



MEDWAY TOWNS SCOUT DISTRICT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 6th October 2026

Glassbox Theatre

BY KIND PERMISSION OF MID KENT COLLEGE

- Agenda for Annual General Meeting
- Trustees Report, incl. Accounts and Financial Report
- Appendix A – Reports Etc.

AGENDA

1. **Introductions and welcome**

Welcome to this year's District AGM by Cllr David Brake Medway Towns District Scouts Vice President Introducing Major Tony Hoggart **RE** to chair the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Governance topics**

- a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 06/10/2025
- b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
- c. Note the District's financial year
- d. Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
- e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
- f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

4. **Review of the previous year**

- a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Medway Towns Scout District
- b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts

5. **Making appointments**

- a. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
- b. Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
- c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
- d. (Re-)appoint District President and/or Vice Presidents
- e. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor
- f. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council

6. **Closing remarks**

7. **Presentations**

- a. Invite Mayor of Medway, Cllr. Douglas Hamandishe, to address the meeting.
- b. Invite County Chair Des Harris, to address the meeting.
- c. DLV Update and awards

Medway Towns District Scout Council

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Oct 06, 2025

Location: The Glass Box Theatre, Mid Kent College

Chair: Cllr David Brake (District Vice President)

Executive Summary & Meeting Overview

Role / Category	Details
Meeting Officers	Chair: Cllr David Brake (District Vice President) District Lead Volunteer (DLV): John Brisley District Chair: Marc Harris Finance Subcommittee Lead: Graham Hancock
Distinguished Guests	Cllr Alex Paterson: Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement (Medway Council) Des Harris: County Chair (Kent Scouts) David Norris: County Programme Team Lead (Kent Scouts)
Apologies for Absence	Brigadier Webster, Lieutenant Colonel John Newton, Alice Canty, Clive Harris, Sandra Cooper, Simon Penteny

1. Introductions and Welcome

- **Opening Remarks:** Councillor David Brake welcomed all members and distinguished guests to the Medway Towns District Scout Council Annual General Meeting at the Glass Box Theatre.
- **Acknowledgments:** Formal thanks were extended to Mid Kent College for providing the venue and facilities. Guests Councillor Alex Paterson, Des Harris, and David Norris were formally introduced.
- **Chair Appointment:** Cllr David Brake accepted the invitation to chair the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Formal apologies were recorded for Brigadier Webster (called away on duty), Lieutenant Colonel John Newton (on maneuvers in Brecon), Alice Canty, Clive Harris, Sandra Cooper, and Simon Penteny.
- Additional apologies received from group and organizational representatives across Medway were noted for inclusion in the official register.

3. Governance Topics

3a. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes (Oct 01, 2024)

- The District Trustee Board reviewed the minutes of the AGM held on Oct 01, 2024, and proposed their adoption as a true and accurate record.
- **Proposer:** District Trustee Board
- **Seconder:** Mark Harris
- **Outcome:** Approved unanimously by a show of hands.

3b. Adoption of Model Constitution

- The District Trustee Board proposed adopting the updated Model Constitution from Chapter 5 of the Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR).
- **Proposer:** Outgoing District Trustee Board
- **Seconder:** Graeme Pryke
- **Outcome:** Approved unanimously by a show of hands.

3c. District Financial Year

- The District Scout Council formally noted that the charity's financial year runs from April 1 to March 31.

3d. Appointed and Community Members of District Scout Council

- The Chair noted the Council's power to admit additional members. No further nominations were submitted for Council membership at this time.

3e. Number of Appointed Members to District Trustee Board

- In alignment with POR and Charity Governance Code guidelines (requiring between 5 and 12 trustees), the outgoing Trustee Board recommended fixing the number of appointed trustees at 12.
- **Proposer:** Outgoing District Trustee Board
- **Second:** John Brisley
- **Outcome:** Approved unanimously by a show of hands.

3f. Quorum for Future District Scout Council Meetings

- The outgoing Trustee Board proposed that the quorum for future District Scout Council meetings (excluding the AGM) be set at **twice the number of trustees plus one**.
- **Proposer:** Outgoing District Trustee Board
- **Second:** Sverre Sverresonn
- **Outcome:** Approved unanimously by a show of hands.

4. Review of the Previous Year

4a. District Lead Volunteer's Report (John Brisley)

- **Growth Metrics:** Overall youth membership surpassed 1,700 young people for the first time in decades. 8 groups exceed 100 members, 14 exceed 75 members, and 19 of the 21 groups now operate Squirrel Drays (totaling 174 Squirrels). Total sections across the district approach 100.
- **Activities & 14–24 Provision:** Highlights included the Teddy Bears Picnic, Golden Box Challenge, Arrowhead, and Cub Taskmaster. Young Leader training, Duke of Edinburgh (DofE), Top Awards, Explorer, and Network sections continue strong progress.
- **Buckmore Park:** Site usage remains high due to the dedicated volunteer crew. Ongoing updates continue via the Buckmore blog.
- **Digital Systems:** Acknowledged challenges transitioning to the new national membership database introduced in November, with continuous improvements ongoing.
- **Tribute:** Special appreciation was expressed to outgoing District Commissioner David Knight ("DC Dave") for his 7 years of leadership and legacy.

