

## **STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

**Registered Charity No 524528**

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1/1/2025 -31/12/2025

For the Annual General Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

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### **Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity**

Kevin Hewitt	District Lead Volunteer
Roland Smith	District Chair
Sharon Hill	District Treasurer
Paul Askey	Appointed
Andrew Preston	Appointed
Steve Smith	Appointed
Graham Smith	Appointed
Andrew Clode	Appointed
Jack Blakeman	District Youth Lead
Cathy Hordern	Appointed
Gemma Phillips	Appointed

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### **Type of governing document**

The District'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

### **How the charity is constituted**

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts

### **Trustee selection methods**

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

### **Risk and Internal Control**

The District 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 a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered

### **Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

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, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation

The Scout Method – Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of scouting

## **Public Benefit Statement**

The Trustees have an awareness of the Public Benefit Guidance with regard to Scouting's involvement with the local community. The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

## **Financial Review**

Reserves Policy – The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short.

The District Trustee Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to six months running costs, circa £8,000.

## **Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year as set out in the following reports –**

### **District Lead Volunteer Report**

I'll start off with compliance figures for mandatory training and disclosures are very low for the size of the District, that being said we must now keep on top of the situation.

All sections of all groups have had an active year with groups Walking, Climbing, Gliding, Sailing, Canoeing, Kayaking Paddle Boarding and of course camping near & far.

The District Kayak Team were again flat out and fully booked for all of the season.

Cubs had - The Pete Clements Trophy a Games Day and a chess competition,

Scouts from the 21st West Stafford shot their way to overall victory in Master at Arms competition with team awards and individual awards going to a mixture of groups.

Scouts took part in a 2-day District Hike over Cannock Chase and also the annual District Quiz which most groups entered and this was won by the 9th Stafford sea Scouts.

The Explorers put themselves to the test in the Oliver Bradley Cup and many Explorers are making inroads into their D of E Awards.

A couple of groups ventured abroad last year, not without their own excitement, but everyone had great adventures and returned with stories to tell.

We had a great Carol Service once again and the 12th Stafford arranged a marvellous service on

St. Georges Day where we had one of the best turnouts for a long time.

I can't finish without mentioning all the group and unit leadership teams and Trustees boards for the hard work they all put into their groups and for the enthusiasm they bring to the District. I applaud and thank you all.

Kevin Hewitt  
District Lead Volunteer

### **District Chair Report**

Yet another busy year for Stafford District Scouts, the Carol Concert was well attended and a great success and whilst this isn't Gang Show Year Graham and his Team have been busy stirring up Interest within the groups with a taster session at Sheratts wood 25th Anniversary day last year and coming shortly (27th June 2026) "Gang Show in a Day", this will be held at Littleworth community centre and all details are on our Stafford District Scouts Web Site.

St George's day parade and service went to plan, and our appreciation goes out to the Staffordshire Freemasons who very kindly provided the Parade with Marshalls at some of the key intersection of the route, I would also like to offer my thanks to the groups who also provided Leaders or parents to escort the parade. Numbers were a little down on last year, but all in all it was great to see such a good attendance.

Sherratt's Wood continues to be well utilised with bookings from both within our own district, and from outside. Last year we celebrated its 25th year since formation back in 2000. The site continues to construct new facilities and attractions which obviously help with bookings, so a big thank you to both Kevin and his team for running and maintaining the facilities.

The Kayak centre located at Stafford Boat club has continued to flourish and is generally booked up giving scouts an opportunity to undertake safe water activities, so again our thanks go out to the Instructors who facilitate the events taking place.

Transformation and Trust Boards: I have kindly been invited to a few Group AGM's and in the main they have followed protocol. Some groups struggle to encourage new members, with key roles still be undertaken by Active Scouting Personnel, this was mentioned in my report last year and continues to be an issue, so I would ask you to continue banging the drum, parents especially need to be reminded that without a Group Trust Board they won't have a group !!

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the District Scouters, volunteers and Trustees for their dedicated commitment to Scouting in Stafford.

