

# Do more. Share more. Be more.

**5<sup>th</sup> Saffron Walden Scout Group**  
**Annual Report & Accounts 2025**



## Highlights of the Year

**BEAVERS**



**Squirrels**



**Cubs**



**SCOUTS**

#SkillsForLife



## Highlights of the Year

**BEAVERS**



**cubs**



**Squirrels**



**SCOUTS**

# Awards and Achievements from the Year

## Chief Scout's Award

The Chief Scout's Award can be awarded to Squirrels (Acorn), Beavers (Bronze), Cubs (Silver) and Scouts (Gold). They are each gained by completing a set of challenges and activities. The awards are the culmination of a huge amount of work on proven tasks by the participant over a period of time.

The Chief Scout's Awards celebrate the highest level of award that a Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout can achieve and are rightly recognised and celebrated as a major achievement. The awards are often presented at special events when friends and family are invited to attend.

The awards require the young person to complete a variety of tasks that include: learning new skills, working on projects, trying out new activities and showing their peers and Leaders what they have managed to achieve / make / learn to meet the requirements of the award.

During the last twelve months the following have been presented with their Chief Scout's Award.

## Chief Scout's Acorn Award



**Timmy Darton | Ted Hendy | Zacary Little | Oliver James | Gerard Riera-Borras | Zak Neville | Vinny Bennett | Tyler Philips**

The Chief Scout's Acorn Award is gained by completing the following:

- All About Adventure Challenge Award
- All About Me Challenge Award
- All Around Us Challenge Award
- All Together Challenge Award

and completing any two activity badges or staged activity badges.

## Chief Scout's Bronze Award



**David O'Callaghan | Thomas Carr Miriam Cornwell | Henry Frewin | Riley Sime | Harriet Campbell Ryan | Frankie Gray | Gracie Gray | Giorgio Bonomo-Jackson | Leo McGonegal | Mark Ford | Maddy Grace | Leon Galczynski | Edward Gough | Ernie O'Brien | Sam Bishop | Freya Start | Oscar Allison | Safoa Shepherd**

The Chief Scout's Bronze Award is gained by completing the following:

- My World Challenge Award
- My Skills Challenge Award
- My Outdoors Challenge Award
- My Adventure Challenge Award
- Teamwork Challenge Award
- Personal Challenge Award

and completing any four activity badges or staged activity badges.

## Chief Scout's Silver Award



**Sam Ford | Euan Hart | Bramwell Bigwood | Harry Mannion | Freddie Frewin | Tima Monokha | Raife Hooper | Hugo Dovedi | Wilfred Mallet | Woody Boyce**

The Chief Scout's Silver Award is gained by completing the following:

- Our World Challenge Award
- Our Skills Challenge Award
- Our Outdoors Challenge Award
- Our Adventure Challenge Award
- Teamwork Challenge Award
- Team Leader Challenge Award
- Personal Challenge Award

and completing any six activity badges or staged activity badges.



## Chief Scout's Gold Awards



**Toby Furse | Toby Howitt | Kira Hawkins | Euan Thomas**

The Chief Scout's Gold Award is gained by completing the following:

- World Challenge Award
- Skills Challenge Award
- Creative Challenge Award
- Outdoors Challenge Award
- Adventure Challenge Award
- Expedition Challenge Award
- Teamwork Challenge Award
- Team Leader Challenge Award
- Personal Challenge Award

and completing any six activity badges or staged activity badges.

Our congratulations to all those who have achieved these awards and who can be easily recognised by their Chief Scout's Award Badge on the front, right-hand side of their uniform.

## The adventure continues...

# EXPLORERS

At around their fourteenth birthday our young people must leave the Scout Troop. At that time they have the option to move up to Explorer Scouts, which is run by Saffron Walden District Scouts, for young people aged 14 to 18 years.

Explorers provides the ideal opportunity to both develop & broaden skills, as well as take on even more challenging "adventures".

## Young Leader training

Many of our Explorer Scouts additionally choose to volunteer & join the Young Leader programme.

