

Annual General Meeting 2026

250th Manchester (St. Mary's) Scout Group

Annual Report

Registered Charity Number: 521621

Scout Hut, Ellen Street, Droylsden, Manchester, M43 7YA

GLV Report



Another exciting year at the Group over the past 12 months, with plenty going on and lots of badges being awarded across all age ranges! The Group has continued to organise and run lots of fun, adventurous, and safe activities for our Young Members over the past year. From camps, to visits from local people and organisations, from group games to practical skills for life.

We've had a few Group activities for all sections and friends, including:

- Family Quiz
- Garden Party for Heritage Day

It was great to see some of you joining us for the activities, everyone had a great time!

With Squirrels continuing to take in new members after our first cohort moved up to Beavers, it's fantastic that the Group continues to offer experiences for young people of all ages between 4 up to 18.

Squirrels have started meeting on Monday evenings now, which works well for people moving up to Beavers, as they'll be used to being at the hut on that evening when they make the transition. Similarly, it's working well with both Scouts and Explorers meeting on Wednesdays, as the older sections can help one another and run some joint activities, to encourage continued involvement during teenage years.

Lots of section activities have happened over the 12 months, including:

- Trips to the fire station
- Winter Camp (cold & muddy!)

- St. George's Parade (with us leading)

It's our 110th anniversary this year! We're planning celebratory events over the next 12 months, with announcements planned soon, including:

- Group Anniversary Camp
- Anniversary Garden Party

We're always looking for people to help organise events and fundraisers, so please let us know if you are able to help – however much or little!

Thanks to the hard work of those submitting grant applications (particularly Julie!), we've been very successful this year in receiving money to overhaul the Scout Hut's heating system, install loft insulation, continue renovations in the kitchen, and tidy up more of the back field. If you can help with grant applications, or know of opportunities for funding, **please let us know.**

With increasing costs for utilities, Scout membership capitation, insurance, and other general running expenses, the Group continues to carefully monitor its funds. Last year's subs increase has helped to reduce our annual deficit, leaving us in a healthier financial position.

If you would like to get involved and help arrange some fun activities/fundraise to help reduce the cost of activities, while being part of a fun and friendly team, in any way (occasional helper, fundraising committee, trustee board or on section nights), please let us know!

- Chris Sampson (Samo)

Group Lead Volunteer

Squirrels

What another exciting year at Squirrels!



Our Christmas Party

Being creative.



A return visit from Mark Howarth telling us all about his trip to Madagascar. Squirrels are eating Madagascan vanilla ice-cream whilst listening to his PowerPoint presentation.

Squirrels receiving their Chief Acorn badge. Well done, Squirrels!



Garden Party designing what shop they would like to see in Droylsden Town Centre.

Squirrels and their parents supported our Garden Party and Heritage Open day. In November they experience a warm hut thanks to the Better Youth Grant awarded by the Government.

In December, the Squirrels and their parents went to the pantomime at Guide Bridge Theatre. They were sat on the front row. It was brilliant. Most of our Squirrels were awarded the Chief Acorn badge. They started Beavers in January 2026.



We are now slowly building up a new group of Squirrels. This year, we are celebrating **5 years of Squirrels** and have a special badge to give all the children.

At present, we are working on our cooking badge and Go Outside badge.

A very big thank you to Janet and Jake for their great enthusiasm in providing an hour of fun for our youngest members.

Julie (Red Squirrel), Janet, and Jake

BEAVERS

This year has been a busy and enjoyable one for our Beaver Colony, filled with a range of engaging activities, visits, and learning opportunities.



Following the New Year, we were delighted to welcome several Squirrels who progressed up into Beavers. We have also re-invested several Squirrels to help them join our Beaver family, and it has been wonderful to see them settle in, build friendships, and grow in confidence.

Our activities this year have included celebrating Pancake Day and St Patrick's Day, where the Beavers took part in themed games, crafts, and activities. We also had a special visit from Craig from Longrider CMC, who joined us to talk about Easter and led a range of Easter-themed activities, which the Beavers thoroughly enjoyed.



