21st Inverness Lochardil Scout Group

Annual Report 2025/26

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
Held in the Scout Hall, Green Drive, Inverness
22 June 2026

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Group Chairperson Report

As we head into another AGM, it's a good time to reflect on what Scouting in general and the 21st Lochardil in particular, means to our young people, volunteers and community. The news continually tells us about some of the dangers facing children and young adults in society including isolation, radicalisation and lack of opportunity.

Scouting is the opposite of all those things. It is a space for our young people to come together, learn skills, make friends for life, and enjoy many unique experiences and challenges. As a group, we are an important part of our community, and we can only remain so by the continued dedication and hard work of all our volunteers no matter what part they play.

We continue to offer fantastic value for money, capping our fees at £12.50 per month following last year's rise. At a time where families are under pressure like never before in terms of finances, it is important that the group remains as accessible as possible to all those in our community.

As a board of trustees, we aim to keep the group on a financially solid footing. Steven, our treasurer, has worked hard to ensure we receive the best value for money in several areas, including our bills and banking process. Whilst the financial picture has been challenging, we have continued to use opportunities like gift aid and to explore grants for hall improvements, to ensure we are delivering best value for money for the group. We welcomed Geoff on to the board of trustees last year, and his assistance has been invaluable. John and Alistair have been outstanding in keeping the hall running including hunting down the best quotes for work and even making minor repairs in their own time. Over the past 12 months we have invested in new flooring and updated the electrics in the hall, all of which is essential to keeping group nights running smoothly and seamlessly. Eivor as our Lead Volunteer (and secretary!) has again held things together seamlessly for the trustees, ensuring the sections have what they need. I know the Cubs firepit has been high on the agenda!

And lastly, but most importantly, I want to acknowledge our amazing volunteers. Without your dedication, hard work, sacrifice and commitment, Scouting simply would not be here. From those beginning their journey as young leaders to the stalwarts who are still going strong after so many years of service, on behalf of the board of trustees we thank you wholeheartedly.

Here's another successful next 12 months.

Craig Still

Group Chairperson

Group Lead Volunteer Report

The Lochardil Scout Group, is extremely fortunate to have a committed and flexible leadership team, but we are all busy people, with family, education, work, and other commitments. I would like to say sincere thanks to all the Leaders who provide an exciting and challenging program for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the Trustee Board, who keep the Group its finances and the hall running, and Parents who have helped up front or behind-the-scenes, for their support throughout the past year, we can't do it without you.

A very big thanks to Neil Sharpe (Scouts) and Sandra (Cubs) who made me aware of their intention to move on last year but have stayed the course this year to bring on new leaders and make sure they leave their respective sections in good order.

Leaders and Trustees come and go, and we **always** need new adult supporters to ensure we can deliver a great and safe scouting experience for all and to ensure that we have good governance and run effectively as a charity. If you are interested in helping, as a Leader please contact one of the section leaders or myself at gsl@lochardilscouts.com. We will normally advertise for Trustees when a position becomes vacant but again let me know if you are interested.

This year, our numbers (Jan 26 Census) are similar to last year, at 63 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Each section has run an excellent scouting programme as you can see from the following reports, with lots of variety, challenges, learning and achievements. All this takes a good deal of hard work and commitment and the more adults we have to spread the load, the better.

One significant change this year, introduced in April 2026, was new legislation in Scotland requiring all adult and parent helpers, as well as 16–18-year-olds, to hold PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) certification. Leaders have always needed this certification, but it now also applies to casual helpers, parent helpers, and young leaders. We encourage as many parents as possible to apply, as many activities rely on parent support, and we need to be prepared in advance. Please contact me if you would like to obtain PVG certification so you can support your child's section.

Looking at the individual section reports that follow, I am really pleased that each section is providing an exciting and varied program which we hope our young members enjoy and learn from.

I would like to record thanks to Elaine Macleod who has again acted as the Independent Examiner of our accounts.

Eivor Dempster
Group Lead Volunteer

Scout Report

Once again, we have had another highly successful year and I want to thank all leaders and parent helpers, who have helped to deliver our programme.

In October some of our scouts attended the Cally Rally. Camping and doing activities along with over 400 Scouts and Explorers from around the country. We had good weather for once and a return of the Ceilidh from the previous year which went down a storm!

We had a great turn out for the Remembrance Day parade in November. Then in December we attended the Pantomime at Eden Court with another strong turn out. In the new year we held our annual burns supper with Ali keeping us on track. The Scouts read traditional poems and played music for the group; there was even some break dancing! We then finished the evening with some ceilidh dances.

