



AGM - GSL's REPORT 2019

We have had another great year! Yet again we had a good turnout for St George's Day; well done to everyone who came along and to parents for the support on the day. As a Group, we again took part in this year's Horsham Community Partnership Riverside Walk with several members from each section walking and raising sponsorship money which we split between ourselves and the QEII School. We have been providing the tents at the Warnham Nature Reserve lunch stop for a five years now as this is a great opportunity to put something back into the Horsham community. Our walkers raised an amazing £670 so well done and thank you to all who walked or helped with the tents.

Each section has provided their own report with more details of what they have done. These will be available on our website soon after the AGM, so I'll give you just some snippets now. All our young members have had a busy year with lots of activities to keep them smiling but none of this would happen without the unbelievable commitment and enthusiasm of our adult volunteers, without whom, we would not have a Scout Group.

As you know, the Scouting programme revolves around challenge and activity badges. In the past 12 months, our young members have gained a total of 566 badges including 6 Chief Scout' Bronze Awards (Beavers), 6 Chief Scout's Silver Awards (Cubs) and 5 Chief Scout's Gold Awards (Scouts). That is an amazing effort. My congratulations to all our young members. You never cease to amaze me, and you are the reason why all our adults volunteer.

Our uniformed leaders are responsible for delivering the wide range of activities our young members enjoy, acting as instructors and mentors in equal measure whilst trying to stretch the abilities of our youngsters in an exciting and challenging way. It takes hours of planning for every meeting and each leader also must undertake ongoing training to maintain their appointment. There are also the weekends away for the Beaver and Cub leaders and the weekends and week-long summer camp for the Scout leaders who take annual leave to attend. Our leaders are extraordinary, and I thank them all for their ongoing efforts and dedication.

We have a new assistant Scout Leader, Pete Frankl, who joined us in October last year and has a wealth of experience which is great to have. We also have a new section assistant in Beavers, Daisy Ingram. Welcome Pete and Daisy.

Now to the Executive Committee. I am very grateful for everything they do to support our Scout Group, keeping a beady eye on the money, fundraising, looking after the minibus, managing our waiting to join list, helping with events – this list goes on. Whilst these volunteers are not in uniform their role is just as important and, again, without them we simply could not function. I have enjoyed another year working with Graham as Chair and offer my thanks to him and his team for their enthusiastic support for everything 1st Roffey. However, we need more help. Our treasurer has asked to stand down as a result of circumstances beyond her control and our membership secretary has also asked to stand down having spent a decade or more in the role. In addition, we need more Executive Committee members to help share the workload especially parent representatives from each section where we have 6 vacancies. So far, our appeal to parents for help has fallen on stony ground but that cannot continue. Please consider what you as parents can do to help and speak to one of us today if you are able to.

Equally if you are interested in helping in one of our uniformed sections please speak to me afterwards. You can help for as little or as much time as you wish so don't feel you might be taking on something big. Mums would be especially welcome as we have a rising percentage of girls in our Group so could do with some more female leaders to help.



Now for some statistics:

Numbers in sections

Beavers 20, Cubs 20, Scouts 30, Explorers 13

Gender percentage is girls 29% and Boys 71%

Number of Adult volunteers:

27 Uniformed leaders (including explorers);

Percentage females

Beavers 100%, Cubs 28%, Scouts 14%, Explorers 0%

11 Exec members

Average service of our adult volunteers:

Uniformed leaders = 11yr 11mth,

(Down on last year due to the new leaders joining but still amazing!)

Exec = 6yr 3mth

(Up on last year)

Centenary Celebrations

Next year is our centenary. We are the oldest continuously active Scout Group in Horsham and we intend to celebrate this achievement throughout next year. We have been running a competition to design a new group badge to be worn by all our young members for the foreseeable future as well as an occasional badge to be worn for the year 2020 only. The number of entries we have had has been disappointing despite numerous reminders over several months. Just a handful of families have responded so we are wondering what support we will get for the activities planned for next year. We have all families for some feedback on what activities you think you would be interested in, so we don't waste our valuable time planning events that nobody shows up to. Please help us by responding to us as it is sole destroying to put in a lot of effort without reward. With your help we can make 2020 a year to remember.

And finally...

We have some important projects ongoing on our Scout headquarters. The biggest is the replacement of the hall floor which, as you can see, is well past its sell by date. Unfortunately, it is not just the covering. An inspection has revealed dampness and insect activity in the structure, so we are planning on removing the whole floor and fitting a new one. The cost is huge. Approaching £10k. This is specialist work so we will be using a contractor to undertake it.

We also need to redecorate the inside of the hall. That is not specialist and we are hopeful that, when we ask, lost of parents will show up and give us a hand. Watch this space. If anyone can get paint at trade prices that would be good to know!

Thanks for listening.

Chris Sillett

Group Scout leader