



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	April	2024		31 <sup>st</sup>	March	2025

### Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **84TH READING SCOUT GROUP**

Other names charity is known by **84th Reading (1st Earley St Peter's) Scout Group**

Registered charity number (if any) **268450**

Charity's principal address **7A Finch Road**

**Earley**

**Reading**

**Postcode**

**RG6 7JX**

#### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Akshay Sekhri	Group Chair	21/03/2025 - Present	District Scout Leader
2	Jason Sutton	Group Treasurer		84th Reading Scout Group Council
3	Tiffany Forshaw	Group Secretary		84th Reading Scout Group Council
4	Richard Taylor	Scout Leader		Group Scout Leader
5	Vicki Randall	Membership Secretary		84th Reading Scout Group Council
6	Malcolm Paine			84th Reading Scout Group Council
7	Ian Abbott			84th Reading Scout Group Council
8	Kevin Deadman			84th Reading Scout Group Council
9				

#### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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## Section B

## Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	ROYAL CHARTER 4TH JANUARY 1912
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Scout Group
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Some appointed, some elected.

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

The Scout Group is a member of The Scout Association and is supported by Loddon Scout District and Berkshire Scout County. The Policies and procedures are those of The Scout Association (charity no. 306101).

## Section C

## Objectives and activities

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

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to 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.

### Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

We deliver inspiring activities and programmes for young people consistent with our vision of Scouting being shaped by young people in partnership with adults. We deliver the nationally directed programme of development for Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts, including Skills for Life.

The Group's Trustees have a duty to report on the Group's public benefit in the Annual Report. We have assessed our aims, objectives and activities and believe we have met the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria for both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development.

### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

Activities are run by volunteer Leaders and helpers.

Our Group is currently without a Group Volunteer Leader (GVL) at present and therefore the Board of Trustees has provided the following Review of Scouting in the Group.

#### **Volunteers**

##### **Leaders**

We would like to thank our leader team:

**Beaver team** leaders and members Alison Swaddle (Warthog), Martin Stanfield (Dragon) and Ella Cockburn (Frog);

**Cub team** leaders and members Lisa Methven (Akela), Mark Fielding (Rocky) and Ronan McDonnell (Baloo);

**Scouts team** leaders and members Richard Taylor, Oscar Manning, Dan Radford and Natasha Ormerod;

**Sea Scouts** team leaders and members Alvin Blackmore, Laura Humphreys, Dan Radford, James Blay and Nathaniel Paine.

The hours they volunteer to give the children brilliant experiences and life-long lessons which enrich their lives is unbelievable and we are truly grateful to them.

We would also like to thank our young helpers with Adrian in Beavers; Elliot, Akilesh and Charlie in Cubs; and Alec in Sea Scouts. As well as thanking our young volunteers Milo, Ben, Mannat and Chloe in completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award placements with Beavers.

### **The Group**

Our Group comprises 97 boys and girls (24 Beavers, 33 Cubs, 18 Sea Scouts and 22 Scouts). Their skills, guidance, commitment and passion translate to enrich the lives of our young people, resulting in lifelong memories, experiences and achievements.

### **The Board of Trustees**

We would lastly like to let you know about some of the vital work carried out behind the scenes by the Board of Trustees in the running of the Group:

**Chairman** Akshay Sekhri. He is a Beaver parent.

**Treasurer** *Jason Sutton*, ensures our accounts are in order, manages our budget and deals with payments and funds received. He is a Sea Scout parent.

**Secretary** *Tiffany Forshaw*, arranges our Trustee meetings and takes the Minutes. She is a Beaver parent.

**IT specialist** *Kevin Deadman*, runs our website, emails and creates our Newsletters along with his wife Sara. They are Beaver parents.

**Scout Leader** *Richard Taylor*, who is also **Leader Representative**. Richard communicates on behalf of all the other Leaders at the Board of Trustee meetings. He is the **Quartermaster** and looked after our minibus and he also ran the Christmas Tree fundraiser this year.

**Parent Volunteer** *Malcolm Paine*, organises our annual Regatta fundraiser event which includes the catering and stake boats over two weekends. He is a Sea Scout parent.

**Property Co-ordinator** *Ian Abbott*, takes care of our property as they require maintenance. He is a Scout parent.

**Membership Co-ordinator** *Vicki Randall*. Organises the waiting lists and linking as the children move through the Sections. She is also our DBS check coordinator and manages the annual census.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

Our Group is currently without a Group Volunteer Leader (GVL) at present and therefore the Board of Trustees has provided the following Review of Scouting in the Group.

**Badges**

We see all the badges sewn onto the children's tops which look fantastic representing all their achievements throughout their time with us and thank you to parents for all the sewing unless your child sews on their own badges!

