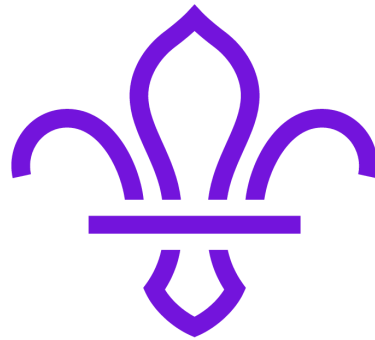




Scouts

3rd Sevenoaks

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT & REVIEW OF THE YEAR

3rd Sevenoaks (Riverhead & Dunton Green) Scouts

1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

5:30pm, Sunday 16th November 2025

3rd Sevenoaks HQ, Bradbourne Vale Road, TN13 3DE

3rd Sevenoaks Scout Group

Charity registered in England No. 303437

Scout Association registered No. 07676

Trustee Board

The Scout Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. The Elected Trustees are elected at each Annual General Meeting ("AGM") and may be appointed for up to three years. The Trustee Board consisted of the following people:

2024-2025

Ex Officio Member:

- Ian Manuel (Group Lead Volunteer)

Elected Members:

- Richard Williams (Group Chairman)
- Simon Phipps (Group Treasurer)
- Robert Downard
- James Holman
- Robert Monton

All of the elected trustees were appointed or reappointed at the last AGM on 30 June 2024.

Nominated Members:

There were no nominated trustees during the year.

Appointment of Independent Examiner:

During the year the trustees appointed Martin Robson of Robson Accountants as Independent Examiner and he has agreed to be appointed for the coming year.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts and we have agreed to adopt the constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules.

The Trustee Board meets 5 or 6 times each year. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association at the AGM, either by election or approval of their nomination; other trustees may be co-opted during the year to serve until the next AGM. Members of the Trustee Board complete "Being a Scouts Trustee" learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high quality and safe programmes that give young people skills for life.

Risk and internal control

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Objectives and Activities

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

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

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun,
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors,
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection,
- take responsibility and make choices,
- undertake new and challenging activities,
- make and live by their Promise.

Public Benefit Statement

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

2024/25 Review of the Financial Year

The group net result for the year was a surplus of receipts over payments of £7,010. The cash balance carried forward at 31 March 2025 totaled £31,912 (31 Mar 2024: £24,902).

Collection of membership subscriptions for 2024/25 decreased by £634 to £17,011 (2023/24: £17,645). This decrease was due to the rollout of a new termly subscription payment model, with termly subscription collections starting from January 2025. The spring term subscription payment (one third of the annual subscription) replaces the previous model whereby the group collected a full year upfront subscription payment for the coming year. The group believes that this spreading of the membership subscriptions is fairer to members.

Two other significant changes were implemented at the same time as termly subscriptions. Firstly, the group made the decision to increase membership subscription rates to £150 per annum (previously £119 p.a.). This increase brings the group on par with other Scout groups within the Sevenoaks district, and will allow the group to cover more of the daily operating costs through subscriptions; rather than relying so much on fundraising. The group continues to offer discounted membership subscription rates to active volunteers, who pay 50% of the full annual rate.

Secondly, a new automated payment collection system was implemented via Online Scout Manager (and GoCardless). The implementation was designed to improve the experience and ease of use of members when making subscription payments, whilst also improving the ability to track and reconcile receipts on a timely basis. Since implementation, there has been a reduction in overdue amounts due from members, a trend we expect to continue.

Deposits for summer 2025 Scout camps taken in 2024/25 total £5,668 (2023/24: £1,402). This timing difference is a significant contributor to the £7,010 surplus of receipts over payments for 2024/25. Camps are budgeted so that amounts charged to participants cover the cost of the camps.

Donations for 2023/24 increased by £1,424 to £1,774 (2023/24: £350). The donations were received with thanks mainly from Hasbro and Columbia Threadneedle, as a result of employer match fundraising from our volunteers.

Gift aid received in the year decreased by £386 to £3,246 (2023/24: £3,632). Gift aid is claimed on subscriptions received in the previous financial year.

Fundraising provided a positive contribution to the financial status of the group. During 2024/25 the results of the fireworks display and annual carnival contributed £10,056 and £5,691 respectively (2023/24: £9,558 and £3,890 respectively). Similar to 2023, the group held two firework displays on one night, a louder and 'quieter' display. This allowed for a greater attendance (improving fundraising) whilst providing a more inclusive offering to our local community. Thank you to all the volunteers who successfully planned and ran these events.