Roland Smith  
Chair Stafford District Trustee Board

### **District Explorer Unit Report**

Report not submitted

### **Stafford District Squirrels Report**

Report not submitted

### **Stafford District Beaver Section report**

Report declined

### **Stafford District Cub Scout Section Report**

Report not submitted

### **Stafford District Scout Section Report**

Report not submitted.

### **District Activities Report**

The activity team has had another very busy year.

The water activity team has done a great job in getting as many members on the water possible. They have had one of the busiest years since the team was set up. 2026 looks like it will be even busier. We have had some new additions to the team which will help us provide more sessions. Also, a number of the team members have been on various courses to help them get a kayaking permit. We have also purchased a number of new kayaks to replace our aging stock.

The mountain and climbing team have had a busy year providing sessions on the climbing wall at the 12th HQ and the climbing tower at the campsite. Quite a lot of our equipment has been replaced due to it reaching its sell by date. A number of leaders have attended courses that have been run by the County CMAT team at climbing wall. A number of Groups in the District have been out in the hills doing various activities towards their various awards.

The Activity Team has increased considerably over the last couple of years and many of the members have other leadership roles in the District so a big thanks go out to all the members for their commitment in providing the various adventurous activities for the groups in the District.

Paul Askey  
LDC Activities

### **Sherratt's Wood Sub Committee Report**

Management meetings were held throughout the year, the site team (crew ) meet every Monday and Thursday for maintenance and improvements necessary for safety and keeping high standards. Late winter and spring activities included re-routing some drainage ditches, reseeding camping areas mainly in Fox, tree survey and inspection, social area (Val's) improvements, reviewing and complying with legislation matters and updating insurance cover. Improvements started on Toilet Block and continued on camera, telephone and Wi-Fi provision were completed for safety and eventually taking Card Payments in the shop.

Titanic Brewery and the Round Table were thanked for their generous awards.

The rooms over the toilet block were transformed into an impressive / social meeting room and indoor games provision. We have already hosted courses and workshops. It was a privilege to host a family wedding reception and wished them well and thanked Dave Francis.

Sherratt's Wood was purchased by the District and was opened in 2000, and our 25th birthday was marked with a very special "open day" full of extra attractions, fun and games. Bouncy castles, Face painting, Barbeque, Camp activities, a New Camp Badge and of course all the attractions in our Camp Shop. We welcomed special guests from East Staffs and Stafford Borough Councils, Milwich and Leigh Parish Councils, County and District scouters. A very enjoyable and memorable celebration!

The camping season started slowly and the recent pattern of less Group large camps, but increased use of our activities especially by the younger sections camps continued. The season remained busy

and our visitors included most of our own Stafford Groups, 19 from North Staffs, 6 from East Staffs, a disappointing 3 from South Staffs. Success with the Website led to summer camp bookings from Newark (Notts), Derby, Birmingham, Flintshire (Myndd), Crawley (Surrey) and Liverpool were very welcome.

A New visitor was an organisation that enables single parent families to camp, who used the whole site for a week and made good use of their freedom and good weather. Everyone had a brilliant week in every way, made good friends that we hope will return this year. The shop was kept very busy and as always a popular social meeting point.

We have exciting plans for this year and look forward to seeing again "old" friends and welcoming new ones. Real thank you to everyone who make it all happen, Kevin and the Crew of course but also all the people who give us their support. We welcome more help on site and all who have "activities qualifications" to assist our visitors and youngsters.

Good Scouting and our thanks

Keith Low  
Chair

### **4<sup>th</sup> Stafford (St Paul's) Scout Group Report**

#### SECTION REPORT 2025 - SQUIRRELS

We began the year out and about navigating our way around Victoria Park whilst completing a scavenger hunt. We had fantastic time at our annual campfire where we baked bananas and sang songs with TicTac (always his favourite night!). We focused on our community over the second half of the autumn term taking on our biggest ever food bank project and collecting an incredible 49kg of food. Stafford food bank came to visit for a talk about how our collection would help our community and to say a big thank you to our Squirrels!

We've had several young leader takeovers that were wonderfully creative and showing just what an incredible bunch our future adult leaders are!

