

1st Fatfield Scout Group Annual Report & Accounts Year to 31st March 2025

1st Fatfield Scouts Group Annual Report & Accounts
Year to 31 March 2025

Trustees – ex officio

Chair	Mrs A Star (Apr 24-Nov 24) Mrs P Monaghan (Nov 24 onwards)
Secretary	Mr M Ridley (Up to Nov 24)
Treasurer	Mr P Noble (Apr 24-Jan 25) Mrs A Dickinson (Jan 25 onwards)
Group Scout Leader	Mr M Madden (Up to Nov 24)
Group Lead Volunteer	Dr M Ridley (From Nov 24 onwards)
Beaver Section Leaders	Mrs K Turnbull (Apr 24-Nov 24)
Cub Section Leaders	Mr N Stoker (Apr 24-Nov 24)
Group OSM Administrator	Ms L Heckles (Nov 24 onwards)
Scout Section Leaders	Mr L Wilson (Apr 24-Nov 24)

Trustees – nominated

Youth / Under 25's Representative	Mr T Horsfall
Nominated / Parent Representatives	Mr K Wilson Mr M Madden Mr S Thompson

Bankers

CAF Bank

Scout registration number

22571

Charity registration number

507923

Charity principal address

1st Fatfield Scouts
Duxbury Park
Fatfield
Washington
NE38 8BJ

Contact name

Mrs A Dickinson

1st Fatfield Scouts Group Annual Report & Accounts Year to 31 March 2025

Trustees Report

Introduction

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

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 of the Group

The group was established in 1941 by the adoption of the POR by the founding group leaders, who acted as trustees. The group's aim, in common with that of the Scout Association, is the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people.

Organisation

The group is managed by the trustees, who meet on a regular basis to discuss all aspects of day to day running. The leaders of the group are trustees by virtue of their position as a leader. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

Risk and Internal Control

The trustees assess the major strategic and operational risks faced by the group on an ongoing basis and react as necessary to mitigate these risks. We arrange insurance to cover liability, personal accident and injury to young people and leaders as well as adequate insurance cover for camping and activity equipment.

In addition to comprehensive insurance provision, the group also has in place systems of internal control that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, this includes two signatories for all payments.

Public Benefit Statement

The group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the citizenship or community development headings.

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Trustees Report (cont.)

Review of activities and future developments (prepared by the Treasurer)

The group's census at 31st January 2025 showed our membership numbers including leaders as 143; a decrease of 10 compared to January 2024.

Membership numbers and subscriptions have not been restored to pre-Covid levels, meaning a reduction in income compared with previous years.

Total subscription income for 2024/25 was £9,683.61 (2023/24 £10,490) and is comparable to post-pandemic levels. An uplift to subscription payments was agreed from February 2025 alongside the introduction of a new Squirrels section which should lead to increased subscriptions for 2025/26.

The Group has submitted a claim to the Gift Aid scheme to cover the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 Scouting financial years totalling £6207.44; thank you to all members who continue to support the use of the Gift Aid scheme. This income has been committed to site development across 2024/25.

In terms of payments, utility costs increased by 18% in 2023/24 to £3,059.93 (2023/24 £2,597), attributable to increased global energy prices. Gardening and maintenance costs decreased for a consecutive year to £200.12 (2023/24 £584) as several members of the group have now increased their volunteer time to maintain the site.

Insurance costs for the premises and minibus increased to £3,482.05 (2023/24 £3,213).

Policy on reserves and current position

In general, it is the group's aim to maintain sufficient funds to ensure the success of its activities and provide a contingency to support equipment replacement and unforeseen expenses at short notice.

Current balances as at 31 March 2025 are higher than what would normally be considered necessary to maintain day to day activities for the Group. The Scout Association recommends six months operating costs to ensure a Group can operate during unforeseen circumstances. For 1st Fatfield this is considered to be around £8,000 to £9,000.

The Group currently has balances totalling £34,809.92 (2023/24 £31,102), this increase on last year is due to retrospective receipt of Gift Aid for three Scout financial years in March 2025. The balances ensure the group has sufficient funds to invest in the current and future membership, with a commitment to site and programme development. The Trustee Board has funding set aside as a contribution to support the future replacement of the minibus.

In addition to cash reserves held, the Group also sets aside approximately £2,500 each year within its budget as a contingency should additional work to the building or equipment repairs etc. be required.

Grantmaking policy

The group does not have a policy in respect of making grants.

