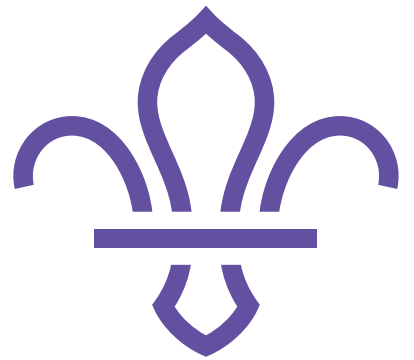


**Scouts**  
Ash Green



# **Group AGM**

## Report 2025

**BEAVERS**

**cubs**

**SCOUTS**

**EXPLORERS**

## **ASH GREEN SCOUT GROUP SCOUT COUNCIL Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 1 July 2025 at 7pm - New Ash Green Youth and Community Centre**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Introduction and welcome by the Group Chair**
- 2. Apologies for absence**  
**Governance**
  - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14 June 2024
  - b. Note the Group's financial year. *The Group's Financial Year runs from 1 April to 31 March.*
  - c. Agree the new Trustee Group set up as set out in the Scout Association's POR
  - d. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM).
- 3. Review of the previous year**
  - a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Ash Green Scout Group
  - b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts.
- 4. Appointments**
  - a. Appoint the Group Chair. The recommendation from the Group Trustee Board is that Louise Banks should continue in the role of Group Chair.
  - b. Appoint the Group Treasurer. Following the stepping down of our previous Treasurer, Gill Lewis, the Trustees have appointed and recommend Casey Hughes to be our Treasurer.
  - c. Appoint members of the Group Trustee Board. The recommendation to the Group Scout Council from the Trustee Board is that the following individuals should be appointed as members of the Group Trustee Board:  
  
Louise Banks (Chair), Mollie Burr (Young person representative) Clare Hambleton (Secretary), Mark Jennings (Quarter Master), Alice Baker (Badge Secretary)  
  
The Group Lead Volunteer (Group Scout Leader), Michael Banks, is automatically an ex-officio member of the Trustee Board.
  - d. Appoint the Scrutineer. The Trustee Board recommend that our current Scrutineer, Mrs Eileen Searle, should be re-appointed as Scrutineer for the 2025-2026 financial year.
- 5. Chair's closing remarks**
- 6. Awards presentations**

## **Chair's Report**

Thank you to all of you as parents, carers and supporters for taking time to join us for our Annual General Meeting. You are part of our Group Scout Council and it's important that you know how the group operates, the financing and what activities and achievements your children have been doing.

I want to say thank you to all the volunteers on the Trustee Committee and the Leader Team for their hard work and dedication to ensure that our children have an exciting and enjoyable programme of activities week in week out. A special thank you to Gill Lewis, our outgoing Treasurer and Peter Lewis, former Group Lead Volunteer (GVL) for all their tireless work over many years.

Our Leaders really do work hard to plan and arrange section nights, organise camps and interesting experiences for our young people. They have also supported a number of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers in Beavers and Cubs. This provides much needed help, but also great experience for our young volunteers.

I'm sure you will want to say thank you and remember that scouting is a movement and is voluntary. We have welcomed one new volunteer to our Beaver team, Rhiannon, thank you for joining the team. We welcome volunteers at any time, so if you can provide support, whether it's telling the children what your work entails, or attending on the odd night or camp to help out occasionally, any support will be gratefully received.

We also welcomed three new Group Trustee members, Casey Hughes our incoming Treasurer, Alice Baker, Badge Secretary and young person representative and Mollie Burr.

As you will read from the GVL report, the group continues to thrive, and while we still have a waiting list, we are gradually welcoming many new members into our group. We are the largest group in Swanley District.

As a newly formed Trustee team, we have worked together to ensure we have a presence at Village Day and providing catering for our AGM in June 2024. We also supported the Scouts with their Quiz fundraiser in June 2024, which raised much needed funds for their summer camp. Thank you to all who have attended and supported these events. I am sure you and your children see the benefit in supporting these events, both by helping to run a stall or set up the marquee, to actually attending our events to help fundraise. Higher profile events like fetes really help to shine a positive light on the Scouting movement and for young people in Ash Green, it also helps us to encourage new leaders and adult helpers.

