# A Place to Belong



Scouts

## Worthing

# Annual Review 2025 - 2026

Scouts
Worthing

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# People

2025/26 has been a year of growth and strengthening across Worthing Scouts. Many of our Groups have grown, leadership teams are becoming stronger, and the quality and diversity of programme available to young people continues to increase.

The new ways of volunteering introduced through Transformation are also becoming established. Most adults now progress through the joining process well, with Welcome Conversations and team structures becoming part of the normal way we work. Where additional support is needed, the District continues to work alongside Groups to help these processes work consistently.

One of the most encouraging developments has been the continued growth of Squirrel Scouts. New Dreys have opened at 1st Durrington, 2nd Durrington, 3rd Worthing and 8th Worthing, bringing Scouting to more 4–6 year olds. 10th Worthing is also developing plans for its own provision. While the Drey at 2nd Worthing has temporarily paused, we see this as a break in provision rather than an end to it.

At the other end of our youth membership, Wyrd Explorer Scout Unit has developed into an established Unit with regular attendance of around 25 young people. Particularly encouraging is its success recruiting from Scout Troops which historically sent fewer young people on to Explorers. More broadly, Scout-to-Explorer transition has improved significantly as Units have become more visible and better connected to Troops.

Supporting our volunteers remains central to everything we do. During the year we introduced structured conversations with Group Lead Volunteers and Chairs, helping Groups reflect on governance, leadership, programme quality, sustainability and growth. These have led to useful changes in how leadership teams communicate and share responsibility.

We have also helped Group leadership teams share responsibilities more effectively, so that leading a Group becomes genuinely a team effort rather than something carried by one person.

Adult learning has been another real success. Only one adult failed to complete required learning within the expected timescales. We should be proud of the many volunteers who willingly invest time outside weekly meetings to keep their knowledge current and help keep young people and fellow volunteers safe.

## Programme

The quality, breadth and ambition of programme offered across Worthing continues to grow.

During the year, Andrew Hayward became increasingly active as our District Programme Team Lead, helping rebuild links between sections and supporting teams to develop whole-District activities.

Our specialist activity teams continue to add significant value. Target Sports competes regionally and nationally, develops young people's skills and shares its expertise across the District. The team has also helped Groups maintain rifles, correctly zero sights and improve equipment performance, while throwing arrows and tomahawks have proved extremely popular.

Worthing Gang Show spent much of the year building towards its Easter 2026 production, aiming to grow both the show and its audience. Strong early demand for places demonstrated its continuing appeal to young people.

Nights Away remains a core part of Scouting. We currently have 65 adults holding Nights Away Permits, giving us a strong skills base. Our ambition is for every section to have at least two permit holders within its team and, over the next three years, to work towards doubling the Nights Away experiences available to young people.

International Scouting has also had a strong year. Worthing Network completed an Explorer Belt in Croatia, six young people were selected for the next World Scout Jamboree, and planning for the District Explorer expedition to Kandersteg in 2027 is progressing well. Excelsior & Nomads, ENII and Wyrd also attended the Kent International Jamboree.

Young Leaders remain an important part of both our youth programme and our future adult volunteer base. The District continues to invest in them through regular Module A sessions, alongside preparations to relaunch Young Leader weekends in June.

Achievement matters too. At two District presentation events in May and November we celebrated 63 young people receiving Chief Scout's Awards, giving young people and their families the opportunity to celebrate these significant achievements.

Young people have also continued progressing through DofE, Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards and the King's Scout Award, showing what becomes possible when they are given progressive opportunities and encouraged to challenge themselves.

# Places and Perception

**Places**

Strong Scouting needs strong Groups behind it. This year we have increasingly focused on helping Groups become more sustainable and resilient for the future.

Structured conversations with Group Lead Volunteers and Chairs have helped Groups reflect on membership growth, governance, leadership capacity, finance and programme. Several have used these discussions to strengthen Trustee Boards, improve communication and develop broader leadership structures.

We also established the Worthing Trustee Network, bringing Group Chairs and Treasurers together to share knowledge, experience and good practice. Groups should not have to solve the same problems independently when expertise already exists elsewhere within Worthing Scouts.

The District has continued to provide practical support. A £10,000 loan to 2nd Durrington is helping fund improvements to its headquarters, while the District minibus provides a shared resource for our 14–24 provision and Groups.

Some sections still operate below the numbers they could reasonably support. Local recruitment is usually most successful when led by Groups themselves, using families, community links and existing networks. Our role is to give them the tools and support to make that successful.

**Perception**

Scouting should be visible within the community it serves.

Explorers and adult volunteers represented Worthing Scouts at Worthing Pride, demonstrating that Scouting is open to everyone and that everyone should have a Place to Belong.

We have also recognised more adult volunteers than ever before. I am particularly delighted that Barbara Wells received the Silver Wolf, one of Scouting's highest and rarest honours. Significant recognition has also included a Silver Acorn for Al Chartres and a Bar to the Silver Acorn for David Willett.

This reflects a deliberate effort to ensure volunteers who give significant service are properly thanked and celebrated.

