

1st Emsworth Scouts Section Reports

2021

Group Scout Leaders Report 2020-2021

This was the year when life changed for us all and overnight Scouting as we knew it was placed on 'Hold' and an end to our remaining centenary camps.

It didn't take long before we realised this was going to last a bit longer than anyone had thought. And with our dedicated group of leaders we started the massive task of making Scouting happen in a whole new way without physical meetings.

With courage and determination we were able to continue to provide Scouting for our members as we have done for 100 years. We were using some newer methods; You Tube, Zoom, Slack and some good old fashioned methods like the Post!

After the summer holidays we were all very excited to re-commence face to face meetings, but only outside and with endless amounts of hand cleaning gel. As Scouts this is what we do best and a great range of activities was provided for all sections.

In November we were back doing on-line and virtual meetings before being able to meet face to face again for a few weeks before Christmas.

The spring term started with us all back in lock-down, but this time with a lot more experience and expertise we were again able to keep providing Scouting for all our members.

Our group has continued to thrive with all sections running very fun, active and varied programs and despite all the difficulties and challenges we have been very successful in many of our members achieving their Chief Scout Awards. This is the ultimate award for members in each section.

Due to the continued success of our sections we are still looking for more Leaders to assist all sections. Being a Leader requires a regular commitment but not necessarily a weekly one and the rewards are priceless, great fun, a sense of achievement and knowing that you are giving something back to your local community.

Lastly I personally would like to thank our amazing team of volunteers. They have achieved so much in ensuring Scouting continued in Emsworth in such difficult times.

Well done to you all.

Michael
Group Scout Leader



Millpond Beaver Colony Annual Report 2020-2021

Our last section report in 2020 ended with the news that a global pandemic had hit us, Scouting and indeed the country had been put into Lockdown because of Covid-19. All face to face meetings were suspended and we moved to a completely new and different way of providing Scouting to our members. We, as a group, faced many challenges during this time, but we endeavoured to continue weekly contact, to encourage our members to work on badges at home and offer support and inspiration. Many of our beavers struggled with the withdrawal of social contact that isolation brought with it and so it was incredibly heart-warming to hear from parents that the contact we were offering and the activities we provided during that time had been a lifeline to them.

Initially, we had anticipated a quick return to normality and the group camps and sleepovers we had planned for the summer term going ahead. However, as the weeks and then months went by, it became clear that the social restrictions in place would mean cancelling all events for the summer. In the first wave of lockdown, while we were in a Red Readiness level, we posted home activities and ideas for beavers to work on, challenges accepted, they sent back pictures and photos of their creations. We held a Builder & Experiment challenge to build a raft out of junk materials then see how well it floated. We joined in the Pyjamarama Booktrust activities, where we invited families to spend a day in their PJ's reading a book. They also had access to watch David Walliams: The Midnight Gang production filmed at the Festival Theatre in Chichester. Later, we held The Great Scone Competition with photographic instructions sent by newsletter, for the beavers to bake their own scones for National Cream Tea day in June. Many Challenges were set and completed, one beaver wrote a Veggie-Rap to promote healthy eating for his Skills Challenge. There were springtime nature hunts to make the most of the warmest summer we had ever known.

Towards July, we were given the fantastic news that we could begin proceedings to return to face to face scouting albeit outdoors from September. This was a mammoth task of Risk assessment writing, approvals and Covid safe training for all involved. We returned in September with an eager bunch of beavers keen to play together again, it really was a wonderful sight to see. Our programme was based purely outdoors, this gave us the opportunity to play games, do some Navigation, beach litter picks, Frisbee Golf, Scavenger hunts and ended with a Halloween Pumpkin Treasure hunt with a Pumpkin carving competition over half term. During the October half term, we received the news that England would go into a temporary Lockdown again for November. We used this opportunity to hold our meetings virtually over Zoom. I was sceptical at first, as I was very unsure how it would work out but quickly we got into the swing of it and it was a huge amount of fun. We even welcomed our first new beavers into the group virtually and held investitures online. There were; cake-in-a-mug evenings, secret spy activities, tower building and remembrance. We then met face to face for two weeks in December before being shut down yet again from Christmas time. We had arranged an at home "Sleepover-Sleep-in" with a Christmas theme, lots of activities, craft, baking and challenges as well as watching a Pantomime created by Peter Duncan during Lockdown. James the Elf helped to deliver an activity pack to each person in the morning ready for the weekend of fun to begin. I was later thrilled to hear that one families "sleepover" had lasted several weeks!

