



Scouts

**1ST SOUTHGATE
SCOUT GROUP**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2024/25**

The Scout Association Registration Number: 33491

Charity Registration Number: 305881

**1ST SOUTHGATE SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

23rd April 2025
Ron Hobbs Hall, Bligh Close, Tilgate, Crawley RH10 5DL

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction and welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Governance topics**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15TH May 2024 ([AGM 2024](#))
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) ([Model Constitution](#))
 - c. Note the Group's financial year
 - d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council
- 4. Review of the previous year**
 - a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Scouting in the 1st Southgate Scout Group
 - b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
- 5. Making appointments**
 - a. Appoint the Group Chair
 - b. Appoint the Group Treasurer
 - c. Appoint members of the Group Trustee Board
 - d. Appoint the Accounts Scrutineer
- 6. Closing remarks**

68 years of great Scouting
1ST SOUTHGATE SCOUT GROUP
Established May 1957

FROM THE GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Hello and Welcome to the review for last year – 1st March 2024 to 28th February 2025

As Group Lead Volunteer it is my privilege to support our adult volunteers and Young Leaders to encourage your young people to achieve their potential through the opportunities offered by Scouts. The activities, challenges and badges we offer aim to encourage young people to learn:

- **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.
- **Cooperation** - We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.

At each stage of their Scout journey, inclusive, fun, safe, age-related learning happens. I am delighted to report that 1st Southgate has again in 2024/5 achieved these aims and young people have been awarded; 6 bronze, 5 silver, and soon to complete on gold (the most challenging Chief Scout Award at the most challenging age!)

1st Southgate has taken part in Group, District (Crawley), County (West Sussex) and National activities providing a sense who we are in the world. All of our Leader Volunteers, Trustees and Helpers have DBS clearance to work with young people and where required have Safety, Safeguarding, First Response learning in addition to their leadership and activity skills permits. I am delighted to say the Group continues to thrive in safe hands.

Personally, this last year has been very challenging, but I have found it increasingly difficult to step away from the amazing people that I work with in this Scout Group. In particular, a huge shout out for Phoebe who has covered for my absence, supported and actioned joint decisions, kept all areas active and been completely responsible for launching our very successful new Squirrel Drey. We are blessed with the depth of experienced, dependable, inspiring people across the age ranges.

Tracy and Pauline, our Beaver and Cub Team Leaders, consistently provide amazing opportunities for your children. In September 2024 Kerry, our Troop Leader, stepped back to being a Team Member after many years of very successfully steering the Troop. We truly adopted the recent Team Lead changes in Scouts, as Kayleigh has taken the Lead Volunteer role in programmes and activities. working with Em on organisation and Brendan on communications.

These Team Lead roles would be very difficult if it were not for the support received from other Team Members and I am delighted that we have been able to add the support of more adults in the last few years who have made an incredible difference.

I would also like to Congratulate Emily W on her Platinum Chief Scout Award and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Emily continues to work with the Cub Pack and the Group, rarely misses any event or camp and recently became an archery instructor for which we are all very grateful.

Regular readers of these annual reports will know that our Teams particularly value the contribution made to the Group by Young Leaders – 14-18 year old Explorers (like Emily) – who support the Sections with their skills, energy, youth and life. So, when these young people turn 18 and volunteer as adults, we all really know that Scouts has made a very positive contribution to their lives. This last year we have taken in 4 18 year olds and I can truly say the whole team is delighted.

Looking forward:

All of the above may lead you to feel that we have a massive team – we do not. We have several volunteers who have two, three or more roles as we all cover and support each other. We do have fantastic people working with your young people and I can guarantee you will receive a Warm Welcome if you would like to join us.

- ❖ We like to have a few parents/adults step forward so that we have enough cover to take the children out on visits, hikes and adventures.
- ❖ We desperately need help to maintain our site, buildings and equipment.
- ❖ In September we are planning a Group camp, encouraging all our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to camp one or two nights at Stanford. We will need an army of adults if we are to achieve this (putting up and striking tents particularly!) ... a wonderfully safe, adventurous opportunity. Please step forward to support the Teams to deliver this.

