



Scouts

5th Testwood

Our Annual Review, 2024-25

Welcome

For over 60 years our group has been giving young people Skills For Life in Totton. Be that the speak-up needed for school, the sticking at it needed for a hobby or the first aid needed for life. This only happens thanks to many adult volunteers covering all our activities.

3. What's coming up?

AGM Agenda

4. Squirrel Scouts report

8. Beaver Scouts report

12. Cub Scouts report

18. Scouts report

22. Explorer Scouts report

25. Group Lead Volunteer's report

26. Our finances in summary

for the 2024 calendar year.

Agenda

26rd September 2025, 7pm

Calmore Community Centre

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Governance topics**
 - Approval of the minutes from the previous AGM.
 - Adoption of constitution (Scouts Model Constitution)
 - Note of Group's financial year
 - Approve membership of the Group Scout Council (AGM)
 - Approve membership of Group Trustee Board
 - Agree quorum for Group Scout Council (AGM)
- 4. Review of the previous year**
 - Group Scout Leader's review of 5th Testwood Scouts
 - Receive and consider the Trustees Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
- 5. Making Appointments**
 - Confirm appointment of the Group Chair and Group Treasurer
 - Appointment of members of the Trustee board following open selection process
 - Appointment of independent examiner
- 6. Close of meeting**

Rowan Drey report



Squirrels

This past year has been both lively and enjoyable for the Rowan Squirrels. The group engaged in a broad range of meetings and events that brought everyone together. A highlight this year was the New Forest District Squirrel Sleepover, where members had the chance to bond, share stories, and create unforgettable memories in a fun and adventurous setting. It's always heartening to see the Squirrels come together, and events like this really capture the essence of what we're all about.

Throughout the year, meetings included various activities that entertained and inspired the members. The year kicked off with a warm welcome back, followed by delightful events such as the Tasty Teddy Bears Picnic and Circle Storytelling. Creative sessions like Stylish Squirrels and Christmas Tree Crafting allowed everyone to express their clever ideas, while initiatives such as Slimeballs and Football kept energy levels high. Environmental consciousness was nurtured through activities like River Clear Up and litter picking, which helped instil a sense of responsibility towards our beautiful surroundings.

The past events were truly memorable as well. Many gathered for the Squirrel and Beaver district campfire, which provided a lovely opportunity for camaraderie and fun. The Remembrance Day Parade was a meaningful occasion, allowing members to honour a significant tradition in our community. The Santa Run Fayre created excitement and brought festive cheer to all involved. Recently, the Lido Leap allowed the Squirrels to make quite a splash, adding a refreshing end to the year's activities. Additionally, eight Chief Scout Awards were presented, recognising the hard work and commitment shown by our Squirrels.

Our fourth annual Squirrel Scouts Fun Day is coming this September, and it's going to be bigger and better than ever! This special day, just for Squirrel Groups within Hampshire Scouts, will be bursting with exciting age-appropriate activities you don't normally get to try at Ferny Crofts, alongside all the classic favourites we know our Squirrels love. It's not just about the fun and games though – it's a chance to come together, celebrate everything our amazing Squirrels have achieved over the past year, and make brand-new memories with friends old and new.

A big thank you goes out to all the leaders for their dedication. Your support and guidance have made a real difference, and we are excited about what Jo will bring to the group as the new leader following on from Lindsay who has moved on to her next adventure.

Finally, we appreciate all the children for their enthusiasm and joy that they bring to each session, making every meeting enjoyable for the leaders. A heartfelt thank you also goes to parents and volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes to help the group run smoothly. Your support is invaluable, and together, we look forward to another exciting year of Scouting.

Jo, Max and Gareth
Squirrel Leader Team

Squirrel Scouts are our youngest section for 4 and 5 year old girls and boys. They meet on Monday evenings.

squirrels@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



Blackwater & River Test reports





This year, the Beavers have enjoyed a wide range of activities and adventures, making the most of their year. One of the standout highlights was the District Camp held earlier in the year in May, which provided our Beavers with a fantastic opportunity to bond, learn, and enjoy the great outdoors together. From crate stacking to the cave bus, backwoods cooking to joining in singing at the campfire many memories were forged!

