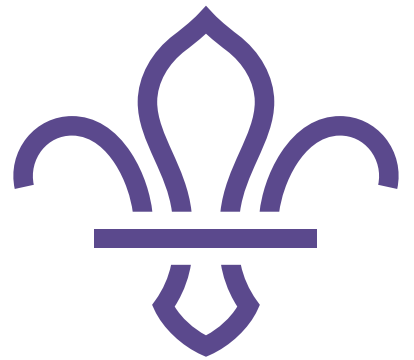


Scouts
Ash Green



Group AGM
Report 2026

BEAVERS
cubs

SCOUTS
 **explorers**

ASH GREEN SCOUT GROUP SCOUT COUNCIL Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 30 June 2026 at 6.45pm - 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 1 July 2025
 - b. Note the Group's financial year. *The Group's Financial Year runs from 1 April to 31 March.*
 - c. Agree the Trustee Group set up as set out in the Scout Association's POR
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. The recommendation is that Casey Hughes continues 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, Mark Jennings, Alice Baker

The Group Lead Volunteer (Group Scout Leader), Michael Banks, is automatically an ex-officio member of the Trustee Board as he has been appointed by the Scout Association.
 - d. Appoint the Scrutineer. The Trustee Board recruited John Cardnel a retired chartered accountant as our financial scrutineer.
5. **Safeguarding & Safety** One safeguarding issue was reported to HQ, this was a disclosure made about an issue outside of Scouting. As external agencies are involved, no further action was taken.
6. **Any Other Business** – members should aim to provide questions to the Chair seven days in advance
7. **Chair's closing remarks**
8. **Awards and presentations**

Chair's Report

The group's Annual General Meeting is a chance for us to reflect on the last year and to talk about opportunities for people to get involved to support the group's activities. 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 thank you all for coming today and I am as ever grateful 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.

Leaders spend a lot of their time planning and arranging a programme of experiences for each of their section nights, organise camps. And we know the young people enjoy the opportunities offered to them. Leaders have also supported a number of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers in Beavers and Cubs, there have been six young people this year. This provides much needed help, but also great experience for our young volunteers. It's important that we recognise scouting as a voluntary movement. We have unfortunately lost some of our leaders this year, who have other commitments and have needed to move on. Many hands make light work, 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. If you want to become a leader, speak to any of us about what this entails and how it can benefit you.

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 Trustee team, we have worked together to ensure we have a presence at Village Day and providing catering for our AGM in June 2025. We also supported the Scouts with their Quiz fundraiser in February 2026, which raised much needed funds to buy new camping equipment. 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

The GLV will summarise the scouting activities, but I know Cubs enjoyed District Camp at Lower Grange Farm on the early May bank holiday. Scouts enjoyed a long summer camp at Thriftwood Scout camp in Essex. More recently Scouts held a skills camp at Farningham Woods and many of the newer scouts attended. The Explorers also attended ExploreMore24 in the Peak District in August and a climbing weekend in September. We also sold poppies once again for the Royal British Legion in November 2025, raising over £580 – which was an increase on last year.

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. Once again, we joined in with Swanley District's fun day to mark St George's Day and paraded with lots of other leaders and young people. The group also ran Archery, which was a popular event.

I look forward to seeing what's next for our scout group and hearing about the opportunities our young people have experienced. My final plea is to you the Scouting parents, we always need help, whether supporting the odd meeting night, helping to set up camps or help with packing away and of course at fetes and events that need support. Please do come forward to find out what you can do to help.

Louise Banks
Chair – Group Trustees



Yearly GLV Report 2026

Overview of the Group

Ash Green continues with our success in being the largest group in Swanley district and the fourth largest in Kent! We currently have 118 young people on our books from Beavers though to Explorers. We would like to accommodate more Beaver age children into the group, but due to the continued struggle to get leaders, we have to run with lower numbers at present. We have been advertising for volunteers on the local Facebook groups, in the local schools and I have approached County for help on this. I have been working hard to reduce our waiting list over the past year; we currently have 48 children on our waiting list.

Because of our amazing leader team, we still offer a great mix of both traditional Scouting, along with exciting and adventurous activities. Rifle shooting, climbing, water sports, archery, axe throwing, micro-lighting, cross bows to are just some of the things booked this year across all of our sections.