One of the highlights of the year was a visit from the local Crime Watch team.

They came along to speak to the Beavers about personal safety, how to be aware of their surroundings, and what to do in different situations. The session was interactive and informative, and the Beavers asked plenty of thoughtful questions.

We also had an exciting trip to Gulliver's World, which was a fantastic day out for everyone involved. The Beavers had the chance to enjoy a variety of rides and attractions, helping to build confidence, independence, and teamwork. It was a memorable experience and a great reward for their hard work throughout the term.



Another popular activity was our visit to Pets at Home. During this visit, the Beavers learned about caring for different animals, their needs, and responsibilities as pet owners. They particularly enjoyed seeing the range of animals and asking questions about how to look after them properly.



In addition to these events, the colony has continued to work on badges, develop new skills, and build friendships. The Beavers have shown great enthusiasm, teamwork, and a willingness to try new things.

Looking ahead to the next financial year, we are planning a sleepover with 6th Ashton, a day visit to Linnet Clough to celebrate 40 years of Beavers, and another exciting trip to Gulliver's World.

Happy 40th Birthday Beavers!

Thank you to all leaders, volunteers, and parents for your continued support over the year. We look forward to another fun and successful year ahead.

Jill, Nadine, Josh and Isaac



Hello all, let me start by thanking every one of you for all your support throughout the last twelve months. Without our parents, carers and Cubs, hard work, dedication, and commitment we would not be a pack!

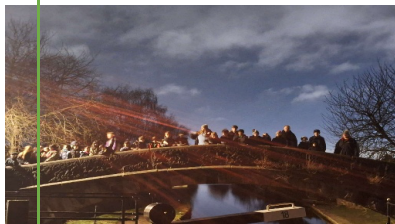
What an amazing year we have in Cubs during 25/26, we have achieved so much, had new Cubs join and older Cubs move on to Scouts.

We helped at the Heritage Garden Party; this was to help raise funds and the start of our 110th Birthday celebrations. St Johns Brass Band came to entertain us, and we had lots of scones, tea and even s'mores.



We completed our environmental conservation badge and community impact badges by litter picking in our local area, discussing what we can and cannot recycle and we visited Longley Lane recycling centre.

We had a fabulous trip to Chill Factor, where all the Cubs had a starter ski lesson, had fun on the snow park with the toboggan, snow slide and donuts.



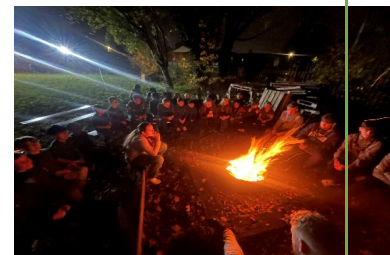
We completed our local knowledge badge, the Cubs drew coats of arms, drew maps of their local area, and we went on a walk looking at the places in the area that we had discussed such as the Moravian square, the canal and where old mills used to stand.

We hosted a charity Car Wash with support from GM Fire and Rescue and the Beehive Pub, where we raised a fabulous £262, that was split between the group and the fire service.



We went on the spooky Cubtober Camp at Linnet Clough where we partied at the disco, went on a spooky walk, ziplined, shot air rifles, climbed the climbing wall, drove go carts and got to stroke cute farm animals, we're looking forward to this year's Cubtober (letters will be coming out before the summer break).

We joined up with the Explorers and Scouts and had a great night celebrating bonfire night, with fireworks, bonfire and we also made chocolate sparklers.



We had a Christmas party with enough food to feed a small army (thank you all again), we played games and danced till we dropped.

Since we returned after Christmas, we have completed our Skills Challenge Badge, done our Digital Citizen Badge, completed our Space Badge and finally last week one of our amazing young leaders, helped our Cubs to achieve their Digital Maker badge.



