

Scouts

East Grinstead

Annual Report 2020-2021

After a year of Covid-19 we have proved that
"A Scout has courage in all difficulties."
(Scout Law No.5)



District Executive Committee

Providing active support to the District Commissioner and the Group Executive Committees

Once again we find ourselves gathered online for the 91st AGM. At the time of the last meeting we were looking at the future roadmap of getting young people back into face to face Scouting, little did we know how the following months would evolve. Thankfully, many of the Groups and Units have delivered full and varied programs with a mixture of online meetings and risk assessed face to face meetings.

On behalf of the District Scout Council, I would like to convey just how impressed we have been at the varied program that has been delivered in spite of the adversities faced.

As adults and supporters of the movement the resilience and ingenuity displayed by all (not least of all the young people) has been inspiring to witness and I extend our thanks and praise for everything that has taken place over the last year.

As you will be aware, Mel stepped down from his role as DC in May, with Robert Sawyer (CC) in as acting DC, but sadly, Mel is not the only member stepping down out of post. Ron Trumpeter has after many years has passed the baton on to Tony Harvey who is new into the role of Chairperson for the Appointments & Advisory Committee. Also from the AAC, we lose another long standing member as Jeff Dyson also steps down as Secretary (among other roles).

There are other members across the district whose circumstances or appointments have changed. Individually their contributions are enormous, but collectively they are immeasurable. We thank them all, for everything they have done for the District,

As we look to the future, we are hopeful that better days lay ahead, we look forward to seeing you in the coming months in person.

Nick Hills

Chairman East Grinstead Scouts



At 6 - 8 years old these are our youngest members

An extraordinarily difficult, and hopefully never to be repeated, year for us all. A year when “you’re on mute” and “how do I turn my camera on”, and “next slide please” became very much the norm. To each and every single Scouter, supporter, committee member and parents who have been involved in the past year on behalf of us all THANK YOU. You are TRUE HEROES. In a year when our young people needed us more than ever you simply rolled your sleeves up, adapted, exercised your imaginations and got on with it as you always do.

A selection of Beavers photos.





A selection of Beavers who still managed to work hard and achieve their Bronze Chief Scout awards
Henry Drury, Flynn Waddell, Jake

Barson,
Mickey McCartney, Henry Win, Alex Marazano,
Edward Seccombe, Thomas Stinton,
Nora Jacobs, Frank Lincoln, Levi Buckmaster,
Harry Whittaker, Kian O'Mahoney,
Melissa Freeland, William Wheeler, Lucas
Easterfield, Zach Geraghty, Louis Sutton,
Ethan Bryant, James Bennett, Aidan Howes,
Tristan Cheeseman, Harry Knight, Jude Rogers,
Willow Goddings, Lewis Patterson,
Donatella Ferrito, Daisy Crouch, Zac Gaved,
Bobby Bush, Drew Lacey

WHY WE DO IT

Thoughts from a Beaver Leader

One of my new Beavers said "Beavers is so cool; Wednesday is my favourite day of the week!" Another said "Best day ever" this was from his first Beaver session. Cannot really top them. When you start to wonder if it is worth carrying on with leading Beavers you just have to talk to them and they make you realise why you keep going. From a personal point of view - I started helping when my son was in Beavers - he joined. Explorers in January 2021 and joined the Cub Pack as a young leader at the same time. Having been through one of the hardest years of my life losing my Dad in December- the Beavers kept me going. Knowing how much they need Beavers to have some normality I didn't walk away but stayed where I think I am needed. It has been hard but just seeing the joy, the happiness from a Beaver able to run round a field or build a den or to just be a child outside again is the best.

Thank you for contributing- I know how difficult this was to write.

cubs Open to any Young Person
Aged 8 - 10½

A selection of Cub photos



A selection of Cubs from across the Packs who achieved their Chief Scout Silver awards

Jenson Dunne, Luke Freeman, Tomos Carter,
James Downer, Leo Sena, Kezia Hiller,
Marcia Skipp, Jowe Churston- Sharp,
Eva Jennings, Rogan Weight, Monty Dimmick,
Daisy Anderson, Harrison Kennard,
Ben Anderson, Sazzy Tetley Briers, Leo Tarry,
Harry Pearce, Ernie Gibbs, George Brewer.

WHY WE DO IT

Thoughts from a Cub Leader

“It is truly impressive how versatile and adaptive the children can be if given the chance. I think from a Leader’s perspective and that of the Cubs, it was good to continue Scouting through this time. I know I personally enjoyed these sessions “.