Leadership team and Trustees

Unfortunately, we have suffered a slight drop in numbers due to work commitments. We are currently running with 17 uniformed leaders and 1 young leader. During the course of the year, we have had six DofE volunteers helping out with our younger sections. Cubs welcomed another leader a few months ago, helping out on much needed Monday nights. We also have two adult helpers who have a DBS and are helping with our Beavers.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to both Peter and Gill, our ex-Group lead volunteer and ex-Treasurer. They are stepping down from their Trusteeship, due to moving to Worthing this year. I wish them a happy retirement and thank them for their nearly 10 years of dedication to the group. That leaves us with seven trustees running the group.

Camping

This year has been a busy year full of camping. Last summer we had the Kent International Jamboree (KIJ), our Scouts and Explorers took part alongside nearly 8,000 young people from around the world with hundreds of activities packed into a week-long camp. We had a District camp back in May this year at Lower Grange Farm. Every young person from Beavers to Explorers was invited to join Swanley district at a weekend camp, packed with activities for each section. Out of 13 groups and the 73 young people camping Ash Green accounted for 50 of those young people! This was the first time Beavers have camped in over three years, it was amazing to see. Along with our young people, leaders and parent helpers, we also fed the county climbing team and district officials over the weekend. Thanks to Helen and the Scout team, we served up over 80 meals at a time! Cubs had great fun on winter camp in January. Scouts had a skills camp in May at our local site in Farningham woods. Both Cubs and Scouts have further camps booked later in the year.

Equipment

With agreement of the Trustees, the group invested £6,300 in new camping equipment. Replacing our very worn-out marquees and collection of tents. We also made some smaller purchases of camping equipment for our camp kitchen. Vincent the group van had a minor issue with the AdBlue system. Mark our Quartermaster seems to have been able to repair it relatively cheaply.

Running costs

Like everything else in the world, our bills have continued to rise. The hall hire and membership to the Scout movement being the biggest costs to have gone up. We continue to do everything we can to prevent increases to our subscription fees. We may need to raise our fees in the future, which haven't been raised in over 12 years.

Youth Centre

We continue to work very closely with the Youth Centre trustees on the management of the building. I am happy to report the back wooded area is now safe to use again after a large number of trees got trimmed or cutdown. The area was deemed unsafe to use for nearly seven months.

Safeguarding and Safety

There was one disclosure made by a young person that was reported to Headquarters. This was an incident that happened outside of Scouting and is being dealt with by external agencies.

Youth Awards

Great progress has been made working towards the 'Chief Scouts Awards', with over 28 being presented across all of our sections this year. This is the highest award any young person in their section can receive, so a big well done to them and their leaders for putting the work in!

Fundraising and Community work

We continue to take part in the New Ash Green Village Day every year, with Axe throwing and Archery activities raising over £271 last year. We had an amazing turn out for a Quiz night back in February run by our Scout leaders raising over £400. We also got asked to run Archery at the Milestone Academy last summer raising nearly £90. We are proud to be involved in raising money for The Royal British Legion every year. We raised an amazing £580 last November. We have also continued our litter picking around New Ash Green during different times of the year, collecting bags and bags of rubbish every time! We helped out at the District St George's Fun Day again this year, providing Archery for nearly 270 young people.

Finally

I would like to say a very heart felt thank you to all our uniformed leaders who spend hours every week, planning and running meetings, activities and doing lots of extra things behind the scenes. Our Trustees who work tirelessly behind the scenes, most of you are unaware of who they are, but without their dedication in Scouting, the group simply wouldn't function. Your continued support at Ash Green is truly appreciated! And to our parent volunteers, who help plug the gaps, we do have shirts available in your size!

Mike Banks

Group Lead Volunteer (Formally called Group Scout Leader)

Ash Green Scout Group

Section Reports

Little Dambusters

Adult Volunteers - Laura and Rhiannon

Occasional adult volunteers - 2

Beavers - 16 members

This year is a celebratory year for Beavers, as the section turns 40! We joined with the Little Foresters for an incredible party to mark the start of the year - and we hope to mark the end in a similar way!

