



SCOUTING

SCOTLAND

St George's Day can become an event
everyone looks forward to.
Put the flags out, Page 59



VENTURE ABROAD

Worldwide Activity Holidays

A 'LET'S GO THE EXTRA MILE' ADVENTURE

ICELAND FOR SCOUT GROUPS

Explore Iceland's stunning landscapes of volcanic mountains, gushing geysers, glistening glaciers and waterfalls galore. Stay in the highly recommended Úlfjötusvatn Scout Centre where your group will be perfectly based to explore Iceland's natural wonders.

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- ✓ From climbing to canoeing, you'll have a range of exhilarating activities to choose from on-site



OTHER DESTINATIONS FOR SCOUT GROUPS INCLUDE:

Belgium • France • Switzerland • Croatia • Canada and more!



Published by The Scout Association,
Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW
Tel: 0345 300 1818
Fax: 0208 433 7103
Email: scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk
Website: scouts.org.uk/magazine

The Scout Information Centre
8am–7pm weekdays, 9am–12pm Saturdays
Tel: 0345 300 1818 (local rate) or 0208 433 7100
Email: info.centre@scouts.org.uk
Post: Scout Information Centre, Gilwell Park,
Chingford, London E4 7QW



Scout Adventures
Tel: 0208 1813 151
Website: scoutadventures.org.uk



Unity Scout Insurance Services
Tel: 0345 040 7703
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Tel: 01903 766921
Email: shop@scouts.org.uk
Website: scouts.org.uk/shop

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.



Immediate Media Branded Content, 2nd Floor,
Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN
Editor Alex Drew
Senior art editor Dermot Rushe
Art editor Richard Jenkins
Project manager Celia Davey
Director of Immediate Media
Branded Content Julie Williams
Advertising manager Jamie Bolton
Email: jamie.bolton@immediate.co.uk
Tel: 0117 314 7356



A YEAR OF POSSIBILITY

This is one of my favourite times of year. Winter is behind us and the year stretches out ahead, full of possibility and adventure – much like this issue of Scouting!

I'm always so inspired by you, our volunteers, who keep coming up with brilliant new ways to deliver Scouting and engage more young people. I love the fact that Scouting never stands still, and that's exactly what Baden-Powell wanted. There's a reason he wanted us to be a Movement and not an organisation – we change with the times to stay relevant.

Read on as we go on a journey with one District that is thinking differently about how it delivers its St George's Day celebrations. Let's use this day not only to recognise achievement, but to also involve our communities and show them the great things we do.

Resilience is a key skill, and one that Scouts can learn as they take part in

our campaign, A Million Hands. Please read Sophie's story about how the campaign has helped her tackle her own mental health issues – you can't fail but to be impressed. She's just one of the 144,000 girls and women in Scouting; we profile some more great female members to celebrate International Women's Day.

We also have plenty of Programme support for you, including a guide to faith celebrations and how to incorporate them into your daily Scouting. Plus, we share 24 top tips for taking younger members abroad. It's easier than you think!

Thanks, as always, for everything you do.



Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

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• Czech Republic • Spain • Slovakia • Croatia •



FOR THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION:

Kevin Yeates
Head of creative content
kevin.yeates@scouts.org.uk

Helen Pearce
Senior creative producer
helen.pearce@scouts.org.uk

Laura Sagar
Creative producer
laura.sagar@scouts.org.uk

With thanks to 1st West Coker Scouts,
3rd Wallscourt Farm, 63rd Bristol, Pam Baker,
Bijal Bhagwan, Paul Billings, James Divall,
Jon Illingworth, Susan Leonard, Sophie Mather,
Caroline Pantling, Beryl Swatton, Zainab

FOR SCOUTS SCOTLAND:

Addie Dinsmore
Scouting Scotland editor
addie@scouts.scot

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC017511, affiliated
to The Scout Association (UK).

Scouts Scotland, Fordell Firs, Hillend,
Dunfermline, Fife KY11 7HQ

Tel: 01383 419073

Website: scouts.scot

CONTRIBUTORS:

Writers:
Jess Connett, Jacqueline Landey

Features photographers:
Gareth Iwan Jones garethiwanjones.com
Brian Doherty briandoherty.co.uk
Oliver Edwards oliveredwards.co.uk
Simon Lees simonleesphoto.co.uk

Illustrators:
Tom Hughes hughes-illustration.com
Harry Bloom harrybloomillustration.tumblr.com
Patrick George patrickgeorge.com
Katie Hickey katiehickeyillustration.com
David Lemm davidlemm.co.uk

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

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Printed in the UK on FSC® certified stock.

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EMBRACING YOUTH SHAPED SCOUTING

If you read my New Year message you will already know that my three key priorities for 2017 are the Scout Network, Youth Involvement and Community Impact.

Members across the UK have used #Youshape Month in February to focus on how we embed meaningful youth involvement at every level of Scouting. One of our key initiatives in this area is outlined in this issue of Scouting Scotland – Scouts Scotland's Youth Approved Scheme. Read the article written by Patrick West, one of our SHQ Commissioners for Youth

Involvement, on page 13. Patrick has taken the lead in the development of the scheme, and has consulted young people widely during the process.

The scheme encourages everyone in Scouts Scotland to look at their own role and see how they can start to make youth involvement a reality by delivering on some simple objectives. It can be used at Group, Unit, District, Region and SHQ. We have only launched the Foundation and Bronze levels of this new charter mark at this stage; the Silver and Gold levels will be rolled out soon.

I'd really like to encourage everyone to look at the details of the scheme. It is very simple to operate and, if implemented widely, will genuinely transform Scouting throughout Scotland. Youth involvement will become part and parcel of everyday Scouting – which is just as Baden-Powell intended!

Graham

Graham Haddock
Chief Commissioner of Scotland

MANAGERS AND SUPPORTERS' TRAINING SCHEME

Since the end of January, new training provision for managers and supporters has been gradually rolled out. The new scheme consists of essential tools to help managers and supporters carry out their roles. Updated training for all appointments, independent learning and skills courses are also available. More info can be found at scouts.org.uk/managementtraining.



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW SCOUT AMBASSADORS

We are delighted to announce five new Scout Ambassadors. Their role is to help raise the national profile of Scouting, reach new audiences and use their networks to help us increase support for the Movement.