Our Young Leaders are given the opportunity to undergo training specific for their role and often progress to becoming Adult Leaders. Some volunteer with us for a full four years, for others it's for a shorter term as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award,

We're lucky enough to have 9 Young Leaders volunteering with our Group. They provide invaluable support to the adult volunteer team and we're very grateful for their continued help.

## Growing Leaders

A number of our former Young Leaders & Scouts have now become adult leaders with the 5ths including Izzy & Robert this year with others in the pipeline. This is excellent role modelling for the young people and a tremendous boon to the leaders. We look forward to more young leaders taking this step.

In addition we have welcomed Neil, Kateryna, Lizzie and Paul to our regular leader ranks.

## Adult training

The Leaders, Young Leaders and adult helpers in the Group are offered training to assist them in their roles. Some training is a required part of becoming a volunteer with the Scouts and some to enhance their existing skills or qualifications. Many of these sessions result in nationally recognised qualifications and can be useful in other areas of their lives e.g. First Aid, and some is offered internally on a more informal basis.

Depending on their role, adult helpers are offered a variety of training courses and modules. Some of these are voluntary, however, to become a 'Leader' each person must complete various training modules and gain a Wood Badge to ensure they, and the children in their care, are fully prepared and trained for the many adventures to come.

The following adult Leaders have completed Wood Badge training for their roles this year:

- **Hannah Chivers (Cubs)**

In addition, the following have obtained permits or instructor qualifications:

- **Rifle Shooting: Nicky Nisbett (Cubs)**

Finally, the Scouts recognises longevity of service and excellence of service for our leaders and supporters. Our congratulations and thanks this year go to the following who have been recognised this year:

- **Debs Gibson, Andy Baxter (5 years)**

# Group Scout Leader's Report

## Mighty by Name, Mighty by Nature

I was once challenged on the use of the name "Mighty 5th" — but anyone who's spent time with our young people, volunteers, or families knows: it fits.

Our group continues to grow in creativity, resilience, and community spirit. From adventurous camps and badgework to quiet acts of kindness, our young people are learning to live with purpose — and lead with courage.

We're no strangers to pushing boundaries. Our Squirrels have proven that Scouting adventures can be embraced at any age! This year, our amazing Drey (4- and 5-year-olds) joined Beavers from the 1st and 5th for sleepovers — including a Space Camp — helped tend an allotment and visited the Foodbank.

Our Brilliant Beavers had a jam-packed year too: a Science Sleepover, District Knight School (led by our very own Otter!), and visits from both the Mayor and the Royal Observatory. They also brought joy to a local care home and learnt CPR and safety skills with the help of our new training mannequins — oh and invested our former Young Leader (and former Beaver!) Toad into the Weasels!

Cubs joined nearly 1,500 others at the County Megacamp and honed their outdoor skills with bushcraft, camouflage, and kayaking sessions, alongside hikes and navigation challenges. A VR night brought things firmly into the 21st century — and was a huge hit!

The Scouts, as ever, were insatiable for adventure. This year's highlights included walking and caving in the Peak District, camping on a Norfolk beach, and favourites like Jailbreak, Winter Camp, and Zoo Camp. They also tried their hands at archery, axe throwing, rope-making — and were even entrusted with guarding the new bell at St Mary's overnight, a true honour.

As a Group, we supported the local pantomime, took part in the District Magic Show with Richard

Jones, and spent a phenomenal day with Anna Lapwood touring and playing the church organs of Cambridge colleges.

But none of this happens by magic.

Behind it all are the *mighty few* — volunteers who give their time, energy, skills (and often their car boots full of camping gear) to make it all happen. We need more people like them — like you — to continue delivering unforgettable experiences for our Scouts.

What sets our leaders apart isn't just their creativity and commitment, but their willingness to support the wider Scouting community. We currently have three leaders either qualified or training for Mountain Leader awards. We provide more Archery and Axe Throwing instructors than any other Group in the District, and support the kayaking team too. On top of that, we have a shooting instructor, a member of ScoutMed (Scouting's own ninja first aid team!), two District leaders and a District Trustee Board member. That's what makes us Mighty.

We remain the largest Group in the District in terms of both young people and adult support — holding steady at around 165 young people. Yet even with our size, we still maintain the highest adult-to-young-person ratio in the District — a real achievement.

