GSL Report

When I look back over the past year, my overriding memories are of how proud I’ve been of our members at the District and County events. County Camp last September was the first time many of the children had properly camped, and they embraced it with real enthusiasm (helped a large part by the massive amounts of cake sent in.) And more recently at the St George’s Day Parade in Knowle, both Beavers and Cubs kept to formation, despite some long periods of standing around.

The past year since re-opening the 1st Hampton-in-Arden Scout Group has been one of great success, our Beaver Colony has grown to 23 members and our Cub colony has grown to 28 members. We have also increased our leader team from our 4 original members (Marc, Andy, Simon and Millie) to 7, welcoming Katie, Ailsa and Lisa. I’m very proud of our leaders and their commitment to 1st Hampton, by continuing to train, variously working towards nights away permits and leadership skills. We couldn’t do what we do without our 3 sectional assistants and occasional helper.

Going forward, we plan to start a Scout Group in September, Lisa Swann has bravely volunteered to be our Scout Leader and Andy is going to be our Assistant Scout Leader. However, this will leave us short of adults across all sections and so we are asking your help tonight. Hopefully you’ve enjoyed the reports from the Beaver and Cub sections, you can see not only the fun the children have, but also the valuable life skills they learn every week. If you are a current parent, hopefully you value the experiences your children get as part of being in the Scouts. But we cannot continue this without more volunteers. Perhaps you are here tonight because you saw the leaflets handed out through the village, and just want to give something back. Being part of Scouting is not just fun, but also incredibly rewarding. Seeing shy, unsure children finding their voice and confidence because they see what they are actually capable of is an amazing experience. You can help them learn skills they will carry with them forever, not just map reading or tent putting up but things like cooking, first aid and even leadership skills. Beavers meetings usually last 1hr and 15 mins, Cubs meetings 1hr and a half and Scouts meetings 2hrs.

This week is the beginning of our 4 week challenge. After the AGM go out, spend time with the leaders and children, roast some marshmallows and of course have some cake. If you feel that from September you could volunteer as an occasional helper, just for 2 meetings every half term, and are happy to undergo a DBS check, then put your name on this sheet, choosing which section you would prefer to work with. We will then invite you to come along for the next three weeks, to see if Scouting really is for you. Hopefully, you will feel it is, because without volunteers we are not sure that we can continue with all three sections and we really want to continue giving these children the best opportunities we can.