Investment policy

The group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments. The group has therefore adopted a risk-averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Post Balance Sheet events.

The group continues to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic through a reduced number of members although this has started to improve with growth in the younger sections i.e. Squirrels and Beavers.

Approval of the trustees' report

Approved by the trustees on 6th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Dickinson', written over a large, faint circular watermark.

Mrs A Dickinson
Group Treasurer

Dr M Ridley
Group Lead Volunteer

Year 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
	Actual	Actual
Total receipts for the year	29,519.18	24,928.99
Total payments for the year	(25,811.35)	(26,284.66)
Net receipts + / - payments for the year	3,707.83	(1,355.67)
Cash, bank and similar funds at start of year	31,102.71	32,639.02
Cash, bank and similar funds at end of year	34,809.92	31,102.71

The above account and accompanying statements of assets and liabilities were approved by the trustees on 6th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr M Ridley, Group Lead



Mrs A Dickinson, Group Treasurer

Year 31 March 2025

Receipts

	2025	2024
	£	£
	Actual	Actual
Membership and subscription income		
Membership subscriptions	15,390.11	15,885.97
Less paid - Capitation	-5,706.50	-5,395.50
Total membership subscriptions	9,683.61	10,490.47
Other Income		
Investment income - bank interest	729.81	671.02
Gift aid	6,207.44	0.00
Donations	180.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	0.00
Neckers / Hoodies income	0.00	0.00
Fund raising	0.00	24.30
Hire of scout hut	3,157.20	3,267.70
Hire of minibus to external groups	546.62	198.50
Camping	6,520.00	10,073.00
Activity income	2,494.50	204.00
Total other income	19,835.57	14,438.52
Total receipts for the year	29,519.18	24,928.99

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Payments

	2025	2024
	£	£
	Actual	Actual
Premises		
Utilities	(3,059.93)	(2,597.00)
Rates - council tax	(5.00)	(41.71)
Cleaning	(236.69)	(392.44)
Insurance	(2,414.68)	(2,252.75)
Ground rent	(43.95)	(5.00)
Gardening	(209.87)	(584.62)
Repairs and Maintenance	0.00	(414.00)
Site development	0.00	(543.00)
Broadband	(384.00)	(386.91)
Scout District Loan	0.00	0.00
Total premises expenditure payments	(6,354.12)	(7,217.43)
Administration Expenses	(255.17)	(245.91)
Group activity payments		
Group activities	(6,088.05)	(3,646.00)
Equipment purchases	(4,006.89)	(964.00)
Neckers / Hoodies / Scout shop items	(806.26)	(826.00)
Training	(40.00)	(160.00)
Camping	(6,208.32)	(9,556.00)
Fund raising	0.00	0.00
AGM and other meetings	0.00	0.00
Minibus use	(22.50)	0.00
Other	(357.60)	(984.80)
Total group activity payments	(17,529.62)	(16,136.80)
Minibus payments		
Insurance	(1,067.37)	(960.52)
Repairs and Maintenance	(190.36)	(1,243.24)
Fuel	(189.71)	(315.76)
Road fund license	(165.00)	(165.00)
Bank charges	(60.00)	

Total minibus payments	(1,672.44)	(2,684.52)
Total payments for the year	<u>(25,811.35)</u>	<u>(26,284.66)</u>

**1st Fatfield Scouts Annual Report and Accounts
Year 31 March 2025**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Monetary assets		
Cash account	9,635.76	651.19
Minibus account	281.33	236.78
Deposit account	24,892.83	30,214.74
Scouts and Cubs floats	0.00	0.00
Total monetary assets	<u>34,809.92</u>	<u>31,102.71</u>
Non-monetary assets		
Scout Headquarters	0.00	0.00
Minibus	2,250.00	2,500.00
Total non-monetary assets	<u>2,250.00</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>
Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Net Assets	<u>37,059.92</u>	<u>33,602.71</u>

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Notes to the Accounts

Accounting Policies

- Income shown in the Receipts and Payments Account is before deduction of any expenses.
- Non-monetary assets shown in the Statement of Assets & Liabilities were given an estimated valuation by the trustees based on their knowledge of the assets involved and their age and condition.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities*, as applicable to the Group.
- The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 1st Fatfield Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed, in accordance with the financial rules of the charity.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act;
 - To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements;

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Edwards
2 Rose Cottages
Windlass Lane
Washington
Tyne and Wear
NE37 1BD

August 19th 2025