

Scout Report 2020 -2021 Annual General Meeting

Total Scouts – 42

Leaders – 7

As we come out of what has been one of the most challenging years ever for Scouting, it is pleasing to report the Woodcutts Scout Troops are at their strongest ever.

At the onset of the pandemic and when it became clear that normal troop nights were not an option, the whole leadership team committed to doing their best for the young people and to provide Scouting in whatever form was possible. This positive approach was demonstrated throughout the year and saw Woodcutts being the first to run virtual camps in the District and the first to return to face to face scouting. There is no doubt that we are very fortunate to have a fantastic meeting space that makes this possible, but it only really happens because of the desire by the leaders and commitment from the young people.

When signing up for Scouting, neither the young people nor leaders anticipated that most of the last 12 months would be spent on zoom meetings and little chance to venture outdoors. It was remarkable how many joined each week for the online programme and did so with good cheer and enthusiasm. The use of zoom actually allowed badges to be completed that would ordinarily be a challenge to co-ordinate, one memorable evening being Scouts sharing the computer programmes they had written and their own youtube channels.

The Leadership Team also seized the opportunity, with all Scout Leaders now achieving their Wood Beads. During a recent County Training Team event it was noted that when others had rested during the pandemic, Woodcutts accelerated their training, and set ourselves up for future growth. A huge thanks to Naomi for leading the way on training and for Skip supporting all leaders in all sections.

A big part of the Scouting Year is the camps and it was with sadness that we had to cancel our much anticipated trip to Belgium and then our 2021 Summer Camp to Cornwall. However, demonstrating the spirit that has been in abundance for the rest of the year, a summer camp of sorts will be held in 2021 and we all look forward to enjoying the sense of friendship and fun once again.

Looking ahead, it is quite foreseeable that the Troop numbers will hit 48 in the autumn term. We have run with more than 24 in a Troop before, but know that the quality of Scouting depletes if the troop goes much beyond this size. This means that, almost unbelievably, we may have to start planning for a third troop.

Our thanks, as ever, for the support from the parents, committee and the ASU. Our thanks, more than ever, to the amazing young people that have kept going during the most challenging of times and remained in good cheer and committed to Scouting.