

St Nicolas 9th Guildford Scout Group

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administration details

Scout Association Registration Number	5947	Charity Registration Number	305756
Charity's principal contact & address	Helen Marsh 35 St Johns Road, Guildford, GU2 7UQ chairman@stnics9th.org.uk		
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4QJ		

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Catherine Anderson	BSL	
Jonathan Attwood	ESL	
Margaret Brown	CSL	
James Faulkner	subs manager	
Josh Goodwin	GSL	Until 13.07.24
Josh Goodwin	President	From 13.07.24
Jason Green	Treasurer	
Kim Heffernan	Explorers Admin Lead	
Angeline Lee	SSL	Until 01.03.25
Helen Marsh	Chair	
Pip Moore	Social Media Manager	
Els Pillinger	Secretary	Until 13.07.24
Katie Richardson	Secretary	From 13.07.24

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

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.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the group set out in its governing document The objectives of the group are as a unit of the Scout Association.

The aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. This aim is achieved by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

Summary of main activities

St Nicolas 9th Guildford Scout Group is run and managed by unpaid volunteers and offers a wide programme of activities to young people aged 6-18. There are 4 sections: Beavers (age 6-8), Cubs (8-10), Scouts (10-14) and Explorers (14-18). The Explorer Scout Unit (ESU) was set up in 2014 and has a Partnership Agreement with the main group. This Annual Report covers all four sections of the group, including the ESU.

The group is very grateful for the support of the Guildford United Reformed Church, which grants the use of its lower hall for meetings.

Achievements and performance

Main achievements during the year

Group: Once again, we have run a full programme of activities across all four sections and we continue to have no problems in recruiting young people and currently hold waiting lists for a couple of sections. Sadly Josh Goodwin stepped down as GSL this year. We have not been able to recruit a replacement but he is a very hard act to follow. Also, Angie Lee stepped down from leading the Scouts section in March leaving another huge gap. Recruitment of new leaders is very much the priority for 2025-2026 and also ensuring that the Trustee Board supports and values all of our adult volunteers. Thankfully, the Trustee Board remains strong. This is the first full financial year since the pandemic without any exceptional payments and the accounts look robust with an increase in reserves of over one thousand pounds. This was boosted though by an equipment grant from Thames Water. We continue to monitor subscriptions and payments closely. In conclusion, a good year financially but we do need to boost volunteers to ensure we can continue to provide a full programme of activities across all four sections.

Beavers: Last year was packed with exciting activities for our 24 Beavers, who earned many badges, for example, the Builder, Disability Awareness, Emergency Aid, and Experiments badges. Highlights included a visit to Disability Challengers in Stoke Park, attending the District Activity Afternoon in Normandy, taking part in Survival Camp, and participating in parade services at St Nicolas' and the URC. More recently, the Beavers have chosen to work towards the Space badge and will also complete the International badge with activities like a Spanish-themed evening. They have participated in junk modelling, making autumn crafts, and preparing for the next Survival Camp. Badge goals include Cook, Gardener, Communicator, and Global Issues, with exciting events like the District Sleepover at Winchester Science Centre, a Mothering Sunday parade at St Nics, and a lively Burns Night celebration. Our leadership team remains strong, with BSL, ABSL, Section Assistants Enric and Lyndsey, and (hopefully) Sarah Birch joining us soon. We're also been supported this year by Young Leader Thomas Carter and DofE helpers Jamie McGowan, Alexandra Williams, Sophie Blake, and Emily Scott.

Cubs: Over the past year, the Cubs have enjoyed a full and varied programme, with membership remaining strong and currently standing at 30 cubs. Despite Akela being on sabbatical for parts of the year, the section was ably led by a dedicated team of leaders, section assistants, and three enthusiastic Young Leaders. Cubs took part in a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities, including hikes at Blackheath, pond dipping, gardening, kite making, water games, and a visit to the Spike. They explored community topics through first aid training, learning about local services like the food bank and the police, and participating in parades and remembrance activities. Highlights included attending District and Survival Camps, and preparing for a delayed "summer" camp at Broadstone Warren in October. Cubs also completed badge work such as Gardener, Money Skills, and Emergency Aid 2, and took part in competitions, quizzes, and themed meetings like the popular "Cubs' Choice" night.

