

Eastcombe Scout & Guide Group
2020 AGM 20th Aug
Chairman's report – 11th Aug 2020

General

- * For the first time ever, we have had to close the Hall. Covid 19 has created a heavy toll with all activities suspended and lots of uncertainty about when and how we open-up activities.
- * Since the 2019 AGM we have suffered several disappointments, namely the loss of three sections - Friday Beavers, Thursday Cubs & Brownies, in essence all due to the lack of leaders.
- * Whilst officially the responsibility of the District we welcome the presence of Rob and his Explorers who we wish to treat as full members of the group.
- * The remaining sections have flourished and some have undertaken regular Zoom contact throughout the lockdown - great.
- * Thanks to Sheila Ponting for dealing with Hall Lettings over the years she has now passed the duty onto Jean Ashworth who volunteered for the job, thanks Jean.

Finance

- * The group is in a reasonable stable financial position moving forward with significant income during the year from regular hall hire, Gift Aid and a welcome surprise rate rebate of £10,000 from the council/government as a result of Covid-19.
- * A thank you to Tony Dendy for his work as treasurer in keeping us afloat dealing with and collating the necessary auditing, administrative & banking paperwork in particular for presentation to the charity commission also for securing substantial Gift Aid cash.

Equipment

- * During the early part of the year, Mary Lodwig took the role of QM reviewing and cataloguing the group's equipment. Numerous items were repaired or replaced also a number of new items purchased. The group is now in good shape for everyone to have a full range of equipment for Guide & Scout activities. Many thanks' Mary a job well done.

Hall Maintenance

- * The flooring in the entrance hall, kitchen & meeting room has been replaced.
- * A 5/6 camera CCTV has been fitted by D Logwig, necessary to monitor the outside space, thanks David
- * Thank you Tony Dendy who regularly deals with (sometimes irritating items) of everyday regular odd jobs like light bulb replacement, minor electric issues, toilet rolls etc etc.

Group administration

- * We welcomed Lottie Dalby, Guide District Commissioner as our Group Guide Leader and thank her for her important input to date.
- * Thank you to GSL David Lodwig for several initiatives regarding present day IT administration that also provides scope for future enhancement. His work also includes a new Group web page - **Eastcombe.org.uk** – basically a Group information page that can and will be further developed.
- * Thank you to all executive members and leaders for their commitment and voluntary work throughout the year that's something we will need to continue as we move forward into life with Covid.

Covid-19 & Opening-up.

- * A small "reopening group" has been formed to oversee the necessary compliance work required by both Guide & Scout Associations and the government in opening up the hall for sections and the *all important outside users and their much needed income*. The results of the Groups discussions and proposed actions have been issued as consultation documents prior to being implemented. Thanks for your efforts folks – a good job.

Succession

- * Having been a member of the Group for over 40 years and held a numerous Scout/Group positions I believe it is *time* for me to step aside for a *younger* more energetic individual to fill the role of Chairman. Someone who can help to take the Group forward especially under the influence of a more recent new leader(s) regime. *Please give this subject some thought and step forward if you are able to help.* However I would be happy remain attached to the Group as a committee/supporting member.

Any issues with above please advise me directly.

Keith Walker Chairman
Eastcombe Scout & Guide Group.
11 Aug 2020
01453 731495