



6th Medway Scouts Annual Report

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Reports

Trustee Board

The reporting year 24/25 proved to be another busy year for the group as we continue to grow.

The census data showed growth, enabling the group to deliver an engaging and varied programme to We started the year with 5 sections and have since opened a new Squirrel Drey, which had its open day on the 8th March 2025 and was a huge success.

This year, the group has been working hard to breathe some new life into the hut by giving it a new lick of paint and new cupboards near the front of the hall to provide leaders with some much-needed storage to continue to provide a valuable programme to the young people.

Looking ahead to next year, the group are looking at rebuilding the lean-to at the back of the hall to ensure it remains safe and usable for all users of the hall. We are looking to continue to grow the group by opening an additional scout troop, squirrel section and explorer scout unit. If anyone is interested in helping out with this, please reach out to enquiries@6thmedwayscouts.org.uk and we will help make this happen!

Finally, a huge thanks to the Group Leadership Team, Group Trustees, all of the parents, carers and young people, virtually all of whom hold other roles. Without the commitment and enthusiasm, the Group would not be able to exist as we do. We would also like to take the time to say a huge thank you to Jean Chandler for her exceptional support over the 14 years as group Treasurer and wish her all the best in her new District roles. There are still plenty of opportunities for anyone who wishes to give a little extra to ensure the next year is even more successful.

- Group Trustee Board

Group Lead Volunteer

I am delighted to report that the past year has been one of significant success and positive change for the 6th Medway Scouts Group.

We have experienced excellent growth, welcoming over 50 new young members into our sections. This increase is a clear and encouraging indication that the enduring interest in Scouting, outdoor adventure, and developing essential life skills remains incredibly strong within the Medway community.

This growth would not be possible without the incredible dedication of our adult supporters. We have continued to expand our team of volunteers and supporters across a number of different roles, all of whom are essential in helping the Group achieve its goals. I

want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to our brilliant and dedicated team. Their collective commitment, passion, and wide variety of skills are what allow us to deliver high-quality, memorable adventures to our young people every single week.

As we conclude this year, celebrating these great achievements, our focus immediately shifts to the future. We are already hard at work putting plans into action for the year ahead: we are working towards launching the 6th Medway's first Squirrels Group (for 4-5 year olds), and we are also entering the vital planning stages for the necessary refurbishment of our Scout Hut. These steps will ensure we can offer the Scouting adventure to even more young people and provide them with a fantastic, modern space in which to learn and grow.

Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to the Group's success this year. I look forward to your continued support as we embark on these exciting new projects.

- Matthew White (Group Lead Volunteer)

Valhalla Scouts

The 6th Medway Valhalla Scouts currently has 27 members – 17 boys and 10 girls – ranging in age from 10½ to 14 years old. We're delighted to see a steady flow of Cubs moving up into Scouts, which is a great sign for the future of our group.

Over the past year, we've been busy with badge work. In total, we've awarded 180 badges – although whether they've all been sewn onto uniforms is another matter! Some of the badges earned include:

- Local Knowledge
- Communicator
- Craft
- Digital Citizen
- Digital Maker
- Meteorologist
- Model Maker
- Navigator
- Chef

Currently, the Scouts are working towards their Personal Challenge Badge.

We've taken part in several District events, including Arrowhead, Troop Night, and the Conker Bash– where Scouts battled valiantly with conkers, and only a few fingers were mildly bruised in the process. We'll be back again this year, ready to defend our honour (and our conkers).

Our Scouts proudly represented the group at the St George's Day Parade in Rochester and the Remembrance Parade, where they made the wreath themselves – something they'll be

doing again this year.

Activities have been varied and exciting. At Buckmore Park, the Scouts enjoyed caving, shooting, fire lighting, and den building– basically everything that makes parents nervous and Scouts excited. We also visited Moat Park, where they took part in kayaking and pedaloing, earning their On the Water badges, and thankfully, no one ended up *in* the water unintentionally.

