

To Borth Scout Group parents from Skip

You will by now have received the letter from the Executive Committee formally letting you know that I will be stepping down from the end of 2011.

I just wanted you all to know that this is not a decision I have taken lightly. In fact, it has been harder than I would have thought possible to decide to leave, not only the Group but also the Scout movement. A combination of family circumstances, recently becoming self-employed and suffering one or two health problems has forced me to take this decision.

During the last fifteen years I have had so much fun and enjoyment running scouting in Borth. I have done many things I would never have thought possible, been to places I would never have visited and have had experiences that were funny, challenging, demanding but above all, enjoyable. I have seen dozens of children grow up into young adults. All of them, I think, richer for having been a Scout. I have seen their wonder at the things around them, their pride and joy when they manage to succeed and achieve in something and their self-confidence grow as a result of being a Scout.

I firmly believe that scouting is the best activity our children can take part in. It offers them such a wide range of experiences, learning opportunities, sporting activities and challenges – I cannot think of any other individual club or group that offers children so much in its programme.

I am confident that the Group will, after I have stepped down, continue to offer a varied range of activities for the children to enjoy. However, to do this they will need help. In the past we have always had to run the Group with the absolute minimum number of Leaders. The numbers of people who have been available and willing to help with the running of the Group and try scouting have been scarce. This is also, unfortunately, a similar story for many other Scout Groups. We therefore need more people to come in and support the Group by becoming Leaders/Assistant Leaders and helpers. The more people there are to help means that the workload is more widely spread.

Experience is not essential or necessary. I know, as I had no experience myself when I started all those years ago. I learnt by trial and error – you should ask some of my original Cub Pack! You don't get paid, you get cold, wet, muddy and frustrated at times, but what you do get are smiles, lots of laughter and huge job satisfaction.

Our Executive Committee has already started the process of searching for new potential Leaders, Assistant Leaders and regular helpers. I am asking you, as parents of Scouts, to help them by thinking about whether you might know of anyone who would be suitable or interested in joining the Group in one of these roles. You may even like to give it a go yourself – you never know, you might really enjoy it.

I am attaching a copy of a role description for a Scout Leader that our Executive Committee has recently drawn up. It gives you a flavour of what's involved. As you are aware from the letter handed out on Friday, they are also arranging an Open Information evening for anyone who might be interested in playing a part in the continuing success of our Scout Group. Please come along and encourage anyone else you can think of to come along too.

Skip