In summary and on behalf of your very grateful Group Scout Leaders, your District and County teams **SIMPLY THANK YOU**- you never gave up, you adapted, lived in the moment, kept going and **WE COULDN'T BE PROUDER**.

Heather L. Furminger ADC Cubs

SCOUTS Our Young People aged 10½ to 14

Although COVID has made Scouting challenging in the past year, many Troops rose to the challenge using Zoom to keep weekly meeting going, making use of the virtual troop programme plus generating many original ideas to keep the meeting interesting. Once restrictions were being to eased Troops completed their COVID risk assessments allowing face to face Scouting to start again in a safe way. A number of troops took part in the District online pancake evening and St Georges day celebration. I would like to thank all Troop leaders that have provided Scouting throughout this difficult time.

Andy Ruxton
Assistant District Commissioner - Scouts

EXPLORERS

Providing Scouting for the 14 -18 years old

Like the vast majority of Scouting in East Grinstead and beyond, the past year of prolonged meeting restrictions has posed enormous challenges for the Explorer Units, leaders, and Explorers alike.

Challenges though, that didn't faze the amazing leader teams, who along with the Explorers enabled their Units to thrive in many ways. Adapting straight away to the changing needs, by setting weekly tasks via email, to embracing

the Scouting Zoom revolution, becoming the first generation of on-line 'Zombies'.

Virtual became a by word for Scouting, virtual Camps, Christmas pantomimes, escape rooms, quizzes, board games and Emergency Command Centres, they tied knots and tried origami, as well as continuing the core Scouting badges and awards, as best they could. I can't tell you how



proud I am of the Units! Many of them also met virtually with the East Grinstead Scout Network in a bake-off evening and joined the rest of the District for the St

Georges day celebrations. With restrictions slowly easing, the future is bright for the Explorers of East Grinstead District

Finally, my thanks go to each and every Explorer leader, who made the lives of the young people a little better during lockdown. Also, to my predecessor, Tony Baulch, who stood down and has taken on a new Scouting challenge, we all wish him well with his new role in the District.

Peter Few
District Explorer Scouts Commissioner

network The 18-25-year-olds enjoying their Scouting

Unfortunately, Scouting rules prevented us getting out and about due to Covid-19 restrictions but it didn't stop us using zoom. We now look forward to getting out enjoying our own programme as well helping others in the next year.



#YouShape helping to get more Young People involved in the way their Scouting is run

It certainly has been a very different year to normal with the reintroduction (and then easing) of various restrictions that affect how Scouting can be run locally. However, I am pleased to report that I have seen many leaders overcome great challenges with running meetings online and getting back to face-to-face meetings. In such alternating conditions Youth Shaped Scouting has continued to empower young people to have their say, stand up for what they believe in and lead their peers. We are creating an environment where young people can take

chances and learn from their mistakes, putting young people first and giving them the chance to work with their leaders to make a difference in their Scouting journey.

Now, more than ever, is the time to embed these opportunities into all experiences at Scouts and encourage our young people to make the most of them.

Due to the unprecedented restrictions, we experienced in April 2021, for the first time ever



we celebrated St George's Day and renewed our promises online with great success. We were joined by young people & adults from all around the District for this occasion.

In the February half term week, we met online with

the Beavers, Cubs, & Scouts for Shrove Tuesday and had some great fun cooking pancakes in the comfort of our own kitchens. There were some fantastic creations and the best bit was that the leaders weren't left with all the washing up! We were joined by over 100 members across all three sections.

There was also a similar online event for Explorers & Network where a bake-off style competition was run for all members & leaders, again with some very creative results.

We are excited for the release of the new YouShape Award that is due to be released in October 2021. After more than a year of consultation with Youth Commissioners, Leaders, young people and other Scouters we hope to be seeing these awards being completed very soon.

If you would like to find out more about how to embed Youth Shaped Scouting into your programme please visit

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/youth-shaped/> or get in touch at dyc@egscouts.org.uk

I would like to finish by thanking Kit O'Callaghan & Lily Graham for their great efforts and support over the last year with our online activities and we look forward to supporting the groups & sections in the District for another year.

Miles Price District Youth Commissioner (DYC)



Providing additional opportunities for Young People to have fun and learn new skills

Unfortunately, Covid-19 once again caused the postponement of our larger events.

