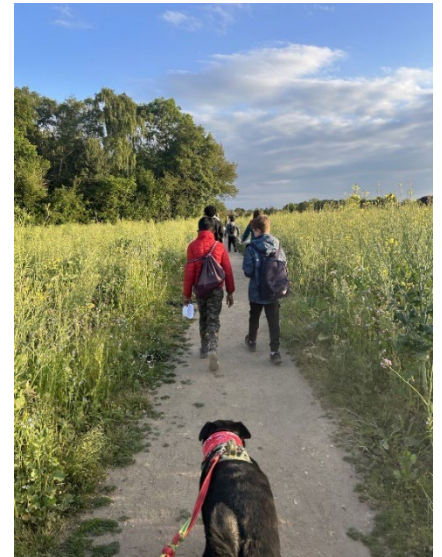


Scouts

9th North Watford

Annual General Meeting
9th June 2025



#SkillsForLife #Scouting #Volunteering #GoodForYou

9th North Watford Scout Group
www.9thnorthwatford.co.uk
Charity number: 302601

We're looking for Parent Rep Trustees – could it be you?

9thnw.org.uk
#SkillsForLife

Do you have a child involved in Scouting? Are you passionate about helping young people gain skills for life? If so, we'd love you to consider becoming a Parent Representative Trustee on our Scout Group's Board of Trustees.

This voluntary role is perfect for someone who wants to support Scouting in a meaningful way, representing the views and experiences of parents and carers, and helping shape the direction of our Group.

You don't need any prior experience – just an interest in what we do and a willingness to get involved. You'll be fully supported, and there's even optional training available if you'd like to learn more about the role.

Please speak to Steve, or email steve@9thnw.org.uk for more information or to express your interest.




Scouts

9th North Watford

Agenda

1. Steve Cavinder – Chairman's Greeting
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes
4. Jonathan Hawes – Annual Accounts Report
 - a. Approval of Accounts
5. Chris Gurdler – GLV Report
 - a. Squirrels
 - b. Beavers
 - c. Cubs
 - d. Scouts
6. District Report
7. Presentations
8. Any Other Business
9. BBQ



Chairman's Report

As I reflect on 2024, I'm proud to report that it's been another fantastic year for the 9th North Watford Scout Group as we continue to play our part in the local community. Among the many great things we've done in the neighbourhood, attendance at the Remembrance Day service at the Leavesden Memorial continues to be a highlight.

Providing **Skills for Life** is our aim and we continue to do this to over 120 children every week. With our Squirrel Drey having reached its first birthday during the year, we're now pleased to have added a second Beaver Colony to the group in September 2024. It's a measure of our success that we have more than 40 children on our waiting list and we'll look to add further to the group when the time is right and volunteers permitting.

At last years AGM, I explained in broad terms our plans for a new Scout Hut for the 9th. I'm pleased to report that we have made some significant strides in this regard. We have taken advice from Watford Borough Council who are the planning authority and we have obtained agreement from Watford Community Housing from who we lease the land, to proceed with our plans. Recently, we have engaged with a local architect who is assisting us with preparing our planning application which we aim to submit to the planning authority in late summer with the expectation that approval will be granted by the end of this year. This is an ambitious project which will require significant funding. We are putting together a funding strategy and we'd be delighted to speak with anyone who has lived experience of fund raising and/or bid writing.

We are looking to strengthen our board of trustees by adding a young person (between 18 and 25) and a parent/guardian to the board. If you are interested in working to improve and promote the 9th North Watford Scout group by becoming a trustee, then please do get in touch with us.

It would be remiss of me to close my report without thanking all of those who have contributed to our success during 2024. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the energy, enthusiasm and motivation of all of those who volunteer with us. I'm reminded that 'volunteers don't get paid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless'. A huge thank you from me to you all.

Steve Cavinder

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Minutes of Annual General Meeting - held at 9th North Watford

24th June 2024.

Agenda:

1. Steve Cavinder - Chairman's Greeting
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Governance Topics
 - a. Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules
 - c. Note the Group's Financial year - 1st Jan to 31st Dec
 - d. Agree the number of members on the board of trustees
 - e. Agree the quorum for each trustee board meeting, the group scout council and the AGM
4. Review of 2023
 - a. Accounts Report & Approval - Jonathan Hawes
 - b. Group Report - Chris Gurdler
5. Board of Trustee Appointments
 - a. Appoint the Group Chair
 - b. Appoint the Group Treasurer
 - c. Appoint other members of the Trustee Board
6. District Report - Jack Mawhinney
7. Presentations
8. Any Other Business
9. BBQ

Chairman's Greeting

Steve welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced them to the Trustees. He gave an overview of changes in the way the group would be run in the future. Steve thanked all those who have played a part in the success of 9th North Watford over the past twelve months.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Gurdler and Colin Smith.

