers have had brilliant and busy year!



The autumn term always means a change in the weather and darker nights, but we don't let that stop us. As well as busy evenings at the hall, we had visits to the Norris Museum to learn about mammoths and the ever-popular District Sausage Sizzle at Copley, where we cooked over fires and sang songs by the campfire. We also squeezed in a visit to Cambridge Mosque, where we had a guided tour and learned about Islam.

In the spring, our young leaders ran the Communicator badge. We also did the International badge – learning about and tasting food from New Zealand and there was more food tasting as part of Chinese New Year. The highlight of the term, though, was our sleepover at Shepreth Wildlife Park, with a twilight tour of the park and lots of fun activities run by the rangers.



The summer term is always busy as we try to get out and about most weeks. Beavers hiked and did archery, helped out at the allotments, enjoyed a competitive Sports Day, and visited the Raptor Foundation. There was also the annual Beavers in Tents district camp, which gave us chance to camp, meet children from across the district and take part in lots of fun challenges.



Another highlight for Beavers was a visit to Huntingdon Police Station, where we toured the cells, tried on the uniform and set off the sirens in the van!



We end with a 'thank you' to all the leaders, who put in way more than 'just an hour a week' and to our parents, who continue to support us via the parent rota or who come along and share their specific skills and expertise with our young people. Here's to another busy year of Beaving in 2024-25!

Emma Waldron-Smythe
Beaver Scout Leader

5. Cubs Annual Report

Summary

I couldn't believe it when I was asked to write this year's annual report: it only felt like yesterday that I wrote the last one. However, then I went through our programme and looked at what we have done. I cannot believe everything we have managed to fit in and all the experiences we have been able to teach and share with our young people since autumn last year.

What comes next in this report could not happen without the team of volunteers we have within our Cub pack, so a big thank you needs to go to Alice McMenamain, Carly Harrison, Claire Greer, Gareth Burrows, Georgia Graveling, Jamie Ward, Julianne Ince and Robin Evans. They give so much week in, week out, outside of the 1.5-hour weekly session and we could not achieve everything we do without them. I feel fortunate we have the leadership we do.

During the year we said goodbye to ten Cubs, most of whom continued their journey into Scouts. With these places available we welcomed 11 new young people into the pack, taking three young people from the waiting list and giving them an introduction to scouting. We also welcomed two new assistant section leaders; however, one has since decided to leave the pack due to other commitments. As always, and similarly with other sections, this means we are looking for more adult helpers to join the team.

This year we have presented eight Cubs with their Chief Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Cub can achieve, and a massive well done and shout out should go to Luke Boyle, Sam Boyle, Daniel Cox, Samuel Hawkins, Joseph Waldron, Alfie Smith, Lucas Parker and Oliver Bevan.

In total this year we awarded a total of 351 badges, an increase of 33% compared to last year's 263 badges. A huge thank you to our leadership team who continue to work hard to put together a programme that allows our young people to tick these badge elements off and to our families for the work completing elements of badges at home.

Autumn Term 2023

The autumn term normally involves more indoor activities as it gets darker and the weather is not always on our side. Fortunately, we had some really great evenings planned and some visits too. The autumn term started with what is now becoming the tradition of a Copley camp, which saw us to do some back-to-basic activities as well as trip to St Ives One Leisure for a spot of bowling. We ended the camp with a hike and a lovely bottle of fizzy Ribena, thankfully donated to us by Nisa in Fenstanton.



Phil Boyle, one of our scouting parents came in to demonstrate his drumming skills and ran a fantastic percussion evening that all the Cubs enjoyed. I am not sure the Fen Drayton Village Hall tables could say the same.

We took a trip to the Joinery shop in Bluntisham, thanks to Chil, and worked on our DIY badge, made our own wooden key rings and learned about the process of taking wood and turning it into a door or staircase.



The term ended as it normally does; with us making Christmas cards for a local community, and some carol singing, this time with our cubs visiting Hilton to sing Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Twelve Days of Christmas. Our Christmas party took a break from the ice rink where we have celebrated the last

two years, and instead the Cub pack went for a private session at Clip 'n Climb to see out the term.

Spring Term 2024

There was another great term of activities planned in the spring of this year. A highlight was our trip with the Beaver colony to the pantomime, "Oh no, it wasn't" I hear you say? Oh yes it was!!!!



Another highlight for our Cubs this term was the Chip Shop Challenge in St Ives, which saw us try a couple of different chips shops and eat A LOT of chips while walking a couple of miles during the evening. We also held a skills night where the Cubs learned and practiced a variety of skills including making tea and coffee, laying a table, changing a duvet, pumping a bike wheel, sewing, tying shoe laces, peeling vegetables, changing light bulbs and batteries and wiring a plug!!!!

We ran another knifework evening to allow an opportunity to practice our bushcraft skills, working on safe knife handling and whittling. This was done across two evenings, as we split the pack in two. The other group, when not mastering knives, were working on creating willow fish, which I hope parents appreciated their young people bringing home!



We also ran two emergency first aid evenings, covering off Emergency Aid Level 2 badge, and celebrated World Book Day a little bit earlier than the schools, giving everyone, young people and leaders, a chance to dress up as their favourite characters.



Summer Term 2024

Our summer term was jam packed and it was hard when writing this to pick out some highlights. I think young people and leaders would agree that Kip on a Ship was an amazing experience. We were very fortunate to tour and stay on HMS Cavalier as well as go in a Cold War submarine. The Cubs were well behaved throughout the stay.



