



WARMINSTER



# Scouts

Group AGM Report

Scouting Year May 2020 to Aug 2021

## GSL Report Year 20/21

I would like to start by thanking everyone involved in Warminster Scout Group (WSG).

As a fully voluntary organisation, the time and effort individuals put in to providing the quality and quantity of activities is outstanding, considering the time and social constraints in normal life.

One thing the last 18 months has shown us, is the resilience of the human character, and the ability to adapt. ZOOM has been an experience not just for the Young People, but also a challenge for the Leadership team as well, it's amazing how many times you can get our young people to run around their houses finding "something with spots", or "something orange". The challenge was always met with interest and enthusiasm.

These recent strange times, whether they become the new norm or not, have seen us as a Group, particularly the Leadership and Exec excel in new approaches to the delivery of Scouting in Warminster and the surrounding villages.

The last Scouting year has been challenging, for me personally, yet the development of the Group into the largest in Wiltshire West District has again been rewarding for us all.

Welcome to Group to Dan, Maxine and Emily all whom have joined us over the Spring/Summer from far and wide. Thank you for joining us and expanding what we can offer.

Taking our youth membership from 126 (2020 Census) to 132 (2021 Census), and we continue to grow, with current numbers;

Beavers – Two Colonies;

- Wednesday's – Youth - 26, Adults – 2
- Thursday's – Youth – 23, Adults - 4

Cubs – Two Packs (same evening)

- Youth -36, Adults – 6

Scouts Two Troops;

- Wednesday's – Youth – 15, Adults – 5
- Thursday's – Youth 23, Adults – 4

Explorers

- Youth – 12, Adults 3

Growth and Development is key, and we are now pulling together a Growth & Development plan, to maintain and continue with establishing provision to youth members.

Quality Programme (reflected in Top Awards)

Cubs – Two Silver Chief Scout Awards

Scouts – Seven Chief Gold Awards

General overview of the Group has been up to e.g. activities, camps, etc.

Between ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM

Scouts Foraging  
Scouts Wide Games on Arndown  
Scouts activity evening with WOLT at Thoulstone Park  
Cubs attended District Scrapheap Challenge  
Beaver Olympics at the Scout Hut

In the last three months post COVID-19 Lockdown the sections have been slowly coming back to face-to-face Scouting. Challenging but achievable.

We held our Summer tidy-up at the hut, preparing for the coming term, clearing out and tidying up the store. We will be purchasing a new Mess Tent and replacement tentage for the younger sections.

We received a gracious gift from an old Scouter who unfortunately passed away, and left the Group a legacy of £2,000. Malcolm Tydeman Cooper (late) of 8 Merrington Rd, Bomere Heath, Shrewsbury, was a Scout with Warminster in the 1950's. We've thanked his family, and intend to dedicate the new mess tent to him when purchased. Scouter "Gone Home"!!!! BRAVO...

Summary (The Numbers for SY20/21):

- 1 "Impressed" Group Scout Leader (Me)
- 2 Chief Scout Silver Awards
- 3 New Leaders
- 7 Chief Scout Gold Awards
- 15 months of lockdown Scouting.
- 25 Uniform leaders
- 39 Group Occasional Helpers
- 132 Youth Members (6 more than last year)

Summary (the words):

It's been a great fifteen months; I would like to thank the outgoing Chair and Treasurer for the continued support and effort in keeping us all on the straight and narrow. Michelle (the Groups rock) as Secretary, those remaining members of the Exec, and of course the Section Leadership teams for all the voluntary support provided over the fifteen months.

We remain the largest Group in the District both youth membership and Leadership. However, we need you to join the Executive Committee as the Group does not run itself, your help is genuinely needed in a support role, I can't express this enough, we need an Executive committee, who are in part parents of our young people. Your guidance, support and help is what is critically needed – so please volunteer and you can also gain;

**"Skills for Life"**

And finally, especially to my wife (Dawn) and my boys (Jack, Ewan & Rylie) for putting up with the many hours on the computer and time spent away from them doing what I enjoy.

YIS

Russ  
GSL

## Warminster Beavers Report 20/21

As we are all aware it is the summer of 2021 and it is time for the Groups' AGM and as summer has arrived and brought yet another year to an end a Beaver report is required, so here we go!

2020 ! as the old saying goes " That was the year that was " and it certainly was a year. Since our last AGM report, a year ago, a lot has changed. No Face-to-Face meetings, no events but a big change in how we have carried on scouting. Virtual scouting!