General expenses for 2024/25 were £15,820 lower at £18,539 (2023/24: £34,359) as the group did not undertake any significant capital expenditure (in 2023/24 a new kitchen was fitted at a cost of £15,248). We have continued to invest in maintaining the scout hut and the surrounding areas.

We have no significant capital expenditure plans for 2025/26, but plan to review the stock of equipment and replace items where needed. Site maintenance continues to need prioritisation, including ongoing work to cutback trees and maintain site safety alongside basic refurbishments to

the Scout hut. We plan to undertake the essential works and if sufficient resources are available, will undertake further works on a priority basis.

Reserves policy

The group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient financial resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fund raising activities fall short. The Trustee Board considers a sum of £15,000 (2023/24: £10,000) an increase of £5,000 from prior year to reflect this. The sum is equivalent to six months running costs and accounts for timing differences in fundraising, potential unforecast repairs, maintenance and equipment expenditure.

Reserves include £3,000 remaining of an amount donated to the memory of Andrew Wood, which we use as needed to maintain the environmental area.

The group adopts a risk averse approach to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash with high street tier 1 retail banks.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2024/25

THE ANDREW WOOD TROPHY

The Andrew Wood Trophy is awarded to a young person in each section who embraces the true spirit of Scouting.

Teamwork,

Thinking of others before themselves,

Regular attendance,

Participating in events outside of the weekly meeting.



Andrew was a Beaver, Cub and Scout with the Group, who sadly and suddenly passed away on 17th April 2005 aged 12. He was APL of the Bradbourne Troop Moose Patrol; the Patrol was named after his Moose blanket and song on camp. His parents made a donation to the group in memory of him and some of the money was used to purchase these trophies so we would always have a reminder of him.

Section Reports

Squirrels

Sennocke Squirrel Drey

This year has been another lively and rewarding one for our Squirrel Drey, with our youngest members embracing every activity with curiosity, confidence, and plenty of smiles. The programme has been packed with hands-on fun, from creative craft sessions and imaginative games to outdoor adventures that included local hikes and den building. The Squirrels also took their first steps into practical skills, learning simple first aid and how to help others.

We owe a huge thank-you to Helena Phipps, whose energy and commitment were instrumental in starting and growing the Squirrels section. Her leadership set a brilliant foundation before she moved up to support the Beavers. The lead role has since been taken on by Isla Mooney, who has brought wonderful enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the Drey. Isla is currently on maternity leave, and we send her our warmest congratulations. During this period, Jo Brookbank has stepped in to ensure the Squirrels continue to meet and enjoy their weekly adventures. Thanks to Jo's support, and temporary accommodation at 4th Sevenoaks (St John's), the programme has carried on smoothly.

Beavers

Brookland and Broadmead Beaver Colony

As with previous years both Beaver Colonies have been running the same programme each week.

Over the last year we have visited St Marys Church while working on our Faith badge, had a session at Pets at Home learning about different types of pets and how to look after them. We also held our 1st Beaver Section Camp, in which Jamie (Otter) was granted his Camp Permit. We have visited the Wildlife Reserve on several occasions, looking at wildlife habitats and bird spotting.

At the St George's Day service, we were awarded the District Beaver Colony of the Year Award, this is only possible because of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by our Volunteer Team.

We aim to complete at least 1 activity badge each half term as well as working towards 1 of the Challenge badges. We have had sessions working towards the Disability, Animal Friends, Cook, Emergency Aid, Health & Fitness and Musician's badges to name a few. Between the 2 colonies we have awarded over 300 badges over the last year, including 5 Bronze awards. Now we are able to hold camps, we are hoping that we will be awarding more Bronze awards, due to at least 1 night away being needed to complete this Badge.

The Beaver Volunteer Team

Cubs

Amherst Cub Pack

Cor blimey, not sure if this AGM report will do justice for all the great activities and fun the Amherst Cubs have had since the last AGM report but let's give it a go.

The rest of the summer term after the 2024 AGM started with Amherst Cubs out and about in Riverhead doing a local knowledge quiz followed by an extended summer circular hike at Eynsford via Lullingstone with ample time to play in the river. The following meeting was water fun, then a campfire meeting where the Cubs reviewed the year before the last meeting before the summer holiday, which was a family games evening with hot dogs.