During our weekly meetings, we have focused on badge work, confidence and team building.

The Beavers have made craft items to reflect regional, national and international cultures. We have also visited the Community Cupboard to understand how we can help within our own community.

As a colony we have learned new songs and games. And had an epic football evening on the minis!

We have our weekly news-round, 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.

All Beavers had the opportunity to attend the District Camp. They formed a group with the Foresters. They showed bravery and resilience during the rainstorm and worked together in all activities. We also realised that we have some amazing 'climbers' in our section! As a large part of our 40th celebrations - we are undertaking the Kent Beavers Challenge. This should take us through to the end of 2026.

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. We are hoping to visit the fire station soon.

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

Laura King

Beaver Section Lead – Little Dambusters

Little Foresters

Adult Volunteers - Penny and Rhiannon

Occasional adult volunteers - Carmel and Laura

Young Volunteer Helper - Amy

Beavers - 13 members

This year is a celebratory year for Beavers, as the section turns 40! We joined with the Dambusters for an incredible party to mark the start of the year - and we hope to mark the end in a similar way!

During our weekly meetings, we have focused on badge work, confidence and team building. This is incredibly important at this age. 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 songs and games. We have our weekly news-round, 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 took part and won the District Mole Trophy. A number of volunteers commented on the Little Forester's exemplary behaviour, teamwork and manners.

5 Beavers attended the District Camp. They showed bravery and resilience during the rainstorm and worked together in all activities. We also realised that we have some amazing 'climbers' in our colony!

As a large part of our 40th celebrations - we are undertaking the Kent Beavers Challenge. This should take us through to the end of 2026.

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

Cubs Sections

Both Forest and Jungle Packs have been following the same programme since September 2025, after Cubs Section Lead for Forest stepped down. with 7 leaders who work across both packs on Monday and Friday nights.

We have had 12 Cubs achieve their Chief Scout Silver Awards, which is the highest award that can be achieved by Cub Scouts.

Cubs have had a varied programme including building bug hotels, gardening, pioneering, fire lighting, air activities, archery, fencing, tomahawks and many more. There have been outings to the high ropes in Mote Park, Gravity trampoline park and there will be a trip to Cyclopark for mountain bike trails at the end of summer term.

There have been 2 main camps this year with winter camp at Thriftwood in Essex at the end of January, and District Camp at Lower Grange Farm in May. Cubs enjoyed climbing, archery, rifle shooting, paddleboarding, assault courses, and learned new skills.

Lindsay Ketcher
Cub Section Lead

Scout Sections

We currently have 32 Scouts, and 5 leaders, with a few more due up from Cubs but have not yet joined. 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, we had a bring a parent night to make Christmas wreaths which seemed to go well, and some First Aid training, amongst many other activities.

Our summer camp last year was an international Jamboree held here in Kent every 4 years, called KIJ, which brought together around 6000 young people from all over the world. They took part in many exciting and cultural activities and had lots of fun. We attended a District Camp for all sections at the beginning of May, and we ran a very small Scout camp with a focus on Scout skills at the end of May, in temperatures of over 30 degrees! This summer's camp is at Thriftwood in Essex and promises to be an action packed camp! Now that we have warmer weather and longer evenings, we've been out doing water sports, to the woods for a fire and sausage cooking, wide games. Plans for the rest of term include tomahawk throwing, rounders and river walking!

Helen Richardson
Scout Section Lead

Quartermaster

This year, we have invested in new camping equipment. We purchased 8x 8 Man Tents and a large Marquee to replace our smaller, old and failing blow-up marques. We are currently waiting on delivery of the Marquee as they are manufactured to order. We have donated some of our older tents to local groups in need.

Treasurer's Report

Ash Green Scouts' financial accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026 have been prepared and independently examined. The financial statements were shared with, and agreed by, the Trustees and now require final approval at this AGM. Once approved, the financial statements will be submitted as part of our annual return to the Charity Commission.