This is a fantastic time to volunteer. Please speak to any of the Team and I am sure they will all say the same – Come and Join us. I really hope that every Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer and Adult is encouraged to make the very best of every opportunity that comes their way. (Funds should never be an issue; if it is, remember, we are a Children's Charity and will support where support is needed). Scouts is at its best when we all come together, work as teams and enjoy doing what we do.

Thank you for reading.

Chill
(Chris Hobbs)
Group Lead Volunteer

GROUP TRUSTEE BOARD

The Trustee Board met four times during the 2024/25 year.

Its main business during the year has been to ensure the continued good governance in its overview of Scouting in the Group, achieved through regular oral and written reports, with a specific focus on:

- Group Finances and requests for expenditure
- Promoting Safety and Safeguarding
- Risk Management
- Review of Group Policies
- Training and Development
- Links between the Group and SRF Explorers
- The maintenance and upkeep of Ron Hobbs Hall and the grounds that it sits in

SQUIRREL SECTION

Squirrels is the newest section within 1st Southgate and allows 4-6 year olds to begin their Scouting journey. Our sessions have been packed with fun and adventure, and it has been a brilliant start for the new section. We currently have 6 leaders, 3 who are existing leaders, one who is an existing trustee board member, and two brand new to scouting parents! It has been great putting the new team together, and we're always on the look out for more leaders to join our section team!

Although we've only been open as a section since October, it's a pleasure to say that the Drey has been a great success. We're already seeing the squirrels grow in confidence, trying activities like fire lighting and whittling, we've already given out badges and completed our first visit away from the hut, when the Squirrels visited Crawley Fire Station! They had a great time learning about fire engines and fire fighters! We will be looking at more trips and even more adventure in the coming years!

We're looking forward to completing our first whole year as part of 1st Southgate, and looking forward to many more in the future!

Mysa
Phoebe Woolard
Squirrel Team Lead Volunteer

BEAVER SECTION

The last 12 months have seen the Colony maintain a steady level of 18 Beavers. Although we would love to grow, we have a small "want to join" list because we need to be careful to keep spaces for 6 year old Squirrels and how many volunteers we need to manage the Colony programme. The volunteer team continues to be an amazing one to be part of and thank you all for your hard work.

During the year we are delighted to have seen 6 Beavers achieve their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

Throughout the year the Beavers have been given the opportunity to work towards many badges including Health & Fitness, First Aid, Air Activities & Disabilities. They have worked on many skills from crafting & teamwork to fire lighting, shelter building, putting up tents & baking cookies.

Beavers have been lucky to be able to go out to the Wings Museum, Gridserve at Gatwick, the Crawley Museum & SECAMB. They have had visits from a dental nurse and Crawley Open House.

There have been larger events – celebrating St. George by renewing our Promise, Winter Event and Christmas Crafts. We visited a County run event Go Beavers! In 2024 and are now looking forward to taking our Beavers to the 2025 event in June. Beavers have also joined with Cubs for fun such as the Chip Shop run and a Christmas party.

For me the hi-lights of the year were the Beaver Sleepovers in the Summer and at Christmas and the Group Camp in September where the Beavers joined the rest of the Group to camp for the Saturday night. For many Beavers these events may provide their first time sleeping away from home or their first experience sleeping under canvas. It is such a pleasure to watch them grow in confidence from when they arrive, to when they leave. This is particularly the case on Group camp where they are in a different setting too. It is a joy to watch them taking part in the activities and have the freedom to explore the campsite themselves. It is also a privilege for us to help them overcome any fears.

Wow – I am exhausted just by thinking about all the Beavers have achieved and so much fun has been had. We are looking forward to the next year where we hope to continue providing opportunities for learning new skills, building on existing ones and having so much fun and adventure.

