Scouts

5th Haywards Heath (St Paul's)

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



5hhscouts.org

Chair's Foreword

2025-26 had one really significant highlight – we moved into our new home at The Barn in February and had an incredible opening ceremony with astronaut Tim Peake and lots of special guests on March 6th.

This took an immense amount of hard work from the entire team and we are very grateful to everyone who supported the project in any way. This is the first time in its history that the 5th has had a home to call its own and we are loving it – very much creating a #PlacetoBelong for our 100+ members.

But as well as that major event we have also run a year of excellent Scouting. You can read in the rest of the report about what each of our sections have been up to.

We are so proud of all our young people and it is a joy and a delight to watch them grow and learn as they move through the Sections. One of our very first Squirrels is about to become a Cub – how time flies! As always, this would not be possible without the hard work of firstly our wonderful parents/carers who are so supportive of the Group and so often show up to help in so many different ways. And most importantly our incredible team of volunteer leaders and young leaders. These amazing people not only show up at regular sessions and events/camps to lead great activities but put in work behind the scenes planning, organising and doing training so that our young people have exciting, safe activities. They are also great at supporting each other – when one of our leaders needed to take a term's break this year other adults from other Sections stepped up to cover the sessions so the young people didn't miss a single one. And see page 16 for a story of how our amazing team pulled together to carry out the practicalities of the move to The Barn.



Overseeing it all is our wonderful GLV Fred who does a fabulous job of keeping everything running as well as supporting many District-level events. And the governance function is carried out by our super-diligent Trustee Board who meet 5 times a year. THANK YOU ALL

We've welcomed 6 new leaders this year but we always have room for more adults to join us; we need lots of different skills and welcome people with only a little time to give as well as those who have a bit more. There are lots of small back-office type tasks that you could help with too. Please talk to any of the leaders, or Fred or me if you might be interested – volunteering with the Scouts is a great way to have fun, develop your skills, give something back to society and find new friends.

Helen Bilton, Chair of Trustees

chair@5hhscouts.org

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SECTION A REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Charity Name	5th Haywards Heath (St Paul's)
Registered Charity number	NA (exempt from registration[1])
HQ Registration number	10013047
Address	The Barn Barn Cottage Lane Haywards Heath RH16 3QW 5hhscouts.org

	Trustee Name	*Office (if any)*	*Term of office*	*Dates acted if not for whole year*
1	Fred Thomas	GSL	Ex-officio	
2	Helen Bilton	Chair	2024-2027	
3	Philip Booth*	Secretary	2024-2027	
4	Winn Faria	Treasurer	2024-2027	
5	Fr Raglan Hay-Will	Rep. of Sponsor	2024-2027	
6	Dorina Wheeler**		2024-2027	
7	Andrew Byran		2025-2028	
8	VACANT			
9	VACANT			
10	VACANT			

*Philip Booth is stepping down as a Trustee at the 2026 AGM after a magnificent 20+ years as Secretary and Trustee. He has been a consistent source of secretarial support, wisdom, governance know-how and also contributing a church perspective. The Group is very much fortunate to have had his input for so long. His ability to identify the nub of a problem and suggest sage solutions is a very useful asset to a Board. Thank you for everything Philip, we will miss you.

** Dorina Wheeler is also stepping down as a Trustee having served 3 years on the Board as well as a number of years as a Cub Leader and a Scout Leader before that. It has been incredibly useful to have Dorina's input with her leader's and parent's perspective and we will very much miss her insightful questions and wise counsel. Thank you for all your hard work Dorina, we will miss you.

[1] The Scout Association and Mid Sussex District are charities. Small Groups like ours with incomes below £100,00 and no hut ownership are exempt from separate registration with the Charity Commission as part of a special arrangement which reduces our admin. However, as a federated Scout Group charity we still comply with charity rules. Note that Mid Sussex District is the official owner of The Barn.

SECTION B STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Group's governing documents are those of the 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. Our Constitution is found in Section 5.c.1 of POR

The Group 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.

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. The Group is exempt from separate registration with the Charity Commission; we come under the wider Scout umbrella registration.

The Board meets every 2 months. Members of the Trustee Board undertake mandatory training[2] provided by the Scout Association and role-specific training as required.

[2] Mandatory training for Trustees consists of a trusteeship module, GDPR and inclusion. All trustees also, along with all adults in the movement, must undertake regular Safety and Safeguarding training and be familiar with the Yellow Card and Purple Card.

SECTION C OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING SECTION REPORTS)

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting

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 co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.



Public Benefit Statement

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

Squirrels

Report: Helen Willshire (Team Leader)

It's been another busy year for the Squirrels and we are now two years old! We currently have two leaders, Helen Willshire and Ed Kent-Bending and two provisional leaders, Emma Hardy and Becca Izard, who we hope will gain their full role very soon. We have had regular support from our brilliant young leaders, Isaac and James, along with our lovely parent helpers, all of whom we are very grateful to for the time they have spared for us – we wouldn't have been able to keep going without the support of our fabulous parents! Finally, a big thanks to Helen Bilton who has generously given her time whenever we have been short of leaders.

