



Scouts

**1st Southgate
Scout Group**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025/26**

The Scout Association Registration Number: 33491

Charity Registration Number: 305881

1ST SOUTHGATE SCOUT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3rd June 2026
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 23rd April 2025 ([AGM 2025](#))
 - 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**

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

FROM THE GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER

Hello and Welcome to the review for last year – 1st March 2025 to 28th February 2026. As Group Lead Volunteer it is my privilege to support our adult volunteers and Young Leaders to deliver Scouting for all your Young People! By living the Scout Values – **Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Cooperation.**

However, when I talk with parents about why their children are with us, it is clearly not just because of the Values, but about having fun, doing their best, learning and stretching through activities with their friends. So, the Values are all in there.

As you know, Scouts is an international children's educational charity and as such we have a structure with policies, organisation and rules. How are we judged? Partially, by the Chief Scout Awards earned and we have had another fantastic year!

WELL DONE! to Hudson, Yash & Ivy for achieving 1st Southgate's first ACORNS.
WELL DONE! to Harry, Rhys, Mia & Alexandra for achieving their BRONZE CSAs
WELL DONE! to Suraj, Eleanor, Laila, Freddy, Isabelle, Chloe, Alistair & Henry for their SILVER CSAs
VERY WELL DONE! to Eloise & Shanaya for achieving their GOLD CSAs which is the most challenging and takes all the years in the Troop.

In addition, celebrating the 516 other Challenge, Activity and Staged badges earned during the year. A fantastic effort by children and adults throughout the Group.

Proud as we are of these brilliant achievements for the Young People, and extremely grateful for the hundreds of Volunteer hours needed to reach these achievements, the biggest achievements are more subtle; the first time a 4 year old has the confidence to stay without a parent, making it through their first night in a tent with other Beavers, standing in front of hundreds of children and parents in the Memorial Gardens and perfectly reading the Cub Promise or Scouts confidently speaking out about what they want and believe in, usually with great humour. As your children grow in confidence and experience, they move through the Drey, Colony, Pack and the Troop. Not every stage suits every child but magic happens every time they do.

14-18 yrs Explorers take them to new independent heights and the opportunity to become Young Leaders – such a skill for life. And if we are VERY lucky they stay to be adult Volunteers. All these things have happened behind the numbers this year and they prove that the Group is in an excellent position.

The team of adults who make all this happen are not super-human, they are people just like us all and they believe in giving young people and adults the best lives. This time last year we had 5 new adults join the teams and I am delighted that all have stayed and become an integral part of what makes 1st Southgate successful. Several parents have agreed to vetting and are on call to support the Leads when adult numbers are short or when we want to take the young people out. Huge thanks must

go to Phoebe and the Team Leads and their supports; Tracey, Jane, Pauline, Darren, Kayleigh and Em all of them sharing several years of amazing Scouting and building their teams. Our Trustees are an essential and brilliant team too. Sincere thanks to all these people.

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 and I apologise in advance if they snap your arm off.

- ❖ 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.

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. 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 2025/26 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

1st Southgate Squirrels have had a brilliant year this year. Due to ratio restrictions, we have 12 spaces in our Squirrel Drey and a small waiting list to accompany it. Our leadership team also grew this year, with Lilly (Rose) transitioning from a young leader to adult volunteer and Sam (Fern) joining us. We currently have an amazing group of volunteers who work very hard to run wonderful sessions for our Squirrels, but we're always looking for more volunteers to join our friendly team!

The year has included a trip to the Fire Station and a visit from two police officers, as well as completing various adventures ranging from scavenger hunts to hikes! A big highlight of the Squirrel year was attending their first ever camp! Squirrels joined the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers at Stanford for a one-night sleepover which they absolutely loved.

Our Squirrels completed lots of badge work this year, including challenge badges like the 'All Together' badge and activity badges like the 'Go Wild' badge. This hard work meant that we also awarded our very first Chief Scout Acorn awards this year! Our first awards went to Hudson, Yash and Ivy. Big congratulations to our first three squirrels, hopefully with more to follow very soon!