Scouts: Over the past year, the Scout troop has seen a dynamic and eventful calendar, growing from 32 to 42 Scouts, with a girl-to-boy ratio averaging around one-third girls. The troop welcomed several new members from the waiting list and from cubs, while also noting a younger demographic due to the lingering impact of COVID-19 on older Scouts' progression. Throughout the year, Scouts participated in a wide range of camps and events, including County Expedition Challenges, Kip 'n Kayak, Scoutabout, and the International Jambowlree. They earned a remarkable 349 badges collectively, including a Chief Scout's Gold Award and new Nights Away woggles. Activities followed a 'Skills for Life' theme, with events like Scout Skills, Camp Skills, and several badge-focused camps. Notable achievements included outstanding performance in expedition challenges, and the continuation of a strong link with the Explorer unit for Bronze DofE preparation. Sadly, Hathi stepped down as leader in March 2025. Fergus Bell and Rainer McGill have stepped up in the interim as the Group as a whole works out how best to progress with the Scout section.

Explorers: The Explorer unit continues to run a weekend programme, focussed on outdoor activities and expeditions. We have 32 Explorers and 3 Leaders. Some other local Explorers join our Bronze DofE expeditions and other events. We have also invited St Nicolas 9th Scouts to some events and participated in Onslow Infants and St Nicolas Church summer fairs to promote the Group and support volunteer recruitment.

Leadership: Peter and Jonathan are joint Leaders, supported by Jenna, plus Kim who manages the Explorers and DofE administration.

We continue to attract new Explorers from other local Scout troops, which do not have their own Explorer sections.

2024/25

This year we have had the following events:

Autumn Term

Canyoning and camp (Wales)

DofE planning meetings

Gold and Silver DofE training expeditions (Western Watch)

Remembrance Day parade

Survival Camp

Spring Term

Camp cookout

Monopoly Run Live

DofE planning meetings

Red Flare Night Hike

Gold DofE training expedition (with Western Watch)

Good Friday Breakfast

Summer Term

St George's Day Parade

Night hike

Night hike and camp

Paddleboarding

Annual review evening

Gold DofE expedition (August)

We cancelled two camps this year - the Christmas camp (because of severe weather) and a winter hike/camp (because of leader availability).

We have a similar programme planned for 2025/26, starting the Autumn term with a camp in Dorset and Scoutshoot.

Financial Review

Policy on reserves

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income fall short, as well as to allow for contingencies. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 2 to 6 months' running costs, being £2,000 - £6,000.

The Group held reserves of £10,241.72 at year end (2024: £9,224.13) which is higher than the group's policy.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

Full name

Position

Date

HELEN MARSH

JASON GREEN

CHAIR

TREASURER

12th July 2025

12th July 2025

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of St Nicolas 9th Guildford Scout Group (Charity No. 305756)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Nicolas 9th Guildford Scout Group (Charity No. 305756) (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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 being reached.

Signed:

Name:

Address:

Date:



Sophie Lidbetter

1, Church Court, Foxendon Road

Guildford

GU1 4JY

12/07/2025

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Signed:



Name:

Sophie Lidbetter

Address:

1 Church Court, Foxenden Road
Guildford
GU1 4DY

Date:

12/7/25

Relevant professional qualifications:

CGMA

St Nicolas 9th Guildford Scout Group Receipts and Payments Account, 1/4/24 to 31/3/25