# Looking Forward

- **Grow Squirrel provision**
  Support every Group with suitable facilities to establish a Squirrel Drey, while exploring weekend provision so more 4–6 year olds can access Scouting.
- **Increase District-wide programme opportunities**
  Ensure every section has the opportunity to take part in at least three whole-District activities during the year. These need not all be large events — something as simple as a shared sandcastle competition can help young people feel part of something bigger than their weekly meeting.
- **Make Nights Away universal**
  Ensure every section offers at least one Nights Away experience during 2026/27, whether a camp, indoor residential, sleepover or another suitable experience. Nights Away is a core part of Scouting and every young person should have the opportunity to experience it.
- **Help sections reach sustainable capacity**
  Give sections operating below capacity the tools, support and confidence to recruit locally and grow towards a sensible maximum size.

These priorities support a simple ambition: more young people experiencing high-quality Scouting, supported by skilled volunteers and strong, sustainable Groups. They also align naturally with the wider themes of People, Programme, Places and Perception.

Finally, thank you to every volunteer across Worthing Scouts.

What I am most proud of this year is the number of adults who have stepped forward and stretched themselves beyond what they thought they could achieve. Whether taking on additional responsibility, learning new skills, running adventurous activities or supporting others, they have done it to create better experiences for young people.

Thank you to our Group Lead Volunteers, Team Leaders, Trustee Boards, District teams and specialist teams — and especially to the section volunteers who deliver Scouting week after week.

The growth and strengthening we have seen this year is only possible because of your time, enthusiasm and willingness to make things happen. I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in 2026/27.

Mike Hudgell

Scouts
Worthing

The importance of Scouting to young people should never be under estimated. Now in 2026, and for the foreseeable future, the opportunities for young people to secure employment after GCSEs, A-levels or even after university has dramatically reduced and the medium-term outlook for improvement is not too bright. Too many young people find themselves idle through no personal choice, but caused by the environmental and economic circumstances around them, over which they have little day-to-day control.

Scouting with all of the training, opportunities to do the Duke of Edinburgh programme, to volunteer, to travel, for leadership, to take personal responsibility for others and themselves are the life-skills that when evidenced in a well-presented CV is very often to be the tipping point in favour of an applicant. We know that employers are 'looking for more' from their staff and everything that all our volunteers do, across all levels of Scouting, is helping prepare these young people to a brighter future.

I know from listening from various group Trustee Boards that many groups are facing various challenges, whether that be numbers on roll, funding or volunteers. As a district we are no different. We are still looking for more volunteers to join us on the District Trustee board. We are also reviewing our operating practices, ensuring that we build a sustainable model of oversight and support to the various groups across the district. The year ahead will require some hard decisions to be made and we will do this in partnership with all interested parties.

Can I close by thanking everyone across Scouting in Worthing District, for your time, energy and enthusiasm; without you Scouting would not be where it is today.

# District Chair Introduction

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2025/6 has been an incredible year for youth-shaped scouting, filled with adventures, top awards, and more!

I've supported sections and groups to ensure their programmes are youth-shaped, prioritising the voices of young people in scouting.

Beyond that, I've participated in county, regional and national events to deepen my understanding of being a youth lead, finding the best ways to support our young people, and ensuring they can be heard.

Lily Wingrove
District Youth Lead Volunteer

WORTHING.DYL








# District Youth Lead Introduction

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New Layout as required by POR

| Receipts | Draft 31st March 2026 Am ended | Published 31st March 2025 Am ended |
|---|---|---|
| **Donations,Leagaciesand similar income** | | |
| Membership Fees | 19,884 | 22,772 |
| Donations | | |
| Legacies | | |
| Gift Aid | | |
| Other Similar Income | 83,559 | 89,404 |
| **Sub Total** | 103,443 | 112,176 |
| **Grants** | | |
| Grant 1 | | |
| Grant 2 | | |
| Grant 3 | | |
| Other Grant Income | 589 | 4,000 |
| **Sub Total** | 589 | 4,000 |
| **Fundraising Events** | | |
| Event 1 | | |
| Event 2 | | |
| Event 3 | | |
| Other Fundraising Activities | 750 | 250 |
| **Sub Total** | 750 | 250 |
| **CharitableActivities** | | |
| Camp Income | 30,914 | 52,845 |
| Event Income | 3,623 | |
| Badge Income | 646 | 2,277 |
| Other Charitable Activities Income | - | |
| **Sub Total** | 35,183 | 55,122 |
| **Other Income** | | |
| Hire of Building | | |
| Hire of Equipment | | |
| Other Income | 900 | |
| **Sub Total** | 900 | - |
| **Investment Income** | | |
| Bank Interest | 1,313 | 245 |
| Building Society Interest | | |
| Other Investment Income | 782 | 58,283 |
| **Sub Total** | 2,095 | 58,528 |
| **Total Gross Income** | 142,960 | 230,076 |
| Asset and Investment Sales etc. | | |
| **Total Receipts** | 142,960 | 230,076 |

