



# Scouts

## 1st Markfield

### Annual Report

### 1st January 2024 – 29th February 2025



## Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name:	1 <sup>st</sup> Markfield Scout Group
Registered Charity Number:	1042586
Scouts Association Registration Number:	10012660
Charity's Principal Address:	1 <sup>st</sup> Markfield Scout HQ, 109 Main Street, Markfield, LE67 9UW

## Structure, Governance and Management

### How the charity is constituted

The Scout Association (Registered Charity No. 306101) is incorporated by Royal Charter to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

1st Markfield Scout is a registered unincorporated charity constituted in accordance with the rules of The Scout Association covering the area of Markfield, Leicestershire.

### Type of governing document

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

### How the charity is managed

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and Trustees.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

The Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

## Recruitment and appointment of charity trustees

The Leaders and Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association and related Charity Commission rules and regulations.

### Leaders and Trustees (Trustees are marked with a T)

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Active Dates</b>
T	Alan Brine	Group Lead Volunteer	Active
T	Sue Wainwright	Beavers Team Leader	Active
	Lily Gibbins	Beavers Team Member	Active
		Cubs Team Member	Active
	Wezley Mawhinney	Cubs Team Leader	Active
	Jack Stanger	Cubs Team Member	Active
T	Bethan Jordan	Trustee	Active
T	Philip Jordan	Trustee	Active
T	Joe Monk	Trustee	Active

## Objectives and Activities

### Our Purpose

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

### Our Values

As Scouts we are guided by these 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 Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

**Public benefit statement:** The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

# Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting

1<sup>ST</sup> MARKFIELD SCOUT GROUP SCOUT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 from 7-8.30pm at Bowmar Scout Hut, Markfield

Acting Chair and Lead Volunteer: Alan Brine

## 1. Introduction & welcome

Opening remarks and welcome to Members of the Group Scout Council and guests.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from several parents and volunteers who had reached out on e-mail but were unable to attend the meeting.

## 3. Governance topics

### 3a. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 06 July 2023

The minutes of the annual general meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were agreed as a true record of that meeting.

### 3b. To adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules

In line with the recommendation from The Scout Association (TSA). The Group Scout Council unanimously agreed to adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of the TSA Policy, Organisation and Rules.

### 3c. To note the Group's financial year

Following the agreed change last year to place the Group in line with other District Groups, the current financial year is set as 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### 3d. Approve appointed and community members of the Group Scout Council

No nominations were received.

### 3e. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board

Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees. The Group Scout Council agreed to this.

### 3f. Agree the quorum for each of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

The Group Scout Council unanimously agreed the quorum (minimum number) of Group Scout Council members that must be present at a meeting of the Group Scout Council to be set as a minimum of all active trustees.

## 4. Review of the previous year

### 4a. Review of Scouting in the Group

Alan Brine invited members to review the Annual Report.

### 4dc

### b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts

Confirmation was given that the Group Trustee Board had approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and Accounts, and the report on the accounts has been received from the Scrutineer.

The Group Scout Council was provided the opportunity to ask questions of the Trustee Annual Report, and the Annual Accounts. No questions were received.

## **5. Appointments**

As noted above, following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR now states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees.

Liam & Lyn Mawhinney have recently stepped down from their roles as Trustees, Deputy Group Scout Leader and Section Leaders. This now leaves the Group with 2 current Trustees.

A plea was made the Scout Council and wider community to volunteer as Trustees. Without this support, the Group would have no choice but to close marking the end to 70 years of Scouting in Markfield.

The following questions were received:

- What would happen to the Scout Hut if the Group closed? – All assets, including the Hut, would be handed over to the District Scout Council to manage. The land is trusted in deed for scouting purposes alone.
- Could other local groups/community group use the hut if Markfield Scout Group closed? – this would depend upon agreement from the District, there are some groups in the District without a premises. But it is likely agreement would be given for local groups to use the hut.
- Clarification was given on the role of the Scrutineer rather than Independent Examiner or Auditor – As a charity we receive income less than £25,000, which means we may appoint an independent person who is reasonably believed by the Trustees to have the requisite knowledge and practical experience to carry out the work programme for Scrutineers.

