

The last year has been good for Bransgore scouting. As few young people left and sections continued to gain many badges and win events, we can see that the young people are enjoying it. We now have a large waiting list as our reputation spreads in our local area. Our leadership team was stable and we saw the benefit of Chris gaining experience and Gemma joining us. We have also managed to plan for a replacement for Elizabeth when she leaves us this summer to further her career.

The young leaders grew, literally and figuratively!, and are proving to be a valuable asset to the sections. We formalised our partnership with the Braggers explorers which gives our older scouts a great option for moving on at 14 years old.

We were able to celebrate and thank Nigel for completing 10 years service with our group. Mike successfully renewed his camp permit, Crispin renewed his appointment and all that goes with that, Chris has now had time to get stuck into his training, Pam and Elizabeth have almost completed demonstrating their leadership abilities for their Wood Badge, Jeremy has completed the requirements for his appointment and continues to do more training, Ginny and Trudi managed to continue their high commitment to their roles despite job changes and Colin quietly continued to bring his 36 years of service and his wisdom to the group. My thanks go to each and every one of them for giving so much voluntarily.

Other milestones have been the celebration of the 100th anniversary of scouting starting in Bransgore and Lord Manners accepting an honorary presidency in recognition of his family's involvement and support of our group for decades.

The leaders have had support from the executive committee throughout despite many demands on the members' time. The biggest contribution has been the management of the finances such that all sections were invited to spend more, to replace equipment, and to subsidise more events for the young people. It is easier and much more encouraging for leaders to be able to run their sections with fewer budget constraints.

Scouting is an adventure for a long time for young people if they want it. It was a pleasure to hear that six ex-Bransgore scouts were selected to go to the Jamboree this summer. Also the last three years have seen Mayor's scouts who have been Bransgore scouts and both of these achievements show the quality of the scouting that is being delivered here and the enthusiasm and commitment of the young people.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge the parents and carers of all our young people who cope with chauffeuring, dirty clothes, tired children, big kit lists etc. They help inspire them to keep up their scouting and many offer specific help to either their child's section or the group.

Scouting is very much in the 21st century now and that brings challenges and excitement. As we balance tradition and innovation we aim to keep the young people at the centre of everything that is done. Well done to all the young people in our group, for joining in, for gaining badges, for making friends, for sticking through the boring bits as well as the fun bits and for giving the adults something back. I congratulate each of them on being a good scout, whether as a beaver, cub or scout.