

The last year has been completely different as it has all taken place under the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions. Apart from 4 outdoor meetings in September/October, we have held weekly online Zoom meetings, initially 2 times a week until August. Each week we managed to come up with different programme ideas using online games. As a result we have retained Scout membership at about 90%, around 30 Scouts. Over the February Half Term we held a Virtual Camp with over 20 Scouts taking part. This included making indoor "dens" to sleep in, making crafts, cooking a full English breakfast and making & cooking burgers – thanks to parents for their support supervising these activities. We also organised and produce a "Virtual Water fight" video with over 40 members of the Group taking part, thanks to Tom Bever for putting it all together..

We invested 18 Scouts during Zoom meetings during the year and encouraged Scouts to complete badge work at home, including nights away indoors or camping in gardens. We awarded 5 Chief Scouts Gold Awards, 21 Challenge Awards and 162 Activity badges.

Thanks to all our Leaders who helped maintain their enthusiasm throughout the online meetings, particularly to Ian Linsdall, Dominic Stinchcombe, Lauren Stratton. We were inspired by our Young Leaders: Tom Bever who has now become an Assistant Scout Leader, and Ewan Linsdall as they advised on the IT required and came up with a huge amount of activities and games. Tom Allen joined us in the summer as a Young leader. Nick Woodhead & Sarah Cheeseman have continued to support us during the year.

Petchey Young Achievers Awards were won by Ewan Linsdall and Olivia Gray during the year, each contributing £250 to the Troop which will be spent on an Activity Day in July 2021 when hopefully camps can be held again. We are pleased that Finn Allen has just gained the award in April 2021.

Our Leaders took an active part in the campaign to ensure that Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre remained open after the staff were told they would be made redundant. We were pleased that Redbridge Council has pledged to reopen FOAC in June and that 26 new dinghies have been ordered. The current plan is for the Scouts to use ESSA Centre at Nazeing from April to June and then FOAC when it opens for the remaining sessions.with sailing and canoeing each week.

It is hoped that the Offshore Sailing weekend around the Solent will be able to go ahead at the end of June and the Summer Camp at Blackwell Court campsite in August (postponed from 2020). An autumn weekend has been booked for October at Skreens Park, near Writtle as well as a Winter Camp there in February 2022.