

1st Newfield Scout Group

It's been a strange year for everyone, but due to covid and the lock down Scouting has changed from the usual practical fun face to face meetings to on line activities. When the lockdown first started we had a full scout group of 55 young people. Over the months many young people dropped out of on line activities and we watched membership dwindle, despite all efforts to keep them engaged.

Our three times a year camps we cancelled and we are still waiting for the go ahead to recommence our camps. Hopefully this might mean that we can restart in October 2021.

Funds have dwindled over the past year too. The group still had to pay equipment insurance. Despite no face to face meetings, we still had to pay our public liability to the Scout Association which halved group funds.

We were to return to face to face scouting on Thursday 25th February 2021, but another lockdown was announced, so April 15th 2021 was our first meeting back with Covid measures in place. As you can imagine numbers were reduced at first, but we are slowly building these back up, with new members joining all the time.

The Group is extremely grateful to the parish council for paying the school rent fees initially in advance for 2020, which as we did not use this last year due to the lockdown. This funding is now being used this year as we have returned to face to face meetings. This money will help us build up our funds again from subs, while not having to worry about paying the school fees for the use of the premises. So I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of everyone, to the parish council for supporting us in this way. It has made a difference to us being able to continue normal scouting activities without having to worry about funding.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. I am sure that you will appreciate that impact that scouting has on young people's wellbeing following this difficult time. We are working hard to ensure that all young people in our area have the chance to return to normality with the chance to join the scouting experience and challenges.

I would like to invite members of the Parish council to come along and see what the group is getting up to. We would love to see you.

Thanks again for your support. We look forward to a brighter scouting future due to your support.

Chris Grimwood

1st Newfield Group Scout Leader