

4th St Albans Scout Group

Registered Charity Number: 302569

Annual Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 March 2025



4th St Albans Scout Group

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period: 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

4th St Albans Scout Group

Registered charity number

3 0 2 5 6 9

HQ registration number

1 0 0 0 0 7 6 9

Charity's principal address

Jim Green Memorial Hall

25 Riverside Road

St Albans

AL1 1RX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Cameron Lavin	Chair	
2	Kelly Drew	Treasurer	
3	Andrew Robins	Secretary	
4	Ian Hamilton Woods	Group Lead Volunteer	
5	Kathryn-Rhys-Parry		Resigned 14 September 2024
6	Andrew Drummond		Resigned 31 December 2024
7	Juliette Warren		
8	Renu Bansal		Appointed 14 September 2024

Section B

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The 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.

How the charity is constituted

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

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues

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.

During the financial year, the Group Trustee Board has consisted of the Chair, Treasurer and 5-6 Trustees (including one Ex-Officio Trustee) and met formally every 3-4 months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete 'Being a Scouts Trustee' learning within the first 6 months of joining the 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.

Risk and Internal Control

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 would seek to facilitate temporary use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as churches, community centres and other Scout Groups and / or could hold section meetings at outdoor locations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

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.

Section B

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Risk and Internal Control (continued)

Reduced income. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and hall hire. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Trustee Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently and / or look for alternative sources of grants or other income.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of all sections. 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.

Section C

Objectives and activities

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

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.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives

Scouts

This year has been one of energy, achievement, and adventure for the two Scout Troops, packed with a balance of skill development, outdoor challenges, and fun wide games. The Group is proud of the commitment shown by all our Scouts (63), leaders (7), and regular supporters (8).

Key highlights

Two Gold Scout Awards were earned this year – a top honour reflecting dedication and well-rounded Scouting skills, the Gradbach Camp in the Peak District (Feb 2025) was a true highlight, with five days of hiking, shelter building and team bonding in beautiful surroundings and several sessions contributed toward the Survival Activity Badge, with hands-on experience in fire lighting, shelter building, water filtration and natural navigation.

Outdoor adventures

Scouts tested their survival skills during sessions in shelter building (Nov), fire lighting (Oct), and cooking fish on an open fire (Feb). Zombie and vampire-themed wide games kept the imagination and adrenaline flowing, from Highfield Park to forested areas around Sopwell. A cycle trip to Hatfield and bike maintenance sessions ensured fitness and practical knowledge were covered.

Skill Development

Activities included first aid for expeditions, urban and rural treasure hunts, compass and map reading, route planning, and knife safety. Scouts took on the World Challenge Badge, learning about gender equality and global citizenship. Pioneering, curry cooking, and camp preparation events helped build practical Scouting confidence.

Community and personal growth

In January, Scouts supported Herts Young Homeless, learning about local challenges and raising funds. A troop forum allowed everyone to help shape and reaffirm our Scout Code of Conduct, reinforcing our values of respect, teamwork, and leadership.

This year reflects not only the adventurous spirit of our Scouts but also their growth as young people ready to take on new challenges.

Cubs

Tuesday Pack

The Tuesday Cub Pack consists of 31 Cubs, 4 regular leaders and a number of fantastic parent helpers. Five Cubs have earned their Chief Scout's Silver Award, whilst others enjoyed the Cub Water Sports Day and a pirate themed weekend camp.

The Cubs have enjoyed, amongst many other things, a chocolate making workshop, a four week challenge, where we learned about all things weird and wonderful about the human body, mindfulness, paddle boarding and snow tubing. We've also practised traditional Scouting skills like shelter building and fire lighting and had a great night learning to throw tomahawks.

Cubs have enjoyed completing a variety of activity badges at home, including 'Gardener', 'Chef' and 'Disability Awareness' and the Pack have enjoyed completing activities for their 'Naturalist', 'Athletics', 'Pioneer' and 'Digital Maker' badges, among others. We remain committed to providing a fun, balanced, programmed, helping the Cubs to gain skills for life.