We have had some of our best attendances at district and local events including Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Carol Service and St George's Day parade showing just how much our Squirrels can do! We have also awarded 2 Chief Scout Acorn awards and 70 other badges with more expected to be awarded by the end of the Summer term. We have seen some Squirrels confidently move on to Beavers and welcomed new faces too.

Spring has seen 2 of our young leaders move up to adult leaders. Conker and Acorn have taken to it like ducks to water. We have also welcomed Bramble, Skye and Henry to our drey and they have been invaluable in the smooth running of our sessions.

This past term we have explored space, celebrated Burns night and Lunar New Year and talked about all the different ways we can look after our world.

Looking ahead we are excited to have 4 brave squirrels joining group camp for the first time and we are enjoying the opportunity to run more sessions outdoors as well as looking forward to our hike with the Beavers.

We are excited for all the new adventures 2026 will bring as we continue to show the Squirrels can do anything they put their mind to!

Thank you to all at the 4th and beyond for the ever helpful and positive support of our little Drey!

#### SECTION REPORT 2025 - BEAVERS

Our colonies have remained at a steady number of 28 or thereabouts, with a few children on the waiting list. This is a testament to a dedicated leadership team and a well balanced programme.

2025 was a year of incredible adventures. We were out and about meeting new people and going new places.

Our sleep over this year took us to the Sealife Centre in Birmingham along with the 17th Beavers. It

was an incredible adventure on the train. We thank all the parents and young leaders who came along with us. Fundraising was key to funding this sleepover, and I would like to thank Gemma for signing up for a wing walk with me, this raised over £1000.

We enjoyed the district beaver party held this time in Gnosall at a much larger venue.

We have been fortunate enough to recruit a new adult leader and our young leaders are aging out and remaining with us, we do wish Echo all the best when she goes to Uni in September.

#### SECTION REPORT 2025 - CUBS

The pack has maintained an excellent level of attendance & continues to enjoy a wide range of activities week on week.

Highlights of the year have been our Christmas sleepover which is always very well attended & a lot of fun; trips to the chase, Sherratt's Wood, Clip & Climb and water activities.

We've attended St. Georges Day Parade, Remembrance Parade & spent time doing activities with other sections of the Group.

We have 5 adult leaders & 5 young leaders in our team.

We are very prepared for our upcoming group camp & are looking forward to spending time with all sections of the Group & making new friends in our Scouting family.

#### SECTION REPORT 2025 - SCOUTS

We pride ourselves on our active outdoor and traditional Scouting programme. And what another action-packed year it has been.

We finished off last Scouting year with our amazing Summer Camp in Dorset, a week of amazing activities, including Water Sports, sailing and windsurfing, as well as kayaking and paddleboarding. The Scouts were fantastic and will have made memories for life.

In addition to summer camp, some of the Troop had the opportunity to take part in our Eryri Peak expeditions. Scaling peaks in North Wales, including Snowdon/Yr Wyddfa.

As usual, we have been fortunate to take part in lots of other nights away experiences this year.

Starting the new Scouting year in September with Autumn camp to Milldale, Cheshire. Then our infamous night hike in the Peak District returned, with the Troop hiking over the Roaches overnight to Gradbach. In February, our oldest Scouts take part in Winter camp, navigating themselves through a series of challenges across North Cheshire and Greater Manchester. In April, we are pleased to join with the 21st Scouts for our joint Spring Camp at Wrekin Scout campsite. Patrol camping, putting all those traditional scouting skills into action.

Adventure is the keystone of our programme; the Scouts enjoyed a gliding experience, piloting their own glider, as well as hillwalking in the Shropshire hills, among some of the things we've done this year.

As always, bushcraft and traditional Scouting skills featured heavily in our programme. The Scouts have taken part in many projects this year, carving their own spoon over several weeks in early 2026, then building and using mini forges in April.

2025 was a difficult year for myself personally, and I would like to thank all my leaders for their continued support. We successfully ran a young leader training session, which was well received by the young people and gave them an insight into leadership, unfortunately this was not well received by the DESC, this interaction showed the young people a view of just how difficult it can be to scout sometimes.