4b. Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

- **Financial Overview (Graham Hancock, Finance Subcommittee):**
 - Accounts are prepared on a receipts-and-payments basis.
 - Total membership subscriptions totaled £105,000 across HQ, County, and District. Subscriptions were remitted to County prior to March 31 to secure the prompt-payment rebate, which was subsequently distributed back to groups in September.
 - An overseas expedition to Kandersteg (Switzerland) is planned for over 50 participants, with £13,000 currently collected via bi-monthly payments.
 - The biannual District Camp in April 2024 generated approximately £2,000 in refreshment/tuck sales against total camp expenditure of roughly £8,000.
 - Asset Disposal: A minibus belonging to the closed 21st Strood group was sold for £2,200 due to repair costs and missing passenger seatbelts.
 - Reserves Strategy: Funds were placed into 95-day fixed deposit accounts at 2.8% and 2.7% interest rates, yielding initial returns of £1,300 in August to subsidize operational costs.
 - **District Chairman's Report (Mark Harris):**
 - Highlighted youth growth (+135 youth members added prior to April).
 - Emphasized governance support for group trustee boards, announcing upcoming training sessions at Buckmore Park aimed at easing administrative burdens on leaders.
 - Commended the Youth Leadership Team for embedding youth-shaped scouting and praised the newly formed Volunteer Development Team.
 - **Formal Receipt:** The District Scout Council formally received and considered the Trustee Annual Report and Statement of Accounts as examined by Helen Shepherd.
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5. Appointments

Agenda Item	Appointee(s)	Term / Role	Proposer / Second	Voting Result
5a. District Chair	Mark Harris	3 Years	Recommended by Open Selection	Approved Unanimously
5b. District Treasurer	Alice Canty	1 Year	Recommended by Open Selection	Approved Unanimously
5c. District Trustees	Robbie Riddell, Graeme Pryke, Kara Cooper, David Knight, Graham Hancock, Paul Randall, Sverre Sverresonn	1 Year	Recommended by Open Selection	Approved Unanimously
5d. District President & Vice President	President: Commandant of RSME (ex officio) Vice President: Cllr David Brake	Annual Renewal	Proposed: Mark Harris	Approved Unanimously
5e. Independent Examiner	Helen Shepherd	Annual Auditor	Proposed: Graham Hancock Seconded: John Brisley	Approved Unanimously
5f. County Council Reps	David Knight, Graeme Pryke	District Reps (2 seats)	Proposed: Sverre Sverresonn Seconded: John Brisley	Approved Unanimously

- **Trustee Retirements:** Formal thanks were recorded for retiring trustees Sarah Edmonds-Magee, Ed Brackley, and Henry Brackley for their dedicated service.

6. Closing Remarks & Presentations

Guest Address: Councillor Alex Paterson

- Shared his 40-year personal journey in Scouting (starting as a Cub and Sea Scout in Glasgow).
- Praised adult volunteers for their selfless public service and highlighted Medway Council's *Child Friendly Medway* initiative.
- Commended local Scouting for delivering practical patriotism, community cohesion, and essential life skills.

Guest Address & Presentation: Des Harris (County Chair, Kent Scouts)

- Thanked all leaders and helpers on behalf of Medway parents and youth members.
- Distributed appreciation pin badges to attendees.
- **Special Presentation:** Formally announced and presented the **Kent Scouts Trustee of the Year Award 2025** to District Chair **Mark Harris**.

7. District Updates & Awards

In Memoriam

A period of reflection was held to honor the memory of members who passed away during the year:

- Ken Law
- Dave Tucker
- Jim Clark
- Kathleen Whitehead
- Warren Medhurst

Key Operations & Updates (John Brisley)

- **26th World Scout Jamboree (Poland 2027):** Joint selection weekend hosted 90 young people (47 from Medway); 10 Medway Scouts were selected for the county contingent.
- **Personnel & Team Changes:**
 - District Lead Volunteer recruitment remains ongoing with County leads.
 - District Youth Lead Elliot is stepping down due to relocation to Basingstoke; recruitment for a replacement is underway.
- **Upcoming Events:** District Camp scheduled for April 2026, targeting participation from all 21 groups.

Awards & Recognition

County Growth & Development Awards

- **Growth in Young People / Adults:** 1st Medway, 2nd Cliff, 4th/5th/6th Medway, 10th Medway Sea Scouts, 11th Medway, 21st Medway, 24th Medway, 25th Medway, 28th Medway, 41st Medway, 44th Medway, 50th Medway.
- **Grow by 50 – Bronze Award:** 6th Medway, 10th Medway, 41st Medway, 50th Medway Towns.
- **Grow by 50 – Gold Award & County Growth Award:** 7th Medway Towns (All Hallows).

Adult Service & Good Service Awards

- **Wood Badges:** Matthew Jenkins, Natasha Madell.
- **10-Year Service Award:** Graham Jury, Cara Cooper.
- **20-Year Service Award:** Dan Martin.
- **25-Year Service Award:** Michelle Kagan.
- **40-Year Service Award:** David Payne.
- **Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service:** Samantha Bayliss.
- **Special Retirement Presentations:**
 - Engraved Tankard awarded to **Derek King** on his retirement from Scouting.
 - Engraved Glass presented to outgoing DC **David Knight** ("DC Dave") in recognition of his service.

