

## 6<sup>th</sup> Christchurch (Bransgore)



The Group has had another wonderful year. There have been lots of highlights and a real sense of positivity and community. Having played catch-up for several years with the Group elements, at long last we now seem to be blooming.

This sense of being able to strive and improve came from many elements but the security of having our lease extended for another 21 years was key. We now have a strong relationship with Lord Willie Manners and together we are taking steps to improve the whole area. As well as the lease, we will never be able to thank enough the forward thinking of the committee back in the early 90s who invested in our brick HQ. We are truly lucky.

We have had very few young people leave and many of them achieved their highest awards of their section. The programmes were full and lively and our waiting list continued to grow. The Beavers went on their first sleepover, the Cubs celebrated the Jubilee and Olympics at two camps, and the Scouts had a fabulous adventure at Go-Ape in Itchen. The activities they did were onsite, offsite, outside, inside and right across the spectrum of the Scout Programme. They were old favourites and new ideas too.

We welcomed Neil our new Chairman, Emma our new assistant beaver leader and Terry our handyman. Jeremy at long last agreed to go into uniform in scouts and James joined us regularly helping out at scouts. Sam turned 18 and has stayed on for a year during his gap year. Shirley found her time was too stretched and stepped down.

In the summer we had to say goodbye to the Rickman family who emigrated to New Zealand. Peter was our vicar and represented the long links back to 1910 when the troop started as St Mary's troop. He was also a strong supporter of scouting and had worked with us and the young people on many activities. His two sons were in the Group and we helped find them places in NZ scouting. They are all missed.

We had our first young leaders achieve their YL belt which is recognition of the full training and putting all the skills into practice over several years. We were delighted to see Matt, George and Callum awarded their belts and the Group recognised our appreciation by giving them each an engraved scout's stave.

All the sections have been involved with many district events for which we thank the hard-working ADCs and we saw several district events and other troop events at our HQ, including Gang Show rehearsals.

Admin continues to be a challenge as we grapple with risk assessments, health and safety, POR, records, inTouch and everything else. Communications with parents is also another challenge. We have pushed hard to make this as efficient as possible in many ways and with OSM, a website application, our website and parents happy to go electronic, we have made big strides in making sure volunteer time is about young people.

Another area we've turned a corner is in getting parents involved. More and more are supporting the Group in so many ways, whether at meetings or behind the scenes.

It is rewarding being involved with the Group. The young people are wonderful to be with and the adults are great to work with. We have a great sense of community and my hope is that continues to build in 2013. We have an exciting year ahead with several big changes and many small innovations in the pipeline. Thank-you to everyone for making Bransgore Scout Group what it is.

Jackie Dawson  
Group Scout Leader