The following individuals stepped forward and were agreed as Trustees (subject to further Charity/TSA declarations): Phil Jordan, Bethan Jordan, Alan Brine, Sue Wainwright and Joe Wells. It was agreed that specific roles and responsibilities will be agreed once the Trustee Board meets.

Margaret Beck was re-appointed as scrutineer.

## **6. Awards**

Duncan Watts, District Commissioner, awarded Dylan & Toby with their Chief Scout Bronze Awards and Beaver of the Year 2024 was awarded to Harrison for his excellent attendance and always joining in with the fun and activities at Beavers.

Lily also received her wood beads for completion of her leader training, and Alan was awarded wood beads for his GSL training and 15 years in Scouting.

## **7. Closing Remarks**

Thanks were given to all those who attended and have offered their support.

The Group, including Beavers, Cubs and Scouts present, presented Liam & Lyn with gifts celebrating their time as volunteers.

Further celebrations were held following the meeting including a BBQ provided by David Mawhinney.

## Achievements and performance

The group's membership numbers have continued to increase, now surpassing pre-COVID 19 numbers which is a great success; and for the first time in recent history each section now has an active waiting list.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Beavers	14	22	18	16	7	11	22
Cubs	9	19	13	12	3	20	20
Scouts	0	15	12	0	0	0	13
Total	23	56	43	28	10	31	55

*Source: End of year census figures*

Leaders have continued to offer and delivery an exciting and diverse programme, with sections offering nights away experiences, adventure, development of life skills and most of all fun for our young members. Further details are included in the section updates at the end of this report.

In addition to the local programme, the group has been working to become more established within the community and with the wider scout district, which will lead to many more experiences and events for our young members and support for our leaders. Examples include: supporting local events, our annual Remembrance Parade and attendance at County and District-wide events.

### Addition to Annual Report – June 2025

We are also in search of a Trustee Board Chair and a Group Treasurer. New Scout Association rules mean that without this support, the group may not be able to move forward. We have to abide by both Scout and Charity Association rules. Find out more about joining our Trustee Board at <https://www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved/trustee-board/>

Markfield Scouts was originally formed in 1950. For over 70 years the Group has benefitted from the support of its parents and local community, seeing many generations of young people learn skills for life. We want to be around for many more generations to come – but we need your help. Visit [www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved).

Yours in Scouting,

**Alan Brine**  
Group Scout Leader

# The only thing missing from our team is you.

**We are actively looking for a Trustee Board Chairperson, Treasurer, Trustees and Section Leaders.**

Put your skills to use, learn new ones and play an active role in your local community.

We don't just need leaders, there is so much you could offer for as little or as much time as you can spare.

Volunteering is easier than you think. With full support and training, you can volunteer on a flexible basis.

Give young people the skills they need to succeed in life and discover how being part of the Scouting family can be as rewarding for you as it is for them.

**Joint the adventure!**

[www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved)

## Risk and Internal Control

Trustees have identified the significant risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate them. The main areas of concern identified are:

