



1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group

Hinchley Wood Scout & Guide Headquarters
Lynwood Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.
KT7 0DN
Registered Charity No- 305727
www.1stHWScouts.org.uk



Annual Review September 2024- July 2025

Group Chair, Jacqui Signor

It has been a very busy year across the group with a full programme of events and activities having taken place. This has been achieved through many hours of hard work and commitment by the amazing Leaders who have given so much of their time and energy to organise and lead weekly meetings, plan group activities, participate in district and county events, organise group camp and the annual camp for the Scout Troop at the end of the summer term. Please take the time at the AGM, or when you return at the start of the new Autumn term, to say **Thank you to the Leaders for all the amazing things they do**. We welcomed new Leaders into the group this year - Mike and Richard who joined Beavers, Richard now moved up to Cubs, and Ben and Andy who have joined Scouts.

There are many people to thank from across the group, Chris Beaney our outgoing Group Lead Volunteer who has supported the Leaders to deliver the programme of events every week for so many years, the Trustees and Parent Representatives who enable the group to operate, and to the wider Esher District Scout Council who provide support and advice.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers, to the parents and carers who have supported the group by sharing your skills during the weekly meetings, fundraising with the annual Christmas Trees, helping with activity days and all the organisation before and during the Group and Scout camps. The success of the group is due to everyone getting involved - thank you to everyone for your continued support and enthusiasm.

As you will read and hear at the AGM we really need more volunteers to step forward, please consider where you can provide your time, skills and support to ensure 1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group is able to continue to operate.

An urgent call out for a team of 2-3 to step forward to co-ordinate the Christmas Trees. The key tasks involve coordinating with the Esher group on pricing and delivery date, co-ordinating customer orders (online system), customer queries and planning the delivery schedule and volunteers required (sign-up genius). Katie Sweeting was the lead co-ordinator for the last 10 years and is available for hand-over, additional support will be provided by the Trustee Group.

Please consider where you can help, volunteering is good for you!

Group Lead Volunteer, Chris Beaney

This review gives me a chance to look back at all the wonderful activities that our Group has taken part in over the last year, all organised and run by an amazing group of leaders across our Scout Group. In case you are wondering what GLV stands for, there has been rebranding of names for the various roles within Scouting and the role of Group Scout Leader (GSL) has now been changed to Group Lead Volunteer (GLV). As well as the excellent weekly programmes put on by each section it has been great to see large numbers of our Group participating in various District competitions and parades with everyone commenting how smart we look at our Remembrance Day at Hinchley Wood Memorial Gardens. The highlight of the year are our camps, with our traditional Group camp at Walton Firs being another huge success. This was the first chance we had to try out our new Laser pistols, something that all sections of the Group should be able to have a go at this coming year.

Unfortunately due to the our Cub leaders leading such busy lives, we didn't have enough leaders available to take the Cubs to the District Cub camp. We would love to have more leaders to help out with all sections. Even if unable to attend every weekly meeting, having more available should share the load and not make us so reliant on the few who are doing such a brilliant job.

To finish the Scouting year our Scouts had a great Scout summer camp near Brighton. Despite the torrential weather on the journey down we had excellent weather throughout the week. This was Simon Walmsley's last camp as Scout Leader and together with his help from other Scout leaders and leaders from other sections he put on a fantastic camp. With 30 of our 36 Scouts attending we believe that this was the greatest ever number of Scouts attending. Summer camp also included a Bronze DofE expedition, where the participants had a chance to try out our new expedition tents. We are indebted to Sarah Wright and Juliette Smillie for driving the DofE awards again for our Scouts and Explorers.

As always, I would like to say a huge thanks to all the leaders for coming up with so many engaging program ideas throughout the year, teaching our members new skills for life and encouraging them to make a positive contribution to society as they grow up. We also should not forget how much time each leader gives to Scouting, not just for the running of the activities but also the time spent planning, doing training and for some using up their holiday to take our Scouts away to Summer Camp. Please take any opportunity that you can to say thanks to our leaders, as like everyone else they have to also provide this leadership alongside their normal jobs and family life. Our Scout Group continues to flourish with all sections being at capacity, with long waiting lists to get in. This is down to the great job we do as a Group, providing an exciting program to all our members and helping Scouting remain as the UK's largest co-educational youth movement.

