

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period:

From	1st January 2024	To	31st December 2024

Charity Name	Stifford Sea Scout Group
Charity Registration Number	302089
HQ Registration Number	41166

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purpose and objects of the charity as set out in its governing document	<p>The objectives of the charity are as a part of The Scout Association.</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>
Summary of the main activities in relation to the purpose and objects	To teach young people life skills through fun and teamwork.
Statement confirming the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The Trustees confirm that the charity meets the Charity Commission's Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year identifying the difference and impact the charity's work has made, including on sustainability	The main activities carried out by all the Sections: Puffin Beavers, Penguin Beavers, Orca Cubs, Dolphin Cubs and Scouts, are based on the balanced programme for each of those Sections which has been developed by The Scout Association to meet their objectives. Activities include weekly meetings, working towards awards, participating in District activities and competitions and nights away residential experiences. All activities are run by the adult Leaders in the Group who are assisted by adult Helpers and Explorer Scout Young Leaders working with the various Sections.
You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Achievements against objectives</i> <i>Fundraising activities</i> <i>Contribution made by volunteers</i> 	Please see attached statements.

Financial review

Review of the financial position	
Policy on Reserves, why they are held, and the amount of reserves	The policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the charity should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustee Board considers that the charity should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £32,000. The charity held reserves of approximately £52,000 against this at year end. This is above the level for operating expenses. However, this can be explained by Covid grants received in the past.
Policy on Investments and investment performance	The charity's reserves are small and consequently does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The charity 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.
A description of the principal risks	The main risk is that of leaders leaving the group without securing proper transfers of banking ability.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The charity'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 (POR) of The Scout Association.
How the charity is constituted	The charity is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees	All Trustees complete The Scout Association trustee and mandatory learning within the first six months of joining the Trustee Board, they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning periodically as required.

<p>Additional governance arrangements</p>	<p>The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees". 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.</p> <p>The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 8 Trustees and meets 6 times a year.</p> <p>The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programs that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintain appropriate governance policies and oversight.</p> <p>The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly.</p> <p>The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order, and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules.</p> <p>This includes responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development; • Developing, maintaining and regularly a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations; • Ensuring that the finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting; • Ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss; • Ensuring that property is appropriately managed; • Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment; • Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; • Having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees; • Appointing Advisors as required; • Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board; • Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding; • Ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy; • Ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate; • Ensuring transparency of operations, including in the preparation of accounts and holding and AGM; • Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation; • Acting as a responsible employer for any employees, who are effectively managed.
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Plans for future periods

<p>Plans for future Periods</p>	<p>As can be seen from the attached reports, all the current Sections within Stifford Sea Scout Group continue to thrive and are looking forward to the future. With committed Leaders,</p>
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	Helpers and Young Leaders, good support from the Group Trustee Board and parents, steady membership numbers and sound finances, the Group are well placed to continue its past successes. Each of the Sections, both Beaver Colonies, both Cub Packs and Scouts already have events planned throughout the coming year, together with Group activities. As of December 2024, the Group is looking at the possibility of opening a Squirrel Drey.
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Reference and administration details

Principal Address	Prince Philip Avenue Stifford Clays Grays Essex RM16 2BX
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	Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Mark Hooper	Chair	
2	Sue Dodson	Group Scout Leader	
3	Andrew Merritt	Treasurer (acting)	
4	Ashley Kempster	Scout Leader	
5	Andrew Merritt	Cub Scout Leader (Orca)	
6	Deborah Rowe	Cub Scout Leader (Dolphins)	
7	Joanne Price	Beaver Leader (Penguins)	
8	Denise Tuffee	Beaver Leader (Puffins)	
9	Steve Rowe	Quartermaster	
10	Glen Willis	Maintenance Officer	

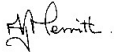

Name and address of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Steve Morgan	39 Advice Avenue Chafford Hundred Grays Essex RM16 6QN

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by:

Signature		
Full name	Andrew Merritt	Sue Dodson
Position held	Acting Treasurer	Group Scout Leader
Date	29/04/2026	29/04/2026



Puffins Beavers Annual Report 2024

As with real Puffins, we are always really busy and 2024 was no exception.

