



Scarf Annual Report 2020

Scarf Committee Members 2020

Chair—Gary Morgan

Vice Chair—Paula Williams

Treasurer—Bob Burney

Secretary—Debbie Morgan

General Committee Members—Jenny Gloady and
Kate Reeve

Trustee—Lynn White

What Scarf does

Scarf supports families living in the New Forest who have a child/young person with additional needs through organising regular term-time and holiday activities for the children/young people and their families.

Scarf aims to meet the needs of the disabled child, but also to recognise the impact on the whole family, particularly siblings, who also need fun and support. Parents and carers particularly value the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation and share experiences and gain support.

Term time activities include a **Drama Club**, a **Youth Club** and a Saturday morning **Multi Sports Club**. During each of the school holidays Scarf runs a **Holiday Programme** of fun activities for children/young people with special needs as well as their siblings to take part in. We also run regular **Scarf 2** activities for young people from age 15-25 years, usually during the school holidays, with the aim of offering fun and social activities for young people to take part in, supported by Scarf support workers.



Achievements in 2020

4 different Holiday Programmes with 17 activities in total (Easter Hols and May Half Term cancelled)

10 face to face Youth Club Sessions + 9 Zoom sessions

12 face to face Multi Sports Sessions + 25 zoom sessions

11 face to face Drama Sessions + 18 zoom sessions

2 Scarf 2 Activities

6 face to face Girls' Group Sessions + 11 virtual sessions

70 families joined up as Scarf members (including 9 new members)

£14,382 fundraised this year (grants and donations)



2020 - This was a year no one was expecting. All Scarf activities were paused on 17th March due to the pandemic. However, despite staff being furloughed, we kept in touch with our members and were able to put on some virtual sessions during the first lockdown, and were back in business with a summer programme, albeit more limited, over the school holidays. Our Multi Sports resumed face to face briefly during Sept/Oct, with an October half-term programme, followed by more online sessions during the second lockdown. Sadly lots of fun plans had to be cancelled or put on hold, but we are ready to hit the ground running as soon as it's safe to do so in 2021. We also found time this year to work on a re-brand with an amazing company called Glow, who redesigned our logo (incorporating a simplistic scarf design) & leaflet & helped us improve our website. We love the new logo and hope you do too!

"This is the first year that we've joined and I am so pleased as we met other local families and got to enjoy so many fun activities. I value highly your time and effort in organising all these activities for us and being so accommodating as I would struggle or be unable to do it myself. Huge thank you!"

Scarf Clubs and Activities

Holiday Activities – we organised 3 different holiday programmes this year (unfortunately our Easter and May half-term holiday programmes had to be cancelled due to Covid). We were delighted to be able to put on a Summer Programme, albeit at the very last minute, and more limited than usual. Much thought and planning went into ensuring activities were safe for all participants and social distancing could be maintained. New guidelines were written for families, providers' risk assessments checked closely and our own re-written. Despite all the limitations, over 40 families were very keen to get out and active again with Scarf over the summer. All the activities were outside, we had smaller groups or often ran two sessions. We used old favourites (like the sea water baths and canoeing), as well as braving some new ones, including walking the alpacas, which was a big hit despite the heat-wave! We were also able to put on a programme of activities during October half term before the November lockdown.

"The Youth Club and Multi-Sports zoom sessions have been a life line for my son during these tough months. They have enabled him to interact and stay connected with his friends, have fun and keep fit, all very important, but even more so now. To be able to see his friends and chat to them was fantastic. He looked forward to joining the sessions each week and really enjoyed being part of them. His "lockdown" life would have been very different without them."

Scarf 2 Activities— our aim is to offer young people (15-25 years) with additional needs a range of fun and social activities to take part in during the school holidays, supported by Scarf support workers. We were only able to offer two activities this year—skiing in February and Halloween Archery in October—but had great fun at both and hope to do much more in 2021, and be able to bring back the legendary Scarf 2 Christmas party again!



"Scarf makes us feel less isolated, and I know that everybody will understand if there's a melt-down which would be considered odd by the outside world. Everyone is friendly and supportive. The activities are also good value, so we do more activities than we otherwise would".

Youth Club— our Youth Club normally takes place on Thursday evenings during term-time at New Milton Rugby Club and is for young people from 13-25 years. We were only able to put on 10 sessions at the start of the year before the lockdown arrived. We paused activities after that, with staff furloughed, however in October trialled some zoom youth club sessions with Jen and Susie at the helm. These have proved to be a great success, with 9 young people regularly attending. The sessions offer time to chat and catch up, as well as a play games like bingo, a scavenger hunt, a quiz, etc (often with prizes posted out afterwards, which the young people have loved—see above photo!). We will continue with these sessions until we are able to meet face to face again, as keeping the young people in contact with each other is invaluable.