### **Events and camps**

Cubs enjoyed a camp last August at Lower Grange Farm. Scouts enjoyed a week- long summer camp in Dorset. The Explorers also attended ExploreMore24 in the Peak District in August and a climbing weekend in September, as well as a winter survival camp in February 2025. We also sold poppies once again for the Royal British Legion in November 2024, raising over £512.

We were also particularly proud of the young people at our annual Church Parade event for Remembrance Sunday, everyone was well behaved and well turned out. A real credit to the group, thank you for bringing your children along and supporting these events. We also joined the District Funday in April 2024 to mark St George's Day and paraded with hundreds of other leaders and young people. The group also ran Zorbing Football and Archery, which were very popular events.

I look forward to seeing what's next for our scout group and hearing about the opportunities our young people have experienced.

Louise Banks

**Chair – Ash Green Scout Group Trustee**



## **Yearly GLV overview of the Group 2025**

**This is a pleasure to write my review since taking over as GLV. The group has adapted with the new scouting framework with the formation of a Trustee board and new role titles and team structures introduced last year.**

The biggest change this year has been the stepping down of Peter and Gill Lewis (Group Scout Leader and Treasurer) after nearly 10 years at the helm. Peter has worked tirelessly in that time, ensuring the group is in a strong position. We remain the largest group in District and the 4<sup>th</sup> Largest in Kent. Peter has been responsible for many positive things in the group, including the purchase of our much-needed replacement van, the purchase of our lock-up garage, lots of extra equipment, such as tents, camp cooking equipment, cross bows, air riles and zorbs, very popular activities in the group. Peter also organised the mammoth task of taking the whole group to the Somme battle grounds in Europe a few years back. Peter has dedicated his life to Scouting over the last 44 years, he set up the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chadwell Heath Group in 1981. He moved to Kent in 1993 and he couldn't keep away from Scouting and joined the Ash Green as Assistant Group Scout Leader in 2012, running the group alongside the late Alan Gordon. He took over the Group in 2015 after Alan sadly died and has done an amazing job since. He certainly will be a hard act to follow. Peter has kindly agreed to stay on as a Group Trustee.

Gill, Peters wife has also decided now is the time to retire too. Most of you know Gill as the Group Treasurer, but she is often seen at group events. Whether it be selling hand-made jewellery at Village Day to raise money. Serving food at BBQ's, selling tea and coffee at fund-raisers, selling tickets at events, helping set up activities, walking hike routes or ordering badges, Gill has done it all and will be sadly missed.

We do have some good news, Casey Hughes as agreed to take over the role as Treasurer and has been working with Gill the past couple of months learning the rope. I would like to offer her a very warm welcome into the group.

### **Membership & Leadership team**

The Group has remained strong with currently 128 young people on the books and 16 in our Explorer unit, with ages ranging from 6-18. This is purely down to our amazing leader team, running fun, exciting meetings, camps and activities.

We currently have 20 uniformed volunteers and 2 Young leaders helping out at different sections. I pleased to welcome a new member to our Beaver team - Rhiannon Harrod-Reid. We also have a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer from Gad's Hill Independent School helping out at Cubs. We are continually looking to recruit more adult volunteers to help so that we can provide the best Scouting experiences for our young people.

Our Trustee committee also work tirelessly in the background often unseen but without them the group wouldn't be able to function. They handle the finances and admin, they also make sure we conform with all our legal obligations.

### **Finances**

The group finances remain in good order, with Gill having done an amazing job as always. The Trustees agreed to keep our subscription the same this year at £15, but if expenses continue to rise, we may have to re-visit that decision. Our biggest expense is the annual membership to Scouting HQ, that has risen by £9 per young person this year bringing our annual bill to £7315!

### **Waiting List**

The waiting list has been halved and currently stands at 29. Six have been moved into sections, the rest have been removed as they no-longer wish to join due to moving away or other have other commitments. Most of the children remaining are waiting to get into Beavers with the youngest being only 4 months old!