As the evenings are lighter and longer and the weather better, we were able to get out more this term. We are very fortunate and thankful that we have access to Meadow Lodge Farm in Bluntisham, and had a great evening orienteering there.

We ran a den building activity at Hinchingsbrooke Park, practicing our knots and pioneering skills building different dens. We put our archery training into practice running archery activities across split evenings with a bike ride.

Jacala created an "I'm a Cub, get me out of here" evening and wow, wow, wow, what a night that was! Our young people, leaders and adult helpers all got involved including the eating of crickets and mealworms.

We represented the pack and the group at the Fenstanton Big Village Fun Day and it was great to see so many families there and the sing-song on stage made us a very proud leadership team.

We had another opportunity for a night away with our camp at Great Wilbraham, which was such an amazing site. A big thank you to Robin Evans for organising that. Archery, knifework and orienteering were back on the menu, along with a barbecue for dinner.



Finally, we ended the term with a visit to Little Paxton Aqua Park with the Scouts again, which is always a success and great fun.

In Closing

As I said, we have achieved a lot. I have been proud of everything our team do for our young people and the community. I am also proud and impressed by the behaviour we have seen in our young people so wish to say thank you to our scouting families. It is an absolute pleasure working with your children and seeing them grow and develop.

Finally, I have said it already, but cannot say it enough. A huge thank you to our Cub Scout leadership team. If you do see them and do feel thankful, please let them know as your words and feedback mean a lot to each and every one of them.



Here's to another awesome year and I will aim to keep the Cub report a little briefer for 2025!

Dave Bevan/Akela

P.S. Please feel free to get in touch with me directly if you want to join the team 😊

6. Scouts Annual Report

I'm pleased to report a busy and successful year for the Scout Troop in 2023/24.

During the summer break leader Neil and former member of the troop Georgia attended the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. I'm sure you'll have heard that there were some challenges along the way, but both enjoyed a unique and unforgettable experience. Leader David and Scouts Finlay and John joined the Cromwell Mountaineering Club on their 40th anniversary trip to Meggernie in Scotland.



Our first activity after the summer break was a weekend camp at our local campsite Copley. A group of the older Scouts spent Saturday training and preparing for their Expedition Challenge Hike, while everyone else took part in activities including building an obstacle course, making a pizza oven and cooking our meals on campfires. On Sunday we struck camp and got ready for the Group Activity Day where the Scout section gave family members a chance to have a go at fire lighting and campfire cooking.

Our autumn term programme included stop-motion animation, hearing about Neil's experiences at the Jamboree, a "hunted hike" (where the patrols were chased by leaders), communicator badge (organised by young leader Cameron), campfire cooking, an incident hike, circus skills, a visit to the Cambridge Museum of Technology, supermarket sweep and a control centre incident challenge. We also had a 90th birthday party for leader Poppy, with a huge cake and old-fashioned party games.



In October eight Scouts did their Expedition Challenge Hike – a two-day hike carrying full kit and navigating through the Suffolk countryside. Despite taking different routes the two teams somehow managed to finish within five minutes of each other! This challenge forms part of the Chief Scout's Gold Award, the top award Scouts can gain, which Mia, John and Finlay all achieved during the year. Many congratulations!

In December we held our winter indoor camp at Copley. Activities included a hike, blind-fold cookies, games and swimming, but the highlight was the Christmas party on Saturday evening, with a huge feast and karaoke.



During the spring term we held a troop forum, practised our scouty skills, did some cooking, a Lego-based team challenge, worked on the photographer and air activities badges, and a drop-zone hike. At the troop forum we asked each patrol to plan a meeting for our programme, and during the spring term Cobras patrol organised a pancake evening (cooked on campfires) and Stags

ran an evening of wide games. Our end of term activity was the CryptX escape room.

Two teams entered the annual Forward Hike – a 10-mile hike with challenges along the way. Both teams did brilliantly, finishing the course in good time and performing well in the challenges. They gained 3rd and 7th place in the chaperoned category, which is an excellent result for such young teams.



In April we camped at Two Mile Bottom campsite in Thetford forest. The theme was 'survival' and we practised fire lighting techniques, built shelters, slept in hammocks and used knives to carve chopsticks to eat dinner with. Other activities included archery and laser tag.

In the summer term we continued our series of patrol-led evenings: Lions ran an indoor Olympics, and Eagles organised shelter building with water games. The patrol-led evenings were each a great success, so congratulations to the patrol leaders and their assistant patrol leaders. We made good use of the light evenings with lots of outdoor sessions: archery, pioneering, a bike ride, wide games, a treasure hunt around Fenstanton (organised by young leader Harry), a campfire cooking competition, an evening of rounders with nettle tea, water park, and finally canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding.

Scouts also have opportunities to join activities and trips organised outside of our group. Lewis, Daniel, Isla R, Robert, Jess S and Finlay R all joined climbing and mountaineering trips run by the Cromwell Mountaineering Club. Isla R also joined a CambsMAT mountaineering trip and the Cygnet sailing trip on the Norfolk Broads. As a result, Isla currently leads the nights-away leaderboard with 40 nights away in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts so far. Before leaving to join Explorers, Finlay R gained his 50-nights-away badge, which is rarely awarded. (He spent more than seven weeks away from home!)