Throughout the year, our weekly meetings have been filled with topics as varied as camp craft to disability awareness, plus the odd fun meeting such as 'I'm a Beaver, Get Me Out of Here' or exploring Pride. We've forged connections, including visiting our local Go Outdoors to learn how to be prepared for nights out and hikes away.

Plus, in addition to our regular meetings, we have taken part in several events that brought the entire group together. The Donkey Derby, where we helped sell programmes, and our memorable end-of-term event at Lymington Lido, where we balanced, slipped and played on the inflatables, were particularly successful in fostering a group spirit.

Our sleepover events, at Lymington and with the District at Calshot Activity Centre, provided a taste away from home for our Beavers, encouraging them to camp out and learn essential skills in a supportive environment among friends, building confidence and bravery. We also celebrated significant moments together, learning about respect and community through events like the Remembrance Parade and Christingle at Testwood Baptist Church.

This year, we've been proud to award seven Beavers with their Top Award, the Chief Scout Bronze Award, highlighting their commitment and dedication in reaching the top. Congratulations to them all, we wish them the best for their next steps.

Excitement is building for next year, filled with more skills, nights away, time with friends and adventurous activities too.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the leaders on the team across both nights, the volunteers who stepped into our shoes to help out Tuesday Beavers with their shortage of regular helpers, and of course the parents who have supported our Beavers throughout the year. It makes all the difference, and really makes it enjoyable for us all! Here's to another year of Scouting!

Faye, Scott, Vicky, Justo, Stephen and Harry
Beaver Leader Team

We are urgently looking for new regular helpers for our Tuesday Beaver colony.

We have an amazing shared programme, with resources ready—we just need people who can turn the plan on paper and turn it into reality.

Training and support is available. Beaver team shirt happily provided. Smile from young people guaranteed, alongside the warm fuzzy feeling inside (probably).

Ask Steven at steven.osborn@hampshirescouts.org.uk for

Beaver Scouts are our section for 6 and 7 year old girls and boys.
They meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

beavers@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



Discovery & Endeavour report





As ever the Cubs have been taking part in a full-on program of activities on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from cooking to crafts and some more adventurous activities too. We currently have 34 cubs across both packs.

Unfortunately, we were unable to run our yearly Summer camp in 2024 due to uptake but it will definitely be back for 2025.

The winter term saw the Cubs take part in lots of activities including a Disability Awareness evening, a visit from a local Bee Keeper and making Pizza with the assistance of a local Pizza company as well as our annual representation at Totton Remembrance Parade.

We visited Rock Up in Whiteley and finished off the term with lantern making for Totton Lantern Parade, making their own Christmas Crafts and a visit to The Mayflower to watch Jack and The Beanstalk.

Also, in the Winter Term the Cubs took part in Ferny Crofts' Fright Night where they spent the day doing some spooky activities, adventurous activities and in the evening were brave enough to take on the Spooky Woodland Walk.

As we had a lack of camping we took a few cubs on a Under the Stars Sleepover at Broadstone Warren Scout Activity Centre, where we were the only group on site and enjoyed many adventurous activities such as climbing, tunnelling, Zip wire, Archery and a International Themed campfire with the Instructors looking after us who shared Camp fires songs from their different countries with the Cubs and we even taught them Tom the Toad!



Finally, we kicked off our Spring Term with an earlier edition of our Parent and Cub Camp in January. We took 6 couples of trainee witches and wizards to Hogwarts at Ferny Crofts to train in the art of Broom Stick Riding, Potion and Wand Making, Centaur Training and Wizard Duels. They also had a go at Divination, Wizard Chess and Professor Flitwick's Flying Class. Gryffindor/Hufflepuff took bragging rights from the weekend and are 2024 winners of the Parent & Cub Trophy.

We entered 2 teams in the District Scrapheap Challenger where we came 2nd and 5th, and they had to make an item based on the story they were told. Well done to both teams that took part.

Our Cubs opened the doors to their own Pancake Restaurant where they cooked pancakes to order and raised £170 towards No Limits Youth Charity. We had New Forest Ranger sessions where the cubs met the New Forest Park Rangers and learnt about all things New Forest and cooked some smores and did some star gazing.

Some of the Cubs also took part in Ferny Crofts Mud Run which we can safely say was a success. We finished off our Spring term with our Eling Easter Hike to find the elusive Golden Egg.

The summer term sees us starting to get back outside. We have Summer Camp coming up, helping at Donkey Derby and taking part in some adventurous activities or trying something new.