We have had a few new leaders join us over the last year, all of whom have come up to speed very quickly and making a huge contribution. With Simon stepping down as Scout Leader and other leaders moving section to help restart our Explorer section we desperately need more adults to join our fantastic team. If you think that this is something that you might be interested in, then please get in touch and come along to give it a go. I think I can safely say that all our leaders not only find this very rewarding but also have great fun too.

Thanks to an excellent leader training programme, there is no pre-requisite in expertise or experience. All leaders undertake their initial leader training within five months of appointment and their full training within five years. They then undergo ongoing training throughout their service, keeping them up to date in areas such as safety, safeguarding and first aid. Those becoming leaders and taking on certain other roles may bypass the considerable waiting lists for membership of the sections for their children - and exempt from paying subscriptions for their children in the group. A continuing challenge for the volunteer leader team is delivering ever more sophisticated programmes requiring specialised training and qualifications such as archery, shooting and water and

mountain-based activities. Despite the restrictions imposed on us over the last year it is good to report that many of our leaders and instructors have continued to develop their skills, with the Scout Association quickly developing online training modules for many areas especially for Safety and Safeguarding which has become a key focus for all adults involved in Scouting. Developing personal skills and then passing them on to young people is a very rewarding aspect of a leader's role.

Closely supporting the uniformed team is the Trustee board and parent reps, whose function is to support the Leaders and Group in everything that it does. The greatest part of this involves fundraising and our financial report shows just how important the fundraising effort is to our overall income. It is thanks to all the hard work done by this team that we have been able to purchase our new laser pistols and subsidise the costs of our camps. Whilst my thanks go to all of these team members and the many parents who have helped throughout the year in any capacity, I would especially like to call out Jacqui Signor and Sunita Govind. Jacqui has done an amazing job as our Group chair, keeping us all in order and Sunita continues to ensure that all our finances are in good order. Our current objectives are to attract more leaders; to train more in specialist roles and to encourage more parents to get involved in managing the Group and the joint headquarters. There are still plenty of opportunities to support your Group so please let our Trustees or parent reps know if you can help in any way. Whilst many of these roles involve evening and weekend participation there are a number of other roles that will help reduce the workload on the leaders. Our Group has always relied on parents to take an active part in the running of the Group as it is entirely dependent on volunteers.

We hope you enjoy this Annual Review. I am grateful to all the contributors and especially to Jacqui Signor for again producing this year's edition. We have included summary financial information in an easily understood summary however the full detailed trustees' annual report and accounts are available to anyone who requests them. Please help to promote our Group and our achievements by sharing this review around the area, such as within other organisations, schools, libraries, doctors' waiting rooms. This is my last report as GLV as I have decided to step back as a leader and give more time to some of my other interests. Having joined 1st Hinchley Wood as a Cub over 50 years ago it's been a huge part of my life and so not something that I feel I will be able to give up completely, so you will no doubt see me helping out on various activities and camps for a while longer!



Beaver Colony

For the Autumn term 2024 we had 21 Beavers. 2 moved up to cubs and we had 3 new joiners. No Bronze Awards were issued in the Autumn term. The 2 Beavers that moved up had their personal challenge to finish in order to complete their Bronze Award. We were aided by two DoE helpers, Anya and Grace. Both have been super helpful and the Beavers show a readiness to listen to them.

We had a full agenda for the term, working towards the:

- Skills challenge badge
- International Activity Badge
- Communicator Badge
- Creative Badge
- Experiment and Space Activity Badges
- Book Reader Badge
- Outdoor Challenge Award

Cooking is always a popular activity for the Hinchley Wood beavers, with cheesecake making. Christmas biscuit decorating. Chocolate mug cakes. The sweet delights are offset by sporting and fitness activities which form the cornerstone of our weekly meets with team games, including dodge ball, and team relays as popular requests.

