

6th Christchurch (Bransgore)



2011 was another successful year of fun scouting in Bransgore. The leaders have continued to deliver great scouting and have also introduced new ideas, new improvements and new adventures wherever they can. The underlining scouting programme remains firmly in place.

The leaders are the back-bone of what we do and it was with delight that we celebrated Crispin's fifteen years of service and both Ginny and Trudi's ten years of service. All of the leaders undergo training and on completion they are awarded with the wood beads. Both Pam and Elizabeth received theirs back in the summer. Elizabeth moved on to pursue her career and we welcomed Shirley as our new assistant beaver leader. The young leaders were even more of an asset to the Group as their skills and experience grew. Several of them neared the completion of their training and projects as the year ended.

We hope that the young people are aware of their achievements, as individuals and as a team in many of the district events. But it is always special to have an achievement acknowledged at the highest levels. We were very proud that Finn Hobson's assistance to an elderly village resident when she broke her hip was recognised by the award of the Chief Scout's Commendation of Merititious Conduct.

It took us a long time but we finally have a group badge which was handed out for the first time last year. Each person also received a commemorative ghost version. The idea came from 2010 when we were celebrating 100 years of scouting in Bransgore and the year 1910 appears on the badge.

If I had to characterise the year from the work I do at a group level, I would say it was a year of sound consolidation that finished with many improvements starting to show results. We have several more adults and more young leaders starting to volunteer. We are hoping to renew our lease as it is about to expire after 21 years. The work around the site seems to be getting more routine than emergency. The relationships we have with other members of scouting and our own community are blossoming and bringing new opportunities.

I would like to thank all the people who work on the committee, especially Dan who is now standing down as chairman but will continue as a member. Dan has been passionate about his support of scouting and has done a year longer as a chairman than his other commitments really allowed.

In summary, an excellent year where we've enjoyed the everyday adventure of scouting and managed to move the Group forwards in various ways. The sections' reports highlight all the fabulous everyday adventures that have happened; from circus skills to community help, from hikes and camps to giant swings and dragon boat racing, from trebuchets to GPSs, and from the local rec to Sweden.

My continued respect and thanks goes to all the adults who make everything in the Group happen, including the young leaders. Thank-you to all the parents, families, community groups, other people within scouting and Lord Manners who support our young people and all that we do. And lastly, well done to all our beavers, cubs and scouts.

Jackie Dawson
Group Scout Leader