As you can see, we have had a busy year, with lots more planned for the rest of this year, including camps, trips, and lots more badges.

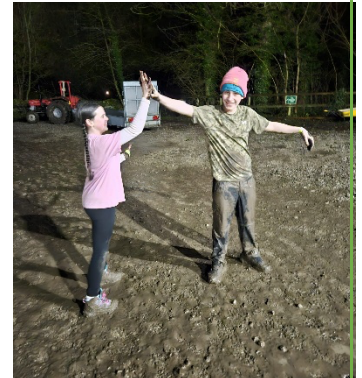
Thank you again for your continued support.

Danielle (Akela), Josh (Bagheera), Lorenza (Raksha), Sophie and our Young Leaders Pippa and Christopher.

SCOUTS

What a year we have had at Scouts. We have enjoyed a very busy and exciting programme filled with a wide variety of activities. During our weekly meetings, we have worked hard on various badges and challenges, acquiring new skills such as map reading, cooking, first aid, and campcraft. The young people have also been creative, taking part in arts, crafts, and team challenges, which have helped them develop confidence and work well together.

Our winter camp at Linnet Clough was a brilliant adventure. Despite the cold weather and mud, everyone had a great time taking part in climbing, axe throwing, campcraft activities and even a petting zoo. We worked well together as a team, enjoyed cooking outdoors, and relaxed around the campsite in the evenings. It was a fantastic weekend full of fun, skills, and great memories. We can't wait for next year!



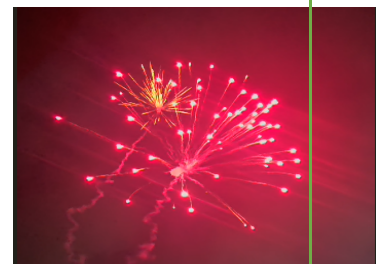
We held a fun Easter Egg Hunt inside the scout hut, where everyone had a great time searching high and low for hidden eggs. It was exciting to see the young people working together to solve clues and find all the eggs. The afternoon was full of laughter and energy, and it was a perfect way to celebrate the Easter holidays together.

We joined the cubs and went on a local knowledge walk around Droylsden to learn more about our area. We explored the streets, looked at interesting landmarks, and answered questions about the history and geography of the place. It was a great way to practice our navigation skills while discovering more about the community around us.



We teamed up with the GMFRS to hold a charity car wash. The Beehive pub kindly let us use their space. We washed cars, sold hats and key rings to raise money for new camp equipment and any future camps we have coming up.

We celebrated Bonfire Night with a bang at the scout hut, enjoying a real fire and tasty s'mores. Everyone had fun keeping warm, watching the sparks fly, and learning about fire safety. It was a brilliant, cosy evening full of laughter and celebration together. We joined the Cubs, to make some chocolate sparklers.



We had an amazing trip to Chill Factor where we enjoyed playing in the real snow park and trying out the slides. Everyone also took part in a mini ski lesson, learning the basics of how to stand up, stop, and slide down the slopes. It was a brilliant experience full of fun, laughter, and plenty of snow!

We were delighted to welcome several new members to the group this year, who have all settled in well and made new friends. We are also very pleased to introduce our two new leaders, Sophie and David, who have joined the team and are already helping to run exciting activities and support the young people. It is great to have everyone on board and part of our Scout family.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents for your continued support and involvement throughout the year; it is very much appreciated and makes such a big difference to us.

Thank you from our leadership team: Lauren, Jake, Sophie and David.

EXPLORERS

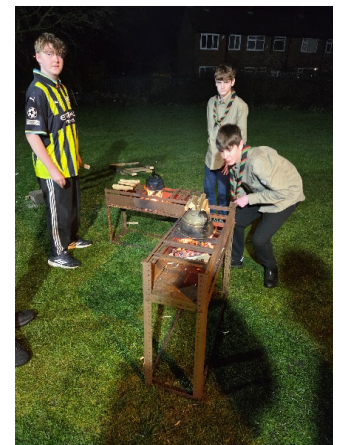
We had a fantastic winter camp at Linnet Clough where we braved the cold weather to put up our tents and cooked outdoors. We spent our time throwing axes, driving tanks, laser tagging and relaxing together around the campfire, making it a memorable adventure.



