

***Serving Ardington, Lockinge, East & West Hendred and the surrounding area***

**Annual Report and Accounts for year ended**

**31 March 2025**

**Prepared by the Trustee Board**

## **1st Cuckhamsley Group Scout Council**

## **Annual report & accounts of the Trustee Board for year ended 31 March 2025**

**Scout Group Registration Number 44842**

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| --- | --- |
| **Trustees** |  |
| Chairman | Jonathan Simm |
| Treasurer | Kate Walker |
| Lead Volunteer | Doron Jensen |
| Trustee | Peter Trafford |
| Trustee | Chris MacGillivray-Edwards |
| Trustee | Johnny Diggle |
|  |  |
| **Bankers:** | TSB Bank |
|  | 44, Market Place |
|  | Wantage |
|  | Oxfordshire |
|  | OX12 8AR |

## **Main achievements of the Group and activities of the Trustee Board**

The January 2025 Census showed that the number of Young People (YP) increased from the previous year’s total of 63 to 66, This comprised of 21 Beavers, 20 Cubs and 25 Scouts. We are thankful to have a good number of volunteers to support the activities with the YP, although there do remain openings for anyone interested, both as volunteers with the YP and also on the Trustee Board.

A full programme of activities for the YP in all sections was maintained throughout the year, ranging from crafts and design, space projects, navigation and community service, to traditional scouting activities such as campfire cooking, pioneering, bike rides, wide games, camping, hikes and expeditions.

Training of volunteers has also been a priority, following a thorough review of training and procedures by the Scouting Association, and the introduction of a new membership database. Volunteers and trustee members are reporting that the new online training requirements are simple to undertake and provide good quality, relevant learning.

In setting membership fees for YP for the coming 25/26 financial year, we had to take into account a significant (18%) increase in the fees for use of Snells Hall and above inflation increases in the fees from the Scout Association. The increase of rental rate for Snells Hall this year was not unexpected, as we have benefited from generous rates from the Snells Hall Committee for the last several years. However, we have managed to limit the overall increase in membership fees to around the current rate of inflation. Ensuring equipment for scouts activities and its storage has always been a priority and our budgets reflect both the needs to refresh existing equipment and purchase new items as necessary. This coming year the steel container in which we store some of our larger items is being replaced; this will impact our reserves, although we are hopeful of obtaining a grant towards part of the costs.

The Trustee Board itself has been busy this year as we have absorbed the impact of the Scouts Association requiring, rightly, that the processes and procedures of Scout groups are more clearly defined and documented. In addition to the group development plan, we also now have a trustee board risk register and a public benefits statement. Thankfully the process of preparing these documents showed that our processes and procedures were generally sound, but it is good to have them better documented. As we proceed through the year we have identified a programme of review of these new documents, together with our compliance with our group and Scout Association key policies such as equal opportunities, GDPR, safeguarding safety, religion, anti-bullying and harassment.

It is with a mixture of feelings that I am standing down as Chair after more than 10 years in role, but I’m sure that the timing is right. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the hard work of the Trustees and Volunteers not only during the past year but also during the entire period of my tenure. I wish 1st Cuckhamsley Scouts all the very best for the future.

**Jonathan Simm, 1st Cuckhamsley Trustee Board Chair**

## **Notes to the 2024-25 Accounts for 1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group**

The financial outturn for our 2024/25 accounts was broadly in line with expectations. Subscriptions increased on 2023/24 (£8359 vs £7313) due to the rise in member numbers during the course of the year and increase in subscription levels. This resulted in a small surplus of £909 in income over expenditure. We were not in receipt of any grants during the period, but our fund-raising efforts were on par with previous years. The Easter Bazaar, Hendred Fun Run and the hire of equipment for local events were the usual activities. The beneficiary of this year’s carol singing around the village was Oxfam.

Please note that our subscription income is eligible for gift aid and this makes an important contribution to Group finances. Parents and carers are encouraged to make gift aid declarations via the Online Scout Manager (OSM) portal where possible.

Expenditures were broadly in line with budget. As reported in our Chairman’s remarks, our largest expense, is our capitation charge, which provides funds for the Scouts organisation at National, County and District levels, is going through a period of year on year above inflation increases, which we need to accommodate within our numbers.

Expenditure of equipment related items totalled £1764, with the purchase of a range of items the most significant of which included replacement tables, groundsheets and Dutch ovens.

In summary, the Group’s financial position remains sound and is well placed for the future.

**Kate Walker, 1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group Treasurer**

## **Statement of Receipts and Payments**

## **1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group**

A spreadsheet with numbers and a few words

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

## **Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

## **1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group**

A spreadsheet with numbers and text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of**

**1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group**

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

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

### Scrutineer's Statement

I have reviewed the 2024/25 accounts for the 1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group.  I have examined the reported cash balances, a sample of expenditure and the income and expenditure in total.

I have no significant findings to declare.

The only minor finding was that the approval evidence for one expense claim was not available.  The expense seems to have been approved (and hence the approval process followed) but then saved over, leaving no record of the original approval granted.  I consider this finding inconsequential given the number of expenses incurred and sampled, the fact that this was the only anomaly identified and moreover, the fact that there is evidence that the approval was sought appropriately.

**Rachel Wall**

23/6/2025