



Scouts

Blackpool



Annual report and accounts 2025-2026

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Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to Blackpool District Scouts' Annual General Meeting 2026!

Over the past year, our District has continued to provide young people across Blackpool with opportunities to develop skills for life through adventure, learning, teamwork, and community service. The dedication and commitment shown by our volunteers, leaders, trustees, and supporters have ensured that Scouting remains a positive and transformative experience for hundreds of young people throughout the District.

We are particularly proud of the achievements of our young people who have gained awards, completed challenging activities, and represented the District at events. Their enthusiasm and commitment continue to demonstrate the value and impact of Scouting within our community.

The Board of Trustees remains committed to ensuring that the District is managed effectively, responsibly, and in accordance with the requirements of The Scout Association and the Charity Commission. Throughout the year, the Trustees have maintained oversight of the District's finances, property, risk management, safeguarding responsibilities, and strategic planning. We are grateful for all, for the careful management of our resources. The accompanying financial statements provide a detailed overview of the District's financial position and demonstrate our commitment to transparency and accountability. Careful financial stewardship ensures that we can continue to offer affordable and accessible Scouting to as many young people as possible.

Safety remains a fundamental responsibility of the Trustees. We have continued to monitor compliance, safeguarding, and risk management across the District, ensuring that robust systems and procedures are in place to protect our young people and volunteers. We are grateful to our volunteer teams who work diligently to maintain the

highest standards of safety and safeguarding across all that we do. Blackpool Scout District continues to play an active role within the wider community. Our members have participated in remembrance events, charitable fundraising, civic celebrations, and community service projects to name a few. These activities not only benefit the communities we serve but also reinforce the values of Scouting—integrity, respect, care, belief, and cooperation.

As we look to the coming year, we remain focused on providing safe, inclusive, and inspiring opportunities for all young people. We will continue to support our volunteers, strengthen our governance arrangements, grow membership, and ensure that Scouting remains accessible to everyone who wishes to take part. The future of Blackpool Scout District is bright, and I am confident that, with the continued dedication of our volunteers and the enthusiasm of our young people, we will continue to thrive and make a positive difference in our community.

The Trustees have worked closely with the District Lead Volunteer and wider leadership team to support the delivery of our strategic priorities and maximise the opportunities the District can offer to all. However none of our successes would be possible without the incredible efforts of our volunteers. From Section Leaders and Assistant Leaders to Trustees, occasional Helpers, or anyone that helps in anyway. Every volunteer plays a vital role in delivering our programme and on behalf of all the trustees I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who have given their time, energy, and expertise during the year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all volunteers, young people, parents, supporters, partner organisations, and members of the local community for their ongoing support. Your contribution enables us to continue delivering exceptional Scouting experiences and helping young people gain skills for life. Be proud of your work over this year and together, we will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of the young people across Blackpool and the wider community.

Chris Hardy

Chair of the Board of Trustees

A year of achievement

This year across Blackpool Scouts has been defined by growth, ambition and unforgettable experiences. From Squirrels to Network, our young people have taken part in a wide range of activities that build skills for life, confidence and resilience.

We have continued to grow across all sections, including the expansion of Squirrel Dreys, strong participation in district-wide events, and increasing numbers of top awards. Our programme remains engaging, inclusive and accessible to more young people than ever before.

Our younger sections have experienced themed sleepovers, outdoor adventures and major trips, including a landmark Cub visit to London. Scouts have taken part in innovative activities such as Monopoly Run and Cardboard Canoes, while also representing the district at national events. Meanwhile, Explorer and Network members have embraced youth-led programmes, international opportunities and top award challenges.

Blackpool Gang Show continues to be a highlight of the year, bringing together around 100 young people supported by a large volunteer team. The 2026 show at the Grand Theatre combined creativity, modern production and strong Scouting values, helping young people develop confidence, teamwork and a strong sense of belonging.

Throughout the year, events such as St George's Day, Founder's Day and district competitions have brought our community together. Our young people have also contributed to local causes through donations, environmental work and community engagement, demonstrating Scouting values in action.

Mowbreck continues to grow as a key asset, welcoming more groups and benefiting from ongoing development, including improvements to the campfire area. It remains central to delivering high-quality outdoor experiences.

Our volunteers remain the driving force behind everything we achieve. Their dedication, passion and commitment ensure that young people across Blackpool continue to benefit from a high-quality Scouting experience.

We look forward to continuing this momentum with further growth, expanded opportunities and even more adventures for our young people. From international expeditions to local community projects, the future of Blackpool Scouts is incredibly bright.

