



**Lauderdale Scout Group
Annual Report
2025 – 2026**

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**Commemorative Edition - Lauderdale Scout Hall
Official opening by Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Kathy Weir
30th August 2026**



Lauderdale Scout Hall Extension and Improvements

Funded by UK and Scottish Governments, administered by Scottish Borders Council, with decisions made by the Place-Partnership Panel, Youth Local Action Group and Local Action Group.

Hall Floor funded by The National Lottery Community Fund



**Funded by
UK Government**



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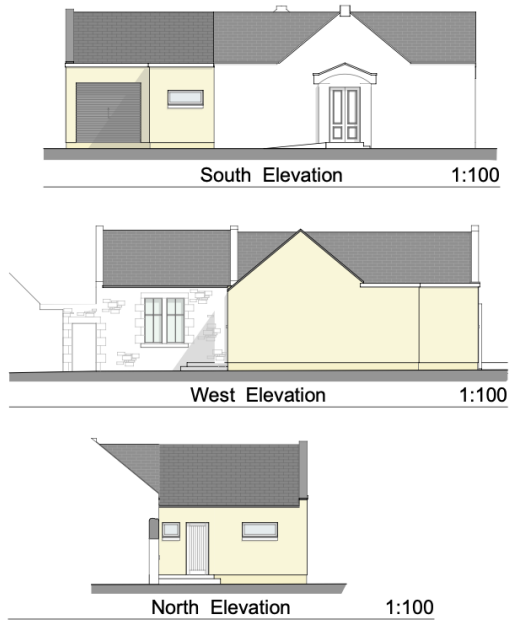


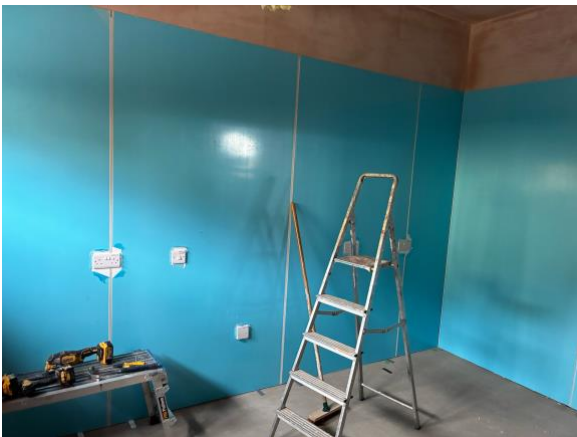
**Scottish
Borders
COUNCIL**



Also special thanks to Scottish Borders Council, Hamish Hunter Architect,
Barry Hill and Jamie Clark – Main Contractors

From design to construction





Chair Report

As chair of the board of Trustees for Lauderdale Scout Group, I am proud to be part of such a positive and successful team, providing an adventurous and inclusive program for young people. This year's many and varied achievements highlight the group's continued strengths and the enjoyment is evident among all and is certainly to be cherished.

From Squirrels and Beavers to Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, our sections are thriving and we continue to strive for the best in all areas of the Scouting program.

It is with great pride that we conclude this year with the re-opening of the new and improved scout hall at our AGM. The clear success of this large project has resulted from all the hard work by the wider team, plus collaboration between so many generous partners.

A big vote of continued and heart-felt thanks must go to all our fantastic leaders, assistant leaders, active helpers, fellow trustees, parents and of course the young people. Scouting can only happen due to your ongoing energy and commitment.

Helen Matthews
Chairperson



Group Lead Volunteer GLV

The year 2056/26 was another year of success for Lauderdale Scout Group, we continue to provide amazing opportunities for the young people of Lauderdale between to ages 4 and 18, We still have around 170 young people supported by adults across all sections I feel very proud to have such an amazing team of adult volunteers. This year has seen some significant changes with Crawford the Monday cub lead stepping back and Abbey and Hannah who have run the Beaver sections for a good number of years, but the strength of our leadership team should see the transition without any issues.

