

GSL's Report 2012-13

Over the last year, I am happy to report that we had an excellent year for the Group with the numbers of young people remaining stable while the number of adults supporting the Group has grown.

I would like to thank the Leaders, the Executive Committee and all the helpers for their continued support and commitment. However, even given the increase, we still 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 fundraising event over the past year. The age of the fleet and our wish to improve our Scout hall means that fundraising activities needs to increase.

As a whole the Group has participated in many activities form the Beavers visiting Swindon Police Station to the Scouts taking part in the Malvern Challenge and this year we again ran our own water Tri-athlon. In 2012 we also had youngsters participate in the Gang Show. We also ran our most successful Les Barnes Hike ion behalf of Swindon North and Swindon Ridgway Districts with 22 scout and 9 ESU (this includes Guide teams) teams, The most entries we have ever have had although the weather this year was against us.

The Group has dawn up plans to extend our facilities providing better storage, fleet repair facilities, craft facilities and areas where groups of youngsters can go for activities outwith our main hall – this will give us facilities to see us well into the 21st Century.

GSL – Over the last year, I have spent a considerable amount of time out of the country and would like to express my thanks to the team for their support, particularly Catherine our Beaver Leader who has taken on the role of AGSL.

Beaver Colony –The section is currently running at slightly below full capacity but we are actively recruiting. We are currently running with three adult leaders. Our BSL is extremely busy with work involving numerous periods abroad. However, she has supported me during the last year (see above), We have a number of regular parent helpers and our thanks go to them however, we need more help on a regular basis. We have one Young Leader (Michael Smith) who's help is most appreciated.

Cub Pack – This section is running at full capacity and on occasions we have had a waiting list to joint the section. We have asked District to see if they can place some of our waiting list with other Groups. We have lost one of our leaders however, she is still available for occasional; help. I am also about to loose one other leader due to work commitments (see below).

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

We have one Young Leader (Peter) who's help is most appreciated.

Scouts – The Scout section has continued to grow and this section is also at full capacity even though some youngsters have moved onto Explorers or Sea Cadets. I have a large team of Leaders and skilled helpers and there development is key to the future of the section. Our young leader has now progressed into the adult leadership team.

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

Exec – our exec is extremely strong and we now have two sub committees. One dealing with our aspiration to expand our Scout Hall (we are currently about to go through planning consent) also we have accessed help from Swindon College to improve our existing facilities.

The other committee is based on finance and their remit is to improve how we get money in and ensure we spend it wisely,

My Chair (Alan) has expressed a wish to join our Beaver leadership and is standing down at our AGM. His place will be taken by one of our Cub leaders (Simon) who due to work commitments cannot committee to leadership.

We are in desperate need for a Secretary

The Group has grown over the past year but we need adults to support the continued the 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 - Group Scout Leader 1st Swindon Sea Scouts