Grant Hume

Assistant District Commissioner - Events



Providing Support to East Grinstead District

We are very grateful to our Scout Active Support Units (SASU)

Meridian Active Support Unit

We currently still have a number of members who help in our role of supporting District and Group activities.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 once again caused the postponement of our usual events but we hope to get back to some form of normality next year.

Jeff Dyson - Unit Co-ordinator



The Rover Scout Active Support Unit (Rover Crew)

Similar to many other groups, due to COVID the activities we usually get involved with have not taken place. But with the use of Teams we have kept our monthly meeting going, which has had the advantage of allowing members further afield to join in, we have managed a Teams BBQ and annual dinner. We are looking forward to providing service to the District in the year ahead.

Andy Ruxton - Rover Crew Mate



Providing opportunities for Adults and helpers to gain the information and support they need for their Role

Young people across our District have been able to gain valuable #skills for life thanks to our brilliant leader teams and new adult volunteers coming forward.

The past year has provided many challenges for everyone including the team that provide training. With face to face be stopped training switched to zoom and I'm pleased to say a number of our leaders rose to the challenge of taking part in these sessions

Along with the Zoom sessions there is still the option of workbooks and on-line so it has still been possible to progress with Wood badge training.

Ongoing Learning. We are very grateful for additional training support given to East Grinstead District.

First Aid: Paul Mortimer (Former Paramedic in East Grinstead) has found a way to provide First Response training on-line.

Positive behaviour and Scouting for all Workshops: Led by Suzanne Few (Deputy County Commissioner Diversity) has run these popular Workshops on Zoom helping leaders with ways to combat some of the challenges they face in Scouting from both young people as well as adults.

Although we are currently unable to take part in Nights Away I'm sure when we will see more adults wishing to take out Nights Away Permits so they can lead camps/sleepovers.

We were sorry to hear of Martin Booy passing. Martin has assisted with Permit assessments over the past few years.

I would like to express my thanks to the Appointments Advisory Committee led by Ron Trumpeter assisted by Jeff, Allie, Barbara and Lynda for ensuring new leaders have a better understanding of their role and the commitment to training they are making.

As usual I would like to thank our team District Training advisers most of whom despite having other roles have still found time to carry out validations for the leaders on training

David Matthews
District Local Training Manager



First Aid Response

We provide the opportunity for everyone working with Young People

Another year on, sadly due to COVID we were unable to deliver face to face training so this has put all the renewals behind. Scouting has changed everything. There will be a new eight-hour course coming into force, however, in the meantime, with the help of Paul who put together an on-line refresher course for those who have attended before and those who are now need a renewal, we are playing catch up to get everyone renewed and up to date.

Some did the St John's course on line while others have done the On-Line Refresher course that Paul put together (and was approved by County), this being classed at Module 10a. We have also put together a session Module 10b to cover the practical side and actually using the AED.

It is good to hear that face-to-face Scouting can resume, so if any section is working on their Emergency Aid badge, please remember, I have the Annies and very happy to come out with the AED. I must say, that Cubs really enjoy using the AED. I have had some really good feedback from Leaders and Parents who had held such evenings before lock down.

What I would say is, carry a **Mask and gloves** in your First Aid Kit **and or pockets**, and do not be afraid to stop and help someone in trouble. Remember the golden rule for **CPRNO KISSING!!**

I would like to say '**thank you**' to Paul Mortimer our Paramedic Tutor from East Anglia Ambulance Service; for the time he spent putting together the on-line refresher course; and David Matthews our Training Manager for updating Compass and informing me of those who need to renew their 1st Response.

JOHN RAILTON - DISTRICT FIRST AID ADVISER

WANT TO JOIN?

A system to help parents find Scouting in their area. First introduced by Scout Association and adopted in our District in 2013.

W2J (Want to Join) is a process set up by Head Quarters some thirteen years ago which of course included 'Training' for the role. Parents log into the Scout site and complete a W2J form. HQ then send it to the designated co-ordinator for your District, in East Grinstead this has been me since the scheme was set up. I receive requests either by HQ, through our own web site or quite frequently by our designated telephone line.

Even though we have had the lock down times we have been busy with people wanting to join, not just Beavers but several for the cub, scout and explorer sections. In total I have processed 88 requests and still have a few outstanding who have not replied when I have asked for further information or which night or the week suits you best, or for Beavers a Saturday morning.

Most groups are fantastic at responding when I send through a W2J.

