



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



Trustees' annual report for the year ending 31 March 2026

Reference details

Registered charity number: 302269

Scout Association registration number: 10014441

Website: <https://www.21stromsey.co.uk/>

Address of headquarters: 21st Romsey Scout HQ, Joe Bigwood Close
Nursling, Southampton, SO16 0YL

Objectives and activities

21st Romsey Scout Group ("the Group") is part of the national Scout Association¹ and operates within the framework given in its "Policy, Organisation and Rules" (P.O.R.)².

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 aims of the Scout Association are achieved by providing an enjoyable and attractive programme of progressive training, which is guided by the following 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 Group operates for the benefit of young people, between the ages of 4 and 14½ years, from any background, regardless of gender, faith or personal circumstances, and thus meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria.

We have two Squirrel sections (the core age range being children who are 4 and 5 years old), two Beaver sections (6 and 7 years), two Cub sections (8 to 10½ years) and two Scout sections (10½ to 14 years). Each section is overseen by an adult leadership team which, in consultation with the young people, devises an enjoyable programme of training that delivers the purpose and is relevant to the age-group. This enables the young people to attain the Scout Association awards relevant to their section.

The principal awards are divided into two groups:

- Challenge Awards: these are core badges which cover areas such as outdoor and indoor skills, teamwork, leadership, world-awareness and adventure.
- Activity Badges: a wide range of badges enabling the young person to show proficiency in almost any sport or hobby that might interest them, or additional skills in areas such as camping, navigation and first-aid.

Attaining all the Challenge Awards and a sufficient number of Activity Badges for their age-group leads to the Chief Scout Award for their section – Acorn, Bronze, Silver or Gold for Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, respectively.

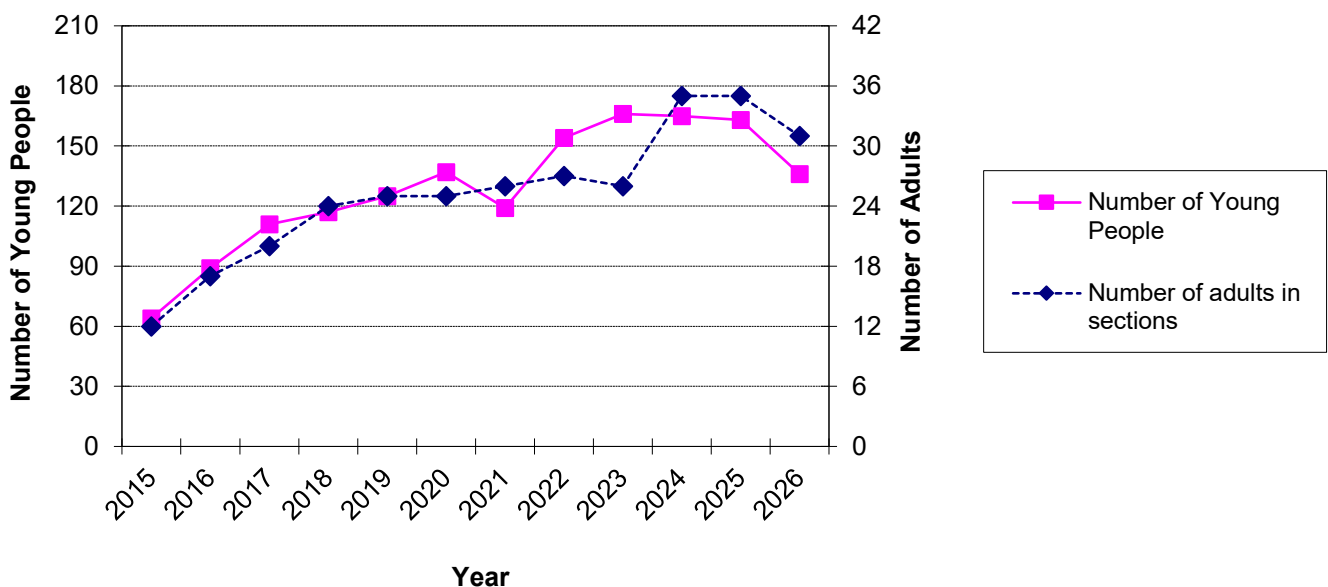
The Group also oversees a sub-section that engages in target activities: shooting, archery, crossbow and throwing-axes.

