

Do more. Share more. Be more.

5th Saffron Walden Scout Group
Annual Report & Accounts 2026



Highlights of the Year

BEAVERS



Squirrels



Cubs



SCOUTS

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



Tyler Phillips | Jessica Soulsby | Jacob Walker | Timothy Moller | Teddy Potter | Theo Bearton | Harrison Elo

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



Frankie Gray | Gracie Gray | Harriet Campbell Ryan | Riley Sime | Herbie Sherriff | Phoebe Boardman | James Moller | Betsy Doone | Mats Denzel | Finley Lewis

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



Miller Boardman | Wilbur Rowley | Eleanor Aristodemou | William Clarke | Katie Seth | Ruth Cockburn | Jasper Milne | Jack Clark | Florence Chivers | Hugo Dovedi | Darcey Allington | Wilfred Mallet | Woody Boyce | Henry Byrne | Joey Howitt | Frank Kolesinski | Toby Darton

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



Ethan Allington | Frankie Vicary | Evelyn Pike |
Lily Byrne | Andrew Rapkin | Hayden Pieri

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

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.

The Wood Badge is an international award. It shows a volunteer's personal commitment and achievement to learning and development with Scouts. It started in 1919 when Baden Powell gave wooden beads to volunteers who complete their training. Completing the Wood Badge is optional.

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 their Growing Roots training to ensure they, and the children in their care, are fully prepared and trained for the many adventures to come.

In addition, adult volunteers may take on additional training to achieve permits to allow them to lead specific activities. This year we have leaders trained in Kayaking, Mountain leading, Rifle shooting, Archery and Axe throwing as well as 2 leaders with enhanced first aid qualifications.

We are proud of the longevity of our leaders. This year the following have hit milestone lengths of service:

5 Years: Teddy Hunter

10 Years: Paul Allington, Charmain Hawkins,
Stephen Rapkin, Nicky Nisbett

15 Years: Dan Starr, Nigel Bailey

25 Years: Lorraine Brewer who also received the Bar to the Award for Merit for her exemplary service.

#SkillsForLife

Group Lead Volunteer's Report

A Year of Change, Growth, and Pride

As I write, I find myself reflecting on how far the Mighty 5ths has come. When I stepped into the GLV role in January 2021, the country was still emerging from the long shadow of COVID lockdowns. While Scouting nationally was recovering from disrupted routines and the wider knock-on effects of the pandemic, the Mighty 5ths held steady. Our volunteers and young people kept showing up with heart, resilience, and an unwavering belief in what we do. Five years later, I could not be prouder of what we have achieved together.

This year has reinforced something I've believed for a long time: the 5ths doesn't wait to be told to move — we move because it's right for our young people. We have been consistently proactive in embracing the national transformation initiative, frequently ahead of other Groups. Our willingness to adapt, experiment, and lead has set a tone of confidence and ambition that others now look to.

One of our greatest strengths is the longevity of our leadership team. Volunteers stay because they feel valued, supported, and part of something meaningful. It shows: more 5ths leaders volunteer for District and large-scale activities than any other Group. That is an extraordinary testament to our volunteers' commitment and passion.

We are already embracing the new Scouts strategy to 2035, *Place to Belong*. Long before it was formalised, our Group was already living its principles — through our support for neurodivergent young people and volunteers, our commitment to DEI, and our welcome to refugees within our community. This is who we are, not because a strategy told us to be, but because it's the right thing to do.

This year we said goodbye to some incredible leaders whose contributions will be felt for years to come. At the same time, we welcomed a brand new Friday Scouts leadership team and fresh faces across other sections, each bringing new energy and ideas.

Highlights of the Year

- The Gang Show, where our young people shone with confidence, creativity, and joy.
- The international trip to Ypres, which — unlike Normandy 2023 — did *not* involve a 24-hour delay at the port.
- Former young people returning as leaders, a powerful sign of the impact this Group has on those who grow up within it.
- Celebrating Mole's 25 years in Scouting and her well-deserved Bar to the Award for Merit.