Wednesday Pack

The Wednesday Cub Pack consists of 36 Cubs, 6 leaders and numerous parent helpers. The Pack attended a Bushcraft Day, Movie morning, Cub water sports day, Cub Funday and a weekend Cub camp. 354 badges have been awarded including 4 Silver Chief Scout Awards.

Weekly meetings have included hikes, fire lighting and cooking on open fires, archery, rifle shooting, entertaining residents at a care home, litter picking, visiting the Bayfordbury Observatory, Roman museum and the local fire station, international evenings, crafts, home skills, police led personal safety night, science experiments, collectors' night as well as games (indoors and outside).

Beavers**Monday Colony**

Over the course of the year, the Monday Beaver Colony has had around 20 members and has met weekly during term time. The programme has included a wide range of themes and activities, highlights of which include: a visit to our local Synagogue, learning about the history behind Valentine's Day, a visit from Essex and Hertfordshire Air Ambulance, celebrating Burns Night, taking part in World Wildlife Day, conducting experiments during British Science Week, taking part in wide games in a nearby park, learning about how to budget money, meeting the High Sheriff of St Albans, hikes across St Albans, a visit to the Hornbeamwood Hedgehog Sanctuary, singing carols to, and sharing mince pies with, residents of a local care home and learning about and celebrating Chinese New Year.

The Beavers have enjoyed learning a wide variety of social and life skills, from first aid, environmental conservation, healthy living, and fire safety to teamwork, friendship, communication, and leadership. In total, 143 badges were awarded including five Chief Scout's Bronze Awards.

The colony also took part in the following events: St George's Day Parade (April 2024), Beaver Sleepover at our hut (May 2024), District Beaver Fun Day at Tolmers (June 2024), Beavers in Tents camp (June 2024).

Thursday Colony

Over the course of the year, the Thursday Beaver Colony has had around 20 Beavers and has met weekly during term time. The colony has enjoyed a busy and exciting year packed with varied activities, outdoor adventures, and personal development opportunities.

The weekly programme has included a wide range of themes and activities such as fire lighting, photography, hiking, exploring global issues, teamwork, leadership challenges, science experiments, creative crafts, games, and cultural celebrations. We welcomed new Beavers and volunteers, ran investitures, and regularly built in opportunities to develop friendships and teamwork.

In total, 346 badges were awarded to the Thursday Beavers over the year, including 4 Chief Scout Bronze Awards, recognising the hard work and achievements of our young people.

The Colony also took part in several special events, including: St George's Day Parade (April 2024), Beaver Sleepover at our hut (May 2024), District Beaver Fun Day at Tolmers (June 2024), Beavers in Tents camp (June 2024), Space-themed Beaver Sleepover at our hut (March 2025). The overnight experiences helped Beavers work toward their Nights Away badges and build independence and resilience in a safe and supportive setting.

We continue to focus on providing a balanced, inclusive, and engaging programme that helps each young person have fun, make friends, and gain skills for life, supported by our fantastic team of volunteers.

Section C

Objectives and activities (continued)

Public benefit statement

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.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements during the year

As can be seen by the Sectional reviews, the Group has continued to run and engage its young people throughout the year under review with all Sections running a wide range of activities throughout their programmes.

The Group remains indebted to the efforts of all Section Leaders as well as parents, supporters and other volunteers who give their time, skills and support to enable Sections to run so successfully and the varied programme of events to be provided.

Section E

Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves and investments

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income from subscriptions, hall hire, fundraising activities and other income sources fall short. Given the Group ownership of the Headquarters building, sufficient reserves to cover on-going maintenance and repair are also required.

