



## **1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley (3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford) Scouts**

### **Chairman's Report For Year Ending: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Prepared by David Gray, Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

Membership of the Scout group continued to thrive. The section leaders worked hard to provide a varied and challenging programme for the young members.

The different sections' programmes for 2024 saw the reintroduction of the Points Competition. The young people could earn points to reflect their personal award achievements or by helping others in the group. Four young people from each of the sections were invited to attend an outing to Go Ape as a prize.

It proved not possible to fill the vacant role of Group Lead Volunteer (formerly Group Scout Master). Dani Chalk, already lead volunteer for Lake Beavers, generously agreed to become acting GLV overseeing the administration side only of running the group's sections. Dani was assisted in her role by Jack Mawhinney from Watford North District.

Difficulties continued in attracting sufficient additional adult volunteers. The Section Lead Volunteers continue to rely heavily upon the assistance of group volunteers and parents of members to support them in the running of section meetings and external activities.

Appeals continued throughout the year made to parents of the young members and also friends and supporters of the group in an attempt to fill several important vacant roles on the Trustee Board and including Group Secretary, Health & Safety Coordinator and Facilities Coordinator. The duties and



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responsibilities for these roles were covered temporarily by other members of the group's Board of Trustees.

Regular assistance was provided by members of the Albatross Explorer Section (the "Abbos"), a Scouting District entity and also from members of the adult Network section.

The Scout group's Annual General Meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Various achievement badges were presented to members and a number of long service awards presented to Leaders and other adult members of the Scout group.

The Scout group's finances were reported to be in a very good state. The cost of works and purchases that have been identified will significantly reduce the monies held by the group in the short term whilst still maintaining an adequate level of funds in reserve and in accordance with good budgeting practice.

The Scout group remains grateful to Christopher James who continued to act as the Independent Examiner of the group's Year End Financial Accounts.

The process of Transformation for Scouts first introduced during 2023 was well underway at the beginning of 2024. The group's Board of Trustees needed to review and implement changes to the structure of the group. Different Teams were set up to provide the support skill sets required to run the group.

The Events Team, led by Fiona Packman was very busy throughout the year holding the popular jumble sales, quiz nights and also entering stalls at the village carnival.



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The principal purpose of holding such events is to raise funds for the Scout group. Funding is needed to pay for the day to day running costs of HQ, such as for example, utility bills, paying business tax and insurance.

We also need to find money to maintain the HQ and to replace & improve the group's facilities. One such expenditure was the purchase of 2 new pop-up gazebos which have proved to be a great asset. They are very smart, quick to put up and take down and provide a large unobstructed covered space for camps and other events.

When announcing an upcoming fund-raising event the group will now clearly identify what any money raised is intended to be used for.

We are able to raise funds for the group in a variety of other ways. The young members contribute by payment of subscriptions. "Subs" have been kept as low as possible. This income is supplemented by the group claiming Gift Aid.

The solar panels fitted to the roof of the HQ have proved effective in reducing energy bills. The surplus energy is fed back into the electricity grid for which we receive a favourable tariff.

We hire out the hall and the group's mini bus for which reasonable charges are made.

One unforeseen expense during the year was having to repair the warm air heating system which broke down just at the beginning of the winter months. Rob Coulson was instrumental in organising quotes and overseeing the remedial work, The heating system was up and running again in time for the



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commencement of the new Spring Term Programme in the New Year 2025.

Remedial work was started on resolving the problems with the disposal of the surface water that causes the rainwater gullies to back up during heavy rainfall and could lead to flooding of external areas. Further remedial work is planned to take place during 2025.

Holding group events is also aimed at encouraging parents of the young members and also supporters of the group to attend and socialize together and hopefully to attract more volunteers to become involved in the running of the sections and the organisation of the group.

The Christingle service held at St Lawrence Church at the beginning of December was well attended by both the young members and the not so young alike.

The group is fortunate to own a minibus. Income from it over the year only just about covered the running costs but it has been decided that having the use of the vehicle outweighs the costs. Jeremy Bishop, the transport manager who has done sterling work announced he wished to pass the role on to someone else. We are currently looking for a new volunteer to take over this role.