We have been careful over the years to nurture all our aged out scouts, and creating an environment where they can return as young leaders. They are an invaluable resource into the long term investment into the group, they are our leaders of the future. We have welcomed 7 new young adult leaders this year, with more on the way. Yes we do lose them to University, but they are part of the 4th family and they will take their experiences and memories with them, and share them with their future groups. We wish them all the very best.

I would like to thank Karl Hilton who has been our chairman for many years, his tireless, quiet leadership of the group at a trustee level has been very much appreciated and we wish him all the

very best in his future endeavours. In his place we welcome Rhys Powell, we thank him for taking on this new role and wish him every success.

Cathy Hordern  
4th Stafford GLV

### **6<sup>th</sup> Stafford (Trinity) Scout Group Report**

2025/26 has been a year of changes with many of our Explorer Scout Young Leaders transitioning into adult Leaders, new Leaders learning about Scouting and finding their feet, re-building up our sections and trying to get to grips with the new Scouting membership system (a sometimes difficult experience!), this year has continued to be challenging around recruit more adults to assist with the younger sections particularly.

As a Group we have made big inroads into rebuilding scouting skills and now have several Scouts and Cubs who are experienced with outdoor activities and camping skills. Unfortunately, the attendance and uptake on camps and activities / events outside of 'normal' meetings remains low, making it difficult to organise, sort out logistics and keep events as value for money as we can. Often events are cancelled due to lack of interest.

We are, along with the whole of the Scout Association, celebrating the triple birthday of Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels this year! We are also starting to build up to our Scout Group's centenary in 2030 with "The road to 100 years" activities, badges and exciting projects either underway or in the planning stages.

Despite the challenges we have the Group has been active and busy....

A couple of highlights for our Group:

Falconry displays with lots of birds – helping some members overcome their fears

Two fundraisers at the railway station.

Continuing Platforms for Change – including being instrumental in the station achieving 'Bee-Friendly' status.

Competition to name the PFC garden – with a family train ticket to anywhere on the network as the prize.

Wildflower workshops – where our members learned about the importance of native wildflowers and choose their favourites for planting in the garden over the next few months.

Scouts expedition camp for the older members of the Troop to earn their Expedition Challenge Awards.

Halloween sleepover at Hixon (Girlguiding HQ).

Cub and Beaver sections training camp at Sherratt's Wood with Climbing, archery, campfire, crafts campcraft.

Scout section P.L. & A.P.L.'s camp at Sherratt's Wood.

95th anniversary activities, camps and celebrations.

VE day 80 commemorations.

Railway 200 celebrations - having workshops and pictures up at station.

A very successful winter camp themed around the Chinese spring festival year of the horse for Scouts and Cubs with our Beavers and Squirrels visiting with activities such as archery, orienteering and crafts.

Traditional Rafting at Kibblestone.

Young Leaders camp at Kibblestone which they organised themselves.

Regular Young Leader's meetings once a month and social time for them.

Looking forward our annual group camp at Sandon later this year - taking place for 67 years now and is a relationship that is very special to us.

We congratulate our members on achieving:

3 Chief Scouts Acorn Awards

3 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards

2 Chief Scouts Silver Awards

2 Chief Scouts Gold Awards

2 of our Young Leader Explorers have also earned their Young Leader Belts.

Young Leaders who have progressed to become Leaders; Chloe (Karela), Dylan (Keego), Charlotte (Mao) & Chloe (Phao). New Leaders Lianne (Aspen) and Sophie (Willow) are very much appreciated within the Squirrel and Beaver sections with Loz (Redwood) taken on team leader of Beavers.

We would like to thank members of our Trustee Board for their work over the past year, particularly Stuart (our Treasurer) and Jenny, Carina (who are parent reps). We remain committed to gaining new, non-leaders, to join our Trustee Board, however recruitment remains difficult. Squirrels and Beavers are currently running together due to leader shortages. Our Scout Troop has high numbers however we do have some spaces across all sections.

As GLV's we have had another extremely stressful and busy year (with still no signs of slowing down!) and would like to express our thanks to all our Leaders and Supporters for their assistance.