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is relatively small and as a consequence, the Group, 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.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods

The Group intends to continue to offer a full programme of activities, camps, meetings and events throughout the next financial year.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Cameron Lavin

Ian Hamilton Woods

Position

Chair

Group Lead Volunteer

Date

02 09 25

England & Wales

Unqualified report for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payments accounts with a gross income of £250,000 or less in the relevant financial year

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 4th St Albans Scout Group Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 4th St Albans Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 4th St Albans 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 4th St Albans 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 4th St Albans 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: Andre DeRoy Cert. CIB

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): *Certificated member
Chartered Institute of Bankers.*

Address: *26, St. Ives Close,
Digswell, Welwyn, AL6 0BB.*

Date: *30th July 2025.*

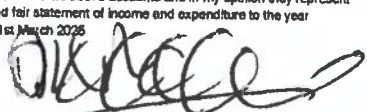
4th St Albans Scout Group **Income and Expenditure for the Year Ending 31st March 2025**

INCOME	24-25	23-24	Change
Subscriptions			
Scout Troop	8,779.51	4,880.80	+81%
Cub Pack	8,074.00	3,773.78	+114%
Beaver Colony	5,245.00	2,785.54	+88%
Total Subs	22,098.51	11,420.10	+94%
Scouting activities income	12,776.12	12,980.66	-1%
Grants and Donations	0.00	1,000.00	-100%
External fundraising collected	0.00	0.00	n/a
Hire of Equipment	0.00	0.00	n/a
Family camp	0.00	0.00	n/a
Group Activities/Other	0.00	0.00	n/a
Group clothing	459.44	719.94	-36%
Gift Aid	0.00	0.00	n/a
Interest	663.11	502.11	+32%
Other income		655.39	-100%
Closure / Transfer of Scouts Investment A/c	0.00	7.09	
'Scouting activities' subtotal	36,996.18	27,265.28	+32%
Memo 'Scouting' net income	8,132.50	-3,234.20	
Hire of Hall			
Morris Men	832.50	772.50	+8%
Pre-School & Lunch Club	11,297.65	11,410.34	-1%
Explorers	800.00	0.00	n/a
Other	172.00	800.00	-79%
'Hall' income	13,102.15	12,982.84	+1%
Memo 'Hall' net income	1,167.90	-9,515.01	
TOTAL	49,098.33	40,238.12	+22%

EXPENDITURE	24-25	23-24	Change
Scouting activities spend	13,246.35	17,417.86	-24%
Memo: Scouting activities net spend	471.23	4,487.30	
Membership subscription	11,371.50	9,213.00	+23%
External fundraising paid on	0.00	0.00	n/a
Scout Shop	1,179.20	0.00	n/a
Admin & Training	291.88	290.42	+1%
Transfer to Deposit Account		0.00	n/a
Group Clothing	631.70	2,134.26	-70%
Equipment	0.00	3,010.31	-100%
OSM / GC Fees	1,128.63	0.00	n/a
Provision to repay	0.00	-1,676.45	
'Scouting activities' subtotal	27,843.62	30,489.48	-9%
Hut Maintenance	5,412.88	17,010.33	-68%
Insurance	1,717.15	1,691.13	+2%
Utilities			
Electricity	2,683.65	2,347.05	+13%
Gas	1,253.65	974.81	+29%
Water	686.72	474.63	+83%
'Hall' expenditure	11,914.25	22,497.85	
TOTAL	39,757.87	52,987.33	-25%
	0.00		

	24-25	23-24
Balance as at 31st March		
Current A/C	15,600.53	28,823.18
Deposit A/C	62,671.25	42,208.14
Uncleared Credits	0.00	0.00
Uncleared Cheques	0.00	0.00
Accruals	-1.00	-1.00
Land & Buildings	1.00	1.00
Investment Accounts	0.00	0.00
Total	78,471.78	69,131.32
Accumulated Funds at start of year	69,131.32	81,880.53
Increase/decrease during year	9,340.46	-12,749.21
Funds available at 31st March *	78,471.78	69,131.32

I have examined the above accounts and in my opinion they represent a true and fair statement of income and expenditure to the year ended 31st March 2025

Signed: 

Date: 5-08-2025