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period:

From	1 April 2025	To	31 March 2026
	(period start date)		(period end date)

Charity Name	Medway Towns District Scout Council
Charity Registration Number (if registered - leave blank if excepted charity)	303434
HQ Registration Number	10001203

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purpose and objects of the charity as set out in its governing document	The objectives of the charity are as a part of The Scout Association. 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 co-operate 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
Summary of the main activities in relation to the purpose and objects	During 2025/26 Medway Towns District Scout Council supported 116 sections and over 1,700 young people across the District, delivering the aims of Scouting through the work of Groups, District programme teams and volunteers.

	The District Trustee Board oversees this work through its Governance Sub Committee, Finance Sub Committee and Appointments Advisory Committee, and is supported day-to-day by the District Leadership Team. Activities during the year included District international trips, the District St George's Camp, youth section activities, and the ongoing operation and development of the District's campsite, Buckmore Park, by its Holding Trustees (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The District remains committed to supporting local events across Medway and ensuring formal representation at Remembrance Sunday and other official ceremonial and civic events. The Trustee Board is grateful to Janine Parry and Phil for delivering in-house District first aid training to leaders and volunteers during the year.
Statement confirming the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The Trustees confirm that the charity meets the Charity Commission's Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.
You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: • Policy on grant making	

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year identifying the difference and impact the charity's work has made, including on sustainability	Medway Towns continued to grow during the year, with 116 sections and over 1,700 young people now scouting in the District - the largest District in Kent. To support this growth, three additional District Lead Volunteers (Bev Pryke, Graham Durey and Graeme Pryke) were appointed alongside long-standing DLV John Brisley. The District St George's Camp welcomed approximately 1,200 members from 17 Groups across Medway Towns. The Appointments Advisory Committee maintained one of the best training and appointment compliance records in the County, recognised at the County Chairs'/DLVs' day. Buckmore Park welcomed thousands of children and young people during the year, thanks to the small dedicated team who keep the site running. The District's Digital team continued to keep members informed through the District newsletter, 'Scouting About', and the Youth Leadership team worked to ensure programme delivery remained youth-shaped.
You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: • Achievements against objectives	The District's achievements this year reflect the contribution of a large number of volunteers, including the Governance Sub Committee (chaired by Sverre Sverresonn, who also leads the Volunteer Development team), the Finance Sub Committee (Graham Hancock, Alice Canty and John Brisley), and the many

• <i>Fundraising activities</i> • <i>Contribution made by volunteers</i>	leaders, supporters and event teams who ran District activities and residential events during the year.
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Financial review

Review of the financial position	At 31 March 2026 the District's total net assets were £616,104.49 (31 March 2025: £571,029.55), an increase reflecting a net surplus for the year of £50,174.01 on receipts of £89,844.95 and payments of £39,670.94 (2024/25: net deficit of £2,346). Total cash funds held at the year end were £206,783.49 (2025: £156,609), comprising Unrestricted funds of £133,841.49, Medway Support team funds of £11,413, Restricted and Designated funds for overseas trips of £58,961, and funds held by the Buckmore Park Holding Trustees of £2,568. Other monetary assets totalled £1,920 (debts due from the District/Groups). Non-monetary assets totalled £407,401, comprising badge and scouting equipment stock of £8,021 held by the District and Buckmore Park land, buildings and equipment of £399,380 held by the Holding Trustees. The District had no liabilities at the year end.
Policy on Reserves, why they are held, and the amount of reserves	The policy on reserves is to hold sufficient unrestricted resources to continue the charitable activities of the charity should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustee Board considers that the charity should hold a sum for running costs, circa £28,000 - confirmed by the Trustee Board. At the year end the charity held unrestricted funds of £133,841.49 and Medway Support team funds of £11,413, against this policy. The charity also holds funds designated and restricted for overseas trips (£58,961 at year end) and funds held by the Buckmore Park Holding Trustees (£401,948 at year end, comprising land, buildings, equipment and cash relating to the campsite).
Policy on Investments and investment performance	The Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the charity obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. During the year the District made use of higher interest rate savings accounts, in addition to its Lloyds current account, to maximise efficiency and reduce individual financial burdens on section and event leads. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn; before doing so the Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.
A description of the principal risks	[The Trustee Board maintains a risk register covering safeguarding, financial management, property and equipment (including Buckmore Park), and volunteer recruitment and retention - to be completed with the current principal risks and mitigations.]