For the experiment badge, we made slime, volcanoes, and glow in the dark bouncy balls. The Book badge made it evident how many keen readers we have at Hinchley Wood Beavers. Every Beaver read 6 books over the Christmas holidays and shared their love of reading and favourite books with the group. Beavers brought their books in and had fun looking through pages together. Beavers learnt morse code towards their communication badge and had fun cracking code messages. We continued to build out skillsets by teaching the beavers how to make musical instruments. They learnt Feliz Navidad towards the international badge and sang it at the Christmas party. Parents had as much fun as Beavers with the Christmas songs and dancing! Sessions consisted of lots of craft making with animal masks, fireworks, Halloween cookies and Christmas cards. For Halloween Beavers had fun wrapping each other up in tissue as Mummies. We had a fun Autumn term!

During our Spring Term 2025 we had:

- 2 DofE helpers
- 2 parent helpers each session.
- 2 parent admin support
- 22 Beavers – 3 Girls & 19 Boys

We awarded 2 Chief Scout Bronze Awards and 13 badges. Last term we focused a lot on outdoor Beaver skills. A selection of activities included:

- We built Towers in our lodges and gave points for the most voted tower.
- We took two long hikes one while learning the countryside code and the other the green cross code.
- We made pancakes and omelettes as part of our cooking badge.
- We worked towards our animal badge by looking after pets or the pets of others.
- We earned our cycle badge.

Great successes we're brilliant attendance at Group Camp, St George's Day Parade and the District Party.

Summer Term 2025 our Beavers had fun at Bazzaz. We have 3 Beavers moving up to Cubs and 4 new Beavers joining us next term. We completed a hike over Telegraph Hill. The Beavers enjoyed completing their Global Issues badge where we learnt about Sustainability via Obstacle courses and Parent speakers.

We had a fun trip to Leader Kaa's allotment where Beavers were treated to fresh beans, peas and blackcurrants. We ended the term with a fantastic trip to the Thames Ditton Railway!

We are excited to welcome Beavers back next term. Leaders for next term will be Kirsty & Mike with Richard having moved up to Cubs with his son.



Cub Pack

We kicked off the term with a special visit to the **Shinnyo-en Buddhist Centre** to take part in their *Lantern Floating Festival*. This was a peaceful and memorable way to start the year, introducing the Cubs to a unique cultural tradition.

We then delved into the **History of Scouting**, learning about the **Scout Law and Promise** in preparation for welcoming our new Cubs through their investiture ceremonies.

Later in the term, we were visited by *Beyond Blocks* for a **Digital Maker Badge** session – an exciting LEGO Robotics workshop that combined creativity, engineering, and teamwork.

Autumn Highlights

- **Bonfire Night** saw us enjoying a fire, backwoods cooking, and plenty of s'mores!
- The following week, we set off on a **night hike to Telegraph Hill**, exploring the outdoors under torchlight.
- We tried out **martial arts** with *Pedro Martins Kung Fit Kids*, giving the Cubs a taste of self-discipline and physical fitness in a fun way.
- Our **Quiz Night** on 5th December tested everyone's general knowledge, followed by a **Christmas crafts** evening on 12th December to get into the festive spirit.

- We rounded off the year with a high-energy session of **Laser Quest** on 19th December.

Spring Term Adventures

We welcomed the **Chinese New Year** with themed activities, followed by a return visit from *Shooting Stars* for another round of **Circus Skills** fun.

In **May 2025**, we enjoyed a fantastic **Group Camp** at Walton Firs, blessed with beautiful weather. The Cubs tackled outdoor challenges, built friendships, and made lasting memories.

One of the absolute highlights of the year was our visit to the **National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** in Teddington – the UK's home of measurement science. The Cubs took part in interactive demonstrations and hands-on experiments that made complex scientific concepts exciting and accessible. They learned how measurement impacts everything from climate science to timekeeping, and discovered NPL's crucial role in maintaining the UK's atomic clocks.

