

# **Eastbourne District Scouts**

**Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts**

**2024 - 2025**

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## Trustees for the year 2024 to 2025

### District Trustee Board Membership

#### Ex officio

Andy Stevens	District Lead Volunteer (DLV)
Oscar Romero Neal	District Youth Lead (DYL)
Robert Hooker	District Youth Lead (DYL)

#### Appointed

Matthew Peskett	Chair
Philip Huggett	Treasurer
Tracey Titherly	Member (Cub Lead, 1 <sup>st</sup> Hampden Park)
Gavin Gillam	Member
Ian Lewis	Member (EDSFAT)
Jane McMahon	Member (Girlguiding)

District President      Frank Woods

District Secretary      Julie Peskett

Bankers      Barclays Bank PLC  
63-67 Terminus Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3NE

Independent Examiner      Shaun Muller, Director, Cornfield Accountants Ltd,  
5 Cornfield Terrace, Eastbourne, BN21 4NN

#### Scout Association

District Registration Number	17005
Charity Registration Number	305846
Charity Commission Contact	Matthew Peskett (Trustee) 49 Summerdown Road, Eastbourne, BN20 8DR

## District Lead Volunteer – Andy Stevens



Andy Stevens

As Eastbourne's District Lead Volunteer, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the incredible dedication and resilience of Scouting here in Eastbourne. This past year has been one of growth, adventures, challenges, but primarily a continued commitment to delivering Skills for Life to young people across our District.

### Highlights and Achievements

This year, our sections, groups, units, and the District have achieved so much. Here are just a few of the standout moments:

- **Growth in Membership:** We are delighted to report an increase in youth membership since 2024's census return. This is a testament to the engaging and diverse programme which our volunteers provide. We've also welcomed new adult volunteers, strengthening our capacity.

	2024	2025
Total number of Young People 6 years, and under 18 (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)	825	823
Total number of Squirrels	39	45
Total number of Explorer Scouts	99	107
Total number of YP (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)	864	868

- **Diverse Programme Delivery:** Our young people have enjoyed a vast array of activities, from traditional camping, campfire cooking and hiking, to environmental conservation, and community service. Highlights include the successful 'Out of this World' District Camp, lots of nights away, and expeditions, all of which are developing independence and teamwork.
- **Volunteer Development:** We continue to navigate the challenges of the new Scout membership system, and have seen the majority of our volunteers embrace the new tools, with volunteers continuing to achieve their Woodbadges.
- **Active participation in local community events,** including Remembrance Day parades, beach cleans, and charity fundraising initiatives.

- Scouting not only provides young people with skills for life, but our adult volunteers also have an opportunity for learning and developing new skills.
- Numerous young people achieved their Chief Scout and Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Awards, demonstrating dedication and perseverance.
- Community Engagement: Our presence in the Eastbourne community continues to grow. We've forged stronger links with local schools, businesses, and community groups, ensuring Scouting remains a visible and valued part of the town.

### Challenges and Opportunities

While we celebrate our successes, it's important to acknowledge the challenges we faced and how we are working to address them:

- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention: Scouting wouldn't happen without our volunteers. Though we've had new recruits, the demand for adult support remains high. With the support of Kim Hall (Local Growth Officer for East Sussex Scouts), and Carl Bird (Volunteering Development Lead), we are actively exploring new strategies to attract more volunteers.
- Inclusivity and Accessibility: We are committed to making Scouting accessible to every young person, regardless of their background or ability. This means continually reviewing our practices and programmes to ensure they are inclusive and welcoming to all.

### Thank You!

This report would not be complete without expressing my deepest gratitude to our volunteers. The dedication, countless hours, sometimes more than an hour a week, and unwavering commitment make Scouting happen. Thank you for everything you do – your impact on young lives is immeasurable.

Let's continue to work together and make Scouting in Eastbourne District even better!

## 14-24 Team Lead – Ray Newman-Smith



**Ray Newman-Smith**

I am pleased to report that 2024 / 2025 has been a successful year for the 14-24 arena as detailed below:

### Explorer Units

Our two regular meeting units have seen measured growth in the number of Young People joining them. Team Bravo is averaging around 45 members, and Electra around 35. We have also reopened Spiro ESU just before the summer break and that has around 12 members.

- Kyros, our Young Leader unit has maintained its numbers at approx. 75 to 80 young people at any one time with our YP helping as YLs at our District Scout Groups
- The District Explorer waiting list remains healthy, and whilst we do lose some Scouts who transition from their Scout Troop, as is the trend nationally, both Team Bravo and Electra are nearly at capacity.