## **Section Activities**

All sections have had busy meeting programmes this year with a wide variety of activities. Here are just a few examples: Little Dambusters had a visit to the local Fire station, had a trip to My Pottery Barn and a visit from Hartley Owls. Jungle Cubs had a visit to a local Police station and went Air rifle shooting, climbing and had a session in a Cave bus and had a visit from RNLI.

## **'Of the Year' Awards**

As always, we are presenting an award to every section to a young person nominated by their leaders. Unfortunately this year the Scout section team decided not to award any this year.

## **Chief Scout Awards**

8 Bronze, 7 Silver and 8 Gold awards have been given out throughout the year. 1 Explorer was awarded the Chief Scout Platinum, only the second in Swanley District history.

## **Personal Explorer Awards**

## **Safeguarding**

Nothing to report.

## **Group Activities and Community work**

This year has remained busy, with most sections' either have been on camp, sleepovers or are planning to. The big one is Kent International Jamboree – KIJ 2025 (happens every 4 years) this Summer with lots of our Scouts and Explorers attending along with 8,500 Scouts and Guides from across the globe. This week-long camp is packed full of activities and entertainment.

The Group took part in the St Georges Fun Day at District again this year, with a short parade and lots of activities during the day.

We took part in the Remembrance parade at Ash Church with a large number of children in the group attending. We also sold poppies again this year after being asked about by the Royal British Legion, we hope to continue this into the future.

We supported Ash Church and the Parish Council with their VE Day Beacon lighting by providing and running the BBQ. We donated all the money raised £239 to Ellenor Hospice in memory of my late Mother, who passed away suddenly a few months ago. She was a big supporter of the group. She was often serving tea and coffee, making sandwiches on Cub camp and selling activity tickets at Fetes.

Different sections have done various litter picks around the local neighbourhoods.

The Woodlands Group, a local charity, who look after the old trees and landscapes around the village contacted us for help. We supported a couple of working days helping to clear out and cut back the local orchard. The Scout section are looking to get more involved in future helping the Woodlands Group.

**I would like to personally thank our leader team and trustee members for their tireless dedication to our young people. Behind every hour spent with children, is hours of planning, training, research, paperwork and risk assessments and this is all done voluntarily.**

Mike Banks GLV

**Group Lead Volunteer, formally called Group Scout Leader**

## **Section Reports**

### **Little Dambusters**

Little Dambusters has 15 members currently, 3 leaders and 2 Duke of Edinburgh members

This year we have had visits to the pottery barn, played various games, completed crafts, mini Beast hunts, den building and worked on badge skills

We are due an upcoming visit from an Author about his book I want to go to space, to speak to the children and work on their space badges

We have issued 1 CHB award recently with 7 more to be awarded tonight

The Little Dambusters have worked extremely hard to gain their badges and many are looking forward to joining cubs in the next term.

Laura King

**Beaver Section Lead – Little Dambusters**

### **Little Foresters**

Adult Volunteers - Penny, Tracy & Rhiannon

Occasional adult volunteers - Lauren & Laura

Young Volunteer Helper - Amy

Beavers - 18 members and 4 waiting

We have focused on badge work, confidence and team building within the programme.

The Beavers have made models, eaten foods and made craft items to reflect regional, national and international cultures.

As a colony we have learned new games and worked in teams to solve problems.

We have our weekly newsround, when all Beavers have the opportunity to share news and to develop their confidence. Beavers also learn to listen to others and to enjoy the sharing process with their peers.

The LFs have litter picked in the community and have made feeders for the birds around us.

Our plan for the next year is to do much of the same. We plan to encourage self-confidence and mutual respect within our colony further, with an active and enjoyable programme.

Our continued thanks to all within the group who work tirelessly to support our colony and the entire group.