Other Activities We Managed to Squeeze In

- **Pioneering** and **Bivouac building** at West End Common
- **Nerf games** in the woods at Esher Common
- Finishing the year with **swimming** at Claygate Pool

Achievements

- **3 Chief Scout's Silver Awards** presented to:
 - Brandon Maguire
 - Nathan Keens
 - Milo Dunn
- An additional **3 Chief Scout's Silver Awards** (hopefully presented at the AGM) to:
 - Luke Shakespeare
 - Edward McKosh
 - Carlotta Hobley

In total, **127 badges** have been awarded this year – a testament to the Cubs' enthusiasm and commitment.

As always, none of this would have been possible without the dedication of our Cub Leaders, our incoming and outgoing parent helpers **Philippa**, **Sian**, and **Mandy**, and the many parents who have stepped in to support activities and events throughout the year. Your help, time, and encouragement make all the difference to what we can offer the Cubs.

Here's to another year of adventures, learning, and fun!



Scout Troop

Once again, it's been a very busy, fun packed 12 months for our Scout troop culminating in a brilliant week long summer camp near Brighton.

Our troop size has maintained at 36 scouts across the year and whilst we've just said au revoir to our oldest 9 Scouts, we will soon be back up to maximum level with incoming new Cubs from September. It's also great to learn that most/if not all our oldest 9 Scouts are keen to join our Explorer unit which is to be re-established. Equally great is all 9 have nearly completed their Chief Scout award (yes this is a gentle reminder for some of them to complete their World Challenge badge!) – well done to Alex, Lexie, Millie, Grace, Anya, Rhys, Abi, Kirsten and Araleya.

It's been another great year participating in the Esher District Scout Top Troop Trophy which saw 1st Hinchley Wood completing an impressive (and rare) double of day hike and night hike wins. These are both great accomplishments as well as being much enjoyed – a very big thank you to Sarah Wright for helping the teams in their preparations and map reading skills. Also congratulations go to our team of Scouts who were joint winners at the District Archery competition – special shout out to Rhys who was overall best archer on the day. Well done to all of our Scouts who participated in all of the events – we look forward to seeing some new faces at the various competitions this year too!

Looking back at the list of activities we've covered at our Tuesday night meetings has been a great reminder of the breadth of activities we've been able to offer our Scouts. These have covered Night Hikes, Life Skills, Ready Steady Cook, Bonfire Night, Wide Games, Quiz night, Ice Skating, Taskmaster events, Bowling, Squirrel Badge night (!), Escape Rooms, Indoor Climbing, Easter Egg Hunt, Cycling, Kayaking, Shooting, Archery, volunteering at Polyapes, Kneeboarding as well as our inaugural Chippy Hike (congrats go to Christies – a deserving winner!)

We've been lucky in having had a number of parental volunteers support us over the year which has enabled us to put on such fun and interesting activities. I also think many of the parents also enjoyed getting involved too! A very big thank you to all of those who have helped out and look forward to continued help this coming year.

On to more outdoor activities, camping is a key element of Scouting and we've been lucky in having had 2 great camps over the last 12 months.

Firstly, our Group Camp at Walton Firs in May was attended by 25 Scouts and saw us experience a fun long weekend with lots of onsite and offsite activities and a great opportunity for many of our younger Scouts to experience patrol camping in advance of our summer camp. Giant inflatable football darts anyone?

Summer camp also saw us return to Parkwood Campsite in the South Downs, outside Brighton. Having visited in 2022, the camp didn't disappoint and proved to be one of the most enjoyed by scouts and leaders alike despite the biblical rainstorm which struck just as we left HQ and turned off

Claygate Lane. Whilst the early part of the week was a little damp we actually enjoyed great weather overall (though we must remember to pack all of the dining shelters next camp....). Camp activities included cycling, paddleboarding, footgolf, kayaking, paintball, a very successful mackerel fishing trip as well as stepping back in time to the roaring 20's and a visit to the Saltdene Lido for some.