Some new Parents do not understand we are all volunteers, they expect a place immediately. I do politely explain we are not a 'club' and we do have waiting lists some longer than others.

How can you help me? Firstly, let me know if you have any changes in the group, who I should be sending the W2J's to. Some Groups have one person looking after the waiting lists for all the sections, which doesn't work particularly well. While others, I send directly to the section Leader and this I must say is where the system works best. Give me some idea on a regular basis how long your waiting list is and if you have changed your meeting days or times. That way I can answer the Parents questions before sending their details to you. Once you have made contact with the family, please let me know, so that I can close my file, keeping within the GDPR guidelines.

I am working to the way that HQ expect and try to respond to Parents within a 48-hour window.

I would like to finish my report by saying 'thank you' to those Leaders who really engage with W2J, you know who you are and long may you have full sections and long waiting lists.

Lynda Railton – Want to Join Co-ordinator



Did Covid put paid to Scouting in East Grinstead???

Not a chance

We have a fantastic team of adult volunteers who have made sure that young people have been able to continue their Scouting journey.

Scout headquarters followed the UK youth guidelines and introduced a Red, Amber, Yellow, Green system.

Red meant no face-to-face Scouting so weekly meetings went ahead on Zoom with some very clever, interesting and new ideas taking place. Who would have thought you could have a virtual camp.

Red also prevented all adult only, Scout Network Units and Scout Active Support Units (SASU) from meeting as well as all the usual Group and District events from taking place.



When we moved to Amber limited outdoor only Scouting was permitted but still prevented the Network and SASU meeting. This change required Risk Assessments to be produced by the Scout Groups and approved by the Scout District. Unfortunately, no nights away were permitted

This was a new experience for our volunteers with the Section Leaders needing to provide covid safe program Risk Assessment, their Executive Committees having to check and approve it as well as create a Group Covid Action plan.

Scouting next move was to surprise us when they introduced a new Amber+ which then allowed for meetings with limited numbers indoor. This change meant where a Scout Group have their own HQ the Executive committee needing to provide a Covid safe building for the section to use. Scout Groups renting buildings needed to get to a Covid risk assessment from the owners and creating their own Covid risk assessment.

By the time of writing, we have now moved to Yellow with unlimited numbers indoor and outdoor with some nights away permitted and the adult sections able to meet.

At every change the Scout Groups needed to update their risk assessment and reissue it for approval.



Peter and David had the task of reviewing and approving the risk assessments for the

District.

We would like to thank the Groups for their time in producing and updating these and for their patience with us when we had the difficult task of reviewed and approved them

Peter Smith and David Matthews
District Risk Assessment Reviewers

The Last word (As always) comes from our District Commissioner

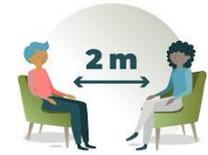
Well what a year of Scouting ! When I look back at the Annual report of last year, we had just stopped Face to Face Scouting and were all contemplating what it would mean to Scouting. I am pleased to say that as scouting does, the fantastic leaders we have in the district powered on and delivered an absolutely fantastic range of virtual events for our members – Thank You, the number of parents who commented to me that Scouting was their child’s favourite time of the week shows that what you have achieved over the year was special. I would ask every leader just to take a moment to reflect on this and understand what it means.

As I write this year’s report, we are just coming out of restrictions and Nights Away Experiences have just restarted. Despite lots of challenges, Scouting in East Grinstead has survived, yes our

numbers are down by an estimated 20% (which is in line with what Scouting has seen Nationally), but as the sections started to open up, the numbers, particularly in the Younger Sections, are bouncing back.

One of the biggest challenges that we all faced as we worked to get the sections back to Face to Face Scouting in a Covid Safe environment, was the need to get into place

Risk Assessments, for all of us this was a task that needed to be done to comply with the Scout



Association guidelines. No sooner had we sorted the Risk Assessments for one Status, the rules changed and we needed to change the Risk Assessment !

I know that this caused a lot of discussion in the district and thank you to all for working through this, at the time of writing, I am not aware of any Covid related incident that has been sourced back to Scouts Meeting, which I suggest shows that the measures put in place helped all to meet in a safe and secure environment – Thank you. Before I move on from this, I would like to thank David Mathews and Peter Smith for the hours they have spent on the Covid Risk Assessments, at last count I believe that this was in excess of 75 individual submissions.

