



Supporting children with additional needs, relatives & friends

Scarf Annual Report 2021

Scarf Committee Members/Trustees 2021

Chair—Gary Morgan

Vice Chair—Paula Williams

Treasurer—Bob Burney

Secretary—Debbie Morgan

General Committee Members—Kate Reeve and Cathy Smith

Trustees—Gary Morgan, Paula Williams, Katy Bailey and 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, share experiences and gain support.

Term time activities include a **Drama Club**, a **Youth Club** and Saturday morning **Multi Sports Clubs**. During each of the school holidays Scarf runs a **Holiday Programme** of fun activities for children/young people with additional needs as well as their siblings to take part in. We also run regular **Scarf 2** activities for young people from 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 2021

6 different Holiday Programmes with 48 activities in total (Feb Half Term delivered via Zoom!)

16 face to face Youth Club Sessions + 16 Zoom sessions

16 face to face Multi Sports Sessions + 16 zoom sessions

7 face to face Drama Sessions

7 Scarf 2 activities

6 virtual Girls' Group Sessions

76 families joined up as Scarf members (including 23 new members—a record year for new members!)

£20,000 fundraised this year (grants /donations) and an additional £9,500 already received for projects in 2022.



2021 - It was a while before we could get together face to face, but we made the most of it once we could. With the winter 21 lockdown we were unable to meet in person initially, but kept in touch through our Zoom Youth Club and Saturday morning Multi Sports on-line with The Gym Tin, virtual Girls Group sessions and even a Feb Half Term zoom programme. Fortunately we were able to physically get together with face to face activities for our Easter Programme and all the holiday programmes after that felt more like pre-pandemic times! We felt able to re-start our Multi Sports again in June with some outdoor tennis sessions, and waited til late July to re-start our Youth Club after what seemed like a long time not being together (well over a year in fact). Fortunately, staff have remained with us and we were able to get back into the swing of clubs with ease! In quiet times we've worked on enhancing policies and procedure, updating ever-changing covid guidelines and risk assessments, and done plenty of fundraising!

"Being a member of scarf has help us access new activities with confidence and try lots of different kinds of things that we probably wouldn't have ever tried such as go karting, paddle boarding and rock climbing. Trying these kind of activities with other parents is so rewarding—the buzz after go karting for the drivers and the parents was brilliant."

Scarf Clubs and Activities

Holiday Activities – thankfully we were able to organise lots of brilliant activities for families this year, with the vast majority of sessions being outside. The holiday programme worst affected by Covid restrictions was our Feb Half Term programme which was delivered via Zoom (but we still managed to do zoom street dancing, singing, print-making and sports!). Hopefully our zooming days are over although it has been a useful tool to keep us in all in touch. To start meeting face to face again much thought and planning went into ensuring activities were safe for all participants and we were always following current government guidelines. Our own Covid Guidelines were constantly updated for families, and risk assessments continually re-assessed. As summer approached we were deluged with new members, which showed how keen families were to get out and about again, and access activities together with other families. Activities included lots of old favourites as well as some new ones we will re-visit, including Foot-Golf and Go-Karting!

"Being members of Scarf makes a huge difference to our family and is invaluable to us. It allows us to participate in lots of fun activities with like minded families and gives our son so many opportunities to try new things (and old favourites) whilst socialising with old and new friends. Multi-Sports, Youth Club and Scarf 2 activities are great as they give our son the chance to do something without us and give him a bit more independence for a while".

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 able to offer 7 brilliant activities this year including archery, foot-golf, the Forest Bus, Avon Tyrrell, canoeing, Snowtrax and the legendary Scarf 2 Christmas party! All activities involved eating together socially (either a picnic or a meal) as well as the activity.



"Our son has now left all educational settings so Scarf will be a huge part of our family for the next few years, enabling our son to access and try lots of new things. Everyone we have met at Scarf so far have been wonderfully friendly and welcoming".

Youth Club— We started off the year continuing with the Zoom Youth Club sessions, which were invaluable in enabling the young people to stay in touch with each other. Ellie Dibdin volunteered to run some additional zoom chat sessions which were also fantastic. We finally got back to face to face sessions in late July, choosing a new venue for the summer months at the Life Centre, Tiptoe, which has a lovely and safe outdoor space. We've been back at New Milton Rugby Club since November, which has been great as it's the perfect space for our group in the winter months. We have a couple of new team members (Janine and Ollie) and currently don't have to wear masks, which is great news as they are not very popular at youth club! We continue to follow government guidelines, keep everything clean and update our RA's.

