

The last year has still been quite challenging, as it has all taken place with varying Covid 19 pandemic restrictions. The Winter camp in March 21 could not take place, but in April we were able to start outdoor meetings on the Green. There was bad news that Fairlop Activity Centre was not going to reopen and had not been maintained during the pandemic. We took part in a vigorous campaign with Bancroft's Scout Leaders to get it reopened which was successful and it opened again in June. We wanted to provide as much boating experiences for the Scouts, having missed a whole season, so we were pleased to be able to use ESSA at Nazeing, who provided excellent facilities and training for 6 weeks. Thanks to all parents and leaders for taking the Scouts to and from the centre, half hour journeys each way. At the end of June, we were able to return to Fairlop and meeting the same great instructors from previous years.

We were able to run our first camp again in July as part of the Group's activity day, with Beavers and some Cubs joining in. After much uncertainty, we were able to run our summer camp at Blackwell Adventure near Bromsgrove. Following closely after this camp we were able to hold an Autumn weekend at Skreens Park, near Writtle to replace the cancelled Winter Camp. Particular thanks to Ian and the other Leaders and Helpers who ran all these camps in a short period of time.

There are currently 37 Scouts in the Troop, having taken in another 6 new members as a few had resigned as a result of the pandemic. 16 Scouts were invested in the year. We encouraged Scouts to complete badge work at home, including nights away indoors and once face to face meetings were permitted badgework slowly returned to normal. We awarded 3 Chief Scouts Gold Awards, 49 Challenge Awards and 145 Activity badges.

Thanks to all our Leaders who helped maintain their enthusiasm throughout the online meetings, particularly to Ian Linsdall, Dominic Stinchcombe, Lauren Stratton, Tom Bever (who commuted from Durham for the camps) and Ewan Linsdall who now has become a Section Assistant with the Troop., Both Ewan and Tom qualified as Dinghy Sailing Instructors at Fairlop and now have Scout Dinghy and Powerboat Activity Permits. Fred Johnson joined our young leader team of Cora O'Dwyer and Tom Allen. Special thanks to Pete Hayward, Rachel, Robert and Pete Whitelegg, Sarah Cheeseman and Catherine Johnson for their support during our camps, which could not have taken place without them.

Petchey Young Achievers Awards were won by Finn Allen - £250 which was spent on the Activity Day in July, Joe Bever also £250 spent towards the Young Leaders' Winter Camp fees and Henry Hitching £300 which will pay for most of the fees for a Scout Regatta at Fairlop in April.

It is hoped that the twice cancelled Offshore Sailing weekend around the Solent will be able to go ahead in May, also a weekend camp at Thriftwood in early July, and the next Summer Camp is booked to take place at Woodhouse Park Scout Campsite near Bristol in August.

Alan Crook – Scout Leader