All of this happens thanks to the support of a hard-working team of volunteers. Very many thanks to the leaders Jess, Paul, Neil, Caitlin and Poppy; to the young leaders Greg, Harry and Cameron, to Jamie our GSL and to the board of trustees and other supporters. David and Paul both received their 10 years' service award, and Jess her 15 years' service award. Neil received a special award for supporting the county and district as a photographer. The leaders also gained a number of activity permits during the year, enabling us to take Scouts hill walking (David), run archery (David & Jess) and do tomahawk throwing (Neil).

David Riddoch
Scout Leader



7. Other Information

7.1 Communication

Alongside using OSM (onlinescoutmanager.co.uk) to contact you, we have individual email addresses for our Group, which can be used if you need to contact the sections or members of the executive committee directly. These are as follows:

Beavers - beavers@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Cubs - cubs@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Scouts - scouts@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Treasurer - treasurer@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Secretary - secretary@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Membership - membership@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Communications - comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Working with so many different families, we do appreciate that the way we communicate works really well for some families and less well for others, whilst acknowledging that whatever we do (with this or indeed anything else) we are unlikely to please everyone. We use OSM as our primary communication channel. Please make sure all your details are up to date by regularly “checking in” and please do check your email and spam filters to ensure important information about events and activities doesn’t get missed.

If you have any suggestions for consideration (about this or any other topic) please do raise them directly to gsl@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

7.2 Volunteering Opportunities Available

You look like a role model!

At 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts, we LOVE doing what we do – empowering young people with skills for life, helping them make friends for life and starting them on the adventurous journey through Scouting – which can last for life.

But with more than 50 children waiting to join our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections, we need your support. Could you be one of our amazing volunteers who can guide the next generation through their Scouting journey?



With roles to fit around your skills and commitments, volunteering with us is a hugely rewarding experience – and looks great on your CV too!

To find out more about starting or continuing your Scouting journey with us, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/1stFenHilScouts>, or email us at comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk.



#SkillsForLife

Appendix A – Accounts for 2023-2024

Receipts and payments account for the year from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Receipts and payments		
	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions + programme extras	£16,923.31	£13,453.60
Events/Camp income	£7,451.00	£5,121.15
Donations	£1,358.08	£497.51
Gift Aid	£3,193.65	£6,842.34
Uniform income	£180.00	£0.00
Group income	£899.40	£0.00
Sub total	£30,005.44	£25,914.60
Grants		
Covid grant	£0.00	£1,449.00
Sub total	£0.00	£1,449.00
Fundraising events (gross)		
EasyFundraising	£64.92	£29.84
Big Picnic	£331.00	£0.00
Sports Day	£205.70	£60.50
Badge Sewing	£21.00	£0.00
Christmas Lights	£197.37	£191.79
Sub total	£819.99	£282.13
Investment income		
Bank interest	£3,090.50	£0.00
Sub total	£3,090.50	£0.00
Total Gross Income	£33,915.93	£27,645.73
Asset and investment sales, etc.	£0.00	£0.00
Total receipts	£33,915.93	£27,645.73

Receipts and payments

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Membership subscriptions	£4,266.00	£4,171.50
Youth programme and activities	£4,290.01	£2,906.92
Events/camps	£5,537.70	£8,154.11
Rent	£1,606.30	£1,419.12
Badges, woggles, neckers	£1,293.43	£906.63
Land	£0.00	£240.00
Insurance	£457.01	£424.41
Repairs and renewals	£0.00	£0.00
Equipment	£1,350.45	£510.21
Group expenses	£3,007.22	£364.00
Discretionary fund	£120.00	£18.50
Uniforms	£995.52	£0.00
AGM and trustee expenses	£0.00	£0.00
Activity day/AGM	£380.49	£0.00
OSM costs	£218.66	£180.98
Bank charges	£72.00	£72.00
Sub total	£23,594.79	£19,368.38
Fundraising expenses		
Big Picnic	£19.00	£0.00
Sports Day	£20.00	£0.00
Sub total	£39.00	£0.00
Total Gross Expenditure	£23,633.79	£19,368.38
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	£0.00	£0.00
Total payments	£23,633.79	£19,368.38
Net of receipts/(payments)	£10,282.14	£8,277.35
Cash funds last year end	£115,059.30	£106,781.95
Cash funds this year end	£125,341.44	£115,059.30

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	£30,341.44	£30,059.30
Bank deposit account	£95,000.00	£85,000.00
Cash/Floats	£289.50	£289.50
Total cash funds	£125,630.94	£115,348.80
Total net assets	£125,630.94	£115,348.80

Appendix B – Accounts scrutineer’s report

Template for the scrutineer's report to the trustees

Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of 1st Fenstanton & Hilton Scouts

I report on the accounts of the Group/District for the year ended 31st March 2024.....

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's/District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's/District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on pages1..... to ...1.....

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Name:Keith White.....
Address:49 Pitfield Close.....
.....Fenstanton.....
.....PE28 9FE.....
.....
Date:06 August 2024.....



Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0	1	0	4	2	3
---	---	---	---	---	---

 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scout Group																																																											
---------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Other names the charity is known by

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Registered charity number (if any)

1	1	9	7	0	3	7
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

HQ registration number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Charity's principal address

Ashcroft, The Fen																																																											
Fenstanton																																																											
Huntingdon																																																											
Postcode															P	E	2	8	9	J	T																																						

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity
(These will be published in the annual report of the charity and the Charity Register if reporting for a Registered Charity with a charity regulator)

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Mike Wenham	Chair	
2	Becca Graveling	Secretary	
3	Marilyn Hollingdale	Treasurer	
4	Jamie Ward	Group Lead Volunteer	
5	Cathy Fewtrell	Trustee	
6	Ian Hucklesby	Trustee	
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)
(These will be published in the annual report of the charity)

Type of advisor	Name	Address

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

The Group'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

(e.g. trust, association, company)

The Group 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.

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

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

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.

Policies and procedures adopted for:

- a) the induction and training of trustees;
- b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 4 Trustees (including 1 Ex Officio 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 (Specimen 1)

The Group 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:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group does not own any property and rents meeting spaces for section meetings from third-parties (local village hall and local school). These meeting places are covered by independent insurance held by the third parties. The Group has sufficient contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss, and is covered by the Public Liability insurance of the Scout Association.

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.

Reduced income from fundraising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions, Gift Aid, and fundraising. The group holds sufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently, if required.

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.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 14. If there was a reduction in membership in a 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.

Risk and Internal Control (Specimen 2)

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
-----------	---------------------------

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
--	---

<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects</p>	<p>The Group delivers a programme of fun, challenging and adventurous activities through weekly section meetings, day trips, and nights away, which are all run in accordance with the Policies, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association. The programme is delivered by adult volunteers and is shaped by young people through their input of ideas and age-appropriate peer leadership roles.</p>
--	--

Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

<p>You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy on grantmaking; • contribution made by volunteers; • policy on investments. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px;"></div>
---	---

<p>Public benefit statement</p>	<p>The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the</p>
---------------------------------	---

advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Continued to run successful Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections, maintaining a healthy youth membership of 75 young people (as of Scout Census in January 2024) (2023: 78 youth members). The Group has also recruited and retained a strong team of adult volunteers who have successfully worked together to deliver the programme in a safe and sustainable manner (2024: 23 adult volunteers. 2023: 23 adult 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 3 months running costs, circa £5000.

The Group held reserves of approximately £5000 against this at year end. This is at the level required to cover operating expenses in the event of a shortfall in income. The Group also has significant additional funds ringfenced for other purposes to secure the long-term future of the group (see Section F below).

Quantify and explain any designations

Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)

N/A

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);

Investment Policy (Specimen 1)

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.

• how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;

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.

• investment policy and objectives;

Investment Policy (Specimen 2)

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

A significant proportion of the Group's capital funds are ringfenced for the potential development of a Scout Hut on land which is due to be leased to the Group from the Parish Council (subject to securing the lease agreement). These funds were raised through a generous grant following the closure and disposal of the former Literary Institute in Fenstanton.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

M Wenham

Full name(s)

M Wenham

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Chair

Date

0 1 0 9 2 4

1ST FENSTANTON AND HILTON SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1197037

Accounts



**1st Fenstanton & Hilton
Scout Group**

**Trustees' Annual Report
September 2023**

CONTENTS

1. Introduction - Chair's report.....	3
2. Group Scout Leader's Report	4
3. Treasurer's Report	5
4. Beavers Annual Report	6
5. Cubs Annual Report	8
6. Scouts Annual Report	14
7. Other Information	18
7.1 Communication.....	18
7.2 Fenstanton Land Opportunity	19
7.3 Volunteering Opportunities Available	20
Appendix A – Accounts for 2022-2023	21

1. Introduction - Chair's report

1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scout Group have had another extremely successful year and my thanks go to all the Group's leaders, Trustee Board members, Young Leaders and helpers.

Those of you that have Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will know all about the exciting programmes the leaders provide for our young people, however the section reports (Scouts, Cubs and Beavers) show just how busy they have all been, so well done to our dedicated adult volunteers.

The Group can only continue to thrive from adult support, so if you are able to give any time at all, speak to any of the leaders or Trustee Board members about joining our adult volunteers.

Currently the group needs volunteer support in many areas. Depending where your skill set lies, you may be able to help. It may be as a quartermaster, looking after the group's equipment, it may be as Trustee Board member dealing with governance, or as a helper at weekly meetings.

The group has 80 young people currently with a full waiting/joining list for all sections, so if you are able to donate any time at all please do – your Group needs you.

You will see from the accounts that the Group is financially stable and my thanks go to the treasurer for all the work she has done in maintaining the records and producing the monthly updates and annual statement of accounts. This year the accounts include a large sum from our Gift Aid claim, so any of you that have not signed up for this, please do so if you possibly can.

The long-term plan of securing a permanent building for the group is ongoing and more details are supplied further in this report.

You may recall that I volunteered to step in as your Group's Chair as an interim measure, so if you think that the Chair is the role for you, please contact me: Chair@CromwellScouts.org.uk

Yours in Scouting

Mike Wenham
Group Chair

2. Group Scout Leader's Report

My report for Fenstanton and Hilton Scout Group has been a challenge to write, due to taking over only in November 2022, so I haven't had many months with the group, and I will confess I haven't been to the sections (Scouts, Cubs and Beavers) as much as I would have liked. I first came across Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts last year, where I heard some very joyful children taking part in an activity in the courtyard by my house. It was the Cub leadership team running an activity. Because the courtyard is shared access, and I knew my wife could arrive home at any time, I had to politely ask for the activity be moved to the side. The leaders recognised me from first aid training and invited me to the AGM and it was there that I discovered there was no Group Scout Leader (GSL) for Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts. I was already GSL at Cottenham and whilst I had no intention of leaving, I felt I could help Fenstanton and Hilton with recruitment of a new GSL, Chair and other supporting roles, which I also achieved at Cottenham through running a group activity day. I met with Sue Best, our District Commissioner, and here I am, GSL of two Scout Groups.