The new ambassadors are swimmer and Paralympian, Ellie Simmonds; BBC TV presenter and journalist Anita Rani; TV presenter, naturalist (and former Cubs100 Ambassador) Steve Backshall; rower and Olympian, Helen Glover; and author and outdoors expert, Megan Hine. Each one of them is outstanding in their own field and together they are committed to helping provide young people with

opportunities to develop skills for life and attract new adult volunteers.

'This is an exceptional team of some of our country's finest talents,' says The Scout Association's Director of Communications, David Hamilton. 'They are role models for our young people, committed to helping them make the most of their lives, develop their skills and character. I look forward to working with them to raise awareness of Scouting's life-changing work and to create more opportunities for more young people.'

If you have a question about any of our Scout Ambassadors, please email communications@scouts.org.uk.



NEW WEBSITE

We're really excited to announce that the new Scouts Scotland website is now live at scouts.scot. We've listened to feedback and have created a site that looks great and is easy to use. There is an improved members' area, which holds all of the Scottish information that you need and has a resources hub that gives you quick access to any documents you're looking for. We have also enhanced the information that is available for parents and young people interested in joining Scouting, potential volunteers, and people wishing to support Scouting. Have a look and let us know what you think!

UPDATES TO POR

Following a consultation with volunteers, changes have been made to Scouting's Policy, Organisation and Rules. The changes will focus on providing clarification on roles within Scout Network that can approve the dismissal of members and on reviewing the role title of Chairman. Updates to guidance for snow sports, water and rock activities have also been made. For more information, visit scouts.org.uk/por.

SCOTJAM AT LOCHGOILHEAD

Following the success of Cubs100, Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre will hold ScotJAM – a jamboree exclusively for Cubs! The camp will take place from 17–21 July and is open to Groups and individual Cubs. With a huge range of land, water and bushcraft-based activities, it's a great way to develop skills and earn badges. Tickets cost £225 per Cub. Spaces are limited, so head to scouts.scot to book.



PROGRAMME SUPPORT FORUMS

Programme forums have been taking place across the UK since October 2016. These forums have given members in Scouting support roles the opportunity to come together and workshop how best to support section leaders in delivering a quality Programme that is challenging, relevant and rewarding for every young person. Find out when the next Programme forums are taking place in your region by visiting: scouts.org.uk/programmeforums.



LOOKING BEYOND 2018

Locally and nationally, we are continuing to deliver Scouting For All, our 2014–2018 strategic plan. Throughout 2017, crucial conversations will be had across the Movement to discuss Scouting's priorities beyond 2018. We will be looking at how we can improve the lives and futures of young people, increase our impact and support our volunteers. You can contribute to the discussion by sending your ideas to info.centre@scouts.org.uk with the subject line 'Beyond 2018'.



SCOUT NETWORK IS CALLING

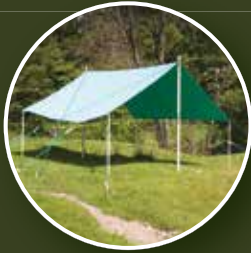
It's been a year since the launch of the Scout Network website – a place for Network members to create projects, organise events and connect with other like-minded members. There's no fee to join Scout Network, and Explorer Scouts

automatically become members when they turn 18. Encourage your Explorers to get involved – this next step in their Scouting journey can help them develop skills needed for their future. Young members can sign up at ukscoutnetwork.org.uk.



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YOUTH APPROVED

To help us become a Movement shaped by young people in partnership with adults, Scouts Scotland has launched 'Youth Approved'. We catch up with Youth Involvement Commissioner Patrick West to find out more.

'Youth Approved is a progressive award scheme that allows all Sections, Groups, Units, Districts, Regions and Scottish Headquarters to benchmark themselves against good, great and fantastic examples of youth involvement practice. Each level of Scouting has its own targets tailored to its own level.

'Youth Approved was first introduced in our Youth Involvement Strategy

that launched in 2015, and has since been designed and developed by young people at ScotShape, and by the Scouts Scotland Youth Involvement Development Group.

'Young people across Scotland put in a massive amount of effort to identify the issues most important to them to help shape the award's requirements. Youth Approved allows members to congratulate themselves for becoming more youth shaped, while also identifying areas for improvement.

'The Foundation and Bronze levels launched during #YouShape Month, and a staggered release of the other levels will follow.

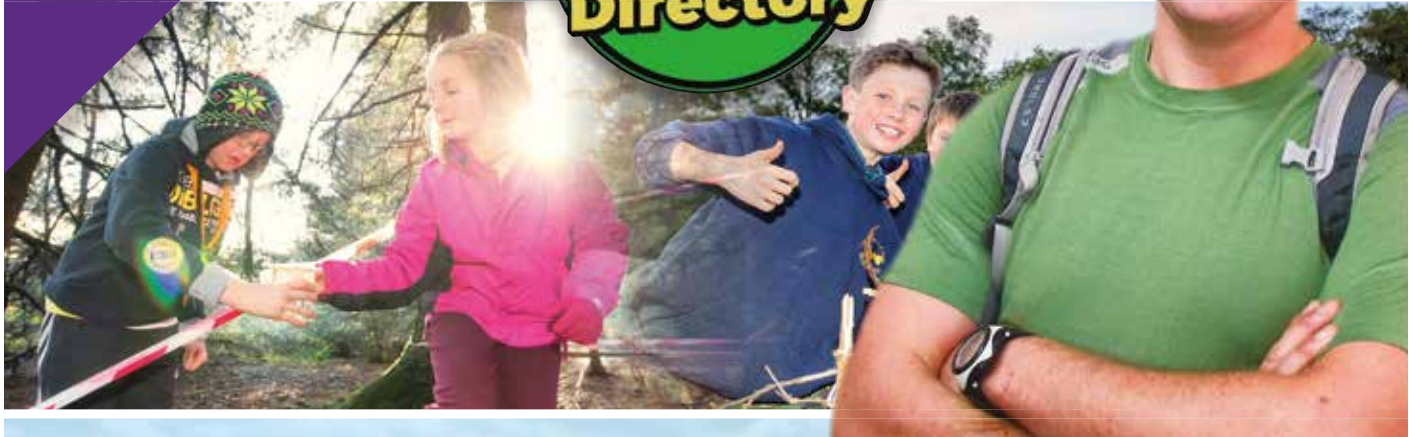
'Districts and Regions have already started to set up local Youth Advisory Groups and young people are electing their Youth Commissioners. One of the first tasks for these groups will be to peer-assess applications for Youth Approved awards and give feedback for improvements.