The turn of the new year saw the Beavers completing their Emergency Aid Level 1 badge with Duncan. They just love bandaging each other up.

We were back at Monkey Bizzness for another fun sleepover. Our biannual treat, I know us leaders enjoy the fish and chip supper as much as the kids love the play centre.

We celebrated the Chinese new year, shrove Tuesday and had Orca spend two evenings with us for a fun pioneering project and a Pokemon themed programme.

Jack, Callum & Nicky represented Puffins at the District Beaver Games competition.

Puffins threw a special tea party for Mother's Day where mums and Beavers had to decorate a small cake (baked by Rainbow). These were judged by our own Sue and my mum.

Renewal of Promise saw Puffins being awarded 2nd place in the District Rainbow Challenge Competition, which runs from April to March every year. Well done little people. Proud Keo here!

Home from university, Bucky led a Brazil themed night and taught the Beavers a bit of Samba. It was a ten from me.

Wat Tyler Country Park was the venue for the District Beaver Nature Trail where the Beavers had to go around the park undertaking various fun tasks.

We had a visit from our local Community Support Officers and the Beavers loved putting the siren on in the police car. Sorry to the neighbours.

Another sleepover, this time at our own HQ. The theme was Under The Sea. This was done jointly with Penguins.

Knowing that Stifford were celebrating their 50th this year, Puffins filled some plant troughs with colourful flowers to commemorate it. These flowers have since been changed for artificial ones.

We finished off the summer term by having a teddy bear's picnic and a fun game of rounders.

Puffins attended Playscheme in August. It's lovely to see the Beavers try activities they've never done before.

In September we met at Condovers where we were treated to watching two fantastic search and rescue dogs do their thing. The Beavers loved hiding and being found.

Back at Monkey Bizzness in October. It's lovely for the Beavers to spend time with our sister colony, Penguins and both our Cub Packs.

A few Puffins attended the Halloween party at Belhus Scout Group to help them raise funds.

Trinity, Jaxon and Felix represented Puffins at the District Challenge Afternoon, where we presented our colony entry of a model of the athletics stadium to be judged.

Our last night of the year had the Beavers bring friends along for a Christmas pyjama party.

This year I have presented approximately 166 badges and 6 Beavers gained their Chief Scout Bronze Awards.

There was a sad end to the year, though, when we said goodbye to Chip, who moved house. She is sorely missed at Puffins. We also lost Rainbow as she prepared to open our Group's first ever Squirrel Drey and Sparkle who decided Scouts (ewww yukky teenagers) were better for her.

Thank you for all your support and for trusting me with your little people. Nothing makes me happier than seeing them have fun and making new friends.

Long may it continue!

Keeo xx



**On cliffs by the sea where the wild winds play
The Puffins laugh through the salt sprayed day
With flapping wings and beaks so bright
They dance on the waves till the fall of the night**

**They chatter and chirp where the seafoam gleams
Sharing fish and all their future dreams
New pals are found on every tide
Together they soar, side by side.**



Stifford Penguins Annual Report 2023

Beavers have had another busy and enjoyable year and between them have gained 173 badges.

We have attended many District Events which include St Renewal of Promise Service held at Hathaway Academy, Jamboree on the trail where we joined Stifford Puffins for a walk around Watt Tyle Park, Pitsea where we take to take photos of objects beginning with every letter of the Alphabet , we attended Play scheme for the day and Christmas Crafts Afternoon

We went to Langdon Nature Reserve to take part in a Nature Trail to do orienteering, We also attended two sleepovers at Monley Buziness visited Grays Fire station

Penguins and Puffins joined Dolphins during their annual summer camp at Thriftwood for the weekend where they took part in various activities including the water roller, earth ball, cave bus, kayaking and rafting.

We also took part in Stifford own Remembrance Day Parade held at Blackthorn Park.

None of this would be possible without the help of my Leaders Janet, Sofie, Rebecca, and our young Leaders Rebecca, William and Zac, my Occasional helper Natalie and a special thank you goes to Denise who looks after the Finance side for me.