The Culduthel woods group have been in, talking to us about forestry, and looking after the woods that we use frequently for activities. We also had the group involved with a community litter pick, to help look after the area around the hall.

This year also saw Miriam achieve her Gold Chief Scout award, Congratulations! She showed incredible dedication to achieve the award both on a Monday evening and outside of Scouts.

The Group numbers are sitting at around 23 - 25 Scouts, with some new Cubs joining us in recent months. As some of the older Scouts age out, we are hoping they will continue with Scouting and move up to an Explorer group.

This year, Kath Kernaghan joined the leadership team, and Charlotte Todd also supported the section for a short time. We still need more parents to volunteer, as a larger team would give us greater flexibility. At present, if one leader is unable to attend, we may have to cancel a meeting, which we want to avoid.

It has been a really good year with lots of fun activities and learning. Looking forward to the next one.

David Wyllie
Scout Section Volunteer

Cub Report

Since last AGM we have worked on all our Challenge badges with most cubs gaining lots of them.

August to Christmas
We started with 14 cubs, 4 leaders and 2 young leaders and worked on the following badges:

Fire Safety, Chef, Waste and Environment, Knots and Pioneering, pitching tents, St Andrews night, Halloween Party, Crafts and Activities

Three cubs also gaining their Chief Scouts Award.

We finished off with a Christmas party.

January to Easter
We started the term with 11 cubs but gained more beavers bringing us up to 19. We worked on the following:

Bird feeders and birdwatch, made puppets and a story and showed it on a screen (courtesy of Andrew), Chinese New Year (trying new foods), Pancake night, Secret Messages and codes, Scouts (all ex-cubs) did another night of knots, Visit to Bunker at Raigmore, Easter Crafts and Egg hunt

Easter to Summer
We had 3 cubs joining scouts, 2 gaining their Chief Scouts award. We now have another 4 beavers with us bringing us back up to 19.

We also gained another young leader in Daisy from Aird Explorers.

The Programme till the summer break is as follows:

Kite making, Bubble night, Litter pick up, Joint meeting with Crown cubs – Shelter building and hike, Cooking and water night

Cubs have gained around 150 badges to cubs over the last year, 8 of these being Chief Scouts Awards. This is a great achievement.

I would like to thank Ellie, Sarah, Andrew and Joseph for all their amazing input to our programmes and meetings. I will be retiring at the end of June and thanks to all the Trustees & Leaders for their amazing help and hope our group continues to thrive.

Sandra Fraser
Cub Section Lead Volunteer

Beaver Report

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We have 16 beavers 14 boys and two girls. 10 beavers gained their Chief Scouts Award, the highest award in the beaver section.

Some of the highlights of the year are as follows:

A visit to Inshes Park and did some games and zip lining.

A night at Macdonald Park doing wide games and tree climbing.

Completing the Health and Fitness, Cooks, Experiments, Cyclist, Safety and Global Issues badges.

For part of the Faith Badge, we visited Inverness Cathedral and got to ring the bell.

We visited the Fire Station and the boys got to sit in one of the fire engines and they had mock fires to put out with the fire hoses.

Our visit to the war bunker at Raigmore was a great success the boys got to sit in a tank and helicopter,

This year was the 40th anniversary of beavers (Lochardil Scout Group will be 40 next year). We had a party in the hall and Samuel's mum made a fantastic cake to celebrate!

We celebrated and had activities around Burns Night, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Halloween, Christmas Crafts and had a painted Easter egg Competition, BBQ and a Christmas party in the hall

I would like to thank my leaders Hamish and Lynne, helper Shona and Thea, Catriona and Orla who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh, for all their help and support during the year. All these interesting and fun activities would not be possible without them.

Thanks also to Eivor who is always there for us if we need any help.

Mary Mitchell
Beaver Section Lead Volunteer

Governance

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the Independent Examiners report for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Constitution and Purpose:
The Groups name is the 21st Inverness Lochardil Scout Group, HQ at 36 Green Drive, Inverness IV2 4EU.

The Scout Group is constituted in terms of the Rules of the Scout Association, which is a charitable body incorporated by Royal Charter. The Scout Group is an Educational Charity Registered in Scotland – Registration number SC019255.

The purpose of Scouting is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, and guided by adult leadership.

Trustees 2025-2026

Craig Still	Group Chairperson
Steven Guthrie	Group Treasurer
Eivor Dempster	Group Lead Volunteer
John Gordon	Trustee
Alasdair MacLean	Trustee
Geoff Todd	Trustee

Trustees are recruited and appointed following the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association.