Governance Topics

- a. A copy of the 2023 minutes was included in the AGM information booklet. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Steve Cavinder and seconded by Kevin Webb.
- b. Adoption of the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules was proposed by Steve Cavinder and seconded by Jonathan Hawes.
- c. Dates for the financial year were noted.
- d. The agreed number of members on the board of trustees is a minimum of 5, this was proposed by Steve Cavinder and seconded by Robert Day.
- e. The agreed quorum for trustee board meetings is 3, this was proposed by Steve Cavinder and seconded by Jack Mawhinney. The agreed quorum for the group scout council and AGM is 25, this was proposed by Steve Cavinder and seconded by Greg Brennan.

Review of 2023

- a. Jonathan explained that we are a 'not for profit' group. He gave an overview of his report and the years accounts. He confirmed that the group are in a stable position. A request was made for families to sign up to Gift Aid, as this is free but generates much needed funds to the group. Approval of the years accounts were proposed by Jack Mawhinney and seconded by Richard Wenham.
- b. Jack Mawhinney presented the Group Report, in the absence of Chris Gurdler. Jack, again thanked everyone for attending. Highlights from the report included: We have the 1st Squirrel Drey in the District; We have 111 young people in the group, with the smallest scout hut; We are continuing to seek volunteers as Beavers in particular, are oversubscribed. On behalf of Chris, Jack thanked all leaders for their hard work.

Board of Trustee Appointments

- a. Steve Cavinder was nominated as Group Chair by Trustees and accepted/seconded by the Group Scout Council Members.
- b. Jonathan Hawes was nominated as Group Treasurer by Trustees and accepted/seconded by the Group Scout Council Members.
- c. Lisa Beavan was nominated as a Trustee and accepted/seconded by the Group Scout Council Members. Chris Gurdler remains as a Trustee due to his position in the group.

District Report - Jack Mawhinney

Jack has the new title of District Lead Volunteer (previously known as District Commissioner).

27 years ago, Jack became a Beaver. Chris Gurdler was Jack's cub leader, and that was the start of Jack's journey. More recently he has been involved in setting up a, 70 members, Muslim scout group. Scouting locally continues to grow, with 251 on the district waiting list and 30 on the North Watford waiting list.

Presentations

Silver Awards were presented to Lewis Smith, Ruby Smith and Hayden Lawrence by District President, Roger Sands and WBC Chairwoman, Councillor Dawn Allen-Williamson.

Platinum Award was presented to Eddie McCready by District President, Roger Sands, Chairwoman, Councillor Dawn Allen-Williamson and District Youth Lead, Lucy Packman.

Any Other Business

There has been progress towards the new building. A facilitated meeting has taken place. Jonathan Hawes and Steve Cavinder have spoken to Watford Borough Council and Watford Community Housing Trust, and had an agreement in principle. A request was made to members for volunteers to join the steering group, with a view to supporting the progress of the project plan.

The meeting ended at 19.03 and was closed by Steve Cavinder.

Families and Volunteers were then invited to enjoy the BBQ provided.

Treasurer's Report

Like everyone we continually monitor the effect of increases in costs to ensure that our income is sufficient to maintain the HQ and provide Scouting to our community, and as a result, the monthly subscription was increased during 2024 from £14 to £15 in September.

The Group managed to have a modest income excess of £295, not including donations, Gift Aid and savings interest.

Preliminary work has, at last, started for the new Group HQ with a facilitated meeting held in the Spring resulting in the establishment of a Steering Group who met towards the end of the year. It is expected that 2025 will see substantial monies being expended in developing the scheme which will be initially financed from our savings account.

The success of Squirrels has contributed to our income and, if the number of young people in the Group is maintained at the current level, the financial outlook for 2025 is encouraging.

As you are aware, the 9th North Watford Scout Group is a registered charity and relies predominantly on monthly subs to support the running of our HQ, which has fixed costs, regardless of the number of young people in the Group.

May I please encourage all who can to register for Gift Aid on Online Scout Manager. Gift Aid is where the Government returns 25% of payments to us at no cost to yourselves.