Some amazing activities have taken place over the 12 months and camps are a major part of that - Beavers went to Bonaly for a weekend in May,

Cubs went Ford and Etal and in the Autumn they went to the Scottish Camp – the Howling at Fordel Firs.

Scouts camped at Canty Bay and their Autumn camp was at Borthwick Castle near Gorebridge. Our Explorers camped at Scout wood, and we had explorers at the District Brass Monkey camp at Ford, we also had Explorers at selection camps for the World Scout Jamboree and Blair Athol. Congratulations to all that we successful.

For several years, we have spoken about our plans for the hall improvement, as the financial year drew to a close work finally started and we are holding our official opening as part of the AGM in August. We are particularly pleased with bringing the project to fruition as it will significantly improve the scouting opportunities for not just our group but visitors for years to come. The kitchen and hall improvements should benefit the wider community and we hope to attract an increase in hires and private lets.

Going forward we still look to strengthen our amazing team of leaders, and trustees. So if you haven't volunteered yet but would like to get involved please let us know!



Squirrels

Over the course of April 2025 to March 2026 the Squirrels group saw many changes mostly determined by the exit and entrance of leaders. After 5 years, Tricia Barker decided to move on from being the Squirrels Section Lead and was replaced by Polly Rutt. Two other leaders left as their children moved up to Beavers replaced by Philip Munro (whose daughter has also joined as a Squirrel). Due to the difficulty in finding new leaders and adults willing to help, during this period, the Squirrels Drey has been unable to expand.

Despite the changes, the Squirrels have enjoyed a varied and exciting program, collecting many of their challenge and activity badges on the way. Highlights include a visit to the Fire Station in Lauder, a fun and exciting session on Poo which included dissection owl pellets, a visit to the South Gardens retirement community, a 'night hike' at Whitlaw Farm, Highland Games and lots of craft activities, den building and games. We also had a 'Young Leader take over week' where the young leaders ran the session from start to finish, focussing on the 'Be Active badge.



Beaver Section Report: Monday and Thursday Colonies

It has been another action-packed, badge-earning, craft-making, game-playing and adventure-filled year for both the Monday and Thursday Beaver Colonies. The Beavers have thrown themselves into everything with huge enthusiasm, plenty of noise, and the occasional burst of glitter.

Across both colonies, the Beavers have taken part in games, teamwork challenges, creative activities, outdoor skills, badge work and reflective activities. They have tried new things, helped each other out, learned to give things a go, and proudly celebrated their achievements — usually while asking what snack was coming next.

The Beavers have worked incredibly hard towards a wide range of badges, including Space, International, Safety, Global Issues, Communicator, Collector, Faith, Creative, Builder, World, Adventure and Teamwork badges, along with many others. These activities helped them develop problem-solving, communication, creativity, outdoor learning and care for others. This year, the Thursday Beavers earned a brilliant 323 badges, including four Chief Scout's Bronze Awards. The Monday Beavers earned a fantastic 251 badges, including five Chief Scout's Bronze Awards. That is a lot of sewing for grown-ups — and a lot of proud Beavers.

A huge well done to Alfie Newtown, Luke Matthews, Rohan Hume, Arran Anderson, Alice Fulton, Lewis Goodfellow, Fergus Watson, Ruairidh Challis and Freya Jeffery, who were presented with their Chief Scout's Bronze Awards. This is a fantastic achievement and something they should all be very proud of.

Bonaly Camp – May 2025

One of the biggest highlights of the year was our camp to Bonaly in May 2025. The Beavers had the chance to spend time away from home, enjoy the outdoors and pack in as much adventure as possible. Activities included grass sledging, zip lining, archery, bug hunts, hikes, marshmallow eating, campfire songs and, of course, the traditional camp activity of not sleeping quite as much as expected.

For many of the Beavers, camp was a big step in becoming more independent, building confidence and discovering just how much fun Scouting adventures can be. They came home tired, muddy, happy and full of stories — which is exactly how a Beaver camp should end.