In autumn 2025 the meeting themes included: Scouting values; fires; home safety ; a night hike from Julian's Meadow; pumpkin carving; burning guys; home skills. We once again entertained the residents at Rockdale, this time with "Cubs Got Talent". We made some puppets for the Rockdale meeting which doubled up for the Amherst Christmas tree decorations. The term finished off with a Christmas party. We were fortunate to have two police visits with talks for the Cubs in autumn 2024 where the Cubs could try the police kit on and sit in a police car, and the other in spring 2025 where the focus was on digital safety and awareness.

The spring 2025 term had meetings which included: a fossil themed night; a 'Chip Shop Hike' to Dunton green; pancakes; disability awareness; global issues; air activities and Egg-ineering. We had another fun sleepover at Clip 'n Climb in the spring term.



Why use a bridge when you can use a ford?

Summer term 2025 for Amherst Cubs began on St. George's Day so hopefully you will be able to guess the theme of that meeting. We played wide games at Riverhead Parkland. We then had a three week block of meetings based around survival which finished with a backwoods cooking meeting where the fires were started using flint and steel strikers made by the Cubs. We had a centenary games night followed by a map skills meeting before the summer hike around Shoreham. The young leaders organised a den building meeting with appropriate weather testing of the dens (i.e. chucking buckets of water at any and all opening of the dens). The term finished with a water fun evening just in case the Cubs weren't soaked enough from the previous meeting.

During the summer term we had a successful Amherst Camp which was the validation camp of Mike Smith from the 17th Sevenoaks Westerham (thanks Mike). The camp included laser tag; nest box making; bailing out tents and much more.



A great centenary themed Amherst Cub Camp

Now on to autumn 2025, where Amherst Cubs have had meetings on Scouting values; and carnival planning where the Cubs fixed and tested the coconut shy. We were fortunate to have a fun and informative visit to the Sevenoaks Fire Station. The young leaders ran a faith based meeting and the following week the Cubs enjoyed making and eating apple pastries. Badge working this term has involved working toward the Our World Challenge badge. We have had a night hike from Sundridge; a pumpkin carving meeting and we will have just burnt guys.



A fun night at Sevenoaks Fire Station

We need to thank our Young Leaders: Dan, Luke, Imogen and Helenka. As always, we welcome any offers of help with the leadership team. As ever, thanks go to all the Cubs' family members who have helped at meetings, hikes, and camps. We do appreciate all your help. Again, thanks once again to the other leaders in the 3rd Sevenoaks Group and within the district. Thank you also to the wider

community, including: Rockdale, and the fire service; and the police for their help in giving our Cubs another enjoyable year.

Finally, as always, we would like to thank the Cubs for making it all worthwhile.

Adam, Anna, Craig, Richard, Stevo, Tom, and Trevor (the seven Akelas) - 06/11/2025

Stanhope Cub Pack

What a fantastic year it's been for the Stanhope Cubs! Looking back, it's impossible not to smile at the energy, laughter and sense of adventure our Cubs have brought to every Monday evening. From science experiments and cooking to hikes, campfires and community events, our programme this year has truly been balanced, busy, and above all - fun!

A Year of Fun, Friendship and Discovery

We started the year indoors but full of imagination, creating stop-motion films, crafting tin-can lanterns, and celebrating National Pizza Day (with some very creative toppings!). A visit from real reptiles was a big hit, and there was no shortage of curiosity and courage when it came to meeting snakes up close.

As spring arrived, we got outside for our local knowledge hike around Riverhead and our favourite Otford to Lullingstone hike - complete with the traditional splash in the River Darent! The Cubs explored hydrogen science (complete with mini explosions), learned first aid, and tested their outdoor skills with fire lighting and pioneering. We proudly joined the St George's Day Parade, representing Stanhope with enthusiasm and pride.

Summer brought more adventure - from pond dipping and fitness challenges to trying new sports like pétanque and, of course, Cub Camp in July. Camp is always a highlight: tents, teamwork, toasted marshmallows and lots of laughter. The Cubs also loved running our Treasure Island-themed stall at the Riverhead Carnival – pirates, prizes and plenty of fun for the community.