**Section Activities**

The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Sea Scouts have undertaken a vast range of activities this last year including just some of the following:

**Beavers**

The Friday night Beaver Scouts had a fantastic year filled with fun, adventure and friendship. Our thriving colony has embraced every opportunity to develop skills for life. Most Beavers swim up to Cubs following their 8th birthday and those who complete all six Challenge badges, earn at least four Activity badges, and experience at least one night away with Beavers are awarded the Chief Scout Bronze Award. This year, we proudly presented this award to 6 Beavers.

Highlights include:

- Many outdoor pursuits with footgolf, paddling on the Thames in katakanoes, exploring Harris Gardens and Redhatch Copse, and hiking through High Wood and South Lake.
- Visiting Paddicks Patch pitching tents and toasting marshmallows and took part in a litter pick with EASI volunteers Les and Brenda (former Group Treasurer).
- Sleepover at the Caversham Scout Centre and joining the Cubs and Scouts Camp at Youlbury enjoying climbing, fencing, campfire songs and games.
- Remembrance Service at Earley St. Peter's and presented a wreath made by all the Beavers.
- learning about Emergency Aid, welcomed a local dentist to learn about dental care and practised the NATO phonetic alphabet. We earned our Digital Citizen Activity badge and conducted science experiments as well as making delicious pizzas.
- Exploring Fair Trade, recycling and water filtration for the Global Issues badge. We welcomed a parent who is a pilot for the Air Activities badge. We designed book covers and bookmarks and read six books to earn the Book reader badge.
- A visit from the Reptile Man and played our favourite games like parachute games, elephant football, elephant charge and had games in the dark.
- District Christmas party and celebrated Chinese New Year.

**Cubs**

The Monday night Cub Scouts had another action-packed year, taking part in a range of activities including:

- Orienteering around Ashenbury Park.
- Testing their pioneering skills to make trebuchets and backwoods cooking at Paddick's patch.

Indoor highlights included:

- Recording stop-start animation with clay models
- Visit from the Bat Conservation Trust.
- Christmas musical performance to parents.

The cubs had an opportunity to attend two camps this year:

- November trip to Bentley Copse
- Inter-sectional summer Camp at Youlbury.

At the end of the summer term, a fantastic five Cubs were awarded the Silver Scout badge.

### **Scouts**

The Monday night Scouts continue to partake in challenge and adventure, building on skills ready for a great future ahead.

Activities have included a wide mix of different themes including:

- back to basics Scouting skills such as fire safety & lighting techniques, shelter building, knife, axe & saw work, backwoods cooking, pioneering and first aid.
- Expedition skills such as correct bag packing, Trangia cooking, map & navigation skills, night hikes, radio communication and GPS/Geocaching work.
- Teamwork skills being improved through problem-solving evenings, wide games, cooking nights, team-building challenges and patrol competitions.
- External activities including paddle-boarding, bowling, swimming nights, assault courses, high ropes, archery and much more.

The Scouts' skills have then been put to the test in several camps, providing further opportunities to grow as an individual and enjoy nights away from home. For some of the older Scouts all this hard work has paid off by achieving their highest award possible, the Chief Scout Gold awarded to 2 Scouts.

### **Sea Scouts**

The Friday night Sea Scouts enjoyed some good sailing at Dinton Pastures this summer. Although they can't obtain RYA certificates with the current setup at Dinton, they are having lots of experience on the water and practice lots of capsizing!

Dan Radford one of our new Sea Scout team leaders and Lisa from Cubs took a number of Sea Scouts on their Expedition Challenge this summer, which they thoroughly enjoyed despite the very wet weather! A number of our young people are working towards their Gold Scout Award which the expedition helped with.

### **Remembrance Day and New Rev'd at St Peters Church**

The Group was proud to have the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Sea Scouts representing the Group at this special Remembrance Day Service as they do each year at St. Peters Church.

### **Fundraising**

We raised over £7000 in 24/25, with most coming from our two main events –

- Christmas 2024 Fund raiser at Squires Centre in Hare Hatch (previously Wyevale Garden Center) where Scouts and older

cubs carry Christmas trees to customers cars, Guess the Weight of the Christmas Cake, and Guess the quantity of Jellybeans in a jar competitions; in total £3310 was raised and we hope to increase this with GiftAid.

- Stake Boats and the provision of catering on two consecutive weekends at the 2024 Reading Rowing Regatta; in total £3782 was raised and we hope to increase this with GiftAid.

Thank you, as always, to everyone who contributed towards making these events so successful which helps to bring in funds for the benefit of our young people. The more people who help, the less each person has to do. It is also a good way to meet other parents in the group and members of the executive committee and to understand how things work.

There are no restricted funds set aside within the group accounts.

#### **All Section Camp 2025**

The camp at Youlbury was a great success as well - we enjoyed the variety of activities offered and spending time with the rest of the Cubs, Beavers and Scouts.

#### **Equipment/ Minibus**

At the beginning of the year the group took the decision to sell the minibus, and this has had a positive impact on the finances of the group due to the reduction in Insurance and Maintenance costs (£2500 in 23/24). The reserve held in previous years for replacement of the minibus was reallocated in the previous year to other reserve funds including the Property Development Fund which was greatly depleted due to significant maintenance activity on the Finch Road Site.

The group also made the decision to dispose of its Sea Scout boat assets at the Island Sailing Club, this resulted in a disposal cost of £500, however this is offset against annual savings of membership and storage which would have been £678 in the year 24/25.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

We aim to have a quarter of a year's outgoings held in reserve. In addition, we make specific reserves for larger items, e.g. 5-yearly international WINGS camp, property repairs and equipment.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

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

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

We levy a membership subscription for each child member of the Group, and we charge for adventurous activities such as camps.

The Scout Group aims to run two fundraising activities during the year, during the year 24/25 the group was successful running it's Christmas Tree fund raising event giving section members the opportunity to raise funds for the group, and its Reading Regatta events in which the Scouts perform start line stake boat activity and Parents run the food catering.

Gift Aid was reclaimed during the year on Subscriptions paid by the membership.

Our expenditure is on maintaining the assets of the charity (buildings, minibus, and camping equipment); our fees due to the Scout Association, Berkshire Scout County and Loddon Scout District; and on activities and hall hire.

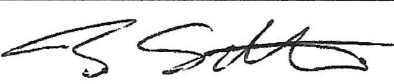
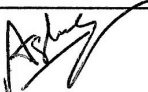
**Section F****Other optional information**

None

**Section G****Declaration**

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

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Jason Sutton

Akshay Sekhri

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Group Treasurer

Group Chair

Date

10/03/2026

# 84th Reading (1st Earley St Peter's) Scout Group

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2025

Income			Expenditure	
Beavers	Subs	£2,621.41 D&L	Beavers Hall Hire	£962.00
	Other	£424.17 CA	Beavers Expenses	£508.00
Cubs	Subs	£4,914.34 D&L	Cubs Hall Hire	£1,610.00
	Other	£1,703.49 CA	Cubs Expenses	£2,402.28
Scouts	Subs	£2,089.80 D&L	Scouts Expenses	£882.48
	Other	£996.64 CA		
Sea Scouts	Subs	£3,795.31 D&L	Sea Scout Expenses	£6,502.30
	Other	£146.52 CA	Badges	£715.28
			HQ Subscription	£5,958.40
			Activity Training	£0.00
WINGS		£0.00	WINGS	£0.00
Gift Aid		£3,615.21 D&L	Admin expenses (stationery, printing, accounting, etc)	£71.00
Bank Interest		£95.36 Ifl	Bank and GoCardless Charges	£60.00
Unrestricted Grants		£1,355.00 D&L	Grant Funding	£0.00
Restricted Grants		£0.00 CA	Restricted Grants	£0.00
Other Fund Raising		£11,873.54 OTA	Fund Raising	£3,557.24
Group Events		£2,833.20 CA	Group Events	£1,522.55
Family Camp 2023		£0.00	Family Camp 2023	£0.00
Family Camp 2024		£0.00	Family Camp 2024	£0.00
Mini Bus		£500.00	Mini Bus	£208.44
Hall usage		£0.00 OTA	Quartermaster	£695.96
Garage Rental		£840.00 Ifl	Property	£4,738.41
			Utilities	£947.63
			Insurance	£1,035.10
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£37,803.99</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£32,377.07</b>

**Surplus/Deficit income vs expenditure** £5,426.92

### BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2025

Group Capital at 31st March 2024	£44,161.46	CAF Account made up of:	£49,552.38
Plus/Minus Net Income	£5,426.92	Minibus replacement accrual fund	£0.00
		Property repairs reserve	£2,000.00
		WINGS (2026+) accrual fund	£3,750.00
		Property development fund	£30,000.00
		General reserve	£13,000.00
		Sea Scouts equipment Reserve	£0.00
		Restricted funds (Grant)	£0.00
		Total Allocated Funds	£48,750.00
		Unallocated Operating Funds	£802.38
		Petty Cash	£36.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£49,588.38</b>

Chair.....  
Akshay Sekhri

Treasurer .....  
Jason Sutton

We confirm that from the information supplied to us that these accounts show a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group.



## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
84th Reading Scout Group

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

268450

**Set out on pages**

Accounts are on 1 page within the Annual Treasurers & GSL report

**Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent  
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

**Date:**

24/10/2025

**Name:**

MICHAEL WALLACE

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

BOOKKEEPER

<b>Address:</b>	3 Western Oaks
	Tilehurst
	Reading RG31 6JE

**Section B****Disclosure**

N/A Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.