



SCOUTING

SCOTLAND

'Scouts helps children and young adults reach their full potential. It develops important life skills.'

The New Recruits, page 26



Autumn 2016

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Published by The Scout Association,
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Email: scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk
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It is important to note the differing structures of UK Scouting in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, for ease of reading, this magazine refers to all variations of 'County'-level groupings simply as County.

At Scouting magazine, we make every effort to ensure that our content is accurate, complete and up to date at the time of going to press. Occasionally, inaccuracies may occur.

You can read Scouting magazine and Make. Do.Share. online at scouts.org.uk/magazine.



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DELIVERING SKILLS FOR LIFE

Welcome back! September marks the start of the new Scouting term and with that, opportunities to deliver new experiences to young people.

The theme we want to focus on in particular is the benefits we offer – enabling Scouts to develop those invaluable character, employability and practical skills that will help them succeed in life. This is the true power of Scouting and what makes us different from other organisations. It's inspiring work and I'm so proud of every one of our volunteers for making it possible.

It's been a year since we launched A Million Hands and we're so encouraged by the brilliant work we are doing as a Movement. In this issue three different Scout Groups share stories about their projects.

Scouting is growing in the UK and Groups like Craven Lea Scout Group from Hull are inspiring young people to join the adventure. We reveal the

challenges and rewards of opening Groups in hard-to-reach communities.

We also meet some of our amazing Queen's Scout Award winners and celebrate their determination and ability to push themselves to develop skills for life. Let's encourage every young person to aspire to earn it.

Acquiring new skills is just as important for our volunteers. We talk to the brilliant Dan who shares his story about how Scouting helped him back into gainful employment.

Thank you for all you do for Scouting, from inspiring the next generation to supporting your communities: we never take it for granted.



Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

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Weeheehees by Weesociety.com

 99,917 average UK circulation of Scouting (1 Jan–31 Dec 2015)

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British Heart
Foundation

GET ACTIVE, HAVE FUN, SAVE LIVES

Take part in Ultimate Dodgeball this year and raise money for your Group and life saving heart research.

Dodgeball is a great way for Scouts of all ages and abilities to have fun and get active. It's easy to learn, simple to organise and Group Leaders get a free organiser's pack worth £30 with three dodgeballs.

For more information, visit [bhf.org.uk/dodgeball](https://www.bhf.org.uk/dodgeball)

FIGHT FOR EVERY HEARTBEAT



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A PROUD TRADITION

Scouting has a long and proud history of contributing positively to our local communities. Those of us with grey hairs will remember the joys of bob-a-job week when we offered to do small jobs for 'a bob' (5p in current money). More recently, in an attempt to retain our focus on local communities, we have been encouraging you all to take part in Scout Community Week. This is a great opportunity to do a good turn and to raise the profile of your Group, Unit or District locally.

A Million Hands was launched

last year with six national charity partners. The aim: to raise awareness of their work among our members and to explore the opportunities that exist to work with them to make a real impact on our communities. I have been so impressed with what has been done by many Groups and Units. The charity partners in Scotland are: SAMH, Alzheimer Scotland, Guide Dogs, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Water Aid and the Scottish Waterways Trust.

This year's AGM and Council in

Conference on 5 November will focus on A Million Hands and Community Impact. All our charity partners will be there to answer questions and to help us to further our community impact aspirations. I hope to see as many of you as possible on the day.

Graham

Graham Haddock
Chief Commissioner of Scotland



A ROYAL VISIT

Scouts Scotland's Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre recently hosted a visit from HRH The Earl of Wessex as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) 60th anniversary celebrations.

HRH The Earl of Wessex met the Lochgoilhead team and had the opportunity to speak with young people from Scouts, and other youth organisations, who shared their stories of how DofE has made a difference to them.

'Today's event was a wonderful opportunity to bring young people together from many youth

organisations and highlight the positive contribution the Duke of Edinburgh's Award can make,' said Mike Masino, Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre Manager. 'As an approved centre for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, we were delighted to play a part in its 60th anniversary celebrations.'

The visit comes as DofE celebrates its Diamond Anniversary. Last year Scouts Scotland had a record number of participants undertaking the DofE Award, which links directly to the Chief Scout's Platinum, Diamond and Queen's Scout Awards.

AWARD UPDATES

The Scottish Zodiac Award has been updated to encourage more top-quality Nights Away experiences for young people. Now all four awards – Bronze, Silver, Gold and Zodiac Plus – are available to Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Scout Network in Scotland. The awards are to be completed in order, but no longer have to be achieved within one calendar year and can cross into subsequent years and across Sections until the requirements have been met. The Zodiac Plus is now focused on the development of nights away leadership skills in young people. Visit tinyurl.com/j5tjvue for more info.

CUBS GO TO PARLIAMENT

Over 150 Cubs and leaders joined more than 2,000 people to celebrate the official opening of the Fifth Session of the Scottish Parliament by Her Majesty the Queen. The Cubs, who were specially invited as part of Cubs100 celebrations, were at the heart of the Riding (Procession) down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh; an age-old tradition, showcasing the best of what Scotland has to offer, involving representatives from a wide range of organisations across Scotland. Cub Scout Andrew from Peebles said: 'I was so excited to get to take part in the Riding, it's the most important event I've ever been to!'



TIME TO CARE

Scouting's partner Care has created downloadable activity sheets – as well as a free expert health guide called The Little Book of Care – to equip parents, leaders and adult volunteers with basic healthcare knowledge that will help them look after their families. Visit scouts.org.uk/care to find out more, or to request a free copy of The Little Book of Care, email care@thisispegasus.co.uk or go to facebook.com/allthecareyouneed.

OUR NEW UK CHIEF COMMISSIONER

This month, Wayne Bulpitt officially passes the baton on to Tim Kidd, our new UK Chief Commissioner. Tim, who is from Abingdon in Oxfordshire, first joined Scouts as a Cub and has volunteered with the Scout Movement since 1984 in a variety of roles, at both local and national levels. In his professional life, Tim works for Jisc, a charity that champions the use of digital technology in UK education and research.

During his time as a volunteer, Tim has made an impact on Scouting through a period of significant change, working on updates to the Programme, uniform and volunteer training provision contributing to our sustained growth. Over the past few

years, Tim has focused on a range of areas including our Fundamentals, leadership and management, the complaint process, the suspension process and safeguarding policy.

Tim says: 'For me, motivated, positive adults are key to ensuring that we reach as many young people as possible, and so it's vital that our volunteers continue to be motivated and engaged in the Movement.'

'The most important thing that Scouting does is to give young people the chance to grow in their understanding of themselves and the world around them and to use that understanding to help make the world a better place.'

As a senior volunteer, Tim has

focused on supporting other adult volunteers to be as effective in their roles as possible. 'The encouragement and support Tim has given to adults working on behalf of young people makes a big difference to their ability to do their jobs as effectively as possible,' says Wayne. 'His expertise and his passion are infectious.'

Tim is excited about this new challenge. 'I am looking forward to making sure as many young people as possible can take part in the life-changing adventure that is Scouting.'

Look out for the December issue where we'll catch up with Tim as he gets into his new role and if you'd like to get in touch, contact Tim and his team at scouts.org.uk/connect.





YOUSHAPE MONTH

YouShape Month will take place throughout February 2017 and this year, rather than a national event there will be a local focus in your Region, District, Group or Unit. During YouShape Month young people and adult volunteers are encouraged to organise local youth forums, support young people to get more involved in District and Regional roles and share best practice. If you haven't already done so, now is a great time to appoint an Assistant Regional Commissioner (Youth Involvement), Assistant District Commissioner (Youth Involvement) or arrange your first Regional or District Advisory Group ready for February. Along with resources and support for the month, more information on these appointments and Groups will be published over the next few months.

Remember, Youth Shaped Scouting shouldn't just be reserved for one month a year; it is a chance to shout about the fantastic Youth Shaped Scouting happening in your area.

SIR GARTH MORRISON LODGE OPEN!

The new Sir Garth Morrison Lodge at Fordell Firs National Activity Centre is now open! The fully-accessible building, which can accommodate up to 30 people, offers en suite adult accommodation and a large dining hall/activity area with a spacious kitchen, all on one floor. Bob Broderick, Centre Warden, said: 'The new building is excellent, and really

adds to the facilities at Fordell Firs. It's great for any Group, but I think it's particularly good for the younger Sections as it has everything you need for a Nights Away experience.' The lodge is named after the late Sir Garth Morrison, former Honorary President of Scouts Scotland and UK Chief Scout. To make a booking or to find out more call 01383 412704.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Christmas Appeal is back and all donations will help our Development Grants Fund (DGF). The DGF provides vital support for young people with challenges such as learning difficulties, physical disabilities, or those who face financial hardship. Contribute by buying our 2016 Christmas badge and Christmas cards featuring Bernard the Robin and friends. By donating you help to unlock the potential of young people within the Movement. Visit scouts.org.uk/Christmas to take part.

SCOUT COMMUNITY WEEK

Scout Community Week (3–11 October) is the time to celebrate the difference that Scouts make to communities. The key to a successful project is to research your community's needs and plan your project in advance. Get involved in A Million Hands at amillionhands.org.uk – Scouts from all sections can earn their Community Impact Staged Activity Badge just by taking part. Let us know your plans by emailing us at scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk.





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SCOTTISH THISTLE AWARD

The Lauderdale Cub Scouts from The Scottish Borders recently completed the new Scottish Thistle Award – a Sectional badge for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We caught up with Andrew Beaumont from the Group to find out about their experience. 'We were really excited when the new Scottish Thistle Award was launched in January as we had already completed the previous Scottish Challenge badge, which our Cubs had enjoyed.

'The Award really appealed to us because there were so many different things that we could do, which meant we could give the Cubs a choice of activities, and it's really easy to fit them around other badge work that we were doing.

'The first activity we did was from

the 'World' section of the award – that involved organising a visit from Guide Dogs Scotland, where two Guide Dog owners (and their dogs!) came along to explain to the Cubs what the charity does and how it has changed their lives. This was really interesting for all of us, and a great experience for the Cubs who absolutely loved it.

'One of the highlights from doing the award had to be when we arranged a special behind-the-scenes tour of Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh. The Cubs had a go at commentating and then we performed 'Flower of Scotland' – which I'm sure would have received a standing ovation, had the stadium not been empty!

'We did lots of other activities as part of the award, including holding a mini Highland Games in the grounds of Thirlestane Castle; keeping a food diary highlighting Scottish foods; visiting Soutra Aisle and the remains of the House of the Holy Trinity; and reciting Scottish poems.

'All of the Cubs and Leaders had a great time, and I'd encourage other Groups to get involved. My top tip would be to look at the badges that you are currently doing and match them up with the requirements for the Scottish Thistle Award. That way you can mark down a number of badges at the same time.'

Visit scouts.scot/thistle-awards.aspx to find out more about the Scottish Thistle Award.



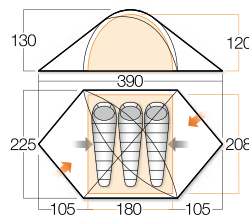
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VIEW FROM - MISTRAL 300, GLENIFFER BRAES, SCOTLAND

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HALO XD 300



300

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SINCE 1966



SEPTEMBER



25 SEPT

RSPB Cubs100 Wildlife Safari Activity Day

Various locations

Join us at various locations across Scotland for an action-packed day of nature-based fun activities for Cubs linked to Activity Badges as well as an RSPB award. Contact Judy.Paul@rspb.org.uk for further information.

30 SEPT–2 OCT

Scottish Scout Regatta 2016 Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre

Where Scouts, Explorers or Scout Network members can compete at a range of water sports. Groups take part in heats and finals to determine a winner for each discipline, as well as an overall champion Group. Costs £68. Call 01301 703217 or email info@lochgoilhead.org.uk to book.



30 SEPT–2 OCT

Gleniffer Challenge

Scout Section teams are being invited to apply for this year's Gleniffer Challenge Camp, taking place at Lapwing Lodge near Paisley. Applications should be submitted by 4 September. For more information, visit scouts.scot/event/gleniffer-challenge-camp.aspx.



CHECKLIST

Sign up to A Million Hands and lend a hand in helping to change the world. amillionhands.org.uk

Begin plans to celebrate your community impact project during Scout Community Week.

This autumn term, plan your Programme and start booking in 2017 winter and summer camps.

Queen's Scout Award holders apply for A Day Of Celebration & Achievement. tinyurl.com/hcyo92z.

OTHER DATES

23 September

Bi Visibility Day

Bi Visibility Day raises awareness of bisexuality today with different events taking place across the world.

25 September

Activity Assessor/Nights Away Advisor Workshop Wiltshire

See what it takes to be a Nights Away Advisor and help other leaders to organise unforgettable nights away.

30 September–2 October

RYA Powerboat Level 2, Great Tower Scout Activity Centre

Level up and expand your knowledge of boat handling in this two-day course.

OCTOBER

17–21 OCT

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Residential, Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre

Explore hill, water and forest during your conservation project. Participants have the chance to complete a John Muir Discovery Award and a Leave No Trace Awareness Award. Costs: £169. Email info@lochgoilhead.org.uk to book.



28–30 OCT

Cubs100 Halloween Camp
Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre

Add a spooky twist to your Cubs100 celebrations with a range of activities before dancing the night away in your scariest costumes at our fancy dress disco. Available to Cub Packs, from £59 per person. Booking available now 01301 703217 or via email info@lochgoilhead.org.uk.