At the time of writing this report in June 2024 One Beaver had successfully completed their Chief Scout Bronze award which is the highest achievement for Beavers.





Stifford Orca

Akela - Andrew Merritt

Report to the Parents of Stifford Orca Cub Scouts For the year ending 31 December 2024.

Our numbers started and finished with 18 Cubs but went up and down during the year.

Although numbers were a little lower than in some years, we still awarded 157 Badges including 4 Silver Awards. We covered a variety of activity badges including Home Safety, Entertainer, Athletics, and Navigator among others. One of our Cubs even managed to earn her 20 Nights Away Badge for cumulative nights away.

We took part in all District-run events with great success. 21 Orca Cubs went to Camp in July and won the trophy for best Cub Pack. We also took 10 Cubs to Docklands for a whole day on the water, earning them a variety of water-based Activity Badges.

Andrew Merritt - (Cub Scout Leader - Akela)



Scouts

Stifford Sea Scouts

Stifford Orca Cub Scouts - Stifford Sea Scout Group.

Opposite 67 Prince Phillip Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM16 2BX

Registered Number - 41166 as Open Group 1974. Registered Charity Number - 302089



The Scout section has continued to thrive over the year; we began with the scouts competing in the district "Lead Volunteer's challenge" with scouts using public transport to get around London answering questions and getting photos at different locations.

All the scouts took part in the District Rifle shooting competition, and we had great success in the final with Harry French coming 1st in the individual competition and Stifford coming 2nd overall.

The Troop continued with work on the community Garden project, weeding and planting a garden on Blackthorn Park. This will be an ongoing project that will hopefully benefit the local park. In March, nine scouts took part in the County Backpack hike. This event had scouts walking 13km around the Hockley area completing challenges as they went.

In May 12 Scouts joined the rest of the district at the annual Jamborama camp at Condoovers. All the scouts had a great experience creating their own market stalls and learning to be Entrepreneurs. Along with the usual camp activities of night hikes, team challenges, ballista catapults and campfires.

In June some of Stifford's scouts assisted the staff and Volunteers at Carolyn House care home with their summer Fete, scouts ran game stalls and helped the home raise £1200 towards days out for the residence.

The summer culminated with the Essex International Jamboree. A week-long camp with 8000 scouts and guides from across the world. A small, tented village was created in Chelmsford with scouts getting to take part in lots of onsite activities from Quad biking to Archery, Shotguns to climbing as well as an It's a Knockout Competition.

We returned after the summer with scouts honing their camping skills as we put them through their paces in a camping competition. Scouts had to plan, shop for and complete a weekend camp with no adult assistance.

November brought the district night hike with 2 Stifford teams taking part starting out at 8pm and finally finishing around 3am. Everyone persevered along the 13Km route but apart from being tired, everyone made it back and slept soundly until the bacon rolls were ready later in the morning. It was also great to receive the winner's trophy before heading home. We closed the year with a fun event at Flip out with scouts letting off some steam bouncing around for a few hours.

Throughout the year I have been impressed with the high standards of the scouts in the troop, they have shown they can apply themselves to almost every challenge. The troop have clocked up **203** nights away, **43** activities on water, and **51** days hiking. We also had eight scouts achieve their Chief Scout Gold award, congratulations to Matthew Tarff, Jensen Fisher, Sonny Read, Owen Merchant, Harry French, William Clarke, Ethan Witterick and Ollie Wall who I know will go on to great things in scouting.

I would like to thank the parents for their continued help and support over the year and would like to also thank the rest of the leadership team, without whom, I know the troop would not be going from strength to strength.

Ashley Kempster



Stifford sea scout section



Email: stiffordscouts@outlook.com

Scouts

Stifford Sea Scouts



Annual Report & Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Stifford Sea Scout Group

Group Details

Charity Number 302089

Trustees of the Charity

Sue Dodson	Group Scout Leader
Mark Hooper	Chairman
Vacant	Secretary
Andrew Merritt	Acting Treasurer
Joanne Price	Beaver Scout Leader (Penguin)
Denise Tuffee	Beaver Scout Leader (Puffin)
Andrew Merritt	Cub Scout Leader (Orca)
Deborah Rowe	Cub Scout Leader (Dolphin)
Ashley Kempster	Scout Leader
Steve Rowe	Quartermaster
Glen Willis	Maintenance Officer

The Group is comprised of 5 sections.