Jonathan Hawes
Group Treasurer

2024 Accounts at 31 December 2024

Income		Expenditure	
Weekly Subs	£ 15721.00	Capitation	£ 6096.00
Camps / Panto / Bowling / Sailing / Beavers Bangers	£ 6390.58	Watford Community Housing Ground Rent (£600 overpayment in error)	£ 1200.00
Other	£ 91.00	Watford Borough Council Business Rates	£ 66.12
Equipment Sales	£410.09	Insurances	£ 1014.74
Refunds (Rent Overpayment)	£751	Electricity	£ 319.85
		Water and Sewage	£ 225.98
		Gas	£ 538.08
		Fire Appliance Service and Replacement	£ 60.00
		Equipment Purchases	£ 1318.08
		Repairs & maintenance (including gas boiler service)	£ 462.88
		Activities	£ 1757.85
		Badges and Scarves	£ 1319.50
		General and Miscellaneous Expenses	£ 1343.98
		Camps / Panto / Bowling / Sailing / Beavers Bangers	£ 6092.08
		GoCardless Charges	£600.18
		New HQ Expenses	£449.63
Total	£23363.67	Total	£ 23068.96
Net Excess Income	£297.71		
Donations	£ 1254.08	Transfer to Savings Accounts	£3900.00
HMRC Gift Aid (2020 – 2024)	£ 3924.26		
Savings Accounts Interest	£640.95		
Total	£5819.29	Total	£3900.00
GROSS TOTAL	£29182.96	GROSS TOTAL	£26968.96

Account Summary

Account Summary	At 31 December 2023	At 31 December 2024
Current Account	£ 5438.96	£ 7012.01
Deposit Account	£ 3691.32	£ 5646.53
32 Day Deposit Account	£ 21530.42	£ 24116.16
TOTAL	£ 30660.70	£ 36774.70

GLV Report

2024 has been a repeat of 2023, seeing steady growth in the group membership of both young people and adult helpers alike. With our waiting lists increasing all of the time we were able to open a 2nd Beaver colony, to provide even more young people a chance to have fun and learn those essential 'Skills for Life'.

You will see from each of the section reports what they have all been up to, from evenings in the scout hall, to exploring our local area, campsites and other venues for activities. Each of the evenings requires planning and execution and then a debrief. We as leaders are also continuing to learn, whether it be updating our first aid, our safeguarding and other training modules, or even how to tweak evenings so that they run better the next time. The times that you as parents and carers of our young people see our leaders and helpers, is only part of the role that we play. It is with this in mind that I wish (as I do every year) to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of our volunteers, no matter their role, for giving up their time for your children and to make the 9th North Watford such an amazing place to be and be a member of. Thank you.

As you all know there are people that you do not see every week that ensure the group runs as well as it does. Our dedicated board of trustees. Not only do they ensure we have a building to use and of course the money for our equipment and activities, but they are also working very hard to get a new hut. A modern space that will enable the 9th to continue into the future, providing a safe and fun environment for our young people. To the trustees I once again thank you for your continuing support of our leadership teams.

I am looking forward to the next few years, to see how we expand our 'little' scout group and hope that you, our family members, will continue to support us along the way. As always, now more than ever, with the plans for our new scout hall, we need some extra help. We have spaces available in each of our sections for adult helpers, our board of trustees are also recruiting and there are some new roles opening up to help with the building of our new hall. Should you be interested in helping in any way then please feel free to speak or contact me.

Chris Gurdler
Group Scout Leader

Squirrel Report

We had our 1st year party at the 9th North Watford hut and also invited our original Squirrels to reap the rewards of our home-made squirrel cake and games night. We are not far from our 2nd year of having lots of fun, laughter and badges being given.

In the last two terms we have given so many badges including our Chief Scout Acorn award. Our Squirrels like to gain as many badges as they can each week / term. One question I hear most Fridays is: 'Rachel are we doing badges tonight?!'

After letting our first group of squirrels leave the Drey to go to Beavers, we have gained enough Squirrels to have 24 on our register each term and still have the same care and commitment from our parents too, which we are very grateful for.

This last term we have all learnt a lot about the scouting world and community with our programme, such as visiting our community garden and also having visitors at the hut to help us grow and learn and earn our badges. This included International visitors who we now are pen-pals with.

Lastly, I would just like to say a huge thank you to my Squirrels team, Debs, Dave, Kat, Jasmine and newly recruited Craig, and my young leaders Hannah, Leonie and Jessica who come most Fridays. Also, the squirrels and parents who make every Friday evening fun and enjoyable.

For the next year 9th North Watford Squirrels has become an inspiration to each other and the team as they care help and encourage their friends.

