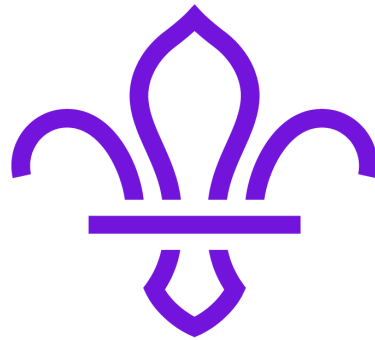




Scouts

3rd Sevenoaks

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT & REVIEW OF THE YEAR

3rd Sevenoaks (Riverhead & Dunton Green) Scouts

1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026

2:30pm, Sunday 12th July 2026

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:

2025-2026

Ex Officio Member:

- Tom McKeen (Group Lead Volunteer)

Elected Members:

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

All of the elected trustees were appointed or reappointed at the last AGM on 16 November 2025.

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.

2025/26 Review of the Financial Year

The group's net result for the financial year ending 31 March 2026 was a surplus of receipts over payments of £6,221 (2024/25: £7,010). The cash balance carried forward at 31 March 2026 totaled £38,133, an increase from the £31,912 held at the end of the previous year.

Membership Subscriptions, Collection and Payment Systems

Membership subscriptions increased significantly to £25,000 for the 2025/26 year, up from £17,011 in 2024/25. This growth reflects the full-year impact of the subscription rate increase to £150 per annum and the successful transition to the termly subscription model.

The new automated payment collection system via Online Scout Manager (OSM) and GoCardless has greatly improved the group's ability to track receipts and reduce overdue amounts.

Furthermore, the group rolled out prepaid expense cards (administered via OSM) for section expenses. This allowed the group to pre-fund leaders' expenses, rather than having to self-fund, creating a more efficient expense management process and increasing our operational resilience.

Scout Camps

The group manages camp finances on a break-even basis, with participant charges budgeted to cover costs. For the 2025/26 year, camp receipts totaled £18,888 against expenses of £14,828, resulting in a timing-related contribution to the surplus of £4,061. As of June 2026, the group held approximately £7.1k in prepayments from parents for the upcoming summer 2026 camp season, primarily for the Lambarde and Bradbourne summer camps.

Donations and Gift Aid

Gift Aid received during the year was £3,056 (2024/25: £3,246). However, the group's latest annual Gift Aid submission for 2025/26 totals £5,319, a substantial increase over the previous year. This uplift is primarily driven by the electronic collection of subscriptions via OSM, which has led to a 50% increase in the number of parents signing up for Gift Aid.

Donations and grants for the year totaled £459, a decrease from £1,774 in the prior year. The group is currently working to recover historical match-funding donations from employers.

Fundraising Activities

Fundraising continues to be a vital contributor to the group's financial health:

- Fireworks Display: The 2025 event was a major success, contributing a net profit of £9,627 (Receipts: £14,360; Payments: £4,733). This was down slightly from the £10,056 net contribution in 2024/25.
- Annual Carnival: The carnival provided a net contribution of £2,621 (Receipts: £5,244; Payments: £2,623). This was a decrease from the £5,691 net result in the prior year.

General Expenses and Site Maintenance

Repairs and maintenance costs rose to £7,655 (2024/25: £2,268) as the group prioritized essential site safety. A significant portion of this expenditure was dedicated to tree maintenance and cutting back vegetation to maintain the site (£4,194).

Equipment expenditure was lower at £650 (2024/25: £8,664), as the prior year included new equipment for the site, including new outdoor benches. Looking ahead to 2026/27, the group has already invested in new capital equipment, including a Jackery power station and essential tent repairs.

Looking forward, the group is reviewing spending priorities to make sure essential maintenance needs continue to be undertaken, whilst also allowing the group to further develop the site to offer additional activities.

Utility costs remained stable at £6,386 (split between Electricity/Gas and Water/Rubbish), and efforts are ongoing to secure VAT exemptions for gas and electricity.

Reserves policy

The group continues to hold a minimum reserve requirement of £15,000, equivalent to approximately six months of operating costs. This reserve is intended to protect against income shortfalls, unforecast repairs, or maintenance needs. As of July 2026, the group is in a robust position, operating approximately £18k over the minimum reserve requirement, even after accounting for committed spending such as camps and legal costs for the site lease renewal.