We have also been repositioning our Explorer offering, giving each unit an area of focus covering the vast Explorer Scout programme. Whilst all offering the basic ESU experience:

- Team Bravo is our Bushy Wood Site Service Unit whose primary role is to support our District Campsite with project work that needs completing, event support and other associated activities. Team Bravo meet once a week, alternating between site service on a Saturday and program unit nights on a Thursday.
- Electra is our mainstream all-round unit, giving the Explorers a taste of the whole Explorer programme, operating a similar model to that of a Scout Troop. Electra meets every other Tuesday night.
- Spiro, our newest unit is an outdoors 'traditional Scout skills' unit. Focusing on the more practical outdoor areas of the Explorer program. Spiro meet every other Monday night.
- Kyros our Young Leader unit continues to provide Young People who volunteer their time to help support sections within our District Scout Groups. It is a "virtual" unit in that they don't meet regularly like the Explorer Units, although the 14-24 team do run regular Module A / Safeguarding and welcome to the Young Leader Scheme training sessions as well as two camps a year where we cover the Young Leader Modules. These camps are designed as a learning opportunity for the YL Leadership modules, and also so our YLs are offered a nights away experience, where they are also a great opportunity for the YP to meet other YLs from across our District. We have also started offering a once-a-year camp for those YLs who have graduated from the YL module camps so they can keep in contact with each other and are continued to be offered a nights away experience.





Explorers at the Monopoly run

We are keen for our 4 ESUs to keep their individual identities and areas of focus, but also come together when we are attending larger camps or events. As such, alongside offering their own events and activities as a combined Eastbourne Explorers they have attended Monopoly Run in London, Scarefest at Gilwell Park, as well as going on a weeklong camp at Kernow Jamboree in Cornwall at the start of the summer holidays. There have also been many “smaller” events and camps where our units have collaborated together.

Looking ahead we will continue to offer all the regular activities like Monopoly run, The Acorn Hike and so on, but also look to add new ones to the program. Team Bravo are already booked to attend Wings Jamboree in 2026 at Windsor Castle, and we are also pressing ahead with our 14-24 International Camp in 2027 to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland!

Adult Volunteer numbers have been steady. We have seen an increase in younger adults joining us who were Explorers and want to come back and give back to Scouting.

These numbers do fluctuate as they do have other commitments like university, new jobs etc. Finding and keeping volunteers so our units can offer the fantastic program, events and camps they do will always be a challenge!



14-24 Team Members entered the Monopoly run too!



Scarefest!

## Scout Network (18-25 yrs)

Avatar, the District's network unit has been a huge success over the last year. Having not been active since pre-COVID, Benjamin Peskett, our Network Team Lead has been very proactive in building up the member numbers and program consistency. Now having 12 regular members, Avatar meet on the first Friday of every month. Running a similar program to the ESUs it allows the younger adults to take part in "Scouty" evenings without having to consider members who are under 18.

The challenge has always been to define what the purpose of a Network unit is. Avatar has three core purposes that it focuses on:

- To support all those between the ages of 18 and 25 to complete their Top Awards and DofE awards.
- To provide a monthly Scout program for its members, like an ESU as well as camps and a social side for our younger adults to enjoy and participate in.
- To provide support at District events where extra adult support is needed. Examples of this would be running a base at this year's Cub Skills day or supporting the Acorn Hike, amongst other activities.

The challenge with operating a Scout Network unit is to keep it relevant, which Ben has done and continues to do so. Many Districts do not have a successful Network due to this, and contrary to some views within our District, as 14-24 Lead, I see Avatar as an important offering to the 18-25 age group.

## Sub Teams of the 14-24 Arena

- 14-24 Fundraising Team – I am pleased to inform the District that we now have our own Fundraising Sub Team. Wendy Smith leads the new team whose role is to organise and support raising much-needed funds for ambitious plans.
- DofE Offering - We continue to have more subscribers who want to complete their DofE awards with us however, our volunteer numbers are unable to match the resources needed to fulfil demand. We have approx. 60 YP registered to complete their DofE award with us. We will for 2026, have a recruitment push to see if we can gain more support from adults to help our YP complete their awards.



## Top Awards

Being able to offer the opportunity for all our YP to be able to work towards and achieve their Top Awards is a key measure of success. We do however need to remember that whilst Top Awards are important, around 50% of our YP are not interested in completing these and come to us to meet and socialise with similar-aged people, as well as taking part in the events and programs we offer.

We currently offer the following awards:

- Chief Scout Platinum Award – DofE Bronze Award Linked
- Chief Scout Diamond Award – DofE Silver Award Linked
- King Scout Award – DofE Gold Award Linked
- DofE Awards as listed above
- Young Leader Award (Belt Buckle)



Eastbourne's members attending the DofE gold award celebration event at Buckingham Palace Garden

It is our longer-term aim with Avatar Scout Network being the provider, to be able to offer our YP the following awards:

- Explorer Belt Award
- Scouts of the World Award SOWA – I have recently attended some training sessions around being able to offer this award, and I am pleased to confirm I am one of two volunteers in East Sussex who can help our YP work towards this award.

## Finances

We completed transferring our funds from the main District Bank account in March / April this year. Now we have our own bank account the 14-24 and unit leads are able to see the available financial resources, helping to improve the program. Each unit now has OSM pre-paid debit cards, so volunteers are no longer funding events and purchases out of their own pocket and as its all-electronic purchases, payments can be tracked and logged in real time.