| Payments | | |
|---|---|---|
| Charitable Payments | | |
| Membership Fees Paid (national/county/area/district) | 86,508 | 151,506 |
| Youth Programme and Activities | 49,125 | 70,913 |
| Adult Support and Training | - | 16 |
| Rent | 2,984 | 894 |
| Utilities | 410 | 118 |
| Insurance | 1,530 | 1,390 |
| Repairs and Renewals | 82 | |
| Materials and Equipment | 544 | 2,759 |
| Uniforms and Badges | 1,081 | 1,403 |
| Administrative Expenses | 4,868 | 5,075 |
| AGM and Trustee Expenses | 179 | 21 |
| Bank and Payment Charges | 37 | 59 |
| Other Costs 1 - Jamboree costs | 4,000 | - |
| Other Costs 2 Donations & Grants Paid Out | 561 | 974 |
| Other Costs 3 Loans Made | 1,395 | 9,115 |
| **Sub Total** | 153,304 | 244,243 |
| **Fundraising Expenses** | | |
| Fundraising 1 | | |
| Fundraising 2 | | |
| Fundraising 3 | | |
| Other Fundraising Costs | | |
| **Sub Total** | - | - |
| **Total Gross Expenditure** | 153,304 | 244,243 |
| Asset and Investment Purchases etc. | 8,000 | |
| **Total Payments** | 161,304 | 244,243 |
| Net Receipts/(Payments) | - 18,344 | - 14,167 |
| Adjustment for Rounding | | |
| **Cash Funds Last Year End** | 140,899 | - |
| **Cash Funds This Year End** | 122,555 | - 14,167 |

| Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Cash Funds** | | |
| District Bank Current Account | 2,154 | 4,790 |
| District Bank Deposit Account | 71,480 | 81,554 |
| District NS&I Accounts | 28,419 | 27,644 |
| ESU & ASU Current Accounts | 19,264 | 26,006 |
| District Expense Cards (Wise) | 20 | 905 |
| ESU &ASU Expense Cards Wise | 1,128 | - |
| Other Investment Funds | - | - |
| Cash | 90 | - |
| **Total Cash Funds** | 122,555 | 140,899 |
| *(agree balance with receiptsandpaymentaccount)* | | |
| **Other Monetary Assets** | | |
| Tax claim | | |
| Debts Due From the County/Area/District/Group | 29,074 | 27,679 |
| Insurance claim | | |
| Other | | |
| **Sub Total** | 29,074 | 27,679 |
| **Investment Assets** | | |
| InvestmentProperty | | |
| Quoted Investments | | |
| Other Investments - WDSC CAF Investment | | |
| Fixed Asset - minibus | 8,000 | |
| **Sub Total** | 8,000 | - |
| **Non Monetary Asserts For Charity's Own Use** | | |
| Badge Stock | | |
| Shop Stock | | |
| Other Stock | | |
| Land and Buildings | | |
| Motor Vehicles | - | |
| Scouting Equipment Furniture etc. | | |
| Other | | |
| **Sub Total** | - | - |
| **Liabilities** | | |
| Suppliers Not Yet Paid | | |
| Expenses Incurred But Not Invoiced | 840 | 780 |
| Membership Subscriptions Not Yet Paid | | |
| Loan | | |
| Other Liabilities | | |
| **Sub Total** | 840 | 780 |
| **Total Net Assets** | 158,789 | 167,798 |

**The above receiptsandpayments account and statementofassets and**

| Signature | Print Name |
|---|---|
| | M Hudgell - Lead Volunteer |
| | Margaret Williams-Fuller-Treasurer |

Our full financial reports are available at https://www.worthing-scouts.org.uk/agm26/

# Annual Accounts Summary

Scouts
Worthing

## Squirrels




Number of Sections in:
2026 - 7
2025 - 6

Numbers in:
2026 - 86
2025 - 93
2024 - 50

Leaders in Section 2026:
26

Young Leaders in Section 2026:
7

## BEAVERS




Number of Sections in:
2026 - 15
2025 - 16

Numbers in:
2026 - 294
2025 - 308
2024 - 328

Leaders in Section 2025:
61

Young Leaders in Section 2026:
23

## cubs




Number of Sections in:
2026 - 15
2025 - 15

Numbers in:
2026 - 352
2025 - 347
2024 - 378

Leaders in Section 2026:
70

Young Leaders in Section 2026:
22

## SCOUTS




Number of Sections in:
2026 - 14
2025 - 14

Numbers in:
2026 - 327
2025 - 352
2024 - 383

Leaders in Section 2026:
91

Young Leaders in Section 2026:
21

## explorers




Number of Sections in:
2026 - 7
2025 - 7

Numbers in:
2026 - 169
2025 - 183
2024 - 190

Leaders in Section 2026:
31

Young Leaders in Section 2026:
N/A

## network




Number of Sections:
1

Numbers in:
2026 - 23
2025 - 49
2024 - 57

Leaders in Section 2025:
Self Lead

Young Leaders in Section 2025:
N/A

# Worthing in Numbers

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Nights away are a cornerstone of Scouting, giving young people unforgettable opportunities to grow. Whether camping outdoors or staying indoors, they build confidence, independence and resilience as young people try new things and take on responsibility.

Cooking together, setting up camp and supporting one another develops teamwork, leadership and problem-solving skills. Nights away strengthen friendships, encourage creativity and resourcefulness, and create memories that can last a lifetime.