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The charity'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 (POR) of The Scout Association.
How the charity is constituted	The charity is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees	All Trustees complete The Scout Association trustee and mandatory learning within the first six months of joining the Trustee Board, they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning periodically as required.
Additional governance arrangements	The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees". 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 Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and listed Trustees (including Ex-Officio Trustees, and co-opted Trustees) and meets 6 times a year. The Trustee Board is supported by a Board Administrator. The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programs that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintain appropriate governance policies and oversight. The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly. The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules. This includes responsibility for: • Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development; • Developing, maintaining and regularly a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations; • Ensuring that the finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting;

	• Ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss; • Ensuring that property is appropriately managed; • Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment; • Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; • Having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees; • Appointing Advisors as required; • Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board; • Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding; • Ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy; • Ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate; • Ensuring transparency of operations, including in the preparation of accounts and holding and AGM; • Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation; • Acting as a responsible employer for any employees, who are effectively managed. The Trustee Board is supported by three sub committees: the Governance Sub Committee, which oversees compliance and safeguarding; the Finance Sub Committee, which oversees budgets and financial management; and the Appointments Advisory Committee, which oversees the induction of leaders and training compliance.
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Plans for future periods

Plans for future Periods	The Trustee Board plans to continue supporting the growth of Scouting across Medway Towns, building on the appointment of additional District Lead Volunteers to support Groups, Trustees, Leaders and young people. Plans include continuing to develop Buckmore Park and encouraging more volunteers to support the site, maintaining the District's strong training and appointments compliance record, and continuing to communicate District news and successes through the 'Scouting About' newsletter. The District will continue to support local events and ensure representation at Remembrance Sunday and other official ceremonial events.
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Reference and administration details

Principal Address	40 Elm Avenue, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6ER
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	Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Marc Harris	Chair	
2	John Brisley	Lead Volunteer	
3	Alice Canty	Treasurer	
4	Bev Pryke	Trustee	Co-Opted 05/01/2026
5	Graham Durey	Trustee	Co-Opted 05/01/2026
6	Graeme Pryke	Trustee	
7	Liam Archer	Trustee	
8	Sverre Sverresonn	Trustee	
9	Graham Hancock	Trustee	
10	Paul Randall	Trustee	
11	Kara Cooper	Trustee	
12	Robbie Riddell	Trustee	

Name and address of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner / Auditor	Helen Shepherd	43 Mayford Road, Chatham, Kent. ME5 8QZ
<i>Detail others</i>		

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by:

Signature	M. Harris	A. Canty
Full name	Marc Harris	Alice Canty
Position held	District Chair	District Treasurer
Date	31 March 2026	31 March 2026

Medway Towns District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from		1st April 2025	To	31st March 2026
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Receipts and payments

	2025/2026				2024/2025	
	Unrestricted funds	Medway Support team funds	Restricted & Designated funds for overseas trips	Buckmore Park Holding Trustees	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Donations, legacies and similar income						
Membership subscriptions	117 962		-	-	117 962	105 265
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	- 99 860		-	-	- 99 860	- 96 159
Donations	-		-	-	-	-
MAST funds	-	170	-	-	170	230
Gift Aid	-		-	-	-	-
Capitation Refund	860		-	-	860	795
Sub total	18 962	170	-	-	19 132	10 131
Grants						
Maintenance grant	-		-	-	-	-
Other grants	-		-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
District Activities						
Youth section activities	5 798		-	-	5 798	6 786
District international Trip 2026			38 910	-	38 910	13 855
District international Trip 2027			8 715	-	8 715	-
World Scout Jamboree			3 530		3 530	
District activities			-	-	-	3 708
Sub total	5 798	-	51 155	-	56 953	24 349
Fundraising events						
Badge sales	10 453		-	-	10 453	10 914
Sale of equipment	-		-	-	-	2 200
	-		-	-	-	-
Sub total	10 453	-	-	-	10 453	13 114
Investment income						
Bank interest	3 272		-	34	3 306	1 779
Building Society interest	-		-	-	-	-
	-		-	-	-	-
	-		-	-	-	-
Sub total	3 272	-	-	34	3 306	1 779
Total Gross Income	38 486	170	51 155	34	89 845	49 373
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	38 486	170	51 155	34	89 845	49 373

Medway Towns District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from		1st April 2025	To	31st March 2026
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Receipts and payments

	2025/26				2024/2025	
	Unrestricted funds	Medway Support team funds	Restricted & Designated funds for overseas trips	Buckmore Park Holding Trustees	Total funds	Total funds
	£		£	£	£	£
Payments						
Charitable Payments						
Youth programme and activities	5 234		-	-	5 234	6 612
Adult support and training	202		-	-	202	1 599
District international trip 2026			4 090	-	4 090	9 425
District international trip 2027			6 300	-	6 300	-
District/St George' s Camp 2026	1 707		-	-	1 707	-
Insurance	226		-	-	226	253
Repairs and Renewals	-		-	-	-	11 734
Equipment	-		-	-	-	300
District events & activities	1 903	973	-	-	2 876	10 714
Bank charges / administration	106		-	20	126	161
Film licence	-		-	-	-	662
AGM and trustee expenses	-		-	-	-	-
Grants paid	500		-	-	500	-
World Scout Jamboree			8 050	-	8 050	-
Capitation rebates paid to groups	762		-	-	762	703
Sub total	10 640	973	18 440	20	30 073	42 163
Fundraising expenses						
Badge purchases	9 598		-	-	9 598	9 556
Detail 2	-		-	-	-	-
Detail 3	-		-	-	-	-
Other fundraising costs	-		-	-	-	-
Sub total	9 598		-	-	9 598	9 556
Total Gross Expenditure	20 238	973	18 440	20	39 671	51 719
Asset and investment	-		-	-		-
Total payments	20 238	973	18 440	20	39 671	51 719
Net of receipts/(payments)	18 248	- 803	32 715	14	50 174	- 2 346
Transfers between funds	- 2 500		2 500	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	118 093	12 216	23 746	2 554	156 609	158 955
Cash funds this year end	133 841	11 413	58 961	2 568	206 783	156 609

