

Chairman report 2016-17

1st Swindon Sea Scouts is thriving with the past year being another exciting and successful year for our Group!

Amongst many other things we continued to grow, transform and received Scout Association legal approval to formally move ahead with our building extension plans. With our healthy numbers we have a very active programme across all sections, whether at the Wick, at Bowmoor Lake or on one of our annual events – Fun Day, Les Barnes, the Regatta, Ten Pin Bowling or delivering Christmas Post - everyone is getting out for some great adventures and fun.

We are in a healthy financial position, being able to maintain and replace Scouting equipment whilst holding sufficient reserves as per our Charity obligations. Although we have some way to go in order to raise the funds needed to complete the building extension for which we are seeking further support on fund raising as well as grants through local, regional and nationally recognised associations.

With healthy numbers across all sections, we are able to offer the friendship and adventure of Scouting to more local young people which is fantastic! As you can see from the section reports from Beavers through to Explorers they have achieved a great deal throughout the year with the number of awards (badges, certifications etc) increasing again over the previous year.

We continue to see our Beavers move into Cubs, Cubs to Scouts and Scouts to Explorers which is a great credit to our Group Scout Leader, Assistant Group Scout Leaders, Leaders, Young Leaders, Volunteers, Parents and everyone that has supported us throughout the year and in the past.

Without all of you this this would not be possible - thank you.

However with the group growing, we want to maintain that strong position which does mean we need more adults to volunteer their time to make a difference for your Group. We are looking for more adult volunteers to enable us to keep growing the group and provide Scouting in our community.

If we had more adult volunteers this would allow us to continue and expand our exciting and varied programme across all sections. More adult support means we are able offer a higher quality of Scouting not only for our current members but for future members to.

I am looking forward to the next 12 months as we move forward with plans to strengthen our future.

Finally I want to say thank you to the executive team for the support they have given to myself, Catharine and the Group over the last year. With specials thanks to Sue Titcombe, Bryan McGaw, Claire Mulley, Steve Brain and Mel Brain for their contribution over the last few years as Group Treasurer, Group Administrator and parent representatives respectively who will be stepping down after the AGM.

Jason Cripps
Group Chairman