

# Chairs Report 2020/2021

## Overview of Chairs Report

1. Review of 2020/2021 – Another tale of two halves!
2. COVID-19 Restart
3. Looking forward to 2021/22



## COVID-19 restart and in person activities

2020/21 proved to be another year where we have all faced multiple challenges due to the impact of COVID-19. We ended up having to suspend in person meetings until April 2021 due to a rollercoaster of Lockdowns and the need to find ways to reopen the group in a safe way and at the right time. We continued to explore ways to provide an alternative offering, including virtual meetings, focusing on providing regular updates from sections with activities, opportunities to earn badges and take part in National Scouting initiatives. The hard work of the group means we now have:

- Beaver, Cub and Scout sections that are thriving, full and with waiting lists
- An exciting range of In person activities for each of sections have been enjoyed by the young people including trip on the Matthew and a chance to experience caving
- Rob Miles as interim Scout Leader – thank you Rob! Without the Section Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Volunteers commitment to the group we would not have such a thriving community post Lockdown!
- An up to date, and continually updated, risk assessment in relation to COVID-19 to enable us to meet in person and resume activities since April 2021
- Updated Hall protocols and procedures to ensure we are COVID-19 secure
- More funds from the Council to support our Group and the Hall during lockdown, which we have invested in hall maintenance such as new fire doors, outdoor shelters to enable more outdoor activities and a suspension of subs while we were unable to offer a full range of activities.

## Looking forward 2020/2021

We will continue to work hard to ensure that our Group continues for another 71 years! With our Sections full and with waiting lists we have an opportunity to grow our community. We have restarted section meetings and will continue to deliver these while it is safe to do so. We have invested in outdoor shelters so that we can deliver more in person sessions outdoors. However, with increasing numbers we are looking for ideas from you to understand what we should do should we go back into lockdown, i.e. what virtual activities you might like or be able to help with. Please do let us know.

## Review of 2020/2021

I do hope you are keeping well and safe. Firstly a big thank you to you all for all your support and patience during these unusual times and a big thank you to all our Leaders, Assistant Leaders and volunteers for their continued hard work and tireless commitment to the group and our young people!

COVID-19 has affected us all in many different ways, impacting on many aspects of all our lives. Our Young people have missed out on so much including schooling, taking part in other opportunities to learn, and time with friends. The year has had a lot of ups and downs.

As a group we started, and continue to be, in a good financial position due to the support we have received from Bristol City Council. This has given us the opportunity to make improvements to the hall and suspend subs while in person activities were paused. On the other hand, for the majority of last year we were not in a position to offer our usual invaluable opportunities to our young people due to the challenges of COVID-19 and so in person activities were paused for longer than expected. However, we are delighted to see that since April our community has come back together and begun to thrive, we have been able to meet in person, wind rain or sunshine, Young people have enjoyed a chance to catch up and take part in wide range of activities. We are now once again full with a long waiting list leading us to explore the possibility of opening another sections.

I am delighted that we have a fantastic Interim Scout Leader, Rob Miles, thank you! We also have new parent representatives on our Executive Committee, Alice Haines for Beavers and Shelley Gilman for Scouts. Our main challenge still remains the need to find additional volunteers, so do let us know if you would like to get involved!

We will continue to work hard to give our Young People lots of opportunities to have fun, learn and develop. Thank you for your continued support during this time.

Take care and best wishes,  
Emma Gibbard,  
Chair, Executive Committee

However, we can only continue to grow our community if we have support from parents and volunteers. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer in Scouting in 58th, this includes being on the Executive Committee as a parent representative, we meet five times a year. Or as a Leader or Assistant Leader, helping to organise and run exciting activities for our Young People. Or as an ad hoc parent helper, helping out at the weekly meetings where you can.

Do talk to your section leader or a member of the executive committee if you are interested in getting involved. Thank you!