Thank you to all that have helped over the last year.

Sarah Challis
Cub Scout Leader



Cub Scouts are our section for 8 to 10 ½ year old boys and girls.

They meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

cubs@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



Garland report



SCOUTS

There's been plenty of adventures and nights away in the little over a year since you last heard from us. The scout section currently sits at a very healthy 30 young people with more coming up from cubs or waiting to join.

A highlight, as with many of the sections, was the District Camp shortly after the AGM in May 2024, where our Scouts took part in loads of adventurous activities with Scouts from across the District including high ropes, archery, cave bus, bouldering, pioneering and more. They coped with the bugs very well on our 'swampy' Wild West campsite. That was not the only camp however in the rest of 2024, with Scouts taking part in a Camping competition in June, Expedition Challenge camp in early July and the annual Summer Camp in late July before rounding out the camping season with the County organized Chaos Camp in September. 2025 has been no slouch either, with Eagle Trophy, Expedition Challenge, Summer camp and Elm tree trophy marking this year so far.

On to our Thursday nights we've hosted hike nights, nerf battles, pioneering, Halloween pumpkin carving, cycling evenings and craft for Christmas. They've build skills like Fire safety, cooking on a fire, navigation, and spent time at Ferny Crofts taking part in new activities.

Amongst all the fun and adventure, we were lucky to award three Chief Scout's Gold Awards, the top award for the Scout section, to reward dedication, achievement and the commitment they achieved through hard work and attendance at a wide variety of events.

Congratulations to all three!

There is plenty to look forward to within the next year with more of the same adventures, activities and skills builders you have come to expect from us in the troop. Plus plenty of camps, nights away and experiences to engage and grow.

Our immense thanks of course go to all the leaders from both the Scouts, and other sections who have helped us at special events and camps. Not to mention the Scouts themselves for bringing energy and enthusiasm to every Thursday, and to our parents for your support. Here's to the next year.

Thanks for reading,
The Scout Leaders.



Scouts are our section for 10 ½ to 14 year old boys and girls.
They meet on Thursday evenings.

scouts@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



Cerberus report



EXPLORERS

It's a head scratching time to remember all the great stuff that Cerberus Explorers were involved with in 2024 and early 2025.

I can probably say that the biggest, bestest and funniest event was Ferny Fest, and should probably add muddiest! This was a weekend long event at Ferny Crofts where all the Explorers had to do was have fun, with the Leaders catering. Bottle washing and looking after everything else.

We camped as District, so some fifty Explorers and five Leaders, amongst the near five hundred Explorers on site, and, with some cunning planning, we probably had the driest pitch on site, although that didn't actually count for much.

The Explorers took part in activities on a Queue and Do basis, with a choice of such things as; air rifles, archery, crossbow, tomahawks, zip wire, all the high rope stuff, sumo wrestling, buckaroo, Segways, laser shooting, backwoods cooking, crazy golf, fun fair games and a huge amount more.

The evenings were taken up with movie nights, traditional indoor funfair games, camp fires and a massive disco with ice-cream and face painting. All this took place with the back drop of mud, but nothing deterred the Explorers from having fun.

We also had the New Forest District camp in May at Ferny Crofts and, whilst as an Explorer Unit we weren't involved, with most of the Explorers also being Young Leaders with various Sections in the District, we were all pretty much there. Another action-packed weekend.

We have had a full programme of activities during the year encompassing; training for expeditions, including a practice expedition, all sorts and types of cooking, hikes, cycle rides, games nights, challenges, Christmas Ice Skating/Quizes/Films, Investiture Events, ten-pin-bowling, lazer quest, and I'm sure lots more that I have forgotten.

Throughout 2024 and early 2025 we have had full commitment from our five or so Explorers, but we have now been joined by Scouts from 6th Netley Marsh, 3rd Ashurst & Colbury and 2nd Copythorne, and a couple joining us from outside the movement. This has meant our numbers have swelled to the high teens.

With numbers, comes more opportunities and the ability to take part in different activities. We also seem to have a lot of Explorers who want to take Scouting abroad, nine of our number have applied for the World Scout Jamboree selection weekend, we wish them well in their endeavours. With the WSJ taking place in 2027 for those selected, there will also be other International opportunities that year, there will be Project 27 and Kandersteg 2027. The Unit will be intending to go to Kandersteg in 2027, so look out for the details coming out soon.