Medway Towns District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from		1st April 2025	To	31st March 2026
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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

31st March 2026

31st March
2025

	Unrestricted funds	Medway Support team funds	Restricted & Designated funds for overseas trips	Buckmore Park Holding Trustees	Total funds	Total funds
	£		£	£	£	£
Cash funds						
Bank current account Lloyds & Santander	31 939	11413	44 684	-	88 036	41 511
Bank deposit account- Lloyds	100 993		14 277	-	115 270	111 997
District Equals card	843			-	843	533
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-		-	-	-	-
Holding Trustees - Bank account				2 568	2 568	2 554
Cash/Floats	67		-	-	67	14
Total cash funds	133 841	11 413	58 961	2 568	206 783	156 609
Free balances with receipts and payments a/c)	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
Other monetary assets						
Tax claim	-		-	-	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	1 920		-	-	1 920	7 220
Insurance claim	-		-	-	-	-
Sub total	1 920		-	-	1 920	7 220
Investment assets						
Investment property - detail	-		-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	-		-	-	-	-
Other investments - detail	-		-	-	-	-
Sub total	-		-	-	-	-
Non monetary assets for						
Badge stock	1 300		-	-	1 300	1 100
Shop stock	-		-	-	-	-
Other stock	-		-	-	-	-
Land and buildings- Buckmore	-		-	328 730	328 730	328 730
Maintenance equipment -B / park	-		-	70 650	70 650	70 650
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	6 721		-	-	6 721	6 721
Other	-		-	-	-	-
Sub total	8 021		-	399 380	407 401	407 201
Liabilities						
Accounts not yet paid	-		-	-	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-		-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-		-	-	-	-
Loan - detail	-		-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-		-	-	-	-
Sub total	-		-	-	-	-
Total net assets	143 782	11 413	58 961	401 948	616 104	571 030

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on Xth X 200X (the date of the Trustee Board meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
M. Harris	Marc Harris. Chair
A. Canty	Alice Canty Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Medway Towns District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Medway Towns District Scout Council for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Medway Towns District Scout Council, 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 Medway Towns District Scout Council 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 Medway towns District Scout Council 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:



Name:

Helen Shepherd

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): FCCA

Address: 43 Mayford Road Kent ME5 8QZ

Date: 10/09/2026

District Lead Volunteers' Annual Report 2025–2026

It is fair to say that 2025–2026 has once again presented its share of challenges, but it has also been a year that has demonstrated just how strong, vibrant and resilient Scouting is across Medway Towns.

Perhaps one of the most significant developments this year has been within the District Lead Volunteer team itself. Last year, John reported that the search for additional District Lead Volunteers remained ongoing. We are therefore delighted that this search has resulted not just in one additional appointment, but three, with **Graeme Pryke, Bev Pryke and Graham Durey** joining John as District Lead Volunteers.

As a team of four, we have gelled extremely well and are now sharing the responsibilities of leading and supporting the District between us. This has brought different experiences, ideas and perspectives to the role, while giving us much greater capacity to work alongside our Groups and District teams. There remains plenty to do, but having a strong DLV team working together has undoubtedly put the District in a much better position to meet the challenges ahead.

And there is certainly plenty to support!

Medway Towns continues to be an incredibly busy District, with over 1,700 young people supported by more than 400 adult volunteers across our 21 Groups.

Across the District we now have:

- **20 Squirrel Dreys**
- **26 Beaver Colonies**
- **29 Cub Packs**
- **22 Scout Troops**
- **17 Explorer Units**

These figures demonstrate not only the size of Medway Towns District, but the fantastic breadth of Scouting being delivered week in, week out.

From our youngest Squirrels beginning their Scouting adventure through to our Explorers taking on increasingly ambitious challenges and opportunities, thousands of hours of activities, camps, nights away, skills, adventures and new experiences are being provided every year.

Behind every one of those experiences is a volunteer giving their time to make it happen.

A District to be proud of

Our young people continue to take advantage of an extraordinary range of opportunities, both within their own Groups and through District and County activities.

Our District Programme Teams continue to provide an exciting and varied programme that complements the fantastic Scouting taking place within Groups. These events give young people the opportunity to meet and make friends with others from across Medway, try something different and experience the wider family of Scouting beyond their own section.

Our 14–24 provision also continues to provide opportunities through Explorers, Young Leaders, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, top awards and Network. It is fantastic to see young people progressing through Scouting, taking greater responsibility and, in many cases, beginning their own journey into adult volunteering.

This year has also given us some important milestones to celebrate.

Squirrels celebrate five years, an incredible achievement for what is still our newest section and one that has become firmly established across Medway Towns.

Beavers celebrate 40 years, while Cubs celebrate an amazing 110 years.

A number of special events have taken place across the District and County to mark these anniversaries, bringing young people and volunteers together to celebrate everything these sections have contributed to Scouting.

A District Camp to remember

Without doubt, one of the highlights of the year was our bi-annual whole District Camp celebrating St George's Day.