In the past year we have had a fun and varied programme. We took part in the West Sussex Jamboree and had a great time trying new activities and seeing what a scout camp looked like. We had fun helping out at the Lindfield village litter pick. We've made music, dens, bridges, eaten rather a lot of marshmallows, explored Wakehurst Place, the Scrase Stream nature reserve, spotted Christmas lights, bioblitzed, and of course, taken a trip into Space! One of the highlights of the year was receiving our Space Badges from Tim Peake at the opening of our new Scout centre, The Barn. Definitely an event to remember.

During the current term we have been enjoying exploring the area around The Barn and using the outside space, something new to us as we didn't have any outside space at the Redwood Centre. We had a great time last month putting up tents and making them into cosy dens. We have also been very lucky to have the use of St Joseph Primary school's forest school area for a campfire and some den building. In July we will be sitting round more campfires as we join the Cubs for an afternoon at their summer camp at Broadstone Warren.

We currently have fourteen Squirrels in our drey, our largest number to date. This year, three of our Squirrels have received the Chief Scouts Acorn Award, a great achievement, very well done to Ivo, Atticus and Eden, and four more Squirrels will hopefully receive the award at the AGM – very well done to Jasper, Teresa, Ewan and Jaeden.

Thank you to everyone for continuing help and support us over the last year and we look forward to more fun and adventures in the autumn













Scouts
5th Haywards Heath (St Paul's)

BEAVERS

Report: Helen Thomas (Team Leader)

This year has been a very busy and rewarding one for the Beaver group. Our numbers have grown to 20, and our leadership team now includes myself, Helen Thomas, along with Dave Reed and Leo Bilton when he is home from university. We have also been fortunate to have support from a young leader, Toby, who has been completing his Duke of Edinburgh Award. Thank you, Toby, for all your help.

We have run a varied and engaging programme, enabling Beavers to work towards their challenge badges and, hopefully, their Bronze Award. Highlights from the Autumn Term included a visit to Haywards Heath Fire Station, a visit from Animal Amazing, and a trip to Compton House, where the Beavers delivered cards and chocolates to residents and enjoyed a lively game of badminton using fly swatters.

During the Spring Term, the Beavers earned several badges, including Health and Fitness, Space, and Safety. Twelve Beavers also joined the Cubs for an indoor sleepover at Parkwood.

This Summer Term has been especially active, with many outdoor adventures. Our evenings have included archery and crate stacking at Broadstone Warren—thank you to Michael Main for leading the archery—pond dipping and bug hunting at Bedelands, a visit from Fairer World Lindfield, and a ride on the trains at Beech Hurst. Unfortunately, the weather prevented our visit to the Butterfly Garden in Ditchling, but we hope to rearrange this for September. We also enjoyed a trip to Wakehurst to learn about Trees for Bees.

On 7th June, 18 Beavers attended Go Beavers, a county event with 800 Beavers celebrating 40 years of the Beaver section. The children took part in a huge range of activities, including aero ball, climbing, nightline, tunnels, laser tag, a planetarium visit, and much more. It was a fantastic day and a wonderful way to mark the anniversary.

We would like to thank all parents for their continued support throughout the year. We look forward to another exciting Autumn Term.

Wishing you all a happy summer

Helen, Dave and Leo





Report: Michael Main (Team Leader)

Introduction - Overview

Cub Scout Pack had a dynamic and engaging year filled with a wide range of activities, adventures, and learning experiences. Our pack was made up of 24 enthusiastic Cub Scouts, supported by a dedicated leadership team and committed families who helped make the year a great success.

Throughout the year, the Cubs took part in outdoor adventures, community visits, creative challenges, camps, hikes, and educational activities designed to develop confidence, teamwork, practical skills, and community awareness.



Leadership - Pack Leadership Team

The pack benefited from the hard work and commitment of our volunteer leadership team:

Michael Main – Leader

Chris Lee, David Marshall, Tony Bright, Vicki Bright (Team Members)

Josh Whitehall – Young Leader (YL)

The support and enthusiasm of our leaders ensured that meetings and events were safe, enjoyable, and rewarding for all Cubs.

Activities and Events

The programme this year offered an exciting balance of adventure, learning, creativity, and teamwork. Highlights included:

Autumn Term

Raft Races ✶ Rounders in the Field ✶ "How To Basically" skills evening ✶Mini Trebuchets challenge ✶ Skate Farm visit ✶ Chip Shop Challenge ✶ Halloween Pumpkin Carving evening ✶ Campfire and Cookout ✶ Remembrance Day Parade ✶ Pets at Home visit ✶Ten Pin Bowling and Bowls ✶ Dens in the Dark ✶ Christmas Party

Spring and Summer Term

The Robber challenge evening ✶ Mid Sussex Martial Arts School visit ✶ Cub Camp weekend ✶ Board Games evening ✶ Cookout at the Hut ✶ RAF Cadets Centre visit ✶ Pancake Races ✶ "Animazing" animal experience ✶ Cats Protection visit ✶ Mosque Visit ✶ Easter Egg Hunt ✶ Sussex Green Living environmental session ✶ James "The Worm Man" visit ✶ Police Station and Police Dogs visit ✶ District Hike ✶ Quiz Hike

Achievements and Awards

The Cubs achieved excellent progress throughout the year by working towards challenge awards and activity badges. Cubs earned a total of 266 badges across the year with 37 different badges earned. Three Cubs earned the highest Cubs award – their Silver, well done Rory, Thomas and Theodore.

