

18th Truro (St George's) Scout Group



Chair's Report 2018

This is my third year as group chair and I've continued to hopefully keep the charity in good stead. Once again last year's bacon butty stalls in Truro were a great success and I would like to thank all those who helped in any way at all, however big or small. This time it included our chestnut stall which did go well, however quite challenging logistically, we did have some sourcing issues with the chestnuts! but nothing we could not overcome. On a cold winters night, it certainly warmed up the taste buds, not that actually I eat nuts myself! but I'm sure they were enjoyed by all.

Fundraising is a big part of the committee's role and we plan to do another event this year, but of course with your help! The bag packing this year has been very limited and unfortunately Sainsbury's at present has refused us on the basis, most of their customers in fact now bring their own shopping bags!, we will be pleased to receive any suggestions or ideas you have for fundraising, maybe you would like to join the executive committee and just fulfil that particular role even.

Please do bear in mind, that we do have to keep our building in Boscawen park, 'Turners Hall' up to a good standard for all, including of course our many private hires. We have again, as in previous years had the fire alarms/fire extinguishers serviced and PAT testing on all electrical appliances.

Also this year we have extensively looked at the possibility of refurbishing Turners Hall! in Boscawen Park, but have yet come to any concrete decisions apart from we are going to add a hot water heater soon, so on those cold nights, it will be easy to get plenty of hot drinks. Plus a much-needed fridge is in the pipeline. We do have to keep a certain amount of cash in our reserves of course, in case of emergency building repairs, so it's a difficult balancing game, you want to spend the money but you need to be cautious just in case.

Please do talk to anyone on the committee or your leaders for that matter, if you think we are missing something or maybe you can even help with suggestions or may even know how to get funding! we have of course looked at this, but sometimes you need to know the right person to contact!

We are still looking for someone to take on the role for Hall Hire. This role is a very important one and would involve the person liaising with our Treasurer and the rest of the committee and of course the hires. Plus general committee members as we are only a few and this definitely needs to change, it is only a couple of hours every other month and we meet only four times a year, so really the commitment would be minimal.

GDPR this year has been a big headache! “like for most of you I’m sure”, we are looking for a new member that could fulfil the role of Data Protection Officer! maybe you can help, or might even know someone who would be well suited to this role? For the information of the group, we are now fully using the Google G Suite which is GDPR compliant and obviously aims to ensure all personal records are securely held and kept up to date. On that note please do ensure your leaders have your most up to date contact information etc.

Our online payments for our subs, “on our website”, is working well, so please do use the facility wherever possible as it reduces our hard working Treasures job significantly. We do hope you have found this useful and easy to use, as previously it’s been a real challenge handling all those cheques and cash! so we really do encourage all our parents and carers to use this facility as much as possible. The Facebook group isn’t used as much as it was previously and I must say I’m not surprised, what with all the bad press Facebook has received this year! so with this in mind, please do make full use of the 18th Truro website (www.18thtruro.org.uk) and I’m sure the leaders will do the same.

All these things that go on in the background, don’t happen by themselves and I **encourage you to get involved in any way you can** to support your group, which in turn will help the group run and ultimately make sure your young adults develop into successful members of our great communities here in Cornwall.

The Leaders team have once again worked extremely hard, in keeping the young adults engaged in all activities over this last year and I must congratulate them, not many would be willing to give up as much time as they do all for free! it really is very commendable. I would also like to thank all the executive committee for their continued hard work and input, in particular, our very hard working Treasurer, also Tom Roach for auditing our accounts over the last couple of years. I look forward to hopefully another successful year ahead, it must be said though this could well be my last year as Chair! as my daughter has long left Scouts and I’m sure there is now someone out there that is keen to inject new blood into this very valuable organisation.

Russell Dickson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Dickson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Group Chair