Above all, they give young people a safe environment in which to challenge themselves, discover new talents and develop skills for life.

**Keeping adventure safe**

Scouting's Nights Away Permit scheme helps ensure these experiences take place in a safe and well-supported environment. Leaders are assessed and approved to run residential experiences with the right skills, knowledge and safeguards in place.

For parents, this provides reassurance that camps and sleepovers are carefully planned and risk-managed. For young people, it creates the freedom to enjoy adventure, fun and learning in a secure setting.

**Supporting our volunteers**

In Worthing, we're fortunate to have two dedicated Nights Away Advisers, Paul and Als, who support volunteers working towards their permits.

They guide adults through the process, helping them recognise the skills they already have, build confidence and develop new abilities where needed.

Their practical advice and encouragement make gaining a permit a positive and supportive journey, helping more volunteers feel confident about providing safe and rewarding nights away.








# Nights Away Support Team

Places with 30 young-person nights or more during the year

Word size reflects the total number of young-person nights spent at each location.

## Where adventure happened



Scouts
Worthing

# Skills that unlock adventure

Adventurous activities are a huge part of what makes Scouting memorable. From climbing and hillwalking to paddlesports, sailing and archery, they give young people opportunities to challenge themselves, develop new skills and experience real adventure.

Our activity permit holders make those opportunities possible. A Scout adventurous activity permit recognises that a volunteer has the skills, experience and personal suitability to lead an activity safely and confidently.

Every additional permit helps open up more opportunities for young people. Together, they increase the range of activities that can be delivered safely by local volunteers.

# 51 Adults
# 13 activity disciplines




**More skills = more opportunities**

Every permit helps more young people access adventurous activities delivered safely by local volunteers.

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4th Worthing Scout Group was based at Verral Hall, Anglesey Road, Worthing. The Group closed on 19 September 2014.

Following the closure, the Group's remaining assets and liabilities — principally Verral Hall — transferred to the District charity. This ensured that the assets remained within Scouting and could continue to be used to support local Scouting, in accordance with the requirements of Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR).

The District continued to maintain and manage the property until its sale in May 2019, which realised £211,511. Approximately £6,000 of this sum was used to meet costs associated with bringing the affairs of the former Group and property to a conclusion, including clearance of the premises, outstanding bills, legal costs, professional valuations and other associated expenses. £11,000 was spent on planning permission to maximise the value returned to Scouting.

The District Executive Committee, as it was then known, agreed that the remaining proceeds should be used to support and develop Scouting locally over the next 5 years through three principal areas:

1. Supporting all local Scout Groups – grants were made during the 2020/21 financial year broadly equivalent to one year's capitation, providing direct financial support to Groups across the District.

2. Developing Scouting and widening opportunities – grants were made to support the development of Scouting locally, including activities, projects and opportunities for young people, as well as helping young people access international Scouting experiences.

3. Supporting Scout Groups in particular need – funding was retained to provide grants or loans to Groups requiring additional support, including assistance with premises, facilities and other significant needs.



| Funding priority / use of funds | Approximate amount |
|---|---|
| **Sale proceeds from Verral Hall** | £212,000 |
| **Less: clearance, bills, legal/professional costs and valuations and planning** | **£17,000** |
| **Funds available for the three funding priorities** | £195,000 |
| Priority 1 – initial grants to Groups, Explorer Scout Units and Scout Network | £63,000 |
| Priority 2 – Gang Show support, including bank balance and Glebe Road provision | £19,000 |
| Priority 2 – international opportunities, including Kandersteg and World Scout Jamborees | £22,000 |
| Priority 2 – Target Sports support | £5,000 |
| Priority 2 – District minibus | £10,000 |
| Priority 3 – grants and loans to Groups for HQ and development projects | £48,000 |

**Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest £1,000 for ease of reading. As some expenditure dates back a number of years, amounts are approximate and are intended to summarise how the original proceeds have been used.**

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Before my wife, Nicky & I moved down to Worthing at the end of March, I was carrying out the role remotely. Not ideal but it allowed me time to work out how I would carry the role supporting Mike, the teams I am responsible for, the leaders and adult volunteers in Worthing and of course the young people.

Since moving down it has been great to start work with the Gang Show Team and the Target Sports Team – supporting their activities and helping to publicise their events around the District. 'My' other teams haven't been forgotten about and I will soon start working with them – supporting them and helping them plan events and activities – all for the enjoyment of our young people.

I have met with leaders from the Squirrel, Beaver and Cub sections so far and between us we will start organising events during the scouting year for the relevant sections to participate in and for them to get to know their peers throughout the District. The aim initially is to try and plan an event per term per section and to grow from there. The first event will be a Cub Crazy Golf Tournament followed by a 110th Birthday Screening of The Jungle Book film.

My plan is to build a team with a volunteer from each section to help plan and coordinate events, share programme ideas and to enable more of our young people to achieve their section's top awards. I am pleased to announce that Lou Scott has agreed to join the team as the Scout Rep and I am now looking for volunteers from the Squirrel, Beaver & Cub sections. If you're interested, please get in touch!

In closing I would like to thank all the adult volunteers for their welcome, support and their hard work and dedication in putting on such a varied range of activities with their programmes that keep their young people active, achieving, challenged and enjoying themselves!