The Scout HQ building stands empty and unused for a greater part of the week. To attract more private events we recognize that we need to improve the facilities so as to compare more favourably with other similar sized venues located in Abbots Langley.



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Sound absorbing panels have been fitted to the ceilings in the hall to reduce sound levels. This has proved very successful.

The wood block floor in the hall received further repairs.

Progress was made on finalising a scheme for replacing all of the external doors.

Members of the group's Support Team organised a base at the annual Scouts District Green Beret Competition that was held in November. Although significantly altered compared to in previous years it still presented a challenge and was by all accounts enjoyed by the young people who took part in the competition.

The family and friends of the late Rob Lambert very kindly made donations in memory of Rob who had been a long time member and active supporter of the group. The intention is to use some of the donated money to create a new award to be presented within in the group in memory of Rob.

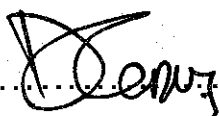
Further improvements were made to the group's web site led by Liam Goodman.

Woodsmoke, the group's regular newsletter edited by Anna Ebdon remained an essential read.

Prepared by:

David Gray      Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley  
(3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford) Scouts

Signature

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**1ST ABBOTS LANGLEY (3RD NORTH WATFORD ) SCOUT GROUP**  
**(Reg Charity No. 302611)**

**ACCOUNTS for the year ending 31st December 2024**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS**

<b>1. RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
Subscriptions		
River Beavers	1,860.00	1,800.00
Lake Beavers	2,034.00	2,340.00
Rainforest Cubs	2,815.25	3,204.24
Jungle Cubs	3,337.00	2,700.00
Scouts	3,980.00	3,835.00
Less: Refund for overpayment	-	-
Less: paid on to district	<u>- 6,794.50</u>	<u>- 6,222.00</u>
	7,231.75	7,657.24
Investment income		
Group	1,912.92	1,190.69
Voluntary sources		
Donations		
General donations (including equipment)	1,274.90	421.95
Pete Linskey Training Fund	-	-
Winder Climbing Wall Fund	-	-
Local authority Covid grants	-	-
Hall Hire	3,295.00	2,457.00
Minibus hire	<u>1,570.00</u>	<u>775.00</u>
	6,139.90	3,653.95
Fund raising		
Jumble Sales	4,178.05	3,920.68
Carnival	3,669.49	3,247.19
Quiz Night	924.00	-
DVD Sales	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	8,771.54	7,167.87
Activities		
River Beavers	-	385.00
Lake Beavers	30.00	1,268.50
Rainforest Cubs	-	-
Jungle Cubs	-	720.00
Scouts	<u>60.00</u>	<u>684.00</u>
	90.00	3,057.50
Miscellaneous		
Group Solar Panels	2,101.11	1,944.41
River Beavers	141.00	218.89
Lake Beavers	362.89	-
Rainforest Cubs		170.00
Jungle Cubs	4.50	6.00
Camp Profit	402.00	-
Explorers	<u>-</u>	<u>100.00</u>
	3,011.50	2,439.30
Gift Aid	-	3,219.23
Group Camp	-	-
Misc Income	166.50	481.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR YEAR</b>	<u>27,324.11</u>	<u>28,866.78</u>



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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT CONT.