Bagheera
(Tracy Gidman)
Beaver Team Lead Volunteer

CUBS SECTION

Over the last year the Cubs have been very busy. They earned 264 badges and 5 Cubs achieved their Silver Chief Scouts Award. This is the highest award that a Cub can earn.

The Cubs had visits to Secamb ambulance service and Wings Aviation Museum along with the Beavers. They also had the opportunity to visit Gravetye Estate where they had the opportunity to help to do some coppicing. They were also able to participate in the District Conker event, Craft Event, Winter Event and St George's Day. We had an interesting visit from Crawley Open House and Mrs Solanki who talked about her religion.

There have also been various hikes. One was looking for services in Crawley, such as the Library, Town Hall and Fire Station, and despite the rain the Cubs enjoyed jumping in the puddles (sorry parents). On another occasion the Pack hiked to

Maidenbower and collected litter on the way - one resident came out and thanked us for our efforts.

There was a weekend Cub Camp and weekend Group Camp at Stanford and a winter sleepover at the Scout Hut. We were very lucky with the weather. There was a great turnout for St George's Day, when we walked to Goffs Park and showed off that we are the best.

The Pack had a varied programme of fun whilst still enabling the Cubs to achieve their badges such as Bookreader, Pioneering, First Aid, Environmental, Personal Safety, Road Safety, Digital Maker, Air Activities and DIY badge where they made bat boxes.

I would like to thank my small team of volunteers who help make Cub evenings fun and challenging. Also to the various parents who have helped out when extra help was needed.

Akela
(Pauline Maddocks)
Cub Team Lead Volunteer

SCOUT SECTION

This past year has been an exciting and transformative for our Scout section, with young people actively developing teamwork and leadership skills through a range of challenging and rewarding experiences.

Our Thriftwood summer camp in August was a highlight, offering Scouts the chance to engage in outdoor activities that tested their existing and new skills. Scouts embraced the very many different opportunities that pushed their limits and strengthened their resilience. They worked together to practice their survival skills in a real-world setting, gaining confidence in their abilities to adapt, problem-solve, and support one another. To enable these Activity camps, we continue to work together with two other Troops - 7th Crawley and 1st Langley Green, sharing the work and fun.

Another key activity was the fire torch making session, where Scouts learned the fundamentals of fire safety while constructing their own functional torches with the Burgess Hill Bonfire Society. This hands-on experience blended creativity with practical skills, reinforcing the importance of controlled fire use in outdoor settings. It was an excellent way for Scouts to apply their knowledge of survival skills and understand the responsibility that comes with managing fire in a safe and effective manner.

Leadership took centre stage during our Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders take-over evenings, with the young people stepping up to plan and run their own structured sessions. Their commitment and ability to engage their peers highlighted their growing confidence and teamwork. Scouts also demonstrated independence by planning their own hikes, including overnight stays—a fantastic way to strengthen both navigation and survival skills. These evenings have been essential to obtaining their Chief Scout Gold.

We introduced creative and problem-solving challenges with activities such as bath bomb making and an escape room evening, fostering collaboration and strategic thinking. Additionally, Scouts had opportunities to take charge of their own meetings, further enhancing their leadership abilities.

Throughout the year, we remained committed to developing basic skills such as cooking, fire safety, knot work, and session planning, ensuring that Scouts are equipped with the knowledge and confidence to thrive in both everyday situations and outdoor adventures.

Through these experiences, our Scouts have grown as individuals and as a team, proving their ability to lead, support one another, and embrace challenges. These activities have led towards the successful completion of many Challenge badges with the Troop and we are very proud that 3 of our young people are a hairsbreadth away from achieving their Chief Scout Gold awards.

We look forward to building on these successes in the coming year.

Em Staples
Scout Team Member

EXPLORER SECTION

Sir Ranulph Fiennes Explorer Unit (SRF) has had a very mixed year this year! As many of you will know, SRF was close to closing and dropped down to fortnightly meetings as we only had two leaders trying to support the unit. However, since then, we have had two people volunteer to help us weekly, and they are now well underway in joining the leadership team. SRF has returned to weekly meetings, and we will shortly be building the number of young people in the unit up again.