We've also had our very first Squirrels swimming up to Beavers this year. The Squirrels have settled into the colony very well and are continuing to learn new skills while with the Beavers!

We are looking forward to the year to come. More badges, more adventures, and more Chief Scout Acorn Awards!

Mysa
Phoebe Woolard
Squirrel Team Lead Volunteer

BEAVER SECTION

The last 12 months have seen the Colony maintain a good number of Beavers. We continue to have a waiting list, however, as we now have a Squirrel Drey, we are limited as to how many we can take as we have to have space for Squirrels to progress. We are also mindful of Leader numbers and the Beavers individual needs to ensure we can give them the most fun and safe evenings.

It has been a joy to see how seamlessly the Squirrels do move into the Colony thanks to the moving up programme and the overlapping of the leader team as well as good communication.

The volunteer team continues to be an amazing one to be part of and we are delighted to have welcomed two new team members and several of our parents now have DBS's. Some help regularly and others are there when asked. Our Young Leader team has also grown and works well. Thank you all so much for your hard work.

During the year we are delighted to have seen another six Beavers achieve their Chief Scout Bronze award and we have another three due to achieve it in the short term.

Throughout the year the Beavers have been given the opportunity to work towards many badges including their Personal Challenge Badge, Global Challenge badge, Space badge and many parts of their other Challenge badges. They have worked on lots of skills from crafting & teamwork to fire lighting, whittling and various sports skills.

Beavers have been lucky to be able to go out to the Fire Station, Tilgate Park & the tennis courts for a professional lesson. They also joined with Squirrels to have a Christmas treat at Caddies indoor mini-golf and ball pit.

There have been larger events - Winter Event, District Christmas Crafts and the Beaver Easter fun day at Stanford. We attended St George's Day where we renewed our promise and we are looking forward to doing so again soon. We were also very excited to be able to take our Beavers to GO Beavers – a county run event – in June. This was such a good adventure filled day in 2025 and we look forward to repeating the trip again this year. 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 are always the Beaver Sleepover in June 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 again this year and so much fun has been had by all involved. 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

PS: from Chil (Group Lead Volunteer) The Beavers have had their usual highly active year (Beavers are like that) but Bagheera fails to mention in her annual report that during 2025 she needed major surgery on a shoulder injury needing months of rehabilitation and building herself back to full strength. She only took one week away from the Colony but even then, planned all their activities. I am sure that all the Beavers and parents, with me, will want to give their appreciation for Bagheera's dedication. She would be the first to say she could not have done it without the support of Keo and Rainbow, our Explorer/Young Leaders and the team of parent helpers. Many thanks, Chil.

CUBS SECTION

Throughout the year we try to provide a varied programme of activities and our evenings have included disability awareness, pancakes, hike and litter pick (where a resident praised the Cubs for their efforts), skills, building shelters in the forest, fire smors and songs, water fight, countryside code, escape rooms, Halloween and Chinese New Year and earning badges navigator, fire safety, space, first aid, book reader, home safety and money skills where they had to sell oranges to make money which they could then spend.

The Cubs had a two night camp at Stanford in June. Then in September we had a group camp at Stanford which the Cubs, Scouts and Explorers took part in and joined by the Squirrels and Beavers overnight on the Saturday. We were very lucky with the weather and had a great time on each occasion. We also had a visit to the Fire Station. Our Cub winter sleepover was a great success with a hike to see the houses with their Christmas lights.

We have had many joint evenings with the Beavers so that they get to know the Cubs before they move on up. We had a Beaver, Cub and female relative evening at Stanford where we always have fun. We had a walk to Tilgate and Furnace Green shops to buy chips to eat at the hut and deciding which chip shop sold the best chips. A joint Christmas party was a good way to end the winter term. It is always good to see the two sections getting together.