Community Service

The pack actively supported the local community throughout the year, contributing over 100 hours of community service.

Activities included:

Participation in the Remembrance Day Parade ✶Environmental awareness activities with Sussex Green Living ✶ Visits supporting local organisations and charities ✶ Community engagement projects during meetings and hikes ✶ Supporting Haywards Heath Town Council programmes

These opportunities encouraged Cubs to understand the importance of helping others and contributing positively to their community.



Acknowledgements

Our sincere thanks go to all the volunteers, leaders and our parent supporters who generously gave their time and effort throughout the year. Your commitment and encouragement are the foundation of the pack's success and are greatly appreciated by everyone involved.



We look forward to another exciting year ahead, continuing to provide opportunities for young people to grow in confidence, develop new skills, and enjoy the adventure of scouting.

SCOUTS

Report: Louise Downey (Team Leader)

The troop currently has 30 scouts and 4 leaders, plus two new leaders who have joined the troop this term to prepare for the second troop launching in September 2026.

Over the year 1 scout earned their Adventure Challenge Award, 2 earned their Outdoors Challenge Award, 1 earned their Team Leader Challenge Award, and 1 earned their Creative Challenge Award, 1 earned their Skills Challenge Award, and 2 earned their World Challenge Award. A wide range of activity badges were awarded including Chef, Entertainer, Librarian, Sports Enthusiast, Hikes, Time on the Water and Nights Away.

Last summer the troop had a fantastic week-long camp at Ardingly, joining hundreds of other scouts and guides from across the county, and the world, at the West Sussex Scout Jamboree. Scouts camped as part of the Mid Sussex District contingent. A huge range of activities were available including climbing, high ropes, water sports, inflatables, zorbing, archery and rifle shooting, scouting skills sessions and team challenges.

Autumn term began with a welcome back and games session, followed by a troop forum and patrols creating and voting to run their own troop night activities: Hawk patrol's idea for a "Tech Deck" takeover was selected first, and Eagle patrol's murder mystery escape room was selected second. Both patrols did a great job planning and running their sessions during the term. In early September the raft race tested the scouts' teamwork and raft building skills. Scouts helped the group raise funds by taking part in the Group Sponsored Walk on the South Downs in October and the Orchards bucket collection in November. Also in November, Scouts joined the other sections at the Remembrance Day commemoration in Haywards Heath.

The troop tried international cookery, completed a scavenger hunt, splashed about and whizzed down the slides at the Triangle, and learned lots of fitness moves. A night hike near Wivelsfield gave scouts some good practice of nighttime navigation before Escape and Evasion in late November. And UK Parliament Week helped them learn about our democratic processes, including running their own debates.

In January, our scout team did brilliantly to come third in the District Scouts Quiz despite being a team of two! Despite very muddy conditions, Scouts had great winter camp at Parkwood later in January. Spring term troop meetings began with leaping and bounding around Crawley Parkour, followed by some sessions on emergency aid and water safety, the latter supported by a visitor from the RNLI. Scouts tested their rhythm and fitness with some 'Swoove', and we headed out for night hikes near Cuckfield and Scaynes Hill. At the opening ceremony for The Barn, Henry wrote and delivered a fantastic speech, and Ellie, Patrick and Oliver were interviewed for the TV news. Further to the amazing opportunity of meeting Tim Peake that day, subsequent troop meetings gave Scouts the chance to learn

more about being an astronaut, along with spotting the International Space Station as it travelled over The Barn, and spotting constellations in some amazingly clear night skies.

From January to March, scouts participated in several Overland Hike training hikes, the Checkpoint Challenge and a full Overland weekend practice. Patrick and Ellie formed a joint Overland Hike team with two scouts from 5th Burgess Hill Scout Group. The team worked really well together, successfully completing the competition, hiking approx. 20 miles carrying all their equipment for the weekend, camping overnight, and undertaking a wide range of challenges. Their dedication, teamwork and speed were rewarded with a fantastic second place.

The annual Monopoly Run in early March was a great fun day out, with two teams dashing around, exploring the sights and sounds of London on foot, bus, tube and train. Then at the District Scouts Cooking Competition in April, our team cooked up an oriental feast and achieved second place, with just a few points in it.

The summer term's troop meetings continued the space theme, with Leo Bilton teaching scouts all about black holes, alongside a 'space show-and-tell'. We enjoyed visiting the Scrase Valley Community Orchard for a tour, sowing seeds, making worm bombs and bat-detecting. Scouts completed a circular hike near Wivelsfield, where they made friends with some inquisitive cows. The visit from a local arachnid expert gave scouts the chance to learn about and touch some very large, hairy spiders. Thanks to the Cub leaders for supporting an evening of archery, bottle rockets and games at Broadstone Warren. And double thanks to Chris, who then taught scouts essential bike maintenance skills the following week. Scouts were invited to participate in a special 'Bioblitz' at Wakehurst Place in May, learning about pollinators and scientific monitoring methods before completing their own flower insect timed counts (FIT Counts).