Members as at:

Section		31 December 2024	31 December 2023
Penguin	Beaver Scouts	10	12
Puffin	Beaver Scouts	6	14
Orca	Cub Scouts	23	19
Dolphin	Cub Scouts	28	36
Sea Scouts	Scouts	30	26
Total Youth Membership		97	107

Stifford Sea Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account Summary

For the year from	01/01/2024	To	31/12/2024
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Receipts and payments

	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Unrestricted funds £
Total receipts for the year	29,158.84	31,392.75
Total payments in the year	(32,415.34)	(34,589.91)
Net receipts for the year	(3,256.50)	(3,197.16)
Cash, bank and similar funds brought forward	56,112.41	59,309.57
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward	52,855.91	56,112.41



Sign

Sue Dodson

Print name



Sign

Andrew Merritt

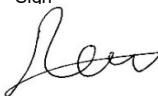
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Sign

Joanne Price

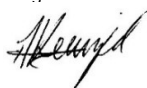
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Sign

Denise Tuffee

Print name



Sign

Ashley Kempster

Print name



Sign

Deborah Rowe

Print name

Stifford Sea Scout Group - Consolidated Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2024	To	31/12/2024
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Receipts and payments

	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income	-	-
Membership subscriptions	19,927.00	21,867.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on	(8,958.45)	(8,777.25)
Net membership subscriptions retained	10,968.55	13,089.75
Donations/Camp contributions	16,502.83	17,783.34
Jack Petchy Awards	-	-
Repaid to parents for cancelled events	-	-
Loans from Section Leaders	-	-
Sub total	27,471.38	30,873.09
Grants		
Start up grants	-	-
Other grants (Covid)	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Fundraising (gross)		
Group Fundraising	543.46	519.66
Group Funds held by Scouts	-	-
Donations	1,144.00	-
Other fundraising activities	-	-
Sub total	1,687.46	519.66
Investment income		
Bank interest	-	-
Building Society interest	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Property Rent income	-	-
Other investment income	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total Gross Income	29,158.84	31,392.75
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	29,158.84	31,392.75

Stifford Sea Scout Group - Consolidated Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2024	To	31/12/2024
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Receipts and payments

	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments	289.00	24.00
Youth programme and activities	12,589.42	11,327.68
Adult support and training	-	-
Rent	952.17	888.41
Water and Sewerage	-	-
Electricity and Gas	720.93	1,485.33
Insurance	1,852.49	2,223.76
Repairs and Renewals	120.00	3,939.94
Materials and equipment	-	-
Printing and photocopying	-	-
Contribution to camp costs	15,498.42	14,325.01
Uniforms	321.51	303.78
AGM and trustee expenses	-	-
Web site	-	-
Bank charges	71.40	72.00
Admin	-	-
Sub total	32,415.34	34,589.91
Fundraising expenses	-	-
Detail 1	-	-
Detail 2	-	-
Other fundraising costs	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total Gross Expenditure	32,415.34	34,589.91
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	32,415.34	34,589.91
Net of receipts/(payments)	(3,256.50)	(3,197.16)
Cash funds last year end	56,112.41	59,309.57
Cash funds this year end	52,855.91	56,112.41

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st December 2024	31st December 2023
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Cash funds		
Bank current account	52,621.92	55,397.75
Bank deposit account	-	-
Building society account	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Cash/Floats	233.99	714.66
Total cash funds	52,855.91	56,112.41
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	-	-
Contingent liabilities and future obligations		



Andrew Merritt - Acting Group Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stifford Sea Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stifford Sea Scout Group for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Stifford Sea 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 Stifford Sea 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.

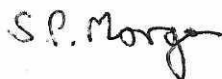
Independent examiner's statement

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 Stifford Sea 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:



Name: Stephen Morgan

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies: CPFA, FMAAT

Address: 39 Advice Avenue
Chafford Hundred
Grays
Essex
RM16 6QN

Date: 19 April 2026