More than 1,000 young people and adults came together for what was a truly fantastic weekend.

One of the things that makes our District Camp particularly special is that it gives our young people the opportunity to enjoy a full two-night camp and an enormous range of activities completely free of charge.

That is something of which we should be incredibly proud.

It means that, regardless of individual circumstances, young people from across our District can come together, camp, take part in activities, challenge themselves, make new friends and create memories that will hopefully stay with them for many years to come.

Delivering an event for more than 1,000 people is no small undertaking. An enormous amount of planning, preparation and volunteer time goes into making a weekend like this happen, both beforehand and throughout the camp itself.

To everyone who played a part – from those organising the event and running activities to those working behind the scenes, supporting Groups or simply stepping in wherever something needed doing – thank you.

The success of the weekend was down to you.

Supporting our volunteers

While we rightly celebrate everything being achieved, we also recognise that volunteering continues to change and that the demands on people's time are significant.

The changes introduced across Scouting, including the new digital system and new ways of organising our volunteer teams, have continued to present challenges during the year.

There have undoubtedly been frustrations along the way. However, systems and processes continue to develop, and our District teams are working hard to help volunteers navigate those changes.

Our Volunteer Development Team continues to support learning and compliance while looking at ways we can provide practical opportunities for volunteers to develop their skills and confidence.

Ultimately, systems and structures should support our volunteers and make it easier for them to deliver great Scouting, rather than adding unnecessary complexity or taking valuable time away from our young people.

As a DLV team, that is something we remain very conscious of.

We want our volunteers spending as much of their valuable time as possible doing what brought them into Scouting in the first place: giving young people opportunities, experiences and adventures.

The teams behind the District

A District of this size simply could not function without the many people working behind the scenes.

Our Programme Teams, Volunteer Development Team, 14–24 Team, Trustee Board, digital and support teams and many others continue to put an enormous amount of work into supporting our Groups and volunteers.

Much of this work is unseen, but it is absolutely essential.

Our District Trustee Board continues its work supporting good governance and ensuring that the District is properly managed and sustainable for the future.

Likewise, our support teams continue to manage many of the practical and administrative elements necessary to keep a District of this size functioning effectively.

Buckmore Park

Buckmore Park continues to be an incredibly important resource for Scouting in Medway Towns and remains extremely popular.

The campsite provides thousands of young people with opportunities to camp, explore and take part in activities right here within our own District.

However, as we have said previously, the site continues to rely on a relatively small number of dedicated volunteers who give an enormous amount of their time to running activities, maintaining the site and supporting an increasing number of bookings.

We remain incredibly grateful to everyone who gives their time to Buckmore Park.

As the site continues to grow and develop, additional volunteers will always be welcomed. Even giving a relatively small amount of time can make a significant difference when it is shared across a larger team.

Looking ahead

There will undoubtedly be more challenges ahead, but there is also an enormous amount to be positive about.

We have 21 Groups, over 1,700 young people, more than 400 adult volunteers and well over 100 sections and units providing Scouting across Medway Towns.

Those numbers are impressive, but the real story sits behind them.

It is the Squirrel attending their first night away.

The Beaver trying something for the first time.

The Cub discovering a skill they didn't know they had.

The Scout taking on a challenge they thought was beyond them.

The Explorer becoming a Young Leader.

And ultimately, the young person who grows in confidence because someone gave their time to create an opportunity for them.

That is what those numbers represent.

Our role as District Lead Volunteers is to help create the environment in which our Groups, teams and volunteers can continue making those moments possible.

We are looking forward to continuing to work together, sharing the responsibilities of the District and, most importantly, working alongside all of you to make Scouting across Medway Towns even stronger.

Finally, we want to say an enormous thank you.

To our Group Lead Volunteers and leadership teams, our Section Teams, District Teams, Trustee Boards, activity instructors, campsite volunteers, supporters, parents and carers, and every adult who gives their time to Scouting across Medway Towns – thank you.

More than 400 adults collectively giving thousands upon thousands of hours every year is what makes all of this possible.

And to our more than 1,700 young people – thank you for continuing to turn up, get involved, challenge yourselves, have adventures and remind all of us why we volunteer.

There is much to celebrate, plenty still to do and undoubtedly a few more challenges waiting around the corner.

But with the strength of the Groups, volunteers and teams we have across Medway Towns, we can look forward to the year ahead with confidence.

Thank you for everything you do for Scouting in Medway Towns.

**Graeme, John, Bev & Graham
District Lead Volunteers
Medway Towns District Scouts**

Squirrel Section Report for District AGM 26

We represent Medway Towns Squirrels - Christine, Claire and Adam

Since Squirrels Dreys opened up in 2021 across Medway Towns District, we now have 22 Dreys across the district. Where they are thriving and very active. Some Dreys are full with a long waiting list. The newest Drey is 14th Medway Towns opened in May this year. 2 groups don't have Dreys due to 1 Drey had to close down 27th and 10th Medway due to facilities and no leaders to take it on.

Over the last year we had a little change in the team. Where Claire joined the team and Kim stood down due work commitments and wanted to concentrate on Beaver team.