All group funds are held in risk-averse cash accounts with high-street tier 1 retail banks.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2025/26

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.

Group Lead Volunteers' Report

Of the 82 Scouts currently in our Scout Troops, 45 started their Scouting journey with us as Beavers, and have stayed with the Group all the way through Cubs and into Scouts. It's a number we're proud of, and one that says more about the 3rd Sevenoaks than almost anything else we could write here: this is a place young people want to stay.

It feels fitting, then, that Scouting nationally has just launched its new strategy for the next nine years, built around exactly that idea - a Place to Belong. 2026 gives us even more reason to celebrate it too, marking Scouting's Triple Birthday Year: 5 years of Squirrels, 40 years of Beavers, and 110 years of Cubs across the UK.

We remain one of the largest Groups in the District, with sections at full capacity and among the longest waiting lists around. That's a wonderful problem to have, but it only continues if we keep growing our volunteer teams alongside it.

Out and about

This was the year of MAG7, the District's quadrennial camp bringing every Group and section together across Sevenoaks. Almost 200 of our young people and adult volunteers took part, trying new activities, making friends, and coming home with lasting memories. Organising an event at that scale is no small feat, and our thanks go to everyone who made it happen, particularly Dean Brett, whose coordination of catering and transport kept our whole contingent fed and moving all weekend. Bring on MAG7 2030!

As always, the Group has been out in the local community too, from Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church to Remembrance Sunday at Dunton Green and a village litter pick in Riverhead. Looking further ahead, we're proud that three Scouts and two Young Leaders were among just seven selected across Sevenoaks to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027.

We're now well into summer camp season, so whether your young person has just come back or is counting down the days, we hope it's a highlight of the year for them, as it always is for us.

Our volunteers

We've welcomed a real wave of new team members into our section leadership teams, and it's been wonderful to see a reminder of how rewarding volunteering in Scouting can be. Thank you to our Section Team Leads in particular, who've taken on recruiting and onboarding new volunteers while keeping their existing teams supported.

Martin continues to be one of the quiet engines of this Group. Behind the scenes he looks after our buildings, badge and clothing orders, and, as ever, is found manning the BBQ at our fundraising events. He was presented with the Award for Merit in July, richly deserved recognition of his service to the Group.

The Group Leadership Team continues to manage the day-to-day running of the Group, and it's been especially good to see that collaboration paying off in how we manage the links between sections and our waiting lists.

Our grounds and equipment

Major tree works are now complete, keeping our woodland and grounds safe, and work parties through the year have reclaimed field edges from brambles and improved our environment area. We have more work parties planned over the coming year: clearing out the garage for equipment storage, keeping the grounds in shape, and moving forward on new projects. If you can spare a few hours, we'd love to have you along.

Our fleet of canvas tents was fully serviced ahead of MAG7, and we've improved our power provision for fundraising events and camps with new solar equipment, reducing our reliance on generators.

Fundraising

Jim continues to lead our Fundraising Team expertly, with Becky coordinating our partnerships with local businesses and carnival stalls, and a warm welcome to Jules, who joined the team this year. Between Carnival in September and two Fireworks displays in November, the team once again delivered brilliantly for the Group. We'd love to grow our reach for these events further, particularly online - if that's something you'd enjoy getting involved with, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you!

None of this happens without you... our leaders, volunteer teams, parents and supporters, who give up your time so generously to make Scouting possible for nearly 200 young people. Whether you've been with us one year or thirty, thank you! And if you're wondering whether there's a place for you to get more involved - there is. Please speak to any member of the leadership team about joining in.

Tom McKeen and Craig Williams, Group Lead Volunteers

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 crate stacking and climbing to grass-sledging, seed planting, and painting with nature. The Squirrels also got creative building bee houses, enjoyed a trip strawberry picking, and continued to build on their outdoor skills with den building. A real highlight of the year was the Squirrels attending MAG7 - their very first camp, and a brilliant milestone for the section.

We're delighted to welcome Isla Mooney back from maternity leave, bringing her wonderful enthusiasm and fresh ideas back to the Drey. We've also been fortunate to welcome many new volunteers to the team this year, whose energy and support have been invaluable in keeping the programme running smoothly. The Squirrels continue to meet alongside the Weaver Squirrel Drey at 4th Sevenoaks, under Jo's supervision, and we're grateful for her continued support in making this possible.