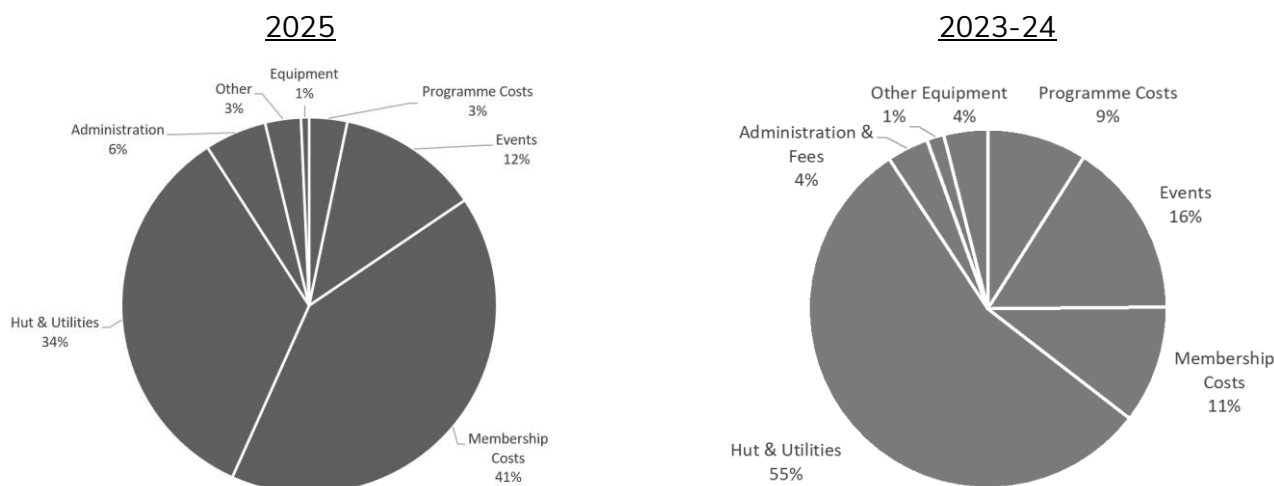
Risk	Mitigation	Rating
Damage to the building, property and equipment.	The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.	Green
Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.	Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities and all Leaders are first aid trained. Through membership fees, the Group contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.	Green
Reduced income from fundraising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising.	The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a significant reduction in income. The Group could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.	Green
Lack of support on Trustee Board outside of Leadership Team	The group is reliant on volunteers to support the running of the group and ensure that it is safe and compliant. Recruitment is ongoing but limited response has been received, support is urgently required as in the worst-case scenario, failure to recruit may result in complete closure of the Group.	Red
Reduction or loss of leaders.	The group is reliant on volunteers to run and administer its activities, if there were a reduction in the number of leaders, parent rotas would become mandatory, consideration would need to be given to consolidation of sections and in the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.	Red
Reduction or loss of members.	The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there were a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.	Amber

## Financial Review

The group financial accounts show a year-end deficit of £8.5k (which is largely accounted for in the one-off utilities error detailed below). There are sufficient funds to ensure we can continue to deliver an exciting programme, cover maintenance and operational costs and continue to provide subsidies for occasional events and to those in need.

This year, we have begun our transition to a new bank following issues earlier in the year. We have also transitioned all sections onto OSM (Online Scout Manager), which enables parents and leaders to be better manage our programmes, events and funds.

### How did we spend your money?



- **Programme Costs** – This includes the cost of activities and equipment to deliver Scouting.
- **Events** – This includes nights away, day trips and celebrations and all related costs such as attendance fees, camp fees, food and travel. The group will often subsidise event costs where possible. Note, administration fees for collecting payments are included separately below.
- **Membership Costs** – This is an annual cost paid by all Scout groups to National, County and District Scouts. It is based on the number of members per group and contributes towards growth and development, local scout campsites/buildings, keeping everyone safe and funding Scouting in the UK.
- **Hut & Utilities** – These costs relate to the running and maintenance costs of our hut.
- **Administration & Fees** – This includes costs of administrating each section & the group (such as printing, advertising and website costs). It also includes fees related to OSM & GoCardless (how we collect payments electronically).
- **Other** – This mostly includes one-off costs which do not fit into any other category, such as first aid and last years costs for our AGM and retirement gifts.
- **Equipment** – This year we purchased new tents, upgraded some of our outdated camp equipment, purchased new plates and cutlery to take on camps and a wagon to help us up the Willesley hill!