Volunteers and Support

A very big thank you goes to all the leaders, young leaders, parent helpers and volunteers who supported the Monday and Thursday Beaver Colonies this year. Their time, energy, patience and good humour made it possible to run a safe, enjoyable and varied programme — even on the evenings involving paint, glue, mud or all three. We have often used this report as an opportunity to thank leaders who have moved on to another section or taken a step back from Scouting.

I would like to give a big thank you to Alex, who has been part of Lauderdale Scout Group since he was a Beaver. He has travelled the full Scouting journey through Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Young Leaders and, most recently, as a Section Leader. We wish him all the very best as he heads off to university and begins his next adventure.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Hannah, who has been a fantastic leader with both Monday and Thursday Beavers over the last five years. Hannah joined during Covid, when we, like many groups, were attempting the unforgettable challenge of running Beavers over Zoom.

Since then, she has supported many Beaver and Cub camps, often taking on the very important role of camp cook. Cauty Bay was by far her favourite camp, and she could usually be relied upon to come home with half the beach in the form of shells. Hannah has also been our champion of arts and crafts, encouraging Beavers, young leaders and leaders alike to get creative and even try their hand at sewing.

As many of you will know, after 10 wonderful, busy, and occasionally chaotic years, I have now finished running Beavers. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the leaders I have worked alongside, the parents who have joined us on our many adventures, our fantastic young leaders and, most importantly, the young people themselves — some of whom are now young leaders, which is both lovely and a little alarming! It has been a real privilege to watch so many Beavers grow in confidence, try new things and move on to their next Scouting adventures. I know I am leaving both sections in safe hands, although both would certainly welcome a few extra pairs of helping hands. I wish them every success, plenty of fun and many more adventures in the future.

Abbey Beaumont

For the final time – section lead volunteer for Monday and Thursday Beavers.



Monday Cubs

Monday Cubs have had another busy twelve months working on numerous badges and attending a couple of camps.

The Cubs have worked on the Adventure, Outdoors, Skills, Teamwork, Outdoors, World and Personal Challenge badges. The older Cubs have also worked on the Team Leader Challenge badge. They have also worked on the Artist, Athletics, Disability Awareness, Fire Safety, Home Safety and Space Activity badges. Some of our Cubs worked on extra badges away from our weekly sessions including Swimmer, Snowsports, Chef and Equestrian badges.

In May 2025, we attended Ford & Etal Camp where the Cubs engaged in lots of fun activities and took the Heatherslaw Light Railway to have lunch on the grounds of Etal Castle. Then in September we attended the Howling Cub Camp along with Cub sections from all over Scotland. This was a great weekend with a huge range of activities for the Cubs to enjoy.

Some of our Cubs have also attended some other events including Remembrance Sunday Parade, The Car Show Fundraiser and Litter Pick and a Regional Gala Day at Bonaly.

In total, we have awarded 278 badges during the period of this report (Apr 2025- Mar 2026) including six Chief Scout Silver Awards to Emrys Patterson, Oscar Newton, Torr Chick-Norman, Finn Hume, James (JJ) Craig and River Notman.

During the year we have said goodbye to Leader Tom Little and Young Leaders Rory Cairns and Harald Kunkel. Thank you for all that you have done to support the group.

We have a stronger than ever Leadership Team with a core group of four Leaders who will continue to ensure that the section offers great opportunities for our young people.

Well done to all the Cubs for a tremendous year of effort, fun and hopefully some memorable experiences.



Friday Cubs

Over the past year Friday Cubs have worked through a vast array of activity badges, Pioneer, Scientists, Home Safety, Disability Awareness to name a few. We have had a focus on the challenge badges with all 6 of them being achieved by some leading to 4 Silver Scout Awards being presented.

We have a strong pipeline of Cubs moving up to Scouts, with 11 ready to move on currently, opening up space for Beavers to join and giving us the opportunity to take children from the waiting list and giving their first steps into Scouting.