Regards, Justin L. & Vikki L. Williams (Group Lead Volunteers)

Justin L. & Vikki L. Williams (Group Scout Leaders)

### **7<sup>th</sup> Stafford (Trent Valley) Scout Group Report**

Report not submitted

### **9<sup>th</sup> Stafford (Sea Scouts) Scout Group Report**

#### **9th Stafford Sea Scouts – Annual Report.**

Over the past 12 months, 9th Stafford Sea Scouts has remained a strong, active, and valued group within the local community, continuing to provide a safe, engaging, and rewarding experience for all young people involved.

#### **Membership and Growth**

- The group continues to see steady interest across all sections, including Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, and Sea Scouts.
- Waiting lists remain in place in some sections, reflecting continued demand.
- Young people are progressing well through the sections, showing good retention and commitment.

#### **Programme and Activities**

- A varied and balanced programme has been delivered throughout the year.
- Activities have included traditional scouting skills, team-building, and practical life skills.
- Water-based and boating-related activities have been delivered where possible.
- We have successfully restarted our sailing season, with regular Friday sessions now taking place and planned to continue through to September.
- Camps, nights away, and external activities have provided memorable experiences and helped build confidence and independence.

#### **Leadership and Volunteers**

- The group is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who continue to give their time and effort each week.

- There have been and will be some changes within the leadership structure over the year, with new volunteers stepping into roles and others moving on.
- Leaders have continued to gain permits in Stand up paddle boarding and Mountain Leader 1.
- Continued recruitment and development of adult volunteers remains a key priority to support future growth.

### **Community Engagement**

- 9th Stafford Sea Scouts has maintained a positive presence within the local community.
- The group supported the Rotary Club's annual duck race by providing water safety, helping ensure the event ran safely.
- In November, the group supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by helping to sell poppies within the community.
- Parents and carers continue to play an important role in supporting activities and the overall running of the group.

### **Challenges**

- Like many scout groups, volunteer capacity remains a challenge, particularly when balancing programme delivery and administrative tasks.
- Securing enough adult support for activities, trips, and camps has at times limited what can be delivered.
- Despite this, the group has worked hard to adapt and continue offering a consistent programme.

Yours in Scouting,

Spencer Hewitt

(9th Stafford Sea Scouts GLV)

### **11<sup>th</sup> Stafford Scout Group Report**

This year has been a year of change for 11th Stafford with myself taking over from Dave Francis as Group Lead Volunteer and an almost complete turnover of our trustee board. I would like to take this chance to publicly thank Dave for all the work he did in leading the 11th, including through the challenge of COVID-19 and subsequent re-growth of the group.

Our numbers continue to grow, and we currently have over 50 young people on the books. Of particular note is the growth we have seen in our Scouts section where we have traditionally seen the most difficulty in recruitment. We also have increased the numbers of nights away offered this year, with every child in every section being offered at least one overnight experience. The highlight of this year was our group camp and subsequent parent/carers BBQ. It was great to see so many of our young people having the chance to learn and enjoy the outdoors, and it was lovely that their families had the chance to see a small sample of this. This growth has helped to secure our income from subscriptions, and while our finances are now in a more stable position than last year, we are still seeking to grow our reserves to ensure we have adequate funds in the event of a drop in income. We are continuing to seek out grants and we are aware that several of our aging tents will soon need replacing. After over 15 years of service, our group

treasurer, Fiona, will be stepping down at our AGM in June and I would like to thank her for everything she has done for the group in this time. She will be replaced by Natalie who has been working alongside Fiona over the past few months to ensure a smooth transition.

Looking ahead to next year, we are beginning to plan our centenary celebrations as we turn 100 in March. We are considering a range of activities for all of our members and supporters and look forward to sharing more details of these in due course.

Of course none of this would be possible without our amazing team of volunteers, both in our sections and on our trustee board. They have welcomed me into the role of Group Lead Volunteer and their tireless work really does help to provide our members with Skills for Life. I would also like to pass on my thanks to Kevin and the district team for all the work they do behind the scenes to support our group and Scouting in Stafford.