Our autumn programme was just as varied, mixing practical skills with creativity and service. We tackled backwoods cooking, home safety, emergency aid, and learned about Braille and disabilities awareness. The Cubs explored astronomy and space, supported a Food Bank Challenge, and took part in Remembrance Night. We rounded off the year with our Christmas Party and Awards Evening, celebrating the Cubs' many achievements - and their unstoppable enthusiasm.



Leaders and Thank-You's

This year marked an important transition for our leadership team. We said a very heartfelt goodbye to Roger Perkins (Baloo), who stepped down after an incredible 15 years of service to Stanhope Cubs. Baloo has been at the heart of our pack - guiding, encouraging and inspiring generations of Cubs (and leaders too). His calm leadership, good humour and endless patience have left a lasting mark. We miss him greatly and owe him our warmest thanks for everything he's done.

We also waved off Elliott Milton, who headed to university this year. We wish him all the best for his studies and hope he'll drop by when he's back home.

It's also been a joy to see Emma Gaffney (Rikki-Tikki-Tavi) and Simon Johnson (Kaa) officially invested as Cub leaders - both have been invaluable to the team and are now fully part of the Pack family. And we're delighted to welcome Stephen Farrow (Bagheera) to the leadership team - already bringing energy, ideas and enthusiasm to our sessions.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all our leaders, young leaders and parent helpers who give up their time each week to make these activities possible. The Cubs' smiles say it all.

Looking Ahead – and How You Can Get Involved

As we look ahead to another exciting year, we'd love to see more parents and adults get involved in Cubs. Whether you can help once a term, assist at camp, or consider becoming a leader, there's a place for you. Volunteering with Scouts is flexible, rewarding and fun - you'll learn new skills, make friends, and help young people grow in confidence and independence.

If you'd like to know more, have a chat with any of the leaders or visit the Scouts UK website for inspiration. We promise - you'll enjoy it just as much as the Cubs do!

The Stanhope Cubs Team

Bradbourne Scout Troop



2024/2025 has been another fantastic and busy year for Bradbourne Troop, with the troop continuing to operate at full capacity. Many badges and awards have been presented, including six Chief Scout Gold Awards, which are the highest awards that can be earned during Scout years.

Summer Camp 2024 took place at a new site near Eastbourne, on a farm offering Greenfield Camping. All we are provided with is a fresh water tap, and we bring everything else ourselves. The site was a very open field with little shade, as the nearby woods form part of a shooting range (which we were able to visit when in use). The weather was fantastic all week, and we felt the long, sunny days. Activities included various hikes, cycling around Friston Forest, stand-up paddleboarding and canoeing on the Cuckmere, a day visit to Drusillas Zoo, a cooking competition, and our traditional Mystery Day, themed around travelling across Europe. We were joined once again by Balham and Tooting Scouts.



During Thursday nights in autumn 2024, we enjoyed a wide variety of activities — visiting the local food bank to assist with food parcels, disability awareness sessions, promoting Scouting, various local challenges, food-themed evenings, a trip to Bluewater Ice Rink, and our traditional Christmas Party. Autumn Camp 2024 featured another Expedition Challenge around the Tunbridge Wells area, which is one of the requirements for achieving the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

Winter 2025 began with a Troop Forum in a Dragons' Den style, where patrols suggested activities they would like to lead during the term. Our Young Leaders selected the best ideas from each patrol, which included a Science Evening, Chip Shop Hike, Indoor Olympics, Bake Off, Wide Games, and an Escape Room. Other activities included skill-based sessions such as cooking, camp gadget construction, a night hike, and building app-controlled remote cars.