This year has shown the true strength of Blackpool Scouts. Together, we are developing young people, building communities and creating opportunities that will last a lifetime. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to another successful year.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to Peter Greathead as he steps down from the role of District President. Peter's continued and unwavering support to me as District Lead Volunteer has been invaluable, and I am personally very grateful for his guidance, encouragement and commitment to Blackpool Scouts. I am delighted that Peter will continue to support the District as a Vice President.

I am also pleased to warmly welcome Jordan Wylie MBE as our new District President. We are extremely proud to have Jordan join us in this role, and we look forward to working together as we continue to grow and develop Scouting across Blackpool.

Matt Hornby

Lead Volunteer

District Leadership Team

A place to belong

Our vision is to empower more young people through adventure, teamwork and shared values, to take the lead on making a positive difference in the world. To actively engage and support young people in their personal development, to make a positive contribution to society.

Our pillars

Delivering an adventurous and inclusive Programme

When young people experience belonging, they're more likely to grow, participate and stay engaged. An inclusive Programme rooted in the outdoors, filled with adventure and grounded in community, connects young people locally and globally, offering them experiences that enable them to thrive.

Supporting our volunteers

Our volunteers are brilliant, and we need more of them - well trained, confident and supported - to bring our Vision to life. When our leaders feel prepared and motivated, they're better able to empower young people to take the lead.

Our outcomes

By 2035 as a national organisation we will have...

A growing and inclusive movement

Scouts is welcoming more young people and adults, especially from communities underrepresented in our movement. We offer a safe, inclusive space where everyone feels they belong. Growth is meaningful and sustained, reaching new communities, retaining members and reflecting the diversity of society.

More young people gaining skills for life and leading change

Every young person in Scouts is building the skills, character and confidence they need to thrive. Through adventurous experiences, global awareness and meaningful opportunities to lead, they develop a strong sense of identity and purpose. Young people are not just shaped by Scouts; they are shaping it.

Volunteers who feel confident, supported and valued

We attract and retain more volunteers by making the experience inclusive and rewarding. They feel equipped and confident to contribute in flexible, fulfilling ways. Volunteering in Scouts strengthens their own personal growth, builds community and supports long-term affinity with the movement.

Stronger and better connected communities

Scouts plays a visible and positive role in communities across the UK. Locally, Scouts builds bridges between people of different backgrounds, promotes civic engagement and creates spaces where everyone can belong and make a difference. Through local action, Scouts contributes to a more compassionate and cohesive society.

A safe, inclusive and sustainable environment

Scouts is built on strong, stable foundations. It is safe for every member, actively inclusive and resilient by design. With careful planning, good governance and sound resource management, we adapt to change and deliver consistently well.

Shaped by young people

Once again, Blackpool Scouts are doing well in supporting a Youth Shaped Programme within all of our sections.

I've had a fantastic time in my first year as District Youth Lead, and what a year it's been. I've visited some Squirrels, Beavers, and Explorers to work on their 'YouShape' badges, and I have already made plans with a few groups to visit them next term too. One of the most impressive things I've seen on these visits is just how successful our youth shaped message is. From Squirrels to Network, the young people I've spoken to this year are all so excited about their upcoming adventures and are also very keen to learn new skills. Whether that be learning to ride a bike or how to paddleboard, we have such a wide range of talents and skills as adult volunteers, and we give our time to make sure our young people can do whatever they're passionate about, and that's what makes us so special! We give young people invaluable experiences, and by continuing to listen to their voices, we keep them engaged and celebrate their individuality.

Alongside my group visits, I've also attended many District events as part of my role and I've also been involved with events in the local area, such as Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph, the Blackpool and the Fylde Deliver You Hackathon, which focused on youth voice, and was directly linked to government policy, and more recently, the Pride weekend. Through all of these events, and during the conversations I've had with young people and adults alike at them,

I've tried my hardest to advocate for all of the wonderful things we do in Blackpool District, and make our presence known. These conversations with local groups, such as the United Youth Alliance will also help us to open doors for our young people, as there are plans for some promising events in the future, especially for the Scout and Explorer sections, and I am keen to see our connections with these groups take shape.

My aim for the next year is to introduce many more young people to Scouting, and to learn more about what our current young people want through the 'YouShape' Award. I will also continue to help create links with our local community and social action groups, so that we can be at the forefront of change, and improve the lives of young people, both inside and outside of Scouting.

Thank you all for your support this year!

Holly Brookfield

District Youth Lead

District Leadership Team





Squirrels

2026 brings 4 years of Squirrels in Blackpool and we're having more fun than ever! Squirrels are spreading throughout the district with 9 Squirrels Dreys now open and having lots of fun!

In January, we saw some more Squirrels performing in Blackpool Gang Show with big smiles and unwavering enthusiasm. We heard lots of Squirrels in the audience also saying that they want to be a part of next year's show!