Penny O'Reilly

**Beaver Section Lead – Little Foresters**

### **Forest Pack**

We have 18 Cubs with a fairly even spread of ages, and a leader team of 3 regular volunteers with continued support from Steve Bass from Excelsior Explorers and Laura King from Little Dambusters. We have had good regular weekly attendance over the last year and fairly good behaviour and enthusiasm amongst Cubs to achieve their badges. The leader team was proud to have awarded 6 Chief Scout Silver during the last year. We have 1 to be presented at our AGM and 3 more Cubs who are very close, needing parts of different Challenge badges and nights away - we hope that they are able to achieve this before moving up to Scouts, in the next six months as they very much deserve the award. Our young people continue to follow a youth-led programme holding a termly forum to suggest activities they want to do against which we match with appropriate badgework.

Last summer Cubs enjoyed a range of outdoor activities both on land and water whilst progressing their Teamwork, Skills and Adventure Challenge badges. In the Autumn term, Cubs worked on Money Skills, Backwoods Cooking, Emergency Aid, Local Knowledge, Teamwork and Kent Scouts Big Buzz Challenge and Community Cupboard and Pottery barn before an end of term party with Crafts and games. Spring Term archery, pioneering, Karate and climbing at Lower Grange Farm, whilst so far this term, we have had fewer evenings due to Easter and other holidays, but Cubs have visited Bluewater Police station, explored our local walks, tested their camping skills, played rounders and for the remainder of term will be outside as much as possible.

We hope to arrange sleepovers and ideally a camp later this year with Jungle Pack in order to get Cubs used to staying away overnight and enjoying the camping experience.

Julie Bass

**Cub Section Lead - Forest Pack**

### **Jungle Pack**

We have 24 Cubs with a fairly even spread of ages, and a leader team of 5 regular volunteers. Alexa started university in September, but continues to volunteer when at home. We also have 2 young leaders.

We have a good mix of ages, with 2 ready to move up at the end of this term, and 5 more ready before October half term. behaviour and enthusiasm amongst Cubs to achieve their badges. The leader team are proud to see 4 chief Scout Silver Award being awarded at AGM, with other Cubs who are close, and just need to complete their challenge badges. We had a successful camp last year and hoping to provide more nights away opportunities in the next year.

We aim to get as many Cubs through their CSS before they move up to Scouts. Cubs have taken part in Pack Forums so that leaders can know what they want to do and badges they want to achieve. We aimed to be youth led. Cubs have enjoyed various activities away from the youth centre including pottery barn, gravity trampolining, cave bus at lower grange farm, climbing, time on the water, bluewater police station, local hikes, training at rugby club and more recently pond dipping in Eynsford. Spring Term encompassed both indoor and outdoor activities including spring walks, Cubs have had the opportunity to learn pioneering skills, camping skills, personal safety, backwoods cooking, have an American-style Cub meeting, and many more. We hope to arrange sleepovers and ideally a camp later this year with Forest Pack in order to get Cubs used to staying away overnight and enjoying the camping experience.

Lindsay Ketcher

**Cubs Section Lead - Jungle Pack**

## **Wilderness and Timber Troops**

We currently have 26 Scouts, 5 Leaders and 1 Young Leader, several Scouts have just left to go onto Explorers.

We meet together and have a shared programme, this allows us more flexibility in terms of the programme and leaders available, although we have a keen sense of rivalry and rarely run anything as a whole group, it's easier to manage the numbers (and the noise) in small groups, most weeks see us run at least 2 simultaneous activities.

In the winter term we tend to try to complete some badge work, they've done some craft, Christmas baking, escape room and map skills amongst many other activities.

Our summer camp last year was at Ferny Crofts in the New forest, we took 19 young people booked to take part in a variety of amazing activities including a mud run and water park.

We are running an expedition camp in June, they will hike to a destination, cook dinner, stay overnight and hike home the next day, we've got 29 Scouts and Explorers booked up for it!

This summer's camp is the amazing Kent International Jamboree, 8,000 or so young people from 10-18, it runs every 4 years and attracts people from all over the world.

Now that we have warmer weather and longer evenings we've been out in the local area for wide games and athletics, plans for the rest of term include watersports, going to the woods, and river walking!

Helen Richardson

**Scout Section Lead**

## **Youth Centre Representative**

Nothing to report other than the rent cost of the hall has risen £30 per year to £1094.