David Birch  
Group Lead Volunteer  
11<sup>th</sup> Stafford Scout Group

### **12<sup>th</sup> Stafford (Berkswich) Scout Group Report**

In terms of numbers the group membership continues to grow. All of our 10 sections are at capacity and most operate waiting lists. All cubs sections camped last year were transported to various worlds in terms of their individual themes.

2 out of three scout troops camped with the opting for indoor accommodation.

The group scout section also had their first international trip taking 30 Scouts to Kandersteg in Switzerland. Although quite eventful for the leadership team the scouts had an amazing experience completing the full programme of activities.

We are sad to be losing two of our beaver section leaders in the summer who have two very full and busy beaver colonies awaiting the next person to take on the challenge. If anybody has found that tree that grows Team leaders can we have a cutting please.

The group continues to be busy hive within the local community working in partnership with local care homes and the river link project as well local fundraising and Christmas fairs. Our local remembrance Sunday service which is led by the Scout groups at weeping cross cenotaph has become so big we are fast outgrowing the space. Moving from an annual fete fundraiser to a family fun day was a well-supported and successful change. Our breakfast with Santa was also a great hit with the younger sections and their parents too.

Lee Smith has now taken over as GLV, with continued support from Doreen who has taken a small step back. "

Lee Smith GLV

### **15<sup>th</sup> Stafford (Penkridge) Scout Group Report**

Report not submitted.

### **16<sup>th</sup> (Wheaton Aston) Stafford Scout Group Report**

Report not submitted.

## **17<sup>th</sup> (Gnosall) Stafford Scout Group Report**

This year has been another successful and active one for the Group, with all sections enjoying a wide range of activities, camps and adventures. It has been fantastic to see continued enthusiasm from our young people and volunteers, and encouraging to see the Group continuing to grow.

Our Beaver section currently has 13 members and has enjoyed a busy and exciting year. A particular highlight was the section's very first sleepover in the Scout Hut, which was a great success and a memorable experience for everyone involved.

The Cub section has continued to thrive and now has 23 members. Cubs enjoyed a camp at Patshull, where they took part in a variety of outdoor activities, building confidence, teamwork and independence while having plenty of fun along the way.

The Scout section currently has 12 members and has had an adventurous programme throughout the year. Scouts attended an indoor camp at Rhyd Covert, which also included a visit to West Midland Safari Park. They also took part in a successful back-to-basics camp at Sheratts Wood, where they cooked on open fires, used Trangias, and built camp gadgets, developing valuable traditional scouting and outdoor skills.

As a Group, we are pleased to be continuing to grow and develop. Planning is now underway to open a Squirrel section in September, which will allow us to offer scouting opportunities to even younger children within the community.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers, leaders, trustees, parents and supporters for their continued commitment and support throughout the year. Their dedication makes these opportunities possible for our young people.

Lesley Worsley  
GLV 17<sup>th</sup> Stafford (Gnosall) Scout Group

## **20th Stafford (St Bertelin's) Scout Group Report**

The group continues to operate 3 sections; Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Beavers currently have 13 young persons plus 1 on waiting list and whilst numbers have remained fairly static for the last 12 months there has been a decline in Cubs and Scouts as many older Scouts have moved to Explorers. There are currently 7 Cubs with none on the waiting list and 10 Scouts.

The Group also has 3 Young Leaders supporting Beavers.

A wide variety of activities have been undertaken by all sections during the last year with a significant number of badges awarded including Chief Scout Awards. Beavers have undertaken litter picking, a walk on Doxey Marshes, the Isabell trail (both day and night) and a trip to the Monkey Forest is planned. Beavers have been awarded c60 Challenge Awards and Activity Badges in the last 12 months and 10 Beavers have achieved their Bronze Chief Scout Award.

Cubs enjoyed going kayaking last year and are going again this year.

In the last 12 months Cubs have achieved c50 Challenge Awards and Activity Badges.

Scouts have been awarded c85 Challenge Awards and Activity Badges and 1 Gold Chief Scout Award. Scouts have been gliding, sailing, ice skating and a cycle ride.