Scouts tidied, weeded and planted out vegetable plants they'd grown at the Community Garden by The Orchards in Haywards Heath, hiked from Ardingly to Lindfield, then tried out footgolf before finishing the term playing wide games with 10th Haywards Heath Scouts. A team will be competing in the Hardy Cup at the end of June.

We're looking forward to summer camp in July at Phasels Wood campsite in Hertfordshire in July, with lots of amazing activities including climbing, zorbing, tunnelling, dragon boating, and kayaking. We'll also have some days out including a canal boat ride and a visit to Bletchley Park, the home of WW2 code breaking.











TRUSTEE BOARD and behind-the-scenes

Our role is to set strategic goals, ensure that the Group has the resources to continue running - including enough money, equipment, premises, insurance and leaders - and that regulatory requirements are complied with. Safety is our number one focus and we have spent time this year making sure that Scouting with the 5th is as safe as possible whilst not diluting the adventure and challenge.

Our biggest job this year has been getting The Barn open and our Sections moved in (see page 15-16 for more on The Barn). Trustees were instrumental in ensuring all legalities were covered in terms of licences, agreements and insurance, as well as pitching in to lend a hand with the practicalities of moving in and the opening ceremony.

We are pleased to have kept capitation to the same as 24-25 at £15.50 a month. Also, as part of our drive to keep Scouting affordable we have also this year got our second-hand uniform/kit store off the ground which is good for both the environment and family budgets. Huge thanks to Helen Willshire for all her work on this.

Fundraising efforts this year were mainly focused on raising money to build The Barn, including a Sponsored Walk at which our young people raised over £800. However, we have also raised money from a bucket collection in town, from grants, from the Tesco token collections, Easy Fundraising and claiming back Gift Aid. A particular focus for us has been on local visibility and raising the profile of Scouting in the area – we have had presence at Town Day, at church, the Town Museum, Remembrance Day, articles in the local press and you can read about some of our sections' collaborations with other local groups such as the Horticultural Society, Wakehurst Place and Lindfield Village clean.

Trustees also organised a thank you Christmas meal for our leaders whereby we cooked and they came and enjoyed a go at air rifles and a sausage casserole.



We are very grateful to all our Trustees and other adults for their hard work during the year. We have vacancies on the Trustee Board so please speak to the Chair if you know anyone who may be interested.

SECTION D ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

All sections are full, with extensive waiting lists especially for Squirrels. In total the group consists of 22 adults, 3 Young Leaders and 83 young people. Our finances are stable. 2026-27 will see us embark on our expansion plans now that we are settled into the new building, starting with a new Squirrel Drey and a second Scout Troop in September.

We have recruited 6 new leaders this year, but there is always room for more. Behind the scenes we have a quartermaster, Liam, but there are many other behind-the-scenes jobs that can be done.

We are an outward-looking group and participate in many District and County events and competitions. Last summer our Scouts thoroughly enjoyed a week at West Sussex International Jamboree, a huge camp at Ardingly Showground. Our younger sections went along for 'All Sections Day' too on the middle Wednesday. Lots of our adults (leaders and trustees) often help to run local Scouting events. As mentioned in the 'Trustee' section we try to be present at as many town occasions as possible such as Town Day, Remembrance Day, the Town Museum and we have an annual bucket collection in the Orchards at Christmas. As well as our partnership with the Bentswood Hub in The Barn we also work with the Haywards Heath Horticultural Society, the local police and fire brigade and are especially grateful to local school, St Joseph's, who allow us to use their woods for fire/den-building.

Overland success

We are immensely proud of two of our Scouts who, as part of a joint team, came an incredible Second Place in the Overland Hike competition. This is one of Scouting's toughest competitions consisting of a 15 mile Saturday challenge/incident hike and competitive camping overnight followed by another 10 mile hike the following day. All in unpredictable and often chilly March weather and there are always big hills. In the Explorer competition our three Young Leaders were part of a team that also came second. Well done all of you!



Our Overland teams with their certificates, second-place neckers and team-mates

Awards

Acorn Awards (top Squirrel award): 7

Bronze Awards (top Beavers award): 0

Silver Awards (top Cubs award): 3

Gold Awards (top Scouts award): 0

Award for Merit awarded to our Beaver leader Helen Thomas. This is one of the top Scouting awards, given for long, excellent service. It was presented to her at the opening ceremony of the Barn with the following citation:-

> *Helen Thomas has been involved with 5th Haywards Heath Beaver Colony since 2002, taking over as Team Leader in 2017. The Beaver colony thrives under her leadership as she so warmly welcomes in the younger members of the Scouting family and introduces them to Scouting. She plans, organises and delivers an exciting programme for the young people with her team, and includes lots of outdoor adventure. Camps, sleepovers and District events also feature in the programme and the vast majority of our Beavers go on to do great things in Cubs, Scouts and beyond. Helen has two home-grown leaders and one young-leader in her team, a testament to her outstanding leadership. And the greatest testament is the hundreds of ex-Beavers who have such happy memories of their time in Helen's colony. The 5th Haywards Heath is incredibly grateful for the amount of time, dedication and skill that Helen devotes to Beavers and recognise that 23 years of doing it* [now 24] *is a magnificent achievement which deserves recognition*



Most importantly of all, our young people (and our grown-ups!) have enjoyed themselves and learned new #SkillsForLife in a safe and fun environment. We are very grateful to all of the adults and Young Leaders who work so hard to make this happen – THANK YOU.