'Youth Approved is genuinely pivotal for Youth Involvement in Scotland. It allows us to work with volunteers to deliver the strategy locally while also allowing them the opportunity to continue doing what they do best – delivering a fantastic and varied Programme.'

Find out all about Youth Approved at scouts.scot/youthapproved.



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Regularly



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comprehensive listing of
Scout & Guide Camp Sites
and Activity Centres

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MARCH/APRIL



3–5 MAR

BASP Emergency First Aid Course

Join our two-day course to learn first aid through practical indoor and outdoor sessions, including a Basic Life Support skills assessment to gain a certificate valid for three years and that supports NGB qualifications. Course costs £130 for Scouting members. Book at warden@meggernie.org.uk.

17–19 MAR

Survival Skills Weekend, Meggernie National Activity Centre

Have you got what it takes to survive at Meggernie? This fun weekend is packed full of a range of survival training activities that will help Scouts earn their Survival Skills Activity Badge. Places fill up quickly, so get in touch soon to book your place at warden@meggernie.org.uk.



3–7 APR

Easter Scouting Skills Camp, Fordell Firs National Activity Centre

Scouts have the chance to learn basic camping skills, backwoods skills, navigation and camp cooking during this five-day camp. The event costs £150 per person. To book a place, send an email to warden@fordellfirs.org.uk.



CHECKLIST

- The Stay Safe leaflets are a great resource for young people about how to stay safe. Find them at tinyurl.com/oypyn9u.
- Apply for an Adventurous Activity Permit to take your young people on exciting adventures. tinyurl.com/jslm2vc
- Book tickets to this year's space-themed Beavers and Cubs Fundays activity weekend, taking place on 10–11 June. fundays.scouts.org.uk

OTHER DATES

26 March

Mothering Sunday

Make this Mother's Day one to remember by planning craft activities with your young people or even by holding an event to celebrate mums and mother figures.

1 April

April Fools' Day

Challenge your Group to pull off the prank of the year for April Fools' Day.

2 April

World Autism Day

Scouting resources and activities are available to help you and your Scouts understand autism better. Head to tinyurl.com/jxdyoxe to find out more.

WALSBY  FOREST

International Scout Centre



International Scout Jamboree
28 July - 4 August 2018



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MAY

5–7 MAY

Camp Craft Skills Course, Great Tower

Learn useful craft skills to make your summer camp even more exciting. The course covers camp cooking, gadgets to make with your Group, how best to set up your site and top tips for guaranteeing a successful camp. Email greattower@scoutadventures.org.uk for more information and to book.



12–14 MAY

Parent and Cub Camp, Meggernie National Activity Centre

Parents can share a camping experience with their Cubs during this weekend of nature walks, archery and more. Catering is provided so attendees just need to bring their tent and sleeping bags. The cost is £85 per pair. Email warden@meggernie.org.uk to book.

13 MAY

Community Impact Day, North of England

Taking place in Easingwold near York between 9:30am and 4:30pm, this support day will equip leaders, managers, Young Leaders and Network Members with the confidence and skills to help their members make an impact in their community. tinyurl.com/z938jlp



CHECKLIST

Buy the Cubs Pocket Book series, which offers practical advice, amazing facts, figures and illustrations on outdoor activities, essential skills and international adventures. Visit tinyurl.com/hlnrj17 for more information.

Camp safety: Don't forget to check all your expedition equipment before going on camp and apply for disclosure checks for any new camp helpers this summer.

Scout Community Week is taking place on 4 October this year. You've got six months to plan and carry out a great community impact project with your young people with amillionhands.org.uk.

OTHER DATES

14 May

Buddha Day

Buddha Day provides a great opportunity to teach your young people about the Buddhist faith. Stuck for ideas? Turn to page 49 for faith-based activity suggestions.

17 May

International Day Against Homophobia

Celebrated in over 130 countries, co-ordinated events will take place to raise awareness of LGBT rights worldwide. dayagainsthomophobia.org

HELP BUILD A BETTER WORLD



Photo: Kim Hoang/Save the Children

FRIDAY 16 JUNE

Take your youth group on a den-building adventure.

They'll build dens together, learn about the importance of shelter and raise money to change children's lives.

SIGN UP NOW
to get your free fundraising kit at
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Registered charity England and Wales (213890) Scotland (SC039570)



JUNE/JULY



3 JUNE

Community Impact Support Day, Scotland

Head to Fordell Firs National Activity Centre in Dunfermline, Scotland for a support day that aims to help you build the skills, knowledge and confidence to help local Scouting and youth members make a positive impact in your community. Register here: tinyurl.com/zugek4y.

16–18 JUNE

National Camping Competition Zonal Qualifiers, Fordell Firs National Activity Centre/Auchengillan Outdoor Centre

Each District can be represented at the Zonal Qualifiers, where up to 10 teams will be selected for the final in September. For information on how to compete, contact your DC.



17–21 JULY

Summer Cub Jamboree, Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre

Following the success of the Cubs Centenary camps, Lochgoilhead is inviting Cubs from all over Scotland to get together for an action-packed five days in the great outdoors. Visit lochgoilhead.org.uk for more information or email info@lochgoilhead.org.uk.



CHECKLIST

Find out about the grants available this summer, which includes the provision of wheelchairs or mobility equipment for young people with additional needs, or funding to support the costs of your activity permit training. Find out more at scouts.org.uk/grants or email dgb@scouts.org.uk.

Take Action over the summer using A Million Hands resource packs. Find them at amillionhands.org.uk.

There are a number of Good Service awards available to adults in Scouting. Remember to nominate members before September. scouts.org.uk/awards

OTHER DATES

21 June

Summer solstice

Make the most of the longest day of the year by arranging some astronomy-based activities. Head to tinyurl.com/hqu27hk to learn about the science behind the solstice.

17 July

Pride Edinburgh

Pride Edinburgh is a great opportunity to celebrate diversity and promote inclusion within Scouting. To find out how you can take part in Pride this year, contact lgbti@scouts.scot.

THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE



TEMPEST XD

The Tempest XD takes our popular tunnel tent and updates it with reinforced materials and components. Ideal for high volume usage, the XD model retains all of features from the original design like the Venturi Vent system, which produces a flow of fresh air in the tent, in one robust package.