## The Future

Our growth numbers are looking excellent, and as we continue to develop each unit's area of focus and program, along with our whole District event offering, this will drive future growth. We do allow our Explorers to be members of multiple units so they can take part in all the areas that interest them. The biggest threat to the units is adult volunteer numbers which as the 14-24 Lead I need to develop advertising strategies to attract more adults involved in what we do to help the unit leads.

DofE continues to be the biggest threat, where we are unable to deliver consistency at present. Very much linked to the comment above around volunteer resources.

Avatar just needs Ben to carry on with what he has been doing, and for me to help the wider District to understand how useful and important a successful Network Unit is to Eastbourne District Scouts.

Alongside improving and developing the unit's programs and activities as well as pushing our Top Awards we also have other projects that we are working on longer term. These include:

- Developing the Willows 4 Campsite at Bushy Wood into a fully serviced Explorer / Network campsite, along with an undercover Learning / Program delivery area that all our units can use throughout the year.
- The vision to either acquire or lease a Minibus for use by the 14-24 operation as well as the wider District if needed. Having access to our own Minibus will allow us to be able to vastly expand our program offering. By the time our Explorers have reached us they have covered most of the South Downs and local area for activities for events. By having access to our own transport, we can start to offer activities and events in other areas of the UK where the terrain and events are totally different to what they will have done at this stage in their Scouting journey. The Acorn Hike across the South Downs is vastly different and more challenging when competing in similar activities across the Moors, Lakes, Peaks or other National Parks.
- KISC 2027 – As previously mentioned, we will be offering all our YP in the 14-24 age range the chance to join us on an International Scout camp to Switzerland. The last International to be completed with this age group was in 2019 when Spiro went to the USA. KISC 2027 signals the start of bringing an international offering to our age range back as a regular part of the District program.

## Conclusion

I hope you will agree we have come a long way and achieved so much for the benefit of our YP in the last year, and we are looking in great shape for the future. We do have some threats that we need to work on but also so many opportunities that we will continue to capitalise on as they present themselves.

I would like to thank **ALL** the Unit Team Leads and Team Members for the never-ending work and commitment they give to the 14-24 operation. They are all vital, and without them, none of what we do would happen. I continue to work with a team who believe in the cause, delivering the best programs, events and opportunities, sacrificing so much of their time to deliver great experiences to our YP – thank you team you're all amazing!

I would also like to thank the Team at Bushy Wood who have supported us no end, many times at short notice, prioritising our needs over their own workload.

Thank you to all of you!

## Programme Team Lead – Joe Firth



Joe Firth

What an exciting and action-packed year we've had in Eastbourne! The Programme Team has delivered a wide range of fun, educational, and engaging events for every section – from Squirrels to Explorers. These activities not only built new skills but also forged friendships and lifelong memories.

Here is an in-depth look at the highlights from Eastbourne District Scouts' incredible year:

### First Aid Weekend with EDSFAT

We began the year with a comprehensive First Aid weekend in collaboration with Eastbourne District Scouts First Aid Team (EDSFAT).

The event offered every section the opportunity to learn and apply essential first aid techniques through realistic scenarios. From treating cuts and breaks to understanding how to respond in emergencies, young people practised hands-on with guidance from trained professionals.



The event concluded with CPR practice and a fascinating exploration of a real ambulance. This immersive experience boosted confidence and preparedness across all age groups.

### Cubs' Skills Day

Cubs' Skills Day, a favourite annual event, was once again a hit. Organised by Cordelia Mott (Squash) and her team, the day focused on key Scouting skills such as:

- Fire lighting and backwards cooking
- Map reading and compass use
- Knot tying and shelter building
- Engaging science experiments

Held at Bushy Wood, the event provided Cubs from across the District a day of adventure and hands-on learning in a supportive and fun environment. It also encouraged teamwork and confidence-building among participants.



## RFU & TSA Physical Badge Launch

One of the proudest moments of the year was launching the partnership between the Rugby Football Union and The Scout Association.

Eastbourne led the country by hosting the first event piloting the newly updated Physical Activity Badge for Scouts. Participants experienced T1 Rugby, learned about health and fitness, and completed badge criteria through games and exercises.



The highlight was a visit from Poppy Cleall, England Rugby international, who inspired the young people by sharing her journey and joining in games. Scouts even had the opportunity to interview her. The success of the day was evident in the turnout:

- 222 young people (Beavers to Explorers)
- 32 local Scout volunteers
- 15 adult supporters from Eastbourne Rugby Club

All participants received a medal, blanket badge, and rugby ball for their group's use, celebrating the occasion, and encouraging ongoing physical activity.



Physical badge launch event

## Oakleaf Hike

Led by Mike Standen and his team, the Oakleaf Hike gave Cubs a real taste of adventure. Teams hiked a 10-mile route through East Sussex, navigating between checkpoints, completing problem-solving tasks, and demonstrating resilience.

New teams embraced the challenge, and the spirit of teamwork was strong throughout. This event continues to grow in popularity and importance for our Cub section.



The Oakleaf Hike Winners!