Receipts for the year to 31 March	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £
Donations, legacies and similar income						
Membership subscriptions	10,934.39	10,610.84	7,908.50	8,346.50	7,572.75	7,833.75
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on to District	<u>-5,610.00</u>	<u>-5,346.00</u>	<u>-5,928.00</u>	<u>-4,259.00</u>	<u>-5,582.50</u>	<u>-4,441.50</u>
Net membership subscriptions retained	5,324.39	5,264.84	1,980.50	4,087.50	1,990.25	3,392.25
Donations & grants	2,471.64	669.68	0.00	74.25	37.00	1,502.44
Gift Aid	0.00	1,769.33	2,984.28	0.00	1,701.06	1,759.38
Sub total	7,796.03	7,703.85	4,964.78	4,161.75	3,728.31	6,654.07
Other income						
Activities - Beavers	1,356.54	1,485.00	266.00	288.00	0.00	3.00
Activities - Cubs	1,228.00	1,782.50	1,119.00	527.24	0.00	495.00
Activities - Scouts	8,217.14	6,687.38	4,037.60	3,010.00	360.75	2,780.57
Activities - Explorers	2,358.67	6,149.01	5,201.51	1,768.50	302.50	6,838.55
Activities - Group (incl. Good Friday, Family Camp)	6591.84	6406.87	6183.38	3,622.00	53.00	4,263.75
Sundry receipts	248.33	350.55	49.83	62.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	20,000.52	22,861.31	16,857.32	9,277.74	716.25	14,380.87
Total Gross Income	27,796.55	30,565.16	21,822.10	13,439.49	4,444.56	21,039.44
Asset and investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	211.60	0.00	0.00
Total receipts	27,796.55	30,565.16	21,822.10	13,651.09	4,444.56	21,039.44

Payments for the year to 31 March

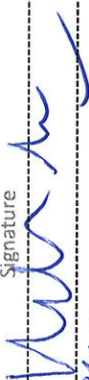

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
Charitable Payments						
Activity payments - Beavers	1,199.73	2,941.05	682.79	919.82	590.63	715.11
Activity payments - Cubs	2,597.61	2,188.95	3091.94	1,236.45	184.52	1,438.14
Activity payments - Scouts	8,083.01	5,323.89	2869.68	2,829.03	592.87	3,819.14
Activity payments - Explorers	2,219.35	6,376.53	5141.71	538.00	10.00	7,258.04
Activity payments - Group (incl. Good Friday, Family Camp)	6143.01	4408.97	3934.64	2,244.73	62.47	1,784.71
Uniform and training	54.00	757.70	274.15	38.00	0.00	67.50
Insurance	363.50	351.14	430.4	845.04	689.02	646.32
Donations	250.00	250.00	702.97	500.00	1,027.50	717.00
Post, stationery & Internet	150.00	0.00	103.07	275.48	468.11	146.09
Purchase of badges	1,380.62	1,444.66	1898.87	1,381.02	1,176.16	917.23
Bank Charges	60.00	60.00	90.01	96.00	69.00	60.00
AGM & accounting expenses	0.00	0.00	233.79	397.22	84.50	0.00
Sundry Payments	2781.00	6310.14	2902.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Gross Expenditure	25,281.83	30,413.03	22,356.78	11,300.79	4,954.78	17,569.28
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	1,497.13	1,392.00	2840.4	863.31	1,445.55	2,315.73
Total payments	26,778.96	31,805.03	25,197.18	12,164.10	6,400.33	19,885.01
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,017.59	-1,239.87	-3,375.08	1,486.99	-1,955.77	1,154.43
Cash funds last year end	9,224.13	10,464.00	13,839.08	12,352.09	14,307.86	13,153.43
Cash funds this year end	10,241.72	9,224.13	10,464.00	13,839.08	12,352.09	14,307.86

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds						
Bank current account	10,241.72	9,224.13	10,464.00	13,839.08	11,664.10	13,419.87
Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	887.99	887.99
Total cash funds	10,241.72	9,224.13	10,464.00	13,839.08	12,552.09	14,307.86
Other monetary assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	10,241.72	9,224.13	10,464.00	13,839.08	12,552.09	14,307.86
Liabilities						
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-200.00	0.00
NET ASSETS	10,241.72	9,224.13	10,464.00	13,839.08	12,352.09	14,307.86

Non-monetary assets include: a large number of hiking & patrol tents, a mess tent, gazebos and event shelter, as well as cooking and catering equipment. Total insured value: £28,141. The group also has three historic stained glass windows, valued at £12,000.

The above Receipts & Payments account and
Statement of Assets & Liabilities were approved by
the Trustees at the Trustee Board meeting on 8th June
2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature



Print Name
Helen Morish Chair
Jason Green Treasurer