It has truly been a year of change and a year of pride.

I was delighted to hand over the GLV role to Nicky on 1 February this year. Many of you know her as a cornerstone of the Aztecs Cubs leadership team, where she has spent the past decade inspiring young people with warmth, humour, and unwavering commitment. Across the District, she is equally well known for her adventurous activity expertise — leading Archery, Tomahawks, and Air Rifle sessions.

Beyond her formal roles, Nicky has been a trusted confidante and a support to me. She is an outstanding fit for the GLV role, and I am genuinely excited to see the direction in which she will lead the Mighty 5ths.

Thank you for your trust, support, engagement, and enthusiasm over the past five years — and for indulging my, occasionally, slightly bonkers ambitions. The Mighty 5ths is stronger, braver, and more vibrant because of your hard work. I have every confidence it will continue to grow even mightier under Nicky's stewardship.

Group Chair's Report

This time last year, I wrote about how we were bedding in new ways of doing things differently following the Scout association's transformation exercise.

A year on, and we have successfully separated the roles of Trustee from that of the organisation and support team, the GLT.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that scouting locally is undertaken in a fun, safe and financially prudent way. The GLT helps with this through organising events and helping with fundraising. I think it is fair to say that whilst we now have a strong Trustee board (we currently have our declared target of 10 members) we are constantly seeking new volunteers to help with the fundraising – do reach out if you are interested in helping!

From a strategy point of view, following on from the transformation the Scout Association has now brought out a 9-year strategy plan (split into 3x3 year blocks). This strategy is just being rolled out and we will certainly be exploring what it means for us as a group and how we continue to move forward.

Anecdotally, the 5ths continues to set the standards to which others aspire and we should recognise just how strong the behind the scenes volunteers are in providing support to the leaders and young people.

From a leadership perspective, the biggest change has been that Dom has stepped down as GLV. Dom has been an absolute driving force behind some of the group's most ambitious activities over the last few years in particular getting the group to undertake international trips on 3 occasions. I would like to pass on my personal thanks to Dom for all he has done for the group, and I pleased to say he remains as an assistant leader in the scouts and also a Trustee so I am sure there will be more amazing ideas in the future!

Dom is replaced by Nicky Nisbett who has been in the group for a number of years in the Aztecs

section and it is great that she has decided to take on the GLV role. Nicky has also been heavily involved in the international trips and I'm sure will do an amazing job as GLV – thanks for stepping in, Nicky.

From a practical perspective, we now have more leaders providing amazing opportunities to more young people than ever before. We have of course had another successful international trip to Ypres where the young people conducted themselves in way in which we should all be proud. We put on a fantastic gangshow and celebration of the year at Christmas and many more amazing activities that Nicky has written about in her report. Massive thanks are due to all our leaders.

The Mighty Fifths goes from strength to strength. Thank you to you all for your support over the last year and if you'd like to be even more involved, you know where we are!

Yours in Scouting

Nigel Bailey
Group Chair
April 2026

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 **5th Saffron Walden Scout Group** for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As charity trustees of the **5th 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 **5th 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 **5th 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 (Fellow - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy)

Address: provided

Date: 11 May 2026



Group Treasurer's Report

At the end of the financial year (FY) on the 31st March 2025, the Group bank balance was £17,252.66 in credit; an increase of £191.62 from the start of the FY. The Group is in a reasonable financial position with reserves equating to approximately 2-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. The 2026 annual capitation fee was £56.00 per child, an increase of £2.00 from 2025 fee (the increase for 2024 was £5.00); the combined bill of £9,128.00 was paid in March 2026.

During the reporting period, gift aid claims totalling £2,431.77 were successfully made for the FY24/25. 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.

Over £2,071 was raised by donations and fundraising activities, most of which came from the Tesco Christmas collection and the end of year gang-show; £545.14 of additional donations is being held in our Sum-Up account and we are working to transfer this into our current account. 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.