## **Quartermaster**

Nothing to report.

## **Treasurer's Report 2025**

The Group's accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 have been prepared and independently scrutinised. They were agreed at our last Trustees Board meeting but now need to be approved at the AGM before they can go off, with other associated documents, to the Charity Commission.

This year, our income has only just exceeded our expenditure by £600 and because we have such healthy reserves, the Trustees board has agreed that there is no need to increase our monthly subscriptions of £15. Subscriptions have remained at £15 since September 2017. However, if expenditure rises significantly in the future, there may be a need to review the monthly subscription amount next year.

The Group's main source of income is from your monthly subscriptions, topped up by Gift Aid, which is another vital source of income. If you haven't completed a Gift Aid form, please do so if you are able, as it costs you nothing. For every £1 you pay to the Group, we can claim an extra 25p from the Government.

Additionally, we raised £695 in our event arenas at local school fetes and Village Day, plus we held a quiz in the Village Hall. This year, Village Day is on the 28<sup>th</sup> June and we hope that our young people and parents will come along and support us and enjoy taking part in our archery and tomahawk throwing events.

We received a very welcome donation of £300 from the estate of Brian Parlett who sadly died last year and who has been a staunch supporter of Scouting and the Ash Green Scout Group for many years. This money has been ring-fenced to provide some financial support for our young people where necessary.



Our biggest annual expense, which is non-negotiable, is the Scout Membership fee which rose from £58 per head to £67 per head. This is payable to the Scout Association H.Q. The Membership fee covers the Group's Public liability Insurance and also personal accident insurance for all our members, as well as Head Office, County and District administration. The total bill for our Group amounted to £7315 which again is paid for from the monthly subscriptions that we receive.

Our on-going costs include the hire of the Youth Centre for our 6 section meetings every week, keeping our van safely on the road, maintaining the fabric and security of our two storage facilities and insurance for our equipment. Additionally, we regularly update our equipment, first aid supplies, and provide scarves, woggles and badges for uniforms. In addition, we meet the costs of giving our young people a varied programme of activities at each weekly meeting and we also subsidise camps and other activities. The Group also meets the cost of training our Volunteer Leaders.

It is with some sadness that I am now stepping back from the role of Treasurer, which I have done since 2018. I know that my successor – Casey Hughes – will bring a fresh approach to the role. She will be a much welcome addition to our Board of Trustees, of which I will remain as a member.

Gillian Lewis

**Treasurer – Ash Green Scout Group**

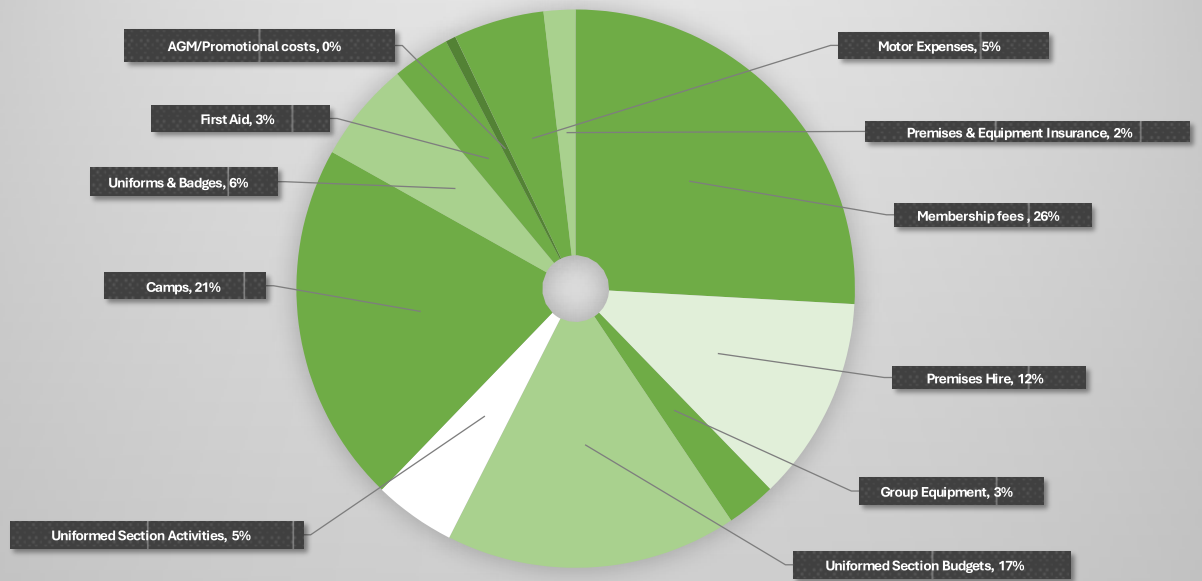
**Income & Expenditure  
Summary (All Accounts)**