**2. PAYMENTS**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Premises		
Rates	195.61	233.68
Repairs & Maintenance	8,936.59	15,726.80
Gas & Electricity	1,657.50	1,790.46
Telephone	958.34	452.73
Water	316.57	535.19
Insurance	1,466.33	1,748.21
	<u>13,530.94</u>	<u>20,487.07</u>
Activities		
River Beavers	284.52	1,396.94
Lake Beavers	1,068.24	2,356.61
Rainforest Cubs	1,373.44	1,101.42
Jungle Cubs	797.00	854.30
Scouts	2,176.87	2,869.86
Group	1,168.16	1,003.23
	<u>6,868.23</u>	<u>9,582.36</u>
Fund Raising expenses jumble Sales	-	173.99
Fund Raising expenses Carnival	1,772.58	978.10
Fund Raising expenses Xmas Market	-	-
Media expenses	374.25	360.70
Peter Linskey Fund - training	-	-
Winder Wall Climbing Wall Fund	-	760.95
	<u>2,146.83</u>	<u>2,273.74</u>
Administration		
Group	-	901.79
River Beavers	54.00	-
Lake Beavers	525.45	433.75
Rainforest Cubs	52.48	734.99
Jungle Cubs	319.04	-
Scouts	316.09	151.47
	<u>1,267.06</u>	<u>2,222.00</u>
Equipment		
Group	5,280.51	1,285.50
River Beavers	-	443.74
Lake Beavers	-	86.97
Rainforest Cubs	-	-
Jungle Cubs	-	693.24
Scouts	-	125.16
	<u>5,280.51</u>	<u>2,634.61</u>
Transport Expenses		
Insurance	883.78	976.67
Road Tax	325.00	295.00
Running Costs	315.05	215.61
Other Expenses	256.59	-
	<u>1,780.42</u>	<u>1,487.28</u>
Sundries		
Group	1,746.88	422.00
River Beavers	352.27	45.00
Lake Beavers	16.84	-
Rainforest Cubs	-	-
Jungle Cubs	-	-
Scouts	30.00	-
	<u>2,145.99</u>	<u>467.00</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR YEAR</b>	<u>33,019.98</u>	<u>39,154.06</u>

**1ST ABBOTS LANGLEY (3RD NORTH WATFORD) SCOUT GROUP**

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities  
at 31st December 2024**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
Current Bank account - Group	£15,009.57	£1,816.77
Pete Linskey Training Fund		
Clive Winder Wall Fund		
- River Beavers	£2,271.26	£2,724.01
- Lake Beavers	£529.06	£1,369.10
- Rainforest Cubs	£2,570.04	£2,799.21
- Jungle Cubs	£2,933.71	£2,082.25
- Scouts	£4,251.77	£4,712.71
Bank deposit accounts - Barclays Group 0.40%	£0.00	£0.00
Savings accs - Mons B S Group 1%(Incl PL & WW Funds)	£35,170.68	£53,521.61
Savings acc - Redwood Bk 90Day Group 2.95%	£21,711.59	£21,051.74
Cash in hand		£205.13
- Group		
- River Beavers	£180.46	£0.00
- Lake Beavers	£0.00	£6.10
- Rainforest Cubs	£3.73	£0.00
- Jungle Cubs	£0.00	£0.00
- Scouts	£30.87	£69.98
- Bus fund	£101.22	£101.22
	<u>£84,763.96</u>	<u>£90,459.83</u>
<b>Non monetary assets (for charities own use)</b>		
Land and buildings - Scout HQ - 21-23 Langley Road, Abbots Langley WD5 0EH		
Transport - Minibus and Trailers		
Fixtures and fittings in Scout HQ		
Scouting Equipment		
<b>Liabilities</b>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>



**1st ABBOTS LANGLEY (3rd NORTH WATFORD) SCOUT GROUP**  
**(Reg Charity No. 302611)**  
**RECEIPTS ND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT SUMMARY**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total receipts for the year (see page 1)	£27,324.11	£28,866.78
Total payments for the year (see page 2)	£33,019.98	£39,154.06
Net receipts (payments) for the year	<u>-£5,695.87</u>	<u>-£10,287.28</u>
Cash & bank funds brought forward	£90,459.83	£100,747.11
Cash & bank funds carried forward	<u>£84,763.96</u>	<u>£90,459.83</u>

The above account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees

on 31 OCT 2025 and signed on their behalf by

 (Chair)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

1st Abbots Langley (3rd North Watford) Scout Group

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

302611

Set out on pages

(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 December 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

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:

14 Oct 2025

Name:

Christopher Howard James

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

Chartered Accountant – ICAEW – member 9033646

Address:

17 Little How Croft, Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, WD5 0BR

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

No matters to disclose.