The section is currently run between 3 leaders and two parent helpers who consistently attend to support the section. We have 3 young leaders who all play a vital role in delivering a well rounded session for the Cubs



Tuesday Scouts Report

We've had another busy year in Tuesday scouts with 26 Scouts and 5 leaders.

We work with Thursday scouts to deliver a consistent programme to the young people in our scout section.

Over the year we have delivered a youth lead programme while ensuring we have covered badge elements.

The scouts have worked the following challenge awards

World

Teamwork

Outdoor

Team Leader

We have also undertaken a wide selection of activity badges including

Air Activities

Model maker

Entertainer

Quartermaster

Scientist

Local Knowledge

Money Skills

Chef – cooking is a firm favourite with scouts

We have also been out in the community, we have been to

Selkirk Sheriff Court

Lauder Bowling Club

Galashiels Police Station

Lauder Fire Station – learning how to do CPR

We also attended the Lauder Remembrance Parade

Camps

We have had a couple of camps during the year

Canty Bay which is always a big hit with the scouts. They took part in a hike to Tantallon castle then done treasure hunting with a local metal detector group.

In September we had a greenfield camp at Borthwick which was a new location for us. The scouts cooked all their own meals and washed up. Had a hike to Crichton Castle then onto Crichton Church.

Awards & Badges

I had the pleasure in presenting 2 gold scout awards to Maxwell Crabbe & Eilidh Gillian.

We handed out a total of 94 badges over the year, well done scouts.

Thank you to the leader volunteers and young people who attend every week.

Sonya Beaumont

Tuesday Scout Section Lead



Thursday Scouts

This year we have averaged roughly 16-18 Scouts in our section, and our 5 leaders remain the same – We didn't have any YLs

Easter 2026 saw James Collin take on the TL role from Bob O'Donnell

Areas covered

We have worked on the following badges/sessions

World Challenge Badge – International issues

4 nights of traditional Scout skills – Knives, Axes, Saws, Fire & Shelter at Scout Wood

Pizza night

Quartermaster Badge – Camp Prep

Grass bowls at Lauder Bowling Club

Local Knowledge Badge – Lauder Town Trail

Visit to Selkirk Sheriffs Court

Air Activities Badge

Remembrance Day

Entertainer Badge – Christmas performances

Christmas Party night

Chefs Badge

Model Maker Badge – Airfix planes

World Challenge Badge – Clothing Upcycling

Craft Badge

Camps

May 25 we headed back to a firm favourite – Canty Bay – with a day trip to Tantallon Castle, and a visit from a local metal detector group with treasure hunting on the beach.

September 25 we held a traditional greenfield camp at Borthwick which was a new location for us. We conducted a hike to Crighton Church and honed in on our camp cooking and used our new Vango force 10 tents for the first time.

Challenges

All of our senior Scouts aged out around the same time, and we had an influx of younger Scouts moving up from Cubs – for the first time in a number of years our demographic was predominately younger than it has been – with the lack of older Scouts to set an example – there were some challenges adapting behaviour patterns.

Badges

During this reporting period, we awarded 177 badges including the following Chief Scout Awards

Brodie Broomfield 22/05/2025

Felix Herdman 22/05/2025

Saoirse Cruickshank 19/06/2025

Lucy Hann 06/10/2025

Phoebe Park 06/10/2025

Rosie Montgomery 31/10/2025

Roan Barker 13/11/2025

Gregor Collin 20/11/2025

Hector Jackson 20/11/2025

Yours in Scouting

James Collin

Bob O'Donnell



Explorer Unit

Summer 2025 - The new financial year began with thirteen Explorers and six leaders, two of whom were ex-Explorers.

The summer term is regularly impacted by school exams and so the majority of meetings were hosted at Scout Wood where woodland skills and outdoor cooking talents were honed. The end of the term was marked by a fantastic hike around Cauldshiels hill and loch, followed by our traditional visit to Shanghai Banquet at Tweedbank.