**Andrew Hayward**
**District Programme Lead**
**andrew.hayward@worthing-scouts.org.uk**

Scouts
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The target sports SASU has existed for many years and exists to give the opportunity to the young people in the district to try out and potentially excel at various different Target sports in the local area.

The main discipline is 10m Air rifle shooting, but we also support Pistol, crossbow, archery and axe throwing. We can offer training and national competition chances.

We have a rich and diverse range of equipment, resources and experience including a wealth of well qualified coaching experience and have been successful in starting the careers of some of the country's top shooting athletes.

We normally meet at 2nd Worthing every other Sunday afternoon in term time and offer an opportunity in the district that few groups have and don't need to support

We are looking for more members so if you are a scout or explorer and are interested in more information, please contact targetports@worthing-scouts.org.uk initially for more information.

Worthing Target sports team

# Target Sports

# Gee it's a Wonderful Life!

## OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

**INSTAGRAM**

WORTHINGGANGSHOW

**TIKTOK**

**FACEBOOK**

**WEBSITE**

The Cast for the 2026 show started rehearsing in September 2025 to be ready in time for the April 2026 show. Throughout the 7 months of Sundays we have seen characters develop, confidence growing and anxieties being brought under control. But this is not only the Cast themselves! In recent years we have brought in new members to the Performance Management team and the growth in their confidence has been amazing.

We suffered a bit of a set-back in February when due to the cold weather we had quite a big water leak at the District Hut which DLV Mike found and he got quite a cold shower! Water was turned off and the big Dry-Out started which took quite a few weeks. We also needed a new Mains Circuit Board installed as it got rather wet. Thank you to Stu for the Electrical work. This did mean that we had a few delays and challenges in getting set ready for the Show, but we did it.
At the end of March we were ready for what was ahead of us. Tuesday 7th April was the get-in and first performance was in the evening of Wednesday 8th April.

A huge thank you to all the members of the Performance Management Team for a lot of hard work, commitment and getting a fantastic 60 Year Anniversary show together.
More on that next year!

**Malcolm Strudwick Forever Remembered in the Gang!**








Scouts Worthing

POLAND 2027 26TH WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE UK CONTINGENT

explorers network

The Explorer section finishes the year with 7 units, Blake, Excelsior & Nomads I and II, Osprey, Phoenix, Wyrd and Young Leaders.
The units are all well-led, and I would like to extend my thanks to all the leaders and other adults running Explorer sections across the district!
Network has started to become more active, with some social events, participation in various Pride events, a DofE Gold Practice expedition in the Peak District , and a Qualifying expedition in the Lake District.

The units do various activities together, and it is good to see the various unit leaders often helping other units out. When they are not out having fun at local events, the unit members continue to undertake the higher Chief Scout awards, work towards King's Scouts awards and along this path achieve their Duke of Edinburgh's award.
DofE award completions , 15 In total from Worthing, 9 Bronze, 5 Silver and 1 Gold.
These were then built on to achieve. Chief Scouts Platinum – 3, Chief Scouts Diamond – 2, Young Leader belt – 5
Kings Scout Awards – 1

After our large expedition to Kandersteg, the Explorer units have done their own summer camps this last year. They have done the annual International Bivvy camp day together, and some other evening events.
A team of Network members successfully undertook the Explorer Belt around Europe, and faced many challenges they can share with future groups.

The Network and Explorer members joined together to support Worthing Pride, with our dress becoming more in keeping with the parade each year!

Scouts
Worthing

POLAND 2027
26TH WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE
UK CONTINGENT
explorers network

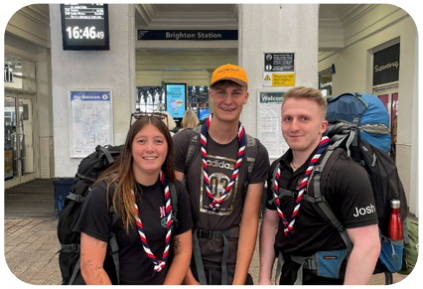
We also under took the District Selection for the next World Scout Jamboree, selecting from a fantastic group of young people, who hopefully thoroughly enjoyed the selection camp, no matter if they were successfully selected or not. Those not selected have opted to join us for our next trip to KISC 2027. Amongst other challengers, we cooked a traditional Polish dish called pierogi, a challenge and a half, it turned out, but all loved them in the end!

The number of Explorers across the district has been increasing all year; however fell to 169 at the census. Girl Explorer Scouts make up 38.7% of the numbers. We continue to be an inclusive and diverse section.
Around 23 young adults have registered as Network members currently, with some degree of activity.
Many of the Explorers in addition to attending their units, also help at younger sections as young leaders and often continue as adult leaders as they turn 18.
Amongst the plans for next year, I hope to see more Gold Awards, and subsequently King Scout awards.

2 members of the district are now trained SOWA (Scout of the World Award) trainers. And there is hope the first person to achieve the award in Worthing District will be next year.

