



# Annual General Meeting

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

# Group Chair's Report

Dear Members,

## 2024: A Year of Adventure, Growth and Strength

The past year, in which celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, has been remarkable for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock Scouts Group, with our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoying countless adventures while our organization continues to strengthen. Our young people have thrived, our membership has grown, and our financial position is secure - all thanks to the dedication of our Leaders, Trustees, and Parent Volunteers.

With our Trustee Board now firmly established for a full year, we've focused on enhancing our governance practices, implementing a Risk Register and establishing a Reserves Policy. In parallel our Group Leadership Team has focused on delivering an exceptional programme of activities across all Sections.

Our fundraising efforts were particularly successful this year, from the Greenway Sponsored Walk to the Baldock Beer Festival. Your support enabled us to replace aging equipment and invest in exciting new resources like our new archery kit. I'm pleased to report that we finished the year with over £2,000 surplus added to our reserves, setting us up well for the future.

As you'll see in the Section Reports that follow, our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts have enjoyed extraordinary opportunities that have helped them develop vital skills for life - the essence of what Scouting offers.

## We Need Your Help!

Our Group thrives because of the amazing support of parents and volunteers. To continue providing fantastic experiences, we need more helping hands. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **Fundraising Team:** Help plan and execute fun, community-oriented events to raise vital funds.
- **Equipment Team:** Assist with the maintenance, storage, and organization of our Group's gear.
- **Beavers Section:** Become a Leader or helper to inspire our youngest Scouts. **Note:** *You don't have to be available every week to become a Beaver Leader.*

Even a small commitment can make a big difference! If you can volunteer some time, please speak with your Section Leader or email us at: [glv@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk](mailto:glv@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk)

## Thank You

At 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock, we are very lucky to have so many dedicated volunteers who give up their precious time to ensure our young people have fun while learning valuable life skills.

Having volunteered as a Parent Helper at various sessions and camps, I'm constantly amazed at how our Leaders make complex tasks such as running a camp look easy. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all of us when I say how enormously grateful I am to all of our Leaders for all they do for our young people. I would also like to thank the other Parent Helpers, including my fellow Trustees, for all their support.

Looking ahead to 2025, with your continued support, we're excited to build on these achievements with new adventures and opportunities for our young people to grow and develop through Scouting.

Yours in Scouting,

Ben Dias

# 2nd Baldock Scout Council Annual General Meeting

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – The Church Hall, Baldock

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## AGENDA

### 1. Introduction and welcome

### 2. Apologies for absence

### 3. Governance topics

- Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 07/06/2024
- Re-adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
- Note the dates of the Group's financial year
- Approve appointed and community members of the Group Scout Council
- Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
- Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

### 4. Review of the previous financial year

- Receive and consider the Annual Reports, including the annual Statement of the Accounts

### 5. Making appointments

- Appoint members of the Group Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board
- Appoint the Independent Examiner

### 6. Closing remarks

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# Group Lead Volunteer Report

## Introduction

2024 has been an exciting and successful year for the 2nd Baldock Scout Group as we celebrated our 70th birthday with a number of fantastic group events.

## Highlights

- **Summer BBQ and Fun Evening:** Held at St. John's School, this event was a huge success, bringing together our community for a night of fun and celebration.
- **Biggest Camp Ever:** We hosted our largest camp to date at Tolmers, with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders, and Parents all joining in. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.
- **Ice Skating at Letchworth:** We took over the ice rink, creating magical memories for both young people and adults.

## Achievements

- **Badge Success:** Our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts earned over 1,150 badges in 2024! A huge congratulations to all the young people for their hard work and dedication. A special thank you to the parent volunteers and 2nd Baldock Leaders for their incredible support and effort in running exciting programs and handling all the necessary admin.
- **Equipment Upgrades:** We refreshed and expanded our equipment to offer even more activities. Significant purchases included:
  - **Archery Equipment:** We invested in 12 bows, 60 arrows, targets, and netting of various sizes, plus 4 soft archery sets for our younger members.
  - **Garden Games:** We bought games like soft axe throwing and corn hole, which were a hit at the beer festival.
  - **New Tents and Shelters:** These will be used by all Sections for various activities.

## Community Support

- **Grants and Subsidies:** We provided over £1,750 in grants to help our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts attend meetings and activities they might not have been able to otherwise. For more information, visit our Grants and Subsidies Policy.
- **Fundraising Success:** Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our young people, Leaders, and parents, we raised almost £8,500 in 2024. This allowed us to enrich our equipment, keep costs low, and subsidize great events like ice skating. Additionally, our fundraising efforts helped other organizations raise tens of thousands of pounds to support the community, including the Baldock Events Forum, Baldock Charity Beer Festival, and Baldock Festival.

## Volunteering

A heartfelt thank you to all our Leaders, Trustees, and Young Leaders who volunteer their time for meetings, planning, training, safety, and safeguarding. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team and help provide even greater experiences for our young people. Currently, we are seeking:
  - **Equipment Team Members:** To help check out and check in kit, ensuring everything is in order.
  - **Trustee Board or Group Support Members:** To represent our Beaver and Cub Sections and coordinate fundraising.
  - **Section Team Members:** To assist with various tasks, from signing up for events to helping with admin and planning.

## Moving Forward

We are excited about the future and look forward to continuing our mission of providing amazing experiences for our young people. Together, we can achieve even more in the coming year!

Yours In Scouting

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## 2024 Documents

The 2024 AGM Minutes, Financial Statements and Link to Group Constitution can be found here:

<http://www.2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk/group/2025-documents/>

## Proposal to Maintain Current Subscriptions

The termly subscriptions are reviewed annually at the AGM. This year after careful consideration, the Trustees are proposing to maintain the subscriptions at £40 per term. We understand that these subscriptions may represent a significant commitment for some families. If you find yourself in challenging financial circumstances, please don't hesitate to speak confidentially with your Section Leader. We are committed to ensuring that no young person misses out on the Scouting experience due to financial constraints.

## Re-Adopting Our Constitution

We follow the proposed UK Scout Trustee Board Constitution found in the POR (Policy, Organisation and Rules) document as amended for March 2024 (and updated in June 2024). There are a few sections of the constitution that the Trustee board sets locally and recommends the following to the AGM:

1. All Trustees will be elected to a 3-year term from the AGM at which they were elected
2. The Trustee Board should have 10 Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees.
3. Trustee Board meetings are open for Section Leaders to attend to have input before any votes.
4. A quorum for Trustee Board meetings will consist of 3 Trustees and the GLV (or their non-Trustee representative)
5. A quorum for future Group Scout Council meetings will consist of 10 members.

## Treasurer's Report

In 2024 we had a great year and made a surplus of £2,097, based on total income of £28,484 against £26,387 in expenses.

<b>2nd Baldock (Catholic) Scout Group</b>				
<b>Profit &amp; Loss Account for the year ended 31st December 2024</b>				
	<b>2024</b>			<b>2023</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Membership Subscriptions	9,446		9,446	8,960
Less: Fees to National/County/Area/District	-5,118		-5,118	-3,685
<b>Net membership subscriptions retained</b>	<b>4,328</b>		<b>4,328</b>	<b>5,275</b>
Gift Aid	1,627		1,627	1,362
Youth Programme and Activities	13,286		13,286	13,878
Fundraising	8,465		8,465	2,540
Inclusion Donations				900
Other Income	343		343	516
Asset and Investment Sales, etc	435		435	485
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,484</b>		<b>28,484</b>	<b>24,954</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Youth Programme and Activities	14,541		14,541	16,732
Insurance and Rent	1,696		1,696	1,085
Equipment Costs	4,728		4,728	3,000
General Fundraising	2,151		2,151	154
Uniforms & Badges	886		886	1,439
Inclusion Payments and Subsidies	1,676	114	1,790	786
Other expenses	596		596	631
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>26,273</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>26,387</b>	<b>23,827</b>
Transfers between funds	-962	962		
<b>SURPLUS(DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>1,127</b>
<b>FUNDS BREAKDOWN</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>2024 Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2023 Total</b>
Capitation Provision		6,028	6,028	5,118
Advance Payments for Youth Activities		32	32	325
Hall Hire		233	233	700
Inclusion Fund	1,388	112	1,500	1,000
Planned Equipment Purchases				1,000
One-off Activities				250
Unplanned Equipment Repairs/Replacement	800		800	800
Container Repairs/Replacement	3,000		3,000	3,000
General Expenses Reserves	6,364		6,364	3,667
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>11,552</b>	<b>6,405</b>	<b>17,957</b>	<b>15,860</b>

The chart below illustrates our net income and expenditure, grouping like items together and shows our net income and expenditure more clearly. For example, the net cost of £1,255 for the youth programme and activities (camps and events) is comprised of £13,286 in income and £14,541 in expenses.



In 2024 we had our best year ever for fundraising, raising a total of £6,314 after expenses. We also raised £5,956 in net subscriptions, including £1,627 from reclaimed gift aid. The remainder of our income came from bank interest, hiring out our griddle and general donations.

This income was used to fund the camps and other activities for the beavers, cubs and scouts, which cost £1,255 net, after contributions from parents. Our biggest expense however was £4,293 net in new equipment, and thanks to the better than expected fundraising we were able purchase archery and shooting equipment for the group and replace some worn out tents. This will widen the range of activities that we're able to provide in the future and also reduce our costs by not having to hire this equipment. We were also able to take the beavers, cubs and scouts ice skating which we were able to provide at no cost to the children as a thank you for all of your continuing support.

Our second biggest expense at £1,790 was inclusion (the hardship fund), and we continue to provide support for children whose parents are unable to meet the full cost of subscriptions and events themselves. It's extremely important to us that no child misses out on scouting due to their financial circumstances. Please speak to one of us if you would like to discuss how we can help you.

The remainder of our expenses were badges, insurance, rent, the cost of running the Online Scout Manager platform.

The surplus we have earned this year will be put to good use. We are expecting to maintain our inclusion funding at a similar level in 2025, but we will also put money aside for long-term needs and contingencies.

We thank you all for your continuing support and hope that 2025 is another fantastic year for scouting!

Yours in Scouting,

Matthew Riley

## Beaver Section Report

Beavers had an exciting year, completing 16 badges and joining in with lots of outdoor activities.

### Spring

We started the year by covering the 'Global Issues' badge where we looked at Fairtrade, including trying Fairtrade food! We also discussed the issue of access to clean water and made our own water filters.

We then went on a Night Hike around Weston Woods, taking the opportunity to get a head start on our Space badge by looking at constellations from the top of Gibbet Hill.

Back at the hall, we covered the Space badge for the next two weeks using torches to make pin hole projections of constellations, learning about the planets and life on the International Space Station.

We finished the term with the Safety badge, where the Beavers learnt about the Green Cross Code, road safety and rail safety. They even practised their skills by going for a walk to use the zebra crossing on South Road and the crossing towards the roundabout.

For our Nights Away badge, we joined Cubs for a sleepover at Wymondley Woods. The Beavers took part in a range of activities around a 'Wild West' theme.

### Summer

The Summer term started with a walk up to the woods to collect natural resources to be used for the 'Natural Activity' part of the Outdoors challenge badge. Back at the hall, we used them to make nature tiles, pressing them into clay squares.

We then covered the Photography badges and Cycling badges, with half of the Colony taking part in one badge each and then swapping the next week. To earn their photography badge, the Beavers took 10 photos around the Church gardens, printed them and used them to make a collage. For the Cycling badge, Beavers brought their bikes and discussed riding safety, wearing a helmet, pumping a tyre and showing that they could ride for a short distance.

The Beavers enjoyed a trip out to Fun Rings at Gosling Sport Park in Welwyn. They loved sliding down the hill on their donuts and most even managed to pull them back up the hill again!





Our next meeting was the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. Beavers and their families enjoyed joining other Sections and past members to celebrate with games, bouncy castle and BBQ.

After half term, we covered the Musician badge, learning campfire songs ready for our group camp. We also snuck in the knots section of the Outdoor challenge badge. Beavers learnt reef, overhand and slipped half hitch. I wonder how many they can still remember!

We took the Beavers back up to Weston Woods to explore for parts of the World Challenge badge and Adventure Challenge badge. They enjoyed looking for minibeast, climbing the fallen trees and finding new paths.

The Beavers then had a great meeting at Boyd camp site where they earned their first Time on the Water badge by taking part in rafting. They also covered 'Adventurous activity' for Adventure Challenge badge by practising soft archery (thanks to James from Scouts for helping!) We also managed to sneak in parts of both the Camp Craft Badge and Adventure Challenge badge by practising pitching tents. They were pretty good!

Beavers loved camping outside with the rest of our group at Tolmers. They took part in Tunnels, Water Wars, made dens and joined in with campfire.



## Autumn

Beavers started the Autumn term with the Digital Maker badge where they discussed technology and how it can make our lives easier. They designed a graphic for their own computer game and practised programming by giving instructions to make jam sandwiches. This is always a favourite activity as the Leaders take the instruction very literally and it all goes horribly wrong!

Next, we looked at the International badge. We tried foods from different countries and voted on our favourites, shared different ways we knew how to say 'hello' and learnt about Beaver groups around the world.

We had a fabulous visit from Safari Stu (always a firm fave with the Beavers!) They handled a chameleon, cockroaches, a tortoise, lesser tenrecs, a chuckwalla and even a massive spider!



Then, Beavers covered the Disability Awareness badge. A massive thanks to George's mum who provided a range of equipment for the Beavers to try. They also learnt to finger spell their names and we had an amazing visit from The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The children loved meeting Sage and her owners.

To earn their Cooking badge, the Beavers made a range of dishes, including savoury French toast. Yum!

We also managed to fit in a sleepover in 1<sup>st</sup> Baldock's Scout Hall. We walked to the fish and chip shop for dinner and took part in a range of 'Pirate' inspired activities.

We ended the year with a group ice skating trip. It was lovely to see all the Young People from across the group get together to celebrate the end of the year. Thanks to all the parents that came along to help.

## Cubs Section Report

I'm never quite sure how we manage to fit so much into a year, but the Cubs have embraced the opportunities provided and this has resulted in over 380 badges being awarded over the year.

The Spring term saw us doing the Global Issues and Scientist badges and working towards the Skills Challenge badge. We also fitted in a hike, Lunar New Year celebrations, Easter fun, Mother's Day craft and cooking. We also had a Wild West themed sleepover with the Beavers at Wymondley Wood.

The Summer term had the Cubs doing their Entertainer and Fire Safety badges alongside climbing, Father's Day craft and a water fight. We had a week where the Cubs took over and several taught various skills to the others, and continued working towards the Skills Challenge badge. We also had a Stand-Up Paddleboarding session for their Time on the Water badge. Many Cubs also walked the Greenway to raise funds for new equipment for the Group.



Summer camp this year was at Tolmers with the Scouts and the Beavers. The Cubs tried their hand at air rifles and archery, climbing on the rolling wall and hurling water balloons at each other.



They also cooked their own breakfast over fires, gaining their Backwoods Cooking badge, and sang around a campfire.



The Autumn term was Digital Maker, Personal Safety and International badges as well as starting on the World Challenge badge. We also had a session run by the Army Cadets and those who went on the District Day Out to Gulliver's Land had a brilliant day out.



This year was the first year in decades that we didn't go to PGL due to the rising costs. Instead, we went to Gilwell Park for an almost identical weekend of adventure. The trip took place at the end of September and the Cubs got to go on the Giant Swing, tackle the Vertical Challenge and zip wire, have a go at Laser Tag and build their own coracle to paddle on the freezing cold lake, among other activities.



5 of our Cubs took part in the District Cub shooting competition and we were extremely proud of Hallie who won the individual trophy.



Congratulations! We once again entered a tree into the Christmas Tree Festival, and we hope you were able to see it and the many other amazing trees. We finished the year with a group session ice skating at the Letchworth outdoor pool.

During the year we had several fundraising events – Baldock Beast, Car Show BBQ, the Greenway Walk and the Balstock BBQ. I would like to say a huge thank you to all those Cubs and their parents who helped out at these in any way. We were able to raise a significant amount towards the Group funds, helping to pay for new equipment and reducing the costs of events such as the ice skating for each Section.

**Congratulations** to the 6 Cubs who achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award over the year:  
Ben M, Elliot, Hari, Henry K, Miles and Tom G.



Finally, I'd like to thank Raksha and Bagheera for their help each week and all the parents who have helped at the meetings over the year. The Cubs would not be able to do so much without your help.

Chil



## Scouts Section Report

This past year has been a busy and engaging time for our Scout Section, marked by a variety of meetings and events. In the spring term, we hosted an Indoor Winter Camp, Rugby Training (courtesy of members of the Letchworth Rugby Coaching team) and Pioneering activities, where Scouts enjoyed learning new skills and enhancing their teamwork. The summer term was equally action-packed, featuring Shooting, a Photo Walk, Patrol Camp, and Guardian Camp that provided opportunities for adventure, fun and personal growth.



The year also included several significant events. The Remembrance Day Parade saw our Scouts contributing to commemorative activities, while the patrol leadership camps helped nurture future leaders within the group. Our Autumn Camp provided an enjoyable weekend filled with fun activities and the Green Beret event offered a challenging experience designed to push the Scouts' limits over a full day. Our Nightjar Night Hike was another highlight, allowing our Scouts to explore and appreciate the great



outdoors, while navigating under the stars. Other events included festive activities like Christmas crafts and a firm favourite, the group ice skating session.



During our past meetings, the Scouts engaged in various activities that contributed to their development. These meetings included entertaining sessions like rounders evening, water fights and cooking, alongside more informative sessions on navigation and geocaching.

The Leaders deserve special thanks for their unwavering commitment and hard work. Without them we could not have made these experiences possible.

Looking forward, we have exciting events on the horizon, Water activities and the joint Scouts and Beaver Camp planned for the Summer Term.

### Could you join our Trustee Board?

We are seeking enthusiastic and committed individuals to join our Trustee Board. Our Trustee roles are Chair, Treasurer, Beaver Rep, Cub Rep, Scout Rep, plus 4 Trustees.

We currently have a number of Trustees in post who are happy to continue volunteering with the Group and stay on, but we also have some vacancies to fill, including the following two key vacancies:

1. **Beavers Parent Representative** (Beaver Rep)
2. **Cubs Parent Representative** (Cub Rep)

Serving as a Trustee is a fantastic way to support the Group's mission and make a lasting impact on the development of our young members. No prior experience is necessary, just a willingness to contribute your time and ideas. Full training will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the team or would like to nominate someone, please e-mail [glv@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk](mailto:glv@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk). We can then discuss the roles available at 2nd Baldock and the next steps.

Want to know more about Trustees - then check out this website:

<https://cms.scouts.org.uk/media/17270/trustee-info-pack-2022.pdf>

### Volunteering

We're very fortunate to have fantastic Leaders that give up their time every week. All Leaders are unpaid volunteers and juggle Scouting commitments around work and home responsibilities.

In order to help meetings run smoothly, we ask each Scouting family to help out at one meeting a term and one-two fundraising events a year. This supports us in delivering an interesting programme and helps raise money for the equipment and resources needed by each Section.

If you'd rather donate financially than give time at a fundraising event, then please speak to us or email to arrange.

Parents are also needed before and after camps to help bring or take back kit or dry tents (after a rainy camp). Please ask Leaders when you collect your child from camp, if any help is needed.

A huge thanks to all the families and Leaders who support Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We couldn't run without you!

In addition, across our Section we are looking for more help, this may be helping plan a meeting or helping with some of the back end admin during the week, if you are interested to find out more e-mail

[enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk).

Also, often the small things can make a big difference, it may be offering to take rubbish from camp or a meeting to put in the bin at home, or carrying a box from the Church Hall to the container. So, if you have a few mins, the Leaders would love more people to ask 'Anything I can do to help?'



Did you know the amount of time spent planning and sorting kit before and after Camps, is often far more than the Camp itself?

Our Volunteer Leaders as well as giving up their weekends, often have to take Annual Leave in the run-up to camp and on return from camp, to sort all the equipment out.

Therefore, we are looking to recruit a small team of volunteers to help support them.

Time Required: Up to about 6 hours per month (usually split between the week before and after a camp), this can be flexible during the day or evening.

The areas we would be looking for the team to support are:

- Keeping the stores tidy and safe
- Make sure the kit is available for camps
- Assisting in the preparation of kit before a camp
- Ensuring all the kit is checked and put away after camp
- Recommendations for repairs etc.

Also, any specialist skills that can be provided to help maintain and support equipment would be great

Can you help or know someone who may fit the role well? If so, please get in touch

[enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk)

### 2nd Baldock Grants and Subsidies Policy

2nd Baldock Trustees believe that cost should not be a barrier to anyone taking part in scouting and if this is an issue you can speak to your Section Leader or contact one of the Trustees. The group understand that at times finance maybe be difficult and to support this, we have updated and published our policy below:

<https://www.2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk/group/2nd-baldock-grants-and-subsidies-policy/>

### Recognise these online brands?



These companies and 100s of other online retailers will make a small donation to 2nd Baldock every time you shop on-line for just an extra click of a button. This can quickly add up, scan the QR code for more info.



### Just Giving

We now also use the JustGiving platform, which makes it easier for anyone to make a donation to the 2nd Baldock Scouts Group.

The URL for fundraising or to make a donation to the group to help with equipment or providing financial support is now [justgiving.com/2ndbaldockscout](https://justgiving.com/2ndbaldockscout) or just scan the QR Code.