



Supporting children with additional
needs, relatives & friends

Scarf Annual Report 2022

Scarf Committee Members/Trustees 2022

Chair—Gary Morgan

Vice Chair—Paula Williams

Treasurer—Bob Burney

Secretary—Debbie Morgan

General Committee Members—Kate Reeve, Cathy Smith,
Nicola Timms, Elina Zotova, Linda Cohu, Elaine Williams
(also Health and Safety Officer)

Trustees—Gary Morgan, Paula Williams and Katy Bailey
(also Designated Safeguarding Lead).

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 additionally 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 social as well as enjoyable activities for young people to take part in, supported by Scarf support workers.



Achievements in 2022

6 Different Holiday Programmes with 57 activities in total

37 Youth Club Sessions

28 Multi Sports Sessions (for 2 age groups, 7-17's and 18-25's)

34 Drama Sessions

8 Scarf 2 activities

95 families joined up as Scarf members (including 36 new members)

Over £34,500 fundraised this year (grants/donations).



2022 - We've had an extremely busy year in 2022. We hope everyone has enjoyed all the activities they've come along to and that new members have felt welcomed to our group. We've very much enjoyed the freedoms of life post Covid restrictions, but are still mindful of it's continued existence. Lots of members have been actively engaged in supporting us in different ways this year, whether on the Committee or helping with our September fundraising event, or the Christmas Tree Festival. Special thanks go to Vivien Mills, a parent who raised around £5,000 for Scarf after swimming 10.5 miles across Lake Windermere this summer. Also big thanks to Molly Gunn (daughter of our Chair & Secretary) who put so much time into the September fundraising event which raised an grand total of over £3,300 (and was a lovely day out too). And thanks to Linda Cohu for helping get started some parent/carers support meetings, which we hope to develop further in 2023.

"Scarf is a big part of our lives. It gives our son so many opportunities to do lots of different activities both as a family and independently, socialising with other young adults whilst trying new things and having a great time, which is very important for him."

Scarf Clubs and Activities

Holiday Activities — School holidays were busy times for Scarf with high numbers of families attending numerous activities. We programmed in lots of old favourites as well as plenty of new activities including skateboarding, Yoga Trapeze, Animal Assisted Therapy, the Solent Dolphin boat trip, Exbury Christmas train, the “Justin Live” show and Trainmaster. We tried to ensure there were plenty of activities for younger members as we have more younger children as members than in previous years. The bouncy castle and Trainmaster activities were particularly targeted at these groups and were really popular. We’ve changed our booking system to ensure activities are no longer allocated on a first-come-first-served basis—families are given a week to make their bookings and then where activities are over-subscribed, they are allocated as fairly as possible to ensure everyone gets something. With over 20 extra members we had some waiting lists, but hopefully everyone got to go on the most of the activities they wanted.

“Our son has very complex needs and Scarf is the one of the few safe spaces and fully accepting groups we have access to. Scarf enables our son to enjoy many activities that he otherwise may never have had the opportunity to try. Scarf is amazing and much needed in families like our lives.”

Saturday Multi Sports — We’ve offered a big variety of sports this year, including ball-skills, tennis, basketball, cricket, cycling and fitness with The Gym Tin. We’ve continued running two clubs with a younger and older age group, and have secured funding to continue with both of these club during 2023 (via HCC Short Breaks and Energise YOUth/Sport England funding streams). It’s sometimes challenging finding coaches available on Saturday mornings, but we are committed to doing so, and are always keeping our ear to the ground for new coaches/instructors who may work well with our groups. We’ve enjoyed having some new young helpers this year who have lots of energy and enthusiasm!



“Scarf is amazing. We've been able to access things we never would have been able to normally. The support from other parents has been so beneficial. Scarf has provided friendships and support for us all as a family.”

Youth Club — Another great year for our Youth Club, with numbers rising and rising so that I think we are probably at full capacity at the moment with over 20 regular attendees! There’s usually around 17 young people each week. We have a great team of support workers and volunteers helping out, including 2 young helpers who are volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. We have continued to use the New Milton Rugby Club as our autumn/winter venue, then use the Life Centre in Tiptoe during the summer months, with it’s lovely, secure garden.

Drama Club — Our drama club is based at Ashley Junior School, on Monday nights—parents/carers stay for the sessions (but go upstairs for a coffee and a chat). We have around 10 young people who regularly attend. During 2022 we’ve had a fantastic drama teacher, Toni, who did a fab job with the group of young people who come along, together with two support workers. The sessions culminated in an amazing performance of Alice in Wonderland in the theatre at Forest Arts Centre in December. We are sadly losing Toni as our teacher, but look forward to working with Emma from January 2023.

“It enables my daughter to gain confidence, build friendships and have a go at things she’d not usually try. It helps to meet likeminded parents too. It means so much to our family that we can access activities when it is quieter and just for scarf families.”

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 8 brilliant activities this year including climbing, bowling, a boat trip in Hythe, motorboats at Tucton Bridge (a first!), the New Forest Bus with a stop-over for pizzas, skittles and the legendary Scarf 2 Christmas party! All activities involved eating together socially (either a picnic or a meal) as well as the activity.

Bob Burney, Scarf Treasurer—a special thank you!