We've fully embraced the national Scouting Transformation, with both our Group Leadership Team and Trustee Board now well-established and actively led. Special thanks go to Nigel Bailey, our Chair — my key support and a driving force behind much of our progress — and to both teams, without whom none of this would be possible.

Every year in Scouts is full of fun, challenge, and skills for life. Thank you for continuing to belong to — and to believe in — the Mighty 5ths.

And if you believe in empowering young people, in building a stronger community, or even just in giving something back — now is the time. Join us. Be mighty.

Dom Moloney  
Group Lead Volunteer  
July 2025

# Group Chair's Report

**This AGM marks the end of my first year as** Chair of the Trustee Board, and also the first year of us doing things differently, following the Scout Association's transformation and the resulting changes.

The most significant change has been the clear separation between the trustee role and the organisation's support functions. While there's still some overlap among volunteers, the roles are now well defined—perhaps best reflected in the fact that trustee board meetings now take half the time they used to! My thanks go to the trustees for their hard work in embedding this new approach and helping to ensure that Scouting in the Mighty 5ths is delivered in a fun, safe, and financially responsible way.

The organisation and support team—the GLT—is a vibrant and enthusiastic group. They have been busy fundraising (with events like cake bakes, quizzes, bap packing, beer tastings, and gang shows—just to name a few), supporting communications, maintaining our stores, and providing essential admin support. We've adapted our working practices throughout the year and now have an energetic and motivated team who are constantly generating great ideas. Thank you all!

Of course, both the trustees and the GLT are here to support our leaders, enabling them to focus on delivering amazing opportunities for our young people—something they do brilliantly, year after year. I won't repeat what Dom has already said as GLV, but it's clear that, as a group, we do provide those outstanding experiences. Massive thanks are due to all our leaders.

For those who attended last year's AGM, you'll recall that we set out a strategy for the 5ths, with a number of activities to help us achieve our long-term goals. While adapting to the transformation and 'bedding in' the new approach has taken some focus this year, we have nevertheless made progress in many areas:

- **Through the GLT:** Regular events and fundraisers are now planned—there's at

least one event a month scheduled into next year, and we're exploring new ways to secure grants and external funding.

- **Group Trip:** We have a group trip to Ypres, Belgium, planned for the autumn.
- **Governance and Compliance:** We've strengthened our governance by developing privacy statements, defining our data collection and retention policy, and building out our risk register.

There are also areas where we need to redouble our efforts next year:

- **Parental Involvement:** We'll continue to encourage parents to get involved, especially by sharing their skills and interests with our young people, and aim to improve our communication more broadly.
- **Transportation:** We started looking into options for minibuses or other transport solutions, but this was paused as other priorities took precedence.
- **Buildings and Outdoor Spaces:** This will remain a focus for research and development.
- **5th Explorers:** For now, 5th Explorers is on hold—events elsewhere in the district overtook us, but the Town Explorers continue to provide a fantastic experience for 14–18-year-olds, and we'll keep working to strengthen our links with the unit.

Finally, I'd like to thank Dom as GLV for his leadership, for challenging our leaders to do even more and even better, and for always being ready for the next adventure. And thank you to all the parents for your ongoing support and patience.

Yours in Scouting

Nigel Bailey  
Group Chair  
June 2025

# Scrutineer's Report

## Independent Financial Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the 5th Saffron Walden Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **5<sup>th</sup> Saffron Walden Scout Group** for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As charity trustees of the **5<sup>th</sup> Saffron Walden Scout Group** you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ["the Act"].

I report in respect of my examination of the **5<sup>th</sup> Saffron Walden Scout Group** accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the **5<sup>th</sup> Saffron Walden Scout Group** as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Amy Empson FCPA

Address: provided

Date: 11 July 2025





# Group Treasurer's Report

## 5th Saffron Walden Scout Group: Treasurer's Report – June 2025

At the end of the financial year (FY) on the 31st March 2025, the Group bank balance was £17,061.04 in credit; an increase of £4904.16 from the start of the FY. The Group is in a reasonable financial position with reserves equating to approximately 1.5 times the annual capitation costs. In addition, the treasurer holds £120.00 in mixed cash to provide floats for cash-based fundraising events

Capitation is the levy the 5th Saffron Walden Scout Group pay to support the running of the organisation as a whole and represents the Groups largest single financial outgoing. Capitation is paid directly to District, who in-turn divide it between the UK headquarters, County and District. The 2025 annual capitation fee was £54.00 per child, an increase of £5.00 from 2024 fee; the combined bill of £8370.00 was paid in March 2025.