28–30 OCT

Meggernie Almost Haunted
Meggernie National Activity Centre

A spooktacular camping weekend of activities for Explorers at a remote Highlands location, perfect for ghost stories around the campfire. Booking available now – email warden@meggernie.org.uk or call 01887 866231 to book.



CHECKLIST

Check that you're up to date with the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR). You'll find a full menu of resources online at tinyurl.com/z874qz2.

Now that it's getting darker a lot sooner, use the longer evenings to plan night walks, equipping your Group with torches and reflective clothing.

Download the Promise Party resource pack and start planning your own wild and adventurous celebrations – tinyurl.com/z6t569a.

OTHER DATES

3–9 October

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Talk to Scouts about Dyslexia and other disabilities and work towards their Disability Awareness Activity Badges. members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/2415/dyslexia

7–9 October

Great Tower's 80th birthday

Visit one of the oldest Scout Adventure centres to celebrate Great Tower's birthday!

10 October

World Mental Health Day

Promote healthy emotional wellbeing and support young people with mental health issues with the help of this info: tinyurl.com/jnoblhx.

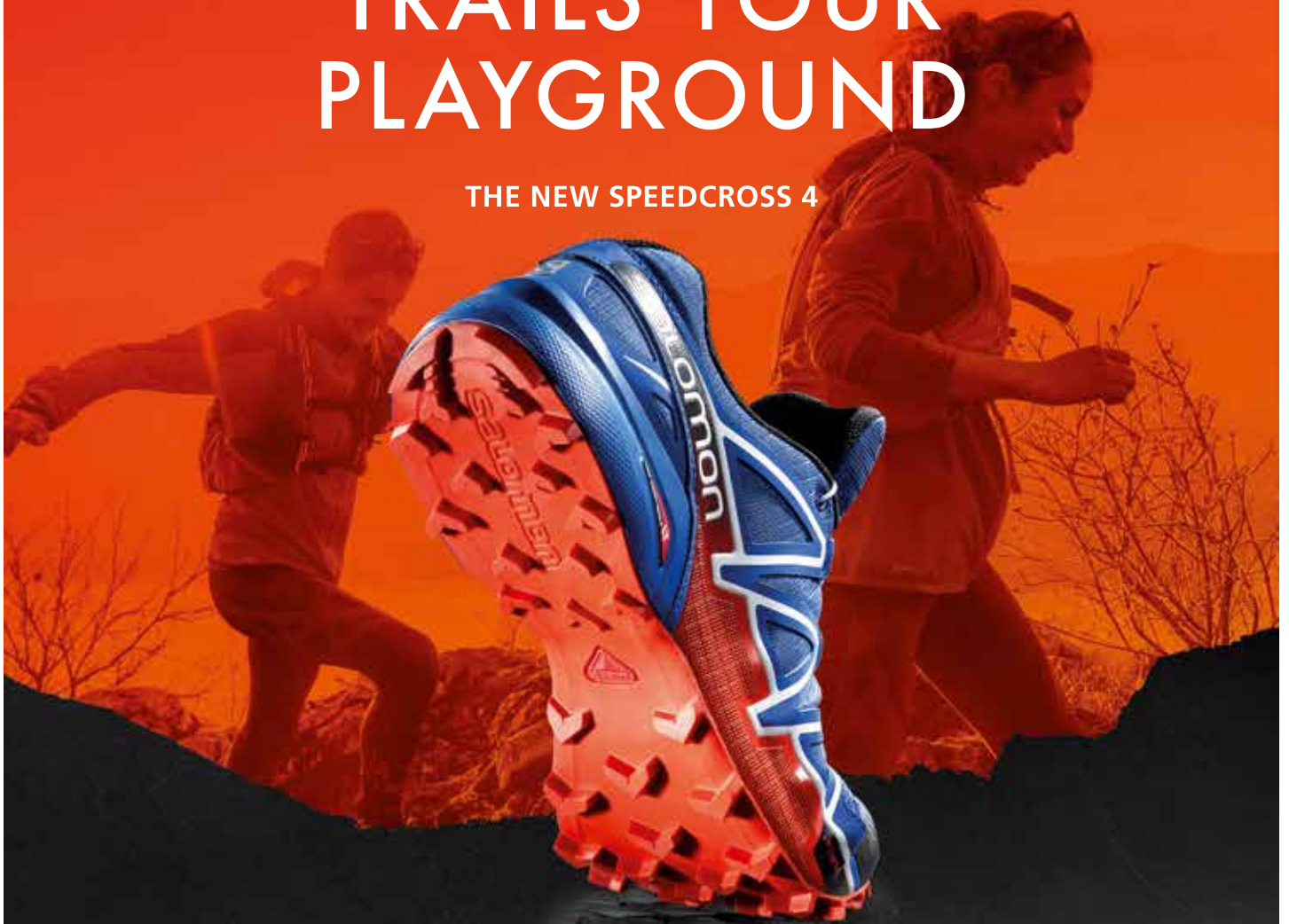


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NOVEMBER



5 NOV

Scouts Scotland AGM

This year, our Annual Review Event and AGM will be themed around A Million Hands and Community Impact. Come along to Dunfermline High School in Dunfermline, Fife, to help us celebrate the many successes of the past year. Email shq@scouts.scot or phone 01383 419073 for more information.

19–20 NOV

Raft Build Permit Course Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre

Gain your raft-building permit by successfully completing this two-day course. Cost: £69 per person (includes indoor accommodation, food and instruction). Booking available now by calling 01301 703217 or via email – info@lochgoilhead.org.uk.



25–27 NOV

BASP Two-day Emergency First Aid Course, Meggernie National Activity Centre

Earn a three-year certificate recognised by MLTB, BASI, BCU among other national governing bodies. Cost: £130 Scout/£150 + VAT non-Scout (includes accommodation, food, course fees and materials). Booking available now – warden@meggernie.org.uk or 01887 866231.

CHECKLIST

Receive your Christmas badge and Christmas cards by donating to the Christmas appeal scouts.org.uk/christmas.

Prepare for YouShape Month by getting your Scouts to organise meetings with the aim of planning their local forums in February.

Make sure you complete your DofE Diamond Challenge before 31 December dofediamentchallenge.org/log-in/.

Book a place for Winter Camp 2017 taking place at Gilwell Park and Hawkthirst Scout Activity Centres on 6–8 January – wintercamp.org.uk.

OTHER DATES

11 November

Remembrance Day

For ideas on how to hold your own Remembrance Day ceremony download the Scout Remembrance Day resource: tinyurl.com/zwaeb5p.

25–27 November

ASGC National Conference

The Association of Scout and Guide Centres National Conference brings together like-minded people from across the sector to share ideas and swap information. Call 01301 703217 or email info@lochgoilhead.org.uk to book.

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A UNIQUE BEAR, FOR A UNIQUE OCCASION

THE CUB SCOUT CENTENARY BEAR

BY **Steiff**

LIMITED
EDITION

For 100 years, Cub Scouts have promised to "do their best". And Steiff's philosophy is that "only the best is good enough". How fitting, then, that the inventors of the teddy bear have been chosen to help the Cubs celebrate their centenary.

Steiff's skilled craftsmen and women have brought this cheeky cub to life. His golden-brown fur is made from luxuriously silky soft, real mohair, and his contrasting cream-coloured muzzle gives him real character.

His adorable nose and mouth are stitched entirely by hand, and his black button eyes twinkle merrily.

Centenary necker

He proudly wears a special green 'necker' embroidered with the official centenary logo in delicate golden thread. It's secured with a genuine leather woggle and impressed with the Cubs' golden logo.

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1916
2016

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(25cm)
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The official centenary badge on the back of the necker

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ASK THE COMMISSIONERS

UK Chief Commissioner Tim Kidd and his team answer your questions: Here's what they say about suspended leaders, section sizes and Scout safety focus

The time has finally come and I am truly delighted to be handing over the reins as UK Chief Commissioner for Scouting to Tim Kidd this September, safe in the knowledge that he will be a fantastic successor.

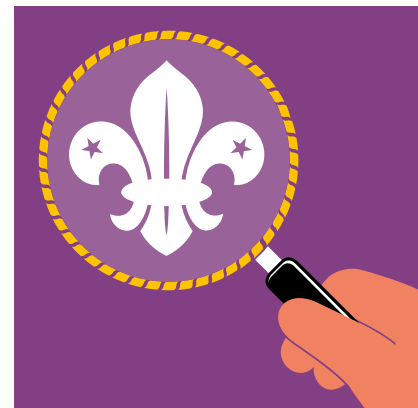
In doing so, I would just like – for one final time – to say a very big thank you for allowing me to undertake the most amazing role in UK Scouting. It truly has been a genuine privilege to travel throughout the UK and further afield meeting so many members and I'm honoured to have represented you all on both the national and international stages.

I have especially enjoyed the many opportunities over the years to meet and engage with the many thousands of you who are as passionate in your Scouting as I am.

The future is however very bright, with the Movement in a great position – even during such uncertain times – to build on its foundations and provide greater opportunities to increase the numbers of young people.

Thank you once again.

Wayne Bulpitt
Former UK Chief Commissioner



DOES IT MATTER IF OUR SECTIONS ARE SMALL?

In essence, our success breeds success, therefore one of the quality measures we have is the size of a section. If we developed all of our small sections into average-sized sections then we could give an additional 29,000 young people the opportunity to enjoy Scouting. That reduces the 40,000 young people on our waiting lists significantly, without opening any new sections. There are many young people who want to enjoy Scouting that never get the chance and many others who need Scouting and who will miss out on life-changing opportunities if we can't find a place for them.

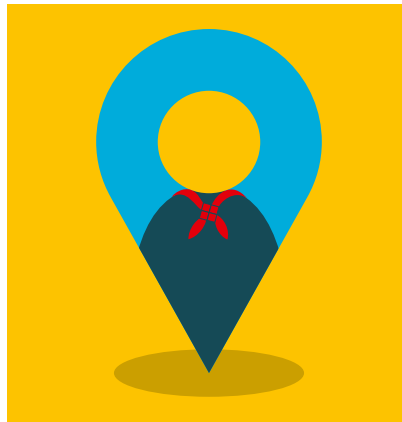
The quality of the Scouting Programme and how it is delivered ▶

is extremely important. Sections that offer a good Programme soon create waiting lists until they open multiple sections. If the Programme is good, young people stay and the Group gets bigger; if they find it repetitive or boring then they leave. As section numbers drop it becomes harder for the leaders of a small section to run a full Programme. As a result, the young people don't get to experience the full extent of Scouting, so the Programme remains limited and the section remains small.

The answer lies in the support offered by the County and the District. ACCs and ADCs have a huge wealth of experience and knowledge and are well positioned to mentor those sections in need. Success lies with the District team and Section Leaders working together on the quality Programme delivery and ideas to attract more young people. The District also has access to HQ initiatives like 'grow your Group'. It is possible to make small sections thrive again but, in all cases, the success comes from a team effort. In a small number of cases, there may no longer be a young community in the Group catchment and it may mean the Group cannot grow. In cases like these, it is easier to close the Group for a few months and start again with a fresh plan. This has also been successful in the past.

Alex Peace-Gadsby
Mark Tarry
Chief Commissioners of England

I AM CURRENTLY TRYING TO APPOINT A DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSIONER, BUT THE NUMBERS OF 18-25-YEAR-OLDS ARE VERY LOW...



Sometimes there are more people available than you think. Make sure you advertise widely on social media, as well as using traditional methods such as noticeboards, emails and your website. Some very successful Youth Commissioners actually live outside of the immediate area, as they may be attending a nearby University. They may be back for long periods or visit regularly, but even if they're away for stints, there's still a great deal they can do remotely.

Hannah Kentish
UK Youth Commissioner

.....

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH LEADERS WHO ARE SUSPENDED, BUT ARE ALSO PARENTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCOUTING?

Dealing with a suspension is never an easy task, but we made some updates to the suspension process back in May 2015 that address suspended adults with children in Scouting that will hopefully make it simpler.

The rules now allow, in certain circumstances as determined by the responsible Commissioner, suspended

people to be given permission to engage with their children in Scouting in specific ways. These modifications to the suspension criteria must be carefully handled so that it is very clear what a suspended person is allowed to do. The modifications must also take into account guidance from the Safeguarding Team in safeguarding incidents.

The sort of activities that I envisage being allowed include attending an awards ceremony, or a Group presentation evening and so on. The suspension rules by default prohibit the person from any involvement in Scouting but allow some changes to be made by the responsible Commissioner (in most cases this will be the District Commissioner) with the agreement of the approving Commissioner (in most cases this will be the Area/County/Region (Scotland) Commissioner). For all the details, see POR (rule 15.2e), but in brief the key items to bear in mind are:

- The modifications must not compromise the safety and wellbeing of youth members.
- In safeguarding cases the guidance of the Safeguarding Team must be sought and followed.
- All modifications must be agreed with the Commissioner that approved the suspension.
- The modifications must be kept to a minimum and are only to enable the suspended person as a parent or carer to participate to some extent in Scouting with their child (for example, to attend award presentations or to drop off and pick up the child).