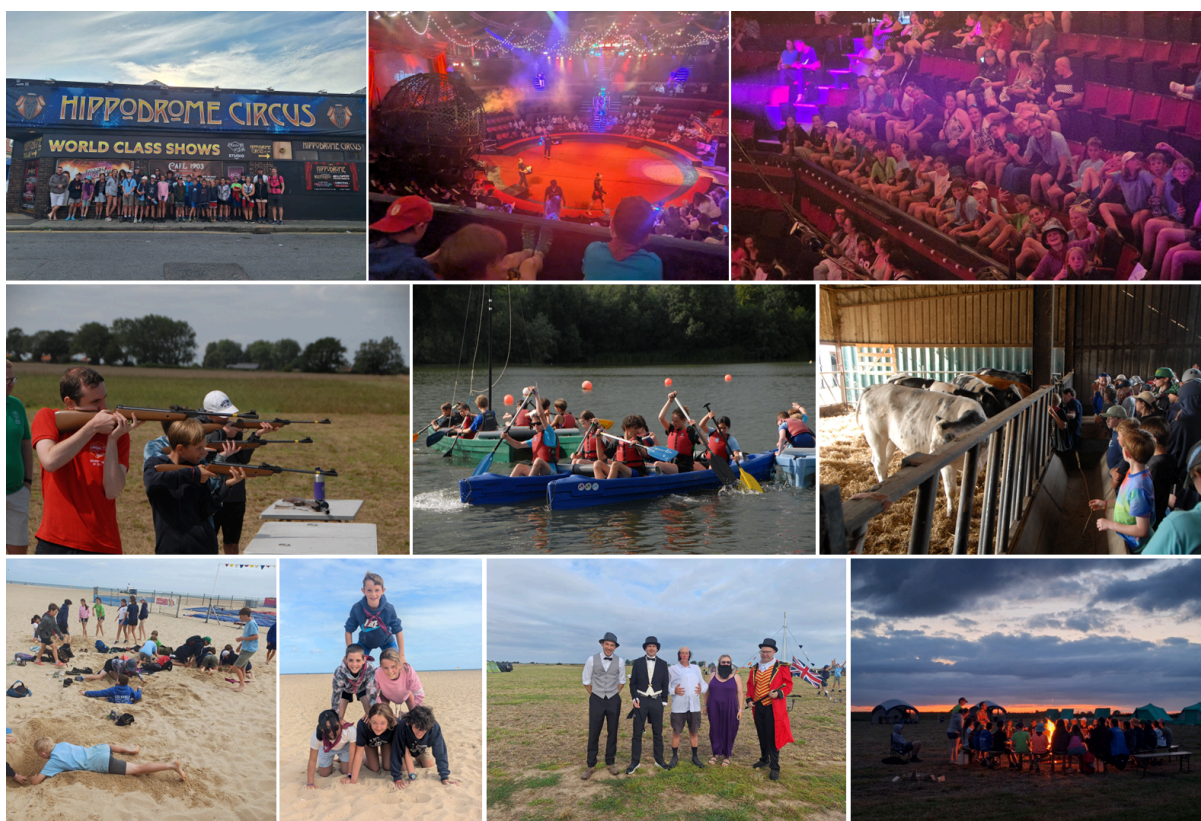
We had an excellent turnout for our annual St George's Day Parade with the district. We also held our Summer Camp and Best Attendance Prize Day at Lower Grange Farm, featuring tomahawk throwing, quad biking, and body zorbing — where the Scouts tried (and failed!) to knock down Dean, one of our leaders. The troop also took part in the district Plender Hike, which involved various incident bases around the district, before camping together with the rest of the district at the 4th Sevenoaks HQ.



As the warmer weather arrived, activities moved back outdoors. Scouts focused on camping skills such as fire building, cooking on open fires, tent pitching, and general outdoor activities. We also visited the new Aqua Chimp course in Yalding. Over the May Bank Holiday, we ran a Weekend Camp used as a learning experience in preparation for our longer summer camp with plenty of fun activities included. This saw record numbers, with 42 out of 48 Scouts attending. At the end of the summer term, we saw some leadership changes as we welcomed Dave to the team, and prepared to say goodbye to Stuart, who moved away from Sevenoaks following Summer Camp 2025.



Summer Camp 2025 was held at another new site, this time just outside Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, again on a farm for Greenfield Camping. The farm owners were extremely welcoming, even showing us around the working farm and petting enclosure. Activities for the week included a hike, team-building activities, katanuig, a day trip to Great Yarmouth, crazy golf, a cooking competition, and our traditional Mystery Day, themed around The Greatest Showman. This included an evening visit to the last remaining permanent circus in Great Yarmouth. Once again, we were joined by Balham and Tooting Scouts.



This term began with a mixture of away activities, including an evening at Clip 'n Climb and a hike around Chevening. Skills-based evenings featured fire building, a space-themed night, and creative sessions on Diwali and Halloween. We also completed the Kent Scouts Global Issues badge, focusing on the charity ShelterBox, and our Scouts raised over £800 through their own fundraising efforts. Our Autumn Camp, held at HQ in October, had a Survival theme. Scouts could choose to sleep in a self-built shelter in the woods, learn how to gut and cook a rabbit (sourced from a wild meat company), filter water, and make snares. On 21st September, Dean and Katie took the Summer Camp Winning Patrol back to Lower Grange Farm for archery and the Cave Bus.