During the reporting period, gift aid claims were successfully made for the FY22/23 and FY23/24 totalling £4536.72; gift aid claims for the FY24/25 will be made retrospectively. Gift aid can be claimed back from HMRC for all subscriptions paid by parents/carers who pay income tax; Gift-aid is a key source of income for the Group, so it's critical that parents/carers that pay subscriptions and are also UK taxpayers, complete the OSM gift-aid declaration or speaks to one of the leaders. In addition to subscriptions, a smaller claim was included from moneys raised at the 2023 and 2024 AGM via the HMRC Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

Over £1900 was raised by donations and fundraising activities, including £624.44 from the Tesco Christmas collection. Fundraising is a key income stream for the Group and allows investment in kit and supports camps and trips. Fundraising relies on the generosity of parents, carers, members of our community and corporate entities; it is also testament to the hard work of our Group Leaders and the children themselves in engaging and seeking out opportunities to raise extra funds for the Group.

Ed Byrne

Treasurer, 5<sup>th</sup> Saffron Walden Scout Group

7 August 2025



# Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet

Cashflow	2024-25 FY
Subscriptions	£12,517.00
Gift Aid	£4,536.72
Corporate Donations	£1,250.00
Fundraising	£71.80
Donations from AGM (June 2024)	£987.60
Bank interest	£27.88
Other income (Tesco Christmas collection)	£624.44
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>£20,015.44</b>
Capitation	-£8,370.00
Hall hire	-£2,678.00
Pack Expenses	-£1,827.86
Bank admin fees	-£175.85
AGM cmeeting expenses	-£485.12
Badges	-£704.55
Insurance	-£198.98
Leaders/group training and recruitment	-£164.12
Other costs (GoCardless admin fees)	-£1,258.21
Kit and one-off purchases	-£2,583.33
<b>Expenditure exclu Camps</b>	<b>-£18,446.02</b>
Income from camps and trips	£18,369.00
Payments for camps and trips	-£20,163.26
Jailbreak costs	-£1,901.00
Refund claims for camps	£490.00
Payments toward Ypes trip	£6,540.00
<b>Expenditure on Camps, trips etc</b>	<b>£3,334.74</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4904.16</b>
<b>Starting balance (CAF bank 4th April 2024)</b>	<b>12156.88</b>
<b>End balance (CAF bank 31st March 2025)</b>	<b>17061.04</b>

# Trustees' Annual Report

## A. Reference & administration details

The 5<sup>th</sup> Saffron Walden (Free Churches) Scout Group, Scout Association registration number 10013718, is an excepted charity abiding by the rules of the Charity Commission for England & Wales.

This document is the Trustee's Annual Report for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The charity's principal address is the Scout Headquarters, 52 High Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1EE.

### Charity trustees for 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Trustee Name	Office
Nigel Bailey	Chair
Peter Pollak	Secretary
Ed Byrne	Treasurer
Dom Moloney	GLV*
Ken Lowe	Elected+
Jenny Simms	Elected
Mayank Seth	Elected+
James Wright	Elected
Stephen Rapkin	Elected
Lizzie Robson	Co-opted**
<b>Other Advisor</b>	<b>Office</b>
Amy Empson	Independent auditor

\*Group Lead Volunteer is an ex officio role

\*\*Co-opted in January 2025

+Standing down at AGM 2025

## B. Structure, governance & management

### 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 that are common to all Scouts.

### Trustee selection methods

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

### Additional governance information

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 of proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and up to 12 Trustees (including 1 Ex Officio Trustee) and meets approximately four to six times a year.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

### Risk and internal control

The Group Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which it believes the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to buildings, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as churches, schools and other Scout Groups. The Group has sufficient insurance in place to mitigate for permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. Risk assessments are undertaken before all activities. The Group through the annual membership fees contributes to the Scout Association's national



personal accident and medical insurance policy and its third-party liability insurance policy.