## Acorn Hike

The Acorn Hike, for Scouts and Explorers, was delivered over two days and managed by Joe Firth and Ray Newman-Smith's teams. It tested navigation, endurance, and collaboration. Several teams from across the county participated, making it a county-wide celebration of outdoor adventure. Despite bouts of rain, morale stayed high. Competitors sought to win the coveted Acorn Trophy while creating bonds with fellow Scouts.

## Bike Hike: Go Outdoors Partnership

2<sup>nd</sup> Willingdon and 23<sup>rd</sup> Eastbourne (All Souls) Scouts led a joint Camp & Bike Hike event, linked to the Bicycle Badge and supported by Go Outdoors.

The groups cycled from Polegate to Lewes, explored the A27 trail, and climbed Glynde Hill to take in the stunning South Downs.

After a full day, the Scouts enjoyed a night in 6<sup>th</sup> Lewes Scout Hut, sharing stories over pizza before heading back the next morning.





## JOTA (Jamboree on the Air)

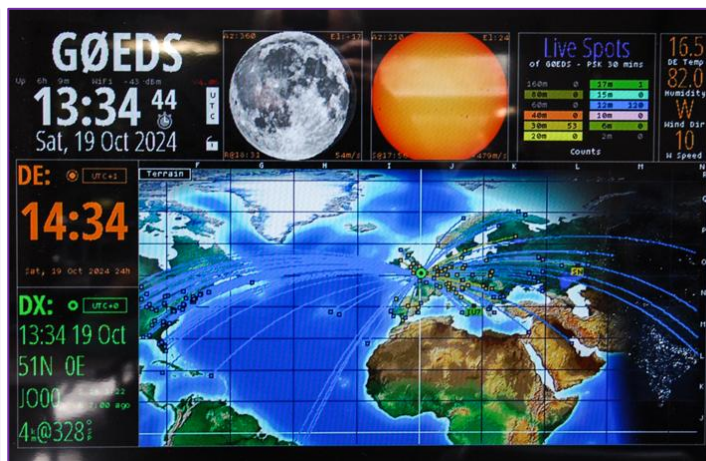
JOTA made its triumphant return, giving young people a unique opportunity to connect with fellow Scouts around the world via radio. Organised by Andy Stevens and his team, along with the much-valued equipment and technical support from EDSFAT and the Southdown Amateur Radio Society.

The weekend's activities included:

- Using handheld radios in coded team challenges using the phonetic alphabet and J codes.
- Using VHF and HF radios to communicate with Scouts around the world using the District's callsign GØEDS.
- Learning about international Scouting traditions.
- Soldering and creating flashing tent peg markers.
- Learning how various communication technologies work, and how they are used.



The first day ended with a warm meal prepared by the EDSFAT team, leaving everyone with full bellies and newfound skills.



## Remembrance Day Parade

Over 100 Scouts took part in Eastbourne's Remembrance Day parade. For the first time, our Squirrels joined the ranks, representing the full spectrum of our Scouting family. The town centre was filled with smart uniforms and proud faces, and many groups participated in their own local ceremonies, honouring the sacrifices of past generations with dignity.



## Big Shoot

A competitive and high-adrenaline event, the Big Shoot allowed Scouts and Explorers to test their aim and control in a variety of activities:

Led by Ray Newman-Smith and his expert team, the day was structured to challenge individuals while encouraging friendly competition. Personal improvement, focus, and discipline were key themes.

### Rifle shooting



### Archery



### Tomahawk throwing





## County Beaver Sleepover at Knockhatch

This year's County Beaver Sleepover was a roaring success! Beavers from across East Sussex enjoyed exclusive access to Knockhatch Adventure Park. Activities included:

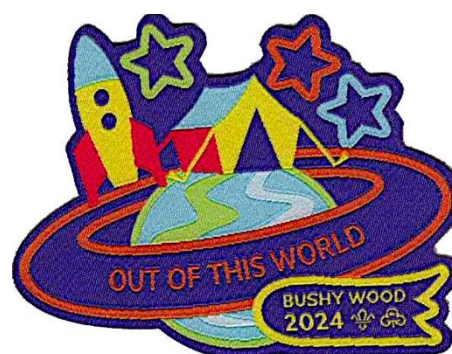
- Sliding and playing in Froggies soft play centre
- Meeting animals and tractor rides
- Games and exploration throughout the park

After an exciting day, Beavers settled down in the jungle room for a well-earned rest, many experiencing their first night away.

## "Out of This World" Camp at Bushy Wood

This landmark event brought together over 1,200 participants from Scouts and Girlguiding for a weekend of celebration and unity. Activities included:

- Campfires, arts & crafts, fairground rides
- Archery, climbing, and rifle range
- Squirrels, Beavers, Rainbows, and Brownies joining for fun activities
- Explorer Scouts visiting an off-site high-ropes adventure park



The camp was honoured by a visit from local dignitaries, showcasing Eastbourne's strong Scouting presence and organisational excellence.



## Looking Ahead

With such a full and successful year behind us, the Eastbourne Scouts are looking ahead with excitement. Thank you to all the volunteers, leaders, parents, and young people who made these events possible.

Here's to another year of growth, adventure, and community spirit!