FEATURES

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SINCE 1966

TEAM UK:

Tim Kidd
UK Chief Commissioner
tim.kidd@scouts.org.uk

Hannah Kentish
UK Youth Commissioner
hannah.kentish@scouts.org.uk

Kester Sharpe
Deputy UK Chief Commissioner
kester.sharpe@scouts.org.uk

Mark Tarry
Deputy UK Chief Commissioner
mark.tarry@scouts.org.uk

Alex Peace-Gadsby
Chief Commissioner of England
alex.peace-gadsby@scouts.org.uk

Graham Haddock
Chief Commissioner of Scotland
chief.commissioner@scouts.scot

Gareth Watson
Chief Commissioner of Wales
Prif Gomisiynydd Cymru
cc@scoutscymru.org.uk

Stephen Donaldson
Chief Commissioner of Northern Ireland
chiefcommissioner@scoutsni.org

Jack Maxton
International Commissioner
international.commissioner@scouts.org.uk

Craig Turpie
UK Commissioner for Programme
craig.turpie@scouts.org.uk

Alex Minajew
UK Commissioner for Safety
uksafety@scouts.org.uk

ASK TEAM UK

The UK Chief Commissioner and his team answer your questions on the Expedition Challenge Award, global issues, the District Scout Network and more!

.....

CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY THERE IS CURRENTLY SUCH A FOCUS ON ADULT TRAINING?

I believe that every parent expects their children to be led by competent and well-trained adults. For me training is about recognising that there is always something new to learn. It's what makes Scouting so interesting and enriches our time as adults in Scouting. My view is that if we believe that we know everything then it's time to think again – complacency can lead to mistakes.

I've done quite a bit of training recently! I renewed my First Response in Oxfordshire where I live. The trainers were very nice to me as I have something of a phobia of blood (a bit of a problem when attending a first-aid course!) – they were brilliant with me and I finished the two evenings feeling more confident about dealing with a first-aid incident, but also pleased to know that people much more competent than me would be on the scene very quickly!

I've also just completed my Wood Badge as UK Chief Commissioner. This was fascinating – I learned about areas that both interest me and are important in my new role. I make no

apology for our training requirements for adults in Scouting – when people ask me why we have so much focus on training my answer is simple: it's to ensure that we can provide brilliant, fun, exciting and safe Scouting.

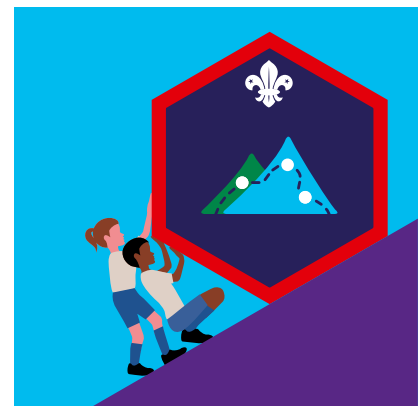
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Tim Kidd
UK Chief Commissioner

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SOME SCOUTS STRUGGLE WITH THE EXPEDITION CHALLENGE AWARD. AS A RESULT, IT'S THEN DIFFICULT TO COMPLETE THE CHIEF SCOUT'S GOLD AWARD. WHAT CAN WE DO?

Every Scout should be encouraged to work towards their Chief Scout's Gold Award. With good reason, the requirements are challenging. If, ▶



Illustrations: Patrick George

as a leader, you're finding it difficult to support the Expedition Challenge Award – which requires Scouts to undertake a two-day and one-night expedition or exploration – seek out support from other leaders in your Group or District. With careful planning by the Troop leadership team, soon after a Scout joins the Troop, it should be possible for many more Scouts to achieve the award. Full requirements, as well as guidance for leaders, together with examples of different types of expeditions and explorations, can be found here: bit.ly/2djcQao

Craig Turpie
UK Commissioner for Programme

.....
HOW CAN EXPLORER SCOUTS JOIN OUR DISTRICT SCOUT NETWORK?

With District Scout Networks getting up and running, the opportunity to move on from Explorer Scouts to Scout Network is improving all the time. Your District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC) and District Scout Network Commissioner (DSNC) should have a Link Agreement in place that outlines how all Explorer Scout Units and the District Scout Network



will collaborate. The agreement could be written or verbal. It might cover joint activities; when the DSNC can start communicating with Explorer Scouts, or how the section will work together to support young people working on the top awards. Explorer Scouts also have the option to join the UK Scout Network, perhaps if they are moving away from the District. At 18 they can join the District Scout Network or the UK Scout Network by visiting ukscoutnetwork.org.uk/join-us and registering.

Craig Turpie
UK Commissioner for Programme

.....
HOW DO THE NEW PEER LEADERSHIP STRIPES WORK FOR BEAVERS?

For Beavers, the leadership role has been designed to be rotated throughout the Colony with the use of a special woggle (available at Scout Shops) that the peer leader wears during their turn. This allows more Beavers to develop their leadership skills and gives them a taste of leading a team before they move on to Cubs, where they can continue to develop leadership skills by becoming Sixers and Seconders. There is also a poster available from the Print Centre, which has three important tasks for peer leaders in the Beaver section. Every Beaver who takes on the leadership role will receive yellow leadership stripes to display on their uniform at the end of their turn to show that they completed their time as a peer leader.

Hannah Kentish
UK Youth Commissioner

WHY HAVE THE COLOURS FOR THE PEER LEADERSHIP STRIPES CHANGED?

We have changed the colour of the Sixer and Seconder stripes in Cubs and have introduced one in Beavers to show progression in leadership through sections. The stripes are yellow for Beaver Scouts, red for Cubs Scouts and blue for Scouts. Patrol Leaders and Sixers will also get a guidance booklet free of charge with their stripes which includes top tips for their roles. These booklets will be distributed to District Badges Secretaries with every order of peer leadership stripes. These resources are designed to support leaders with embedding peer leadership in their sections, giving young people the opportunity to develop leadership skills in a safe and fun environment.

Hannah Kentish
UK Youth Commissioner

.....
WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO HELP MY SECTION LEARN ABOUT GLOBAL ISSUES?

Being part of a global Scout Movement means we have a role to play in the issues that have a global impact – poverty, hunger, health, conservation and access to education. Our International and Global Issues Badges help our young people share, learn and act on these important issues.