Beavers

Brookland and Broadmead Beaver Colonies

As with previous years we have used the same program for both colonies. This past year has seen both of our colonies running with 18 Beavers in each.

We started the Autumn term working towards level 1 of the musician's badge, we made our own Djemba drums and learnt about different drumming styles. We also worked towards the photographers and health and fitness badges.

After Christmas we worked towards the communicator, air activities, gardeners and hobbies badges. For the gardeners badge the beavers planted various wild flower seeds in one of the new flower beds by the outdoor flag area, the beavers then noted the growth of the flowers over a 6-week period.

This term we have been working towards the camp craft and navigator's badges. We had 17 Beavers attend Mag 7, it was amazing to see their smiling faces when they tried a new adventurous activity and realised that they could do it, especially when it came to the 6m abseil.

This weekend we are joining Stanhope Cubs for camp. We have an amazing 27 out of 36 Beavers attending. I'm sure that the reason that we have such a high attendance is due to those that went to Mag 7, telling their friends and lodge mates how much fun camp is.

We try to complete at least 1 activity badge and work on aspects of the challenge badges each half term. Since September we have Awarded 6 Chief Scouts Bronze awards and over 400 activity and challenge badges.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and effort of our Volunteers. We said sad goodbyes to Karla, Jenny and Anna this year who have moved on with their Beavers to Cubs. We

have welcomed Angie and Rebecca to the team; both of them have great enthusiasm and have fitted in with our existing team of Mark, Trisha, Kelly, Eli and Helena.

Jamie on behalf of the Beaver Volunteer Team

Cubs

Amherst Cub Pack

It has been another action-packed, fast-paced, and occasionally very damp year for the Cub Pack. Two new volunteers, Tim Becker and Jen D'Souza, joined the Amherst Cubs leadership team taking us to nine adult volunteers. The section remains busy and full, with Cub numbers fluctuating between 35 and 41. We have been able to take 6 young people from the Cubs waiting list as well as 4 moving up from Beavers since the last AGM report, and the vast majority of our departing Cubs have stayed in Scouting and gone on to join either Bradbourne or Lambarde Scouts.

Many of our volunteers helped out at this year's successful fundraising events – the carnival in September 2025 and the fireworks in November 2025 – and the pack engaged in community events including the Harvest festival at St Mary's Church (Riverhead) in September, the Remembrance Day service at Dunton Green in November and the Riverhead litter pick last week.

The end of the Autumn term in 2025:

The Cubs make puppets and then put on a stellar puppet nativity show for the residents at Rockdale. The Christmas theme continued with Christmas crafts making decorations for the Cubs' Christmas tree at Christmas tree festival, after that the term finished with the Cubs cooking a Christmas meal.

The Spring term meetings included:

Burns Night: We celebrated Scotland's finest traditions by introducing the Pack to haggis. To balance out the health benefits, we paired it with legendary deep-fried Mars bars. Hobbies: We hosted a fascinating Show and Tell night for the Hobbies Badge.

Space: The Pack successfully completed their Space Badge

Pancakes: They were genuinely delicious.

Taskmaster: The Cubs faced a series of bizarre and hilarious challenges during our Taskmaster evenings, testing their teamwork and lateral thinking.

Akela's "Surprise": A special mention goes to the week designated for "Akela's Surprise" - which turned out to be a complete surprise to Akela as well! The improvised chaos was a roaring success.

Clip 'n Climb: An adrenaline-fueled, overnight Clip 'n Climb event that kept everyone bouncing off the walls—literally.

Potatoes: The Cubs planted potatoes which, if they survive the summer, then the Cubs will enjoy them cooked on a fire in September.

Otford hike: A night hike with hot chocolate.

Eggineering : The Cubs designed egg protectors of impact-packaging for raw eggs before dropping them from the dizzying heights of Billy Bob Jim, our favourite tall oak tree in the Scout Hut Grounds.

The Summer term meetings included:

St. George's and Campfire: The Pack channelled their inner Shakespeare with a brilliant drama session to celebrate England's patron saint.

MAG7: We had a fantastic turnout for the district camp. The Cubs did our group proud, enjoying every activity on offer.