## Volunteering Development Team Lead – Carl Bird



Carl Bird

The District Volunteering Development Team coordinates efforts to ensure all volunteers in a District have an effective and accessible volunteering experience. The team facilitates the process for volunteers to join and acquire new skills.

### Membership & Learning System

In the past twelve months, the organisation transitioned to the new digital Membership and Learning platforms. While typical challenges associated with implementing new systems occurred, the Eastbourne District Leadership Team prepared by updating background data, assessing roles, and establishing teams in advance of the changeover. This preparation contributed to a relatively smooth transition from the District's perspective. Throughout the process, volunteers supported one another, and guidance was offered to help set up, understand, or update system elements as needed.

The introduction of the new online DBS system has generally streamlined the process for Group leads to register volunteers. As with any new platform, regular updates are expected to improve the user experience further. A number of sub teams across the District are currently operational. For example, the “Welcome Conversation Team” supports Welcome meetings with 25 accredited volunteers, and the “District Support Team” has already assisted with various District events, including the Acorn hike, and offers support to both groups and the District. Individuals interested in joining the team may contact the team lead for more information.

### Recruitment

A key responsibility of the Growth & Development team is to assist groups by attracting new volunteers and helpers, and managing external enquiries. In the past twelve months, 20 volunteers have joined various groups and also contributed to the establishment of a new group, 1st Pevensey Bay, with Squirrels and Beavers sections now open. It is anticipated that this trend will continue with further volunteer engagement and section openings.

## Learning

The District now utilises the new Membership learning system, designed to encourage self-development and support volunteers in completing required and additional learning. Team leads are encouraged to advise on learning relevant to role development. Learning compliance levels are currently strong.

## Permits

Volunteers in Eastbourne District hold a range of permits, including Nights Away and Archery. Having permit holders throughout the whole District ensures access to camps and adventurous activities for young people. Information and guidance on acquiring permits are available, and additional Nights Away assessors have been introduced to increase assessment capacity. The Membership system now enables volunteers to identify assessors for assessments.

## Youth Members Waiting List

There are presently over 300 young people waiting to join. Over the last year, 219 young people were placed into groups, indicating the effectiveness of the waiting list system. Continued demand highlights the importance of increasing group sizes where possible and opening new sections.

The establishment of new Squirrel sections and opening of new groups such as 1st Pevensey aims to address this demand.



1<sup>st</sup> Pevensey Bay's first investiture



## Support Team Lead – Emma Binfield



**Emma Binfield**

The District Support Team plays a key role in supporting local groups within the district. We act as a bridge between District leadership and volunteer teams, making sure Scout volunteers have the resources, learning, and encouragement they need to deliver quality programs for young people.

By offering advice, sharing best practices, and helping to solve challenges, the District Support Team strengthens connections across groups and ensures the scouting experience remains engaging, safe, and rewarding for all members.

### District Support Team

The District Support Team is composed of dedicated volunteers who have contributed many years of service to the District and the wider Scouting community. Over the past year, they have continued to provide essential support to a wide range of District events and activities, ensuring their smooth operation and success. Their commitment, experience, and willingness to assist across multiple areas of Scouting have been invaluable, reflecting the strength and spirit of volunteer involvement that underpins the District's ongoing work.

All members continue to be engaged through OSM, where details of district events are shared and requests for support are managed. Members receive notifications by email, with direct links provided to enable the confirmation of attendance. Support has been given to a number of members in accessing both training opportunities and the membership system, as well as, in some cases, providing guidance on how to get online. This support has been delivered through in-person sessions and ongoing correspondence via email. Regular communication is also maintained with all members through email, OSM, and telephone where appropriate, to ensure that each individual feels respected, valued, and appreciated for the time and commitment they continue to give to Scouting in Eastbourne.



## Bushy Wood Annual Report

Bushy Wood serves as a key resource for Eastbourne Scouts and is central to the District's programme, hosting regular events, training sessions and community engagement activities. Its combination of natural woodland, modern amenities, and structured activity areas makes it an indispensable site for Eastbourne Scouts, supporting both the traditional values of Scouting and the development of young people's skills and confidence.

The District extends its sincere thanks to the Bushy Wood team, site staff, and all volunteers, whose dedication, hard work, and ongoing support make these activities possible and ensure the continued success of the Scout programme.

The following provides an outline of improvements and key news from Bushy Wood over the past year.

### Site Improvements

Significant progress has been made this year in enhancing the facilities and infrastructure across the site. In April, 30 metres of concrete were laid along the drive, greatly improving access for vehicles and visitors. Further works took place in May, with extensive groundworks and resurfacing completed, ensuring a more durable and welcoming environment. In August the washing-up area was relocated to the rear of the Lodge, creating a more practical and efficient layout for users.

Within the rifle range, the installation of new lighting in September has improved both safety standards and the quality of the activity experience.

Also in September, additional storage was created to support self-led activities, enabling groups to access and manage resources more easily.



In February, a dedicated pioneering pole rack was constructed and installed, allowing equipment to be securely stored and readily available for future activities.

## **Staffing and Administration**

This year saw the successful recruitment of a new member of staff, with Katie Marsh joining as a part-time Office Assistant. Katie has already provided valuable administrative support and will continue to play an important role in the smooth running of operations.