Special report on The Barn

"This new scout hut is where our friendships will grow, where confidence builds, and where challenges are faced head on. It's where we'll make memories that last a lifetime. So today we're not just opening a building, we're opening new adventures, new opportunities, and a very exciting future for 5th Haywards Heath Scouts."
Henry, Scout, in his speech at the opening ceremony

The Barn, our brand new purpose-built Scout Centre and Community Hub opened formally on 6th March 2026. It represents the culmination of an enormous amount of hard work by lots of people. The project was managed by a committee consisting of 6 Scouters from District and 5th who met weekly for 18 months. The building is owned by Mid Sussex District (and we owe massive thanks to Mark Scholfield and Alan Dyke for the enormous amounts of work they put in to the project) and licensed to 5th as tenants. The day-to-day management is undertaken by our community partners the Bentswood Hub who use it for all kinds of community services including a very popular youth club on Fridays. The 5th now have four nights at their disposal for Scouting and will be opening new Sections, starting in September. The build, coming in at over £900,000, was funded with money from District (sale of a previous group's hut), Mid Sussex District Council, including Section 106 and £140,000 of grant fundraising. The 5th contributed £8,000 from our own funds plus undertook fundraising such as our Sponsored Walk in October which raised over £800. We have also been successful in raising £60,000 from the National Lottery to kit out the building, this work is ongoing. We held a competition to design a new badge to go on the back of our neckers to commemorate the opening of our first home-of-our-own.

Scouts Mid Sussex

BENTSWOOD HUB



BARN COTTAGE GREEN - a new community hub and Scout Centre for Haywards Heath



Our badge competition winner Jake receiving his certificate

Scouting values in action

One dark February evening .....

It was the half-term break. The weather was foul. Mice had been eating the tents in the storage container. Everyone was on tenterhooks waiting for The Barn to become a reality – it was tantalisingly built but not useable due to legal red tape. Suddenly, after months of delay, the council finally signed the land lease and it was all-systems-go for the 5th to move their gear from their old stores at Franklands Village to the new stores upstairs at The Barn. Fred put out a call on the Group WhatsApp. At just one day's notice no fewer than 14 people rocked up to help, with willing hands, trailers, vans and tools to dismantle and rebuild some of the gear. In one night most of the gear was shifted across and we could start Scouting after half term. What a team! WHAT a team and such an incredible display of Scouting values. Thank you all

And ...this amazing feat was repeated again 2 weeks later when we had loads of people, leaders and parents alike as well as people from District and other Groups, turn up to help us prepare for, run and clear up after the Opening Ceremony. In torrential rain. Again, you are wonderful human beings and we are so grateful and so fortunate to have the network we do.





Opening Ceremony

We could not talk about The Barn without talking about the magnificent opening ceremony. This was held on 6th March, exactly 1 year after the groundbreaking ceremony. We had lots of special guests including most of our young people, their parents and leaders, plus representatives from other Scout Groups and District. Our new County Lead Volunteer Joe Rogerson attended along with his deputy Julia Kielstra as well as National Scout Chaplain Fr Jonathan How. The local MP Alison Bennett was there, and Duncan Pascoe the Town Mayor along with a number of other local dignitaries and councillors.

And, of course, Major Tim Peake, astronaut and Scout ambassador came along to 'launch' the centre for us and was extremely gracious and generous with his time. He gave our younger sections their space badges and donated to the group a space patch which has actually been into space. The event attracted a lot of attention locally and three of our

young people were on the BBC news as well as our Chair talking on local radio. Despite the rain it was a thoroughly joyful event and a fitting tribute to the hard work of all the people who made it happen after so many years.








SECTION E FINANCIAL REVIEW

Summary

2025-6 was again a busy year, reflected in the Chairs Group Annual Report foreword and AGM and it was great to see and hear about all the activities that happened within the Group, as a result.

Due to the busy nature of the Group, both internally and externally, we review our financial situation frequently, with additional finance meetings outside the annual Trustee Board cycle to ensure enough time for discussion of budgets, accounts and other related financials given the enlarged size of the group.

We additionally completed the hut build at Barn Cottage, our new Group meeting location, with substantial fundraising, donations and grants supporting our financial journey along the way.

A key change will occur to the role of the scrutineer for the Group, in that this financial year '25/'26 will be the final year of appointment.

Revised Scouting rules state that this appointment can only exist for financial year ends ending up through 2026. After this period, the role is phased out entirely and we must appoint a qualified Independent Examiner or Auditor at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) 26/27 instead.