The Cubs attended the St Georges Day parade, and Group Winter Event. They were also able to participate in a District Cub Hike, West Sussex International Jamboree all sections day, Clip n Climb at Pease Pottage, Conker competition, Handicraft Day and Top Trumps competition.

During this busy year the Cubs, without realising it, were able to gain 229 badges culminating in 10 Cubs achieving their Silver Chief Scout's Award. Congratulations to Ellie, Suraj, Laila, Belle, Freddy, Chloe, Alistair, Isaac, Henry and Mia.

Many thanks to Hathi (Darren), Raksha (Beks), Kaa (Donna), Baloo (Emily), and young leaders Eden and Sophie for their past and continued help with the Pack meetings.

Akela
(Pauline Maddocks)
Cub Team Lead Volunteer

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SCOUT SECTION

It's been an amazing year for the Troop. We're back to having four strong patrols who work brilliantly together each week. Our Patrol Leaders are growing in confidence all the time, and the Assistant Patrol Leaders are proving to be fantastic support — lots of future PL potential in the making. We currently have 22 Scouts in the Troop.

Spring started off strong. We got stuck into paracord evenings, made fire torches and survival kits, and tackled problem-solving challenges. The PLs and APLs even ran their own evenings— and they absolutely smashed it.

In March, we held an invitation-only, 2-night camp at Streamside, so that some of our more experienced hikers could earn their Expedition Badge. They led themselves across the South Downs (with leaders checkpointing to make sure they were on track), cooked for themselves *and* the leaders, and survived a night at an unfamiliar campsite. A brilliant achievement.

The following week we switched things up with an exciting evening at Clip and Climb, giving everyone a chance to try something new, have fun with friends, and enjoy a different kind of challenge.

In the summer term of 2025, we welcomed lots of new Cubs moving up, so we refreshed our code of conduct, played plenty of team-building games, and watched our experienced Scouts present their spring hike adventures — great motivation for the new joiners.

We had an evening where we brushed up on first aid with Ron, built A-frames at a pioneering evening, and tried out a new sport introduced by our Young Leader, Jacob. To get ready for summer camp, we practised pitching tents, joined 7th Crawley and 1st Langley Green for a wide-games evening, and even took apart Jake's car and changed lightbulbs, wheels and checked the oil... just in case! We wrapped up the term with a huge water fight with 7th Crawley — the perfect send-off before our big summer camp.

Our camping highlight of the year was WSIJ26 (West Sussex International Jamboree 2026). As usual, we camped with 7th Crawley, and this year we were lucky enough to be joined by 1st Langley Green too. Three troops, seven nights, and a whole lot of memories.

The Scouts earned a huge number of badges, including several of the tougher challenge badges. Some of the achievements included:

- Adventure Challenge — taking part in four new adventurous activities
- Outdoors Challenge — surviving a full week in tents, cooking, cleaning, exploring and looking after themselves
- Teamwork Challenge, Skills Badges, and many more

But WSIJ wasn't just about badges. The Scouts camped alongside around 2,500 others from across West Sussex and beyond. Days were packed with activities, evenings were full of fun, and the whole experience was unforgettable.

After a well-earned summer break, the Scouts returned full of energy. We earned our Axe, Knife and Saw permits, played loads of indoor and outdoor games, and headed off to Group Camp where we earned even more badges and spent time with every section — from Squirrels to SRF Explorers — plus our brilliant adult volunteers.

Back at weekly meetings, we got creative bleaching designs onto t-shirts, sewing on badges and making camp gadgets. We practised fire-lighting and site care, explored our local community, and earned our Local Knowledge and Navigator badges through a scavenger hunt.

We hosted a Halloween party and borrowed Emily (the Cub Leader) for a Taskmaster evening full of weird and wonderful challenges. Kayleigh ran a potato-themed night where everyone had to bring a potato... ask her for the story, she'll happily tell you.

