

## Eastcombe Scout and Guide Group

### Group Scout Leaders Report August 2020

The year began well enough following on from our previous AGM despite the closure of two sections in the proceeding year, I had a slightly renewed outlook with all the remaining sections having volunteers and looking reasonably healthy. There was a downturn in our census figures, but again this was down to the loss of two sections from the usual cause, the lack of volunteers.

The lockdown announced in March however put many plans on hold, but brought the group some positives these where,

1. An additional 10,000 pounds in additional funding from the government, which has proved invaluable in supporting sections lost income, and works to prepare our headquarters for reopening.
2. The executive moved to online meetings, which have doubled in productivity.
3. A working group was formed to organize our reopening, which brought members of the group together in new ways not seen before for a while.
4. Some of the sections met online.

The kicker to all of this was the announcement by Gilwell that capitation will be increased by £7.50 per youth member, thankfully the group has reserves sufficient to support sections in meeting this cost. I am yet to hear if the county portion of the capitation will increase.

It has not been the year we were expecting, however I find myself working closer with the group guider than ever before and sharing a vision for the group as we move forwards, the same can be said about the sections on both sides who have worked together to help get the group open, surely this can only bode well for the future.

Yours in Scouting and Guiding

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