All Scouts were well fed with some excellent open fire cooking from all of them not least our end of camp BBQ (which included the freshly caught mackerel!) and proved to be a memorable evening for all – some great singing and dancing were on show post meal too! Camp also saw the welcome introduction of the Alternative Camp awards courtesy of Ben who presented "trophies" for amusing

incidents at camp (my personal highlight being the ram chasing Rhys down the road on our cycling trip). Our camp fire singalong (or shout along for Ben) was also a lovely way to round off the week. Great memories.

Summer camp also saw our 9 older Scouts undertake their overnight hiking expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award which saw them hike for @ 12 miles each day with full kit including tents & food. All worked together as a real team and did brilliantly. A massive thank you to Sarah & Juliette who organised the expedition as well as standing up the DoE programme itself over the last 12 months giving our older Scouts access to the DoE scheme. Thank you!

And whilst talking of appreciation, the Scout Leaders extend their heartfelt thanks to Chris Beaney, John Daoud, Gary Stephenson, Richard Applin, Paul Rayner and Sarah Wright who have heavily supported our Scouts over the year whether it's assisting at camps, leading kayaking sessions or helping out on Tuesday nights. Thank you all for your immense support and helping give our Scouts another fantastic year! We would also like to say a huge thank you to Pauline and Jen who have been our invaluable parent reps for the last number of years. Their contribution and support given to the leaders and Scouts has been immense not least in generating parental support for the troop! Thanks again and we welcome Mandy and Georgina who are taking the parent rep reins!

Finally, if any parent is interested in becoming a Scout Leader please do let us know as we really do need additional leader support. Whilst it's been great to welcome Ben & Andy to the Scout leadership team in the last 12 months we would certainly welcome further leader help - not least with Richard, Paul and myself having stepped back over the last few months. Previous Scouting experience is absolutely not required and whilst being a Scout Leader does require a certain level of commitment it is certainly outweighed by providing a brilliant opportunity to learn new skills for yourself, experience new activities and the satisfaction of helping the support and the development of our younger people. Personally, I can't recommend it enough - it's been incredibly rewarding and has provided me with memories I will treasure forever!

Anyhow, roll on the next 12 months! Simon, Jeff, Scott, Ben & Andy



Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

We've had a great second year of Juliette and I taking on the DofE at 1st HW, we've learnt a lot about how to run the awards over the previous year and have tried to put that into practice this year, signing several of last years participants off to complete their Bronze awards and have managed to run a successful Bronze practice and qualifying expeditions. We've also upgraded some of the kit so that the teams have brand new super light spacious tents and Trangias. Between them, the teams have completed a variety of skills, sports and volunteering to go with the expeditions to complete their awards.

The kids have been amazing, and so very positive in their expedition experiences. Despite a challenging practice expedition in the Surrey Hills (where it would appear that there are an awful lot more paths/tracks in reality than are on the map!) they remained in good spirits, knew where they were on the map and didn't give up. They powered up the hills on the South Downs during Summer camp for their qualifying expedition to be rewarded by some amazing views of the area and on day 2 to lunch overlooking Devil's Dyke, as well as treating other walkers to a variety of singing whilst they walked! Their team work was really good and we are very proud of the way they worked together, improved and learnt from their practice walk and remained positive throughout the challenge. The smiles and happiness to not have to carry the bags any more at the end were immense! Hopefully they will have lasting memories to make them smile for many years to come.

Our thanks go to all the parents who helped with supporting the kids, driving them to practice walks, and helping with the cooking skills sections and training sessions. Special thanks to Jacqui Signor for camping with me for the expedition in the Surrey Hills and to Ben for helping with the Qualifying expedition at Summer Camp (and for starting his DofE assessor's qualification). We couldn't have done it without your support.

This year we are running Bronze again for anyone who has started in year 9 or above (Scouts) and are also running Silver for those who have started in year 10 or above and are moving up to our Explorers section which is now back. Please speak to the leaders or myself (I'll be at the various sections to visit) and we can get them signed up if they would like to participate. There really is something for everyone in the award, and they can all do it in a way that is unique to them. If there are any parents that could spare some time to help out with being a DofE leader/helper, we would really appreciate it....there are loads of small things that would really help – from the expeditions, helping with skills/volunteering, to some admin with the eDofE. It really has been great fun doing this for the kids this year and any help/time would be appreciated. Please just speak to one of the leaders to get in touch with me to discuss it.