## **Partnerships and Strategic Developments**

In August East Sussex County Council commenced the process of seeking a new owner for Buzz Active a key stakeholder for Bushy Wood. In February it was announced that ownership of Buzz Active would be transferred to Bede's. This is an important development which will be monitored closely, given its potential impact on the site and its users.

## **Presentation and Access**

Ongoing efforts to enhance the appearance of the site have continued, including the removal of the EDSFAT container, which marked another step towards improving the presentation of the main entrance.

Additionally, a GoFundMe campaign was launched to support further improvements to the drive. This initiative was well received, raising an impressive £2,889 thanks to the generosity of supporters and the wider community.

## **Community Support**

In recognition of the commitment of local volunteers and to encourage greater use of the site, free camping was introduced for Eastbourne Scouts and Guides. This initiative has been warmly welcomed and will continue to provide valuable opportunities for local Scouting and Guiding groups to enjoy the facilities at no cost.



# EDSFAT Annual Report

## Introduction

The Eastbourne District Scout First Aid Team (EDSFAT) has had another incredibly successful year providing high-quality first aid and medical care to Scouts and Guides across a wide range of events. From local District activities to large national gatherings, our volunteers have continued to ensure that young people and leaders can participate safely and with confidence.



EDSFAT supporting Larkin 2024

## Event Cover

This year EDSFAT has supported a number of events including:

- District events at Bushy Wood
- West Sussex County Beaver Day at Blacklands Farm
- Downsman hike across the South Downs Way
- Large Scout Fireworks event in Swindon
- Multiple East Sussex District and county events
- Larkin 2024, the major summer jamboree, attended by thousands of Scouts & Guides in North Yorkshire



Event Control Room at Eastbourne's Acorn hike

## Team Development

- More members have achieved the industry-standard Level 3 First Aid qualification
- Several team members have completed further training in the administration of medical gases
- Following Mental Health First Aid training, the team has reported increased confidence in recognising and supporting young people and adults presenting with mental health concerns

## Equipment and Resources

EDSFAT completed a project to replace and standardise some of the team's medical bags. The new design is:

- Easier to clean and maintain
- Highly durable
- Organised to ensure that commonly used items are quickly accessible and critical equipment is logically positioned for emergencies



## Patient Care

- The majority of presentations were minor injuries and ailments, many of which were managed on site by healthcare professionals within the team. This avoided unnecessary trips to A&E, allowing young people and volunteers to return to their activities quickly
- EDSFAT continues to see an increase in mental health presentations, with improved confidence in supporting these, thanks to recent training
- At larger events, there were a small number of critically unwell patients, where timely interventions and life-saving medication were delivered long before an ambulance could arrive

## Looking Ahead

EDSFAT continues to push forward in improving patient safety and care at Scout and Guide events, and remains in close contact with Scout HQ and industry leaders as the event first aid sector prepares for potential legislative changes and new challenges.

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2024-25

### Structure, Governance and Management

The Scout District's governing documents are those of the Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the By-Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

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

### The District Scout Council

"The District Scout Council is the electoral body which supports Scouting in the District. It is the body to which the District Board of Trustees is accountable."

Membership of the District Scout Council is open to Volunteers, Network Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District, all parents of Explorer Scouts, persons elected and reselected annually by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Lead Volunteer and the Board of Trustees.

The County Lead Volunteer and County Chair are ex-officio members

### The District Board of Trustees

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

"The District Board of Trustees exists to support the District Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and to provide support for Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and any District Scout Network in the District."

The District Board of Trustees' administration tasks include:

- Working with the Chair to prepare meeting agendas
- Distributing agendas and meeting documents
- Preparing meeting logistics, including booking meeting place(s)
- Taking minutes
- Maintaining records
- Supporting the completion of the annual census return
- Administering the Trustee selection process agreed by the Trustee Board
- Preparing and advertising the Annual General meeting
- Coordinating and collating the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

The District Board of Trustees meets formally four times a year and is made up of members elected at the District Annual General Meeting, members nominated by the District Lead Volunteer and the District Chair and members co-opted by the District Board of Trustees.

The County Lead Volunteer and County Chair have a right of attendance

## Charity Trust Statements

- The District is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scout Districts.
- The Charity is governed by a constitution as laid down by the Scout Association.
- The Accounts comply with statutory requirements, the governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by the Charities Commission.
- Resources Policy, retained resources are kept at a level adequate to service the activities of the Charity.
- Investment Policy - It is the policy of the Charity to hold all reserves in deposits to allow for instant access to funds as required.
- Risk Policy - The Trustees regularly review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and have taken appropriate insurance to mitigate these risks.

## Risks and Internal Control

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss; these include two authorisations for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

## Objectives

The objectives of the District are as a Unit of the Scout Association.

The Purpose of Scouting 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.

## Method

Scouting uses a method which is young people, in partnership with adults, enjoying what they are doing, learning by doing, participating in varied and progressive activities, making choices for themselves, taking responsibility for their own actions, working in groups, taking increasing responsibility for others, taking part in activities outdoors, sharing in prayer and worship, and making and living out their promise.