Song contest: The Cubs in their sixes put-on full-on performances of their favourite songs.

Backwoods cooking: The Cubs built their own fires to cook chocolate bananas.

Olympics: The Cubs worked on their fitness with a number of athletic activities.

Map work for the summer hike. The Cubs worked on their grid references and route planning for the summer hike around Enysford hike. The Enysford hike was fast passed the Cubs enjoyed playing in the river at the ford at the end of the meeting.

Dens: The Cubs made dens which were tested to see how waterproof the dens were inevitably leading to a number of very damp Cubs.

Amherst Cub camp: We had another successful Amherst Camp which was the “Nights Away” permit validation camp of Anna. The camp included axe throwing (thanks to Mike Smith, from 17th Sevenoaks Scout Group); frozen yogurt “timamisu” (thanks Tim!); backwoods cooking; and lots more. We were lucky to have Adrian, a former Amherst Cubs leader, as the camp cook.

Here's to another year of adventure!

A Huge Thank You:

As always, none of this chaos and character-building would be possible without the help of our incredible Scout group and Scout District; our young leaders (Dan, Luke, Imogen and Helenka) and our supportive parents.

Finally, as always, we would like to thank the brilliant, funny, and energetic Cubs themselves for making it all worthwhile.

Adam, Anna, Craig, Jen, Richard, Stevo, Tim, Tom, and Trevor (the nine Akelas) - 08/07/2029

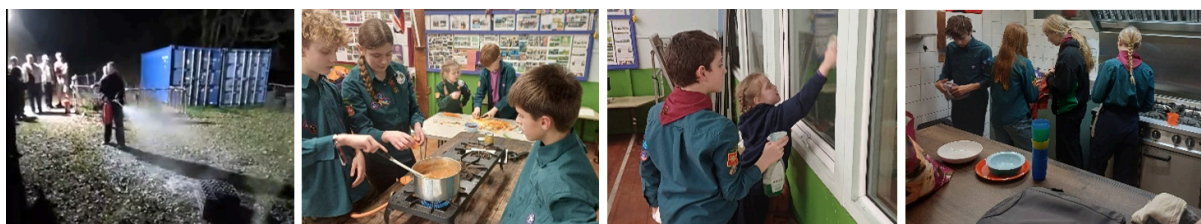
Bradbourne Scout Troop

As it's only been 7 months since our last AGM, this report will be shorter than usual, but that doesn't mean we have had less of a programme. To end the 2025 term we had our traditional end-of-year trip to Bluewater ice rink and our Christmas party with karaoke.

