

Chairman's report 2013-14

After starting within the group 15 years ago this October I can say many things have changed, one of them being that the 6 year old beaver has been doing the role of chairman for a year and what a year it has been!

Thank you very much to all of those involved in the group without ALL of you it would have been impossible to function, over the last year without your help and support.

This past year has seen the group move from strength to strength with all sections now running at capacity. This hasn't stopped the section leaders from getting out and doing activities, in the last year all sections have been given the opportunity to spend at least one night away on camp over the summer months. The onset of winter saw all the sections return to The Wick and begin working towards relevant badges and awards but this didn't stop them from getting out and hiking, Rock Climbing, visits from the local Policing team.

Early last Summer saw some of Swindon Colleges Students redecorate and fit new work surfaces into the craft room, they were also able to re paint the doors into The Wick. Using industry contacts they were also able to replace the sign above the door and generally make the surroundings of the building much better so thank you to all of them for the hard work they have put into the work.

Over the last year we have been Bag packing, washing cars and of course the Christmas Post. Despite this Fund raising this year has been significantly lower than we had hoped, most of this is due to Grant applications being made. To try to make this more manageable we would like to find 12 people who would be prepared to organize a fundraising activity, we are simply looking for one activity, for example a Grant application, to be made over the course of the year this is designed to be 100% flexible to be adapted to fit around other commitments, if you feel you could help in anyway or would like some more information about the role please ask.

To ensure good governance of the group we will be raising the subscriptions in September, we have worked hard to keep the raise to a minimum and have been able to keep them less than inflation, we thank you for your continued support in this matter.

We have also carried out a survey of the group to help us identify some of the areas of weakness for the group and how we can improve, thank you to all those of you who took the time to complete this, hopefully you are already seeing some of the benefits of this.

Finally, I would like to thank all those of you that have given or your time and resources over the past year to allow the group to be in the position it is in now. Please do contact the leadership or executive team if there is anything you feel you can offer in the way of support to the sections or that will enhance the experiences of your membership to the group. Like wise don't hesitate to contact us if you have got any issues, worries or concerns.

Simon Dabbs

Group Chairman