We wanted to say a very special thank you to Bob, our Treasurer, who is stepping down from Scarf after volunteering in this role for 20 years. When Bob first started at Scarf there was £250 in the bank! Things have gone from strength to strength, and he has been with us all the way. We can't count the number of hours Bob has spent working on Scarf's financial comings and goings, sorting out the payroll, the end of year accounts and making sure everything's in order for the Charity Commission, and the list goes on! It is hugely appreciated and we know he won't be going far, and will always stay in touch with Scarf. We're very sorry to see Bob leave the role of Treasurer, but also excited to welcome Geoff Walker who is going to be taking over from him.

Fundraising in 2022

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. We can't name them all but thank you to...

Hampshire CC Short Breaks Funding

Sally and Rick Coombe's Open Studio & Yard Sale

Goodalls Strawberry Farm Honesty Box

Ringwood and Fordingbridge Lions Club

Co-op Community Fund

Vivien Mill's Windermere Swim Fundraiser

Burys Charitable Trust (Holiday Programme)

Lymington Rotary Club

Scarf September Fundraiser Fete

HiWCF Recovery Fund (Youth Club)

Scott Bailey

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

Magic Little Grant (Drama Club)

Sway Carnival Donation

Keith Craze (New Milton Mayor's Charity of the Year)

NF District Council (via NFDC Chair, Alan O'Sullivan)

New Forest Line Dancing Club

Our fundraising total in 2022 was over £34,500

"It makes activities accessible. Knowing we won't be judged and there's adequate support means we try things we wouldn't normally try. Being affordable also opens up opportunities to try things."



Membership During 2022 we reached a total membership of 95 families, which is significantly more families than last year and a record number for Scarf. We were delighted to welcome 36 new families to Scarf this year. Many came via word of mouth from current members - please keep spreading the word.

We have slightly redefined the area families need to live in—to join Scarf, families must live in the New Forest District Council area and have a child (aged up to 25 years) with additional needs. However any current members living outside this area can continue to be members of Scarf. We increased the membership fee this year to £25 after being kept at £20 for many years. We also have a concessions fund for any family to access who may be struggling financially.



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) **Janine Chebli** (Youth Club), **Dan Colein** (Multi Sports), **Ellie Dibdin** (various clubs), **Lucinda Dowson** (Programme Coordinator), **Casey Flaxman** (Youth Club), **Sue Flaxman** (Youth Club), **Charlie Haytor** (various), **Thomas Hind** (Youth Club, Multi Sports, Drama), **Jennifer Hood** (Youth Club and Multi Sports Coordinator), **Susie Jacobs** (Youth Club and Multi Sports Deputy), **Reuben Kendall** (Multi Sports), **Maria Minarikova** (Multi Sports), **Izzy Moody** (Drama), **Ollie Tubbs** (Youth Club), **Cerys Williams** (various)

Volunteers

Karen Brace (Multi Sports Parent Rep), **Josie Heavey** (Youth Club DofE), **Paul Reeves** (Youth Club), **Oliver Timms** (Drama), **Max Wakley** (Youth Club DofE).

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 **Kate Reeve**, **Cathy Smith** and **Nicola Timms**.

Future Plans for Scarf 2023 and Onwards

Following the success of splitting the multi-sports activities by age we have decided to continue with this in the coming year, wherever possible. This has proved a great success in terms of how a session has been operated/lead and has had the added benefit of enabling some of our older members to learn what it takes to become a support worker by having them assist younger members in their session. Our hope would be, that going forward, this will result in more of our older members becoming paid support workers for Scarf.

We are currently exploring the opportunity to set up another youth club but this time over on the Waterside on the east of the New Forest. A venue and support staff have not been identified yet but with so many new and existing members living in the Dibden Purlieu, Hythe, Hardley area, it is appropriate that we continue to investigate options for clubs and activities on this side of the New Forest.

We are always looking for new activities for members to try, so if you have any ideas that you wish us to explore then please forward your suggestions to Lucinda.

As we have grown as a charity it has become apparent that our original constitution needs a full and thorough review. In the past we have altered or adapted minor parts of the constitution, but we now agree that we need a fresh set of eyes on this governing document. Our plan is to set up a sub-group lead by Treasurer, Geoff Walker and consisting of committee members and family representatives. If you are a parent or guardian of one of our members and would like to be part of this review, please can I ask that you contact Lucinda who will be able to give you more details. As you know Scarf is parent led so we really value your input into this process. We also understand that your time is precious and may be limited so we will try not to make this review too onerous.

We have been working with Katy Bailey, Trustee of Scarf, to develop a training plan for new support workers. The aim is to help develop individuals to ensure that they understand their role and its responsibilities. Whilst we have an excellent team in place this training will act as a refresher for the current team and will be a great asset in the induction and development of new support workers.

As the Cost of Living crisis continues to grip the nation, we have tried our best to make our activities and clubs as affordable and accessible to all members. We have been able to do this largely through the committee's fundraising efforts and a group of dedicated members and supporters. Our aim is to continue to fundraise so that we can operate Scarf as effectively and efficiently as possible. We will also aim to increase the value of our funds set aside for the Activities Concession Fund and the Membership Hardship Fund. If you or someone you know are interested in fundraising for Scarf, then please understand that every penny counts, big or small. So, whether that be a cake sale, a sponsored swim or running a marathon, rest assured we will use any money raised for the benefit of members. Alternatively, if you know a company who may help sponsor an activity or club then please let us know as we would be happy to talk to them on behalf of Scarf.

