

Chairman's Report

I started by report last year quoting "*Life is what happens to you while you are busy making other plans*". That is certainly true for the last 12 months in the life of the 82nd Scout Group.

I am sure none of us could have imagine a year ago the duration that we would be subjected to not meeting up face to face. For scouting where practical skill and interaction has always been instrumental in its programme of events this has proven a massive undertaking to maintain scouting within our group. A problem faced not just by us but scouting globally. Once again Scouting has risen to the challenge and as a result the main emphases of this report is in dedication to those who have made it possible to "*Stay Calm and Carry On Scouting*".

As in previous years, and especially this year, I have to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to our Scout Group Leadership Team (Jemma, Clare, Deborah, Tracey, Angela, Sean, Billy, Jess, Millie, Sam and Luke) who always amaze us with their planning and providing a programme that ensure ALL our members get the very best from their scouting experiences.

For the last 12 months most it has meant them operating far outside their own personal comfort zones and collectively have risen to the challenge in providing activity programmes that has allowed members to gain their badges and awards demonstrated at our Virtual Presentation Evening on Friday 16th July 2021. To our Explorer Young Leaders (Niamh and Dylan) our gratefully thanks for all your help again supporting the leadership team and provide support wherever needed.

To all the members of the Executive Committee (Board of Trustees), thank you for all you help over the last year in ensuring the financial stability of the group and maintaining our Scout HQ as a place to be proud of. We have ensured the premises remained ready for a return to the normal weekly activities in a clean safe environment. Some construction and decorating work have been done which some of you may have seen from the entrance door. The reception lobby has been completely refurbished and painted and with new doors and lighting has created a reception area much more inviting and welcoming.

My final thanks must go to all our parents and guardians who have supported our Scout Group throughout the pandemic. Maintaining your payment of subscriptions has ensured a regular income into the group each month which has ensured, even though the premises has been mainly unoccupied, that we have met the challenges of paying all the expenses that we have still had to cover such as building and contents insurance national and regional subscriptions, utility bills, gifts, presents and for the activity packs we sent home for our online virtual sessions.

I would also like to express my thanks to parents and guardians for assisting, especially our younger members, and ensuring as many as possible were able to attend the online sessions each week. Your words of encouragement on our social media outlets certainly gave us all a lift during the difficult times.

Congratulations to our extended Scout family; Sam and his wife Vicky had their first daughter which they named Eden in September last year. Not to be outdone Jemma and Lee announced the arrival of their baby daughter, Lorelai , 6 weeks later. *Two more names on our Scout waiting list I trust.*

We are looking to recruit a number of new people onto the Board of Trustees and if you think this is something you might be prepared to take on, (we meet about 4 or 5 times a year and the meetings last a maximum of 2 hours), please let me know so we can discuss further.

As we begin to plan for the future for when and how we return to the new normal I know the support and encouragement that we have always been able to rely on will see us through the coming challenges and look forward to letting everyone know our plans for when we return after the summer break

Stay safe and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Steve Williams

Scout Group Chair