The children appear to be enjoying themselves and by the time of the AGM we will be running below full capacity. (22 Beaver Scouts) We are anticipating that another 3 Beavers will move up to Cubs at the end of July with only 2 possible children coming in to replace them. This will mean that our numbers will be down to 21. As reported two years ago extensive work was carried out on the waiting list which, regrettably by October 2019, the numbers had increased to the list holding 54 names of which 17 are not of joining age (i.e. over 5 years and 9 months), 3 are over 8 years of age and 6 have already reached the age of 7 years and quite possibly miss getting an invitation before they are 8 years old.

At the beginning of 2020 a second Beaver Colony was formed and runs on a Thursday and this has reduced our waiting list. Although there are a dozen names on the list only two are of joining age. One is being offered a place in the Thursday Colony (because she has friends in that Colony) and the other is not responding to an invite to join the Wednesday Colony.

We, the Beaver Scout Leaders, are grateful to the helpers/parents who have given up their time to help at each meeting. Our thanks, once again, go out to them for their time, support and input.

We are still supported and assisted by several parents on an Occasional Helper basis. It may look as if we are now well covered with adult helpers this is not necessary the case as help is always appreciated. So if you can give a little of your time come speak to us, we will always welcome you. Our thanks also go out to those parents who helped on occasions when the need arose. A note for this year is that we desperately need adult/parent helpers now.

September 2020. The new term saw us start with 24 Beavers registered but as we started virtual scouting through ZOOM we soon discovered that online scouting did not suit all. Consequently, we did not have 24 children taking part in virtual scouting. However, our numbers started at 14 and week by week they did increase until we were averaging 18 children at each session. We found that we had to adapt to online working and our weekly programs were much different to our pre-lockdown programs.

October The District Beaver sleepover at the Boomerang Club in Melksham cancelled. The District are going to repeat the sleepover again this October. (Covid 19 permitting). As half term approached we adapted our procedures so that we could

allow the eldest Beavers to swim up to Cubs and found that we could use a very similar procedure online.

November As we are all aware there was no Remembrance Day Parade this month.

December As with so many events there was no Christmas Tree Festival at the Minster Church nor was visit to the West Somerset Railway to travel on the "Santa Express" at Cranmore.

January/February The District Christmas/New Year party did not take place this year.

March Regrettably the District Flag Challenge set for the 21st was cancelled as were all events and programs after that date.

May. With the lifting of some restrictions we are now returning to Face-to-Face meetings although we have restricted each week to only half of the Colony. Our system of alternate weeks for the Beavers to attend was successful and the children appeared to be happy to return to semi proper attendance. As it was a success we decided to hold our final meeting of the term in the grounds of the hut and invited all Wednesday night Beavers to attend our "Beaver Olympics". We had a very good attendance with 19 Beavers coming along for some fun and exercise. We were very pleased that a lot of parents decided to stay and join in with our games. This meeting, we hope, will be the basis of how we now move forward with the full Colony in attendance starting in September.

We are pleased to report that with the Thursday Colony now running with 24 Beavers, full capacity, the numbers on the waiting list, as reported above, have now reduced to zero.

The future of the Warminster Beavers looks very promising with such high numbers which indicates that there is a strong interest in scouting in the town.

Elizabeth Williams, Kate Rayner and Nigel Hodges  
Beaver Scout Leaders.

## Warminster Cubs Report 20/21

The cub group has 2 packs currently with 36 attendees and planning for a further 12 new cubs to be invested over the next few weeks.

This year has been a very difficult one, at the beginning of lockdown we sent home various challenges for the cubs to do whilst at home, many completed them and managed to achieve badges.

We then went onto zoom for our weekly meetings which was quite exciting and very challenging. Through the weeks we did various amounts of handicraft, cookery (biscuits and sweets), quizzes, games, a talent show, and science experiments.

Over this time, they have gained a total of 63 activity badges and 2 silver awards. Not as many as other years but quite impressive given the difficulties they had to overcome.

But now thank goodness at last we have been able to return to face-to-face meetings albeit on a fortnightly basis but it now means that we can continue our outdoor challenge badges together.

All meetings are run in a COVID safe way and going by the enthusiasm of the cubs I am sure they are all pleased to be back.

In the last few weeks before the summer holidays we have been trying to catch up on the badgework we have missed during COVID. Along with fun things such as clay modelling, pizza making (backwoods style) and fun water games.

We took part in the District SCRAPHEAP challenge, the first district event since lockdown. The cubs did extremely well and won the trophy, they now go on to represent the district at county later on this year.

We have a very good compliment of leaders at the moment, Joan (Baloo), Ruth (Raksha), Ellie (Hathi), Ben (Chil) Jess (Young Leader) and Emily (who has just joined us). Thank you to all of them for their support during the year.

