

# **Gravesham District Scout Council**

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2025



Registered Charity No. 303399

## Trustees who have served at any point in the year

Keith Jones	Chair	
Susan Livett	Treasurer	
Fraser Patrick	District Lead Volunteer	
Jack Reeves	District Youth Lead	
Pat Duncumb		Alan Skelton
Myles Sullivan		Richard Ruddick
Richard Painting		Chris Austin *
Chris Wallis *		Tanya Beattie *
Dave Moesli #		Janet Jones #
Henson Appleby #		Rob Viner #
Marion Weston #		Darren Stanford #
Terry Duncumb #		Hannah Booth #
Lucy Stanford #		James Treadwell #

(\* = from 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024; # = until 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024)

Custodian Trustee: The Scout Association Trust Corporation  
Contact address: Hopehill

## Structure, Governance and Management

### *Description of the charity's trusts*

Gravesham District Scouts (the District)'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 District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association and the constitution of the District. The District adopted the new model constitution at its' AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

### *Risk and internal controls*

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include dual approval for payments, regular reports to the trustees including emerging issues and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that relevant insurable risks are covered.

Trustees need to be alerted to possible conflicts of interest which may arise. Trustees are required to identify and declare any conflict of interest; trustees are removed from any decision making process where a conflict of interest is declared or identified; details of discussions and decisions made when a conflict has been identified are recorded and care is given to managing the conflict of interest once a decision has been made.

## **Objectives, activities and achievements**

### *Objectives*

The objectives of the District are as a unit of The Scout Association. Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. 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 cooperate with others and make friends.

### *Activities and achievements*

The District operates four Explorer Scout units for 14-18 year olds and a Network Scout unit for young people aged 18-25 and supports 13 groups across Gravesham which provide Scouting to 4-14 year old girls and boys. It also operates a campsite (Hopehill in Meopham).

The District has run a full programme of activities for all sections which have been well attended and are documented in the blog on the website. It also actively supports Duke of Edinburgh awards and the Young Leader scheme.

Hopehill remains busy and has benefitted new containers for storage, the re-commissioning of the climbing tower and the ordering of a 100' inflatable assault course. Planning for the extension and renewal of the toilet block has continued, with build planned next year.

The annual census at 31<sup>st</sup> January showed an 4% increase in youth membership with a new cub pack and scout troop opening.

Scouting in the District is entirely dependent on the volunteer Scouters and other adults who give their time and energy to plan and run activities and provide support for the benefit of the young people. Lack of volunteers is the most significant risk to Scout in Gravesham.

### *Public benefit*

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings. The trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising any powers to which the guidance may be relevant.

## **Financial review**

### *Performance in the year*

The accounts show a deficit due to expenditure on projects, largely planning and fees for the toilet block. We received grant funding for certain groups at Hopehill, two thirds of which was passed on to the groups. Operating returns on a comparable basis are similar to last year.

The Clifford Allen Memorial Trust (which is included in the accounts) has shown a modest increase in value of investments held.

### *Reserves and investments*

The District continues to maintain sufficient reserves to provide for the ongoing operation of its activities, including future capital requirements for its properties in the short and long term. Cash is held in various current and deposit accounts.

Investments are managed under a low to moderate investment risk and balanced income & capital growth investment objective and made in accordance with the recommendations of our advisors, Brewin Dolphin.

## **Plans for the future**

The District will continue to provide activities for Scouts in Gravesham (including hill walking, water activities, camps, clay pigeon shooting, archery and many more). At Hopehill, the project to refurbish the Madeline Allen toilet block is expected to be built during winter 2025/26.

The trustees declare that they approved this report on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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Signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fraser Patrick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fraser Patrick

## Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2025

Receipts	This year	Last year	Payments	This year	Last year
	£	£		£	£
				Note	
Membership subscriptions	51,107	50,297			
Less paid over	(46,539)	(39,062)			
	<b>4,568</b>	<b>11,235</b>	Administration	1,008	1,583
Adult training	1,097	580	Adult training	2,141	334
Donations and grants	22,157	331	Grants to groups	15,256	-
Interest	784	514	Purchase of equipment	463	422
Investment income	10,880	13,935	Investment management costs	2 5,554	4,793
	<b>11,664</b>	<b>14,449</b>			
District activities	24,257	26,751	District activities	25,132	28,650
Explorer activities	18,068	11,433	Explorer activities	18,254	15,811
	<b>42,325</b>	<b>38,184</b>		<b>43,386</b>	<b>44,461</b>
Property receipts	<b>58,708</b>	<b>57,707</b>	Property running costs	55,791	51,441
			Insurance replacements	-	95
			Property improvements	46,262	56,555
				<b>102,053</b>	<b>108,091</b>
Transfer from closed Scout Groups	<b>2,086</b>	-			
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>142,605</b>	<b>122,486</b>	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>169,861</b>	<b>159,684</b>
Sale of investment assets	211,534	81,204	Purchase of investment assets	283,504	9,400
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>354,139</b>	<b>203,690</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>453,365</b>	<b>169,084</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>(453,365)</b>	<b>(169,084)</b>			
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>(99,226)</b>	<b>34,606</b>			