Rachel Barnard Squirrel Drey Leader





Woodland Beavers Report

This past year has been quite fulfilling for the Woodland Beavers. Our programme was full of engaging meetings and wonderful events that allowed not only the children but also the team to learn new skills, work together, and create lasting memories. Some of the best bits of this year include our visit to the local care home where we were joined by the Ocean Beavers and participation in the remembrance parade, which allowed the children to come together with the community for a lovely service. The excitement of the Beaver Sleepover and our success at the Beaver Bangers added a touch of fun and competition that everyone enjoyed.

Throughout the year, we held many productive meetings that catered to a variety of interests and skills. Children learned about space, celebrated Chinese New Year, and focused on healthy eating during Healthy Eating Week. Badges were earned through creative activities and science experiments, while fun games such as pancake flipping and kick rounders kept spirits high. This year has really bought a sense of belonging among our Beavers.

Looking ahead, we have much to look forward to, including another Family Camp and more district events that promise to be both informative and enjoyable. These upcoming activities will provide more opportunities for our Beavers to engage with one another while developing new skills in a fun environment.

We are delighted to have welcomed Sally, Ruth and Lindsey to the team and I'd like to thank them all for their dedication and hard work over the year. Their efforts have made every meeting and event run smoothly and have ensured the children had the best experiences.

As we say farewell to Jazmin, who is moving on to help with the Cubs, we would like to express our gratitude for her contributions to the group. Her support and engagement will surely be missed, but we are excited for her new journey.

I would also like to thank our amazing Beavers for making the past year enjoyable for all the leaders involved, you are the reason what we do is so rewarding! A heartfelt thank you also goes to the parents for their ongoing support and to all the volunteers who help run our group from behind the scenes. We look forward to another exciting year of Scouting together.

Kayleigh and the Woodland Beaver team.



Ocean Beavers Report

We officially opened our new beaver colony in November 2024 with 19 eager young people.

Each week we gathered for meetings that saw our beavers take part in a mix of creative and educational experiences from thematic events like bonfire night and Christmas crafts to hands on activities such as finger puppet making and cooking. We've aimed to foster an environment where learning and fun go hand in hand.

In addition to our weekly meetings, several events stood out since our opening: The remembrance parade allowed our members to honour and remember those who served, our care home visit alongside Woodland Beavers provided an opportunity for interaction with the community reminding our Beavers of the value of kindness and engagement with others, while the group Christmas party was a delightful gathering that brought joy and festive spirit to everyone involved.

In closing a heartfelt thank you goes out to the team and to our Beavers for their enthusiasm and joy in participating, it is their eagerness that makes my role as leader so enjoyable. We anticipate another fulfilling year ahead filled with opportunities for growth and fun in scouting.

Deb and the Ocean Beaver team.



**Calling all
tea makers,
tidy-uppers,
activity
planners
and helpers
for as little
or as much time
as you can
spare.**

**hello@9thnw.org.uk
#SkillsForLife**



Scouts

9th North Watford

Cub Leader's Report

This past year has been significant for our Cubs group, marked by various experiences and achievements. Notable events included our exciting sailing sessions and the memorable Cub camp, which provided opportunities for our Cubs to engage with nature and develop new skills in a fun environment with our Squirrels and Beavers.

Throughout the year, our meetings focused on an array of important topics including digital citizenship, navigation, orienteering, and first aid. The Cubs had the chance to earn badges in these areas, and we would like to highlight that a total of over 416 badges were awarded during the period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Our gatherings also included outdoor activities such as scavenger hunts and wide games at Lees Wood, which encouraged teamwork and exploration.

This year, we were pleased to present four Chief Scout Awards, recognising those Cubs who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to their scouting journey. These awards stand as a testament to the hard work and dedication shown by our young members and serve as an inspiration for others.

I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our leaders for their exceptional contributions this past year. They stepped up remarkably whilst I took on the District Lead Volunteer role, ensuring that the Cubs received the best guidance and support. I am truly grateful for their efforts.

Looking ahead, there are exciting plans in place for the coming year, including more Family Camps and cross-sectional events that will allow our Cubs to interact with fellow scouts across the District.

Finally, a warm thank you to all the children for their enthusiasm and spirit that made this year enjoyable for the leaders. Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents for their continual support and to the volunteers who work diligently behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly. We look forward to another productive year in scouting, filled with learning and fun.

Jack Mawhinney

Cub Scout Leader & District Lead Volunteer



Scout Leader Report

It has been a great year for the scout group; with numbers rising to at least 20 members joining us on a regular basis. They have grown so much, both as people and the development of their skills which has been aided by a varied programme.