Thanks go to all the leaders, young and older, for the hard work that goes into running the troop night programmes and the many additional activities outside troop nights, all in a voluntary capacity. We are currently looking for new leaders to join the fun on Thursday evenings, so if parents or anyone you know could support our ever-growing group, please speak to one of the 3rd Sevenoaks Leaders.

The Bradbourne Scouts Leader Team

Lambarde Scout Troop

This year has been one of remarkable growth and enthusiasm within our Troop. We have seen a very pleasing increase in numbers and are now close to capacity following a welcome influx of Amherst and Stanhope Cubs moving up. Our Troop is relatively young, but their energy, commitment, and developing capability have been inspiring. The opportunity to promote several Scouts to Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) roles has been rewarding. Each has risen to the challenge and is thriving.

We are also fortunate to have a full team of Young Leaders, whose consistent support on Friday evenings and during camps makes a huge difference to our programme.

Camps and Outdoor Adventures

Our two annual summer camps continue to be the highlights of our Scouting year. Last summer we headed to Youlbury, Oxfordshire, and this year to Broadstone Warren in the Ashdown Forest. These camps give us valuable time together, combining adventure centre activities with our own Scouting skills, including the much-loved 20km hike.

We are grateful to our regular and former leaders who help with transport, activities, and logistics, as well as to our Young Leaders who both support and learn through the experience.

In June, we ran a mid-summer camp designed to introduce newer Scouts to camping. Its success was clear, with many participants choosing to join the main summer camp later. It also marked a milestone for Lauren, who gained her Nights Away Permit during the event.

Fundraising and Community Impact

This year we surpassed previous fundraising records, raising an incredible £2,100 for the Porchlight Sleepover, representing almost 25% of the charity's total for that event. A representative from Porchlight will visit in November to thank the Scouts personally.

We also combined one of our favourite games, Beetle Drive, with fundraising to sponsor another Guide Dog, raising £120.

Awards and Achievements

A special mention goes to James Bretz, one of our Young Leaders, for earning his Diamond Scout Award. Our programme continues to support progress toward the Gold Scout Award, with four Scouts preparing for their expedition next year.

In addition, two Scouts and three Young Leaders have applied to attend the 2027 World Scout Jamboree. We have our fingers crossed for their success!

Programme Highlights

Our Friday meetings remain at the heart of what we do: fun, engaging, and award focused. Regular sessions have included fire lighting, cooking, pioneering projects, knot tying, and fitness challenges, including a memorable Zumba evening led by a Cub parent!

We celebrate cultural events too. Burns Night has become a firm favourite with traditional Ceilidh dancing and delicious neeps and tatties, while Scouts also learned how Ukrainians celebrate Christmas, complete with traditional food tastings.

Outdoors is where Lambarde Scouts thrive, from wide games in all seasons to a Treasure Hunt around Sevenoaks. During one of the lovely summer evenings this year was a boat race on the River

Darent in Eynsford, which after the race turned into an impromptu paddle and splash session and many a welly got flooded! Another memorable evening was when the gamekeeper from St Clere's Estate visited to teach the Scouts about wildlife management and traditional countryside skills. The Scouts learned about stalking, hunting equipment, and had the opportunity to observe a rabbit skinning demonstration, gaining a deeper understanding of where food comes from and the need for wildlife control involved in rural practices. The Scouts were able to skin a rabbit themselves.

Problem-solving is a key part of our activities, with the popular "50 Challenges" evening and a new Escape Room challenge, ending in a dramatic finale to unlock a box of Celebrations. The competitive spirit was wonderful to see!

Community and Representation

Our Scouts continue to represent the 3rd Sevenoaks Scouts proudly at St George's Day Parade, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, and the Carnival, where our stocks and wet sponges remain a crowd-pleasing tradition!

We also enjoyed our annual panto trip, supporting one of our Young Leaders performing in *Jack & the Beanstalk* at the EM Forster Theatre in Tonbridge, a truly Giant performance.

This has been a year filled with adventure, teamwork, and growth. We are proud of our Scouts and grateful for the dedication of our Leaders, Young Leaders, and supportive parents. We will continue to offer opportunities that embody the very best of Scouting: friendship, challenge, and fun.

The Lambarde Scouts Leader Team