

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sawston Scout Group Report

Good evening. I'm Mike Tapson the current Group Chair of 1<sup>st</sup> Sawston Scout Group. Primarily I'm here this evening to thank Sawston Parish Council for providing grants to us over the past 2 years to help facilitate the annual operating costs of our group. Our expenditure just to function excluding equipment and activity costs, is more than £6000 a year. These are difficult times financially for everyone now and of course covid has had a major impact so we are extremely grateful to have been given these grants.

I would like to just give you a little background on scouting so you can hear how we value any contributions we receive. The scouting movement has been in existence for over 100 years, not so long in Sawston though with our earliest sections formed in the early 1960s. We currently have Beaver, Cub, and Scout sections with nearly 70 children supported by 10 adult leaders and a fund-raising Executive committee.

The uniforms and the evolving approach to developing 21<sup>st</sup>. century learning through social and practical skills, via a programme of fun and adventures, may have changed but the ideals of guiding young people towards positive citizenship have not. Sleepovers, camping, cooking, water activities, crafts and sports, teamwork, problem solving, communication and responsibility, all help build skills for life.

Our group also provides support to community events such as tentage for The Fun Run, the Rotary Club for their Kids Day Out event and previously a presence at village fetes and late-night shopping.

Sawston has sustained a very real and local scouting tradition and I believe Sawstonians have and do recognise that all our youth groups offer our youngsters a real chance to participate in the continuing social well being of the village.

Scout leaders voluntarily give 37M hours every year to scouting an estimated worth of £380M. So finally, I would like to appeal for any adults who would like to become leaders or helpers within the group. I do recognise that today's lifestyle environment means huge pressures on family life, not least on fulfilling difficult and demanding work schedules for all parents and guardians.

But no matter what your age, offering your own individual or workplace skills and experience or interests and hobbies or simply just your time can be fun and rewarding to develop our Sawston youngsters.

You can have a chat with me or any of our leaders at any time.

Thank you.