Al Chartres
14-24 Team Leader










# 14-24 Team

# Excelsior & Nomads explorers

The unit continues with its ongoing meeting arrangements with 1st Ferring, 1st Worthing, 3rd Worthing and 2nd Worthing. A formal partnership arrangement is in place with 1st Ferring, ensuring the relationship works for both the Group and the Explorer unit. The unit members come from all over the district and represent Scouts moving on from most groups.
The unit ends the year with 42 Explorer Scouts representing ages across our age range, 13 – 17. Still high numbers, and the split between girls and boys is around 40%/60%. The previous pressure on the unit to take Scouts moving up has been now better spread between other new units, so the meetings are much more manageable for the leadership team, although many of us give up multiple nights a week now instead.
Many stayed with us and turned 18 during the year, and we had to sadly say goodbye to them. I am pleased to say many decided to continue as adult leaders, and several more are within the Network whilst they study away from home.

With a large Explorer Unit of this size, a large and experienced leadership team is a must. Without the tireless efforts of the team made up of Al Chartres, Alison Linley, Stuart Burchett, Mike Hudgell, Steven Jenkins, Zoe Chartres, Lily Wingrove, Kayleigh Livermore, and Ash Thwaites. Ann Hudgell has been our backup adult who helps when needed and is available often at short notice. A big thanks to the team for turning out each week and dealing with the challenges as they present themselves. The support of the groups previously mentioned is additionally much appreciated. Thanks for their support.

Outcomes for Chief Scouts and DofE are growing again despite many schools also offering many of their year 8 pupils the chance to undertake Bronze, as many swap to undertake Silver and Gold at Explorers.
Members of the unit had many separate opportunities to attend night's away events with either the unit or other sections across the county! After our trip to Broadstone Warren the year before, we had a more international UK based trip to KIJ 2025 to undertake many of their new high activities! We again had teams enter the Borderhike in Derbyshire, representing themselves well. Several members, Explorers and Adults have been camping every month of the year towards their Welsh Scout dragon Camping award. All seasons, all weathers, but immense fun for all!

# Excelsior & Nomads explorers

As the unit has grown so has the diversity of the activities the Explorers decide to undertake for our core programme, the Chief Scouts awards and of course DofE. So many take the opportunity to take the lead and instigate many events and activities, and some we used to do but believed were not so popular and are back in favour, are now in the plan for the coming years.

Looking again at the diversity within the DofE programme, at some of the activities undertaken for Volunteering, Skills and Physical, the range and nature undertaken is incredibly broad and impressive. Skills range from car mechanics and maintenance to personal care, working out at the gym, which is popular now for physical and volunteering, whilst still often achieved as a Young Leader, a growing number are opting for helping in many of the town's charity shops.

Another year completed, making new friends, seeing old friends, and enjoying scouting!

Al Chartres
Team Leader Explorer Scouts






# Excelsior & Nomads II explorers

This is the third year of the new quieter themed unit. It is a sister unit to Excelsior & Nomads, and shares leaders, equipment and other resources. Whilst it meets on a separate night of the week, some of the extra events are joint with Excelsior & Nomads, and also now Wyrd ESU; however, as the unit has developed its own ethos, they have opted for some of their own camps and activities unique to them.

We finished the year with 9 members, spread of ages 14-17 age range as the original new members have stayed with us and aged. Many of the members have been doing DofE with their School but are now transferring over to join us to do higher levels, some Gold!

We have an ongoing partnership with 2nd Worthing, so we have regular access to their HQ, and have therefore provided a stable location for the members of this unit, so they can enjoy scouting in a quieter and less busy environment, better suited to some.

With this unit comes a broad range of Adults: Al Chartres, Kayleigh Livermore, Zoe Chartres, Steven Jenkins, Stuart Burchett, and Ash Thwaites & Holly Jenkins. Again, on standby to help when needed, we have Ann Hudgell, Alison Linley, and Mike Hudgell.
We took part in a joint summer camp with other district units, led by Excelsior & Nomads, and the district international Bivvy Camp, Christmas Meal Camp. A chill-out camp at Streamside and some new ones are in the planning.

Outdoor activities have been numerous, Aqua Park, Ice Skating, Visiting the Gang Show, and a chance for them to take to the skies gliding, but with some great team work, Bell boating has been well received by all members on a very hot summers day.
Getting to know our new members and the new team has been great throughout the year as the unit has grown. We are looking forward to many adventures to come!



Al Chartres
Team Leader Explorer Scouts

# Wyrd explorers

The second year of this new unit has seen membership numbers grow rapidly, now over 30 members.

Our partnership with 3rd Worthing is going well, so we have regular access to their HQ, and have therefore provided a stable location for the members of this unit, so they can enjoy scouting inside and out.
As the leadership team develops, a roster of Al Chartres, Alison Linley, Kayleigh Livermore, Steven Jenkins, now joined by 3 adults permanently attached to Wyrd ESU Aaron Price, Georgia Scott and John Montanger, with others in the pipeline.

They have undertaken many indoor activities, some utilising the halls static equipment.
There have been numerous outdoor activities over this second year, Paddleboarding, Aqua Park, Ice Skating, Visiting the Gang Show, and a chance for them to take to the skies gliding!

Camps have been coming steadily, summer camps, Welsh Scout Dragon Award Camps, International Bivvy Celebration camp, Christmas Meal Camp, Lightweight Camp.

