

1st Willingham Scout Group

Annual Report to Willingham Parish Council

Reporting Year: 2025–2026

The 1st Willingham Scout Group continues to provide an engaging programme for young people across Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Our activities focus on developing confidence, resilience, community spirit and practical skills for life. As ever, places remain in high demand with as many young people on the waiting list as we have across the sections.

The 2025 annual fireworks display was a huge success attracting more people than ever to the village. This is the groups largest fundraiser with the proceeds raised going to the groups running costs and subsidising the activity programme to try keep scouting accessible to all.

Beavers

The end of the 2025 summer term saw a number of Beavers ready to move up to Cubs. It is always rewarding to witness their journey from shy newcomers to confident young people who have mastered the basics of Scouting skills. Families are able to support badge work at home by recording hobbies, adventures and personal achievements using the online tools. This has helps tailor the activity programme to reinforce these experiences and offer activities that may not be easily accessible outside meetings.

Beavers have enjoyed a varied and active programme, including:

- Local hikes
- A visit to the RSPB nature reserve
- Exploration of the Northstowe lakes
- Participation in Remembrance activities
- Craft activities
- Knot-tying
- Team-building games

A highlight was the sleepover and movie night at the Baptist Church—an important milestone for many Beavers experiencing their first night away from home. We are grateful for the use of this venue. The spring and summer programme will include:

- A plant-growing competition
- Attendance at the County Camp in June
- Additional hikes
- A hoped-for return to camping with one or two nights under canvas

After around ten years each in their roles, Emma (Squirrel) and Rhys (Fox) will be stepping back from leading the Beaver section in the autumn term. Their contribution has been exceptional, and we are now seeking new volunteers to join the team and receive training before their departure.

Cubs

The Cubs' programme has centred on "doing our best" for ourselves and our community. Some activities were community specific with others developing outdoor adventure skills. Educational sessions covered a wide variety of subjects with other activities spanning craft, creativity, culture and sports:

- Helping maintain the village Community Orchard
- Participating in the RSPB Birdwatch
- A visit to the Raptor Foundation
- Night hikes
- Map-reading
- Practical pioneering challenges
- The human skeleton and healthy living
- Space exploration and astronaut training
- Basic physics, including Newton's Laws of Motion
- Home safety (electrical, gas and fire safety)
- Remembrance
- Customs from other nations
- Archery
- Team games
- Outdoor exercise

Scouts

The Scout section has had a particularly active year. The programme continues to emphasise responsibility, good citizenship, community care and personal development:

- National Scout Archery: Training in the Public Hall enabled Scouts to compete at the national archery event. We have been informed that the new hall we are being moved to will be too small for this training, which may impact future participation.
- Scarefest at Gilwell Park: Scouts attended the national Scarefest camp, joining young people from across the country.
- Scuba Diving Experience: A unique opportunity for Scouts to learn about underwater safety and equipment.
- Urban Navigation Day in London: Scouts practised navigation skills in a busy urban environment.
- First aid training

- Participation in a 10-mile incident hike with Cambridgeshire Scouts, including first-aid challenges

The 1st Willingham Scout Group has delivered another successful year of Scouting, offering young people opportunities to grow, explore and challenge themselves. From outdoor adventure to community service, creative expression to essential life skills, our programme remains broad, engaging and rooted in the values of Scouting.

All of this is only possible due to the time and effort invested from the wide range of volunteers, from the section leaders and trustees to the parent helpers.

We thank Willingham Parish Council for its continued support and look forward to another year of helping young people develop confidence, resilience and a strong sense of community.