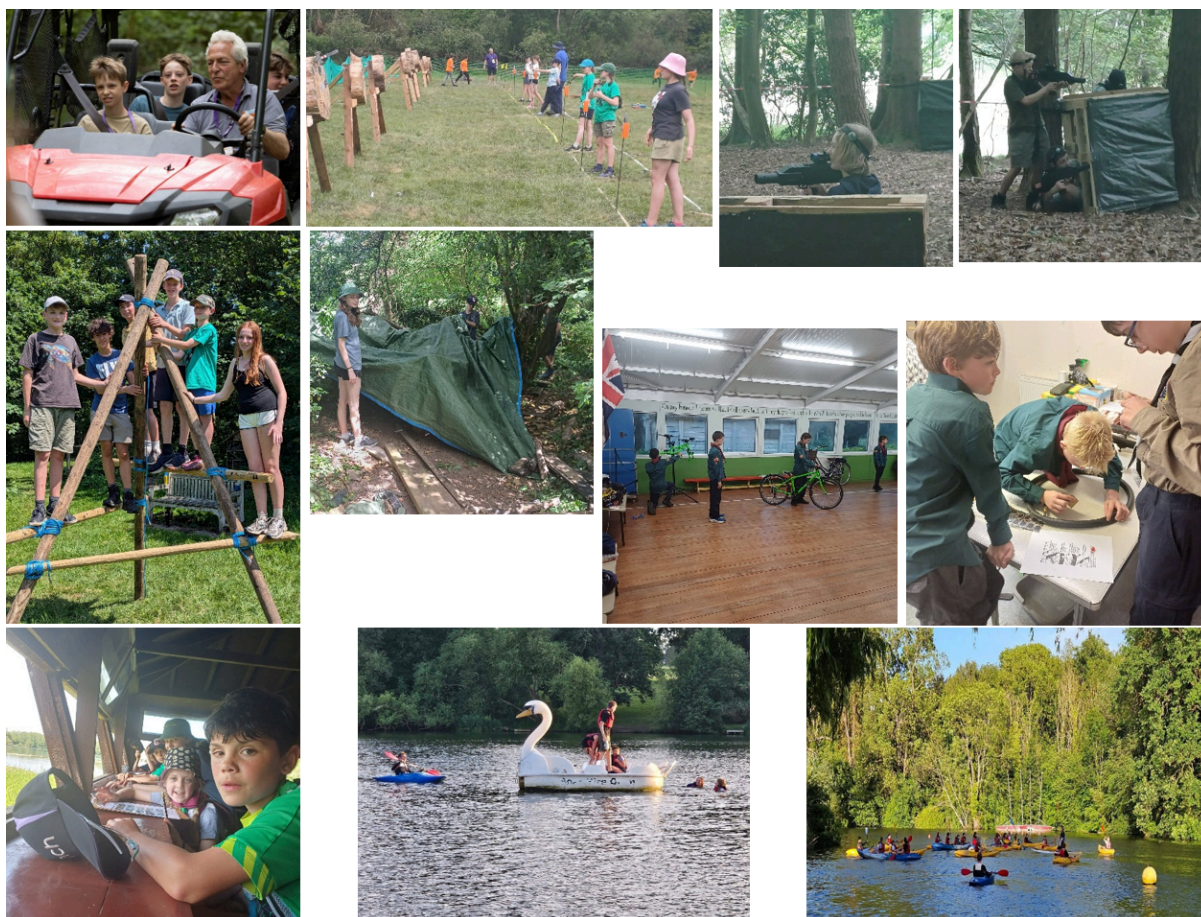


With the cold January evenings, we started the term with our troop forum where the Scouts get to suggest activities they would like to do, and cooking is definitely always on the list, so we spiced things up this year with a Ready Steady Cook international evening, with food being cooked from the Caribbean, Italy, Asia, China, Spain and France. Our aim for 2026 was also to have at least one week offsite per month during winter, so we have held a scavenger hunt in Riverhead, attended Larkfield Leisure Centre, and visited Sevenoaks Fire Station. We have also completed some badges, including Fire Safety and Skills badges, which included cleaning the scout hut windows, sewing, washing up,

and personal challenges to improve on. A new one for us was also the Cycle badge, covering how to maintain a bike and route planning using cycle paths.



As we start to move into lighter evenings, we can begin to use the outside more. Outside activities include sedan chair making, geocaching, and camp-related skills like putting up shelters, cooking on open fire. We have also been lucky with the weather for two camps: Mag7, with the district taking 36 from Bradbourne, and a second camp in May in the style of back-to-basics camping, with cooking a meal on a fire, pioneering to stand the patrol on, den building, and a hike round Sevenoaks Wildlife Centre, to name a few - all completed at the hut on a very hot weekend with 20 Scouts. Our June outing away from the hut was at Mote Park Watersports for kayaking and swan boating.



As we write this report, we are just three weeks away from 57 Scouts and leaders attending our summer camp jointly with Balham and Tooting Scouts at Corfe Castle, Dorset.

Thanks go to all the leaders, young and older, for all the very hard work that goes into running the Troop night programme and the many activities outside of Troop, all in a volunteering capacity. We

are looking for extra leaders to join us on Thursday evenings, so if parents or anyone you know could support the ever-growing group, please speak to any of the 3rd Leaders.

The Bradbourne Scouts Leader Team

Lambarde Scout Troop

Troop Overview

This year has been one of continued growth, enthusiasm, and maturity within Lambarde Troop. We are now close to capacity, but we will always aim to accommodate our Amherst and Stanhope Cubs as they move up. Their energy, confidence, and Cub honed skills enrich the Troop every year.

From a relatively young base last year, we now have a wider age range, with many Scouts stepping naturally into their Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) roles. We have added several additional APL positions to ensure as many Scouts as possible gain experience in supporting and managing their patrol, something they have embraced with real pride.

We continue to benefit from a full team of Young Leaders, whose consistent support on Friday evenings and at camps enables us to run a wide and ambitious programme, including off site activities where a YL supports each patrol.