We finished the term by “robbing a bank” (don't worry — only in a game!) and celebrating with a Christmas party.

2026 kicked off with a Troop Forum where the Scouts shared brilliant ideas for evenings they wanted to run. We built a campsite out of LEGO, had a Warhammer night, and shared our hobbies with each other.

We made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday (on a Friday — because why not). When the weather turned grim, we had a craft evening, learning to crochet, sew, carve soap and even set up electrical circuits.

It's been a busy, brilliant year for the Troop, with 219 badges awarded and two Chief Scout Gold Awards achieved too! The Scouts are an absolute credit to their parents and families, and we want to thank you all for supporting them on their Scouting journey. They've achieved so much, grown in confidence, and thrown themselves into every challenge — we couldn't be prouder.

Em Staples
Scout Team Member

EXPLORER SECTION

SRF explorers had an interesting year last year! We started the year struggling, trying to regrow after dwindling leadership and youth numbers.

Even with these challenges, we continued to provide activities for our Explorers which included a mixture of traditional Scouting skills such as first aid and map reading and stretch as far as cooking pancakes and taking part in a local version of 'Hunted'. The explorers continue to have a heavy input in deciding what they would like to do as part of the unit and we continue to encourage them to plan more and more as they get older.

Looking forward to next year, we are keen to push forward with Duke of Edinburgh opportunities for our Explorers and restart the programme. So hopefully: more camping, more hiking and more adventures yet to come!

I'm happy to say that the unit is now regrowing in youth numbers, now with a strong leadership team. I would like to take the time to say a massive thank you to David, Callum and Peter, who worked incredibly hard and learnt a lot about Scouting very quickly, to ensure our 14-18 year olds still had a place in scouting. I'm pleased to say they have now been joined by Emily, Lilly, Aaron and Abi, all of whom have a wealth of Scouting knowledge, and I'm sure all together, they will guide the unit from strength to strength.

Phoebe Woolard
Explorer Team Lead Volunteer

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 21 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 almost **£80,000** 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!

Fundraising that costs you nothing!

TEXTILE COLLECTION (*Ron's Rags*)

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
01/03/2025 through 28/02/2026

	Total
<u>Income Categories</u>	
Activities & Events	7,750.69
AGM Raffle	97.72
Donations	850.80
Fundraising	
Easy Fundraising	305.42
Ink Cartridges	7.45
Ron's Rags	185.25
Total Fundraising	498.12
Gift Aid	1,665.66
Grant - WSCSC	
Interest Earned	568.82
Scout Shop	1,500.00
SRF	299.25
Subs	
Subs - Squirrels	1,185.00
Subs - Beavers	3,035.00
Subs - Cubs	2,718.00
Subs - Scouts	4,135.00
Total Subs	11,073.00
T-shirt Sales	351.50
Total Income Categories	24,655.56
<u>Expense Categories</u>	
Activity & Events Exp	8,384.55
AGM	55.31
Administration	8.99
Badges & Uniforms	1,056.78
Bills	
Electricity	1,444.51
Rent	429.68
Water & Sewer	483.24
Total Bills	2,357.43
Capitation (2025)	5,390.00
Cleaning	725.00
Equipment	81.60
Insurance	2,093.32
Maintenance	452.76
Miscellaneous	259.60
Section Expenses	
Squirrels	118.27
Beavers	200.01
Cubs	124.49
Scouts	598.35
Total Section Expenses	1,041.12
Telecoms	626.53
Wifi	280.48
Total Expense Categories	22,813.47
Total Increase/(Decrease)	1,842.09

Net worth
As of 28/02/2026

Account	Total
<u>For Group Use</u>	
Cash & Floats	318.59
Current Account - Barclays	4,694.64
Deposit - Barclays	2,824.40
	<u>7,837.63</u>
<u>Contingency</u>	
Deposit - Barclays	16,000.00
	<u>16,000.00</u>
<u>HUT Fund</u>	
Deposit - Barclays	28,137.31
	<u>28,137.31</u>
Net Worth	<u>51,974.94</u>
<u>Increase/(Decrease) in Funds 2025/26</u>	
Funds for Group Use	(46.91)
Contingency	0.00
HUT Fund	1,889.00
Total Increase/(Decrease)	<u>1,842.09</u>