We have had an action packed evenings with activities such as shooting, axe throwing and many an enjoyable ready steady cook.

We have also tried out a more Scout led programme, with each patrol organising a full evening. Led by their patrol leaders we saw trash fashion, team building, fort making (followed by dodgeball testing) and a cooking evening, planned, organised and led by our Scouts.

We unfortunately had to say goodbye to Kat, who moved away from the area. Her hard work and skills made her a much loved member of the leadership group. We have been very fortunate to have Daniel join the leadership team, and he has settled in well to his role as Assistant Scout Leader and is a great member of the team.

I would also like to thank Chris (Skip), Eddie and Jay for their support on a Thursday night, it has been a great year and your experience and personalities have made Thursday evenings very enjoyable for our young people.

Here's to another great year of, growth, learning skills for life, and making friends along the way.

DJ

Scout Leader





Scouts

9th North Watford

9th North Watford Scout Group
www.9thnorthwatford.co.uk
Charity number: 302601



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

9th North Watford (Woodside) Scout Group

302601

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
1-Jan-24

To

Period end date
31-Dec-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subs	15,121	-	-	15,121	11,562
Donations	1,254	-	-	1,254	1,168
Gift Aid	3,924	-	-	3,924	-
Camps	1,905	-	-	1,905	1,692
Panto	3,138	-	-	3,138	1,841
Bowling	848	-	-	848	-
Sailing	416	-	-	416	-
Beavers' Bangers	84	-	-	84	-
Gullivers		-	-	-	458
Cadbury / Sea Life		-	-	-	3,288
Ninja		-	-	-	942
AGM / Carols	55	-	-	55	-
Refunds	751	-	-	751	-
Equipment Sales	410	-	-	410	-
Miscellaneous	36	-	-	36	9
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	27,942	-	-	27,942	20,960
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Savings Account Interest	641	-	-	641	495
Sub total	641	-	-	641	495
Total receipts	28,583	-	-	28,583	21,455
A3 Payments					
Capitation	6,096	-	-	6,096	4,209
Ground Rent	1,200	-	-	1,200	600
Business Rates	66	-	-	66	415
Insurance	921	-	-	921	644
Electricity	320	-	-	320	289
Water	226	-	-	226	134
Gas	538	-	-	538	548
Gas Service	100	-	-	100	
Electric PAT Testing		-	-	-	
Fire Appliance Check	60	-	-	60	168
Repairs & maintenance	363	-	-	363	2,514
Internet Domain renewal OSM	204	-	-	204	187
Training Expenses	256	-	-	256	
Personal Insurance	94	-	-	94	94
Uniform Allowance	368	-	-	368	144
May Camp	1,419	-	-	1,419	997
District Camp	-	-	-	-	595
Sep Camp	40	-	-	40	-
Gullivers	-	-	-	-	542
Cadbury / Sea Life	-	-	-	-	3,911
Pantomime	3,280	-	-	3,280	2,097
Ninja	54	-	-	54	1,493
Beavers Bangers	75	-	-	75	-
Bowling	804	-	-	804	-
Sailing	420	-	-	420	-
Equipment Purchases	1,318	-	-	1,318	517
Activities	1,758	-	-	1,758	669
T-shirts	-	-	-	-	127
AGM / Carols	444	-	-	444	207
Awards/Presentations	40	-	-	40	38
Donations	-	-	-	-	250
Badges / Scarves	1,319	-	-	1,319	819
Miscellaneous	150	-	-	150	230

New HQ Expenses	450	-	-	450	
Carol Service	86	-	-	86	106
Sub total	22,469	-	-	22,469	22,545

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	22,469	-	-	22,469	22,545
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Net of receipts/(payments)	6,114	-	-	6,114	- 1,090
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	30,661	-	-	30,661	-
Cash funds this year end	36,775	-	-	36,775	- 1,090

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	7,012	-	-
	Savings Account	5,647	-	-
	32 Day Notice Savings Account	24,116	-	-
	Total cash funds	36,775	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Jonathan Hawes	27-Jan-25	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

9th North Watford (Woodside) Scout Group

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

302601

Set out on pages

1-7

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's 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

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

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



Signed:

Date:

8/10/2025

Name:

COLIN DAVIS SMITH


 CHARITY COMMISSION
 
 Independent examiner

4 AUSTIN VILLAS
WOODSIDE ROAD
WATFORD WD25 0GD

Disclosure

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.