A big thank you also to you the parents for being so patient with us and supporting us along the way.

YIS,

Pam (Akela)

## Warminster Wednesday Scouts Report 20/21

Scouting Year 20/21 was supposed to be the first full year of the new troop, the impact of COVID didn't stop us one bit....

The troop has developed into a very strong collective, I'm please to report that even though more than 50% of the year was conducted online in a virtual meeting environment, we have had some fab experiences.

Jun/Jul going into the summer 2020, was held all online due to the pandemic, with us all being in isolation, this was a learning experience for the Leadership team as well as the Scouts.. Activities such as Navigation Art, follow coordinates to make a picture, to discussing the weather and what makes it happen through the Meteorologist badge". Completely wildlife surveys for the Butterfly Trust and RSPB.

We finished of the summer by actually being able to hike from Westbury White Horse to Warminster (The first Troop in the District to get back to face to face, before Lockdown2).

Autumn Term 20/21 was very difficult, between the heavy rain storms, cancelling evenings because of the flood, to night hike foraging on Copheap...

Lockdown2 starting Nov20 meant that we we're back on ZOOM, with virtual sessions of Local Knowledge and Map reading.

Winter Term 20/21 still online with the focus Mental Health issues, as a challenging but relevant programme theme. And testing my communication skills in teaching Origami over ZOOM.

Spring Term 20/21 again initially still online we had Alex Statham from Explorers leading as the Dungeon Master for a couple of evenings of Dungeons and Dragons role-play games over ZOOM, Elves, Dwarfs and Wizards!!!!

Summer Terms 20/21 we were back together Face to Face planning and completing the practical elements of some of the badges done over ZOOM, with a Blue Plaque Trail challenge developed by Daniel one of our Young Leaders. A Point-to-Point navigation exercise on Arndown. And a Pioneering Challenge with a difference "Toxic-Dino Eggs" ....

We also joined up with the Thursday Troop for a number of evenings activities including Wide Games on Arndown, and a fabulous three hours evening with WOLT at Thoulstone Park, Climbing, Kayaking and Archery. It was really great to see both troops mixing.

Thank you to Alan, Adam, Jody, Jenny and Mia for their time and support, without them the section would not run...



And to the Scouts, you are a great bunch of youngsters who have stuck at something, whilst the world was in complete turmoil, seeing your facings each week during those dark lockdown weeks was an absolute pleasure, with you interacting, and scrambling off to find something spotty or orange in colour, was a pleasure to watch....

Thank you.....

#### Summary

- 2 Chief Scout Golds
- 5 tired Leaders
- 15months since the last AGM
- 27 hours of ZOOM Section meetings
- 68 Badges Awarded

## Warminster Thursday Scouts Report 20/21

2020 will be remembered for many reasons and in Scouting as the year that developed many peoples technical #SKILLS FOR LIFE.

I am very proud that with our supportive team of volunteer leaders, Thursday Troop were able to continue providing a fun and fulfilling programme throughout the most challenging times - not always easy to entice young people to engage virtually after a day of virtual schooling.

We prepared and delivered a varied programme to be as inclusive as possible with sessions covering knots and pioneering projects, fire lighting and survival skills, lots of navigation, outdoor safety and emergency aid. We celebrated the start of summer with a virtual tropical party decorating t-shirts and making cocktails and kept occupied when Duncan hand-delivered the Op red Sky Summer Challenge packs and at Christmas made gingerbread houses virtually!

Some of our best sessions though were the Scout led sessions with Scouts preparing games, teaching and sharing skills and knowledge about farming, origami and sign-language.

We were also fortunate to arrange a few external speakers to our virtual scouting sessions including the Parliament Outreach Team, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the amazing Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The Scouts have focussed on the Global Issues Badge and Survival Skills and Personal Challenge with many achieving badges towards the Chief Scout Gold Award and raising funds for various charities.

Unfortunately, the CSG Expedition could not take place in 2020 but Five Scouts achieved the Chief scout Gold.

The Scouts and Leaders have thoroughly enjoyed getting back to face-to-face Scouting when possible and practiced the navigation skills with lovely evening WARMINSTER hikes from the White Horse Hill to Warminster, collaborating with Wednesday Scouts for wide games and an activity packed evening at Thoulstone with WOLT, What3Word walks organised by our amazing Young Leaders and developed sharps skills and learnt about the laws about using knives, saws and axes safely.

We have survived this challenging year and are much better equipped and prepared should the need to Scout virtually again arise (hopefully not)!!

### Summary

12 packed months of Scouting.

5 Chief Scout Awards.

23 Scouts on the books at the start and end of year.

0 Nights Away - but planning May Camp 2022 now!!!