Weekly (or fortnightly) meetings have continued to provide a mixed programme, normally led by the Explorers choosing which activities they enjoy. We've started pushing a focus over the last year on building skills for expeditions, for example, first aid and navigation, which we will continue to build over the next year.

Plans this year include continuing to grow the unit, restarting the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme within the unit and enabling more camping options for the Explorers. We are still looking to expand our leadership team so that we can organise as much as possible for our explorers. If you are interested in helping our weekly meetings, please contact me at phoebe.woolard@cdscouts.org.uk.

Phoebe Woolard
Explorer Team Lead Volunteer

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Established May 1957

What will you do to help?

During the last year our members have had the opportunity to participate in Section, Group, District and County activities. We want to offer a diverse and adventurous range of activities for which we need willing participants – of all ages.

Parents – You are already part of the Group. Would you like to play a bigger part? Would you like to help? Is the development of your child important to you?

No magic skills are needed, although a daft sense of humour helps and a willingness to get involved.

You do not have to jump in with both feet; just tell one of the leaders that you are interested in finding out more.

SCOUT SHOP

For over 20 years now, **1st Southgate Scout Group** has had the franchise to operate the **Crawley District Scout Shop**, from our headquarters, Ron Hobbs Hall, on behalf of the District. During that time, it has generated around **£74,000** of profits for the Group and the District.

This has been made possible by an exceedingly small band of adult volunteers – and we really need new people to help.

We are open **on Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.30 and Tuesday evenings from 19.00 to 20.30.**

We operate a rota, so you can do as many or as few sessions as you would like. If you would like to find out more about it, please talk to a leader, or e-mail:

shop@cdscouts.org.uk

Thank you!

TEXTILE COLLECTION

Please remember to let us have your old textiles, neatly bagged up and deposited in the collection unit in the car park.

We **can** accept all types of clothing – All fashions – All ages. Clothing should be dry and wearable. Any shoes should be paired up and separately bagged.

We **cannot** accept quilts duvets, cushions, pillows, carpets and soft toys.

PRINTER CARTRIDGES

We have recently started to collect domestic printer ink cartridges as well.

There is a collection box on the table in the entrance hall of the Scout Hut.



We've registered 1st Southgate Scout Group with #easyfundraising, which means over 7,000 brands will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them.

There is a handy link to sign-up from on the front page of our website
<https://1stsouthgate.cdscouts.org.uk/>

Income and spending
01/03/2024 through 28/02/2025

	Total
<u>Income Categories</u>	
Activities & Events	8,552.89
AGM Raffle	83.32
Donations	1,512.34
Fundraising	
Easy Fundraising	309.47
Ron's Rags	244.00
Total Fundraising	<u>553.47</u>
Gift Aid	1,615.17
Grant - WSCSC	500.00
Interest Earned	658.07
Scout Shop	1,250.00
SRF	449.00
Subs	
Subs - Squirrels	330.00
Subs - Beavers	2,396.50
Subs - Cubs	2,877.51
Subs - Scouts	3,058.00
Total Subs	<u>8,662.01</u>
T-shirt Sales	138.00
Total Income Categories	<u>23,974.27</u>
<u>Expense Categories</u>	
Activity & Events Exp	6,736.82
AGM	62.19
Badges & Uniforms	874.21
Bills	
Electricity	1,332.00
Rent	537.10
Water & Sewer	399.33
Total Bills	2,268.43
Capitation (2022)	4,020.00
Cleaning	725.39
Equipment	221.19
Insurance	1,503.54
Maintainance	3,260.32
Miscellaneous	746.51
Section Expenses	
Squirrels	223.58
Beavers	79.33
Cubs	173.37
Scouts	135.12
Whole Group Scouting	86.60
Total Section Expenses	<u>698.00</u>
Telecoms	502.36
Wifi	270.18
Total Expense Categories	<u>21,889.14</u>
Total Increase/(Decrease)	<u>2,085.13</u>