At Fenstanton and Hilton I feel the children have a great access to camps and activities, I've seen sections take part in many district events such 'Beavers in Tents' and St. George's Day. There have been fantastic camps, such as the Space Centre Sleep-over, Cubs and Scouts summer camps and many, many more. This is all from the dedication of the leadership team, who I feel are great heroes of the community. There are also great things and ideas I have stolen for Cottenham Scouts.

With the changes that come into Scouting I really want to encourage parent involvement and volunteering; you don't have to be a leader to volunteer in Scouting, there are lots of support roles which could ease the burden on leaders and I really hope in the coming months and years, we can grow the support for the Group.

To sign off, I want to express my sincerest thanks to the leaders and to the board of trustees. It's been an absolute pleasure leading the group and I will always be here to support and offer my services to the group should the need arise.

Asa French
Group Scout Leader

3. Treasurer's Report

Subs were £14 per month until December and were increased to £16 from January, which was the first increase for four years.

The cost of UK Scout Association membership was £4171.50 and is likely to increase for 2023/24.

We have been able to restart fundraising activities and participated in the Fenstanton sports day and Christmas lights event.

Our net of receipts over payments was £8,277.35. This was achieved mainly because we received a grant of £1,449 from the Scout Association to cover COVID losses and we claimed £6,842.34 from HMRC for four years Gift Aid (April 2018 to March 2022).

Gift Aid is an important addition to our finances. If you pay tax and sign up for Gift Aid with the Group, we can reclaim £48 a year from the government for a year's subs, at no cost to you. This gives us more money to spend on your children's scouting activities.

Independent scrutiny of these accounts is complete.

Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of the accounts.

Marilyn Hollingdale
Treasurer

4. Beavers Annual Report

Our Beavers have had another busy year!



We started the Autumn term with a visit to Meadow Lodge Farm, where we did some apple pressing and enjoyed a nature walk. We also attended the ever-popular Sausage Sizzle event at Copley, cooking over fires and enjoying wide games and songs with Beavers from across the Cromwell district. Back in Fen Drayton, we had a skills night, including learning to sew on badges (an essential Scout skill!).

In the spring, we were the first ever community group to visit the new Huntingdon Fire Station, where we were had a tour of the appliances and a really interesting talk about the different jobs the fire service do. Almost all the Beavers went home and checked their smoke alarms too, which was a great takeaway!



Summer was really busy, with us out and about almost every week! Beavers built dens and went pond dipping at Hinchingbrooke park, undertook a village litter pick and did some archery, in addition to a very competitive Sports Day evening.



We also had two fantastic sleepovers – one at the National Space Centre in Leicester and one night under canvas at the district-wide Beavers in Tents event.



As the Beavers year drew to a close, we celebrated with dampers and s'mores at Copley. Sadly though, we said goodbye to our Beaver Scout Leader, Matt Wynn, who is departing for Sea Scouts. We're looking forward to taking him up on his promise of bell boating next year though!

We end with a 'thank you' to all the leaders, who put in way more than 'just an hour a week' and to our parents, who continue to support us via the parent rota or who come along and share their specific skills and expertise with our young people.

Here's to another busy year of Beavering ahead!

Emma Waldron-Smythe
Beaver Scout Leader

5. Cubs Annual Report

Autumn Term 2022 – Summer Term 2023 - Summary

Wow! Another year has passed and the Cub pack has seen a huge amount of change in my first full year as Akela. We have seen 11 cubs leave the pack, with a further 10 joining us, keeping our pack size one of the largest in the Cromwell district.

We have also seen two young leaders leave the pack, one of whom went to focus on their GCSEs, and the other who stayed within the group and moved to help our Scout troop. What was great, was that we had one of our young leaders from Scouts join the pack to help balance those numbers.

Finally, over the course of this year, we have sadly said goodbye to three assistant section leaders, who have left the pack for various reasons. The exciting news is, this means that we have spaces for leaders within our cub pack, should it interest you 😊

With all that being said, we have achieved a HUGE amount. It is only when looking back to the write the report that I can see just how much our young people have achieved, and it is truly phenomenal. This year, we have been able to award five Cubs with the highest honour they can achieve during their time as a Cub Scout, with them working hard to earn their Chief Scout Silver award. A special shout out to those five Cubs; Finley Harrison, Isla Riddoch, Baxter Gregory, Andrew Bicknell and Kate Hollins. As I said, the pack made some huge achievements and this year we awarded a total of 263 badges across our three terms.



Autumn Term (September 2022 – December 2022)



Autumn 2022 may seem like a long time ago for some, so to remind you of what was happening, we had a busy and fun-packed term that was kicked off by us hosting the Cubs district hike. This saw 13 Cub groups and over 100 Cubs plus adult volunteers descend on our usual meeting place at Fen Drayton Village Hall to do a hike around the lakes, along the guided bus route, down the Fen, past the MUGA and back to our meeting spot. There were bases along the way including a first aid station to learn about bandaging, a knot station to tie (and eat strawberry laces) and a station to commemorate and think about our late Queen who passed away just before our term started.

