



1st Shelfords & Stapleford Scout Group

Scouting actively engages and supports young people (girls and boys) in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. It is where young people make new friends, have amazing adventures, and learn new skills.

In Shelford we are very lucky to have a very successful Scout Group which like all Scout Groups is run entirely by volunteers.

Like every organisation the pandemic has been a challenge but, in the spirit of Scouting, our volunteers and young people have risen to this challenge. With the adults finding some very imaginative ways of running activities in order to keep going safely whenever it has been possible hence the long list of great activities below. This is also probably why our membership has stayed reasonably stable with the current numbers being:

18 Beavers

19 Cubs

30 Scouts

Whilst we have excellent leaders, we could do with extra volunteers so that we can do more. In addition to leaders, we also need more volunteers in supporting roles as the work needed to support a successful Scout group seems to grow every year!

In addition to what the Group has been up to we would like to thank the Parish Council for replacing the doors and windows on the HQ (located at the rear of the Memorial Hall) which we share with Guiding. This has made the building look much smarter.



6 to 8 years old

- Making bird boxes that are now in the trees in the Copse on the Shelford Recreation Ground;
- Learning about Crayfish, bats and trees on Little Shelford Recreation ground.
- Learning about Fairtrade, disability and endangered species.
- Visiting the Fire Service in Sawston and getting to play with the hoses!
- Going to a Teddy Bear hospital and learning about X-rays, Plaster casts, good nutrition, importance of exercise, Emergency Services, First Aid in a totally inspiring way from Addenbrooke's Junior Doctors.
- Using the country paths and parks locally to go on hikes.

- Putting up tents, toasting marshmallows, cooking pancakes over a candle and whittling sticks with big knives!
- Basic bicycle checks, safety and bike riding.
- Lots of activities on Shelford Recreation Ground, including a scavenger hunt, water safety, numerous wide games and navigation skills.
- Science experiments.
- Learning about international issues and other countries – by way of food, flags and Beavers' uniforms.
- First steps at independence at a Beavers' Sleepover.
- Making a wreath and laying it at the village Remembrance Sunday parade, marching and holding the Beaver's flag.
- The Beavers have also done some of their Personal Challenges including Clip n Climbing and Ice Skating.

cubs 8 to 10½ years old

The Pack continued with short fun Zoom sessions during the lockdowns.

As soon as we could meet outdoors, we ran games, fire lighting and cooking sessions, hikes and cycle rides. Choosing locations where we would likely be alone or away from the general public to reduce risks. We also managed to get the Cubs on the water to enjoy a kayaking session.

Once we could use inside facilities, we moved back to the HQ building, initially we met outside on the really valuable small pockets of grass in front of and beside the HQ where we could have easy access to the HQ facilities, but be in a "well-ventilated area". We continued like this until October half term, using the lights from the HQ, the tennis courts and portable floodlights in the darker evenings. This area is a great resource for the Pack to keep the "OUT in ScOUTing". During this time, we worked on rebuilding the Six structure, teaching teamwork and team leadership, basic Scouting skills like knotting and pioneering.

Once the requirement for social distancing was removed, we moved back inside the HQ (it was too cold to be outside) and have since completed Emergency Aid (stages 1 and 2) and Scientist badges.

Scouts 10½ to 14 years old

Despite the pandemic, the Scouts have had a busy 2 years. Highlights include:

In the early stages online Troop meetings.

We encouraged sharing of photos to keep a sense of community.
We even held a virtual summer camp - where the Scouts camped in their gardens and everyone followed a planned weekend programme of activities. These included skinning and preparing rabbit, which leaders had dropped off at the Scout's homes.

Once the situation started to ease and outdoor events were allowed other socially distanced activities included:
Cycling to Abington where we built fires and cooked smores (marshmallows between chocolate digestives)
On a second occasion we even tried to cook pizzas on a spade!
Building cookers from soft drink cans.
Kayaking on the river Cam

Last summer we held a day camp at Trumpington – as we wanted the Scouts to experience elements of camp, even if they could not stay over due to Covid rules. Having refreshed our tent pitching skills, we cooked venison and vegetables in a hangi - a large hole, into which we placed heated steel bars and the food, once this had been re-filled the heat cooked the food. We also built and floated rafts and the Scouts learned how to chop wood safely.

The Scouts also built bird boxes, following a design from the RSPB, in the hope of encouraging more birds into the villages. We encouraged scouts to put these up in their garden and gave any spare to the RSPB.

We have recently returned from a winter camp - our first residential camp for 2 years! Here Scouts practiced their archery and air rifles skills and prepared and cooked a pheasant etc. The survival skills part of the programme included how to make a signal fire and a water filter.