A huge thank you to the Explorer Leadership Team of Alexis Jones, Stuart Bourne and Andy Austin.

Kerie Wallace
Explorer Scout Leader.

Explorers are for everyone aged 14 to 18 years old. Cerberus Explorers meet at our HQ on Monday evenings.

cyclingscout@gmail.com

Group Lead Volunteer report

The past year and a bit since our last AGM has been very eventful, as all our section reports have hopefully proved. With the District camp, adventurous activities in spades and many varied nights away experienced, I think we safely had a packed year of skills for life.

The Totton Santa Run fought bad weather in the run up to be one of our best ever festive events, and the Donkey Derby was again a great success, raising thousands for our ambitions and proving a fantastic community fun day as well as promoting Scouts in the community in an incredibly positive way. A huge thanks as always to the army of volunteers who organise and deliver these complex events.

As a group, our programme remains strong and delivers for young people. Our largest challenges lie in renewing our hall infrastructure for the future, and securing enough volunteers to deliver Scouts each week. After all, volunteers make our group tick. From helping at our big events to working with our young people each week, fixing the hall or as a trustee—all are volunteers, all make a difference and we desperately need more of them.

If you can help even once a month at our sections, then it makes all the difference. If you can help occasionally behind the scenes then it makes all the difference. If you can be a trustee, then it makes all the difference. If you can help at the Totton Santa Run and Donkey Derby, then it makes all the difference. Here's to another year making a bigger difference to the lives of our young people in our community.

Steven Osborn
Group Lead Volunteer

Our finances: 2024

A more detailed version of the group accounts is available from the Group on request, on our website and on the Charity Commission website.

Income

Income for 2024 remained varied and healthy in the face of increasing costs associated with running the charity and its activities.

Membership fees saw a modest increase (2024: £15,845, 2023: £15,098) and activity fees were £2,000 higher due to a more packed programme of events than usual including the District Camp.

Donations remained high (2024: £588, 2023: £641) and income from hiring our hall to various other community groups increased by around £1,200 (2024: £4,148, 2023: 2,960). The group was able to claim GiftAid on donations, however this was received by the group in 2025 and will form part of accounts for that year.

Income from the Santa Run and Christmas Fayre was £7,623, a brilliant increase on the previous year (2023: £5,348) compared to a similar cost base.

The Donkey Derby brought in £8,969 to the group after being shared with Eling Sea Scouts with whom the event was jointly delivered.

While this is less than the previous year when the group delivered the event alone (2023: £11,868), the bigger event brought in much more income in total, and through sharing resources and volunteers allowed for a more satisfactory event to volunteers and community alike.

In total, income for 2024 was £50,100, around £2,500 less than 2023 but remaining at the higher level established that year.

Expenditure

Charitable expenditure increased by £2,200 compared to last year with continuing increases on the different unavoidable costs associated with our running.

Membership fees that are paid on to District, County and National increased for us by around £800, and with such an active programme, spending on youth programme and activities increased significantly (2024: £19,293, 2023: £14,975) mostly a result of the District Camp.

There were expected increases in expenditure for adult support and training as leaders completed activity permits, badges as young people achieved more, and insurance, repairs and renewals and stationary and printing from inflation in these areas. There was a large investment in equipment this year, mainly ahead of the District Camp and in WiFi and AV equipment for the hall (2024: £4,763, 2023: £1,088) which also used the £1,328 reserved funds set aside for this purpose.

As expected historic backlogs were finally addressed, costs for lease of the hall (2024: £500, 2023: £2,620) and utilities (2024: 3,033, 2023: £4,058) both decreased to expected levels.

Payments associated with the Totton Santa Run and Christmas Fayre were similar to 2023, with a difference of only £116. The cost of putting on the Donkey Derby was £3,402, around half the previous year (2023: £6,482) as expenses were shared with Eling Sea Scouts.

In total, expenditure was £47,872, around £4,000 higher than 2023.

The Trustees would like to thank our Group Treasurer for their efforts in preparing these accounts. We would also like to thank Sian Winter, who has acted as our independent examiner. Her report is attached to the accounts on our website.



We are a charity, registered in England and Wales, No. 302291.

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www.5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk

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