Saturday Morning Multi Sports— Our Multi Sports Club is for 7-19 year olds with special needs. We managed to run 5 Taekwondo and 3 basketball sessions before the lockdown began in March. To keep things going during lockdown The Gym Tin ran some amazing virtual fitness sessions on Zoom. We were able to get back to face to face sessions with tennis in Sept/Oct, with smaller group sizes. With November's lockdown we were back to zoom again with families enjoying doing Taekwondo in their living rooms with Nic from New Forest Taekwondo. Online sessions don't suit everyone, but have been much appreciated by a number of Scarf families, often with parents/carers and siblings joining in too. All these sessions are part funded by Hampshire Short Breaks.

Epic Drama— takes place on a Monday evening during term time for over 10's with additional needs. Jackie from Atticus Arts run our drama club, and post lockdown we kept the club going via zoom sessions, producing a couple of fantastic videos of the groups' work. The challenges of zoom drama sessions for some of our young people have meant that we have put drama on hold for now until we can meet again face to face, hopefully in 2021, as our drama sessions are extremely valuable for both children/young people and their parents/carers.



Girls Group Sessions— these sessions followed our 3 pilots in 2019 and are for girls experiencing issues around socialising and isolation and who were finding it difficult to access Scarf activities. The aim was to offer simply a safe and positive place for girls to relax and be themselves with others who may be in a similar situation, helping to build confidence and self esteem. We were able to offer 6 face to face sessions, and then moved onto zoom sessions— unfortunately zoom was difficult for some participants so we had a few drop out. We are now using JusTalk Kids app (using messaging rather than video) as a way of getting together and we offer bi-weekly sessions so that the girls can stay in touch during the lockdowns. Some of the girls now chat informally with each other outside these sessions, which is lovely to hear.

Fundraising in 2020

None of Scarf's activities would be possible without the very generous individuals, families, companies, charities and trusts who have given their time and money to us! We are so grateful for every donation we receive. Scarf could not run without you. Thank you to...

Hampshire CC Short Breaks Funding
 Sally and Rick Coombe's Yard Sale
 Solent Radio Control Model Yacht Club
 Goodalls Strawberry Farm Honesty Box
 The Wondering Hillbillies
 Milford on Sea Community Committee
 New Milton Residents Association (Community in Action)
 Chapman Charitable Trust
 Waitrose Lymington
 Tampon Trust Community Fund

Our fundraising total in 2020 was £14,382

A special thank you goes to **Jo Williams**, who has served on Scarf's Committee for many years, most recently as Scarf Secretary, but also as Membership Secretary. She stepped down in 2020, but is still a Scarf member and always coming up with brilliant new ideas for Scarf activities. She has also been integral in raising money for Scarf through the support she gives to her parents, Rick and Sally Coombe, in their fundraising efforts. THANK YOU JO!



Membership During 2020 we reached a total membership of 70 families—a bit lower than our usual level of around 80 members. We believe that a number of families didn't re-join this year due to the pandemic. We hope to see them back as members next year, and were delighted to welcome 9 new families this year, despite everything!

To join Scarf, families must live in the New Forest area (we go out as far West at Christchurch and as far East at Totton) and have a child (aged up to 25 years) with special needs. We have kept the membership cost to £20 per annum for several years now.

"As a mum of a child with additional needs I found it reassuring to join Scarf knowing that I would meet other parents with similar experiences. Communication is great and we are always given the information we need to access activities. Being part of scarf has helped my son work on his social skills which is something he struggles with. By being able to share these experiences with his siblings they can help him to make new friends with other Scarf members as his confidence builds. We are very grateful to be part of Scarf and look forward to accessing other activities and events in the future". (2020 Summer Feedback)

Thank You's

Thank you to the amazing team of people who support Scarf's work either in a paid or voluntary capacity.

Scarf Staff

Katy Bailey (Scarf 2, Meet and Greet)
 Ruby Biddiscombe (Youth Club)
 Faye Brace (Multi Sports, Youth Club, Girls' Group)
 Ellie Dibdin (Youth Club)
 Lucinda Dowson (Programme Coordinator)
 Casey Flaxman (Youth Club, Multi Sports)
 Charlie Hayter (Multi Sports, Drama)
 Thomas Hind (Youth Club, Multi Sports, Drama)
 Jennifer Hood (Youth Club and Multi Sports Coordinator)
 Joel Hood (Youth Club)
 Susie Jacobs (Youth Club and Multi Sports Deputy)
 Maria Minarikova (Multi Sports)
 Cerys Williams (Youth Club, Multi Sports, Drama, Girls' Group)

Volunteers

Paul Reeves (Youth Club)
 Izzy Moody (Drama)
 Kezia Thorne (Youth Club)

A big thank you to all the staff who took part in face to face activities this year during the pandemic, and those who have committed to Zoom and on-line activities over these past months. Also thank you to **Karen Brace** who is our Parent Rep and passionate supporter of our Multi Sports Club. Finally thank you to the parents/carers who gave up their time to be part of the **Activities Focus Group**, supporting Lucinda in evaluating past and planning future programmes: Paula Williams, Cathy Smith, Jill Barnett, Jenny Gloady and Maria Budd.