- The suspending Commissioner must inform the suspended person in writing with very clear instructions regarding what is permitted.
- The suspending Commissioner may change/remove the modifications during the period of suspension and must then notify the suspended person in writing.

I hope that these changes make it a little easier for suspended people with children in Scouting. It will never be simple, but it is important to recognise that some suspended people are parents or carers too.

If you have any comments on how this works in practice, or about the suspension process in general, then please do let me know through the email address por@scouts.org.uk. The updated rules can be found in POR scouts.org.uk/por and advice is provided on scouts.org.uk/managers (check under the 'suspension' tab).

Tim Kidd
UK Chief Commissioner

IS THERE GOING TO BE A NEW TRAINING SCHEME FOR MANAGERS AND SUPPORTERS?

From the start of 2017 a new training provision for managers and supporters in Scouting will start to be rolled out in phases across the UK. The current manager and supporter modules will be replaced with more up-to-date resources, to better support our volunteers in these critical roles.

The new training scheme will consist of: Getting Started (Essential

Information, PLP and Tools for the Role (managers and supporters); Training for All Appointments (Fundamentals of Scouting, Changes in Scouting, Scouting for All, First Aid, Administration, Delivering a Quality Programme); Independent Learning, covering key areas of knowledge required by learners (by videos, e-learning and workbooks); Skills courses (three courses focusing on Skills of Management, Meeting the Challenges and Achieving Growth).

A range of the new Independent Learning resources are already available for new and existing managers and supporters. Find out more at scouts.org.uk/training.

Kester Sharpe
UK Commissioner for Adult Support

WE FOCUS A LOT ON SAFETY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT INCIDENTS INVOLVING ADULTS?

The largest number of reported* incidents involving adults falls within the combined category of free time/unsupervised activity/organised game (exactly the same category as

the rest of the Movement). On average, we would expect to see 90 reported incidents a year. The slight difference is that adults, for example, tend not to bounce in quite the same way a Beaver or Cub might and it can be quite embarrassing explaining to work colleagues that you broke your arm playing with a bunch of eight-year olds! So be sure to stop, think and take it easy.

The second largest category is around 'maintenance'. The range of incidents covers falling from ladders, chopping wood, cutting trees and branches, use of tools (and a range of other sharp things), heavy lifting and slips on wet floors. It would be impossible to eradicate all of these, but we can certainly make a better effort to ensure that equipment is fit for purpose and well maintained, and that adults know how to use it and wear appropriate safety equipment (proper work gloves and protective eyewear are not expensive). This is something that Group/District Executive Committees and Camp Site Wardens should reflect upon.

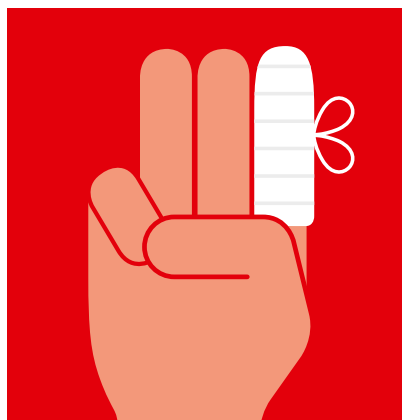
Guidance can be found on members.scouts.org.uk/safety under Safe Premises and Campsites.

*'Reported' means having received treatment from a medical practitioner or hospital and completed incident form sent to HQ. (Information courtesy of Unity)

Alex Minajew
UK Commissioner for Safety

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Jack Mawhinney - ADC Growth & Development, Watford North District Scouts

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The new recruits

With bags of energy and enthusiasm abound, Craven Lea Scout Group in Hull couldn't help but flourish

Words: Helen Pearce | Pictures: Jo Denison

THERE ARE SQUEALS of joy coming from inside Craven Lea House, the small community centre on the Preston Road Estate in Hull. The Beaver Leaders at Craven Lea Scout Group are attempting to herd the energetic little ones into their Lodges for the start of their Thursday night session. 'Don't worry, they're always like this!', jokes Cub Scout Leader Jade.

Craven Lea Scout Group is the first Scout Group to ever exist on the Preston Road Estate, home to approximately 6,500 people. The estate that traditionally provided employees for the city's docks and railways until the decline of these industries is now ranked the 12th most deprived area in England. As such, it was an ideal project for the Youth United Foundation (YUF), which was created

to help support the opening of Scout Groups in 200 of the most deprived areas in the country. Having found out that the YUF funding would be arriving in the spring of 2014, District Commissioners Gary McCune and Andy Jackson carried out research across the District to work out which of the areas would benefit most from Scouting. The Preston Road Estate was an obvious candidate.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS Links were made with community groups and, in early 2015, Regional Development Officer Rachel Rushmer approached community members and began to broach the subject of setting up a Scout Group on the estate. Because Scouting had not been present before in this area, it was important to educate community members about

Scouting and to also really sell the benefits to them. Rachel says, 'Scouting wasn't something that had ever taken place in the area – people still thought it was for boys only and was just about camping'.

In her early visits, Rachel approached the residents' association and spoke to the local councillor. 'It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm for Scouting in the area,' says Rachel. Soon afterwards, she met Debbie Lawson, who would become one of the Group's first volunteers. These community champions were crucial to selling the idea of Scouting to a generation that hasn't experienced it. 'I explained to leaders in the community that Scouts helps children and young adults reach their full potential. It develops important life skills including





BETTER PREPARED



Clockwise from top left: The two Debbies – the original volunteers; derelict housing on the Preston Road Estate; Regional Development Officer Rachel (in orange) and the Group; Cubs on a nature trail in the local area; Beavers



‘It takes over your life, because you get passionate about it – you end up planning your whole life around Scouting’

teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment,’ says Rachel.

Rachel then organised a series of taster sessions, as well as school assembly visits, to give both adults and young people within the community an idea of what Scouting entails on a week-to-week basis. Not long afterwards, supported by the District and experienced Scout Leaders, the Craven Lea Group was officially opened.

VOLUNTEERING AT CRAVEN LEA

The two Debbies are two of the original volunteers who joined when the Group first opened. They joke that they’ll only let people join if they change their names to Debbie. Debbie Lawson has just finished a degree in children’s inter-professional studies and is planning on doing a master’s in social inclusion and special educational needs. She wants to be a special education teacher. She clearly loves volunteering: ‘It takes over your life I think, because you get passionate about it and you end up planning your life around Scouting.’ None of the volunteers seem concerned by this sentiment. This is as much a part of their social calendar as it is the young people’s. It’s a good excuse to get

together with other parents in the community and catch up. Debbie Boardley says, ‘we’re constantly messaging each other at home: “have you seen this, have you looked at that, maybe we can do that at the next Beaver meeting.”’

It’s clear that the Preston Road community is a small, tight-knit one. All of the leaders know one another and most of the Beavers and Cubs go to the same school. Parents will have a tea or coffee in the front room of Craven Lea House while their children are at Scouts – no doubt some of them will become volunteers too. This Scout Group is truly a collective effort by the community itself. Debbie Lawson says, ‘No-one can have a conversation without recruiting! I’d put a note on Facebook saying we had spaces for Beavers and Cubs and ‘Sid-one’ messaged me saying “oh I’d like Kirby to come but I’m a bit concerned because he has Asperger’s and I’m not really sure if he’ll settle without me there” so I said, stay! And now she volunteers too!’

Jade, who is younger than the others and is also currently at university, says she thinks the Beavers get along better now than they did before when they’d just see each other at school. Her little sister Robyn is about to move from Beavers to Cubs in September. Robyn proudly announces to me that she is a Lodge Leader because she is the oldest and has been doing Scouts for the longest. Lucy, a young Beaver, who happens to be Jade and Robyn’s little sister, says her favourite thing about Beavers is having a biscuit and a drink and playing games.

Coincidentally, the Lodges are named after biscuits – Robyn is the leader of

the Macaroons. The other lodge is called the Bourbons.

When asked how she plans her programme, Jade says ‘Well, last week we asked the Beavers and Cubs what badges they wanted to do,’ she says, ‘and everyone wanted to do something different, so now we have 10 badges to work towards.’ This Group runs right through the summer holidays because they enjoy it and it’s something they feel the young people in the community need over that period. Rachel says ‘I remember when the Beavers first started. Some of them didn’t seem to know how to play together. It was a bit sad, but you don’t see it anymore because they’ve learnt how to work in teams through Scouting every Thursday.’ Debbie Lawson says ‘At school they learn, don’t they, but they don’t always learn the social skills. When they come here they still learn, but they get social skills too. So it’s fun learning!’

Jodie Megson, mum to Beaver Jack, said, ‘It’s been great – Jack started in September. He was a little shy at school – great academically but he struggled to mix with the other children. He loves Scouting – he wants to get all his badges. He’s also persuaded some of his classmates from school to come and now there are five of them who come along.’ She thinks it’s good for him to mix with other children, not just in his section but in other Groups in the District.

Lisa, another parent, says that if there wasn’t Scouting on a Thursday, her daughter would probably just be at home playing on her own or doing homework and wouldn’t get the opportunity to socialise and learn new skills with other children her age. ►

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‘At school they learn, but they don’t always learn social skills... here they get social skills too’

BUMPS IN THE ROAD

The Group has, however, faced some challenges. Setting up a brand new Group is incredibly rewarding but is no easy feat. The YUF funding was used to buy uniforms for young people and volunteers as well as all of the equipment needed to run weekly sessions. DC Gary McCune points out that, ‘Where established Groups have cupboards full of craft materials and camping equipment that they can

take for granted, Craven Lea had to start from scratch.’

As a brand new Scout Group, the Craven Lea Scout Leaders initially relied heavily on more experienced leaders from other Groups in the District, such as the Portobello Scout Group, for guidance and support. As time has gone by and the experienced leaders have returned to their own Groups, some Craven Lea leaders have dropped out, having found they didn’t have enough time to continue volunteering. This has put increased strain on the remaining leaders. Nevertheless, those who have stuck with it clearly love the work and are continuing to recruit new volunteers to help out. Rachel points out that it is possible for parents to volunteer on a

more flexible basis, coming along to help when it’s a badge they’re particularly interested in or when they have time.

Despite the challenges, the Group and the District appear to be thriving. The Craven Lea Scout Group was the first Group set up with YUF funding by the City of Hull District. They have since gone on to open 16 YUF sections. It’s clear that the Scout hut has become a bubbling, lively hub of the community on the Preston Road Estate. Supported by engaged, enthusiastic adult volunteers, the young people are learning important life skills, having fun and adventures, and forming strong bonds with one another, which no doubt bodes well for the future of the Preston Road Estate community. ❁



Cubs from the Craven Lea Scout Group in Hull explore their local area and view their environment in a new light on a nature trail

OVER TO YOU



TEN TOP TIPS FOR DISTRICTS OPENING NEW PROVISION

AVOID THE POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF OPENING A NEW SECTION BY FOLLOWING OUR ESSENTIAL PLANNING POINTERS

- Ensure you are meeting the community's needs and not pigeonholing them.
- Is the District ready for an influx of new volunteers? And will the District infrastructure cope? (Appointments Committee, Training Advisors etc.)
- Find a local community champion (or two) who can be an advocate for Scouting in the area – building trust and respect for Scouting.
- Don't be afraid to think outside the

box – does Scouting have to be for an hour a week on a weekday evening or are there other models that would work for a community with different needs?

- Have a plan for financing new equipment for the new section/



Group so they can run a quality Programme from day one.

- Have a clear welcome, induction and support plan for the new volunteers.
- Have a mentor for new volunteers who they can call on for advice and support regularly during their induction.
- Ensure the marketing materials you use for the new section/Group reflect the local community.
- Ensure the venue you choose will work for the community you aim to serve.
- Don't be afraid to ask parents directly if they are willing to help run the section/Group.

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Crowning glory

We talk to five young people who have achieved the Queen's Scout Award – the highest youth achievement within Scouting – and find out how they went about it

Words: Laura Sagar

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE have the potential to achieve something amazing and to develop their own personal strengths. The Queen's Scout Award (QSA) is the top award for all 16–25-year-olds, it's flexible and it allows young people to create their own adventures and challenge themselves.

Young people must have registered and have been a member of Explorer Scouts or Scout Network for at least 18 months. The award challenges them to complete 18 nights away with Scouting, of which 12 must be camping. They'll need to complete six international, environment or values-based activities, and the five QSA challenges (unless they've already completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award). These challenges are based on skill, physical activity, service, expeditions and include a residential element. To wrap it all up, their final challenge is to present all the elements of their award to a suitable audience.

We talked to five young people who each had a different experience of the

QSA: they took on the challenge for different reasons, shaped the award to suit them and took away something unique from the experience.

NINA SPARKS

'I was taking a skill I already had and working it up to a really high level.'

It's been over 20 years since anyone in my District achieved the QSA. I'd already done the bulk of the work through my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) so I just needed to complete the extra challenges. I've been playing the trumpet since I was seven and my trumpet teacher suggested I go for my grade 8. So that was my goal for my skill. Although it wasn't a new skill, I was taking a skill I already had to a really high level.

I'm quite little and I've always been told that I couldn't do an expedition because the food would be too much to carry. Then my County ran an open awards evening and explained that as well as a walking expedition, they also have cycling, canoeing and kayaking

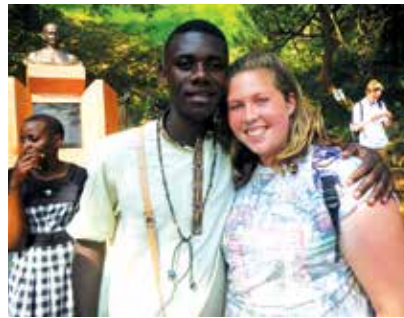
expeditions. At this point I'd never been in a boat, couldn't swim and hated water, but I was like, 'yeah, this is it! I won't have to carry anything'. My mum thought I was ridiculous.

All the training took a year, so we used it to complete our physical recreation challenge. The expedition was four days of sea kayaking down the River Severn. For me, the biggest challenge was actually learning to kayak. There were some terrifying moments and there were tears, but it was amazing. I'm actually a kayak instructor now. It's weird how everything has come together – the QSA is what started it all.

GEORGE HOLE

'Why shouldn't you get awarded for something you enjoy doing?'

I try to complete as many cycling events as possible, that's why the physical aspect of my award was cycling. Why not get awarded for something you enjoy? For part of this I did a charity ride for Diabetes UK and helped raise just over £300 by cycling ►



Clockwise from top left: Nina playing the trumpet as a member of 2nd Rossendale Scout Group Band, and mastering the kayak; George learns the drums and explores Dartmoor; Alix tries African drumming; Danielle conquers Snowdon, shows off her Queen's Scout Award and relaxes in the sun; Sam playing games at a Scout meeting and camping on Dartmoor as part of his qualifying expedition; Alix in Uganda

'You realise just how far you've come to finish the highest award you can gain'

SAM TANNER, QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD HOLDER

100 miles around the Cornish coastline (which involved way too many hills for anyone's liking). My nights away were spent with a group of friends on a cycling trip around Holland. For the skills section, I decided to take up the drums – I'm not too sure what my neighbours thought of that!

The residential is something that can delay the award, as some residential experiences can be hard to obtain or cost a fair amount of money. I volunteered at Glastonbury Festival, helping to pick litter. There was a mountain of the stuff!

I did my final expedition with the Hampshire Scouts in Dartmoor. Yes, I may have fallen waist-deep into some bogs – I wasn't navigating – but singing 'American Pie' loudly in the rain with a friend I had only just met, to keep morale high, is a memory that will stay with me for a very long time.

SAM TANNER

'I decided that I wanted to help the charity that helped me.'

For the volunteering section, I helped out with the Resources for Autism charity. I was already volunteering with them and decided I wanted to help the charity that helped me. I still attend their Thursday group, which is aimed at increasing our social independence so that we don't always

have to 'go out with mum'. I thought the best way to help the charity that I use would be to give my time, rather than to give money.

Having autism made completing the award a bit more challenging. I had to organise it all myself and my organisational skills are atrocious. My parents said that they would help if I needed it, but if I was going to get the award, I should really do it myself.

I thought the award was going to be ridiculously difficult for me to get, but once I'd started to see elements getting ticked off, I realised that this was an award I could actually achieve. There have been other awards that I could never get, so it's good to know that I am now a Queen's Scout Award holder. When you're stood in the quad at Windsor to receive your award, you realise just how far you've come and how well you've done to finish the highest youth award that you can gain in UK Scouting.

ALIX NICHOLS

'They taught us traditional dances... we taught them some basic hip-hop'

I went to Uganda for the international section where I learned about the culture and the people. A group of us helped out at the Kikaaya College School on the outskirts of Kampala, as my old school has an educational link with it. As well as plastering and painting walls, I learnt how to play African instruments and the Ugandan students taught us some traditional dances. In exchange we taught them some basic hip-hop, ballet and tap. One day we held a concert and I played African drums with them. Every single bit of it was so much fun and I wouldn't change any of it.

DANIELLE DRUMMOND

'The award has given me more confidence to try new things.'

The award was a great opportunity to start something new and get back into hobbies that I enjoy. Joining a choir was something I'd wanted to do and the award just helped it all to click into place. My choir performed at the Lytham Proms and got to perform just before Alfie Boe in front of a massive crowd! We've performed in front of hundreds and hundreds of people now.

The expedition stands out in my mind because it was really challenging. We were in Snowdonia and on one of the last days we climbed Snowdon. I thought that was going to be the hardest day but it was actually the easiest because the rest of them were horrendous! We went in October – it was cold and there was snow on the ground. As I said, it was challenging!

After I achieved the award, everyone was so proud. My parents hadn't realised how important this award was until we went to the ceremony and they saw for themselves.

The atmosphere was amazing. The ceremony gave me a chance to reflect back on what I'd done and consider what I've achieved. The award has given me more confidence to try new things, and I've learnt some valuable skills. I'm training to become a primary school teacher and do my PGCE, so skills like planning help me with my job and life outside of Scouting too. ♣

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FIND OUT MORE

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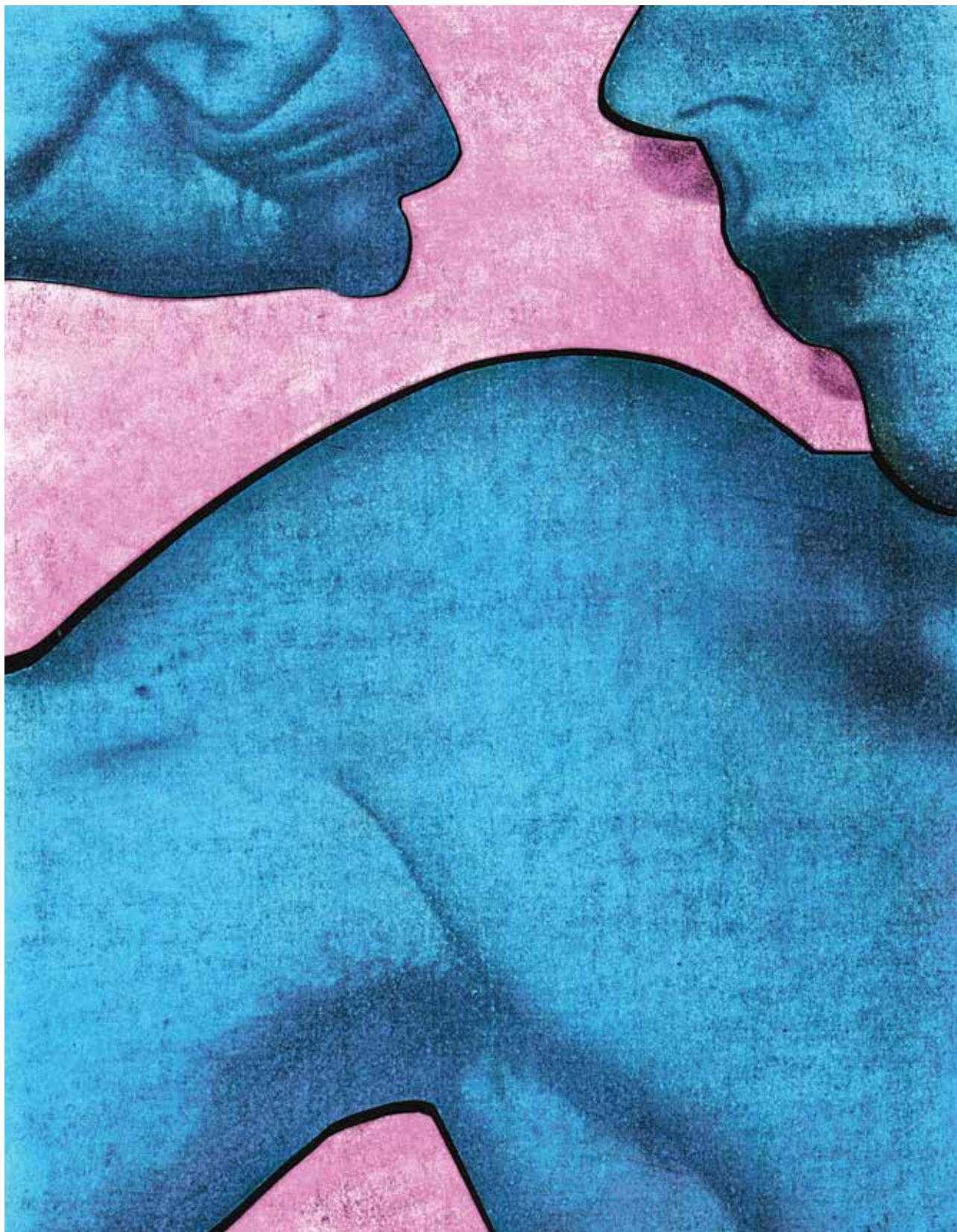
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Finding acceptance

After months of internal turmoil, Jayden finally came out to the world as male instead of female. Here, he tells his story

Words: Jayden | Illustration: Joe Cruz

TO ME, BEING transgender is who I am. It's everything I am; every breath, every cell, every thought. I am a male trapped inside a female's body.

I came to the conclusion that I was transgender on 3 January 2015, which I now consider my second birthday. This was after months of confusion and sleepless nights. After reading the term transgender for the first time, the word sort of became 'home'. It just fit everything I was thinking and feeling and I loved the word for that.

The first people I came out to were my two great friends, Felix and Sam. They both knew something had been wrong for a while and were so supportive. Soon afterwards, I told my English teacher, who is gay. She is also a good friend of my mom's. I knew she'd be very accepting and give me some advice on how to tell my family.

To say my mom was shocked is an understatement. I think her jaw hit the floor before I even finished explaining. But she was and still is, very supportive, despite it taking a while for her and the rest of my family to get used to it.

There have been a few times when people haven't been so nice about my transition. I've been told it's just a phase, but I know that's completely wrong. Most of the time it's just a lack of understanding and knowledge about transgender people. A lot of my problems come from the use of the wrong pronouns: people calling me 'she' when I wish to be called 'he'. And a few of the younger kids at my old school used to tease me a lot for it; they'd tell me it was unnatural and call me by my old name. Yes, that hurt, but I know who I am and no one can tell me otherwise. People calling me Jayden and referring to me as 'he' are the best kinds of acceptance, especially from complete strangers, because it proves to me that people see me as male. And that makes me incredibly happy.

I've been part of Scouting for almost 10 years. I did Brownies when I was younger, and then moved on to Scouts and I'm now in Explorers. When I told my Explorer Unit that I was transgender, I just remember them clapping. They were all genuinely happy for me. A lot of them have said that they don't remember who I even

was before I became Jayden, and that (very cheesily) warms my heart.

One of my favourite things about Scouting is the Gang Show. I've done the St Albans one for six years now. The first five were before my transition. I wasn't sure if they'd let me come back and do the show as Jayden. But they did! They accepted me with open arms. And I was even given my own changing room to ensure that I was comfortable. I have to say that was probably one of the happiest moments of my life; doing the thing I love to do the most, as myself, as a guy, as Jayden.

Everyone has been incredibly supportive in Scouting. I know that with any issue that I have or any other Scout I know has, everyone is willing to adapt and help with it. And that's what makes me so happy to be a part of this big ol' Scouting family. ♣

.....
LEARN MORE

Find out more about gender identity through our Inclusion resources: tinyurl.com/b39nga3.

Get in on the act

If you want your young people to enhance their skills and develop confidence, point them towards performing arts

Words: Celeste Houliker | Pictures: Patrick Baldwin







WHEN YOU THINK of the adventure at the core of Scouting, the first thing that springs to mind probably isn't treading the boards. However, a stage performance début for a Beaver can be just as thrilling as a mountain climb for an Explorer, just as designing costumes for a cast of 120 can be as inventive and skilled as whittling an intricately engraved whistle.

The creative arts have long been a way of unleashing the potential of young people, tapping into their undiscovered talent and building their confidence and character skills. Perfect then for Scouting, which aims to provide a space for young people with many different talents and

strengths, encouraging creative dreamers as well as intrepid adventurers.

The Scout Programme is designed to provide young people with skills for life, be they hard or soft skills. Musical and staged performances challenge and expand young people creatively, developing important strengths such as teamwork and collaboration, confidence, self-awareness, self-discipline, time management and organisational aptitude.

There are a variety of activities Scouts can get involved in such as marching bands, orchestras, plays and pantomimes. As the Movement enters

‘They focus their time developing the cast’s skills and helping the young people grow.’

EWAN MURRAY, UK TECHNICAL ADVISER

the autumn and winter months, Districts and Counties will begin to publicise one of the most popular types of stage show – the famous Gang Show. The shows encourage fun, the building of friendship, excitement and developing the essential skills and confidence young people need to ▶



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navigate life, not to mention enter the workplace.

Ewan Murray, the UK Technical Adviser for stage performances, explains the creative arts' place within the Scouting Movement. 'Often when we talk about creativity, the misconception is you have to be born with a superior talent to be considered

creative. However, the Scouting environment allows many young people of all abilities to take part in staged performances. Many shows don't audition for the cast and instead they focus their time developing the cast's skills and helping the young people grow.'

Twenty-one-year-old Tim can vouch

for the potential that is fostered through performing within Scouting. His Gang Show experience encouraged him to pursue a career on the stage and he is now getting to grips with the reality of working in the industry.

'Performing in the Gang Show helped me to develop confidence. In the ▶



CREATIVE ARTS



industry you are constantly meeting new people, so you need the social skills and confidence to be able to work in those conditions.'

Similarly, Eilidh, who is 14 years old and has a condition called Joubert Syndrome (which affects her eyesight), has found great encouragement through Scouting, especially Gang

Show. 'Both have given me confidence. I speak to a lot more people now and I will sometimes even lead people if they have forgotten the routines.'

Taking part in creative activities opens many doors for young people and allows them to realise their potential in new and exciting ways. Whether that's showing leadership capabilities

by taking the lead on choreography, developing writing skills by helping to produce a script, being taught how to play a new instrument or expanding on their people and organisational skills by helping manage events, just being involved takes you on an adventurous journey that promises fun, excitement and learning along the way. ♣



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Safer Scouting

Help your Scouts make memories on camp for all the right reasons with this helpful advice

Words: Jess Connett

FOR MANY SCOUT Groups, we've just had an idyllic summer of camping: sleeping under canvas, cooking on wood fires and watching smoke trail into a clear, star-studded sky.

But, as Jo Moya, Safeguarding, Welfare and Youth Support Officer, based at Gilwell Park, explains, camp can also be one of the most common times for young people to make a safeguarding disclosure.

'On camp, young people are in a safe environment, removed from daily life,' Jo explains. 'The young person may be thinking about what they are going home to once camp ends, or about the new school term.' This may encourage them to speak out, especially towards the end of a camp.

A disclosure often happens firstly among peers or to Young Leaders. The camaraderie and trust that comes

with sharing a makeshift home on camp can make young people feel safe enough to speak up.

'Quite often, young people disclose to other young people,' Jo says. This can include Young Leaders: 'Young people view them as leaders, but more approachable because they are closer in age,' Jo says. Young Leaders should be supported to pass information on to adult leaders, who are responsible for safeguarding.

'Making a disclosure is very hard,' Jo says. Anything a young person discloses should be taken seriously and dealt with in accordance with Yellow Card policies.

Alongside disclosures, safeguarding incidents may also arise on camp, but there are a number of steps all leaders can take to minimise the risk.

According to Andrew Haley, Head of

Safeguarding at The Scout Association, the process starts with speaking to the people who know each young person best: their parents or guardians.

'Parents need to disclose all the relevant information about their young person,' Andrew says. 'There may be things that aren't obvious when leaders just see a young person for an hour or two per week. Camp is a different environment and things can be exacerbated.' Leaders should be alert to medical issues or needs, including allergies, behavioural problems and issues around eating, and should talk with parents before the camp to get as much information as possible.

It's also vital that the leaders have an up-to-date home contacts list. 'We've had all sorts of difficulties in the past where something has happened on camp and the leader in charge has

‘Camp is a different environment and things can be exacerbated.’

ANDREW HALEY, HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING

been unable to get hold of the parents,’ Andrew says. ‘On one occasion, it turned out that the parents had gone away for a week, and the leaders didn’t have an alternative emergency contact.’

It’s also a good idea for leaders to work out the sleeping arrangements for the young people before camp. ‘Quite often, the safeguarding team is notified when young people who aren’t the best of friends have had to share a tent and tensions have mounted,’ Andrew says. Young people will always have fallouts and squabbles, but it’s best to avoid the situation entirely by planning the sleeping situations carefully.

In this case, a Youth Shaped approach can work incredibly well. ‘Young people should primarily decide who they’d like to share accommodation with,’ Andrew advises, ‘but with adult oversight.’

While on camp, it’s a good idea to identify a designated adult leader who will be responsible for dealing with any welfare issues that arise – from the most to the least serious. ‘It makes sense to have consistency,’ Andrew says. That way, the leaders all know who to report to if issues need to be dealt with, and young people have a dedicated individual they can talk to.

This dedicated leader may be

responsible for reporting on a particular camp, but it’s the duty of all leaders to report welfare incidents or concerns. They must tell their Group Scout Leader, who will inform the District Commissioner. They, in turn, will inform the Safeguarding Team. Alternatively, anyone can contact the Safeguarding Team directly.

One last piece of advice from the Safeguarding Team is to write a camp code of conduct with the Scouts. ‘This is a preventative measure – it can help leadership teams deal with issues before they arise,’ Andrew says. The code of conduct is a reminder of Scouting values and the expectations leaders have for young people. To incorporate all of their ideas, this should be youth-led.

We’re privileged as leaders to be so trusted by the young people we support. When our turn comes to take responsibility, we must make sure we all do our bit to make Scouting as safe as possible. Don’t forget to remind yourself of the guidance for safeguarding on the Yellow Card.

UK CHIEF COMMISSIONER TIM KIDD’S CHECKLIST FOR EFFECTIVE AND SAFE SCOUTING

To ensure that you keep your young people safe, your Group needs to be running well and your leadership team should be fully supported:

- Hold regular leaders’ meetings.
- Send Group representatives to District meetings and engage with District volunteers.
- Join in with District activities to connect with other Groups.

- Encourage everyone to keep to the rules (even low-level items).
- Make sure the GSL works with leaders as a team, and that no individual takes overall control of the Group.
- Create connections with people and organisations outside the Group – avoid keeping to yourself too much.
- Encourage adult volunteers to meet and socialise.
- Accept help when it is needed.
- Ensure everyone helping regularly has had the relevant checks.
- Encourage all adults to participate in ongoing training.
- Ensure you keep records and can provide necessary information, like the annual accounts.
- Avoid inappropriate topics of discussion or actions in any Scouting setting, even between adults.
- Work to grow your sections.
- Make sure young people have the chance to gain badges and awards.
- Ensure Scout policies are followed, including offering Scouting to both boys and girls. ♣

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT

If you’re worried about a Group that doesn’t fulfil all these criteria, talk to your District support team and make them aware of the issues. Together, you’ll be able to discuss creating a support plan, tailored to the needs of the Group.

If you have any concerns about a young person in your Group, consult the Yellow Card. You can get advice about safeguarding by calling the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818 or emailing safeguarding@scouts.org.uk.



Cambodia calling

South Morningside Edinburgh Explorer Scout Unit's Southeast Asian adventure has been two years in the making – here they tell us how they planned, prepared and paid for this life-changing trip

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Gareth Iwan Jones and SMESU

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING

IT SEEMS LIKE an almost impossible task. How do you even begin to organise taking a group of Scouts halfway across the world?

‘We basically sit down and look at a map of the world,’ Explorer Scout Leader Barry says, when I pose this question. ‘It’s at least a two-year process. We actually started planning this trip in August 2013, straight after coming back from [the Unit’s last big international expedition to] Nepal.’

These are clearly the words of a seasoned traveller. Barry Donald-Hewitt is one of the core leadership team taking SMESU Edinburgh on a huge international trip to Cambodia. The team – 44 Explorer Scouts and 11 leaders – will be away for 28 days.

The Unit first undertook a major international development trip in 2006. Since then they’ve refined the process, and now run a trip every two to four years. This time around, the team will be working with local Cambodian tradespeople, to build new classrooms for a primary school with room for 300 pupils.

After looking at the map, the Scouts research the shortlisted countries. ‘We always look for a link with someone in the country,’ Barry explains – sometimes a member of Scouting, but not always. This time, they found a Scout Group from West Lancashire who had recently been to Cambodia and could introduce them to the right people.

The Unit was swayed by an invitation from the Cambodia Cycling Club, who raise money for projects which will make a change in local communities. They reached out to SMESU and the

destination was settled. With 20 months to go until the big trip, the planning started in earnest.

WINTER 2014

‘We brought together the core team of leaders, and split into three leadership teams,’ Barry explains: training; health and welfare; communications, and logistics. ‘Breaking up the team works well,’ Barry says. ‘We all have separate roles and different things to focus on and sort out.’

At this point, the core team put out a call for leaders. ‘For each trip away we build a team of people with good skills, like doctors, as well as people with a range of experience,’ Barry explains. ‘The important thing is to make sure they’re all committed,’ Barry continues. ‘Some of them are at university or are working away, but we have to be sure they understand the expectations we have of them.’

‘We have a really young leadership team for this expedition,’ Murray explains. He is one of the regular SMESU leaders who volunteered for this trip, and is one of the seven leaders under 25 in the team.

Almost all the leaders were Explorers at SMESU, and took part in previous international expeditions – including Murray himself. ‘It’s nice to see it from both sides – as a wide-eyed 15-year-old boy and now as a leader,’ he says. ‘Personally, it’s helping me to develop as an effective leader.’

‘We learn something every time we do these trips, because we bring in different people with fresh ideas,’ Barry says. ‘Occasionally they aren’t currently volunteering, but they’ve stayed in touch and still have the

skills. We make sure they’re up to date with a valid appointment, first aid and safeguarding training.’

The full leadership team first met for a training weekend, where they bonded ahead of the selection of the young people. With the leaders in place, the team started the Visits Abroad process by contacting their Assistant Regional Commissioner for International, drafted a budget and a timeline for the fundraising, devised the Explorers’ selection process and began to advertise the trip online.

SPRING 2015

With 18 months to go, potential participants were brought together at a selection weekend. ‘We talked about our past experiences, and the skills we’d bring to a team,’ 17-year-old Explorer Scout Jen explains. There were team-building activities, and a breakdown of the not insignificant commitment required of each Explorer: to raise £2,500 each and attend multiple training camps.

With numbers confirmed, the leaders refined their budget and selected the teams who would work together throughout the process.

SUMMER 2015

The itinerary for the trip began to come together in the summer of 2015. It incorporated the ideas of the young people with the advice from the other Scout Group who had visited Cambodia, as well as suggestions from their in-country connections. Over the summer, the leaders and young people met for training and preparation.

‘We did some fitness training,’ 16-year-old Alex says. ‘It’s going to be hot and humid [in Cambodia], and ▶



Clockwise from top left: an existing school in rural Cambodia; Buddhist monks at the Temples of Angkor; sharing a love of reading; Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on a recce trip; boat trip to Tonlé Sap, also on a recce trip







‘For each trip away we build a team of people with good skills, like doctors’

BARRY, EXPLORER SCOUT LEADER



Clockwise from top left: the Scottish Scouts preparing for a hike; raising the Cambodian flag; testing out mosquito nets; Explorers on a team-building weekend at The Craigs Campsite, West Lothian

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‘We’re not interested in “voluntourism”... we need to do a high-quality project’

BARRY, EXPLORER SCOUT LEADER

we’ll be doing hard manual labour, so we needed to build up our fitness levels.’ One particular skill the Explorers had to learn was bricklaying. ‘It was difficult at first, but we had professional help,’ says Jen.

The Unit runs ‘development-style’ international trips. ‘We’re certainly not interested in “voluntourism”,’ Barry says – ‘we’re conscious that [the Explorers] need to do a really high-

quality project while they’re out working in another country.’

‘We’re doing this in the spirit of Scouting,’ Leader Murray chips in. ‘We want to go out there and make a real and positive change.’

The training weekends are all tailored to the things the Explorers will do in Cambodia. There’s a cultural element, alongside the practical skill development. ‘We’ve talked about the recent history of Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge and the genocide. We’ve learnt a bit of the language and looked at the currency too,’ Barry says.

AUTUMN 2015

In October, while the rest of the contingent were busy fundraising, three members of the core team

undertook a short recce to Cambodia. Experience has taught them that this is a vitally important part of the planning and safeguarding process. ‘We always find the budget for a recce,’ Barry says. ‘We see the hotels and the hospital facilities, and work out how best to travel around.’ They also met up with Cambodian Scouts and agreed on the activities they’d all do together in the summer.

Armed with the knowledge they’d gained during the recce, the leadership ran an information night for parents and finalised the itinerary. With plans cemented in place, the flights were booked for the whole party.

SPRING 2016

With six months to go, many of the major logistic tasks were completed:



Edinburgh Explorers on a training weekend; learning bricklaying, an essential skill needed for the trip; planning fundraising in teams



‘We’re opening their eyes and challenging some of their perceptions’

BARRY, EXPLORER SCOUT LEADER

accommodation was booked, and visas and Visits Abroad processes were set in motion. At this point, the communications team began working hard to tell the world about the project.

The Explorers also got involved with the communications work, undertaking Young Spokesperson training. ‘We learnt how to be interviewed, and how to talk about Scouting in a positive way,’ says Jen. ‘It helped me to build my confidence.’

SUMMER 2016

Mere weeks before jetting off to the other side of the world, the whole expedition party met for one last time to prepare their kit, swap vaccination stories and to learn some useful phrases in Khmer.

And then, before long, the years of planning were over, and it was time for the Explorers to say goodbye to their families and swap a month of Scottish summer for sub-tropical Cambodia. ‘What we’re doing by taking these young people to developing countries is opening their eyes, and challenging some of their perceptions,’ Barry says.

Murray agrees: ‘For some [Explorers], you see them coming on leaps and bounds. After Nepal, lots of them came back with a different sense of

the world. They realise just how privileged they are and want to continue to make a difference.’

Barry explains that he hopes his Explorers will remember this experience forever, and learn some lifelong lessons from it. ‘Some of our Explorers may go on to become decision makers in society and, after an experience like this, they’ll understand they have a responsibility and connection to everyone. Also, by having these experiences at a young age, the world becomes smaller.’ ❁

FIND OUT MORE

Learn about the Visits Abroad process, and have a look at Globetrekker for inspiration and tips from experienced Groups: tinyurl.com/hzu6tr4

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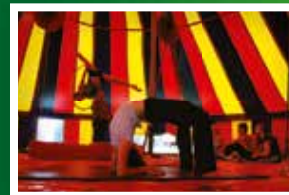
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Look to the future

With unemployment still an issue for under 25s, volunteering with Scouts can give you the skills you need to stand out in a crowded job market

Words: Jess Connett | Illustrations: Matt Lyon

ASK ANYONE WHO'S looked for a job recently, and they'll tell you it's a tough market out there. An uncertain economic future, heightened competition for roles and fewer opportunities overall are making job-hunting a minefield.

The unemployment rate has been falling steadily since the recession, but among under-25s it is still shockingly high, at 13.4% as of December 2015. Last year, there were just 26,000 graduate vacancies and paid internships for 2.3 million students.

If ever there was a time to need an advantage in a job interview, it is now. But increasingly, this does not have to take the form of work experience. Employers are beginning to value skills learned and demonstrated through volunteering – especially in organised settings, such as Scouts.

'Volunteering has been really good for me,' Assistant Cub Scout Leader Dan said. At the time, he was struggling to find employment. 'Cub Scouts gives me something to think about, and makes me feel useful,' he explained.

In 2015, Dan made the bold decision to emigrate and start a new life overseas, planning to pay his way around the world by teaching English as a foreign language. He took a course to get his teaching qualification, quit his job, packed up his belongings and threw a leaving party. 'Going abroad was a big thing for me,' he said.

But, almost as soon as his new life abroad began, Dan was forced to abandon his big dreams and come back to the UK. 'It just didn't work out,' he said dejectedly. He returned to the UK in winter – back to Sheffield, to be

greeted by high rents, lashing rain and endless questions from all the people to whom he'd so recently said goodbye.

He'd cut his ties, and his old job was no longer available. Dan found it a struggle to readjust to life in the UK: this future was not the one he had imagined for himself. Some days, it almost felt impossible to muster the strength to get up and look for jobs.

Dan picked up some work through those tough first months – temporary contracts and part-time hours, often in low-paid, low-skilled roles. He took jobs out of necessity. 'Paid employment is essential, but lots of jobs aren't fulfilling,' Dan said.

After three months of on-again, off-again employment, Dan was struggling. But then his friend invited him to come along to a new Cub Scouts section, which had recently opened in a suburb of Sheffield. He began to support the Pack as an Assistant Leader, engaging with the young people and helping the leadership team to plan sessions.

Scouting helped Dan to reassess his world view. 'Volunteering reminds me that I'm good at things,' he said. 'It's like I'm reactivating the skills that I've learned in the past.' With a background in primary school teaching, Dan's prior experience of working with young people fits well with what was required of him in Cubs.

'When you stop doing things, you can forget that you were once good at them. You fall into bad jobs and forget there are fun jobs out there,' Dan said. 'Scouting is giving me the transferable skills to get a job I'll enjoy, compared to one that just pays the rent.'

'Volunteering is reactivating the skills that I've learned in the past'

DAN, ASSISTANT CUB SCOUT LEADER

In 2014, The Scout Association worked with think-tank Demos, to publish research analysing the impact of Scouting. The findings note that job hunters often need 'two kinds of experience before they can embark on a fruitful career': both work experience and experience 'developed through non-formal activities'. This second type of experience, incorporating facilitation skills and teamwork, is something Scouting can supply by the bucketful.

Part of the secret to Scouting's success, when it comes to equipping leaders with skills that make them more employable, is a tried-and-tested training programme. This training is always either free or low cost, and is delivered in different ways – small group sessions that encourage leaders to meet each other; online to be completed in leaders' own time, or one-to-one to provide maximum support – to suit the individual. Such comprehensive and flexible training is not often offered by employers.

Demos' research included a survey of 2,500 people, conducted by Public And Corporate Economic Consultants (PACEC), which showed that 91% of the active adult Scout volunteers surveyed stated that Scouting had helped them to develop key skills, including social skills, team working and leadership skills.



In another PACEC survey, 800 external organisations – including public and private sector employers – were asked about their perception of candidates with Scouting on their CV. Forty-one percent stated that an applicant's Scouting experience would influence them positively, and 60% said they believed people with a Scouting background would work well in a team, would have leadership abilities, and would have more confidence.

A couple of months later, Dan is still involved with Scouting: 'I'm still volunteering with Cubs,' he says with enthusiasm, having settled into the role much more. 'The Group is more established now – the Cubs have almost all got uniforms, and we've been on some great trips.'

Dan has completed his Getting Started training, and he's enjoying the volunteering. He has also recently landed a permanent job. 'It's not the most exciting job in the world,' he concedes, but it is providing him with some much-needed stability.

'Overall I'm doing good things, but occasionally it doesn't feel like it because there's no one there to motivate me. But the volunteering fulfils that feeling, so the paid work doesn't matter so much,' Dan says. 'For that reason alone, [Scouting] is worthwhile in and of itself.'

He has made a conscious effort to make sure that his paid work fits in around volunteering with Cubs, because of the benefits he sees from Scouting. In doing so, Dan is simultaneously developing both types of employability skills that were identified in the Demos report: skills developed in the workplace, and skills from less formal but equally valid sources, like volunteering.

Reflecting back on the months he spent unemployed, Dan sees Cubs as having been a positive influence throughout. 'Cubs gave me routine and structure,' he says. As for future plans, Dan is coy. 'I've not really got many long-term goals,' he says. After such a turbulent period,

believing that he was starting a perfect new life abroad, only to see it crack and shatter irreparably, this unwillingness to commit to anything too permanent is understandable. It's almost a phase to pass through. 'I don't think I'll be doing my new job forever, and so when I'm applying for other jobs in the future, Cubs will definitely help with employability,' Dan says positively.

Volunteering with Scouting can be a truly transformative process. It supplies adults with the key skills to get on in life, helps forge new social networks, and builds the confidence needed to get out there and apply for opportunities. It's hugely beneficial in a multitude of ways. Volunteering with Scouts can shape the future of adults, just as much as it shapes the future of young people.

Why not take advantage of the training opportunities offered in your District? Get in touch with your District Commissioner to find out what's on this month. ♣

Champions for change

Through the A Million Hands campaign, Scouts are making a real difference to peoples' lives. Prepare to be inspired...

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Andy Lord, Alun Callender and Phil Greenwood

ALMOST 216,000 PEOPLE have pledged to take action in Scouting's most socially relevant campaign – A Million Hands (AMH) – enabling members to connect communities, remove social barriers and improve the lives of those affected by four social issues chosen by young people within Scouting.

Scouts from across the UK selected dementia, disability, mental wellbeing and clean water and sanitation as the issues they would like the Movement to focus on. Many Groups across the country then pledged their support and chose which issue in particular they want to focus on, but what's happened since?

We talk to three supporters who tell us about the exciting changes they've been making in their communities and reveal what they've learnt.

OLIVER CHAMBERS, ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MERSEY WEAVER DISTRICT

'It started off with a consultation last year where we asked our youth forum what they wanted to achieve for St George's Day.' Oliver, who is Assistant District Commissioner, explains how, for the Mersey Weaver District, one of Scouting's more traditional events was transformed into a brilliant array of A Million Hands workshops and engaging activities.

The conversation of what to do for St George's day spread throughout Scout Groups in the District and the voices that spoke back insisted that this year needed to be different. 'They wanted something active and something that helped the community,' Oliver recalls the response. With the cumulative

desire to take action in the community and the recent launch of the A Million Hands project, Oliver and his team jumped at the chance to combine the two and give the young people in the District the chance to help their own local community.

With Youth Shaped Scouting at the forefront of everyone's minds, Oliver and his team wanted to make sure the event didn't become a District-level-run event. 'As a District team it wasn't our place to make the decision for the Groups. What we wanted to do was put the Groups in contact with the charities so they could then go away and make their own decision of which issue to choose. We wanted to give Groups a good taster of what AMH is.'

Instead of a parade, the young people agreed on a hike and workshops ▶





based on the A Million Hands social issues of dementia, disability, mental wellbeing and clean water and sanitation, issues with which everyone could get involved.

Numerous stakeholders were involved in the project too, providing plenty of challenges for the team, but the hard work paid off and the event was a real success. 'The way we saw young people interact on the day was amazing,' Oliver tells us.

One of the most impactful elements of the A Million Hands campaign is getting the message out that Scouts are making a positive contribution to local communities, encouraging others to join our quest to help others. Oliver and the team did all they could to raise awareness of the event.

'We emailed a lot of people, we had press teams from the charities that helped us and we used a lot of social media to promote the event on the internet. Group Scout Leaders played a big part in it too – they talked to parents about what was going on. Following the advice from the resource pack we downloaded from the AMH website, we wrote to our MPs, councillors, and covered as many bases as we could think of.'

Oliver expresses his hopes for more long-term projects with the local charity representatives too: 'We're planning on meeting after the AGM to discuss the community problems they would like solved, and we're hoping to organise some more District events in the future. We're currently focusing on awareness and making it our priority to help Groups in the District facilitate their own A Million Hands projects.'

HELEN TURNER, GROUP SCOUT LEADER, 1ST HONITON SCOUT GROUP

Honiton, East Devon, has a growing dementia-friendly community, so when Group Scout Leader Helen Turner and 1st Honiton Scout Group were deciding which social issue to choose for their A Million Hands project, the answer was easy. There are currently over 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, and 1st Honiton have recognised the importance of making more people aware of what it actually is.

Helen took her daughter to see a talk given by Heather Penwarden, the town's local dementia champion, and approached her afterwards to ask if she'd help out with the project. Heather encourages others in the community to make a positive difference to people living with the condition by sharing information and telling them how they can help. Since meeting Helen, Heather has talked to 1st Honiton Scouts and played a memory game with them to help explain what dementia is and how it affects people.

Even Helen has learnt something from the project: 'I wasn't sure what dementia was exactly, but the way Heather talked about it made it simple. She described dementia as being like a bookshelf.' Helen goes on to illustrate how some people remember a handful of books at the start of the shelf, others remember different books along the shelf and everyone remembers different details and amounts.

The approach Helen has taken has been to better inform young people so that they can make the lives of those living with dementia easier. 'We're

'I wasn't sure what dementia was, but the way Heather talked about it made it simple'

HELEN TURNER

trying to make the youngsters aware. They've all talked about it and it's surprising how many of them know someone who has it. They weren't scared to discuss it, because we've talked about it in simple terms.

When discussing dementia with the young people, Helen and Heather adjust their language to suit the varying ages, ensuring they talk to them on their level. Heather explains why people with dementia may not remember where they need to go or remember the coins they need to pay for their shopping, and why it's important to give people time or help them rather than getting impatient.

Cubs at 1st Honiton have produced signs to remind people living with dementia where they can find places like the bathroom or kitchen. The Group has played some of the games from the A Million Hands resources and Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have joined forces to create memory boxes which can help people with dementia remember details of their lives. By creating a box full of items from the past, Scouts can help connect the recipient with positive emotions they felt at that time. The items trigger these emotions even when the person can't remember the details.

Helen discovered the real-life effect this project is having when she received a heart-warming email ►

‘Perceptions of disability have changed, but that hasn’t happened for mental health’

JAMES BRADY

from the parent of one of her Cubs: ‘He went with his mum to see his great-granny and after the visit he said “great-granny kept calling me different names and kept repeating herself.” So his mum explained that she had dementia. As soon as she said the word dementia, he said, “I know all about dementia. It’s OK now I know what’s the matter with her.” He was quite happy to leave it at that.’

JAMES BRADY, AYERS EXPLORERS SCOUT UNIT

Though the most popular social issue for the A Million Hands project so far has been clean water and sanitation, Assistant Leader James Brady and the Ayers Explorers Scout Unit agreed that, in their eyes, the most topical issue is mental health and wellbeing. ‘It was the one that got the most attention. A lot of people have mental health issues and yet not a lot of people talk about it,’ James explains. ‘Since the 2012 Paralympics, people’s perceptions of disability have changed, but that hasn’t happened for mental health.’

After signing up to A Million Hands and downloading the mental wellbeing resource pack, the Unit ran an awareness night. They explored what mental health really is and tried

to teach themselves about the stigmas surrounding mental health, but quickly realised that to bring their more aspirational hopes and ideas to life, they needed more insight. That’s when Scout Leader Eddie Ward discovered the young person’s counselling service, Off The Record (OTR) and arranged a mental health seminar for the leaders and Explorers.

With added knowledge and a little guidance from OTR, the Unit established that their specific aim is to get inside a local school in order to run a mental-health awareness day. ‘We were advised to initially aim for just one school. From the second you get into that school, teachers realise that this isn’t such a sensitive issue. And then, well, head teachers talk!’

Once established within a school, they hope staff and pupils will spread the word about their impactful work so they can set up and run a more permanent programme within a number of local schools. The project aims to raise awareness about mental health as well as giving young people the opportunity to discuss their worries and identify how they look after their mental state when they become stressed. We all have mental health and that’s why it’s important we look after our mental wellbeing and resilience. James and the other Explorers have adopted OTR’s approach that prevention is better than cure, and hope to support other young people in the early stages, as soon as pressures start to become too much to handle.

One reason for focusing mainly on prevention is that the Explorers can take real action and work without having to rely on the constant

presence of a mental health expert. Initially, knowledge and credible advice was a big worry for James and the Explorers: ‘We said “we’re not trained experts so we can’t help”. But we were told that sometimes it’s better if you’re not. Young people are well equipped to talk to other young people.’ For some, visiting a councillor or doctor when they’re stressed or upset seems too serious and they’re worried about the stigmas surrounding mental health professionals. Having the option to chat to another young person about any issues appears a more casual, less official way to get help.

While this team’s project is impressive as it goes beyond the actions of what you would expect of your average group, there are simpler ways to get involved. Groups of all ages have the ability to help by raising awareness and encouraging everyone to look after their own mental health. The strategy for success is to choose just one element of the issue that you feel you can make a difference in.

‘OTR advised that we need to have our outcomes first so that we know what we’re working towards. That’s the challenge with projects like this, because you want to do everything but you don’t know what you’re aiming for,’ says James. ‘Try not to worry about the wider areas, just focus on one thing and own it rather than working towards everything and getting nothing done.’

RESOURCE PACK

You can download the dementia resource pack from amillionhands.org.uk/dementia.



OVER TO YOU



HOW TO SET UP YOUR OWN COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT:

FOLLOW OUR EIGHT SIMPLE STEPS TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF YOUR COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

- Register your Group/section at amillionhands.org.uk.
- Download the A Million Hands starter pack, which explains what a Community Impact project looks like and how it is rooted in the 6–25 Programme.
- Pick activities from the starter pack to help your young people choose which issue they want to tackle.
- Now download the support pack for your chosen issue and gain access to loads of support and activity ideas.
- Complete the five-stage process

of the Community Impact Staged Activity Badge: Understand the need, plan action, take action, reflection on skills and character development, and tell the world. You will build strong relationships in your community and enable your young people to lead community impact projects as a key part of their Scouting experience.

- We've partnered with charities who are experts on supporting young people to make social change – click on the 'Want More Support' button on the A Million Hands website to arrange speakers and visits, access local opportunities and seek advice.
- Tell us how your young people have taken action by clicking the 'Record

Action' button on the A Million Hands website and entering details for your section.

- If you think your young people's action is impressive, tell us by using the 'Tell the World' function on the A Million Hands site. Our media team can help get the good news out into your local press.

Every month we're choosing one A Million Hands Community Impact project to be our Project of the Month. Tell us about your project at amillionhands.org.uk/user/record-action. So far, winners include the Ayers Explorers Scout Unit, who focused on mental health, and 1st Honiton Scout Group, who tackled dementia. Winning projects will feature on the AMH website and on our social media channels.

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Sue Manns Hoffman has been involved in Scouting for 15 years sharing her love of the outdoors with Explorers on Mountain Weekends and Scouts on walking expeditions. She also leads HF Holidays' guests on guided walking holidays – swapping bunkhouses and camp sites for Country Houses with four course dinners!

Sue has been an HF Holidays' volunteer leader for six years and this year she'll be leading walks on Cyprus, in Tuscany, on a family walking holiday on the Isle of Wight, Glen Coe in the autumn and in Snowdonia over New Year.

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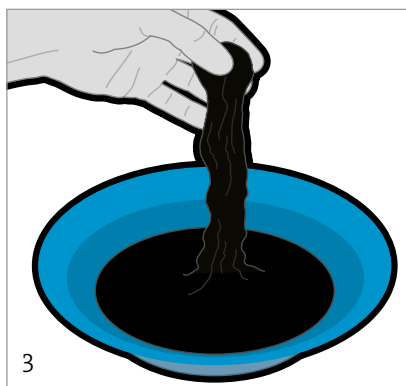
MAKE AMAZING MAGNETIC SLIME

Your Group will love making this gloopy gunk and testing its magnetism

SUITABLE FOR ALL

1 Ensure everyone involved is wearing disposable gloves and protective eyewear. Pour 120ml of liquid starch into a bowl. The leader in charge should then add 2 tbsp of iron powder. Stir with a craft stick until it is thoroughly mixed. Safely store any remaining iron powder and remove your eyewear.

2 Add 60ml of PVA glue and keep stirring until combined. This can take a while, but keep going until your



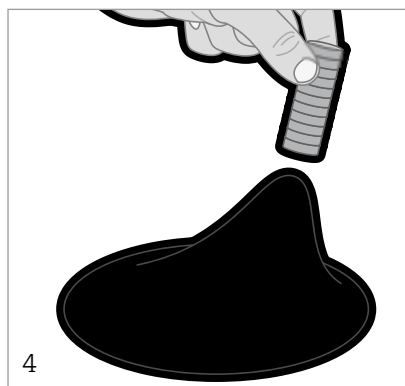
slime has formed. At this point, take it out of the bowl and keep squishing it together. Discard any excess liquid.

3 When it's completely mixed pat it dry with a paper towel. Now it's ready to play with and you can remove the gloves if you wish – the slime shouldn't stain your skin.

4 Test the magnetism of the slime with your neodymium magnets. These magnets are very small and extremely strong. Fingers can easily be pinched when trying to separate them, so if they come in a small stack use them as they are.

WARNING

It can be harmful to use iron powder without protective eyewear and gloves, so please use it responsibly and store it away safely.



TIME NEEDED

30–60 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Buy from hardware and electrical shops and online

- Protective covering for your worktop
- Disposable gloves (to prevent staining)
- Protective eyewear
- Measuring jug
- Liquid starch
- Disposable bowls
- Iron powder
- Craft sticks
- PVA glue
- Paper towel
- Neodymium magnets

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver Experiment Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

The young people will learn all about the principles of magnetism by watching how the slime responds to the neodymium magnets. They'll learn about metals, suspensions and magnetic qualities. Discuss the process that's needed to make the magnetic slime and what the Scouts discovered. Encourage them to explain why this outcome occurred and to think about how magnets are used in the wider world. They'll learn about the safe use and responsible handling of chemicals and how to act responsibly during an experiment.

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DRAW ME DRAW YOU



Pick someone in your group.
Now draw each other in the box above.
THE only rule is you must draw
your new friend with 'rabbit ears'
and holding their favourite fruit!

THE INGENIOUS PEN PAL LETTER GUIDE

MY NAME IS: _____

BUT THEY CALL ME: _____

MY SHOE SIZE IS: _____

SKIP THIS STEP!

MY FAVOURITE SPORT IS: _____

MY FAVOURITE BISCUIT IS: _____

NOT NECESSARY!

I SPEND MY DAY: _____

I AM THE BEST AT: _____

STAY MODEST!

MY FAVOURITE ANIMAL IS: _____

MY FAVOURITE BAND IS: _____

I LOVE ALL MUSIC!

THIS IS WHO I AM (IN A FEW WORDS): _____

THAT'S ME!





Wear dots... raise lots

Have fun with RNIB's Wear dots ... raise lots and explore the impact of braille this October. Make your own braille t-shirts or use our free braille alphabet cards to complete elements of the Communicator Activity, Disability Awareness and Fundraising Activity badges with your Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

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ALPHABET PHOTOGRAPHY

Write the name of your group using the letters found in the world around you

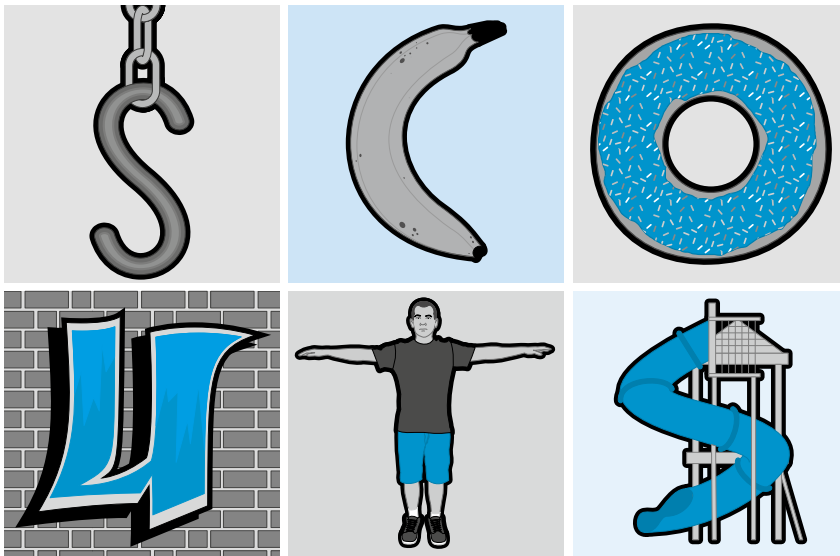
SUITABLE FOR ALL

1 Divide your group into teams, ensuring that each team has at least one camera. Talk with the teams about the letters they're looking for and where they might find them in your local area. They need to find something totally different for each letter required. Perhaps offer a prize for the most unusual-looking letter.

2 Take the groups out into your local community and start snapping. Consider capturing letters found in road signs, street names, posters or graffiti, or shapes found in nature. Help your young people find letters within larger objects by cropping the image, or by zooming in on small

details. Encourage them to look up and around them – are there billboards or businesses nearby that showcase letters they can use? Can their fellow Scouts turn themselves into the shape of a letter?

3 Once the teams have gathered all the images they need, head back to your HQ to review the pictures. You can view them on the camera or smartphone screen, upload them onto a computer or print them off. Arrange them into the correct order to spell your Group's name and display them for everyone to see – whether in a scrapbook, on the wall or as part of a digital display.



TIME NEEDED
60–90 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED
■ Cameras or camera phones

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver Photographer Activity Badge



Cubs Photographer Activity Badge



Scout Photographer Activity Badge



Digital Citizen Badge

OUTCOMES

The young people will learn how to use a camera to good effect and create a visual project using the pictures they have taken. They can experiment with different settings and shutter speeds to see which yields the best results.

TAKE IT FURTHER

The young people could turn their images into a short animated sequence using free stop-motion software such as JellyCam or qStopMotion. Or they could experiment with different types of photographic techniques, such as portrait, still life or sport/action shots to see what shapes and letters can be formed.

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wee heehee

How do lions like their
cheeseburgers cooked?

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wee heehee

What did the water
say to the boat?

Nothing, it just waved!



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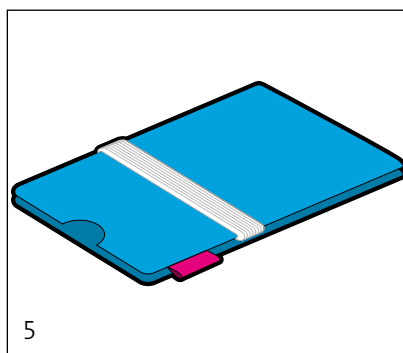
SUITABLE FOR SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS

1 Ask your Scouts to fuse the webbing onto the underside of their wool felt, following the instructions on the packet, before cutting the wool felt into decorative shapes of their choice.

2 Using a 10-pence piece as a template, ask them to draw a semi-circle in the middle of one of the shorter sides of their thick felt rectangle and cut it out.

3 Position the felt shapes on the front of the cosy (the half that doesn't have the semi-circle cut out of one end). When they're happy with how the shapes look, they should be ironed and then stitched into place.

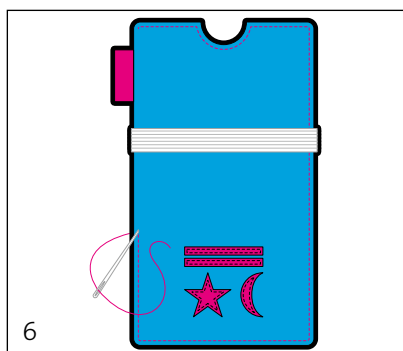
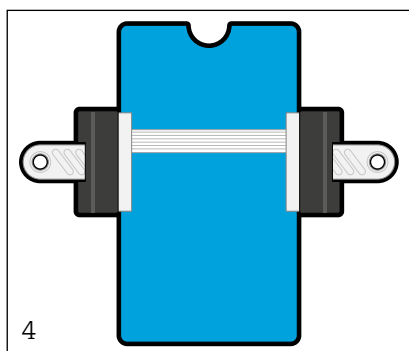
4 They should fold the cosy in half (decorated side facing out) and use small bulldog clips to hold it in place. Position the strip of elastic



horizontally across the cosy, around 5cm down from the semi-circle, with the ends tucked around the raw edges and into the seam allowance so they'll be caught in the seam.

5 Fold a piece of tape in half and tuck it into the seam allowance, around 2cm from the bottom of their cosy.

6 Stitch both sides of cosy using a seam allowance of 5mm, securing elastic and ribbon into the seam.



TIME NEEDED

60 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Buy the equipment needed from haberdashery shops and online

- Wool felt in a variety of colours
- Fusible webbing
- An iron
- 10-pence piece
- Fabric scissors
- Thick felt, in a variety of colours, cut into 26cm x 9cm rectangles
- Cotton
- Sewing machine (optional)
- Jeans needle
- 9.5mm elastic, 11.5cm length
- 1.25cm-wide ribbon or tape, 5cm length
- Small bulldog clips

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Scout Craft
Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

Your Scouts will both plan and create this accessory from scratch, utilising their sewing skills. There is also plenty of potential for your young people to personalise their project using their own original and creative ideas.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Once Scouts have made a cosy to protect their phone, they can make a bigger cover for their tablet or Kindle. They can use the gadget to measure out the fabric they'll need.

DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

Find this and other great activities at scouts.org.uk/magazine.

SILLY HOPSCOTCH

WHAT TO DO:

Draw the hopscotch shown below on the floor using chalk or sticky tape.

MAKE IT BIG!

Split into two teams.

Write down a challenge per number, make them as silly and fun as can be!

Take a look at our examples:

Jog on the spot for 15 seconds.

Measure your heartbeat.

Sing one verse of your favourite song.

Run around the hopscotch 10 times.

Do this round pretending to be your favourite animal.

Do this round in slow motion.

Do 5 push-ups.

Stand on one foot for 20 seconds.

Lady Luck has struck: just move to number 5.

Do 10 star jumps.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Chalk or sticky tape

Small bag, a stone or a cap for throwing

Bags of imagination and mischief



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Approved by:



UNDERSTAND THE NEED:

TERMINOLOGY

Teach your group the right words to use when discussing mental health

SUITABLE FOR CUBS, SCOUTS, EXPLORERS AND NETWORK

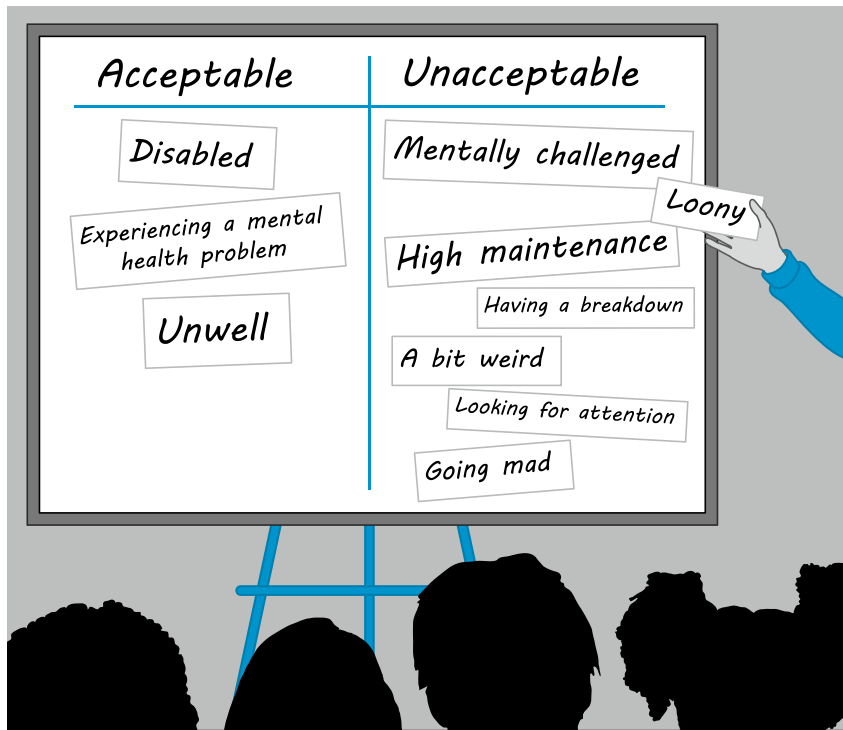
1 Divide your young people into three or four smaller groups and give each group a set of cards to sort. Each card has a term or word on it used to describe someone with a mental health problem:

- Mentally challenged
- Loony
- Experiencing a mental health problem
- Disabled
- High maintenance
- Unwell
- Having a breakdown

- Going mad
- Looking for attention
- A bit weird

2 Ask your young people to sort the cards into a scale of terms, starting with the acceptable words and ending with unacceptable ones.

3 Observe the groups as they discuss each of the terms and look at how they are sorting the cards. Some of these phrases may be unacceptable in any context, others are perfectly fine.



TIME NEEDED

20 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Sticky notes or four sets of printouts showing the terms listed opposite

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Cub Our World Challenge Badge



Scout Our World Challenge Award



Scout Community Impact Staged Activity Badge

DISCUSSION

Discuss the difference between how someone might describe themselves and how they might be described by others.

If you become aware that a young person in your section has a mental health difficulty, head to amillionhands.org.uk/resource for guidance and support.

TAKE IT FURTHER

It's now time to PLAN AN ACTION. Look over at page 89 for a great activity or download the Mental Health Resource Pack from amillionhands.org.uk/mental-wellbeing for more ideas.

DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

Find this and other great activities at scouts.org.uk/magazine.

PLAN ACTION:

THE FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

Introduce your group to these mental-health-boosting steps via simple activities

SUITABLE FOR CUBS, SCOUTS, EXPLORERS AND NETWORK

THE FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

1 CONNECT

Spend time with friends and family.

2 BE ACTIVE

Go for a walk or run or a cycle ride.

3 TAKE NOTICE

It's OK to feel sad and good to share with someone who will understand.

4 LEARN

How do you think about how you feel? Learn in education or outside.

5 GIVE

Do a good turn and help someone.

THE OBJECTS GAME

Using a football, a phone, a bike, a book etc, ask your Scouts to think about which of the Five Ways to Wellbeing that item relates to.

THE FIVE CORNERS

Write the Five Ways on card, place them around the room and get Scouts to run to the correct one when an activity is called. Have multiple correct answers for a single activity.

SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

Each person talks about one thing they did at the weekend and picks which of the Five Ways it relates to.



TIME NEEDED

20 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

■ Cards and pens

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Cub Our World Challenge Badge



Scout Our World Challenge Award



Scout Community Impact Staged Activity Badge

DISCUSSION

Discuss whether any of the Five Ways were more difficult to talk about than others. Do they tend to do some of the five ways more than others? Do they enjoy some more than others?

If you become aware that a young person in your section has a mental health difficulty, head to amillionhands.org.uk/resource for guidance and support.

TAKE IT FURTHER

The next step is to TAKE ACTION – turn the page for a great activity or download the Mental Health Resource Pack from amillionhands.org.uk/mental-wellbeing for more ideas and activities.

DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

Find this and other great activities at scouts.org.uk/magazine.

TAKE ACTION:

CAMPAIGNING

Encourage your group to take action to try and combat student stress

SUITABLE FOR ALL

CREATE A POSTER

Ask your young people to design an eye-catching poster that effectively communicates their message about student stress and the improvements needed to combat it, based on the information sheet.

Encourage the young people to think about how they might change their poster from simply being informative to actually persuading people to join their cause.

WRITE A LETTER

Ask your group to think about the key messages of the campaign. What are the most important points?

Keeping their letter concise, ask them to make it clear what action they want the recipient to take: do they want a meeting to present their ideas, or would they like to talk about the issue in a school assembly, or perhaps they'd like the school/college to increase counselling support?

PLAN A MEETING

Get the group to think about how they want the meeting to go and what they want the outcome to be, considering the following things: do they need an agenda to ensure they cover the essential points? How will they present their evidence? Will they practise presenting beforehand? How will they promote their meeting to ensure the necessary people attend?

Ask them to report back to you afterwards and remind them not to be disheartened if they don't see their desired changes immediately.

TAKE ACTION

Encourage Scouts to ask their school council, student representatives or their union to prioritise the wellbeing of all pupils and provide more support to young people with stress, anxiety and depression, including access to counselling.

TIME NEEDED
60–120 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Poster-making materials
- Letter-writing materials
- Print-outs of the information sheet on student stress, downloadable from amillionhands.org.uk/mental-wellbeing

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Cub Artist Activity Badge



Scout Our World Challenge Award



Beaver Creative Activity Badge



Explorer Media Relations and Marketing Activity Badge

DISCUSSION

Discuss how your Group will put across their point of view to people.

If you become aware that a young person in your section has a mental health difficulty, head to amillionhands.org.uk/resource for guidance and support.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Visit amillionhands.org.uk/mental-wellbeing and let us know how your project is going.

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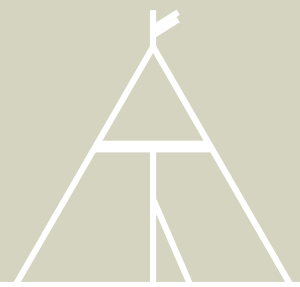
HAWKHIRST

wintercamp.org.uk



SCOUTING SITES AND DAYS OUT

Every Scout loves a fun day away from HQ, so we're bringing you some extra info in our listings section to help you choose the best destination for your Group



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manger@kibblestone.org
kibblestone.org



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0161 427 1688
linnetcloughcamp@aol.com
linnetclough.co.uk



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beaudesert.org



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0161 928 1699 (weekends only)
dunham@gmwscoats.org.uk



**HESLEY WOOD SCOUT
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0114 246 7912
enquiry@hesleywood.org.uk
hesleywood.org.uk



CRICKET CAMP

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isdsc.org.uk



**GRADBACH SCOUT CAMP
NR BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE**

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bookings@gradbachscoutcamp.org.uk
gradbachscoutcamp.org.uk



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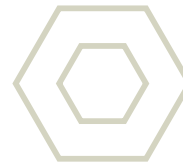


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DIRECTORY

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 only a click away

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 Blackland Farm Activity Centre

East Grinstead RH19 4HP
 01342 810493
 blackland@girlguiding.org.uk
 www.blackland.org.uk
 Registered charity number 306016

ACTIVITY CENTRES

 WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding
 Foxlease Activity Centre

Lyndhurst SO43 7DE
 023 8028 2683
 foxlease@girlguiding.org.uk
 www.foxlease.org.uk
 Registered charity number 306016

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 Robin Hood Activity Centre, Rickets Lane,
 Blidworth, Nottinghamshire NG21 0NF
www.robinhoodactivitycentre.co.uk Please mention Scouting Magazine when contacting us

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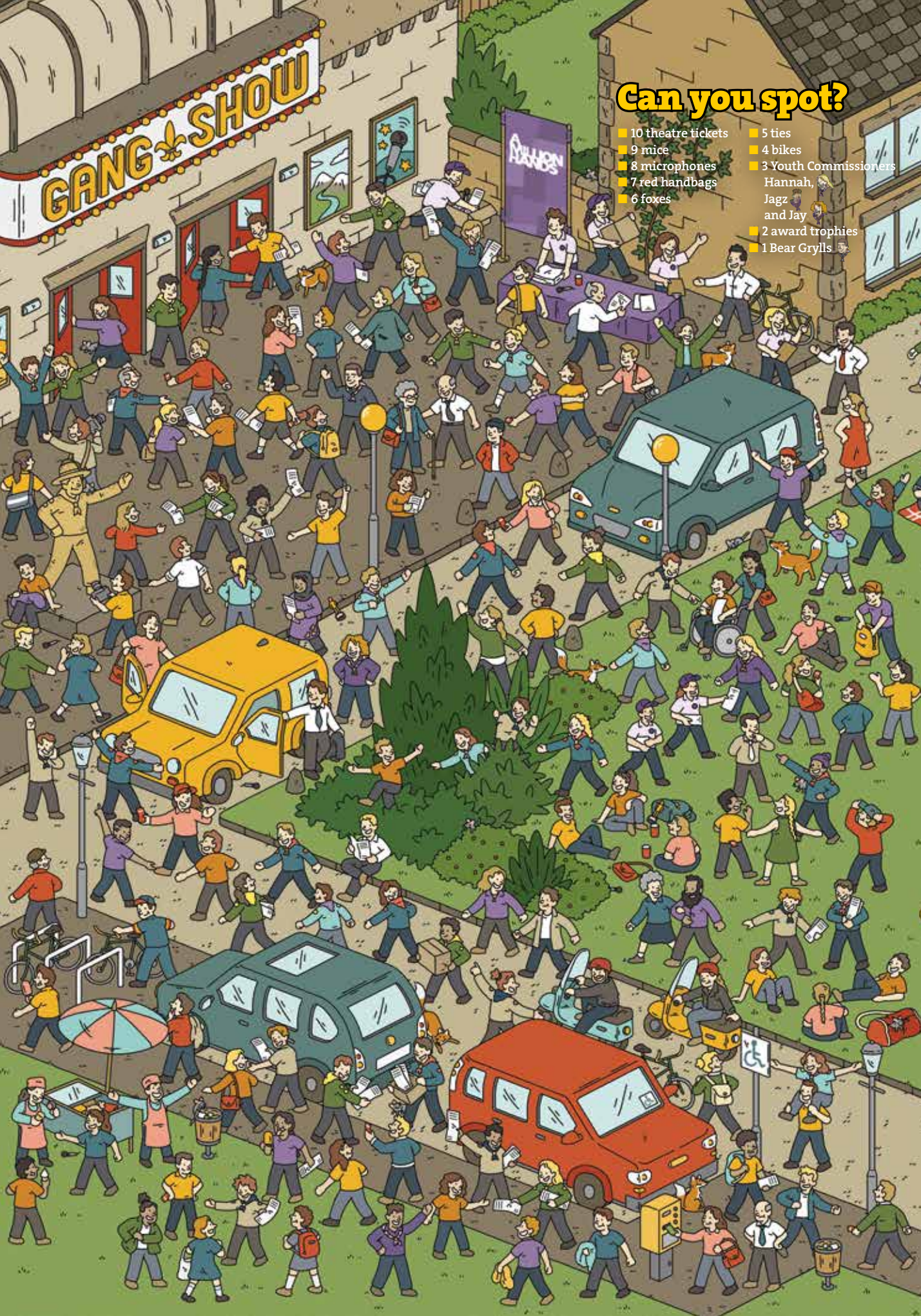
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