	2024-2025		2023-2024
<b>INCOME</b>			
	19,500.00		
	155.00		
	0.00		
	4,318.57		
	5,101.00		
	695.58		
	1,736.41		
	1,686.25		
	994.90		
	100.00		
	430.00		
	195.39		
	0.00		
	£ 34,913	£	29,329
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Membership fees	7,315.00	£	6,350
Premises Hire	3,349.10	£	3,245
Premises Expenditure	103.03	£	69
Group Equipment	808.07	£	1,382
Group Outings	0.00	£	-
Uniformed Section Budgets	4,769.27	£	3,001
Uniformed Section Activities	1,340.94	£	1,627
Camps	5,913.13	£	3,481
KIJ	3,950.00	£	-
Training & Courses	560.00	£	90
Uniforms & Badges	1,650.89	£	1,461
First Aid	943.09	£	1,150
Catering	21.13	£	11
Stationery	50.75	£	70
Website services	172.50	£	113
AGM/Promotional costs	167.41	£	302
Miscellaneous expenses	32.99	£	29
Motor Expenses	1,483.59	£	21,267
Premises & Equipment Insurance	520.14	£	496
Fund Raising	30.00	£	314
Internal Transfers	994.90		
Subs refunds	105.00	£	45
	£ 34,281	£	44,501
			1
Less Total Expenditure	£ 34,281	£	44,501
Surplus for year	£ 632		-
			£15,171

# Statement of Assets & Liabilities for the Year Ending 31st March 2025

	Out £	In £	C/fwd to 25/26
<b>Balance of Gen A/c at 1/4/2024</b>		<b>£ 9,751.01</b>	
Gen A/c Expenditure	£ 32,656.37		
Gen A/c Income		£ 31,934.66	
Internal Transfers	£ -	£ 994.90	
Gen A/c C'Fwd to 2025/26			<b>£10,024.20</b>
<b>Balance of F/R A/c at 1/4/2024</b>		<b>£ 102.23</b>	
F/R A/c Expenditure	£ -		
F/R A/c Income		£ 472.51	
Internal Transfers	£ 274.74	£ -	
Fund Raising A/c C'Fwd to 2025/26			<b>£ 300.00</b>
<b>Balance of Savings A/c at 1/4/2024</b>		<b>£ 17,515.78</b>	
Savings A/c Deposits		£ -	
Savings A/c Gross Interest received		£ 195.39	
Internal Transfers	£ -	£ -	<b>£17,711.17</b>
<b>Cash A/c Balance at 31 Mar 2024</b>		<b>£ 645.30</b>	
Cash Expenditure	£ 629.66		
Cash Income		£ 1,315.64	
Cash Internal Transfers	£ 720.16	£ -	
Cash Held at 31/3/25			<b>£611.12</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£ 34,280.93</b>	<b>£ 62,927.42</b>	<b>£28,646.49</b>
Freehold Property (Garage) Insurance Valuation			£19,126.00
Equipment at est. insurance value- Garage			£23,540.00
Equipment at est. insurance value- Ash			£7,650.00
Equipment at est. insurance value- YC			£11,700.00
Vehicle LD69ZDX at 2023 Purchase cost less 20%			£15,600.00
			<b>£106,262.49</b>

General A/c Expenditure 2024-25



Income 2024-2025