In March Scouts completed The Great Tommy Sleep Out and raised over £150 for homeless armed forces veterans. They are planning a summer camp.

All sections attended St George's Day Parade and Service.

Following the successful volunteering days in the last 2 years, EDF employees worked at the HQ to upgrade lighting to LED, install a new water heater and new hand wash area, cleared outside area

of weeds, applied anti climb paint, cleared gutters and removed over hanging branches. The work that was undertaken was very much appreciated by the Group.

The Group has also paid for security fencing and a gate to be installed so that the site is now completely secure. The Group is holding their annual summer fete on Saturday 20th June starting at 12pm-3pm at Holmcroft Road, Stafford. All are welcome!

Di Rowlands

Group Lead Volunteer 20<sup>th</sup> St Bertelin's

### **21<sup>st</sup> (West) Stafford Scout Group Report**

2025 was the year that saw the group fully move to the district HQ as our temporary future home. With the confirmation of the impending sale of our former site in Highfields, further investment in the old hut was pointless and even the church hall was condemned as unfit to use.

This initially cost the group in numbers particularly our scout section due to timing changes and accessibility.

However the year got better and numbers started to slowly recover. We now have a bigger, stronger, and younger, team of leaders within the group and this is ensuring our members are getting a busy scouting experience.

All sections have regular camping opportunities, including the squirrels, as well as a large number of varied events outside, away from the HQ, throughout the year. The usual pioneering, Orienteering, camping, and cooking are supplemented with climbing, hikes, crafts, canoeing, shooting and much more. From April to October as many meetings outside of HQ as possible is the target. 2026 will see the results of the various activities recognised by many CSA's in all sections reaching completion.

We are very proud of the time and dedication our volunteers demonstrate to make the members scouting experience so varied and exciting. Their effort is rewarded by the members enthusiasm and the number of badges being achieved.

The plans for our return to Highfields and Western Downs have been progressing and we very much hope to start building our new HQ and community building in summer 2026. Putting us back in the heart of our true community.

The future looks bright for the 21st and scouting on our side of Stafford.

Roy Clarke GLV

### **Elements Explorer Unit Report**

Elements has had another busy year with many scouting and social activities to widen the units experience and challenges.

Activities have included camps, climbing, canoeing, pioneering, lots of hikes, cycle ride, go karting, visited the Sikh temple, quizzes, navigation challenges, first aid course and much more.

But the ultimate was our interrail adventure around Europe in August. 12 nights in hotels and hostels 23 people, Osnabruck, Salzburg, Bologna, Rome and Zurich.

A great year and an extraordinary group of Explorers. Over half are YL's and 2026 will see us doing a push for DofE and the dragon award. And very pleased that those aging out of explorers have enabled the reboot of network and the majority have become full leaders with 4th and 21st.

Roy Clarke  
Explorer Scout Leader

### **St Vincent Explorer Unit**

Brief summary of the year for the St. Vincent Explorer Unit.

We've had an average attendance of around three Explorers throughout the year. Although numbers have reduced, we've continued to provide a varied, active, and engaging programme for those attending.

Despite being a smaller unit, we've carried on with many of our usual activities, including camps, teamwork-based evenings, core Scouting skills, and water sports, which continue to be a popular part of the programme. Our focus has remained on giving the Explorers opportunities to challenge themselves, work towards badges and awards, and enjoy Scouting in a supportive environment. We've also continued developing links with other units, helping provide wider opportunities for activities and collaboration where possible. These connections have been important in ensuring the Explorers still experience a balanced and enjoyable programme.

While this year has presented some challenges with numbers, we're proud to have maintained consistency and enthusiasm throughout, and we look forward to continuing to build the unit over the coming year.

Phil Houlton  
Explorer Scout Leader

### **Pegasus Explorer Unit (Gnosall) Report**

Report not submitted.

### **K2 Explorer Unit Report**

Report not submitted

### **North Star Explorer Scout Unit report**

Report not submitted.

### **7A ESU (Penkridge)**

Report not submitted

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## **Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures 

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Full names 

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Position 

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Date .....