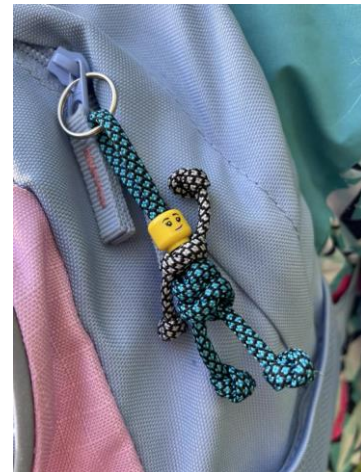
The Cubs then headed into St Ives for an evening run by Grey Brother on Road Safety, learning the Green Cross Code, as well as identifying and drawing 10 different road signs. While this was fun

and educational, I think the things the Cubs liked most about that evening was the chips at the end of the walk. Flunkey Monkey then kept the fun going, helping the Cubs work on their Entertainer badge as we prepped for our Autumn camp which we held at the end of September.



Our Autumn camp was held at Copley and saw the Cubs participate in a wide range of activities, including making Lego paracord buddies, roller-skating at One Leisure, hiking down the thicket, pioneering by making hammocks and fire lighting. This special birthday cake wheel was a new addition to our fire lighting session, where the cubs had to stuff the candles with fuel and then race to get a spark and light their candle first.

The Autumn term continued with some other great evenings and activities including map reading with Baloo, and working towards the Community Impact badge with a trip to visit the



Godmanchester food bank. In addition, there was an orienteering evening around Copley where the Cubs had to find clues that led them to a location with a lock box, and they had to use the code they found to find the ingredients for... S'MORES around the campfire. The Royal Navy came to visit us to tell us about what they do and to show how important teamworking is with some really fun and interesting games. We celebrated fireworks night by making our own edible marshmallow sparklers, as well as using sparklers outside the village hall. Iki and Jacala worked on the World badge with the pack by talking about Diwali, the festival of light, with a variety of activities including running around with glow sticks in the dark to create light patterns (as evidenced below).



The autumn term was rounded off with another fundraising quiz night hosted by one of our young leaders, Rocky (Georgia Graveling), for her participation in the World Scout Jamboree in Korea. It was amazing to see so many of our Cubs and Cub families there supporting her, so a big thank you. We then did some Christmas crafts, making Christmas cards for a local care home, and learnt some Christmas carols before taking to the streets of Fenstanton to visit some elderly residents, most of whom were over 90, to sing either '12 Days of Christmas' or 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer', again, working on giving back to the community in two different ways. I couldn't have been more proud of the Cubs in these two weeks, thinking about others, and the smiles they put on people's faces when they sang was great. Our final session of the autumn term was all about fun as we returned to the Cambridge ice rink for a joint evening with our Scout troop as we went ice skating.

It was sad to say goodbye to Rama (Alison Clough) and Harry Hucklesby (Grey Brother) at the end of this term and I wanted to say thank you to both of them for all of their hard work and all they gave to the pack.

Spring Term (January 2023 – March 2023)

After Christmas, we started with a bang. A new young leader Mang (Alice McMahon), joined the team. We offered another very balanced programme this term working towards all different badges. This included science experiments with Bagheera, making balloon bottle cars, working more on our world badge by learning about Chinese New Year, as well as starting work on our air activities badge with a visit to Duxford Air Museum.



In addition to all of this, in the spring term we introduced bushcraft skills to the pack. I couldn't be prouder of how the leaders managed this, thinking about safety, risk assessments and organisation; how supportive you, as parents and carers were in trusting us; and of our Cub pack in how seriously they took the risks to be and how well behaved they were. We introduced knifework to the Cub pack, first by explaining UK knife law, showing them a selection of bladed items ranging from saws and knives to scissors and world war bayonets



We explained the blood bubble and the danger triangle, we demonstrated how to safely pass a knife from one person to another, how to safely sheath and unsheathe a knife, and demonstrated three different types of cuts you can do, all using wooden knives. We then allowed the Cubs to try these with carrots. Confident with the Cubs' ability, we allowed them to hold a real knife and work with wood to create feather sticks to practice their knifework.

In addition to this, during our spring term the Cubs visited Miller's Music to learn about pianos and reading music, had a chance to make their own magical, Harry Potter-esque wand and also work on their Home and Personal Safety badge. The term ended with a hike around Hilton, as we said goodbye to Flunkey Monkey (Charlie Hitchins) and one of young leaders, Iki (Iris Allen). I wanted to mention them as both have offered a huge amount, and send them both a huge heartfelt thank you for all of their support.

Summer Term (April 2023 – July 2023)

After a short break celebrating the Easter holidays, our summer term kicked off with the district St George's Day parade. We had a really great group presence there, but I wanted to give a special mention to Hannah Jablonska, who represented 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Cubs by doing an amazing job leading the Cub Scout promise in front of over 500 people. The Cubs ran our pipe game from last year's AGM at the event and saw our District Commissioner, County Commissioner and the Mayor of St Ives working together to try and solve our game and show the importance of team working.

We took part in another district event shortly after, as we returned back to Copley for a district sausage sizzle and I am proud to say that the 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Leaders dominated the campfire singing. Our album will be available for purchase shortly, although based on our Summer camp, I think all of our Cubs can sing the songs without our lead now!