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that around three months of annual expenditure is a suitable level of reserves to cover timing differences between receipts and payments and to allow for any unexpected items of expenditure on the Scout Building. Reserves are currently at a higher level as the trustees are planning a continued programme of maintenance at the Scout Hall. Also, costly equipment items have reached their “sell by” date and now require to be replaced.

Approved by the Group Trustees by email issued on 4 June 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Eivor Dempster
Group Scout Leader

Craig Still
Group Chairperson

Group Treasurers Report

Income	2025-2026	2024-2025
Bank Interest	664.99	379.57
Donation	350.15	346.13
Events - Beavers	0.00	80.00
Events - Cubs	250.00	0.00
Events - Scouts	1,498.00	1,560.00
Fundraising	0.00	961.16
Fundraising - Beavers	0.00	236.00
Fundraising - Cubs	639.98	156.00
Fundraising - Scouts	883.09	363.00
Gift Aid	3,506.87	0.00
Guide and Explorer Hall Rental	2,220.00	1,815.00
Membership Fees	9,132.50	7,779.04
Uniform and Book Sales	74.00	62.00

Expenditure	2025-2026	2024-2025
Activity Equipment	54.47	71.99
Admin	135.51	57.55
Badges	649.37	462.31
Bank Fees	402.53	404.10
Camping Equipment	366.75	326.90
Events - Beavers	23.80	0.00
Events - Cubs	493.94	493.46
Events - Scouts	1,738.18	1,169.98
Hall Equipment	159.07	272.72
Insurance	767.91	844.70
Meetings	10.27	371.39
Meetings - Beavers	318.25	244.87
Meetings - Cubs	186.39	65.99
Meetings - Scouts	88.16	0.00
Membership Costs	3,622.50	3,307.50
Rent	600.00	600.00
Utilities	4,023.87	3,985.00
Venue Maintenance	5,738.29	3,065.90

Account balances	2025-2026	2024-2025
Group: Treasurer Current Acc	2,894.85	21,158.37
Building Society - CLOSED	0.00	11,681.54
Cubs - CLOSED	0.00	694.53
Beavers - CLOSED	0.00	185.12
Expense Account	581.24	360.86
Group: Instant Access Savings	5,846.55	0.00
Group: 95-Day Deposit Acc	24,598.10	0.00

Summary	2025-2026	2024-2025
Account balance brought forward	34,080.42	36,086.88
Total income	19,219.58	13,737.90
Total expenditure	19,379.26	15,744.36
Net income	-159.68	-2,006.46
Account balance carried forward	**33,920.74**	**34,080.42**

Notes on Accounts:

In April 2025, we increased our annual subscriptions from £8.33 a month (£100 per year) to £10 per month (£120 per year). This was the first increase since 2012, and necessary, given the increase in all costs in the intervening years. The current volatility of ongoing costs (electricity in particular) will require this to be reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary.

Gift Aid income for the year was significantly higher than the previous year (£0) as it includes the delayed payment for the year 24-25 (£1840.40) and this year's claim of (£1666.47).

A significant expenditure this year has been the upgrading of our electrical switchboard and our EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report) certificate for the next five years. The total cost of the works was £2700 with £1000 deposit coming out in 25-26 and the remaining £1700 coming out of the 26-27 expenditure.

Electricity remains the Group’s largest expense. Over the past three years, annual costs averaged around £4,000. This year, moving to a fixed-rate contract is expected to reduce costs to approximately £2,600, delivering a significant saving. A final payment of around £800 for previous years’ balances is due in April 2026. The current fixed-rate contract also ends in April 2026. However, SSE has paused discussions on new long-term contracts while awaiting Ofgem and wider energy price decisions, meaning the Group will revert to standard rates on an interim basis.

Other Assets:

The Group utilises the Scout Hall which is held in trust by the Scout Association for the 21st Inverness (Lochardil) Scout Group, held under a 60-year ground lease commencing 1st August 1981.

The group owns a quantity of camping and other sports equipment which has been bought over many of years.

The Scout Hall ground rent is £600 per annum; payments are due on 1st August each year and payments for this are up to date.

Liabilities: The Group has no material liabilities or obligations.
Approved by the Group Trustees by email issued on 5th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Eivor Dempster
Group Lead Volunteer

Steven Guthrie
Group Treasurer

External Examiners Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 21st Inverness Lochardil Scout Group

Scottish Charity Number: SC019255

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's qualified statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
    a. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
    b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name : Elaine Macleod

Signature : 

Relevant Professional qualification/Professional body : ICB
Address: 2 Oich Terrace, Inverness, IV2 4ER
Date: 5th May 2026