The unit members have really got to know each other and are really welcoming to new members.  They have undertaken joint events and evenings with other units from across Worthing, and many have made friends from the other units so happy to continue joining in with other joint events.





Al Chartres
Team Leader Explorer Scouts

Osprey explorers

Osprey continues to thrive as one of the largest Explorer Units in the UK, with 48 invested Explorers at the end of March. Our partnership with 8th Worthing continues to bring benefits to both the Unit and Group, with an impressive 19 Osprey Explorers currently serving as Young Leaders.

**Awards & achievements**

Chief Scout's Awards, Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and nautical skills remain at the heart of our programme. It has been another successful year for DofE, with:

5 Bronze Awards – Henry Bullock, Ronnie Green, Sammy Henderson-Ford, Conrad Szilvasi and Amy Vernon

3 Silver Awards – Leven Fullman, Thea Loxham and Noah Stepney

1 Gold Award – Arden Flint

A further 24 Explorers are working towards Bronze and 11 towards Silver, undertaking volunteering, physical activities, new skills and expeditions.

This year's DofE activities have ranged from Young Leadership, coaching and volunteering through to swimming, sailing, martial arts, mountain biking, dance, music, cooking, coding and money management.

Our expedition programme also continues to grow. 14 Explorers completed their Bronze qualifying expedition around West Dean, while 5 completed their Silver expedition in the New Forest.

**A varied programme**

Alongside our core programme, Explorers have enjoyed everything from kayaking, rifle shooting, night hikes and outdoor swimming to escape rooms, laser tag, ice skating, motorbike skills, emergency management, team challenges and programme planning.

The programme continues to be shaped by our Explorers, giving them opportunities to try something new, develop independence, work together and have plenty of fun along the way.









**Camps, adventures & events**

Our biggest adventure of the year saw 29 Explorers and seven Leaders spend a week aboard a ship at Canary Wharf. The programme included powerboating, kayaking and giant paddleboarding alongside visits to the Houses of Parliament and Tower Bridge, Wicked in the West End, Phantom Peak, museums, movie-making and a Monopoly Challenge across London.

Five Explorers represented Osprey at the Royal Navy Multi-Sport Competition at HMS Sultan, winning the football tournament and earning praise from organisers for their teamwork.

Other adventures included WS24, where nine Explorers tackled 24 hours of challenges; Christmas Camp in London for 26 Explorers; and two particularly hardy Explorers joining the District's freezing February Bivvy Camp.

Throughout the year Osprey has also been out and about supporting and representing Scouting. Explorers and Leaders took part in the Worthing Gang Show, enjoyed whitewater kayaking at Northampton Active, sailed on the English Channel with 3rd/5th Lancing Sea Scouts, developed kayaking skills in the pool and joined 8th Worthing for the annual Remembrance Parade.

**Thank you**

None of this happens without an enormous amount of support. Thank you to Paul Chaplain, Lee Martin, Lucy Poole, Tavis Stringer and Jennah Costan, together with everyone who has supported our expeditions, DofE programme, camps and activities.

Thank you also to the teams across 8th Worthing who welcome and support our Young Leaders, and most importantly to all our Explorers and their families for continuing to be part of the adventure.

We're looking forward to seeing what the next 12 months brings for Osprey Explorers!

Harry Rippon
Explorer Team Leader, Osprey ESU






# 4,896 km across Europe

Lily, Harry and Josh took on the Explorer Belt in 2025, completing a 10-day journey across Europe that combined independent travel, planning, budgeting and project work.

The Explorer Belt challenge required them to complete at least 50 hours of travel, keep a logbook, manage their budget, undertake a major project and complete ten mini projects along the way.

Their journey began in Brighton and took them through France and Switzerland before continuing through Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium. Along the way they explored cities including Strasbourg, Bern, Milan, Venice, Ljubljana, Vienna, Berlin and Ghent — with a visit to Kandersteg International Scout Centre included along the way.

THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS: 10 days 9 countries 4,896 km 58h 41m travelling







# Adventure, independence and international Scouting

The Explorer Belt was about much more than getting from one country to the next. The team had to plan their journey, manage the costs, document what they experienced and complete their project work while travelling.

The whole trip came to around £750 each, excluding personal purchases, including their Interrail tickets, accommodation and food — making budgeting a very real part of delivering their adventure.

It also created opportunities to experience international Scouting first-hand. In Strasbourg they met Scouts from Spain; at Kandersteg they met Scouts from Portugal and Italy; and the following day they met Scouts from Cyprus. In Milan they even joined in with international karaoke at their hostel.

Not everything went exactly to plan either. When their attempt to travel from Trieste into Croatia did not work out, they adapted the journey and headed instead towards Ljubljana via Villach — another part of managing a real adventure for themselves.

**A challenge to remember**

By the time they returned home, Lily, Harry and Josh had travelled for nearly 59 hours, crossed nine countries and covered almost 5,000 kilometres — while completing the wider challenges that make the Explorer Belt much more than simply a trip abroad.

It is a great example of what Scouting can offer: young people taking responsibility for a genuinely ambitious adventure, encountering new places and people, and developing the confidence to deal with whatever happens along the way.