The weather was definitely on our side this year with an early summer, so we made the most of some outside activities from May onwards. We went orienteering in Hinchingsbrooke Park and took a nature hike in Knapwell. We also spent some awesome split evenings pond dipping at Meadow Lodge Farm and shooting some arrows in our archery evenings, thanks to our support from our Beaver leaders (Jess Jardine and Matt Wynn).



games on the boats. The second was some kayaking and splashing. Finally, the Cubs were all invited, if they weren't already, to get wet by jumping into the river. I am pretty sure this activity is a favourite for most Cubs and a great evening was had by all.

As we rounded off July, Rocky ran an evening about Independence Day with our Cubs, and we took them all on a joint evening with our Scout troop to Little Paxton Aqua Park.

Our term was wrapped up with our Summer Camp at Jordans Close near Bedford, where we took part in raft building, rifle shooting, hiking and fire lighting. The Friday was very wet while the leaders put up the tents, but the weather held out, and with nearly a full pack in attendance, it was another very awesome camp. We were able to invest some new Cubs and present more Chief Scout Silver Awards, but sadly also used this as our opportunity to say goodbye to Baloo (John Hutchinson) as he stepped down from his

We offered some more weekend experiences for our Cubs, first we took the pack to Shepreth Wildlife Park, where we learnt about conservation, made some posters, played some team games and saw the animals. Second, we had a private session on Holt Island with the Sea Scouts, where we had two sessions on the water. The first was on bell boats, where we paddled down the River Great Ouse, and then moored up and did some



role of Assistant Section Leader to join Sea Scouts. A huge thank you to John who did a lot in his time with the group.

There you go, I said we achieved a lot and I can honestly say that it has been a fantastic year with 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Cubs. As you have seen, we lost leaders every term. As such, I do ask you to think if you can help in any way and encourage you to chat with me or another leader if you think you can. I can promise the leaders have as much fun during these activities as the kids (there have to be benefits, right?) and that this programme and what we have achieved with your young people could not happen if it wasn't for them. For that reason, I want to say a massive, enormous, huge, gigantic, colossal (that's about all the synonyms I think I can use) thank you to Carly Harrison (Jacala), Jamie Ward (Bagheera), Julianne Ince (Raksha), Robin Evans (Chil) and our young leaders; Alice McMahon (Mang) and Georgia Graveling (Rocky), as none of this would have happened if they didn't give up their time and energy.

Akela (Dave Bevan)

6. Scouts Annual Report

The Scout troop have had another busy and successful year in 2022/23. The autumn term programme was a mix of outdoor activities (cycling, hiking, campfire cooking), indoor activities (model making, communication badge, troop forum and a team Lego challenge) and a visit to the aircraft museum at Shuttleworth. For the end of term treat we went ice skating with the Cubs, which we survived with no significant injuries.

In December we ran an indoor camp at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. We spent plenty of time outdoors, with knifework, campfires, orienteering and games. On Saturday afternoon the patrols took part in the Pizza Challenge, in which they designed their own pizza and packaging, shopped for ingredients and cooked their creations. In the evening everyone joined in with karaoke, displaying great enthusiasm and volume, and perhaps a little less refinement and musical accuracy 😊.



In the spring we spent a couple of evenings improving our navigation skills and practising team challenges. These skills came in handy when we entered two teams in the Forward Hike, a team competition involving navigating a ten-mile route with challenges along the way. The A team did brilliantly, finishing in third place (of 18), and the B team also did extremely well (8th out of 16 teams in their category) for a young team in their first competition. Congratulations to all who took part.

Other activities during spring term included astronomy (many thanks Chris Fewtrell), a treasure hunt organised by Alice, the chip-shop challenge, campfire cooking, learning knots and lashings, a hobbies night, and Morris dancing with the Fenstanton Morris group. We also visited the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge, and ended the term at bouncing around at InflataNation.

In May we spent a weekend camping at John's Lee Wood campsite. There, we took part in climbing, abseiling, air rifle shooting, low ropes course and shelter building, as well as cooking some delicious meals on the campfires. Most of the Scouts had a go at sleeping in hammocks, and this was so popular we've decided to buy some more to avoid disappointment!





We spent most of the summer term outdoors, with campfire cooking, a treasure hunt, a Scouts vs. leaders competition (which the Scouts mostly won!), a bike ride, archery, sailing and rafting. The end of term treat was the aqua park at South Lakes Water Park with the Cubs. This was hugely enjoyed by everyone who took part – including leaders and parents. We also performed an investiture ceremony out on the obstacles.

Other events during the year included: A quiz night organised by former Scout Georgia, to raise funds for the World Scout Jamboree, Remembrance Sunday and St George's Day parades, the Coronation Big Picnic and Fenstanton Village Sports Day, where Scouts, leaders and parents ran the coconut shy and slippery pole to raise funds for the group. A number of members of the troop joined the Cromwell Mountaineering Club for hill

walking trips in Snowdonia, the Peak District and Scotland. Neil (leader) and Georgia (former Scout) recently returned from the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, which they enjoyed despite the difficulties widely reported in the news.

At Christmas we said goodbye to young leader Alice, who moved to Cubs. Many thanks for all your help, Alice. And we said hello to Harry and Cameron who have joined us as young leaders.

As announced in last year's report, Jess stood down as the troop section leader at the end of last year, but we're very fortunate that she is staying as a member of the leadership team. Jess was section leader for ten years and did an absolutely brilliant job. Thank you, Jess, for your incomparable enthusiasm, leadership, contributions, and support given to the Scouts and the rest of the leadership team.