Autumn 2025 - Autumn was busy and varied. A number of evening hikes took place from Soutra Aisle to Oxton, and from Scout Wood to Lauder. The Explorer Unit took part in an environmental project with Butterfly Conservation at Hillhouse Farm, Carfrae. Seeds were sown and plug plants planted in order to propagate the breeding range of the Northern Brown Argus butterfly. The highlight of the term were two guest talks from Duncan Spinner, a military observer in Ukraine, and Maestro Paul Macdonald from the Macdonald Academy of Fencing and Macdonald Armouries. Christmas was celebrated in horrific jumpers at the Shanghai Banquet, Tweedbank.

Winter 2026 - the new year began with Explorer organised and led meetings and a fantastic Burns dinner. We had an evening hike in the rain from the fire station to Stauchley hill and Lauder chippy. The hall and staff room at the Primary school were utilised over many sessions for archery, table tennis, boardgames, Dragons' Den, and an end of season Ceilidh.

The financial year ended with nineteen Explorers, and six leaders.



Financial Accounts

**Lauderdale Scout Group
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 28th February 2026**

	Unrestricted General Fund 2026	Designated Property Improvement Fund 2026	Restricted Property Improvement Fund 2026	Total Fund 2026	Total Fund 2025
Receipts					
Subscriptions	19,680.84	--	--	19,680.84	20,299.14
Fundraising	1,980.13	--	--	1,980.13	1,625.44
Donations	360.00	--	--	360.00	665.00
Gift Aid	4,293.20	--	--	4,293.20	3,130.47
Events	126.70	--	--	126.70	147.32
Grant	--	--	125,000.00	125,000.00	--
Rent	3,058.75	750.00	--	3,808.75	4,898.50
Uniform	815.61	--	--	815.61	937.32
Camp	18,964.61	--	--	18,964.61	12,204.65
Badges	--	--	--	--	7.50
Bank Interest	40.76	509.68	--	550.44	351.79
Administration	19.00	--	--	19.00	--
	<u>49,339.60</u>	<u>1,259.68</u>	<u>125,000.00</u>	<u>175,599.28</u>	<u>44,267.13</u>
Payments					
Activity Equipment	892.40	--	--	892.40	837.82
Badges	1,448.13	--	--	1,448.13	1,462.58
Camp	9,706.87	--	--	9,706.87	11,575.85
Camping Equipment	3,547.49	--	--	3,547.49	1,239.30
Events	146.73	--	--	146.73	315.69
Insurance	1,476.57	--	--	1,476.57	1,345.46
Membership Costs	9,180.00	--	--	9,180.00	9,454.00
Rent	600.00	--	--	600.00	600.00
Uniforms	1,255.69	--	--	1,255.69	1,430.77
Utilities	2,463.84	--	--	2,463.84	5,889.22
Venue Maintenance	3,528.43	--	--	3,528.43	1,866.39
Sundries	1,559.35	--	--	1,559.35	1,678.03
Hall Extension	--	--	2,057.00	2,057.00	-
	<u>35,805.50</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>2,057.00</u>	<u>37,862.50</u>	<u>37,695.11</u>
Surplus of Receipts over Payments	13,534.10	1,259.68	122,943.00	137,736.78	6,572.02
Funds at 1st March 2025	23,013.37	25,559.36	--	48,572.73	42,000.71
Funds at 28th February 2026	36,547.47	26,819.04	122,943.00	186,309.51	48,572.73
Represented by					
Bank Account - Main	30,829.95	--	--	30,829.95	17,336.61
Bank Account - Development	--	26,819.04	122,943.00	149,762.04	25,559.36
Bank Account - Special	5,717.52	--	--	5,717.52	5,676.76
	<u>36,547.47</u>	<u>26,819.04</u>	<u>122,943.00</u>	<u>186,309.51</u>	<u>48,572.73</u>