1st SOUTHGATE SCOUT GROUP USEFUL CONTACT LIST

GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEERS

Group Lead Volunteer Christine (Chil) Hobbs gsl.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Deputy Group Lead Volunteer Phoebe (Mysa) Woolard phoebe.Woolard@cdscouts.org.uk
Supporters Zoe Grimshaw, Gemma Hobbs & Mick Hill
Explorer/Young Leaders Jacob, William, Sophie, Shanaya and Eloise
Skills Instructors; Gemma & Darren = shooting; Pauline, Jason & Emily = archery; Phoebe, Ollie, Kerry & Jason - Angel/Tomahawk throwing.
Nights Away Permits; Chris, Phoebe, Tracey, Pauline, Darren, Kerry, Em, Kayleigh, Gemma & Zoe

SQUIRREL SCOUT DREY

07848 258689

Woodland Drey meets Saturday mornings 9:45-10:45am

squirrels.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

Team Leader Phoebe (Mysa) Woolard
Team Leads Tracy (Bagheera) Gidman,
Team Members Heather (Rainbow) Cunnew, Sara (Willow) Woolard, Craig (Duggie) Worsell, Lilly McCombe & Claire (Stitch) Johnson

BEAVER SCOUT COLONY

07308 610750

River Colony meets Wednesdays 5.45-6.45pm

beavers.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

Team Leader Tracy (Bagheera) Gidman
Team Leads Jane (Keo) Hillman
Team Members Heather (Rainbow) Cunnew, Jae (Robin) Taylor-Burr, Maddy (Chatter) Trethewey, Antonella (Chip) Grieco, Emma (Badger) Bloomfield

CUB SCOUT PACK

07308 608976

Mafeking Pack meets Wednesdays 7-8.30pm

cubs.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

Team Leader Pauline (Akela) Maddocks
Team Leads Darren (Hathi) King
Team Members Emily (Baloo) Wilcock, Beks (Raksha) Dunn, Heather (Rainbow) Cunnew & Donna (Kaa) Nevill

SCOUT TROOP

07308 610303

Troop meets Fridays 7:30-9:30pm

kayleigh.davis@1stsouthgate.cdscouts.org.uk

Team Leader Kayleigh Davis
Team Leads Em Staples, Kerry Waudby, Michael Winkworth
Team Members Brendan Hall, Jason Wilcock, Rhiannon Vaughan, Luke Wiltshire, Jake Powell

EXPLORER SCOUTS (14-18yrs) *SRF Unit meets Monday evenings*

SRF.Explorers@cdscouts.org.uk

Team Leader Phoebe Woolard
Team Members Peter White, Callum Reid & David Hornsby

TRUSTEES – (Group Board of Trustees)

Chair Peter White
Treasurer Simon Maddocks treasurer@1stsouthgate.cdscouts.org.uk
Secretary Sharon Ottley sharon.ottley@1stsouthgate.cdscouts.org.uk
Trustees GLV Chris Hobbs, Phoebe Woolard, Sara Woolard, Chris Prior, Karen Trethewey, Kerry Waudby

GROUP WEBSITE

Crawley District website

<https://1stsouthgate.cdscouts.org.uk/>

International website

<https://crawleydistrictscouts.co.uk/>

www.scouts.org.uk

Please email/ask to join our closed Facebook group page – 1st Southgate Scout Group, Crawley

CRAWLEY SCOUT SHOP

Opening Hours: Saturday mornings 10.00-12.30 & Tuesday evenings 7.00-8.30

07935 882210 (during opening hours only)

shop@cdscouts.org.uk