## Achievements and Performance

I am happy to report that the District Board of Trustees has met its responsibilities as detailed in the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association during the 2024–25 financial year.



## Reserve Policy

The Trustees undertake to hold sufficient resources to continue the various activities organised by the District, should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Board will review annually the level of resources necessary and the level at which they should be maintained.

## Future

The District Board of Trustees is aware of the need to continue the District growth and the opportunities which Scouting, at all levels, gives to so many young people. With the high levels of young people unable to obtain a place within a Group in the District, it is imperative to continue assisting the District leadership team to recruit adults into Scouting, particularly uniformed Leaders.

Bushy Wood is the District's primary resource, continuing to provide a focus for all Groups and Sections in our District. The District Board of Trustees are aware that the site continues to require continued large-scale investment, both financially and physically, to ensure it is fit for purpose in the future.

Matthew Peskett

Matthew Peskett (signed)

District Chair



Matthew Peskett

## District Constitution for the year 2025-26

Eastbourne District Scouts has adopted the model constitution of the Scout Association, more information can be found here:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5c-constitutions-of-groups-Districts-and-counties-except-scotland/#5c.2>

## Finance Report – Philip Huggett



**Phillip Huggett**

The end-of-year accounts have been assembled by the Accountants, Cornfield Accountants Limited, and are attached to the Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts.

They show that a deficit for the year arose across all funds, amounting to £38,103 against a surplus of £19,960 for 2024.

The main reasons for this are as follows:

- Significant repairs and maintenance at Bushy Wood.
- A fall in net membership subscriptions following an increase in the amount payable to the National Scouts.
- Expenditure on activities had a sharp increase whilst revenue from those activities fell.
- An increase in paid employee costs.

The accountant added some notes on VAT matters, advising on small amounts of money still to be claimed.

The accounts are due for filing with the Charity Commission by 31 January 2026.

In light of the deficit reported in these accounts, we need to review current expenditure and income to discover where the issues are and avoid a similar problem for 2025-2026.

District Treasurer

Philip Huggett

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025			2024
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>	3				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income		49,339	1,230	50,569	40,730
Activities for generating funds		107,183	-	107,183	96,934
Investment income		431	-	431	581
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>		122,461	-	122,461	170,887
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		279,414	1,230	280,644	309,132
<b>Resources expended</b>	4-6				
<b>Costs of generating Funds</b>					
Fundraising trading costs		73,064	-	73,064	74,921
<b>Charitable activities</b>		245,683	-	245,683	214,251
<b>Total resources expended</b>		318,747	-	318,747	289,172
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		(39,333)	1,230	(38,103)	19,960
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	10	-	-	-	-
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other gains/(losses)</b>		(39,333)	1,230	(38,103)	19,960
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(39,333)	1,230	(38,103)	19,960
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	10	254,479	10,379	264,858	244,898
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	10	215,146	11,609	226,755	264,858

## Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025			2024
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	7	163,614	-	163,614	160,774
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		163,614	-	163,614	160,774
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock		15,400	-	15,400	13,620
Debtors	8	14,583	-	14,583	32,024
Cash at bank and in hand		93,481	11,609	105,090	119,553
<b>Total current assets</b>		123,464	11,609	135,073	165,197
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	71,932	-	71,932	61,113
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		51,532	11,609	63,141	104,084
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		215,146	11,609	226,755	264,858
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net assets</b>		215,146	11,609	226,755	264,858
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds		215,146	-	215,146	254,479
Restricted income funds		-	11,609	11,609	10,379
<b>Total funds</b>	10	215,146	11,609	226,755	264,858

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Chair - M Peskett



Trustee - Andrew Stevens

## Notes to the accounts

### Note 1 Basis of preparation

#### Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102)
- and with Accounting Standards
- and with the Charities Act 2022

### Note 2 Accounting policies

#### Incoming resources

##### Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

##### Membership subscriptions

Membership subscriptions collected on behalf of other parts of the Scout Movement are reported in the SoFA net of any amount paid out. This is because these subscriptions are in effect held as agents before being paid out.

##### Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the Statement of Financial Activities.

##### Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

##### Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

##### Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

##### Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.

Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.

Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

##### Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

##### Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included although the reliance placed on this vital resource is referred to in the annual report.

##### Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

##### Investment gains and losses

This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

#### Expenditure and Liabilities

##### Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

##### Grants with performance conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

## Notes to the accounts (continued)

### Note 2 Accounting policies (continued)

Grants payable without performance conditions	These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.
Pensions	The charity operates a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.
<b>Assets</b>	
Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over the expected useful lives.
Investments	Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.
Stocks	These are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

### Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

		2025 £	2024 £
<b>Voluntary income</b>	Membership subscriptions	60,871	61,144
	Less: Membership subscriptions paid to National Scout Headquarters	(43,834)	(39,450)
	Net membership subscriptions retained	17,037	21,694
	Grants and donations	33,532	11,036
	Total voluntary income	50,569	32,730
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>	Badges	-	-
	Shop & fundraising	107,183	96,934
	Total activities for generating funds	107,183	96,934
<b>Investment income</b>	Bank & short term investment interest	431	581
<b>Incoming resources from Charitable activities</b>	Youth programme and activities	122,461	178,887

### Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

		2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cost of generating voluntary income</b>	Badges	-	-
	Shop	73,064	74,921
		73,064	74,921
<b>Charitable Activities</b>	Youth programme and activities	244,006	212,463
	Governance	1,677	1,788
	Adult training	-	-
	Other activities	-	-
		245,683	214,251



## Notes to the accounts (continued)

### Note 5 Expenses and fees

#### Trustees expenses

The total amount of payments or reimbursement of out of pocket expenses made to trustees or to third parties for expenses incurred by trustees was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Nil	Nil
	£	£
Number of trustees who were paid expenses		
Total amount paid	-	-

#### External examiner fees

The following fees were paid for the statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by the external examiner:

2025	2024
£	£
1,677	1,788

### Note 6 Paid employees

#### Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross wages, salaries and on-costs	63,646	48,686
Included in the above is pension contributions to a defined contribution scheme totalling	1,314	1,058

#### Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year

	2025	2024
Employees - charitable activities	3	2

No employee emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year

### Note 7 Tangible fixed assets

	Land	Bushy Wood Buildings & Equipment	Band Instruments	1st Aid Equipment	Total
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
Balance brought forward	110,000	27,116	15,039	60,035	212,190
Additions	-	15,669	-	1,045	16,714
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,864)	(3,864)
Balance carried forward	110,000	42,785	15,039	57,216	225,040
<b>Accumulated depreciation or impairments</b>					
	0% Not depreciated	Various Reducing balance	5% Straight line	20% Straight line	
Balance brought forward	-	9,286	14,564	27,566	51,416
Charge in year	-	4,235	25	9,614	13,874
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,864)	(3,864)
Balance carried forward	-	13,521	14,589	33,316	61,426
<b>Net book value</b>					
As at 31 March 2024	110,000	17,830	475	32,469	160,774
As at 31 March 2025	110,000	29,264	450	23,900	163,614

### Note 8 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	12,022	28,862
Other debtors	2,561	608
Prepaid expenditure	-	2,554
	14,583	32,024

## Notes to the accounts (continued)

### Note 9 Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	45,063	39,385
Accruals and deferred income	16,092	9,708
Taxation and social security	986	1,622
Other creditors	375	482
Loans	9,416	9,916
	<u>71,932</u>	<u>61,113</u>
Deferred income arises on events which relates to the following period.	£	
Balance brought forward	7,920	
Released in year	(7,920)	
Relating to the following period	<u>14,292</u>	
Balance carried forward	<u>14,292</u>	

Included within other creditors is £375 (2024 - £482) relating to unpaid pension contributions at the year end. This amount was settled shortly after the year end.

### Note 10 Fund analysis

The charity held the following funds at the year end:

(General Fund - GE, Designated Fund - D, Restricted Fund - R)

#### Restricted Funds

	Purpose and Restriction
1st Aid Team	Specific grant for purchase of equipment
Explorer Scouts	Specific Grant for purchasing tents

#### Movement of major funds

Fund name	Type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
General Fund	GE	166,947	15,338	(13,667)	(9,958)	158,660
1st Aid Team	GE	54,829	26,399	(38,067)	-	43,161
Band	GE	475	-	(25)	-	450
Explorers	GE	2,511	24,527	(24,362)	-	2,676
Bushy Wood	GE	29,717	213,150	(242,626)	9,958	10,199
Sub total general funds		<u>254,479</u>	<u>279,414</u>	<u>(318,747)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>215,146</u>
1st Aid Team	R	9,741	1,230	-	-	10,971
Explorer Scouts	R	638	-	-	-	638
Sub total restricted funds		<u>10,379</u>	<u>1,230</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,609</u>
Total funds		<u>264,858</u>	<u>280,644</u>	<u>(318,747)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>226,755</u>

#### Movement of major funds (prior period to 31/03/2024)

Fund name	Type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
General Fund	GE	178,062	14,843	(11,537)	(14,421)	166,947
1st Aid Team	GE	48,832	53,833	(47,836)	-	54,829
Band	GE	-	-	(25)	500	475
Explorers	GE	6,554	11,313	(10,261)	(5,095)	2,511
Bushy Wood	GE	2,145	228,069	(219,513)	19,016	29,717
Sub total general funds		<u>235,593</u>	<u>308,058</u>	<u>(289,172)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>254,479</u>
1st Aid Team	R	8,667	1,074	-	-	9,741
Explorer Scouts	R	638	-	-	-	638
Sub total restricted funds		<u>9,305</u>	<u>1,074</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,379</u>
Total funds		<u>244,898</u>	<u>309,132</u>	<u>(289,172)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264,858</u>

## Independent Examiner's Report

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EASTBOURNE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

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#### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Eastbourne District Scout Council**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Eastbourne District Scout Council (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 2022 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Shaun Muller  
FCCA ACA  
Cornfield Accountants Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
5 Cornfield Terrace  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 4NN

Date: 9/9/25

End of report