

As I start this GSL report I am forced to remind myself that this AGM represents the financial year of April 2019 - March 2020. So much has happened since the end of this financial year with Covid that it will actually be good for us to reflect back to when Scouting was classed as 'normal'

The first thing to reflect upon last year was the growth of the group.

The capitation figures for 2019-2020 were very encouraging and showed growth in a number of areas:

Beavers- 2.0% growth

Cubs- 9.1% reduction

Scouts- 33.3% growth

Overall Group growth- 3.5% more young people

A total of 119 young people and 21 uniformed leaders across 5 units.

With countless bronze and silver chief scout awards presented

Demand, however, continues to exceed capacity and we had (still do have) long waiting lists across all units with 72 children in total.

We have had a turnover of leaders in this year with a number of experienced leaders leaving or stepping back and new leaders moving forward or changing roles.

This financial year has been one of the busiest for the Group in a number of years.

District events: scuba diving, life saving, swim badges, JAWS, St George's Day, Legoland and Drusilla's trips.

Group run events: first Group camp for a number of years, Christmas party with the whole group Ice Skating, light parade, panto and our annual BBQ/family fun evening AGM.

Individual unit events: Survival camp, Winter camp, clip n climb, jump in and the weekly programme. For the Christmas 2019 event the Group had a dedicated session at the local ice skating rink.

It was my personal pleasure to invest my first Assistant Group Scout Leader- Nicole at our AGM in July 2019. One of Nicole's first task was to take the idea of some kind of anniversary show and make it happen. Nicole took this idea on in her stride and made more of a success of it than I ever could. The success of this event is down to her hard work, determination and skills so Nicole- THANK YOU

On 30th January 2020 the Group celebrated its 30th Anniversary. This was marked on the 1st February 2020 with the members of the group running an Anniversary show. This was so successful that it involved putting on two shows across the day at a local school. Both shows were sold out and also included a raffle where all tickets were sold out. This was overseen by Nicole and very much youth leader by the young people of 12th St John's Scout Group with them planning, preparing and performing all the content. The show was a great way to celebrate the Group's 30th Anniversary milestone. They raised over £1,000 in profit for the group which is set to one side ready for the day when the whole group can meet back face to face and it be invested into the young people in something which will benefit them.

Through out the year we launched our new group scarf badge, our anniversary badge and also ran the first year of fundraising from our online shop which saw just over £80 profit made for the group.

On Tuesday 17th March 2020 in line with government rules, we ended all our face to face meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We moved all our meetings online for the rest of the financial year and into the 2020-2021 financial year.

The success of 12th St John's Scout Group is down to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. We continue to support them in developing their skills and leadership through training.

The exec team has also gone from strength to strength. They have assisted me and made sure that the group remained stable financially and strong for the future. Who was to know that a few weeks down the road at the end of this financial year this would be confirmed. My personal thanks to the whole exec team who do so much behind the scene which you guys don't see. They are an incredible knowledgeable and skilful set of people who make sure that I am held to account for how the group is run and assist me in making sure we comply with all legal requirements and policy's.

The leadership team has been the unsung heroes of the covid pandemic for the group and managed to make sure the young people have not missed out. During the 2019-2020 financial year the leadership team put in more hours into the group than ever before, we did so much more activities. We have to ask so much more of them than ever before. They all took this in their stride and as volunteers provided your young people with so many amazing opportunities and experiences. They have really provided 'skills for life'

For those who don't know Anne Constable stepped down for her trustee role a few weeks ago, now a number of you might go 'who'? Which is why I wanted to mention her, 30 years ago Anne along with her husband Ralph set up 12th St John's Scout Group. Anne oversaw the Guides and Ralph oversaw the Scouts. Unfortunately Ralph passed away a number of years ago and Anne stood down as Group Guide leader around 4.5 years ago. Since then she has served on the Scout Group exec as a trustee for the Ralph fund (which is our fund to support people who have fallen on hard times to enjoy scouting) and also has overseen the running of the panto which takes part every year. Anne has been one of the silent unsung heroes of 12th St John's Scout Group. Anne - I thank you so much for the work you have done for the scout group over the years. We are incredibly thank you as a group for all your hard work and a small gift will be with you soon to say thank you.

I would also like to express on behalf of the group and myself personally my Thanks to the outgoing District Commissioner. Brian Hobden has been a firm supporter of us at St John's for many years and in particular has been my sounding block, support, bank of knowledge and general support in all things scouting as well as my friend. Brian has invested so much time into the District (a number of occasions to the detriment of his only family). The leadership team, exec, group and in particular young people are incredibly thankful for all he has done. Brian - thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything, I am truly sorry to see you go as DC (no disrespect Kate) but I know it's the right thing for you. There is a small gift of our gratitude on its way to you on behalf of the group - but it's a little delayed and I will get it to you as soon as I can.

Three final thanks I think are in order, first to the young people of 12th St John's Scout Group. It has been my absolute pleasure to watch these young people take part in everything Scout related. To see them get stuck in, making friends, memories and skills is a total blessing and I think I speak on behalf of all the adults connected to the group when I say the young people connected to the 12th St John's Scout Group are AWESOME and we are very lucky as a leadership team! Secondly to all the parents/guardians, thank you for all you do on the parent rota's, dropping off, picking up, purchasing all the bits your young people need and generally making sure your young people are in the right place, at the right time with the gear they need so we can run the activity.

My final thank is to my family, now I know they aren't here tonight (well the two boys are in bed and my wife is next door doing exercise I believe). But they have had to put up with me running out to Scout related meetings, activities or camps at all times of day and night. Laura has had to help me complete so much group related admin and without their support I couldn't do my role. I am incredibly lucky to have their support and love, I thank them so much for this.

So as I bring this to a close I wish to say a final thank you to everyone, thank you for everything you do, have done, will do as part of the family of 12th St John's Scout Group.