

GSL Report

This year marks my 3rd year in my role as Group Scout Leader and it has certainly been eventful!

Sitting down to write this report was strange, as for the second year in a row we are reflecting back over a year that was nothing like we had planned. This year has been equally successful as other years for us as a group, in its own right, but certainly not what we expected! At the AGM last year, we were all sure that it wouldn't be long until we were back to normal and I was already busy planning camps and events to make up for all the things that were cancelled the year before but here we are, a year later and things are still not back to what we call normal. I am positive that it won't be long before the challenges of this last year will soon be behind us.

Despite all the changes and the suspension of face to face scouting, one thing has not changed - I have still LOVED being part of the Scouting Movement and I hope you all did too.

All three of our sections have continued to grow with us at full capacity in all sections. This year has seen all sections earning a range of badges and carrying out all sorts of activities. The varied and action-packed programme is thanks to an AMAZING team of Leaders who I have the pleasure of working alongside. What they do really does go ABOVE and BEYOND their volunteer roles with them spending HOURS and HOURS setting up, planning and delivering such a high- quality programme which has led to the group remaining so popular and spaces in all three sections in such high demand. We also have the biggest waiting list we have ever seen with children waiting for spaces in all 3 sections.

As Steve has already mentioned in his report, the suspension of face to face Scouting brought about some huge challenges for the Scout Association as a whole and for us as a group. Over the last year and a half we have had to quickly adapt to a new way of delivering Scouting which took us all out of comfort zones. But adapt we have and we really do appreciate the support that has been given to individual sections. Thank you to everyone who stuck with us when we have been meeting virtually on Zoom and thank you to everyone that so carefully followed our Risk Assessment allowing us to resume face to face scouting, initially in 2 groups, then meeting only outdoors and finally all together with social distancing measures in place. We know it hasn't been easy to follow a new set of rules and procedures and we appreciate all the children sticking with us when they were only able to attend every other week or virtually over the course of the year. The Leadership Team have worked extremely hard to deliver Scouting in any way that was possible.

As a Leadership Team it was a big worry from the start of this lockdown that we would see the success of the group falter and we worried that as and when we returned we might not have any children wanting to return to their sections but we are so glad that during this time the 82nd has very much stayed alive and for that we are unbelievably grateful. Over the past year we have seen 380 badges earned across the 3 sections and we have loved seeing you all learn new skills.

We have seen so many successes this year, many of which are being celebrated tonight but I want to take this opportunity to highlight a few:

Firstly, we have gained 4 new members to our Leadership Team – Tracey who has joined Beavers as a Section Assistant, Jess who has joined Cub as an Assistant Cub Leader and 2 new Young Leaders; Niamh and Dylan. All 4 of you have become assets to the group and have made our little Scout family even stronger. So thank you so much for joining the adventure, particularly under such crazy times.

We are also so pleased that after turning 18 and finishing his role of Young Leader, Luke is currently in the process of becoming a Section leader at Scouts. Well done Luke.

We are also delighted to announce that our Scout Leader family has grown even more.... After seeing myself and Sam welcome our baby girls into the Scouting family last year we are so pleased to announce the arrival of Billy's beautiful baby boy– taking our Leadership team numbers to 11 Leaders, 2 Young Leaders and 3 82nd babies!

Amongst all the chaos, we were so happy to see a bit of normality restored which allowed us to hold our “A day in the life of Summer” camp activity days in June. This saw the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts take part in a range of activities from pioneering to cooking, fire lighting to first aid. This event allowed our members to work towards their Outdoor and Team Work challenge badges. The weekend was extremely successfully and we cannot wait for more events like this in the future! Thank you to everyone that made it possible, including all of the Leadership Team, Steve, Kate A and Kate M.



The success of the Scout Goop this year has been thanks to the combined dedication and help of many people and therefore I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank several people. A big thank you goes to all of our Leadership Team (Debbie, Clare, Luke, Sean, Angela, Billy, Jess, Sam, Millie T, Dylan and Niamh) You all go above and beyond your role descriptions, so thank you. You really are the reason for our success and without each of you our group would not be what it is today. I am so lucky to be your Group Scout Leader and it really is such a privilege to work with such a dedicated and incredible team. You have all had to adapt to this new way of delivering Scouting over the past few months and you all certainly rose to the challenge to ensure the 82nd stays very much alive, we are SO lucky to have you all.

Another big thank you goes to Steve (our chairman) for everything he does, which really is far, far, more than the role of a chairman. Thank you for being the glue that holds the group together and the HOURS and HOURS of work you do in the background that may go unseen but NEVER unappreciated.

For everyone’s continuous support, dedication and help whether it be as a Leader, Young Leader, Committee Member, Parent or Guardian I would like to thank you all for everything that you have done to make the Scout Troop and the 82nd such a success this year. Your help, no matter how small is ALWAYS greatly appreciated! I really do believe (and yes I am biased) that our Group is the best – we really are one big family and that is why it is so easy to put in all the work and hours we do.

‘The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others. We might make a living by what we do but we make a life by what we give. Volunteers are not unpaid because they are worthless but because they are priceless.’

Jemma Williams
Scout Group Leader