In addition, they've completed several hikes. In August, we took 17 Scouts to Belchamps Activity Centre in Essex for a full week of adventure. Activities included:

- Climbing
- Archery
- Shooting
- Caving
- Bouldering
- Orienteering
- Tomahawk throwing
- Circus skills
- etc

Most nights ended with a campfire, and one evening we even had an outdoor film night, Scouts trying to stay awake after a day of non-stop action. The highlight? Our Scouts won the camp talent show – surprising the leaders and proving that acting, singing, and interpretive dance are alive and well in Medway.

Midweek, we hiked to the local train station, boarded a train to Southend, and walked to Adventure Island. The Scouts – and a few brave leaders – had a blast on the rides. I, however, stayed firmly on the ground, clutching my coffee and dignity. After a full day of thrills, we stopped at McDonald's for dinner – ordering 22 meals in one go, which felt like a military operation. We returned to camp tired.

We were especially proud of the Scouts when members of the public commented on how polite and well-behaved they were – both at McDonald's and on the train. It's moments like these that remind us why we do what we do and why we carry on.

Looking ahead, we've already planned activities right up to Christmas. There's plenty more fun, learning, and memory-making to come. So, let's continue to have fun, learn new skills, and build lasting memories – one badge, one campfire, and one slightly chaotic McDonald's order at a time.

- Gail Couchman (Assistant Group Lead Volunteer & Group Scout Team Lead)

Charity Commission Trustee Annual Report

Reporting period: 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

Details on charity achievements and performance are detailed in the various reports on page 3 onwards.

Charity Details

Registered Charity Name:	6 th Medway Scout Group
Other names the Charity is known by:	N/A
Registered Address:	Phoenix Hall Hatton Road CHATHAM Kent ME5 8BD
Registered Charity Number	294917
Email	enquiries@6thmedwayscouts.org.uk
Website	www.6thmedwayscouts.org.uk

Trustees

Trustee Name	Position	Comments
David Albiston	Chairman	
Matthew White	Group Lead Volunteer (Ex-Officio)	
Jean Chandler	Treasurer	Stepped down 31 st March 2025
Jane Albiston	Trustee	
Elliott Reid	Treasurer	Co Opted 1 st April 2025 Appointed at 2024 AGM on 13 th September 2025
Thomas Reid	Trustee	Appointed at 2024 AGM on 13 th September 2025
Hannah White	Trustee	Appointed at 2024 AGM on 13 th September 2025
Gail Couchman	Trustee	Appointed at 2024 AGM on 13 th September 2025
Violet Jones	Trustee	Appointed at 2024 AGM on 13 th September 2025
James Knight	Trustee	Appointed at 2024 AGM on 13 th September 2025
Suzanne Bull	Trustee	Co-Opted after 2024 AGM

Governance

6TH MEDWAY SCOUT GROUP's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. The

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

The **Group Scout Council** is responsible for providing management, and support to sections across the group as well as events and activities. The members of the Group Trustee Board are charity trustees of the Scout Group and are appointed under POR through nomination or election at the AGM, they serve for one year and are eligible for re-election or re-appointment if so willing. Other trustees may be co-opted during the year to serve until the next AGM as see fit by the Group Trustee Board.

The 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.

This Board exists to support the Group Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of their role and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment
- The safety of all volunteers and young persons
- Risk management and mitigation
- Appointing any sub-committees that may be required

Risk and Internal Control

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

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.

Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun

- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise

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.

Finance

Report

The accounts are for the period 01/04/2024 – 31/03/2025. These accounts have been prepared and audited in accordance with The Scout Association rules and are submitted alongside the Trustee Report to the Charity Commission.

The accounts are displayed on the notice board in the entrance to the hall for anyone who wishes to read them.

The group has increased their membership in the year; that is shown in the increased membership subscriptions.

The building is used by two groups:

- A group that cares and supports people with disabilities
- New life in Christ

Their contributions help us to maintain the building and pay the essential bills.

Reserve 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 Trustee Board considers that the Group should hold the sum of £20,000 in reserve to allow for 12 months of running costs (Membership Capitation Fees and building running/maintenance costs).

At the closing of accounts for the financial period, the Group held £9,641 in their savings account. This is below the £20,000; however, can be explained due to the group not claiming gift aid in the last couple of years and the increased operational expenditure for running and maintaining the hut. The group have now moved to an online payment system, which will help the group ensure payments are received on time and allow us to claim gift aid more easily.

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is relatively low 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.

The Group Trustee Board monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the Group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements.

Receipts and Payments Account

6th Medway Scout Group (Charity no. 294917)

Receipts and payments account

For the year from	1st April 2024	To	31st March 2025
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Receipts and payments

	2024/25	2023/24
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	11,344	9,210
Donations	528	627
Youth activities & camps	5,955	3,616
Sale of uniform / teeshirts	404	-
Gift Aid	-	-
Other similar income/ Membership fees rebate	168	106
Sub total	18,399	13,559
Grants		
refund of Gas/Electric	127	1,862
Other grants	-	-
Sub total	127	1,862
Fundraising events (gross)		
Group fund raising	1,560	10
Disco	-	170
Detail 3	-	-
Other fundraising activities	-	-
Sub total	1,560	180
Scout hut income		
Donation for use of Building	6,715	6,965
Hire of equipment	-	-
Other Scout hut income	-	-
Sub total	6,715	6,965
Investment income		
Bank interest	184	168
Building Society interest	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Other investment income	-	-
Sub total	184	168
Total Gross Income	26,985	22,734
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	26,985	22,734

6th Medway Scout Group (Charity no.294917)

Receipts and payments account

For the year from	1st April 2024	To	31st March 2025
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Receipts and payments

	2024/25	2023/24
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	4,885	3,893
Youth programme and activities	5,270	3,729
Adult support and training	100	-
Premises costs	2,415	1,326
Water and Sewerage	685	622
Electricity and Gas	2,876	2,533
Insurance	2,639	2,653
Repairs and Renewals	1,299	1,732
Materials and equipment	-	-
Printing and photocopying	-	-
Contribution to camp costs	-	1,464
Uniforms and Badges	1,490	1,667
AGM and trustee expenses	113	97
Bank Charges & Stripe fees	424	77
Group Expenses	84	-
Other costs internet	369	151
Sub total	22,849	19,944
Fundraising expenses		
Detail 1	-	-
Detail 2	-	-
Detail 3	-	-
Other fundraising costs	1,141	58
Sub total	1,141	58
Total Gross Expenditure	23,790	20,002
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	23,790	20,002
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,195	2,732
Cash funds last year end	11,561	8,829
Cash funds this year end	14,756	11,561

6th Medway Scout Group (Charity no.294917)

Receipts and payments account

For the year from	1st April 2024	To	31st March 2025
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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2025 Unrestricted funds £	31st March 2024 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	5,090	2,076
Bank deposit account	9,641	9,456
Building society account	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Cash/Floats	25	29
Total cash funds	14,756	11,561
(agree balances with receipts and payments account)	ok	ok
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-
Sub total		
Investment assets		
Investment property - detail	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-
Other investments - detail	-	-
Sub total		
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock	-	-
Shop stock	-	-
Other stock	-	-
Land and buildings	-	-
Motor vehicles	-	-
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	-	-
Other	-	-
Sub total		
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total		
Total net assets	14,756	11,561

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on Xth X 200X (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature

 Jean Chandler

Print Name
 DAVID ALBISTON Chair
 JEAN CHANDLER Treasurer

LT700006 - Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees (January 2024)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 6th Medway Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 6th Medway Scout Group for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 6th Medway Scout Group you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the 6th Medway Medway Scout Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 6th Medway Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: G J Hancock

Name: G J HANCOCK

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):


Address: 120 Taverners Road,
Rainham, Kent ME8 9AQ

Date: 04/07/2025

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature	
Full Name	David Albiston
Position	Chairman
Date	26/11/2025