

Group Scout Leader Report 2022

After the last two years it has been good getting back to something approaching normality with all the sections up and running. I would like to start by thanking all the leaders spending time on a programme that gave all the young people adventure and learning, whilst not missing out that special ingredient, fun! This culminated in a Group camp with a trip to Brownsea Island to look forward to in the autumn.

We have been working hard to make improvements on the building and grounds. A new fire exit door has been fitted for access from the workshop, we had some tree surgery done on the Fishponds road side and Cushman and Wakefield had a volunteer day here clearing the grounds and repainting the railings. An ongoing problem regarding drainage, internally and externally, going back several years has finally been resolved. The grounds though are one aspect that doesn't go away and during the spring and summer months we need volunteer hours to maintain them.

Having our own hall and keeping it in reasonable working order allows us to rent it as a Community space raising money from hire charges. We have several regular hirers plus of course the one off hires for parties etc. Part of this requires time by the Exec and leaders to help with viewing for potential hirers and opening and closing the hall for some of our bookings.

The section leader's commitment is as good as ever, and in many ways more commendable, as the transition from basically nothing to running a full programme again has been seamless. Our sections could welcome more Young People if we had more leadership help, and we are grateful to those who have signed up for the Occasional Helper role. All the leaders have some form of training to do, and some of that is renewable, so it's not just the time they give running the section programme but the work they do behind the scenes. Our Cub leader, Clive, was this year able to gain his Nights Away permit. You may have heard of the new venture by Scouting of the creation of a new section called Squirrels. This is the four and five year age group before Beavers. We could have one here but again that would need commitment by volunteers to run it.

To finish with a couple of shout outs to Rob and Steve. Rob for his support to all the leaders and the Group in a general sense plus taking on the mantle of acting Scout Leader. Steve the Godfather of the Group who has given forty years to Scouting and this group as a leader.

Simon (58th Group Scout Leader)