From listening to leaders, we know these badges are sometimes tricky to deliver at section meetings so we've created some activity resource packs to support the delivery of the Global Issues Activity Badge



and International Activity Badge. Youth members also may well have questions on the refugee crisis, so we've created a resource to address these. All of the above can be found at scouts.org.uk/international. This issue of Make.Do.Share also has an international focus, with activities that will help your young people meet badge requirements – take a look.

Jack Maxton
International Commissioner

I'VE DONE SOME OF MY GROUP SCOUT LEADER WOOD BADGE TRAINING UNDER THE PREVIOUS SCHEME. DO I HAVE TO START AGAIN NOW THERE'S A NEW MANAGER/SUPPORTER TRAINING SCHEME,

The current manager/supporter modules are being replaced with more up-to-date resources to better support our volunteers in these critical roles. Since January 2017, all new manager and supporter appointments have been required to complete the new training scheme.

As you were in the middle of completing training for your Wood Badge when the new scheme

was introduced, you now have two choices:

- You can continue to complete your training under the previous training scheme using the old modules' validation criteria. If you choose to do this you must complete all your training before end of June 2017.
- You can move to the new training scheme to complete your Wood Badge using the new validation criteria. Prior learning will be taken into consideration and training completed under the old scheme can be used to validate certain criteria as part of the new scheme.

From the end of June 2017, all managers or supporters must complete the validation criteria under the new Leadership and Management Training to gain their Wood Badge. As the Adult Training Scheme is designed to recognise prior learning, modules completed under the previous training scheme for managers and supporters can be used to validate certain criteria as part of the new scheme. Learners need to fill any gaps in their knowledge and skills to enable them to complete all the criteria for the new training scheme. A transition guidance table can be found in the FAQs on Member Resources (tinyurl.com/j78spb5) showing how modules from the previous training scheme can be used to validate certain criteria from the new scheme.

Kester Sharpe
Deputy UK Chief Commissioner

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

To find out more about Team UK and their roles, visit tinyurl.com/jfrhexf.

SCOUTING GOES TERMLY

We understand that to enhance the experience of young people and adults in Scouting we have to transform the way we communicate. Recent research with our membership indicates that more and more of our members are accessing communications digitally.

We know that Scouting magazine is important. It highlights great work happening across the Movement and supports you to deliver Scouting locally. In light of this, we remain committed to Scouting magazine but have decided to align the magazine issues with the Scouting terms. This will allow us to invest more into our digital channels while ensuring that the magazine supports your Programme planning effectively.

According to our research, the majority of those who receive Scouting magazine say a termly magazine would meet their Scouting needs. We will increase the usefulness of the magazine in two ways: we will produce more features in each issue, continuing to reflect the challenges and successes of our Movement, and we will produce a longer activity section focused on Programme planning.

Scouting magazine will still support you beyond print with an online PDF version, activity ideas and features on our website. In addition, members can access timely information and resources through our social media channels, members.scouts.org.uk and the Scouting+ email every Friday. You can sign up to Scouting+ by amending your communication preferences on compass.scouts.org.uk. Both Scouting magazine and Make.Do.Share. will be published three times a year at Easter time, and in July and November.

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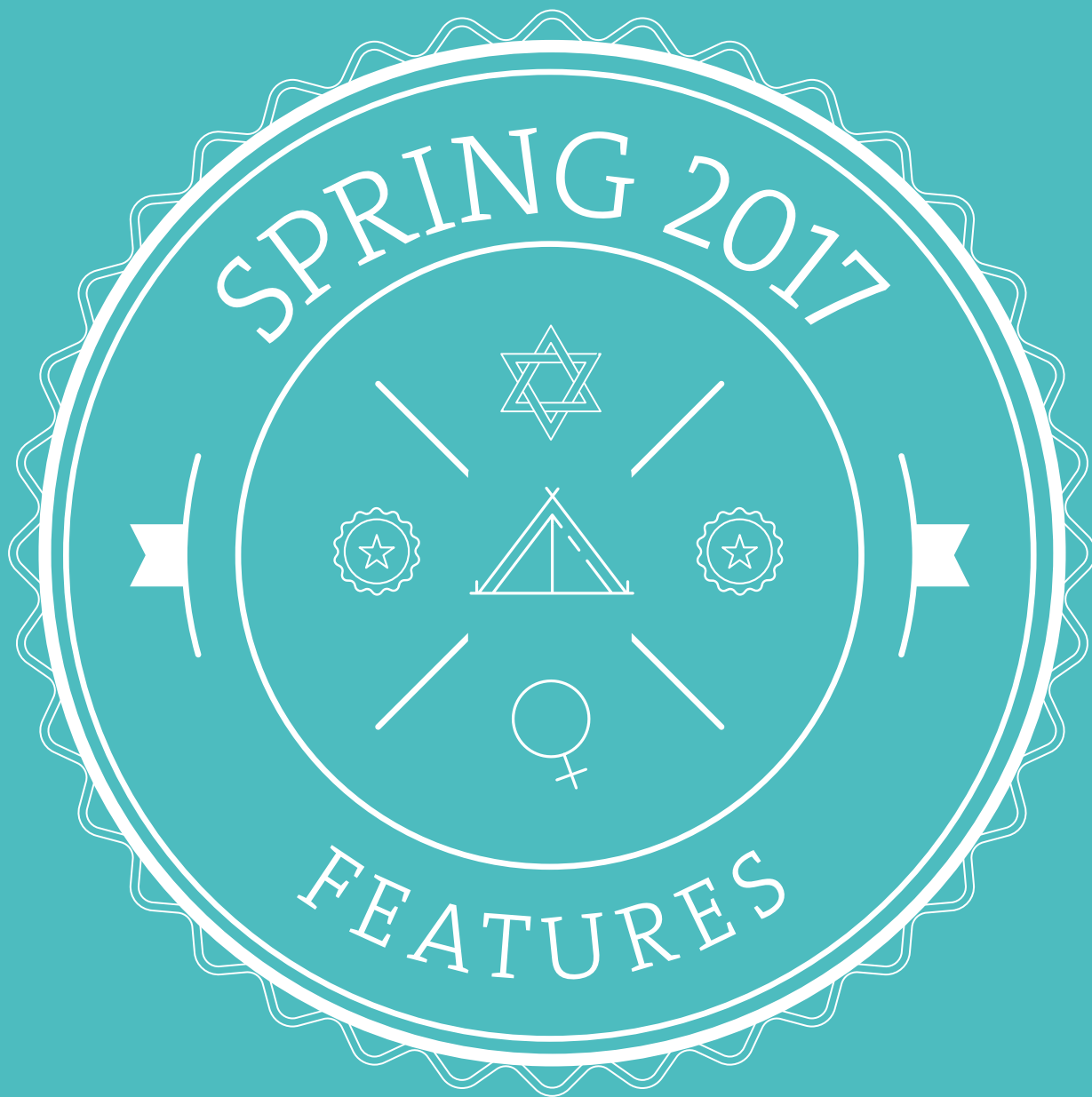