An Explorer Scout section (14 to 17 years), which is the responsibility of the Romsey Scout District, meets at our HQ and links with us through a partnership agreement.

Achievements and performance

At the time of the January 2026 census our membership had dropped significantly, with the number of young people decreasing from 163 in January 2025 to 136. Although a causal link is difficult to prove it should be noted that there has long been a direct relationship between the number of leaders in the sections and the youth membership. Consequently, from February 2026 we embarked on a sustained recruitment campaign for adult volunteers. We are also renewing our focus on supporting and training existing leaders. Despite this, long-term and temporary vacancies in the leadership team means that one of our Squirrel Dreys, for children aged 4 and 5, will have to close from the May half-term 2026. Depending on their age the children will be offered places in either the other Drey or one of the Beaver sections.

21st Romsey Uniformed Membership 2015 - 2026



All sections continue to run active programmes, which engage the young people as they work towards gaining badges. However, in some cases this has required additional support from leaders of other sections or from trustees – a situation that is not sustainable. Regardless of this, several opportunities have been given for the young people to experience sleepovers or camping; events that have encouraged their self-reliance in ways appropriate to their age. The Group was well represented at camps and challenges organised by Romsey Scout District, and at the annual St George's Day celebration in Romsey Abbey. We thank the members of the local parish church for again allowing us to participate in their Remembrance Day commemorations. We are also grateful to the Test Valley Borough Council for the generous grant of £1,000, awarded through the Councillors' Community Grant Scheme, that enabled us to purchase a portable defibrillator which can be made available for camps and other off-site events.

The Group's international events fund has contributed £300 towards each of the costs of the nine 21st Scouts and ex-21st Scouts who will be attending either the 2027 World Scout Jamboree in Poland or Project 27, a trip to the USA organised by Hampshire County Scouts.

As well as providing fantastic programmes for our own young people many of our leaders assist at events run by the Scout District. However, the number of formal roles at District level held by leaders of our Group has decreased somewhat as focus has been needed closer to home. The 21st Romsey Target Sports team continue to thrive and be a resource, providing opportunities for the young people of other Groups and training for leaders.

Changes made by the national Scout Association over the past few years transferred many operational responsibilities, from what was then the Executive Committee to the Group Leadership Team. At the moment this Team consists almost exclusively of leaders from the sections who, as can be seen from the above, already have enough to do. Therefore, we would welcome more non-uniformed volunteers to take a lead on matters such as maintenance, administration and fund-raising.

The Trustees would like to express their sincere thanks and admiration for all that our leaders have done in what has sometimes been a challenging year and are confident that we can work together to ride-out these temporary difficulties.

Structure, governance and management

21st Romsey Scout Group is governed by the Policy, Organisation and Rules (P.O.R.)² of the Scout Association, which provides the framework in which all UK Scouting operates. As a charity the Group is also governed by the Charity Commission of England and Wales. As previously stated, over the past few years the national Scout Association has introduced changes to the structure of the organisation, which are designed to enhance the governance arrangements, whilst creating more flexible opportunities for adults to participate.

Within the Group the adult leaders and supporters give their time and expertise voluntarily, without remuneration, to help the development of young people. We are led by the Group Lead Volunteer, whose role is to co-ordinate the Group's activities and to ensure continuity and development. All leaders and trustees are subject to satisfactory DBS checks and are required to undergo training appropriate for their role. This includes ongoing refresher courses in safety and safeguarding every 3 years. In addition, leaders are required to have first aid training (First Response) every 3 years. Completion of training modules is recorded on a national database, which is constantly monitored to ensure that standards are maintained. Trustees must conform to the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Trustees

In accordance with the changes mentioned above, from the 2023 AGM the Group's Executive Committee was renamed the Trustee Board, which better reflects its responsibilities in that area. Section team leaders are no longer automatically eligible to be on the Board, and the number of trustees has reduced to a maximum of 12. The trustees work together to make sure that 21st Romsey Scout Group is run safely and in compliance with the applicable rules and standards³. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance of good governance.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 the Board met seven times to ensure that:

- a. the charity is
 - well managed
 - carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
 - complying with the charity's governing document and the law
 - managing the charity's resources responsibly
- b. the charity is operating in compliance with the requirements of the Charity Commission and POR, including effective management of each of the Scout Association's key policies.
- c. young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels
- d. the Group has sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the Group, including delivery of the high-quality programme for the young people and the resource requirements of the adults' training programme.