Lastly I'd like to say well done to all the kids who have done their Bronze awards this year, we are very proud of them and they should be immensely proud of what they have achieved.

Thank you – Juliette and Sarah



Scout & Guide Joint Management Committee, Sue Rodger

The Joint Management Committee (JMC) is the body responsible for the development, maintenance, and management of our headquarters which is jointly owned and occupied by Girlguiding Hinchley Wood and 1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group, together with the separately leased open space.

Together with the Scout Group we have contacted Elmbridge BC regarding combining the leases for the land the HQ is built on and the grass area. The lease on the grass area ran out Dec 2024. We are still in discussions with Elmbridge and with Chris Francis, Estates Surveyor at Elmbridge Borough Council. We will not be able to combine the leases but should be able to renew the lease on the grass area for a longer period. I would like to thank everyone who has provided advice on this and to Katherine who has been involved in ongoing discussions with the council. I would also like to thank Amy Grace for her input on the legal aspects of the lease. We will be finalising the new lease in the coming term.

The JMC includes Leader representation, but the main executive roles should be held by Scout and Guide Parents. We are looking for two new people to join the committee as Karen has stepped down from the committee. Sunita Govind is the new treasurer for the JMC. We are looking for a person to add a new signatory to the Scout and Guide HQ account with Lloyds. There will be specific projects that require a team approach. We derive income from the Guides and Scouts quarterly contributions and occasional lettings for children's parties. The per capita levy is £10 a head. We are entering into discussions with Elmbridge Borough Council planning dept about letting the hall to more regular weekday daytime hirers.

Everyday expenses are utility bills, building insurance and maintenance as per our ongoing schedule for redecoration, floor sealing, hedge trimming and grass cutting. As always, a lot of work is needed to maintain and improve our HQ for the benefit of users. Parental help is always appreciated, such as at our twice yearly clean up days. Major works are usually dependant on successful grant applications or other funding being made available as regular income will not cover this expenditure. We are currently looking into replacing the fencing at the front of the site to make it more secure and we are considering installing CCTV. We will need to submit a new planning application to Elmbridge regarding the fencing at the front of the site, once the lease on the grass area has been renewed.

Sue Rodger, Member of Joint Management Committee

Group Treasurer's Summary, Sunita Govind

Income and Expenditure Summary for the financial year end 2025

Note. The complete Annual Report detail is available for review.

Income (Source of Funds)	2025	2024
Fundraising	36,459	37,425
Subscriptions	4,672	11,268
Elmbridge Support	667	670
Grants and Donations	1,367	20,281
Activities	16,961	13,835
Other*	2,677	2,448
Total	62,803	85,927

Expenses (Use of Funds)	2025	2024
Fundraising Expenses	19,074	20,328
Membership and Subs Paid to Esher District	5,365	11,829
Property	2,400	31,497
Insurance	1,725	1,120
Activities	17,591	19,124
Materials and Equipment	3,432	3,142
AGM, Trustee, Training and Uniform	1,378	2,596
Transport	2,115	2,631
Other*	1,559	2,283
Total	54,639	94,550

1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group Directory September 2025- September 2026

Registered Charity No. 305727

www.1sthwscouts.org.uk

Group Chair (Trustee)	Jacqueline (Jacqui) Signor
Group Treasurer (Trustee)	Sunita Govind
JMC Representative (Trustee)	Chris Beaney
Parent Volunteer (Trustee)	Pauline Davies
Leader Volunteer (Trustee)	Gary Stephenson
Parent Volunteer (Trustee)*	Amanda (Mandy) Maguire
Leader Volunteer (Trustee)*	Sarah Wright
Secretary (Administrator to the Board)	Amanda Moylan-Jones

**To be formally voted in at the AGM on Saturday 6th September 2025*

Following the 2025 AGM the Group Lead Volunteer (GLV) role becomes vacant

Leaders may be contacted via the Group website