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Learning the ropes

Pears Project residentials are giving new sections a taste of adventure. We tagged along to see what they have to offer

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Oliver Edwards







BIRDS TWEET IN the frosty morning air at Woodhouse Park Scout Adventures Centre. The team of 12 Pears Project interns check their schedules and stamp to keep warm as the high ropes course glitters in the distance. Then, right on time, cars and minibuses trickle into the carpark and it's all action: over 80 young people, plus adult helpers, spill onto the concrete, kit and sleeping bags kicking around their ankles, chatting excitedly about the adventurous activities they'll be doing today. The team welcome them and lead them all to the dormitories that will be their temporary home for the night.

Everyone here is part of a new section or Group, supported to open by the Pears Project: a pilot scheme that has grown Scouting in Avon by 300 new members annually for the past three years. 'This weekend is all about

turning parent helpers into Scout Leaders, and forming the young people into real Scout sections,' Ben Powlesland, Pears Project Manager, explains. For most, this is their first experience of a Scout camp.

'This is the fourth residential we've done since 2015. Initially it was an experiment, but we found that by bringing the young people away with parents who are new to Scouting, everyone understands it more,' Ben continues. 'Adults often come away willing to take on a bigger role, and the young people see what it means to be a Scout. It helps with retaining both young people and adults, and it inspires the new sections to do nights away and activity days on their own. Now, we invite every new section we open on a camp.'

There are young people from seven

Groups here this weekend. Some are veterans of this process, having attended other Pears Project residential over the years they've been receiving support. Often, their leaders still don't have the means, equipment or necessary permits to go to camp, so without opportunities like this, their Scouting experience would be limited.

For others, this really is new. The Beaver Colony at 1st Prestbury, Cheltenham, has only been open for six weeks. A few Beavers migrated from the other full Colony, but most are completely fresh to Scouting. After rolling out their sleeping bags in the hall, they tramp down into the woods for their first activity: making campfire twists.

'I was a Beaver years ago, and I liked the idea of getting my son out and



‘This weekend was all about showing, rather than telling, new members about Scouting,’

BEN POWLESLAND, PEARS PROJECT MANAGER





‘I was a Beaver years ago – I liked the idea of getting my son out and about and enjoying himself’

IVAN ROLFE, VOLUNTEER









‘I was always too shy to join Scouts... so it’s really nice to be here’

MINOWA NORTON, VOLUNTEER

about and enjoying himself,’ volunteer Ivan Rolfe explains to me, wearing his box-fresh iScout hoodie and 1st Prestbury scarf, as he helps mix dough to the right consistency. ‘We don’t have one outright leader at the moment – we’re a whole load of parents who’ve come together to assist and get everything running. This is our first event.’

Over at the crate-stacking, Larkhall

Cub Pack from Bath cheer as two Cubs stand triumphantly atop their wobbly tower. Isaac, 8, has only been a Cub for two weeks. ‘I didn’t know that we would come on a residential so soon, because I’ve only just joined. It’s really fun,’ he says. His friend Seb, also 8, talks enthusiastically about the archery they’ve just done, and their plans for a midnight feast tonight. ‘I think it’s going to be quite fun sleeping over because I’ve got all my friends here. And I know where the snacks are!’

Behind them, Beavers from 209th Lockleaze, Bristol, scale the climbing wall, watched by volunteer Minowa Norton. Though the Group was reopened several years ago by the Pears Project team, she has been volunteering for just two months.

‘It’s been really good so far,’ she says. ‘I’ve got some more training coming up, and this is the second trip I’ve done. I was always too shy to join Scouts when I was younger, so it’s really nice to be here and see some of the quieter Beavers coming out of their shells.’

The activities last all day, and the young people come in for a hot dinner ruddy-faced and out of breath. They laugh and chat together – as do the leaders, finally getting a chance to find out more about each other, which isn’t always possible during a hectic section meeting.

The sun begins to set behind the trees, and the young people search through their kit bags for woolly hats and torches. The leaders from 1st Prestbury carefully roll up six neckers and tie ▶



‘It’s been handy to meet other volunteers – it’s cemented it all.’

IVAN ROLFE, VOLUNTEER

them with friendship knots, ready for an investiture at the campfire.

They all head out to the campfire. ‘Are you ready?’ one of the leaders shouts. ‘We were born ready!’ comes the deafening reply. A line of young people, torches lit against the darkness, trickles through the woods. The Pears Project team and UK Trustee Ashley Russell, who is visiting for the

weekend, are in full Scouting spirit as they run the investiture ceremony and lead the songs. ‘Campfire’s Burning’ starts quietly but gets louder with each repeat, as more young people learn the words.

The next morning there are bleary eyes at breakfast, but the mood is buoyant. Isaac is still bubbling with excitement as he shoves kit into his bag. ‘The whole camp has been exciting and fun. It was a big surprise for me because I didn’t really know what Cubs was going to be like,’ he says. ‘I’m going to tell my friends about it at school tomorrow. I think most of them will say, “Sick, I’d like to do that!” – and I feel happy that I got the chance to go on this trip, all because I joined Cubs.’

1st Prestbury have enjoyed themselves too. ‘It’s been cracking,’ Ivan says. ‘I think the best thing was the campfire and investing some of the Beavers – it’s nice to do something special at a special event, because they’ll always remember it. And it’s been handy for us to meet other volunteers. It’s cemented it all a little bit more.’

Camp strikes, and the young people leave with bags packed and lasting memories, while their leaders take experience back to fresh sections, and will start to plan the next adventure with ongoing guidance from the Pears Project team. ‘This weekend was all about showing, rather than telling, new members about Scouting,’ Project Manager Ben Powlesland says. And, by all accounts, it is working wonders. ❁



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'IT WAS THEN THAT I REALISED SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT,
AND MY SCOUTING FRIENDS DID TOO...'



Saving grace

Only after opening up to her Scout Group could Sophie truly begin to address her mental health issues. Here she tells her story...

Words: Sophie Mather | Illustration: Katie Hickey

UNTIL ABOUT 12 months ago, I kept my mental health issues to myself. I didn't like talking about them because I was scared of being judged.

I joined Scouting as a quiet 11-year-old, just after moving to a secondary school where I knew virtually nobody. At Scouts I was a completely different person to the one I was at school. I was a confident, active member of the Troop who wanted to try everything and get to know everyone. I felt supported at Scouts and it became a place to escape my anxiety. At school I was quiet and avoided doing anything that made me stand out. I felt judged and like I didn't belong.

At secondary school I started avoiding social situations because I felt so anxious. I soon stopped being invited and became aware that my friends were doing things without me. My parents noticed too and asked if everything was alright, but I just kept saying I was fine, that it wasn't really my kind of thing.

Things got really bad at university. I was scared of leaving my room, of speaking to anyone. I could go from

feeling happy to wanting to cry in seconds. I had no idea what was making me feel that way, which made it hard to explain to others. It was then that I realised something wasn't right, and my Scouting friends did too, so they encouraged me to get help.

Mental health was a taboo subject when I was an 11-year-old, but I always felt safe to be myself at Scouts. Scouting welcomes all and judges no-one, which is something more people in society should be doing. More recently, seeing mental health and wellbeing chosen as one of the A Million Hands issues gave me the confidence to talk to others about my own experiences. Opening up to people has been a big help; I now know that there is always someone I can talk to. My Scouting friends understand and will always get me out, even when I think I don't want to leave the house.

Camping, hiking, running and kayaking have all been key in helping me to manage my feelings. Scouting has given me a love of the outdoors and I think it's the best place to escape anxiety and depression. Whether I'm

concentrating on reading a map or simply admiring the scenery, being outdoors offers freedom, and a chance to relax and focus on something completely different.

By sharing my experiences as part of A Million Hands, I want to let others know that they aren't alone, and to encourage them to speak out about their feelings. I've run some A Million Hands activities with my Group and it's got the Scouts thinking more about how they can support each other.

Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference, like those volunteers who make sure everyone feels involved. Often people suffering from mental health issues feel like they're useless, so showing them they're useful and valued helps. Above all, it's great when people offer support, but don't force the issue. Scouting has definitely helped my mental health. I'm no longer the quiet 11-year-old that I once was; I'm an Assistant County Commissioner supporting other young people. Mental health still isn't easy to talk about, but sometimes just knowing someone is there is enough. 🌿



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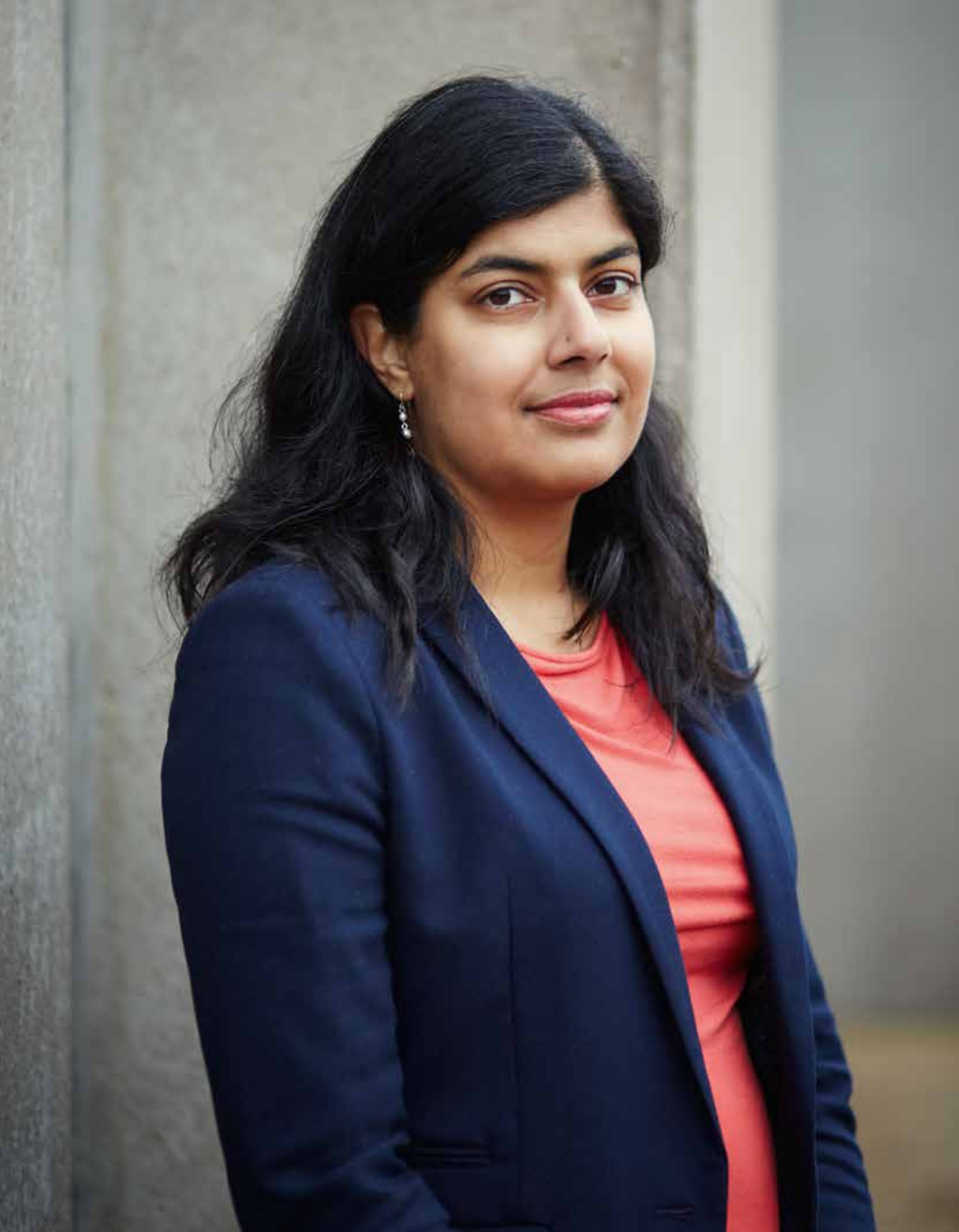
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A woman's world

To celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March, we asked you to nominate inspirational female volunteers who deserve recognition. Here are just four from the hundreds you suggested

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Brian Doherty

BIJAL BHAGWAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, NORTH EAST LEICESTER

The positive influence of Scouting is forefront of Bijal Bhagwan's mind, when she thinks back to joining the Movement. 'In the 1990s ours was the only Group in the area that had started taking girls, so I was one of the first,' she explains. Her willingness to roll up her sleeves, cheerful nature and excellent people skills were all put to good use as a Young Leader, where she flourished as a mentor to her peers.