From a finance point of view, Ypres was a successful trip with over £12,608 being raised from various donation types. This outstanding generosity came from a combination of private individuals, community-based groups and several corporations; District was also a staunch financial supporter. The overall cost of the Ypres trip was just over £38,198, with £34,798.14 received toward these costs in the reporting period; overall the trip made a modest profit as the Ypres income was spread over the 2024/2025 FY in addition to the current period.

Ed Byrne
Treasurer, 5th Saffron Walden Scout Group
26 May 2026



Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet

Category	FY25/26	FY25/26 (comment)
Subscriptions	£ 15,608.00	GoCardless
Gift Aid	£ 2,431.77	
Regular donations	£ 154.06	
Donations associated with events	£ 703.00	Mostly Tesco collection (Dec 25)
AGM income	£ 669.00	
District support	£ -	
Interest	£ 47.92	
Other income	£ -	
Total Net Income	£ 19,613.75	
Capitation	£ (9,128.00)	
Hall hire	£ (4,471.00)	
PackExps	£ (711.86)	
Bank admin	£ (60.00)	
OSM admin	£ (177.70)	
AGM costs	£ (485.68)	Mostly associated with Gangshow (Dec 25)
Admin costs (other)	£ (125.69)	
Badges	£ (947.34)	
Insurance	£ -	
Leaders/group training and recruitment	£ (284.00)	
Leaders/group uniform	£ (54.90)	
GoCardless admin fees and charges	£ (1,616.80)	GoCardless
Other costs	£ -	
Kit and one-off purchases	£ (981.27)	
Expenditure exclu Camps	(£19,044.24)	
Income from camps and trips	£11,705.00	GoCardless
Payments for camps and trips	(£8,682.16)	
Expenditure on Camps, trips etc	£3,022.84	
Totals (excluding Ypres)	£3,592.35	
Ypres Income		
Parent contributions	£22,190.00	GoCardless
Individual donations	£2,190.00	
Corporate and group donations	£5,651.53	
District support	£4,374.15	
Donations associated with events	£392.46	
Total Ypres Net Income	£ 34,798.14	
Ypres Expenditure		
Accommodation	£ (19,332.22)	
Clothes and badges	£ (3,005.71)	
Admin	£ (1,300.08)	
General Expenses	£ (1,065.66)	
Travel	£ (13,495.20)	
Other costs (GoCardless admin fees)	£ -	
Total Ypres Net Expenditure	£ (38,198.87)	
Ypres total	£ (3,400.73)	
Totals	£ 191.62	
Starting balance (CAF bank 1st April 2025)	£ 17,061.04	
End balance (CAF bank 1st April 2026)	£ 17,252.66	
Loss/profit YTD	£ 191.62	

Trustees' Annual Report

A. Reference & administration details

The 5th 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 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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

Charity trustees for 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

Trustee Name	Office
Nigel Bailey	Chair
Peter Pollak	Secretary
Ed Byrne	Treasurer
Jenny Simms	Elected+
James Wright	Elected
Stephen Rapkin	Elected
Lizzie Robson	Elected
Liz Furse	Co-opted**
Dom Moloney	Co-opted**
James Hansord	Co-opted**
Nicky Nisbett	GLV*

Other Advisor	Office
Amy Empson	Independent auditor

*Group Lead Volunteer is an ex officio role

**Co-opted in March 2026

+Standing down at AGM 2026

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



Nicky Nisbett
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



Strategy

In March of this year, the Scout Association launched its “Place to Belong: Our Strategy to 2035” strategy document. The strategy is split into 3 3-year blocks.

The first of the 3 year blocks will give scouting three focus areas for the movement over the next three years: Programme, Volunteering and Support.

This strategy provides a direction of travel. But success will not come from words alone. It will come from what we choose to do, together, nationally and locally. Every small leap in the quality of our Programme. Every opportunity we give to young people. Every decision to support volunteers better. That collective effort will achieve our Vision. We will be considering this new strategy in the months ahead.

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.