Camps and Outdoor Adventures

Our annual summer camp remains the highlight of the Scouting year. Last summer we enjoyed a fantastic week at Broadstone Warren in the Ashdown Forest. This August we will be taking 22 Scouts and 4 Young Leaders to Hautbois in Norfolk for a water based camp featuring canoeing, kayaking, raft and bridge building, and stand up paddleboarding.

These camps give us consolidated, valuable time together, combining adventurous activities with core Scouting skills such as First Aid, Knots, and Navigation. For some of our younger Scouts, camp also includes their first long hike of around 20km, which they tackle with determination and finish with huge pride.

We could not run these camps without the commitment of our current leaders and former leaders, who continue to help with transport, logistics, and activity support. Our Young Leaders also get the chance to enjoy the full programme while supporting the leadership team.

We did not run our usual mid summer camp this year because almost the entire Troop attended the Mag7 District Camp. Only two were unable to attend, one of whom was away on a World Scout Jamboree subcamp. The Scouts had a fantastic time and threw themselves into all the activities, especially the climbing and, of course, the air rifles (a nod to John!). We were particularly impressed with how readily they helped dismantle and clear up activities at the end of camp, including some surprisingly complex maths on the number of pellets fired.

Fundraising and Community Impact

After last year's record breaking £2,100 raised for the Porchlight Sleepover, excitement is already building to see whether we can beat that total in October. The event gives Scouts the chance to creatively design cardboard structures that retain a modicum of heat, while also learning about the realities of homelessness. Porchlight representatives have spoken directly to the Troop about how vital these funds are.

We continue to sponsor another Guide Dog, and this year welcomed Maggie, a local Sevenoaks Guide Dog trainer, who spoke to the Scouts about the first stage of puppy training. She brought along Nyle, a beautifully behaved Alsatian who won the hearts of Scouts and leaders alike, many would happily have taken him home.

Achievements

Special mention goes to James Read and Luke Harris, who were selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027. The selection process was rigorous, and both performed exceptionally well. We are incredibly proud of them. They are now busily fundraising, so please support them if you can.

Programme Highlights

Our Friday meetings remain at the heart of what we do, and we continue to offer opportunities that embody the very best of Scouting: friendship, challenge, and fun.

Regular sessions this year have included:

- Fire lighting in the woods
- Campfire cooking
- Trebuchet pioneering projects
- Building camp gadgets such as sink stands
- Navigation skills in preparation for camp
- Knot tying games to build confidence for bigger pioneering projects

We also celebrate cultural events. Burns Night remains a firm favourite, with traditional Ceilidh dancing and delicious neeps and tatties. This year, with support from one of our Scout parents, we celebrated Chinese New Year by learning about the 5,000 year old lunar calendar, making traditional lantern decorations for the hut windows (still bringing us luck!), and trying traditional foods, lychees were definitely Marmite.

Outdoors is where our Scouts love to be after a week of school. Wide games, treasure hunts, and scavenger hunts around Sevenoaks continue to be hugely popular and have noticeably improved their navigation skills. By popular demand, we introduced our first Chip Shop Hike, which unsurprisingly went down very well, who doesn't enjoy a chip or two?

We held a Scout Forum last term to gather input on the programme. One of the top requests was Aqua Chimp, and we could not have planned it better: the water was 26°C and the weather was warm. The Scouts loved the challenges, the jumps, and the general chaos in the water. This may well become a regular feature.

Community and Representation

Our Scouts continue to represent 3rd Sevenoaks proudly at: Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Sevenoaks Carnival where our stocks and wet sponges remain a crowd pleasing tradition.

We will also be helping with new activities at this year's Carnival, look out for us on 13th September.

We had an excellent turnout of Scouts and parents for the recent Parish Council Litter Pick. The Scouts were amazed at the amount and variety of litter found along main roads, Riverhead Parkland, and adjacent paths. It was a sociable, feel good activity that reinforced the importance of not littering.

Closing Reflection

This has been another year filled with adventure, teamwork, leadership development, and community spirit. We are proud of every one of our Scouts and deeply grateful for the dedication of our Leaders, Young Leaders, and supportive parents who make our programme possible.

The Lambarde Scouts Leader Team