During this time a new leader also joined us and we made her very welcome, Hannah Smith, an ex-Explorer scout had returned to lend a hand!

The spring term saw more zoom activities; including a virtual escape room, acts of kindness week, health and fitness, Chinese New Year- cooking Spring Pancakes, Big Birdwatch- making bird feeders, world book day- making sock puppets, planning a Mother's day tea then preparing these at home, a William Shakespeare Will's Wellbeing Warrior- making playdough together. Our year ended with, we hoped, the final lockdown being lifted and we returned to face to face scouting for a very welcome Easter Egg hunt on the foreshore in Emsworth with lots of excited beavers, some of which we were meeting in person for the first time.

Despite the challenges we faced this year, we have retained our membership of 18-20 beavers, the waiting list is still full and we have seen many beavers up to cubs having earned and awarded their Bronze Chief Scout award. Our grateful thanks to all the parents that have stepped up to help us during this time and to our invaluable leadership team who make scouting happen in Emsworth.

Rebecca Chambers, Millpond Beaver Scout Leader

Livingstone Cub Pack report 2020-2021



As you can imagine, this has been a very challenging year. When Lockdown first hit us in March of last year, we all struggled to deliver Scouting in a non face to face manner. We had a variety of online challenges, including a series on rope and knots. Who can forget Baloo gets Knotted on Youtube!

We had a couple of virtual camps and you sent us wonderful pictures of your activities over the summer. There were some great shelters and camp gadgets plus the cakes and other meals looked delicious. All your badge work was recorded and badges issued when we were able to meet again. Three cubs left for scouts in April and all of them gained their Chief Scout's Silver Award.

From September we were able to meet outside again and we had a number of games and walks that we were able to do including measuring out the solar system in the park and walking around Emsworth & Horndean Road looking at road signs. We held our first outdoor investitures and we got to grips with social distancing, hand sanitising and non- contact activities. Parents stepped up to help every week, without whom we would not have been allowed to continue. We were very lucky in the autumn term not to have any bad weather for our meetings.

Back into Lockdown again in November and then from January and a return to on-line and Zoom meetings. In December we were able to walk along the Billy Line from Havant. We had a couple of Escape rooms and other activities over the winter months until Easter, when we were able to meet outside again.

We are all looking forward to the ending of lockdown in July and a return to our normal scouting activities, hopefully by the start of the Autumn term.

A big thank you to all the parents who have stepped in to help out and keep us all safe. We could not have done this without you.

Hilary Walker
Akela Livingstone Pack

Drake Annual Report 2020-2021



How do you sum up 2020-21? Covid, lockdowns, badges at home, camping at home, zoom meetings, outdoor meetings, night meetings, the Great Indoors and of course, the Great Outdoors. It has been a rollercoaster of a year – but what a ride!

Easter started with a lockdown and continued until August. No meetings but badges at home and what a collection. In the past few years, Drake Pack has continued to award new Activity Badges and this year is no different. Animal Carer, Chef, Skater, Book Reader, Sports Enthusiast and Cyclist. We even had one Cub, Elliott, earn his Backwoods Cooking while camping at home. A few Cubs joined the Big Camp and had a wonderful time with all the online activities, earning credits towards the Adventure and Outdoor Challenge badges as they went. September saw the start of outdoor meetings as the nights got progressively darker (and wet!). We meet at three locations, Southleigh Road Park, Redlands Park, and the foreshore by Nore Barn Woods. Starting with the Athletics and Athletics Plus badge, we quickly got into Beach combing, Tracking, Personal Safety, Knots, and a near dark Nature Hunt. We finished off 2020 with a Christmas treasure hunt around Redlands.

