

**51<sup>st</sup> Bath Scout Group**

# **2025 Trustees Annual Report**

For the AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025



**Charity Name:** 51<sup>st</sup> Bath (Ascension Church) Scout Group

**Scouts Registration No.:** 23288

**County / District:** Avon / City of Bath

**Address:**  
Ascension Church Hall  
Claude Avenue  
Bath BA2 1AG

**Website.:** [www.51bathscouts.org.uk](http://www.51bathscouts.org.uk)

## Trustees

Name	Role
Tanya Jackson	Group Chair
Ashley Russell	Group Lead Volunteer
Claire Harewood	Group Treasurer
Emma Manners	Trustee
Iain McNair	Trustee

## Advisers

**Bankers:** Lloyds Bank plc  
25 Gresham St  
London EC2V 7HN

**Scrutineers:** Gooding Accounts Ltd  
Holloway House  
Epsom Square  
White Horse Business Park  
Trowbridge  
BA14 0XG

## What We Do

### The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

### The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

**Integrity** - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

**Respect** - We have self-respect and respect for others.

**Care** - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

**Belief** - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

**Co-operation** - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

### The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.



## Our Governance

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Trustee Board, a team of volunteers who work together as 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. The role of the Trustee Board is to make sure our Scout Group is run safely and legally. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board currently consists of two independent representatives: the Chair and the Treasurer; together with the Group Scout Leader, plus two further volunteers. The Trustee Board meets every 3-4 months, and exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the office. Primary responsibilities of the Trustee Board:

- Budgeting appropriately and ensuring finances are managed;
- Ensuring Scout policies and relevant legislation is followed
- The maintenance of Group property;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Managing risks;
- Helping the charity to operate well

In the current year (2024-25) there has been a particular emphasis on updating of policies and procedures, to ensure they are aligned with current legislation and updated Scouting governance arrangements

## Public Benefit Statement

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of citizenship or community development headings



## Our Group

### Young People (as of January 2025)

Section	Active Members	Change from January 2024 (active members)
<b>Squirrels</b>	-	Potential new section
<b>Beavers</b>	17	-3
<b>Cubs</b>	18	=
<b>Scouts</b>	30	=
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-3</b>

### Volunteers (as at January 2025)

Section	Active Volunteers
<b>Beavers</b>	15
<b>Cubs</b>	
<b>Scouts</b>	
<b>Trustee Board</b>	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>



## Our Financial Position

All the Group's policies can be found at [www.51bathscouts.org.uk](http://www.51bathscouts.org.uk)

### Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 3-6 months running costs, circa £1,500.

### Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

### Hardship Policy

The Group believes that every child can benefit from Scouting and seeks to be as inclusive as possible. This includes an active policy not to exclude anyone on financial grounds. The group therefore has a policy, and a budget to support any family struggling with financial hardship to pay for activities.

### Finance Position at Sep 2025

Please refer to the Financial Report prepared by the Treasurer.

Overall, it is pleasing to see that we are covering our costs, despite increasing costs across the board; this is largely due to careful setting of subscription charges and a continued drive for efficiency in necessary expenditure.

## Chair of Trustees Report

Having completed nearly three years as chair of the Trustees, I remain hugely impressed at how a relatively small number of volunteers can combine to provide the amazing learning opportunities and vital life skills that the 51<sup>st</sup> Bath Scouts deliver. Whether it's a chance to do something adventurous, to explore the outdoors, or to learn real practical skills (making pancakes perhaps) our young people undoubtedly grow and develop in our care. And we want to continue to deliver those opportunities, with the avowed ambition to deliver more 'wow!' moments, and to be *the best Scout Group in Bath*.

Of course such an ambition depends upon the willingness and commitment of our volunteers in all the various roles to give their time, energy and imagination to make it all happen. A particular thanks to Group Scout Leader, Ashley Russell, who somehow manages to juggle a hugely demanding shift-based day-job with effective leadership of all our sections; and to the section leads who continue to dream up interesting things to do every week. We've had to deal with a number of changes to our section leaders in the past year, but our section leaders, section assistants and parent helpers have consistently delivered interesting, engaging section nights both indoors and outdoors, so immense thanks to all of them for getting involved and really making it happen. Thanks too to 'behind-the-scenes' helpers who support us to manage the database and make sure everything works. Finally, thanks to the trustees who meet regularly to make sure that we're doing all those things that our governance arrangements demand, even though they all have busy lives of their own.

We have updated a number of our governance documents this year, in line with changing legislation around data protection, for example, as well as keeping everything fresh and up-to-date. You can find summaries of these on our [website](#), or ask one of the trustees if you want more information.

We have reached out looking for further volunteers, and we're really pleased that Iain McNair has answered the call, but I would encourage any member of our wider community to consider whether they could suggest someone who might be willing to stand for a trustee or indeed any other volunteer role.

*Tanya Jackson, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025*



## Lead Volunteer's Report

This is the tenth year I have had the privilege of leading the volunteer team at 51<sup>st</sup> Bath. How far we have come in all that time. We are now a thriving Scout Group with full sections, delivering a good programme of adventures and activities for and with our youth members. The problems I try and tackle these days are now generally how we can do more, open up more opportunities, and be more adventurous. As problems go, these are ones I like.

Of course, none of this is possible without the selfless contribution of our volunteers. No-one in 51<sup>st</sup> Bath receives any financial benefit for their contributions. Everything runs on goodwill. Signing-up new members, answering questions, planning section nights, organizing camps, leading sessions, herding Cubs around a field – it all happens because of people willing to step up and know the benefit of what we do. You don't have to be extraordinary to be a volunteer, but by volunteering you are something special.

One shining example of this is our Scouts team member, Andy Dyer, who has been with 51<sup>st</sup> Bath as a volunteer an astonishingly impressive 36 years! His Chief Scout's Gold Award, from when he was a Scout himself, hangs proudly on the wall where our Scouts meet, and new Scouts often ask about the date beginning with 19... His own Scouting journey inspired him to give back and for very many years, he has been the stalwart custodian of our Scout troop. This year, he handed over the reins to another generation – with Archey taking the lead role. A true testament to Andy's character though, he earnestly contributes as part of the Scout team – no longer the lead, but still an inspiration of selfless service. Thank you, Andy.

This year has been a year of technical change for The Scouts nationally. The programme of change included changes to the way new volunteers join, aiming to simplify, and brought in a new digital system to manage our volunteers, permits, training, and all the 'behind-the-scenes' stuff. This has taken a bit of getting used to, but we are doing well to integrate this at 51<sup>st</sup> Bath.

Finally, I would like to thank Tanya as Group Chair. She is always there to provide support, listen to the challenges, suggest solutions, and be a critical friend. Thank you to you and the rest of our Trustees.

Ashley Russell

*22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025*



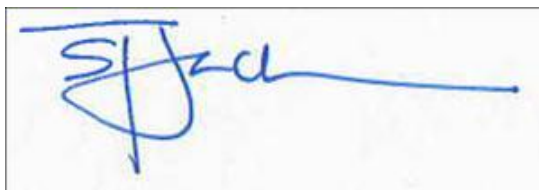
## Trustee Approval

The Trustees would like to give special thanks to all the volunteers who give up their time, without remuneration, to allow the young people of 51st Bath (and wider Scouting) to go on some brilliant adventures, try new things and learn some extremely valuable skills for life.

The Trustees would also like to recognise the families of both our young people, who enable them to take part in our adventures, and of our volunteers who put up with the time they dedicate to their voluntary work.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'TJ Jackson', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Tanya Jackson

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2025