# Statement of Financial Accounts

## 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

	2024-2025 (£)	2023-2024 (£)
<b>Income</b>		
Bank Interest	£17.39	£74.09
Donation	£0.00	£190.00
Events - Beavers	£346.01	£340.00
Events - Cubs	£396.29	£942.00
Events - Scouts	£200.00	£1,259.00
Gift Aid	£0.00	£316.80
Membership Fees	£3,862.13	£9,280.00
Misc.	£0.00	£2.00
Rent	£0.00	£0.00
Uniform	£9.10	£0.00
<b>Expense</b>		
Activity Equipment	£0.00	£0.00
Admin	£69.53	£138.11
Badges	£359.70	£979.26
Camping Equipment	£0.00	£830.39
Cleaning	£90.00	£518.50
Events - Beavers	£545.75	£443.00
Events - Cubs	£638.15	£1,172.66
Events - Scouts	£258.00	£1,703.62
Grass Cutting	£0.00	£552.00
Insurance	£1,885.74	£892.48
Meetings - Beavers	£182.03	£134.17
Meetings - Cubs	£192.21	£245.25
Meetings - Scouts	£10.98	£525.66
Membership Costs	£4,839.00	£2,223.10
Misc.	£362.00	£322.52
OSM/GoCardless Fees	£196.85	£649.67
Uniform	£82.00	£2.00
Utilities	£1,381.01	£9,143.95
Venue Maintenance	£661.14	£462.56
<b>Account balances</b>		
Barclays Current Account	£3,149.46	£15,524.62
Co-operative Current Account	£6,471.55	£30.00
Co-operative Savings Account	£1,008.37	£2,000.00
BARCLAYS 60429058	£0.00	£0.00
BARCLAYS 50839035	£152.07	£150.00
<b>Summary</b>		
Account balance brought forward	£17,704.62	£26,239.63
Total income	£4,830.92	£12,403.89
Total expenditure	£11,754.09	£20,938.90
Net income	-£6,923.17	-£8,535.01
Account balance carried forward	£10,781.45	£17,704.62

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

### 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

	2024-2025 (£)	2023-2024 (£)
<b>Monetary Assets (Accounts)</b>		
Barclays Current Account	£3149.46	£15,524.62
Co-operative Current Account	£6471.55	£30.00
Co-operative Savings Account	£ 1008.37	£2,000.00
BARCLAYS 60429058	£0.00	£0.00
BARCLAYS 50839035	£152.07	£150.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£10,781.45</b>	<b>£17,704.62</b>
<b>Non-Monetary Assets</b>		
Land and buildings	£124,880.00	£124,880.00
Motor vehicles	-	-
Furniture and fixings	£4,500.00	£5,000.00
Camp equipment	£12,500.00	£14,500.00
Appliances	£850.00	£900.00
Cooking equipment / utensils	£600.00	£650.00
Scout programme stock	£500.00	£500.00
Badge stock	£550.00	£650.00
Sports equipment	£450.00	£500.00
Scout flags	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Disco equipment	£450.00	£450.00
Garden tools	£500.00	£550.00
Other	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>148,780.00</b>	<b>£151,580</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>159,561.45</b>	<b>£169,284.62</b>

**Scrutiny of our Accounts:** As our gross income remains under £25k, requirements under the Charities Act 2011 to appoint an independent examiner or registered auditor are not met. Trustees have however appointed a Scrutineer (an independent person who trustees reasonably believe to have the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination of the accounts), who is satisfied that the accounts and information provided within this report are accurate.

**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. The group should at all times hold a sum equivalent to 12 months of running costs, circa £6k (this will flex depending on number of members). In addition, the group should retain additional funds for building/ground maintenance, circa £3k.

**Investment Policy:** The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in long-term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk-averse strategy to invest its funds. All funds are held in cash using only recognised UK banks or building societies.

# A brief history of 1<sup>st</sup> Markfield Scout Group

Find out more on our website [www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/history](http://www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/history)