Christmas 2020 started off with another Lockdown and again no meetings. So, we went online with Zoom meetings until Easter. This was something new for all of us and we learnt a great deal as we went along. We continued with chats about Personal Safety, Kim's Game, scavenger hunts with 1st letters and colours, odd quizzes, and bingo. We found Zoom's white board great fun, with Hangman becoming popular, as was proving half of 12 is 7. We then dared the impossible, and escaped from 2nd Wellington's Scout Hut, with an online escape room. Finally, we made Easter Nests and Cards online.

Throughout all of this, 3 Cubs achieve their Silver awards, Isaac Harding, Riley Taws and Kieran Mogridge. The 2020 Good Turns Diary was delayed to August due to Covid and the winner was Jacob Kirwan. Unfortunately, the Conker competition was cancelled.

It was an odd, difficult year that has left its mark in so many ways. We have seen so many changes, had to face so many new challenges, sometimes it makes me feel that going back to "normality" could be dull! After all, Scouting has always moved with the times and adapted to social change. Technology is a part of this. Does Zoom, for example, have a part to play in tomorrow's programs? And how do we implement it?

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents who have helped either with their known skills or had the willingness to learn new ones. I couldn't have run the last year without their help. I would also like to thank our new Leader, Sam Illing, for all the help she has given over the last 9 months. None of this would have been possible without her.

Peter Britton
Kaa, Drake Pack

Last August I was asked whether I would like to help Peter run Drake Pack, I knew nothing about cubs other than I wanted my son to be part of an amazing organisation. Since then, I can honestly say I've loved every moment and each meeting has been so varied. I've learnt a lot in this time, had a lot of fun and learnt new skills alongside the cubs. For any parent reading this wondering whether to get involved I highly recommend giving it a go; we are always looking for an extra pair of hands to help, even if you can only do it on an ad hoc basis.

Sam Illing
Raksha

Scout Eagle Troop Report 2020-2021

I am pleased to report another fun packed year for Scouts which has included a wide range of both indoor and outdoor activities when we were able to meet face to face, and a lot of group zoom meeting which were lead by both the leaders and the scouts. We gave the scouts the responsibility of running some nights to try and make them feel like they had some level of control of the nights, take responsibility for the activities and to keep the programme fresh and exciting for them. They hosted several very successful evenings including quizzes, games and instructor lead activities which were all very well received by the rest of the troop and run in a very professional way with info sent out in advance and clear structures to what they wanted to achieve.

The troop size is now around 24 which a very nice size for group activities and crowd control for the leaders. Although we have seen a few scouts leave due to other commitments, the group continues to work well, and the current number allows for more productive activities for everyone.

This year has also sadly seen Jo leave scouting after 25 years of leading to enjoy some free time on a Wednesday. Because of this we have had to bring back the compulsory parent rota in order to meet the adult to children ratios, which has so far worked well. With the addition of the parent WhatsApp group giving them an easy line of communication to arrange cover if they cannot fill their spot, we have so far had all meetings filled and had no issues with adult numbers.

The Patrol leaders have settled into their roles well and have continued to develop their skills, taking the lead on several activities and planning future PL nights. As well as this we have introduced a patrol night which will give the scouts the opportunity to run the night no matter their age or position within the troop.

Due to the restrictions we have not been able to have a camp this year but are looking forward to December when we will be bringing back our annual Winter camp in the New Forest where we will give the scouts opportunities to do several exciting activities including dry slope skiing.

Thanks to Jo, the parents and the young leaders for their help and support throughout the year.

Adam Westwood – Scout Leader

Gryffin Explorer Unit Report 2020-2021

Normally we meet on a Friday night in the scout hut and like to get outside as much as possible but for most of this year we found ourselves meeting via various online methods!

We had great fun online and as well as the usual quizzes and competitions we still managed some camps albeit with us all at home. Members camped in unusual places including in sheds, under trampolines, in a goal, and under canoes. We had scone baking competitions and other outdoor cooking challenges. But most importantly we kept meeting- Covid wasn't going to stop us.

We currently have 16 members and the section is run by Michael with the support of Joe, Jack and Nigel

This year we've had trips planned to the Brecon Beacons and The Wye Valley but unfortunately they both had to be cancelled.

As always we have been working hard towards the Duke of Edinburgh Awards we are looking forward to when we are able to complete the Expedition section again hopefully in the near future.

Many of our members help out with the younger sections, so well done for all your support and hard work.

Emsworth Explorer Team