February, we held our 3rd annual District Sleepover - this one being 'All Around the World' themed. 24 Squirrels from across 3 Dreys came together to fly around the world and 'visit' some different countries. We tried some flamenco dancing in Spain, made cuckoo clocks in Germany and tried some different foods from France! Amidst all the fun we also completed our air activities stage 1 badge. It has been brilliant to see various nights away happening with individual Dreys this year, including a Santa themed sleepover and even a sleepover at Gulliver's World! We've heard the Squirrels want to go back to that one!

Squirrels joined the Beaver section to celebrate Founder's Day. We had lots of fun completing activities from different countries that also have Scouts, including learning to sing Happy Birthday to Baden Powell in Spanish! The Squirrels and Beavers all remembered this very well when we came to sing it together at the end of the day.

In April, Squirrels headed up to Bibby's Farm for the County Squirrels 5th Birthday Party! Here they completed various activities such as treasure hunts, making their own woggles, bouncing on the bouncy castle, seeing a musician and were even treated to ice-cream and candy floss! April once again saw another St. George's Day celebration in Stanley Park. It was brilliant to see them in the park, meeting the emergency services, working together as a team, and completing a scavenger hunt around the park.

At the start of May, we launched our new annual competition 'The Nut Hunt'. This was a 2-hour nature trail around Lawson's field and Marton Mere, where the Squirrels had to hunt for nuts to uncover a secret code word, and collect nature to complete colour wheels. Along the way the Squirrels had activities to complete such as: sense boxes, a nature themed Kim's game, tracking, working with compasses and an animal match up activity. 54 Squirrels from across 5 Dreys attended this event and had a fabulous time. The scores were very close, but congratulations to the 6th Blackpool for winning

the 2026 Nut Hunt! Shortly after this, many of us took part in the BOTT walk.

In June we held a District adventure day at Mowbreck Campsite. The Squirrels tried their hand at some adventurous activities as well as cooking on fires, having fun with inflatables, and cooling down with some water themed activities. In addition to all of the events above, there have been some fabulous weekly programmes being run by individual groups. We've seen scavenger hunts, lots of cress and sunflower seeds being planted, bird feeders being created, learning about space, and so much more! As well as all of the above, our Squirrels really have been doing their part to help our community, from beach cleans to visiting Tesco and buying food for those less fortunate, our Squirrel Scouts have loved helping where they can. All of this has meant that we have awarded even more Chief Scouts Acorn Awards than last year, which has truly been amazing!

As always, a massive thank you to everyone who has supported the Squirrel section over the past year, either supporting meeting nights or helping us to put on some brilliant events! A big thank you to the rest of my District Squirrels team - Zoe, Heather, Jade and Chloe - for your continued support of me and of Squirrels within Blackpool District. We can't wait to see what adventures next year brings!

Gabby Howson-Tax

Squirrel Section Team Leader
Programme Team



BEAVERS

We begin, as we always do, by reflecting on what has been another incredibly busy 12 months for our Beaver Scouts.

It has been fantastic to see all the exciting adventures our Beaver Colonies have enjoyed over the past year. We were especially proud to hold our very first Chief Scout's Bronze Award Presentation in the Forest. It was wonderful to recognise so many Beaver Scouts and to see you take part in activities alongside your parents and guardians. Huge congratulations to you all!

During the Autumn term, it was amazing to see how you responded to the call to support those less fortunate in our local community. Your generosity in donating hats, gloves, scarves and sleeping bags was truly inspiring—thank you for your kindness, as always.

You were all in very fine voice at our annual Carols Around the Campfire - although we're not quite so sure about some of our leaders! Thank you for braving what was a very cold evening.

In January, it was a delight to see so many Beaver Scouts performing on stage at the Grand Theatre in the Blackpool Gang Show. We were incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Congratulations to 7th Blackpool Beaver Colony, who won our Challenge Countdown with an outstanding scrapbook showcasing all the incredible things you have been doing. Well done to everyone who took part—it was fantastic to see such creativity and enthusiasm.

Once again, we joined our friends in Squirrels to "board a plane" and travel around the world to celebrate Founder's Day. Passports were stamped in every country visited, with new skills, knowledge and experiences gained along the way. A huge thank you to the additional army of volunteers who made this event possible.

It was brilliant to see so many cars and scout minibuses heading to Bibby's Farm in Chorley for the County Beaver 40th Birthday event. We were very lucky with the sunshine—unlike our Squirrel friends the day before! The day was filled with adventure, from grass sledging and bubble making to tomahawks, archery and orienteering, along with candy floss, ice cream, party games, a magician and, of course, birthday cake for everyone. We certainly didn't spot any sleeping Beavers or leaders on the journey home!