Scouts
Worthing







Chief Scout's Acorn Award (Squirrels) - 54

Chief Scout's Bronze Award (Beavers) - 77

Chief Scout's Silver Award (Cubs) - 71

Chief Scouts Gold Award (Scouts) - 21





# Chief Scout’s, DofE & King’s Scout Awards

Scouts
Worthing



## Bronze DofE

Luke Pettett
Ethan McNaught
Jeremiah Perfect
Charlie Russell
Thomas Anderson
Charlie Tedman
Simeon Pitcher
Henry Harrex-Perks
Elina Livermore

## Chief Scouts Platinum

Elina Livermore
James Standing
Andrew Jenkins

## Young Leader Belt

Dylan Byrne
Georgia Scott
Laura Bourner
Rachel Marshall
Stevie Clarke

## Silver DofE

Katie Doyle
Chloe Thorpe
Megan Poole
Rufus Drewett

## Chief Scouts Diamond

none

## Gold DofE

Lily Wingrove

## King's Scouts Award

Lily WIngrove

# Chief Scout's, DofE & King's Scout Awards

# Our volunteers make Scouting in Worthing possible.

**Good Service Awards recognise volunteers whose contribution goes above and beyond what's expected, celebrating the time, commitment and impact they give to Scouting. This year, 27 Worthing volunteers received Good Service Awards — including the Silver Wolf, awarded for service of a most exceptional nature.**

## Silver Wolf

### Service of a most exceptional nature

The Silver Wolf is the Chief Scout's unrestricted gift and is awarded only for service of a most exceptional nature.

**Barbara Wells**

## Silver Acorn

### Specially distinguished service

Awarded after at least 20 years' service, which should be specially distinguished and appreciably better than outstanding.

**Chris Mantell**
**Janet Chapman**
**Matt Edwards**
**Matt Pike**

## Award for Merit

### Outstanding and dedicated service

Awarded for outstanding service over a sustained period of at least 10 years.

**David Moss**
**Elaine Clark**
**Emma Wallace**
**Harry Rippon**
**Kevin Lawrence**
**Robert Tennant**

## Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

### Good service that stands out

Awarded in respect of not less than 5 years' good service which stands out.

**Alex Loveridge**
**Andrew Gilham**
**Anne Whitside**
**Clare-Louise Wright**
**Dan Usher-Smith**
**Francis Jeavons**
**Harvey Cranford**
**James Flint**
**James Keys**
**Joseph Mansfield**
**Kate Stanford**
**Kath Knight**
**Lizzie Miles**
**Mark Mears**
**Samantha Fullman**
**Yvonne Barr**

# Thank you for your service

Length of Service Awards recognise the commitment our volunteers give over many years. This year, 36 Worthing volunteers reached a service milestone, together recognising 450 years of service to Scouting.

## Chief Scout's 40 years Service Award

James Earl

## Chief Scout's 30 years Service Award

Sara Humphries

## Chief Scout's 20 years Service Award

Al Chartres
Julie Churcher
Melanie Doyle
Matt Pike
Ted Thorpe

## Chief Scout's 15 years Service Award

Rachel Corcoran
Alan Field
Louise Howarth
Cassie Marshall
David Moss
Emma Norton
Naomi Norton
Kate Stanford
Heidi Thorpe

## Chief Scout's 10 years Service Award

Dan Corcoran
Kristien Eastwood
Daniel Moss
Emma Moss
Nina Sigston
Robert Tennent
Jay Vachhani
Katie Woodfield
Lisa Woollard

## Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award

Andrew Carter
Ashley Church
Sadie Cozens
Jade Funnell
Georgina Grisewood
Kayleigh Livermore
Nathan Moss
Ethan Murden
Amy Saunders
Mel Sumpter
Millie Webb

# Adult Long Service Awards

# Going further with the Wood Badge

Recognising volunteers who choose to develop their skills beyond the learning required for their role.

Growing Roots gives volunteers the essential knowledge they need for their role. The Wood Badge goes further, combining that foundation with additional Branching Out learning and a personal commitment to continued development in Scouting.

## More than required learning

The Wood Badge is an optional award gained through Growing Roots learning together with additional Branching Out elements chosen by the adult member.

One wood badge tailored to the volunteer's role and development journey

## Skills developed and recognised

The exact learning depends on the volunteer's role, but can include programme delivery, leadership, inclusion, residential experience, practical skills and supporting other adults.

Creating inclusion
Great programme
Practical skills
Leadership
International

Working with adults
Leading volunteers
Growing sections
Meeting challenges
Residential

## A tradition since 1919

The familiar wooden beads remain a visible symbol of a volunteer's commitment to learning, development and service. Wood Badge holders also join the worldwide 1st Gilwell Park Scout Group.

## Wood Badges achieved this year

Congratulations to three Worthing volunteers who completed their Wood Badge during the year.

**Aidan Faiththorne**

**Jordan Barraclough**

**Mike Hudgell**




# Scouting in Action




# Scouting in Action

# A place to belong

Worthing District Scout Council
Registered Charity in England no 305916

Full AGM documents, accounts and charity information:
**worthing-scouts.org.uk/agm26**