

As in previous years, I am keeping my GSL Report brief to allow you time to read the Section Leaders Reports which will more than adequately tell you all about the excellent work that each section has been doing during this difficult period.

Due to COVID19 we have not been able to hold any Beaver, Cub or Scout meetings at All Saints since 16th March 2020, when, apart for the brief period when we were able to hold outdoor meetings with a maximum of 15 young people, all "meetings" have had to be by Internet.

I wish to thank our Leaders and Section Helpers for their tireless dedication to provide a regular programme of on-line meetings which, despite the restrictions, has enabled our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to maintain their enthusiasm and many have gained a record number of badges over the past year.

We currently have a strong Leadership Team in all sections, but need to plan ahead and encourage additional persons to join us, so that we can ensure the continuance of the Group in the years ahead, particularly when long established Leaders retire from "active service". Can you help us? – At present we have need of female help in our Cub Pack.

Sadly, due to the pandemic, all Sailing, Camping and other activities have been cancelled, however, following the recent Government announcements, we are now able to look forward to the lifting of Restrictions which will permit us gradually to return to some form of normality and we will soon be able to resume our meetings at All Saints..

As many of you are aware, during the past few months, Redbridge Council took measures to permanently close the Water Activities Centre at Fairlop where we go sailing. Thankfully, due to public pressure, this decision has now been overturned and we want to thank all that supported the campaign to save this important facility that our Scouts and so many others enjoy.

Throughout lockdown, our Group Executive Committee have continued to give valuable assistance to the Group by taking from the Leaders much of the administrative tasks required by The Scout Association and in particular the administration of the Groups finances.

I particularly wish to record our thanks to our Chairman James Allen, who with help from his wife and sons (both Scouts in our Group) has taken our Mini Bus out on the streets every weekend (since March 2020), to collect food items in support of the Redbridge Mutual Aid Food Bank - Our thanks to all who have donated so generously to help less fortunate families in our Parish.

The Group Executive meets about 5 times a year and we currently need additional Parents to join us so that the views of Parents with children in each section, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are represented during our discussions - in particular there is an urgent need of someone to take on the position of Group Secretary so that our meetings are properly recorded as required by Scout Association Rules. If you feel that you might be able to help and join our Committee, please speak to any of our Leaders.

David Hall - Group Scout Leader
March 2021