12th October 25 Squirrels teddy bear picnic. A great success with 8 Dreys came along for some fun with soft archery, soft axe throwing, dry ski slopes, with other fun activities along with doing Izzy's trail at Buckmore Park where they completed Navigation stage 1 badge.

9th November 25 Remembrance Day Parade. Some squirrels joined their groups to parade to Victoria Gardens and back to Chatham where some squirrels spoke to MPs. Before being dismissed.

25th April 26. St George day /camp. Squirrels had a lot of fun on the day. Joining in with all groups across Medway Towns.

10th May 26. Squirrels Olympics. (Squirrels 5th Birthday celebrations) 16 Dreys attended. 130 Squirrels did a little parade from Fort Amherst carpark to the Amphitheatre, with a squirrel from each Drey carrying a flag they designed from a pillowcase. After the opening ceremony all the squirrels took part in Olympics challenges from space hoppers to tug of war. To win medals. At the closing ceremony each Squirrel was presented with a personalised Gold medal, which some Squirrels took to school to show their teachers and classmates, a great day was had by all. We as a team were very proud and emotional by the end of the day, (In a happy way) our biggest event to date, we as a team were very proud of our Medway Towns Squirrels and their leaders.

28th June 26 A few Dreys went to county's Squirrels go nuts event, they all had a great day.

The clever little squirrels are quick learners and always happy and smiling with whatever activity or challenge you give them.

Even sleepovers yes, you heard right squirrels are allowed to do camps or sleepovers a few Dreys have achieved them with the squirrels and believe it or not, they're alot easier and fun than you think.

Future events. The team are trying to plan a day out at either Kent life again or the Dockyard with the Beavers, watch this space, as well as the favourite teddy bears picnic. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

We as a Team have been out to alot of Dreys giving out Acorn awards or helping to support Dreys with the lack of leaders around the Medway Towns.

We appreciate all the help from every volunteer, including the Buckmore Park crew, and people who contribute behind the Scenes helping the Medway towns' young people enjoy scouting events #beprepared #skills for life

Yours in scouting

Medway Towns Squirrels team

Chrissy, Claire and Adam,

Been great doing Squirrels

Beaver Section Report for District AGM 26

We represent Medway Towns Beaver Team Christine, Adam, Kim, Jenni and Ash

We have a new member of the team Ash /Ali from 28th Medway beavers. Fingers crossed when Eeyore retires from the Beaver team Ash will be taking over as team lead. In 2027/2028 (but we know she won't retire completely)

We have a total of 22 separate groups with 5 of these running 2 colonies, meaning 27 colonies in the district

The Beaver sections in Medway Towns are thriving and are very active. Some have new and enthusiastic leaders. It was great to see many new faces at our District St George's camp at Buckmore park, where lots of the groups all joined together.

As a district we are having more groups participating with District events and the new leaders are voicing their opinions which is very helpful when planning events.

Unfortunately, there are still some groups that are not coming along to district events. Or leader meetings. Reasons unknown. We're trying our best to reach out to everyone.

Across Medway, a lot of beavers are getting their Bronze awards. Some are attending this year's Award ceremony. Date to be confirmed.

We like most districts have a boom in scouting but not enough volunteers and too many children on the waiting list. Many groups would like some help with volunteer recruitments.

Our events in the last year

St George camp at Buckmore Park was very good, with the great sunny British weather.

17th May 26 - Beavers running wild around Wildwood. (Beavers 40th birthday celebrations) Was a great day, even saw the bears awake enjoying the bare necessities life in the park. Beavers also played animal poo detectives in the educational workshop.

29th June Beavers Teddy bear picnic at Buckmore Park 12pm – 4,40pm was postponed due to British weather. When we finally had the event. Was a great day, everyone enjoyed themselves.

Future events

24th November October 26 Halloween party at Victory Academy

8th November 26 Remembrance Day parade 26

25th-28th June 27 Golden box challenge at Buckmore Park

Medway Towns and Gillingham District are joining together for this event. September/
October beavers and squirrels take over Chatham Dockyard (TBC)

We appreciate all the help from DC's and leaders including Buckmore park crew, and people who contribute behind the Scenes, helping the Medway towns' young people to enjoy scouting events #skills for life.

Yours in scouting.

Medway Towns Beaver Team.

Chrissy, Adam, Ash, Kim and Jenni

Beaver Section Report for District AGM 26

After last years start to the new District Cub Team the members have all come together beautifully with each of us bringing something different to our group to organise three large day events over the course of the year.

Our first being Cub Master in September 2025, a series of challenges for each group to take on to win the competition.

A Sixer and Seconder Day, February 2026, -which we had to run over two days instead of the original one because of the sheer number of cubs wanting to take part. The feedback was most encouraging with even some of the leaders commenting on something new they had learned that day.

And the Water sports day at Mote Park in July. A beautiful day with cubs rowing, canoeing, dragon boat racing and cruising around in a giant swan or dragon pedalo. We were joined by many parent helpers so that things ran smoothly under the expert guide of the water sports team.

We are currently in the middle of producing our next big event, the 110th birthday party in October- come back next year to see how we got on

Kelly Beck
District Cub Team Lead

Scout Section Report for District AGM 26

District Scout Events over the past year consisted of the following.