Back at the hut, we celebrated Bonfire Night with a real fire, plenty of hot food, and sparklers. It was a great opportunity to learn about fire safety while keeping warm and enjoying the festive atmosphere together as a unit.

We also held an exciting Easter Egg hunt inside the scout hut, where everyone searched high and low for hidden treats. It was great fun solving clues and working together to find everything, making for a very enjoyable evening.

We also spent time learning and practicing valuable survival skills during our meetings and trips. We covered how to build emergency shelters, light fires safely, and find and purify water. It was challenging but really rewarding to learn how to look after ourselves in the outdoors.



We tried something new and enjoyed a short fencing lesson, where we learned the basic rules, stances, and techniques. It was great fun putting on the gear and having friendly matches, helping us improve our coordination, focus, and confidence.

We also enjoyed our visit to Chill Factore, where we enjoyed playing in the real snow park and trying out the slides. Everyone also took part in a mini ski lesson, learning the basics of how to control their speed and stop, which was a brilliant new experience for us all.




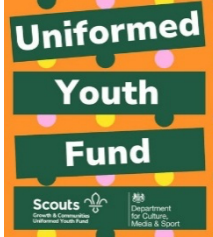


We celebrated St George's Day with a parade and a great performance, where Chris stepped up to play the part of St George. He did an amazing job battling against the dragon, putting on an entertaining show that everyone enjoyed and remember for a long time.

We are delighted to have welcomed new members this year and are looking forward to even more joining us later in the year as they move up from Scouts. We are really excited about what we have planned and can't wait for the year ahead.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who helped and supported us throughout the year; your help is very much appreciated and makes such a big difference to us.

Thank you from the leadership team: James and Joe

Grants & Funding Report

	<p>Better Youth Spaces – Hut Maintenance (radiators, loft insulation, lighting) £14,156</p>
	<p>Forever Manchester (winter energy bills) £514</p>
	<p>Uniformed Youth Fund Startup Grant – Dovers Explorers (Marquee, pioneering equipment) £2,000</p>
	<p>Forever Manchester Voicescape Community Fund (tents) £500</p>
	<p>Action Together – Volunteer Fund (tents) £244.22</p>

How can you help?

Grants

If your employer gives grants or funds for community groups, we would be very grateful if you would you apply on behalf of the Group. We can provide help and advice on what you need to say.

Gift Aid

If you're able to sign up for Gift Aid (it costs you nothing, but you must be paying sufficient income or capital gains tax in the UK), please let us know so that we can claim extra funding for the Group from HMRC.

Group Information

Group Trustee Board 2025

Ex Officio Members

Group Lead Volunteer (GLV) Chris Sampson

Elected Members - Elected at the AGM by the Scout Council

Group Chair	Sarah Bailey
Group Secretary	Vacant
Group Treasurer	Adam Hewitt
Assistant Group Leader Volunteer (AGLV)	Margaret Sever
Trustee	Janet Higgins
Trustee	Nick Curtis
Trustee	Julie Artingstall

Co-opted Members - Co-opted annually by the Group Trustee Board

Sponsor's representative (St. Mary's Church) Christine Withers

Scout Association Reg No: 00362

Bankers: Lloyds Bank PLC,
Victoria,
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Charity Registered No: 521621

How can you help?

We would love to have parent representatives on the Trustee Board – help to govern the Group, ensuring correct management and financial oversight. It's a really important role (and looks good on a CV!).



Group Leadership Team 2026

Group Trustee Board

Section Leaders

How can you help?

We would love to have parent representatives on the Leadership Team – help to organise events, fundraise to reduce costs, and maintain the hut.