Saturday Morning Multi Sports— After many months of zoom sessions with The Gym Tin (which lots of parents also bravely joined in with), we were able to start face to face sessions in June with tennis, and have since done cycling, taekwondo and The Gym Tin. Our big Multi Sports news for this year is that we've started a second club for ages 18-25's with Energise YOUTH/Sport England funding, so we are running two sessions on Saturday mornings to cover all ages (split by 7-17's and 18-25's). It's been fantastic having a sporting offer for our older young people as this is super important in helping the young people stay fit, as well as having fun socialising with their peers. We'll continue to seek funding so that this can carry on.

Drama Club— our Drama Club re-started in September, after about a year with no sessions. It's great to be back in action and we have a new drama teacher, Toni, who's doing a fab job with the group of young people who come along, together with two support workers. Many of the previous group have come back and we also have a couple of new young people who have joined in. It's still very early days, but we are looking forward to seeing some drama sharings once they've had time to get settle in. We are now based at Ashley Junior School, on Monday nights—parents/carers stay for the sessions (but they go upstairs for a coffee and a chat).

Girls Group Sessions— we continued offering some virtual sessions for girls during the winter lockdown. The group is aimed at girls experiencing issues around socialising and isolation and finding it difficult to access Scarf activities. The aim is 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 hope to be able to offer some more sessions for this group during 2022 as we have lots of members with girls in the 12-18 age group, many are not currently accessing our term-time clubs.

Fundraising in 2021

None of Scarf's activities would be possible without the very generous support of individuals, families, companies, charities and trusts who have given their time and money to us! We are so grateful for every donation we receive. Thank you to...

Hampshire CC Short Breaks Funding

Sally and Rick Coombe's Yard Sale

Goodalls Strawberry Farm Honesty Box

Keyhaven Christmas Carol Concert

Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation

Bournemouth Zoom Tri Club

HiWCF—Made by Sports Clubs in Crisis

Peter Brown's Funeral Donations

Sporting Bears

Sophie Sampson's London Marathon Fundraising

Burry Charitable Trust

HiWCF Recovery Fund (Youth Club)

WBL Services Ltd (staff Christmas donation)

Energise YOUTH Funding/Sport England (MS over 18's)

Our fundraising total in 2021 was almost £20,000



Membership During 2021 we reached a total membership of 76 families. We had a huge intake of new members this year with 23 new families joining (mostly just before the summer holidays, showing how much families value having accessible activities during the long summer break). This was a record number of newbies and we welcome them all! Many came via word of mouth from current members - please keep spreading the word.

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 additional needs. We have kept the membership cost to £20 per annum for several years now.

"Through Scarf my daughter has an awareness that she's not the only young person who is different and this affords her inclusion. It enables her to feel relaxed in a non pressurised, friendly environment & see others who are affected with greater levels of difficulties. Her confidence has grown hugely & her membership with Scarf has been a major contributor to this".

Thank You's

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

Scarf Staff

Katy Bailey (Scarf 2, Designated Safeguarding Lead), **Faye Brace** (Multi Sports, Youth Club, Girls' Group), **Janine Chebli** (Youth Club), **Dan Colein** (Multi Sports), **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), **Reuben Kendall** (Multi Sports), **Maria Minarikova** (Multi Sports), **Ollie Tubbs** (Youth Club), **Cerys Williams** (Youth Club, Multi Sports, Drama, Girls' Group)

Volunteers

Paul Reeves (Youth Club), **Izzy Moody** (Drama), **Tillie** (Youth Club)

A big thank you to all the staff who took part in face to face activities this year despite the on-going pandemic, and those who have committed to Zoom and on-line activities early on in the year. Thanks also to **Karen Brace** who is our Parent Rep and passionate supporter of our Multi Sports Club. Finally thank you to everyone from the Drama group of parents/carers who helped with the Scarf entry for the Lymington Christmas Tree Festival, in particular **Paula Williams**, **Cathy Smith** and **Nicola Timms** and also **Jo Williams** for making the beautiful crocheted snowman's head.