In 2025-26 our expenditure exceeded our income by £859. Our total expenditure was markedly lower than the previous year, despite our main running costs, such as venue hire, motor expenses and insurances, increasing. The monthly subscription fee of £15 has remained unchanged since 2017 as we have maintained a healthy balance in total funds whilst acknowledging the increasing financial pressures on families due to the wider economic climate. The Trustees have agreed to not increase the monthly subscription at this time, however this will be reviewed in 6 months as increasing costs against a faltering income hinders our ability to fund a varied programme of weekly meetings, maintain our equipment as well as subsidise camps and activities.

The Group's main source of income is from the monthly subscriptions paid by parents/carers and this was topped up with £1,568 in Gift Aid that we claimed back from HMRC. If the person paying the monthly subscription also pays Income Tax, please consider completing a Gift Aid form (if not previously completed) as Gift Aid is a vital source of income for the Group and at no additional cost.

Our Section Leaders and volunteers dedicated their free time to fundraise at Village Day and a local school's Summer fete in 2025 as well as organise a fantastic quiz night. Accounting for stall cost and venue hire, a total of £725 was raised for the Group. The next Village Day is on Saturday 27th June 2026; please visit our stall and take part in the archery and tomahawk throwing activities. Please also consider and speak with a Section Leader if you can volunteer up to an hour of your time to assist with the stall at Village Day.

In August 2025, 19 Scouts attended the Kent International Jamboree at Kent County Showground. They had an action-packed experience; thank you to the parents/carers who paid their fees and the Group volunteers who raised funds to help subsidise the cost.

Our biggest expense is the Scout membership fee, which is mandatory and payable to Scouts HQ. This increased from £67 to £70 per young person and the total charge was £6,440. At the beginning of 2026, the Trustees approved use of our reserves to purchase much-needed new tents for the Group and a part-payment of £2,317 was made (the remaining £2,317 will be paid in the 2026-27 financial period).

In addition to the running costs already mentioned, we regularly replenish/repair/update our equipment, first aid supplies, and provide scarves, woggles and badges for uniforms and training to our volunteers. It is also our obligation to hold sufficient funds to protect our charity in the event of financial challenges, unexpected expenses and to ensure continuous delivery of Scouting activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents as well as the Section Leaders, Trustees and volunteers for welcoming me into the Group and your patience as I settled into the role of Treasurer.