In April, many of you joined us at the St George's Day event in the park, where the sun once again shone all afternoon—a welcome relief! There was plenty of fun to be had, including a treasure hunt, games, archery, tug of war and shield making, before renewing your Beaver Scout Promise at the bandstand. (We also noticed a fair amount of ice cream being enjoyed!

We were also delighted to welcome our District President, Jordan Wylie MBE, who launched a brand-new challenge for all Beaver Scouts. We look forward to seeing you all embrace this exciting opportunity. It has been wonderful to see so many of you completing your BOTT walks this year. Our thanks, as always, go to the Cub Team for organising this fantastic event.

Throughout 2026, we have also enjoyed colony visits, sleepovers, visiting speakers and countless badge-earning evenings. We are delighted to share that, according to Nic's records, our young people have earned approximately **1,372 badges** this year—an incredible achievement! These include Adventure Challenge, Animal Friend, Builder, Camp Craft, Communicator, Creative, Disability Awareness, Experiment, Emergency Aid, Faith, Global Issues, Hikes Away, Hobbies, Nights Away, Personal Challenge, Sports, Swimmer, Teamwork Challenge, World Challenge, and many, many more.

We have been privileged to visit our colonies and proudly present Chief Scout's Bronze Awards—the highest award in the Beaver section—to so many deserving young people. This also means we have said goodbye to those moving on to Cubs, and we wish you every success as you continue your Scouting journey.

For all of this to take place requires a great deal of planning, commitment, enthusiasm and time. Our young people are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated leaders and supporters guiding them. We are truly grateful for, and rely greatly on, the strength of our Leadership Team.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the wider District Team. We are incredibly fortunate to have your support at our events—quite simply, none of this would be possible without you.

**Ann Clayton, Sarah Whiteside,
Anastasia Bartlett, Irene Wheatley**
Beaver Section Team Members
Programme Team



cubs

It has been my pleasure to, once again, lead a fabulous hard working dedicated team to ensure the Cub journey is filled with fun, friends, skills, opportunities and Scouting.

This year we say a huge thank you and a goodbye to Haydn, Terry & Sophie who have been invaluable team members. Don't worry, you will still see them about as they are remaining in the Scouting community. We have welcomed Rebecca to the team.

We have had adventures on a Paddington scale visiting London attractions whilst also enjoying culture and heritage. 28 Cub Scouts and 8 Leaders commuted via train to London, used the underground, walked around Trafalgar through the Marble arch towards Buckingham Palace – waving to the King. We had lunch in the park before visiting the Houses of Parliament and seeing the Lion King on stage – simply amazing. We enjoyed learning about the Tower of London from a Beefeater, followed the journey of the Tower of London cat, saw the city from the heights of Tower Bridge. We posted mail home from the postal museum before we headed back home, thoroughly amazed by all London has to offer.

To support our Cub Scouts earning their Chief Scout Silver, a day event was held at our district campsite in September. A range of scouting activities took place – den building, cooking on a fire, first aid and tent pitching to ensure more Cub Scouts earned their top award.

In November, we 'Got Knotted' with 103 Cub Scouts earning their pioneer badge. Both Leaders and Cub Scouts completed their own knot board, played games and fired ballista's. A firm favourite in our District calendar is the board games night with chess included. Cub Scouts from 7 different packs enjoyed making

friends and sharing a range of traditional and new games. At the request of the leaders, a day out to Ski Rossendale was organised. 112 Cub Scouts learnt the basics of skiing and tubing, coming away with their Snow Sports Stage 1 badge. To recognise the fantastic achievements of 40 Cub Scouts across Blackpool, the Mayor presented these hard-working individuals with the top award at the town hall - a fabulous night to celebrate with family and friends.

In honour of the longest standing member of the Cub Team, and someone who has dedicated over 50 years of service to the section, the newly titled Gordon Clark Cub Scout Skills Competition saw 8 packs take part in a STEM day at 1st Bispham; building a tarp tent, scaling a Da Vinci bridge, making a cake and cooking it in a cardboard oven and solving an electronic circuit challenge ending the day with our 'ultimate disaster' allowing the Cubs to instantly react to unique challenges. Congratulations to the winners - 51st Blackpool. May 2026 gave 451 members from across the district the opportunity to earn the final part of the Blackpool On The Trail (BOTT) badge with a visit to the Fylde Arboretum, learning about the memorial gardens from the volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the area is well maintained and preserved.

Our Scouting year isn't over yet – we still have the Athlete's badge to earn and a day out at Gulliver's World to celebrate 110 years of Cub Scouts, finishing with our annual Commissioner's Flag and Pack of the Year competition at Blackpool Zoo.

On behalf of the team and I, thank you to all the volunteers that support us and Cub Scouts in our district, week in and week out, to provide a range of opportunities and memorable experiences for our young people. If you wish to support the team, please get in touch.