Much of the Scouting for the year was, as we all know, Online and On Screen, I have been astounded by the innovation of leaders and the



program ideas, commitment and drive to keep Scouting connecting the Young People. Who knew that “Pizza in a Mug” existed !

One of the highlights of my own online Scouting was the district “Pancake Event” with in excess of 60 members all cooking and flipping pancakes at home at the same time, thank you to the District Youth Commissioners for putting this event together. I know this was the easiest clean up of any Scout Cooking evening that I have been involved in, I am not so sure all the parents felt the same.

This year is, as most will be aware, my 5th year in the role and I have decided to stand down at the end of my term and give the opportunity for someone else to pick up the baton to take the

district forward. The role has been challenging at times but I have enjoyed the time as District Commissioner. This will not be my last role in Scouting and I am considering how I can get back to a role where I can work closer with the young people.

So, as I sign off my last report as DC, all that remains is for me to say a big thank you to the GSL's and the district team who, as ever, continue to do much in the district to keep the governance of Scouting on track and I look forward to seeing you in some new role in the future.

Mel Fletcher - District Commissioner



Scouting Through Lockdown

By Aelwen Lavictoire

Executive member Cophthorne Scout Group

In March 2020 the whole country stood still, Coronavirus arrived; it was making us ill. Shops, offices and schools - all had to be shut. No longer could the Scouts go along to their hut. No dancing, no swimming, no football, or gym, The chances to meet friends, increasingly slim. Boris was saying "stay home everyone." "No more going out, no more having fun." Children who loved to go out and to play, Now had to stay in for day after day. The parents all wondered; what could be done, To allow their bored youngsters to still have some fun?

To see all their friends, and still get to share news, To be creative and work hard for the badges they choose.

Then came the answer; they were always prepared. The unmentioned heroes who continually cared. Scout Leaders weren't phased by this new way of life,

They changed and adapted to this medical strife. Wide games and gang shows were all put on hold, But the show would go on, the youngsters were told. A knock on the door - who could it be?

A jolly Scout Leader with an activity bag for me! Full of crafts and chocolate and fun things for us all. Scouts would still go on with a lively Zoom call. Scavenger hunts all over the house,

The excitement of Scouts with the click of a mouse. An RNLI visit, a reptile or two -

Great things to do when we can't get to the zoo! Making pizzas in mugs and carving from soap, Quizzes, Lego and catch-ups that helped us all cope. Maybe we couldn't camp out with our friends, But logged on in our dens, the fun never ends.

Looking back, this pandemic will be one to remember...

For Scout Leaders who made it fun for every Scout member.

With challenging activities, you really impressed - Scout Leaders of Cophthorne you really are the best!

Adult Volunteer Service Award

How proud of our fantastic Leaders and Adult Supporters should we be.

76 members have recently been recognised for the number of years' service contributing a total of 1110 years between them - HEARTFELT THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS to each and every one of you.

You really do make the difference and make us all so proud.



Benjamin Fletcher, Justine Nix, Amanda Ashman, Anita Kanasra, Anne Hammond, Carly Longstaff, Edward Kessell, Elaine James, George Philips, James Walters, Jane Berry, Lance Brown, Laura Bowler, Mark Hammond, Sarah Murrell, Matthew Playford, Peter Luxford, Sue Williams, Rebecca Hardcastle, Sara Bentley, Sylvia James, Tony Parsons, Tracy Roberts, Victoria Vator



Anne Hammond, Gary Chisholm, Michael Prince, Lorraine Parrett, Mark Hammond, James Allen, Paul Constable, Barbara Groat, James Naylor, Joanne Herbert, Jonathan Parrett, Julia Ward, Mark Freeland, Sion Parrett, Sue Hudson-Cook, Willem Kool



Karen Mann, Robert Marsh, Rowan Carter, Adrian Coomber, Allie Poole, Claire Goold, Ian Grantham, James Milne, Robert Goodbrand, Sarah Coomber, Sue Mangan



Charlotte Marsh, Esther Cheesmur, Kelly Young, Nigel Hewitt, Robert Freeman, Suzanne Few, Gillian Creek



Martin Groat, Nigel Williams, Peter Smith, Peter Few, Richard Bunning, Amanda Marsh



Beryl Williams, Frank Willard, Graham Parsons, The Late - Maureen Sanders, Terry Jones, Paul Stocker, Simon Williams



Andrew Ruxton



Heather Furminger, Ron Trumpeter