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

### As at 31 March 2025

		This year £	Last year £
	Note		
<b>Monetary assets</b>			
Cash held		656	1,481
Bank current accounts		23,552	28,229
Bank deposit accounts		28,465	48,246
Clifford Allen cash held	2	31,338	97,983
		<u><b>84,011</b></u>	<u><b>175,939</b></u>
<b>Investments</b>			
Quoted securities at market value	2	<u><b>520,452</b></u>	<u><b>434,821</b></u>
<b>Debtors</b>			
Due from Scout Groups		2,640	-
Gift Aid from HMRC		1,547	1,480
		<u><b>4,187</b></u>	<u><b>1,480</b></u>
<b>Non monetary assets held for charity use</b>			
Stock for resale at cost		2,238	1,423
Land at cost	3	75,000	75,000
Buildings and equipment at insurance value	3	1,573,621	1,500,964
		<u><b>1,650,859</b></u>	<u><b>1,577,387</b></u>

Signed on behalf of all the trustees on 8th September 2025:



Susan Livett



Fraser Patrick

# Notes to the accounts

## for the year ended 31 March 2025

### 1 - Basis of preparation

These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The statement of Assets and Liabilities includes cash and investments at market value, land and stock for resale at historic purchase price and other assets at insurance / replacement value.

They include all the activities of Gravesham District, including Hopehill Scout Campsite, four Explorer Scout units, a Network Scout and Active Support units and the Clifford Allen Memorial Trust.

The thirteen Scout Groups in the District are separate charities and are not included.

<b>2 - Clifford Allen Memorial Trust</b>	This year £	Last year £
Market value at 1 April	532,804	502,082
Grants to District	-	-
Investment management fees	(5,554)	(4,793)
Net investment returns	24,540	35,515
Market value at 31 March	<u>551,790</u>	<u>532,804</u>

This comprises Quoted Securities of £520,451 (last year £434,821) and cash of £31,338 (last year £97,983)

### 3 - Property

The District owns the land and buildings at Hopehill Campsite and the land at Istead Rise Scout Hut.

<b>4 - Hopehill campsite</b>	This year £	Last year £
<i>Income</i>		
Camp fees	33,178	36,503
Building hire	16,735	14,599
Site activities	5,965	4,253
Tuck shop	2,815	2,253
Other	15	99
	<u>58,708</u>	<u>57,707</u>
<i>Ongoing expenditure</i>		
Utilities	(19,647)	(23,340)
Insurance	(9,648)	(9,853)
Running costs	(395)	(1,121)
Activity maintenance	(695)	(2,444)
Tuck shop	(2,608)	(1,309)
Cleaning	(4,174)	(3,507)
Maintenance	(9,959)	(9,690)
Ongoing equipment replacements	(1,366)	(177)
Insurance replacements	-	(95)
	<u>(48,492)</u>	<u>(51,536)</u>
<i>Projects</i>		
Security upgrade	-	(12,616)
Toilet and Shower block	(10,267)	(43,372)
Electrical upgrade for activities	(9,261)	-
Field Kitchen replacement	(8,288)	-
Shipping containers for storage	(6,298)	-
Inflatable assault course	(6,114)	-
Tomahawk range	(3,110)	(567)
Climbing tower refurbishment	(2,925)	-
	<u>(46,262)</u>	<u>(56,555)</u>
	<u>(36,045)</u>	<u>(50,384)</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report  
to the Trustees of Gravesham District Scout Council  
(Registered Charity No, 303399)  
on accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025  
set out on pages 5 to 7**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the District") for the year ended 31st March 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the District's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Luke Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

Name: Luke Anderson

Professional qualification: ACA

Address: 21 Goodall Close, Parkwood, Gillingham, Medway, ME8 9NG

Date: 29 November 2025