Reduced income from fundraising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section, or 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.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 14. If there was 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.

## C. Objectives & Activities

### 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 cooperate 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.

## D. Achievements & Performance

The main activities and achievements of the Group are described elsewhere in the report.

## E. Financial Review

### Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Trustee Board considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 -18 months operations, circa £12,000.

The Group held reserves of approximately £17,000 against this at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses.

### 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.

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Nigel Bailey  
Group Chair



Dom Moloney  
Group Scout Leader

# Want to Get Involved?

The Group has BIG plans for the future but we can only do this with the right people in the right roles. Can you spare 30 mins a week? We need some specific skills but also people just willing to get stuck in and take some tasks on. Not feeling brave enough to take a role individually, why not job-share? Many roles overlap – we can flex to you! We need volunteers both as Leaders and behind the scenes on our Trustee Board and Active Support team. If you're inspired by what we do, why not add your skills to the mix and help us provide the most exciting and engaging experience of scouting to the young people of Saffron Walden?

## Trustee Board roles

The Trustee Board is there to support volunteer line managers, so that they can do their role of supporting leadership teams to provide a great programme for young people. There are several areas that a Trustee Board is responsible for supporting local Scouting with:

- **Strategy** - Supporting and driving the strategy for the Group.
- **Finance** – Ensuring our finances are properly managed
- **Fundraising** – We have big plans; can you help ensure we have funds in place to execute them?
- **Buildings** – Keeping the roof(s) over our heads! Those big plans we spoke about may also require new venues and thus developing a future buildings' strategy.
- **Health & Safety** – H&S assessment of our many buildings and volunteers, to keep us all safe.
- **Risk Management** – Ensuring everything we do is done in a safe way

## Group Leadership Team (Operations)

The Group Leadership Team is a way that adults can provide support to local Scouting.

What does the GLT? In short, the answer is anything that supports Scouting! GLT is a way for adults to volunteer some time to Scouting in a flexible way that suits them. The team is a resource for managers of local Scouting to use in whichever way is required. The ways that GLT can aid Scouting are almost endless; below are a few examples

- **Families Outreach** – responsible for fun! Socials, AGM BBQ & Late-Night Shopping logistics
- **Community Liaison** – build community relations including close ties with charities, local councils, good causes, businesses etc.
- **Helping with admin** – for example processing “want to join” enquiries and recruitment, or helping with camp paperwork, ordering scarves, badges and other items.
- **Camp support** – getting kit to and from camp, cook teams, tent hanging, replacing gas cylinders.
- **Specific skills** – got a job, hobby or skill that would help with a badge? We want to hear from you!
- **Social media** – can you help us with our Facebook pages to get the word out on the great things we do?

## Leader roles

We'd love to have new blood in every section and have vacancies in each. Time commitment varies depending on activities and how involved you get in planning, but weekly sessions are between 1 & 2 hrs:

- **Squirrels** – we have a highly successful Squirrel drey and may need another one - could you help shape how we lead the youngest Scouts? 4-6 years
- **Beavers** – we have two strong beaver colonies, and are looking for more volunteers to join in the fun! 6-8 years
- **Cubs** – we'd love to get additional leaders into both packs to ensure stability when some of our younger leaders head off to university. 8-10½ years
- **Scouts** – we have some well-established leaders in Scouts but only two female leaders! We'd love new leaders of any gender, but new, female leaders would be a boon, especially on camp. 10½ -14 years



# Inclusion

One of the principles of scouting is that finances should not be a barrier to participation. Particularly in these challenging times, this remains the case.

If you or someone you know is facing financial hardship and needs support with subs, camp fees, uniforms etc, speak to us confidentially and we will discuss how we can help you cover costs for scouting.

Interested in second-hand uniform? We would love to have a 'thrift' shop, but currently don't have the storage space it would require. In the meantime, therefore, let us know and we can use our social media to try and help find uniform for you.