Casey Hughes
Group Treasurer

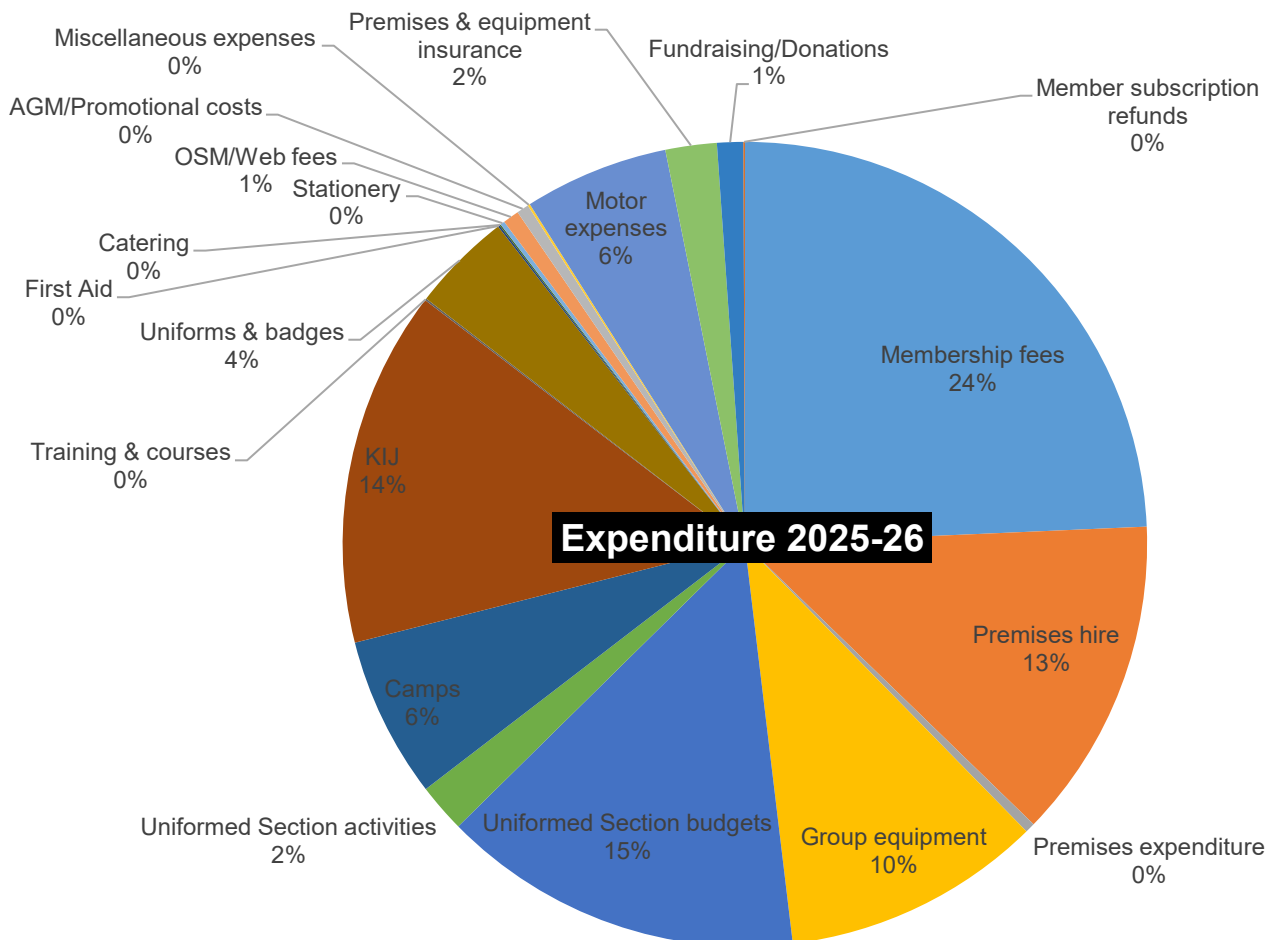
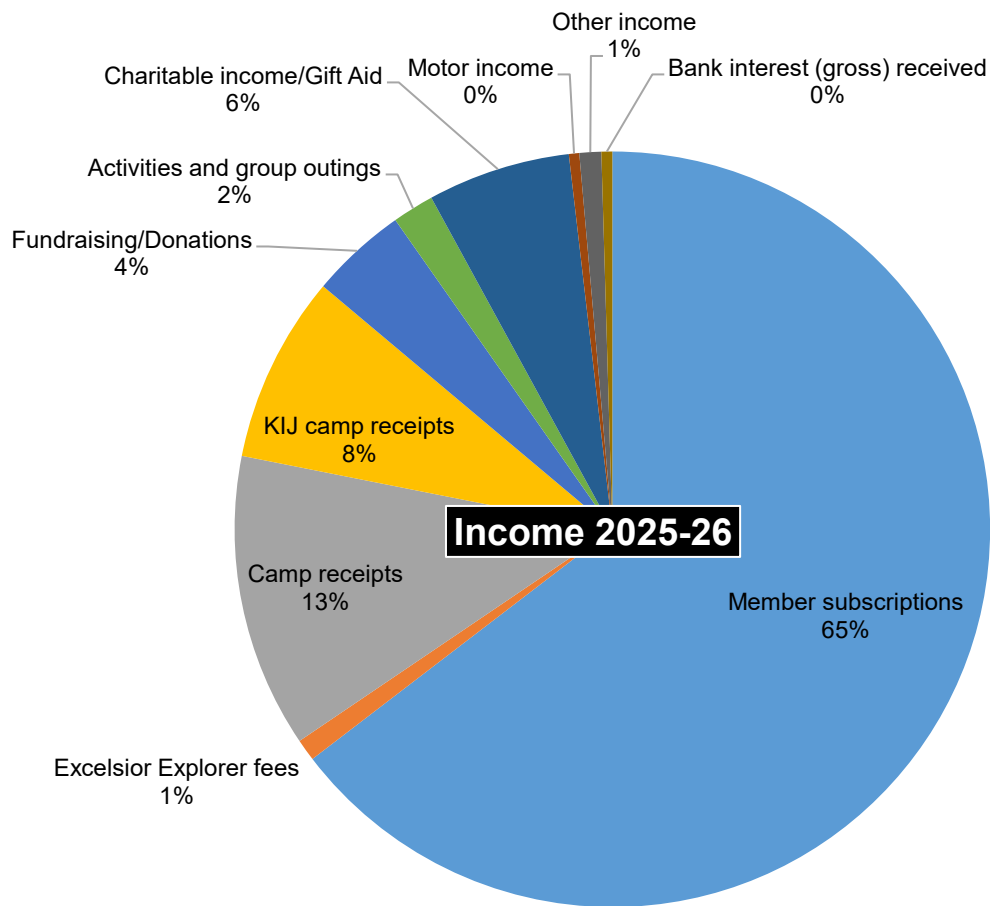
ASH GREEN SCOUTS
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2025-26		2024-25	
RECEIPTS				
Member subscriptions	£	16,560	£	19,500
Excelsior Explorer fees	£	240	£	155
Camp receipts	£	3,225	£	4,319
KIJ camp receipts	£	2,053	£	5,101
Fundraising/Donations	£	1,061	£	696
Activities and group outings	£	458	£	1,736
Charitable income/Gift Aid	£	1,568	£	1,686
Motor income	£	114	£	100
Other income	£	239	£	430
Bank interest (gross) received	£	119	£	195
Total Receipts	£	25,635	£	33,918
PAYMENTS				
Membership fees	£	6,440	£	7,315
Premises hire	£	3,432	£	3,349
Premises expenditure	£	105	£	103
Group equipment	£	2,766	£	808
Uniformed Section budgets	£	3,848	£	4,769
Uniformed Section activities	£	519	£	1,341
Camps	£	1,717	£	5,913
KIJ	£	3,792	£	3,950
Training & courses	£	20	£	560
Uniforms & badges	£	1,069	£	1,651
First Aid	£	19	£	943
Catering	£	15	£	21
Stationery	£	47	£	51
OSM/Web fees	£	173	£	173
AGM/Promotional costs	£	129	£	167
Miscellaneous expenses	£	24	£	33
Motor expenses	£	1,539	£	1,484
Premises & equipment insurance	£	546	£	520
Fundraising/Donations	£	279	£	30
Member subscription refunds	£	15	£	105
Total Payments	£	26,495	£	33,286
Excess of (Payments)/Receipts for the year*	£	(859)	£	632