Conker Bash. This was well attended as usual. 21st won.

Troop Night – This was well attended. Lots of different activities for the scouts to experience and have a go at.

Arrowhead. This was held at Buckmore Park. 16 teams took part, and it was a very close finish with the 21st coming out on top.

We have held District Leaders meetings at different group HQ's every first Tuesday of every other month for the past year. We have on average 12 leaders attend most meetings but would love to have every troop from the District represented.

I would like to thank the team for their support, and we are looking forward to the next year.

Generally, I feel that the Scout Section has had a good year.

Yours in Scouting

Dave Payne



Despite the challenges presented by the new membership system, we have continued to meet socially once a month. Our varied programme has included ten-pin bowling, a visit to the local fire service, and talks by guest speakers from Short Brothers Aviation Heritage and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as well as a retired commercial artist.



We have also continued to support the section programme teams at their events, including knotting and map-reading sessions, as well as running our signature rope-making sessions. The machines are now showing signs of age and wear, which we will need to address in the future.



will need to address in the future, this support accumulating we us bring from Gilwell Park their Heritage event/display to the District Camp.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Report for District AGM 26

Groups in the district continue to support young people in sections with various needs to an excellent level. Planning is carried out making adaptations when needed to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to thrive and achieve their fullest potential.

Leaders have made contact when advice or clarification is needed to support in sections. This has been carried out via email, phone and visit to sections to see what is happening. An excellent example was a group where they allow one young person to listen, have time out needed and with reminders on the expectations for behaviour in times such as flag break and closure ceremonies. Leaders made sure that the young person met the requirements for badge work that was taking place using safety reminders when needed. Questions were asked to make sure the young person had understood the task in hand.

Medway Towns is a district where Inclusion matters and delivered to the very best of abilities of the young people. It is always advised to have an area a young person can access if needs arise. Fidget toys, blankets, ear defenders are excellent for these areas. Even when out and about a PE bag can be used to carry small items in case they are needed.

Just as a final reminder the district has their own EDI kit which can be used at large events. This is stored at Buckmore Park.

Kind regards

Michelle Kagan

Buckmore Park Scout Campsite Report 2025 – 2026

Buckmore Park Scout Campsite is your district campsite and is entirely run by volunteers without whom the great things that take place there would not happen. So to start this report a big thank you to all those who have contributed to its running over the past 12 months, it's too many people to mention by name but you know who you are.

Buckmore again had a busy year with a wide range of youth related users including schools, uniformed youth organisation, Duke of Edinburgh's Award groups, and of course many special district days, both Medway Towns and our neighbouring Gillingham District.

The month of June was a record breaker. Having had a quick whizz through the figures we recorded about 1800 camping nights for the month. During, one weekend we had 4 cub scout packs in camp and 3 large Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition groups. Also in June we ran 32 activity sessions and had 23 evening visits by district groups.

Importantly, Buckmore finished the year in a financially healthy position.

Progress on the site development continues. We finished last year's report with mention of the external cladding of the Ingle Nook building and we start this with the interior. A full interior layout change took place with the kitchen being moved and a full interior redecoration. This has increased the usable interior space.

During the year Buckmore ran two successful family events. Firstly, in May, Tail Jam, a stroll around Buckmore's boundary in the sunshine and secondly the Reindeer Workshop held towards the end of November. This popular and sell out event takes an immense amount of organisation by a very large team. This year we were again impacted by the weather with strong winds causing us marquee problems. Many reindeers were made in a range of sizes just in time for Christmas.



One large and important district event that took place at Buckmore in October was the World Jamboree selection weekend. This was run by Medway Towns, Gillingham and Dartford districts to select each districts participant. The process completed and 10 young people were selected to represent Medway Towns district in Poland in 2027

During the course of the year Buckmore's woodland has offers a training opportunity for the charity Kent Search and Rescue. There is a Scouting overlap with this organisation as quite a few of its members were Scouts.

Another group that Buckmore hosts every Monday are from the Probation Service, Community Payback scheme. Throughout the year this group has helped us a lot with grounds maintenance as well as a couple of projects of paving block laying in the gazebo's.



One activity that generates income for Buckmore is the selling of our standing timber. Our woodland has historically been grown as a cash crop with a 25-to-30-year cycle. We have all the necessary permissions to do this through a process called coppicing. This year it did not go too well with a lot of rain over a long period making extraction very difficult. It was completed on time ahead of 2026's District Camp.

Following on from the recent cladding that took place on the Ingle Nook it was decided to give the office/crew room container the same treatment. This also received new window, electric shutters and a new roof which should extend its operational life. We will be looking at the interior next.

Soon we will be entering our 75th birthday year and Buckmore will continue to move forward. Our next major project is the covering of the area in the middle of the toilet blocks. This will make a very usable activity space.

Buckmore Park is yours to use. It provides you with a great opportunity to get outside with elements of your Scouting programme as well as some specific activities. Our caving system is unique being purpose built with a range of challenging elements.



We are always looking for more volunteer help, whether it be as an activity instructors or on the maintenance side. Can you bring your skills to help us?

If you want to keep in touch with what is happening at Buckmore throughout the year look for the monthly blog in the Medway Scouts monthly digital publication 'Scouting About'.