In addition to routine matters, over the past year activities of the Board included:

- reviewing and updating the Group's Financial governance policy
- reviewing and updating the Group's Expense claim and invoice payment guidelines
- introducing a separate Expense card policy
- developing a risk register
- completion of a Declaration of interests policy for Trustees
- completion of a Group-wide Environmental policy

Consideration of our environmental impact and the finances of the Group led us to examine the cost of heating the HQ. A three-stage plan has been implemented to (i) place a warm-air curtain over the main door, (ii) replace the external doors and (iii) insulate the roof. Unfortunately, two grant applications proved unsuccessful so this project has not progressed as quickly as originally hoped.

The following served as trustees during the year ending 31 March 2026. The Group Lead Volunteer (previously termed the Group Scout Leader) is an *ex officio* member of the Board, the others are appointed by the Group Council⁴ or co-opted by the existing Board. Unless otherwise indicated the individuals were appointed prior to 1 April 2025 and re-appointed at the 2025 AGM.

(Continued on the next page)

Name	Specific role (if any) on the Committee	Dates of service if not for the whole year
Randell McKay	Chair	
Cameron Beale	Group Lead Volunteer	
Jason Phelps	Treasurer	
Gillian McKay	Secretary	
Sharon Archer		
Julie Nash		
Andrew Pickles		Until 8 July 2025
Jon Fouch		Appointed by Group Council 8 July 2025
David Cookson		Co-opted by the Board from 25 September 2025
Christopher Horgan		Co-opted by the Board from 25 September 2025
Ian Biondani		Co-opted by the Board from 20 November 2025
Alice Hillman		Co-opted by the Board from 20 November 2025

Financial review

Further information is given in the annual accounts, but a summary of receipts and payments for the year ending 31 March 2026 is:

	Unrestricted funds 2025 - 26	Restricted Funds 2025 - 26	Total 2025 - 26	Total 2024 - 25
Receipts	£36,815	£18,924	£55,739	£58,295
Payments	£30,059	£22,372	£52,431	£51,083
Net receipts / (payments)	£6,756	(£3,448)	£3,308	£7,212
Net transfers between funds	(£5,420)	£5,420	-	-
Cash funds at 31 March	£45,512	£13,025	£58,537	£55,229

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 of running costs. The trustees consider that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 4 to 6 months of running costs in the General Fund to cover imminent payments and urgent building repairs should they arise.

At 31 March 2026 the balance stood at £11,660 which satisfies this policy.

The Group Trustee Board also considers it prudent to hold two designated funds to ensure that there are adequate reserves to maintain the HQ and equipment to satisfactory standards, as detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Investment policy

The Group has adopted a low-risk strategy to investment, trying to keep pace with inflation rather than speculate in the hope of higher return. Previously longer-term funds were invested in two savings accounts of Virgin Bank but during the year the local branch closed, making these pass-book accounts inconvenient to run. The Virgin accounts were closed, intending to invest this money in an easy-access savings account with Hampshire Trust Bank (HTB), however the opening of this account was not completed until 2 April 2026. Consequently, at the year-end almost all of the Group's funds were held in a TSB current account, with minor amounts in cash and on pre-loaded Equals cards.

Signatories to bank account

Payments or withdrawals from the Group's TSB bank account requires authorisation by two of the following: Any two from Jason Phelps, Sharon Archer, Randell McKay, Julie Nash.

The new HTB savings account will only accept payments from, or pay into, the TSB account.

Independent examiner of accounts

Linda Purkess
1 Fairway Gardens
SO16 8JJ

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above. Approved by the Trustee Board on 9 June 2026. The Chair of the 21st Romsey Trustee Board holds the original, signed copy.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

RJW McKay

Name: Randell McKay
Position: Chair of Trustee Board, 21st Romsey Scout Group
Date: 9 June 2026

Glossary and references

1. The Scout Association: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/>
2. Policy, Organisation and Rules: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/>
3. Scout Association rules and guidance concerning Trustee Boards: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/volunteer-experience/teams/trustee-boards/>
4. The Group Scout Council is the electoral body which supports Scouting in the Scout Group, and is the body to which the Group Trustee Board is accountable. Its membership consists of parents of the youth members of the Group; the Group's leaders; patrol leaders (youth members) of the Scout section; the leaders of the Draco Explorer Unit, Young Leaders; other eligible supporters; the Romsey District Commissioner and the Romsey District Chair of Scouting.