**Due to the rounding of individual figures, totals may not exactly equal the sum of their constituent parts.*

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2026

	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
Bank current account	£ 10,433	£ 10,024
Bank savings account	£ 15,513	£ 17,711
Bank hardship account	£ 255	£ 300
Cash float	£ 1,586	£ 611
Total cash funds	£ 27,787	£ 28,646
Freehold property (Garage) - insured for an estimated replacement of	£ 20,885	£ 19,126
Equipment at garage - insured for an estimated replacement of	£ 26,950	£ 23,540
Equipment at Ash - insured for an estimated replacement of	£ 8,758	£ 7,650
Equipment at Youth Centre - insured for an estimated replacement of	£ 13,395	£ 11,700
Vehicle (LD69ZDX) at 2023 purchase cost minus 20%pa	£ 12,480	£ 15,600
Member subscriptions due	£ 255	Nil
TOTAL ASSETS	£ 110,510	£ 106,262
 Member subscriptions in credit	 £ 225	 £ 195
TOTAL LIABILITIES	£ 225	£ 195
 TOTAL ASSETS MINUS TOTAL LIABILITIES	 £ 110,285	 £ 106,067



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Ash Green Scout Group

(Charity number 1199314)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Ash Green Scout Group, being a Receipts and Payments account for the year ended, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at, 31st March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Ash Green 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 Ash Green 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.

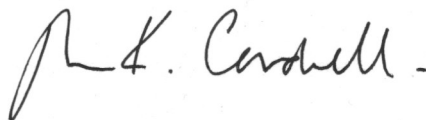
Independent examiner's statement

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 Ash Green 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:



John K Cardnell FCA

4 Redhill Wood
New Ash Green
Longfield
Kent DA3 8QH

11 June 2026