Financial Review

- **Financial position:**

The group continues to maintain a stable financial position due to Group fund-raising efforts and the vast majority of parents paying subs promptly. Additionally, we have fully embraced Online Scout Manager, (OSM) which lends much needed automation to the collection process.

We also continue to emphasise that prompt payment of subs is essential as it takes a lot of time to chase overdue payments and GoCardless now charges us for every failed payment.

- **Donations and large income items:**

Gift Aid Payments continue to be a great source of revenue. Gift aiding subscriptions help to bring in a substantial amount of money at no extra effort to parents paying these subscriptions. We will be able to claim a helpful amount of Gift Aid this year, helping us largely offset Capitation, our largest annual expense.

- **Subs:**

Subs remain the main source of income and we now, through OSM have largely automated the Gift Aid claim process in this financial year. It remains for parents to add their details

into the system promptly, when asked. The process for claiming has changed slightly and will be updated soon.

Additionally, we have prompted and steered parents and senior associated members through helpful emails, to use a charity donation site (EasyFundraising) prior to online purchasing. This allows additional charitable donations to be made. The firm selling the goods also benefits from making a charitable donation through tax offset. Employers, especially those located locally could be encouraged to make donations.

▪ Electronic payments:

During this accounting period the bulk of outgoing payments have been made electronically using the Lloyds Business banking double-confirmation online payment system. This has improved the payment process for reimbursing expenses and making larger payments. In addition to outgoing electronic payments we have seen a significant increase in the number of incoming payments being made electronically with close to 100% this year. The Group continues to use the SumUp reader for secure card payments.

Through this good financial discipline, we hope electronic payments will continue to increase as they reduce the pressure on leaders to collect money and mitigate the risk of payment amounts going missing and the associated manual effort. We do, however, accept and recognise that it will be necessary to continue to collect some payments as cash from time to time. We have been using a maker checker process for processing payments for some time.

▪ Cloud based Accounting Software:

Since the financial year 2024/2025, the 5th Haywards Heath Scout Group has adopted the use of Xero, a global cloud based accounting software platform, to produce the Annual Accounts.

This was viewed by the Trustees of the Group as a strategic and more robust move away from account production via other, less robust methods, and Xero was deemed to be the best featured, value for money, subscription based, cloud accounting software currently available, additionally adopted at District level. This will be subject to annual review, should the current circumstances change.

▪ Large expenditure items: The 2025/26 Scout Association Capitation was paid out in the accounting period on time by April 2026 which was £5,576, an increase from £4,095 last financial year and continues to be our biggest expenditure to date. The Capitation fee goes towards District, National and County charges and includes the insurance of Leaders, Young people and Trustee Board members.

The UK headquarters membership fee for next year will be advised later in the year and payable for all members under the age of 18.

▪ Year-end accounts: As at financial year end 2026, 05th April 2026, the Group has an overall negative balance of £6,537.09 in the Treasurers account and positive balance of

£14,674.93 in its business account. Income was £39,419.95 and expenditure was £45,957.04.

2025/26 Finances – Summary

This can be explained as follows: The accounts show that the Group spent around £6,500 more than we received this year, but optically, this does not mean we lost £6,500 through our normal activities. The main reason for this is the Barn Cottage build. The Group raised around £12,300 specifically for Barn Cottage and also spent a significant amount on the cottage during the year. Some of this came from money already held in our savings.

We had already agreed to donate £8,000 which we transferred out of our own reserves towards the new build in 2 sets of £4,000 transactions.

Our day-to-day income remains healthy. Subscriptions brought in around £14,300, camps and activities around £7,100, and we also received Gift Aid, grants and fundraising income. We have also continued to use Group funds to support our young people. For example, we spent slightly more on camps and activities than we charged families. Our savings, held in the main account have reduced from around £20,300 to £11,300, largely during a year when we have been spending significantly on Barn Cottage.

The key message to take from this is that the £6,500 figure is not a normal operating loss. It mainly reflects money being used for Barn Cottage and other activities as intended. The Group still has savings, our regular income remains strong, and the priority for next year is simply to ensure that our normal annual income continues to cover our normal annual costs.

The increase in Capitation over last year of £1,481, is expected to increase this financial year with the idea that the account annually runs to break even. The capitation charge paid to the Scout Association continues to be our largest outgoing item.

Summary

The spending shows a focus on enriching the scouts' experiences through diverse activities, ensuring safety and preparedness for camping, and fostering a sense of community with uniforms and badges. Investing in supplies for crafts and DIY activities highlights the importance of hands-on learning. Allocating funds for food and beverages at various events ensures the well-being of participants. Overall, the expenses reflect a balanced approach to operational needs and activity enhancement.

The Group's Accounts are presented here on an income and expenditure basis.

We engage a small local online accounting firm, Digivolve to scrutinise the accounts. There were no financial issues raised at the meeting arising from the account scrutiny session held 25/6/26. We had more activity than usual this year across the accounts, reflected in the notes to the accounts and they have now been signed off.