- ✦ 1948 - The Group was started by Gordon Chesterton, a low key affair, in a classroom at the old village Primary School with a handful of boys and a copy of 'Scouting for Boys'.
- ✦ 1950 - 10th March 1950. Now with a group committee of six the group was officially registered with Coalville District Boy Scouts Association as 1st. Markfield Scout Group. The meetings moved into the Miners' Welfare Institute; once a fortnight the room was heated, so the programme for the evening was – cold night's games, warm nights badge work.
- ✦ 1951 - First joint camp with 1st. Bardon Hill Scouts was held at Merry Lee's
- ✦ 1966 - The Head Quarters was opened by the donors, Mr. & Mrs. Bowmar.
- ✦ 1971 - 21st. Anniversary of the Group. To commemorate this, a seat was presented to the village and placed on the green.
- ✦ 1975 - Rose bushes were donated by the community and planted to mark the Group's 25th anniversary.
- ✦ 1981 - Gordon's retirement as Group Scout Leader of the Scouts and Cubs was marked by a presentation at parents' meeting at the Institute which was attended by over 150 parents, friends, scout and ex-scouts.
- ✦ 1986 – 1<sup>st</sup> Markfield Beaver Colony started on 8th January 1986; it was the fourth to be formed in the Coalville and Ashby District. The permanent extension was opened and called the Dodson Room on 4th October 1986.
- ✦ 1990 – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Group. There are 107 in the Group made up of Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Ventures and Leaders.
- ✦ 1996 - A new £13,000 extension to Markfield Scout headquarters was officially opened by Evelyn Snell, who has been a scout committee member for 45 years, serving as chairman, secretary, and treasurer for 25 years.
- ✦ 2000 – 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary of the Group.
- ✦ 2002 – Gang Show – It's Great Too be Young.
- ✦ 2010 – 60<sup>th</sup> Diamond Anniversary of the Group was marked with gang Show, village parade and family camp.
- ✦ 2020 – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Group was marked with a badge, designed by young people.



## Section Reports

### Beaver Scouts

Over the past twelve months we have had a full and varied programme all interesting and challenging for the beavers. During the summer and lighter evenings we try to do outside activities, recently completing their Navigators badge with a walk following a simple map. Also we have had a litter pick, a visit to the Millennium gardens, Markfield Library, cycling at the school and stream dipping at Bradgate Park before the end of term. Recently we arranged an activity morning at Oaks in Charnwood Campsite to do the Jungle trail and archery, which was super fun.

Back in the Hut for the darker evenings, we have suitable activities for being inside like, problem solving, Halloween, Christmas crafts, International badge and many more. In January we like to do a winter's walk inviting parents to join us as well.

We continue to invite mums for a special tea and cake for Mothers Day, which the beavers love. Over the year we cover as many activity and challenge badges as we can fit in and recently the beavers completed the Earth Tribe badge.

We attended our Remembrance Sunday Service in November and joined the District Ramble at Conkers for St Georges Day in April.

At Christmas we took several Beavers to the pantomime at the Little Theatre to see Sleeping Beauty, which was great fun especially as we were on the back row!

Unfortunately, there hasn't been a District 1to1 camp or a Beaverree. Hopefully in 2026 there will be a camp to celebrate 40 years of Beaver Scouting.

One beaver gained his Chief Scout Bronze award - congratulations for completing all six challenge badges.

Over the year we have invested twelve new beavers and currently we have 12 in the colony. There are several children waiting to join in September.

Finally we would like to thank the parents for supporting us weekly by being on the parental rota, which we really appreciate.

Sue Wainwright and Lily Gibbins, Beaver Scout Leaders

### Cub Scouts

Markfield Cubs was put on hold in April 2024 due to the retirement of the previous volunteers, Liam and Lyn. In October 2024, Wez, Lily and Jack stepped up to become Cub Scout Team Members and begin a new, refreshed programme. Since starting back in October, we have made progress on lots of badges, with many Cub Scouts on track to achieve their Chief Scout Silver Award.

In the Winter term, the Cubs had lots of fun returning to Scouting, we 'spookified' the Scout Hut with Halloween decorations, learnt about road safety and the Countryside code. The group attended the village annual Remembrance Day service and finished off the year with a bowling night at Hollywood Bowl.

In Spring 2025, we completed two hikes around Markfield and Thornton, held a Cubs Talent Show and completed a number of science experiments for British Science week. The Cubs joined the other sections in the County in a trip to the London Science Museum and it was great to see the younger generation being inspired to do great things! We also attended the St George's Day ramble with the A&C District at Conkers in April.

More recently, the Cubs attended a Cub Splash event at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre, participating in activities such as Kayaking, Climbing, Mountain Biking (facilitated by one of our Trustees!), Fire Lighting and Archery. We received great feedback from the day and have begun registering interest for future events like this!

Wezley Mawhinney, Lily Gibbins and Jack Stanger, Cub Scout Leaders

## Scouts

Addition to Annual Report – June 2025

Our Scout section is currently closed. We are looking for new leaders, if you are interested, please visit [www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved).