

# 1<sup>st</sup> Emsworth Scouts Section Reports 2022

## Group Scout Leaders Report 2021-2022

This was the year that we could start to put Covid behind us and start planning on moving forward and getting back to providing great Scouting and wherever possible Outdoors.

Our group has continued to thrive during the year with all sections running very fun, active and varied programs.

It was especially pleasing to see that at last our Explorers and Scouts were able to get back to camping with successful camps being held in the New Forest and at our campsite at Harting. We are also looking forward to taking the Cubs and Beavers away in June this year.

With the hard work and dedication of both leaders and youngsters we have been able to award numerous 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.

As the number of young people on our waiting list continues to grow we are hoping if we can find enough Adult volunteers that we will be able to re open our Spring Beaver Colony and also open a Squirrel section for youngsters aged 4 and 5.

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 2021-20222

Our last section report in March 2021 ended with the hope that, Scouting face to face had returned permanently while we adapted our programme for Covid-safe activities. We, as a group, faced many challenges during this time, our meetings were now all held outdoors whatever the weather. We endeavoured to keep socially distanced with the purchase of lots of new equipment; we bought markers and flags to spread out our members at the beginning and end of the meetings, made sure everyone sanitised their hands also, the games we played had to be adapted, in short we went back to basics and focused on having fun.

Many of our beavers had struggled with the withdrawal of social contact that isolation brought with it and so it was very encouraging to see our youngsters interacting with one-another again.

Our programme was based outside for the summer term with Frisby Golf, Cycling Badge, Scavenger hunts in the woods, First Aid, Rounders', Summer Solstice Hike, camping skills- in the hope that we would soon be allowed to hold residential trips once more, and plenty of games.

During this term, Hannah Smith and I were very fortunate to be joined by Becca Ford as an assistant leader, she has quickly become a valued member of the team.

In the autumn term, as the weather began to deteriorate, we held as many outdoor evenings as possible, Sunset Hikes on the shore, star & moon gazing, safe in the knowledge that we could meet back indoors if needed. We continued to use markers on the floor to keep separate where possible, and copious amounts of hand sanitiser! To end the year, we finished with a visit to a Christmas light trail at Staunton Country Park, with mince pies and hot chocolate to round it off.

By the beginning of the New Year, we had mostly returned to normal, residential trips were now allowed again and so we began arranging our first post-Covid camp....

In the Spring term we made bird feeders for the Big Birdwatch, held an international food tasting evening, worked on Communicators, Global Issues, Sports badges and held our annual Mother's day tea. This was the first time we had invited parents into the scout hut for two years, it was a very special moment to share and reflect on how fortunate we were to be able to share it together, that we would no longer take life for granted and to appreciate every opportunity that comes our way.

As our group had worked so hard completing lots of badge-work at home, it was with great pleasure that we could award 6 Beavers their Bronze Chief Scout Award, the DC came to award the badges and certificates in front of the mums.

Despite the challenges we faced this year, we have retained a high membership of 16-18 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 2021-20212

This year has been a year of recovery. As we exited all restriction in September we were allowed more activities. As you can imagine, this has been a very challenging year. When Lockdown first hit us in March 2020, we all struggled to deliver Scouting in a non-face to face manner.

As the Pandemic eased in March 2021 we continued to meet outside with many walks around the area. We finished the summer term with an end of COVID party in Redlands Park.

In September the restriction eased further, and we met inside for the first time in 18 months. Some of our newer member had never even been in the hut as they joined during lockdown!

We have managed to invest our new members and even present a few bronze awards.

We were able to visit the local fire station in November, the first visit since 2018 and our conker challenge returned as well.

We have resumed a few activities that we missed, these included the sock puppet show, pancakes and the ever-popular Easter nests.

We have had a number of outdoor events in the last year. In December we had a memorable night in the woods at Queen Elizabeth County Park, the big St Georges parade and walk in Havant, A Woodland Day in May and a long awaited camp in June – the first since 2019.

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 2021-2022

Once again, the year started with Covid lockdowns, badges at home, zoom meetings, outdoor meetings, night meetings, the Great Indoors and of course, the Great Outdoors. Yes, it felt like another rollercoaster of a year, but the ride was getting faster and more exciting as it progressed.

The year started with us coming out of the last covid lockdown, we did the Pioneering Badge, including making our own rope. We then had a nature hunt in Brook Meadow, tracking at Holly Bank Woods, and to the foreshore for throwing and catching, along with a few investitures along the way. Before finishing the summer with an outdoor large Nerf War summer party.

Autumn saw the Athletics and Athletics Plus badges, along with the Fire Safety Badge. We also had a Remembrance Day ceremony on the Rec at Horndean Road, finishing 2021 with a traditional Christmas Party, before having an evening of Christmas night activities at QE Park.

The Spring saw us join in with the RSPB Birdwatch, before building water rockets, and going for night launches, again on the Emsworth Rec. Pancakes, Saints and Flags, and ending with Easter Crafts and Chocolate Nests. The Conker Challenge was cancelled, but Joshua Spencer did win the Easter Good Turns Diary. Unfortunately, while we had a few Cubs come very close, no one attained their Silver Award.

Coming out of Covid lockdowns, and isolation restrictions left us with a new sense of freedom and liberation. We are not tied to being in the hut every week. It might be dark and (slightly cold) but we can still do outdoor activities and have fun. Glowstick tracking awaits...

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, Wayne Spencer, along with Sam Illing, for all the help they have both given has given over the last 12 months. None of this would have been possible without their help and expertise.

Peter Britton  
Kaa, Drake Pack

This was my second year with Drake Pack as a helper and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. With the lifting of restrictions post Covid we have had a year making up for lost time. We enjoyed our cub camp with Livingston Pack in June which was the first time many of the cubs had camped (and a first for me too!). We had a wonderful weekend at Cricket Camp learning new skills, enjoying being outside and making new friends. It was the highlight of the year for many of us.

Other highlights this year include seeing some of the older cubs, who are role models to the younger ones, move on having achieved their silver awards after much hard work and commitment. The presentation of our last awards took place at our end of year party which was another fun evening of water fights followed by a barbecue.

All together a fun year with a lot to look forward to going into the autumn term.

Sam Illing  
Raksha, Drake Pack

## Scout Eagle Troop Report 2021-2022

I am pleased to report another fun packed year for Scouts which has included a wide range of both indoor and outdoor activities. 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 is a very nice size for group activities.

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.

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.

We were very excited to have our first camp(post Covid) in December in the New Forest which was a great success and enjoyed by all.

I have also decided that the time has come to step down so will be stepping back from leading the Troop from the summer, but will still stay involved with activity support for the wider group.

Adam Westwood – Scout Leader

## Gryffin Explorer Unit Report 2021-2022

Normally we meet on a Friday night in the scout hut and like to get outside as much as possible.

With the end of restrictions we were able to get back into our regular evening activities, as always the top activities were cooking and quiz nights. Our cooking skills were tested in the hut, on Trangia, using paella pans, over open fires and baking scones in a cardboard oven.

Other nights included, karaoke- requested by the explorers, pioneering and flip out to mention just a few.

And at last we were able to get some camping in, having a great Winter Camp in the New Forest with activities including ringo on the dry ski slope and laser quest on the Sunday morning. We also held a traditional backwards camp at our site in Harting, sleeping under natural shelters and cooking over the open fire.

We currently have 16 members and the section is run by Michael with the support David Jarczyk

As always we have been working hard towards the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and we are looking forward to arranging Expeditions again.

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

Emsworth Explorer Team