

5th Dartford Scout Group
Annual General Meeting

11th October 2025

Attended by: Russ Ketley, Paul Boreham, Jason O'Brien, Kay O'Brien, Sam Moss, Derek Hurd, David Bloom, Alice Bloom, Maggie Lilleycrop, Jim Lilleycrop, David Monteith, Tasha Cayless, Neil Gearing, parents and youth members.

Apologies: Paul Denman (Dartford Council), George Holt (Dartford Council), Karan Hannah, Ashley Hurd, Darren Enver, Tim Briggs and Sachin Bendigeri.

Introductions & Welcome

Paul Boreham opened the meeting by thanking everybody that took part in the parent – child shooting competition. He announced the winners across the different categories and handed out the prizes.

Russ Ketley welcomed everybody to the 5th Dartford Scout Group's Annual General Meeting. He thanked all the volunteers who run youth activities and those working behind the scenes. He also thanked the young people and their parents / carers for their ongoing support.

Russ confirmed that since last year's AGM it has been clarified that 5th Dartford Scouts Group does own the land and we are therefore able to move forward with the new hall project.

Governance

The minutes for the 2024 AGM were reviewed and agreed. The organisation's policies and rules were also agreed to.

Upon reviewing the required number of trustee members, the attendees agreed to maintain a trustee board of between 5 and 12 members. The following trustees have agreed to remain in post for the coming year:

Russ Ketley – Group Chair
Paul Boreham – Group Lead Volunteer
Karen Hannah – Group Treasurer
Maggie Lilleycrop – Assistant Treasurer
Group Auditor – Sam Stanley
Tasha Cayless – Group Secretary
Jim Lilleycrop – Scout Group Knowledge & Experience
Derek Hurd – Group Leaders / Instructor Representative
David Monteith – Sub team for the new hall
Darren Enever - Sub team for the new hall
Tim Briggs – Parent Representative
Sachin Bendigeri – Parent Representative

Treasurer's Report

The group treasurer (Karen Hannah) was unable to attend the AGM this year but provided a report to be delivered by the Group Chair Russ Ketley.

The accounts for 2024/25 show that the group is in a strong financial position.

Income: £31,467 in the form of membership subscriptions, activities, camps, fundraising and investment.

Expenditure: £34,104 spent on programme activities, hall maintenance, utilities, insurance and equipment.

At the end of March 2025, the group held £192,497 in cash funds, compared with £195,134 at the end of March 2024. In addition to the expected costs of running a scout group (camping, activities, badges, etc) we have also paid over £2,000 for insurance of equipment and property and £4,900 for yearly capitation to Scout HQ.

In preparation for the redevelopment of our site, we have invested in excess of £24,000 over the last financial year. This investment includes:

- £1,300 - Gas Supply Termination
- £2,100 - Electric Supply Relocation
- £2,950 - Ground Survey
- £1,800 - Solicitor Expenses
- £6,400 - Planning Application
- £3,500 - Bat Surveys
- £5,800 - Wastewater Survey & Risk Assessment
- £420 - Demolition and Asbestos Survey

With the understanding that new builds by Scout charities are zero-rated for VAT, we are working to the following quoted costs:

- £25,600 - Demolition (excluding the removal of hazardous materials)
- £41,000 - 53,000 - Foundations
- £122,700 - Building
- Total projected cost: £189,300**

In order to complete the project, we will also need to raise funds to pay for the electrics, solar panels, heating, toilets and kitchen for the new hall.

Thank you to all volunteers, parents and supporters for their continued support. If any parent has experience of completing grant applications, we will be appreciative of the help!

Group Lead Volunteer's Report

Paul Boreham thanked all the volunteers for the time and effort that they have put in to make 5th Dartford the success that it is. Our volunteers collaborate to provide an interesting and engaging programme for the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts. In addition to the weekly activities, our young people have also enjoyed an Easter camp, survival camp and hammock camp. 5th Dartford also joined the Kent International Jamboree which was attended by 7,000 members of the scouting community.

5th Dartford hosted the Scouts from Gravelines, France for the Remembrance weekend, providing a fireworks evening, games, Dartford history trail, parade and a Sunday dinner. We endeavour to engage with District and County as much as possible with our Scouts joining laser tag, St George's Day parade, Trail-Jam, quiz days, canoeing and the District Carnival. We will also be hosting the district shooting competition on 8th November. Last Christmas 5th Dartford Scout Group held a fundraising disco, which raised over £120 for Beams charity. We are currently consulting our youth members on which charity to raise money for this Christmas.

As required, we had our climbing wall inspection and hope to reopen the facility in the near future. The necessary remedial actions have been carried out and we have purchased new climbing equipment which we are looking forward to putting to use. Many thanks to Dartford Borough Council's *Salute to Youth* programme and the Dartford Masons, who have provided a grant to cover these costs.

Paul also thanked the volunteers who recently formed a working party to tidy up the hall and facilities, making a big difference. We are awaiting the outcome of our planning application for the new scout and hope that this will come through soon and that the work can commence. Paul reported that he is in discussion with Dartford Council about using Acacia Hall for activities whilst the new hall is being constructed.

Paul once again thanked all trustees, volunteers, parent helpers and young people for their ongoing support. He reiterated that their efforts provide 'Skills for life' to our members in a safe and enjoyable way, making a positive difference to our community and society.

Award

Paul thanked and congratulated Maggie Lilleycrop following 25 years of service to 5th Dartford Scout Group. She has fulfilled a range of roles including executive chair, assistant beaver leader, assistant treasurer and has been involved in countless camping trips and events.

Guest Speaker – Neil Gearing: District Lead Volunteer for Scouting in Dartford

Neil thanked all volunteers, parents and young people for attending today's event. He noted that the sun was shining for 5th Dartford's AGM and shooting competition. Neil said that he is excited for the new hall and the benefits that it will bring for the volunteers and youth members. What 5th Dartford Scout Group provides for the local community is invaluable. He thanked Paul for being a driving force for 5th Dartford's ongoing success.

Neil finished by addressing the parents - If you have any time at all – come down and get involved!