Net worth
As of 28/02/2025

Account	Total
<u>For Group Use</u>	
Cash & Floats	444.29
Current Account - Barclays	6,390.56
Deposit - Barclays	1,050.00
	<u>7,884.85</u>
<u>Contingency</u>	
Deposit - Barclays	16,000.00
	<u>16,000.00</u>
<u>HUT Fund</u>	
Deposit - Barclays	26,248.00
	<u>26,248.00</u>
Net Worth	<u>50,132.85</u>

1st SOUTHGATE SCOUT GROUP

USEFUL CONTACT LIST

GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Group Lead Volunteer	Christine (Chil) Hobbs	gsl.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Group Lead Team Member	Phoebe (Mysa) Woolard	phoebe.Woolard@cdscouts.org.uk
Lead Supporters	Zoe Grimshaw	
Explorer/Young Leaders	William, Jacob, Emily, Rhiannon, Eden and Nathan	

Activity Permit Holders; (previously Skills Instructors);

Gemma & Darren – shooting;
Pauline & Jason – archery;
Phoebe, Ollie and Kerry - Angel/Tomahawk throwing;
Mick Hill - Scoutcraft.
Nights Away Permits; Chris, Phoebe, Pauline, Gemma, Zoe, Kerry, Kayleigh, Em, Tracy, Darren.

SQUIRREL SCOUTS

[07848 258689](tel:07848258689)
Squirrel Team Leader Phoebe (Mysa) Woolard
Squirrel Team Members Tracy Gidman, Heather Cunnew, Sara Woolard, Georgina Waller Craig Worsell

Woodland Drey meets Saturdays 9.45-10.45pm
squirrels.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

BEAVER SCOUTS

[07308 610750](tel:07308610750)
Beaver Team Leader Tracy (Bagheera) Gidman
Beaver Team Members Jane (Keo) Hillman, Heather (Rainbow) Cunnew, Emma (Badger) Bloomfield, Maddy Trethewey, Antonella Grieco

River Colony meets Wednesdays 5.45-6.45pm
beavers.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

CUB SCOUTS

[07308 608976](tel:07308608976)
Cub Team Leader Pauline (Akela) Maddocks
Cub Team Members Darren (Baloo) King, Donna Nevill, Beks Dunn

Mafeking Pack meets Wednesdays 7-8.30pm
cubs.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

SCOUT TROOP

[07308 610303](tel:07308610303)
Scout Team Leader Kayleigh Davis
Scout Team Members Em Staples, Kerry Waudby, Michael Winkworth, Jake Powell, Brendan Hall, Rhiannon Vaughan, Luke Wiltshire

Troop meets Fridays 7:30-9:30pm
scouts.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

EXPLORER SCOUTS

Explorers Team Leader Phoebe Woolard
Explorer Team Member Peter White, David Hornsby, Callum Reid

Unit meets Monday evening
SRF.Explorers@cdscouts.org.uk

GROUP WEBSITE

Crawley District website <https://1stsouthgate.cdscouts.org.uk/>

INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE

<https://crawleydistrictscouts.co.uk/>
www.scouts.org.uk
Please ask to join our closed Facebook group page – 1st Southgate Scout Group, Crawley

TRUSTEES – (Group Board of Trustees)

Group Lead Volunteer	Christine Hobbs	gsl.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Chair	VACANT	chair.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Treasurer	Simon Maddocks	treasurer.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Trustee	Sharon Ottley	secretary.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Trustee	Phoebe Woolard, Sam Mason, Sara Woolard, Chris Prior, Karen Trethewey, Kerry Waudby.	

CRAWLEY SCOUT SHOP

Opening Hours: Saturday mornings 10.00 - 12.30 & Tuesday evenings 7.00 to 8.30pm
[07935 882210](tel:07935882210) shop@cdscouts.org.uk