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20th March 2026

Dear Salehurst and Robertsbridge Parish Council,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing on behalf of **Asgard Explorer Scouts**, a unit run under **1st Robertsbridge Scout Group**. Asgard Explorers is a relatively new unit, established in late 2019, but has already demonstrated a strong commitment to providing high-quality, meaningful opportunities for young people in our community.

In **July 2026**, Asgard Explorers are planning to return to Gibraltar for our second international expedition, continuing our partnership with the inspiring team at The Nautilus Project. Following the success of our first visit in 2024, this expedition will build upon an already proven programme of environmental education, youth development, and international collaboration.

During our 2024 visit, our Explorers took part in hands-on marine conservation work, learning directly about the environmental pressures facing our oceans. They worked aboard research vessels collecting real scientific data, explored its meaning in laboratory sessions, and gained valuable insight into marine ecosystems and microbiology. The impact of this experience was profound. Several young people changed their A-level subject choices, and in one case even altered a university degree pathway, as a direct result of the knowledge, confidence, and inspiration gained on the trip.

Beyond the academic impact, the expedition fostered strong and lasting international friendships between our Explorers and young people in Gibraltar. These connections continue today and have helped our members develop a wider global perspective and a deeper understanding of shared responsibility for our environment.

For the 2026 expedition, we plan to take **21 young people — 18 new Explorers** alongside **3 returning participants** — supported by a team of trained volunteer leaders. The programme will again focus on marine conservation, environmental awareness,



1st. Robertsbridge Scout Group

Group Lead Volunteers – Helen Pearson/Jo Rainsbury
Group Chair – Simon Longhurst, 15 Mill Rise, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5EF. Tel 01580 880469
Group Secretary – Charlie Everest, 9 Langham Road, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5DU. Tel 07977 996551
Group Treasurer – David Ashby, 1 Church Terrace, Church Lane, Salehurst, East Sussex TN32 5PH. Tel 01580 881691
Registered Charity No. 305901



adventurous ocean-based activities, and collaboration with local Explorer Units. In addition, participants will be working towards key elements of the Scouts' **International, Community, and Values (ICV)** requirements, supporting progress toward the Chief Scout Platinum and Diamond Awards and, ultimately, the **King's Scout Award**.

The total cost of the expedition is approximately **£1,200 per person**. We are committed to ensuring that no young person is excluded due to financial hardship and are working towards limiting individual contributions to **no more than £800**. To achieve this, the Explorers are actively involved in fundraising and have set an overall target of **£10,000**. Fundraising activities include sponsored events, community sales, social events, and larger-scale community initiatives. Fyi, we are also volunteering as marshals at his weekend's Hastings Half Marathon.

We are politely requesting that you might consider supporting us again to help **bridge this gap** and make this transformative opportunity accessible to all participants, including those from **low-income families and young people in care**. Any contribution would directly support travel, accommodation, and programme costs, helping to ensure equality of access and maximum impact.

This expedition offers far more than travel. It develops confidence, resilience, teamwork, problem-solving skills, and environmental responsibility, helping to equip our young people with skills and experiences that will benefit them throughout their lives.

We would be delighted to share updates during the project and to report back on its outcomes upon our return. Thank you very much for considering our application and for supporting opportunities that help young people grow, learn, and thrive.

With kind regards,

Hayley Chabilan

Asgard Explorer Scout Leader (volunteer)

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