Stephen Chow

Cub Section Team Leader
Programme Team



SCOUTS

What a great year it's been, with so many events and activities organised by our small army of volunteers.

As I sit here at County Rally reflecting on the past year, all I can hear are Scouts laughing, making new friends, and singing along at a very "not so silent" disco a perfect reminder of what Scouting is all about adventure, friendship, and fun.

This year has been full of highlights, from a record number of Scouts achieving their Chief Scout's Gold Award to new events such as the hugely successful Monopoly Run and the slightly less seaworthy, but far more hilarious, Cardboard Canoes! We also introduced a Taskmaster style problem-solving day at Mowbreck and enjoyed our district Christmas party dancing the night away.

Our Scouts also represented us proudly at annual events including the National Scout Car Races, Alton Towers, and Remembrance Sunday.

A special mention must also go to three amazing Scouts who have been selected to represent Blackpool at the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027 an unforgettable opportunity we are incredibly proud of and cannot wait to follow their journey.

None of this would be possible without our fantastic leaders and volunteers who give up that precious "golden hour" each week to organise activities, teach new skills, and somehow keep the chaos under control. Thank you also to our parents for the endless lifts and kit hunts, and of course to our brilliant Scouts, whose energy, enthusiasm, and ability to create both chaos and unforgettable memories make every week worthwhile.

We can't wait to see what adventures next year brings!

Claire Hadgraft

Scout Section Team Leader
Programme Team



explorers & network

Over the past year the 14-24 section, Explorers & Network, have continued to design and develop great programmes and have achieved some of the sections Top Awards. Members from this section have also been selected to go on the West Lancs Malawi trip and the World Scout Jamboree in 2027.

We have joined together for our yearly Winter camp at Thornthwaite Scout Campsite with a trip to Brimham Rocks, the St Georges Day Monopoly run, Blackpool Pride and our yearly Halloween scare fest at Mowbreck.

Blackpool Network Chair, Rachel McMurdo has led the section to deliver a wide range of activities all contributing towards the "26 in 26" challenge. She advises that since January, members have taken part in learning origami, practising yoga, supporting the cleaning and maintenance of the 1st Norbreck's climbing wall, and organising a successful quiz night.

Members have also engaged with wider Scouting opportunities, with several attending County-run events, including Reconnected and Gathering camps.

Members have also actively supported a variety of District and County events, including Gang Show, the St George's Day Ball, St George's Day in the Park, and Squirrels and Beavers Founders events.

Progress towards top awards continues, with multiple members currently working towards them. Notably, Rachel has completed all four top awards in Scouting. Jasmine successfully achieved her King's Scout Award, and Adam has begun his Scout of the World Award (SOWA) project, contributing to the

development of the 1st Norbreck's climbing wall. Several members have been selected to take part in an international trip to Africa with West Lancashire, where they will work towards completing their Scouts of the World Award in 2027.

The Explorer section have again taken part in the County run Mountain Activity Challenge, which requires walking training days, kit packing skills, map skills a test of their team working skills and stamina!

Unit nights continue to mainly be Youth led with a variety of activities including waterproof fire lighter making, Chinese New Year celebrations, ride the lights, bake off, stop motion video creations, treasure hunt on Beacon Fell, climbing, frisbee golf and pizza making.

Congratulations also goes to Abi for achieving her Young Leader belt.

Explorers are looking forward to next year when we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary!

I would again like to thank my team for their continued support and hard work to deliver a varied but challenging programmes.

Joanna Hacking

14-24 Programme Team Leader

14-24 Team



Mowbreck Scout Campsite

Mowbreck has gone from strength to strength over the last year, with groups from all over the Country coming and staying. We have also opened the site up to a couple more schools and home education groups.

The main improvement to Mowbreck this year has been the modernizing of the new campfire area. This was massively helped along by a visit from the West Lancs Malawi Team who helped move 10 tonne of hardcore for the campfire area and also paint the dry shelter and galley all in a weekend.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our meet and greet team, activity instructors and everyone else who has either helped or visited the site over the past 12 months as without them we wouldn't have a campsite.

Here's to another successful year where we continue to grow and develop!

Andy and Stephen
Mowbreck Campsite Managers







2026 marked another exceptional year for Blackpool Gang Show, building on recent success and continuing our journey of innovation and growth.

Our leadership team evolved this year with Sophie Hornby and John Sanderson joining Tor Kenmare to lead the show. Together, they have continued to drive forward a modern, inclusive and creative vision for Gang Show.

Returning to The Grand Theatre in January 2026, the now-established winter slot proved successful once again, with ticket sales increasing for a second consecutive year. Audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the show as a refreshingly modern and innovative production that retained the heart and spirit of traditional Gang Show while embracing new ideas.

This year's theme, **On The Box**, brought favourite TV and movie genres to life on stage, delivering a fast-paced and engaging production full of singing, dancing and comedy sketches. Highlights included cops and robbers causing chaos in the Crime number, Junior Gang taking us on a documentary journey through the animal kingdom, and a powerful and moving Medical sequence that balanced humour with impact. Audiences were also treated to a high-energy entertainment segment set in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom, a dynamic Heroes in Action display, and a fun-filled Adventure clash between cowboys and pirates. A standout moment from our young producers, where we saw an unforgettable reality-style Romance show, delivering all the drama of a TV finale—proposal, rejection, and a surprise coupling included. A particular innovation this year was the integration of Gogglebox-style video content between each number, expertly delivered by Adam Birkett from the media team. This creative

addition tied the show together and brought the production team's vision to life in a fresh, digital and contemporary format.

Our Junior Gang played an even more integral role across the show, seamlessly integrated into a wider range of numbers and rising to the challenge with confidence and enthusiasm. With a cast of approximately 100 young people supported by around 80 volunteers, the scale of the production continues to be an extraordinary achievement. From production and wardrobe to sound, set design, stage management, media, front of house and administration, the show is made possible by an incredible team effort behind the scenes, alongside our talented live youth-based Gang Show band.

What stood out most this year was not only the quality of the performance, but the culture within the cast and crew. Time and again, parents, volunteers and the young people themselves highlighted the strong sense of friendship, support and belonging. Confidence building, teamwork and personal development were consistently cited as key outcomes, reflecting the core values of Scouting in action. Interest in the show has never been higher, with unprecedented enquiries about how to get involved. This momentum was clear at our recent launch event for 2027, which saw fantastic attendance and enthusiasm for what's to come. We are excited to announce next year's theme, Decades Reloaded, with performances scheduled for 20th–22nd January 2027 at The Grand Theatre.

Blackpool Gang Show continues to go from strength to strength, and we look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Tor Kenmare

Gang Show Business Manager



Our finances

Receipts and Payments account

For the year ending 31st March 2026

	2025-2026	2024-2025
	£	£
Receipts		
Badge Receipts	6060	5818
Christine Fitton Legacy	0	10000
Donations	81	1349
Fundraising	866	251
Fundraising Ball/Dinner Dance	9968	2557
Gift Aid District	0	885
Gift Aid Gang Show	506	535
Gift Aid Mowbreck	0	2625
Greathead (DC)	0	1000
Interest and dividends received	1140	1396
International	0	100
Media	113	72
Membership fees	39125	34110
Miscellaneous	6156	3143
Squirrels	323	1774
Virgin (JustGiving HQ)	245	194
14-24	48	452
44th Blackpool	0	350
	64631	66612
Section Income		
Beaver Scouts	2059	4597
Cub Scouts	11166	15315
Explorer Scouts	10095	13647
Gang Show	25017	20796
Mowbreck Campsite	7104	10063
Paul Marshall Legacy	14235	16209
SASU	0	130
Scout Car Races	0	2179
Scouts	11291	2179
Squirrel Scouts	1187	0
	82154	92688
Total Receipts	146785	159300

Receipts and Payments account (continued)

For the year ending 31st March 2026

	2025-2026	2024-2026
	£	£
Payments		
AGM	573	504
Badges	5145	5231
Dinner Dance	6386	3416
District Camp	360	0
District Expenses	1291	1858
Equipment	3720	0
Events	25	0
Fundraising	57	30
Gift Aid Gang Show	506	535
Gift Aid Mowbreck	0	2625
Greathead (DC)	411	280
Insurances	614	674
International	0	3112
Jamboree	1472	0
Media	899	2034
Membership Fees	35770	39424
Miscellaneous	6403	4360
Paul Marshall Legacy	0	0
St George's Day	38	440
Squirrels	885	1212
Training	961	972
Virgin (JustGiving HQ)	433	110
14-24	500	0
44th Blackpool	29	574
	66479	67392
Section Costs		
Beaver Scouts	2074	4415
Cub Scouts	13784	11648
Explorer Scouts	8420	13340
Gang Show	21708	17759
Mowbreck Campsite	7357	6284
Paul Marshall Legacy	38331	379848
SASU	0	660
Scout Car Races	0	1991
Scouts	11687	8170
Squirrels	602	0
	103964	444115
Total Payments	170442	511507
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-23658	-352207

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For the year ending 31st March 2026

	2025-2026		2024-2025	
	£	£	£	£
Assets				
Monetary balances (cash and bank)		606452		632412
Investment assets				
Rayner funds: 668.6 units in the Charities Office				
Investment Fund at Valuation	11914		13025	
		11914		13025
		618366		645437
Non-monetary assets				
Blackpool Gang Show Equipment		2302	0	0
Stock of badges	5413		5751	
District HQ	375000		375000	
Mowbreck buildings	36155		37500	
Mowbreck equipment	25250		22725	
District equipment	26751		20950	
		468569		461926
		1089237		1107362
		1089237		1107362
Represented by				
Reserves brought forward		1107362		1084336
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		-23658		-352207
Increase/(reduction) in value of investment funds		-1110		-636
Increase/(reduction) in value of non-monetary assets		6643		375869
Revaluation of asset (Mowbreck Building/Equipment)				0
Less increase/(reduction) in liabilities				0
Reserves carried forward		1089237		1107362

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Blackpool District Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the District for the year ending 31st March 2026 which are set out on pages 24 to 326

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The District's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission
- under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the District and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no other matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirement to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 act have not been met; or
- which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiners Name: **Melanie Bunney**

Signed



Date: 25/5/26

Relevant profession qualification(s) or body (if any):

AAT Level 3

Address:

64 WETHERBY AVE
BLACKPOOL
FY4 1QA

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ending 31st March 2026

Note 1: Cash at bank and in hand

	2025-2026	2024-2025
Exec accounts	£	£
CAF bank current account	3532	4524
CAF bank gold account	54897	55564
Virgin account	5	194
	58434	60282
Section Accounts		
Beavers	2299	2315
Beer Festival	5059	5059
Cubs	4345	6963
Explorers	3885	2212
Gang Show	20941	19933
Mowbreck	31137	31390
Paul Marshall Legacy	478081	502177
Scout Car Races	497	497
Scouts	1189	1585
Squirrels	585	0
	540818	572130
Total	606452	632412

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

For the year ending 31st March 2026

Note 2: Analysis of Reserves

	2025-2026	2024-2025
	£	£
Total Reserves Less:	1089237	1107362
Non-monetary assets + loans and liabilities	468569	461926
Restricted Funds		
Rayner Investment Fund	11914	13025
C Fitton Bequest	5863	8900
44th Blackpool	0	29
Butterworth Bequest	10625	10625
Designated Funds		
Beer Festival	5059	5059
District Camp	3640	4000
Explorers	3853	2917
Gang Show	20941	19933
Greathead Fund	309	720
International	3010	10
Jamboree	2528	2750
Membership Fees	10000	40000
Mowbreck	31137	31390
Paul Marshall Legacy	478081	502117
Scout Car Races	387	487
Virgin (HQ)	5	194
Free Reserves	33316	3221

Reserves Policy

The District mainly raises its running costs from its members and has limited capacity for other fund raising, therefore the trustees exercise a prudent approach to their free reserves policy: the trustees will initiate additional fund raising when free reserves fall to below the equivalent of nine months annual costs measured against the latest Executive Income and Expenditure account or the forward budget plan.

Donations

We gratefully acknowledge the following generous contributors to our fundraising this year: Ian Gledhill. Also continue to benefit from the legacies of Mrs Patricia Butterworth and F G Rayner, Paul Marshall and Mrs Christine Fitton.

Our membership

Census results for the year ending 31 January 2026

	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total
Youth membership					
Squirrel Scouts	68	14	0	0	82
Beaver Scouts	132	58	0	2	192
Cub Scouts	152	63	0	0	215
Scouts	113	76	0	1	189
Explorer Scouts (including Young Leaders)	26	25	1	0	52
Network members	7	12	1	0	19
	498	248	1	2	749
Adult membership					
Leadership	94	119	0	3	216
Management	9	11	0	0	20
Support	53	57	0	0	110
Governance	43	41	0	1	85
District	52	58	0	0	110
Group	147	170	0	4	321
	199	228	0	4	431
Total membership	697	476	1	6	1180

Our District comprises

Census results for the year ending 31 January 2026

Squirrel Scout Dreys	8
Beaver Scout Colonies	17
Cub Scout Packs	17
Scout Troops	15
Explorer Scout Units (Including young leaders)	4
Scout Network	1
Groups	17
Sections	62

Our board of trustees

Governance structure and executive committee membership - 31 March 2025 to 1 April 2026

Ex-Officio

District Lead Volunteer
District Youth Lead

Matt Hornby
Holly Brookfield

Appointed

District Chair
District Secretary
District Treasurer

Chris Hardy
Elizabeth Abbott
Janet Hardy

Trustees

Joan Swan
Lesley Meddings
Andy Inglis
Rob Ward
Peter Rumley
Tor Kenmare
Joanna Hacking

Our Scout ambassadors

Our incredible team of ambassadors. They have one thing in common: to share far and wide how Scouts is helping young people gain skills for life.

