

ANNUAL REPORT

11TH FOLKESTONE SCOUT GROUP
2025-2026



GROUP CHAIRMANS REPORT

It has been another year of change and progress for our Scout Group, with plenty to look back on and lots to look forward to.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Craig for his outstanding service to the Group. Having dedicated more than 20 years to Scouting and to the young people in our community, his hard work, commitment and enthusiasm have made a real difference to the lives of so many. On behalf of the Group, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for everything he has done over the years. Although he has now stepped down from his role as Group Lead Volunteer, his contribution to the Group will not be forgotten.

I would also like to warmly welcome Beckie and Ali, who have taken on the joint Group Lead Volunteer roles. I wish them every success as they lead the Group into its next chapter, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together.

One of my priorities this year has been to look at our running costs, particularly the ever-increasing cost of energy. To help tackle this, we have invested in additional solar panels and battery storage. This investment allows us to generate and store more of our own electricity, helping us make better use of the energy we produce. Alongside our existing feed-in tariff arrangements, we hope these improvements will reduce our energy bills over time and help make the Group more financially sustainable for the future.

Looking ahead, there is plenty to be excited about as we approach the end of the year and move into 2027. With our sections continuing to provide fantastic opportunities for young people, new leadership in place and plans to relaunch Explorers in January, I am optimistic about what lies ahead.

I would like to thank all our volunteers, leaders, helpers, parents, supporters and everyone who contributes to making our Scout Group such a valuable part of the community. Scouting would not be possible without the time, dedication and enthusiasm of so many people.

Finally, if anyone would like to contact me about the Group, share an idea or discuss anything relating to our activities and facilities, please feel free to get in touch. I am always happy to hear from you.

You can contact me at steve@11th.org.uk.

Thank you all for your continued support, and I look forward to another successful year for our Scout Group.

SECTION REPORTS

Squirrels

It's been a fantastic year for our Squirrels, packed full of fun, learning and adventure! From sand art, first aid and survival skills to experiments, gardening and building bug hotels, our Squirrels have been busy exploring the world around them. They discovered different festivals, including Chinese New Year, learned about torches and enjoyed getting creative with all sorts of activities.

Outdoor adventures were a big part of the year, too, with den building, our Christmas trail trip to Lower Grange Farm and the brilliant summer event, Squirrels Go Nuts! We also welcomed a special four-legged visitor and had an amazing Zoom call with Dr Jenni Gibbons from the Canadian Space Agency, learning all about life in space. What a year of discovering, creating and having fun!

Beavers

It's been a year of fun, badges and big changes for our Beavers!

Before the September change, the Beavers enjoyed learning about autumn, making Christmas decorations and even having snowball fights! They worked towards lots of badges, including Book Reader, Circus Skills, Kindness and Building Bridges, and enjoyed getting out on the water in bell boats.

In September, we welcomed a completely new Beaver leadership team, who have been busy making their mark. Since then, the Beavers have explored kindness, navigation, experiments, road safety, dens and the animals that use them.

There's been plenty of learning, laughter and adventure, and we're excited to see what the Beavers get up to next!

Cubs

Our Cubs have had a brilliant year full of adventure, challenges and unforgettable experiences!

Cub Camp was a huge success, and the Cubs also enjoyed District Cub Camp, along with plenty of night hikes and outdoor adventures. They got creative with inventing activities and building challenges, putting their teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test.

We've also been lucky to welcome the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance charity over the last few weeks. The Cubs have learned about the amazing work they do, practised CPR and even tried on their uniforms. Harrison, a KSS charity ambassador, and Kelly also joined us to share more about this fantastic service.

From camping under the stars to learning potentially lifesaving skills, the Cubs have certainly made the most of their year!

SECTION REPORTS

Scouts

Our Scouts have enjoyed a fantastic mix of activities, visitors and experiences this year!

One of the big highlights last year was KIJ – Kent International Jamboree, alongside a packed programme of exciting activities. We welcomed visitors from a range of backgrounds, including a karate instructor, Wendy and Scott from the fire and ambulance services, a show dog and a visitor from the Wildlife Trust.

The Scouts also had a go at wheelchair basketball with the Folkestone Arrows, explored the world of esports with Archie, who filmed a film with the group, and learned about the creative and digital world.

We also took part in the Porchlight Sleepout, raising money to support people affected by homelessness. We're looking forward to counting up the fundraising total soon and finding out how much we've raised!

It's been a brilliant year of trying new things, learning from others and getting involved in our community.

Explorers

Although we haven't had an active Explorer section this year, exciting things are on the horizon!

We're relaunching Explorers in January 2027 with brand-new badges, a fresh programme and loads of fun activities and challenges.

We can't wait to get the section back up and running and give our older young people even more opportunities for adventure, independence and friendship. Watch this space!

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

What a year for our Scout Group! We have gone through many changes across all our sections. Our young people have tried new things, learned valuable skills, made friends and created some fantastic memories.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers, helpers, visitors, parents and supporters who make all of this possible. Your time, energy and enthusiasm help us give our young people so many brilliant opportunities.

We are always on the look out for new volunteers in all our sections. If you feel you have skills and enthusiasm you can bring to the team please email beckie@11th.org.uk.

THANK YOU



CONTACTS –

GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEERS – BECKIE AND ALI
beckie@11th.org.uk ali@11th.org.uk

GROUP CHAIRMAN – STEVE
steve@11th.org.uk