This year's programme would not have been possible without the huge amount of time and effort put in by the troop leadership team. Very many thanks to Jess, Paul, Neil, Alice, Harry and Cameron. We'd also like to express our thanks to the wider group leadership team including GSL Asa, and the Board of Trustees. While the existing team of leaders do a great job there are times when we are a little short-handed (usually due to work commitments) and so would love to hear from anyone who would like to join the team.



Finally, a special mention to Poppy who will shortly be celebrating her 90th birthday. Poppy has been a leader at the troop almost forever, was camping with us into her 80s and still comes along occasionally to troop nights. Very many thanks Poppy, and a very Happy Birthday to you from us all.

David Riddoch
Scout Leader

PS More photos from a great year of Scouting are below.





7. Other Information

7.1 Communication

Alongside using OSM (onlinescoutmanager.co.uk) to contact you, we have individual email addresses for our Group, which can be used if you need to contact the sections or members of the executive committee directly. These are as follows:

Beavers - beavers@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Cubs - cubs@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Scouts - scouts@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Treasurer - treasurer@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Secretary - secretary@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Membership - membership@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Communications - comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

Working with so many different families, we do appreciate that the way we communicate works really well for some families and less well for others, whilst acknowledging that whatever we do (with this or indeed anything else) we are unlikely to please everyone. We use OSM as our primary communication channel. Please make sure all your details are up to date by regularly “checking in” and please do check your email and spam filters to ensure important information about events and activities doesn’t get missed.

If you have any suggestions for consideration (about this or any other topic) please do raise them directly to secretary@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk

7.2 Fenstanton Land Opportunity

You may be wondering what has happened in the process of securing land for the usage of the Scout group. The situation at the moment is that legal searches have revealed that the area of land under the Huntingdon District Council 106 agreement with Kier Developments has a clause within it on the land that states "it must be used for green space or village hall". Therefore, this agreement has to be changed to enable a different building application (i.e., Scout hut) to be successful. As a group, we wish to ensure that this is all in place before firstly we sign the legal agreement for the leasing of the land (and with it all responsibilities) and secondly, we undertake the application (and necessary expense, fees etc.) for planning permission for a building to be used as a Scout hut. This process to change the agreement has been sitting with Huntingdon District Council (HDC) Planning department for months and has been chased numerous times by our Scout group solicitor, the solicitor acting on behalf of Fenstanton Parish Council and our local District Councillor, Clare Tevlin. The Parish Council have agreed to cover the cost of this change and are as keen as we are to see the process completed. If anyone has a contact at HDC Planning who may be able to help, please speak to Ian Hucklesby. We do hope this change happens in the near future so the lease can be signed and we can move this exciting project forward.

Ian Hucklesby
(Frustrated) Chair Land Group

7.3 Volunteering Opportunities Available

You look like a role model!

At 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts, we LOVE doing what we do – empowering young people with skills for life, helping them make friends for life and starting them on the adventurous journey through Scouting – which can last for life.

But with more than 50 children waiting to join our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections, we need your support. Could you be one of our amazing volunteers who can guide the next generation through their Scouting journey?



With roles to fit around your skills and commitments, volunteering with us is a hugely rewarding experience – and looks great on your CV too!

To find out more about starting or continuing your Scouting journey with us, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/1stFenHilScouts>, or email us at comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk.



#SkillsForLife

Appendix A – Accounts for 2022-2023

1st Fenstanton & Hilton Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account 2022/2023

For the year from 1st April 2022

to 31st March 2023

to 31st March 2022

Receipts		
Membership Subscriptions + program extras	£13,453.60	12,250.00
Less:(Nat/County/Area/District) membership subs	-£4,171.50	-3,686.00
Net subscriptions retained	£9,282.10	8,564.00
Camp/Trip receipts	£5,121.15	4,949.49
Donations	£497.51	543.00
Gift Aid (4 yrs.)	£6,842.34	0.00
Covid grant	£1,449.00	0.00
Grants (Land)	£0.00	72,000.00
Donations (Land)	£0.00	1,050.00
Sub total	£23,192.10	£87,106.49
Sports day	£60.50	0.00
Christmas Lights	£191.79	0.00
Group Uniform	£0.00	167.50
Easy Fundraising	£29.84	22.86
Sub total	£282.13	£190.36
Total Gross Income	£23,474.23	£87,296.85
Total Receipts	£27,645.73	£90,982.85
Payments		
Youth programme	£2,906.92	2,975.70
Camp/Trip costs (& refunds 20/21)	£8,154.11	3,083.13
Uniforms	£0.00	158.85
Equipment	£510.21	194.09
Badges, woggles, neckers	£906.63	587.80
Rent/Insurance	£1,843.53	1,242.98
OSM charges	£180.98	173.70
Unity bank service	£72.00	72.00
Core Expenses	£364.00	1,098.06
Land	£240.00	0.00
Discretionary fund	£18.50	0.00

Total Gross Expenditure	£15,196.88	£9,586.31
(Nat/County/Area/District) membership subs	£4,171.50	3,686.00
Total Payments	£19,368.38	£13,272.31
Net of receipts/(payments)	£8,277.35	£77,710.54
Cash funds last year end	£106,781.95	29,071.41
Cash funds this year end	£115,059.30	£106,781.95