- **Steve Royle**, Actor, Comedian & Radio Presenter
- **Hayley Kay**, Radio Presenter
- **Ged Mills**, Radio Presenter
- **Gordon Marsden**, Former Member of Parliament for Blackpool South

Special thanks to Jordan Wylie MBE, our District President, for his increased support for all that we do. We'd like to also extend our thanks to Peter Greathead who stood down from President earlier this year and is now our District Vice President.

Gone home

Cath Wiggan, one of our members has gone home this year and we say goodbye to a much-loved member and supporter of Blackpool Scouts.

Our thanks

Blackpool Scouts would like to thank all its volunteers and supporters for their commitment and contributions over the last year. We look forward to another year of making a positive contribution and impact on society.

Roll of honour

Congratulations to all who have been honoured with awards. It's a privilege to present awards to our volunteers. Our congratulations to all recognised in the St. George's Day awards for their contribution, dedication and loyalty to Scouting in Blackpool.

Dianne Leyland - Bar to the Silver Acorn

Awarded after at least five years of similarly distinguished service after receiving the Silver Acorn.

Kristian Webster - Bar to the Award for Merit.

Awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award for Merit.

Stephen Chow - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

Andrew Inglis - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

Annastasia Bartlett - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

Stephen O'Malley - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

Dominic Moore - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

Rachel Sanderson - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Awarded for recognition of the very real contribution made to The Scouts.

- **Liam Chow**
- **Peter Stead**
- **Christopher Hardy**
- **Jade Bentley**
- **Ben Hughes**
- **Rhona Russell**
- **Janet Hardy**
- **Steven Townsend**
- **Andrew Nicholls**
- **Robert Pegler**
- **Lee Fyfe**
- **Gabrielle Howson**



What we do

We're Blackpool Scouts and everyone's welcome here. All genders, races and backgrounds. Every week we give almost half a million people aged 6-25 the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

We exist to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, giving them a powerful sense of belonging and empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

At a glance

In Blackpool we have 1,180 members across the town	In Blackpool we have 749 youth members (Jan 2026)	We have opened 8 Squirrel Dreys in Blackpool for young people aged 4-6
In Blackpool there are 431 adult volunteers (Jan 2026)	Nearly half of our membership in Blackpool is female	Over a week our volunteers give over 1600 hours to Scouting

Figure accurate as of 31 January 2026

Outcomes for young people

Adventure: physically active, healthier lifestyles, with courage to try new things

Skills for life: skills to succeed regardless of academic background

Wellbeing: happy, resilient citizens

Leadership: responsible leaders and team players

Citizenship: active citizens in society – locally, nationally and internationally

Connectedness: strong friendships, with care, trust and respect for other from all backgrounds

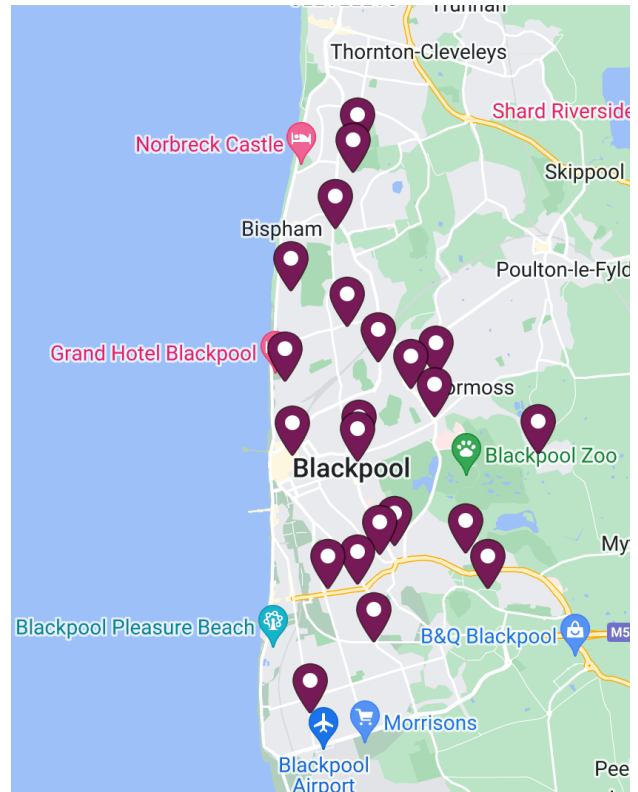


Where are we?

All over the town! We help young people gain skills for life, the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

How can you help?

Helping with Blackpool Scouts is easy and flexible. You can help in any way you wish. Whether that be behind the scenes or actively with our young people. Let's start the conversation, drop our lead volunteer, Matt, an email on matt.hornby@blackpoolscouts.org.uk.



We're the largest volunteer led youth organisation in Blackpool





blackpoolscouts.org.uk

Blackpool Scouts Registered Charity number 521534

