

GSL REPORT

April 2011 to March 2012

Over the last year, I am happy to report that we had an excellent year for the Group with numbers of young people continuing to increase.

I would like to thank the Leaders, the Executive Committee and all the helpers for their continued support and commitment. However, we do need to increase the number of parents involved in Scouting particularly, in the areas high lighted below and would like to ask for volunteers (remember the existing Leaders, Exec members and helpers are volunteers).

The other area that needs to be considered is fund raising - although the Group has benefited from Grants and some fundraising events over the past year, this is below the fundraising activities of the past and this needs to be addressed over the coming year.

As a whole the Group has participated in many activities from the Beavers visiting Swindon Fire Station to the Scouts taking part in the Malvern Challenge and this year we ran our own water Triathlon. In 2011 our major event for the district did not take place due to the Gang Show however, this has meant that we ran two Les Barnes Hikes in 2011/12 both being major successes.

Beaver Colony -The section is running at full capacity and on occasions we have had a waiting list to join. Unfortunately, I have lost two leaders over the year, Emma due to family issues and Alison who has moved to Norfolk but, she has joined the Scout Group there as a leader. We also have lost our two Young Leaders but I am actively looking for replacements. We have a number of regular parent helpers and our thanks go to them however, we need more help on a regular basis. As indicated above we have at times a waiting list of young people who would like to join the section but unfortunately, it is difficult to accommodate them and at times we have to direct them to other Groups however, if anyone is interested in helping to set up a second colony then even more youngsters could benefit from the facilities provided by 1st Swindon.

Cub Pack - This section is running at full capacity and on occasions we have had a waiting list to join the section. One of my leaders is currently unable to attend meetings on a regular basis due to training commitments with his work but should return to us shortly. In the mean time, he is providing support to a Sea Scout Group on the south coast. One new leader has joined the team and is working towards fully his warrant.

The section also has a number of regular parent helpers but we will always accept more help from parents.

Scouts - The Scout section has continued to grow and this section is also at full capacity even though some youngsters have moved onto Explorers. I have a team of three Leaders who are fully warranted two of which have completed their

training and are awaiting their wood beads. Of the three young leaders that are attached to the section, two have reached 18 years and are progressing their applications to become leaders.

Also we have a team of adults who help us during the sailing season and my thanks go to them.

However, it would be fantastic if more adults would consider coming into uniform and this time, I can offer the perk of getting wet in the name of scouting.

The Group has grown over the past year but we need adults to support the continued growth so please help us to help your youngsters and continue **'to develop young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals and as responsible citizens, and members of their local, national and international communities'**. That's what we do!

Bryan