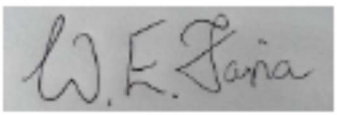
Profit and Loss

5th Haywards Heath St Paul's Scout Group
For the year ended 5 April 2026

Account	2026	Notes	2025
Turnover			
Camp / Other activities	7,101.18		7,514.71
Donation Barn Cottage	12,329.28		0.00
Donation JustGiving regular fund raising	120.74		0.00
Events Income	1,369.50		0.00
Fundraising	600.26		658.55
Gift Aid	2,322.50		4,674.38
Grant	1,200.00		1,000.00
Interest	90.63		162.09
Subscriptions	14,280.50		13,222.09
Woggles & Scarves	5.36		0.00
Total Turnover	**39,419.95**		**27,231.82**
Gross Profit	**39,419.95**		**27,231.82**
Administrative Costs			
Admin and IT	33.60		0.00
Badges and Uniforms	958.05		865.77
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Squirrels Expenses	2,141.44		6,878.67
Camp / Other Activities Payments	8,164.22		8,317.28
Capitation Fees	5,576.00		4,095.00
Charitable Donation Barn Cottage	12,199.27		0.00
Charitable Donations	150.46		0.00
Equipment	2,445.86		0.00
Equipment Barn Cottage	1,174.92		0.00
Gocardless Fees	850.00		0.00
Hut Barn Cottage Renovation	8,000.00		0.00
Hut Renovation	924.68		0.00
Hut Rental	2,225.00		2,130.00
Insurance	251.50		254.04
Miscellaneous (subs refund)	68.00		(54.00)
Scout Overland	0.00		217.87
Software costs	43.53		0.00
Squirrels Rent	600.00		630.00
Telephone	53.71		0.00
Training	96.80		0.00
Total Administrative Costs	**45,957.04**		**23,334.63**
Operating Profit	**(6,537.09)**	**Note: 1**	**3,897.19**
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	**(6,537.09)**		**3,897.19**
Profit after Taxation	**(6,537.09)**		**3,897.19**

The above and attached accounts agree with the books and records of the 5th Haywards (St Paul's) Scout Group

Signed :



Date: 15th September 2026
5TH HH Group Treasurer: W E Faria

Signed :

Digivolve

Date: 15th September 2026
Auditor: Matthew Hunt, Digivolve Accountants

5th Haywards Heath (St Pauls) Scout Group Accounts FY 2025-2026

1. Operating Profit

2025/26 Finances – Summary
The accounts show that we spent around £6,500 more than we received this year, but this does not mean we lost £6,500 through our normal activities.
The main reason is the Barn Cottage build.
We raised around £12,300 specifically for Barn Cottage and also spent a significant amount on the cottage during the year.
Some of this came from money already held in our savings.
We had already agreed to donate £8,000 which we transferred out of our own reserves towards the new build in 2 sets of £4,000 transactions.
Our day-to-day income remains healthy.
Subscriptions brought in around £14,300, camps and activities around £7,100, and we also received Gift Aid, grants and fundraising income.
We have also continued to use Group funds to support our young people. For example, we spent slightly more on camps and activities than we charged families.
Our savings have reduced from around £20,300 to £11,300, largely during a year when we have been spending significantly on Barn Cottage.
The key message. The £6,500 figure is not a normal operating loss.
The £6,500 figure is not a normal operating loss.
It mainly reflects money being used for Barn Cottage and other activities as intended.
The Group still has savings, our regular income remains financially strong.
The priority for next year is simply to ensure that our normal annual income continues to cover our normal annual costs.

Balance Sheet

5th Haywards Heath St Paul's Scout Group
As at 6 April 2026

	6 APR 2026	6 APR 2025
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Current Account	3,374.87	925.09
Savings Accounts	11,300.06	20,286.93
Total Cash at bank and in hand	**14,674.93**	**21,212.02**
Total Current Assets	**14,674.93**	**21,212.02**
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	**14,674.93**	**21,212.02**
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	**14,674.93**	**21,212.02**
Net Assets	**14,674.93**	**21,212.02**
Capital and Reserves		
Retained Earnings	14,674.93	21,212.02
Total Capital and Reserves	**14,674.93**	**21,212.02**

Investment Policy

The Group does not have sufficient funds or an associated policy that allows it to make longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds.

All its money is held in cash using a separate account within our mainstream bank. While this is not a high yield return, we are able to earn a modest amount of interest, although interest rates have started to fall this year. The Group Treasurer regularly monitors bank balances to ensure the Group obtains value and income from its banking arrangements. Currently, as Bank of England interest rates have fallen, there is a lower return, reflected in the interest that we have earned on our account, which was higher earlier in the year. We expect the bank to either change its business approach to paying higher interest rates or Bank of England interest rates to continue to fall in the future, either or both will reduce future credit interest on the account. The Group has no control over future interest rate volatility.

We maintain a working balance in a non-interest paying current account while we should look to maintain the bulk of funds are held in an interest paying deposit account. Cash flow would be managed carefully with (almost) instant electronic transfers between the accounts as necessary for large payments or subsidies.

Reserves Policy

The Group maintains sufficient reserves to provide for the ongoing operation of its activities

Risk and Internal Control

The Trustee Board has identified the major risks and areas to which the enlarged 5th Haywards Heath Scout Group may be exposed and records them in our Risk Register. These will be monitored and mitigated when necessary and as they arise. The main areas identified are:

▪**Annual Contents Insurance:** Our contents are covered whilst in use anywhere in the UK and the All Risks cover is for contents / equipment used by Scouts and loaned or hired to non-Scout groups.

▪ **Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members:** The Group, through the membership fees contributes to the Scout Association's standard insurance policy. In consultation with the Trustee Board we have taken out an extra insurance policy. The extra insurance is for personal accident cover for occasional helpers (DBS-checked) and non-members with our same insurance provider, Unity.

▪ **Reduction or loss of Leaders:** The Group is totally reliant on volunteers. If there were a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or in the

Group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group. We continue to encourage parent involvement in order to provide support and keep parents involved and will make appropriate announcements in the Church and its newsletter.

▪ **Reduction or loss of members**: The Group provides activities for young people as Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts aged 4 to 14.5 years. If there were a reduction in membership in a particular section or the Group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

▪ **The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**: The Trustee Board has absorbed the implications of the legislation and the Group has adopted guidelines and produced a final policy which reflects the legislation with respect to Scouting.

Winn Faria

Group Treasurer

SECTION F PLANS AND CALENDAR

Plans for 2026-27

As mentioned earlier in the report we will be expanding our provision so we can welcome more young people into Scouting. We have successfully recruited some new Scout leaders so our new Monday troop can start in September. And our second Squirrel Drey will be initially run by our Chair and GLV with the help of existing leaders while we recruit more people. We will continue to promote Scouting locally by showing up at town events, and we will continue to support District and County events too.

We are very excited to be holding the first Group Camp in a long while at Stanford Campsite in April/May next year – all Sections will be invited for some or all of it and we are looking forward to having the whole Group camping together.

We are hoping to continue to build on our successes in encouraging young people to take part in events and competitions. It is wonderful to see so many of our young people signing up for hikes, trips, camps and competitions and we are grateful to their parents/carers and all the adults who make these possible. Sometimes our adults join in too, we were disappointed that last year's Downsman hike was called off for bad weather and our team of adults who were intending to tackle the demanding 38 mile V-class are hoping for another crack at it in 2026.

We work hard to make the cost as reasonable as possible but we don't want any child to be unable to participate because their family can't afford it. Please speak to one of the leaders, or Fred, in confidence if cost is an issue and we will see what can be done. Don't forget to check out our secondhand store (see website) for uniform and kit at £1 an item.

We are still looking at ways to fund the purchase of a minibus as we have the administrative capacity to run one and hire it out to other groups in the District. There are many, many occasions where a minibus would be useful, not just camps.

2026-27 Calendar of events

These are the events we know about at this point. There will be more camps to add, and as usual the section programmes will be available on OSM (Online Scout Manager). Dates in *italics* are provisional, based on previous years, all others are currently confirmed.

July/August 2026

25th July-1st August Scout Camp at Phasels Wood

September 2026

Downsman Training

12th (Saturday) Town Day

12th (Saturday) Go Cubs

13th (Sunday) Scouts raft races

13th (Sunday) Go Squirrels

15th (Tuesday) 19:15pm Scouts Trustee Board

20st (Sunday) Cubs raft races

October 2026

3rd (Saturday all day) Downsman (Scouts)

November 2026

8th November (Sunday morning) Remembrance Day parade at Muster Green

10th (Tuesday) 19:15pm Scouts Trustee Board

21st (Saturday evening) Escape and Evasion (Scouts)

28th (Saturday daytime) Christmas Festival in Haywards Heath

December 2026

11th (Friday evening) Overland parents information evening at Redwood

19th (Saturday evening - provisional) leaders meal

January 2027

Most weekends – Overland training hikes, open to all Scouts. Usually Saturday sometimes Sunday, the last one will be overnight and one will be a night hike.

12th (Tuesday) 19:15pm Scouts Trustee Board

February 2027

Overland training continues

Winter Scout camp

Cubs indoor camp with Beavers sleepover

27th (Saturday all day) Checkpoint Challenge at Bushywood (Scouts)

March 2027

6th March (Saturday all day) Monopoly Run in London (Scouts)

12th (Tuesday) 19:15pm Scouts Trustee Board

20th to 21st (Saturday early morning to Sunday afternoon) Overland Competition (Scouts aged 12+)

April 2027

Around 23rd District St George's Day Parade

30th April to 2nd May Group Camp

May 2027

11th (Tuesday) 19:15pm Scouts Trustee Board

15th (Saturday morning) District Cub Hike (Cubs)

June 2027

13th (Sunday all day) Go Beavers

12th-13th (Saturday-Sunday) Challenge Hike (Scouts)

26th-27th (Saturday-Sunday) Hardy Cup camping competition (Scouts)

July 2027

14th July (Wednesday evening) AGM

SECTION G DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	Helen Bilton
Full name	Helen Bilton
Position	Chair
Date	1st July 2026