Bijal continued to volunteer, including taking a national role in the Programme team. Seven years ago, she moved back to her home city of Leicester and started assisting a local Beaver section, becoming more involved over time.

Then around three years ago there was a refresh of the District team. Bijal put her name forward to assist the District Commissioner of North East Leicester, and secured the role. The mix of people, personalities, skills and experience in their team was an immediate success. 'It works really well because everyone is very different,' Bijal says. 'Some people have

come through Scouting, and others have joined in later life.'

She threw herself into the role, doing, as she puts it, 'whatever needs doing.' Alongside setting up a new Group with more than 20 new adults, stepping in as an acting Group Scout Leader, and proactively recruiting and training volunteers, Bijal also took on the responsibility of making the District as Youth Shaped as possible.

'Group Scout Leaders were saying, "What is Youth Shaped Scouting? How do I do it? Is it difficult?" A lot of it was just the terminology being a barrier,' Bijal recalls. 'As someone who was external to their Group, I could see that they were already doing it, they just didn't realise. I explained to them that being Youth Shaped has always been a key part of Scouting, and showed them why it's important for young people to own their experience.'

Bijal regularly visits Groups in her District, delivering her message of Youth Shaped Scouting and giving leaders practical advice. She focuses on the simple actions that can help young people be heard – a task that can be very rewarding. 'Sometimes, my role involves spending lots of time with

leaders and overcoming problems – it can be challenging. But going out and seeing young people enjoying themselves is great. They tell me about their achievements and their own personal journeys.'

Part of the Youth Shaped model is about encouraging a new generation of volunteers to step forward, with the support of adults who act as mentors, Bijal included. 'It's not just about being a section leader,' Bijal says with real passion. 'There are lots of roles young people can have, and we are developing the skills they need to be volunteers, even before they turn 18. I've already earmarked some Explorers who I can see replacing me in a few years. I'll have moved on to another role and they'll be volunteering flexibly with me.'

She pauses to reflect. 'In Leicestershire, we've come a long way,' Bijal says. 'Young girls who join Scouts see that our District Commissioner team is all women, and that it doesn't matter if you're male or female. It helps them realise that they can have any role they want.' This attitude will no doubt help a generation of young people in Leicestershire to succeed, led from the front by one inspirational woman. ▶

PAM BAKER AND BERYL SWATTON
12TH ERITH SCOUT GROUP

Eighty-two-year-old Beryl and 74-year-old Pam sit side by side, firm friends since they met through Scouting years ago. 'They used to call us the wicked witches!' Pam jokes, and they both chuckle. They have seen adult uniforms change three times, welcomed girls into their sections, and have clocked up over 90 years of volunteering experience between them.

First to join was Beryl. Upon leaving Girlguiding aged 15, she decided she wanted to help children. 'Someone said there was a Cub Pack nearby,' she explains. 'I wasn't really old enough, but I went – and I've been in Scouting ever since.' At that time, in the early 1950s, there were so few female volunteers that Beryl didn't even have an official uniform. From Section Assistant to Akala, she then became Group Scout Leader, where she introduced Pam to Scouting in 1981, and subsequently took on numerous District and County roles. Beryl still makes the journey to 12th Erith Scout Group when she can, and is part of their Executive Committee.

Pam is currently Group Scout Leader at 12th Erith but first joined Scouting as a parent helper in the 1980s. 'I had two boys in Cubs, and I went along to their sports day,' she recalls. 'I was asked to hold the tape at the end of the running race, and it progressed from there.'

'That's what comes from knowing me!' Beryl quips. 'I started going along to help run Cubs, not knowing a thing,' Pam continues. 'But I was very lucky, because Beryl was our Group Scout Leader: she knew everything, and she taught me everything I know.'

Over the years, thousands of young people have attended their Group, the District camps Pam catered for, and the County events Beryl ran, including the annual canoe race that she organised for over 30 years. As a result, they are well-known in the community. 'When I went to the doctor's the other day, I wondered why there were a lot of men saying hello,' Beryl says. 'Then I realised that they were all formerly in Scouting. I don't often recognise them because my memory isn't very good, but I do still like to speak to them.'

'What I find amazing,' Pam chips in, 'is that some of our young Cubs are now bringing their children to Beavers. And a lot of our youngsters have gone into Explorers and want to come back to help, so I'm getting overrun with

'We may be a couple of old birds, but we do realise you've got to change with the times.'

PAM BAKER

Young Leaders at the moment. But I'm not saying no: we may be a couple of old birds, but we do realise that you've got to change with the times.'

Scouting has been a source of great happiness over the years. 'Everyone used to think it was great to play practical jokes on us,' Pam reminisces. 'One time on camp, we were sleeping in these little wooden chicken sheds, and the leaders spent all day trying to put sheep in our hut!' They both have a good laugh at the memory. 'They did some terrible things to us, but it was all in good fun. And we have done some very silly things over the years, too,' Pam continues. 'It wouldn't be life if we hadn't,' Beryl says.

As a community, friendship circle and support network, Scouting is perhaps more important than ever for Beryl and Pam. Both are widows, and neither are as mobile as they once were. 'I was in hospital recently and everybody wanted to help,' Pam says. 'It was just like having another family. They are the nicest group of people you could meet.' Beryl's house is full of Scouting memorabilia, photographs and trinkets; Scouting is woven into the fabric of their lives, and they wouldn't be the same without it. 'It's a great organisation,' Pam says. 'It's given me a lot over the years.' Their dedication is truly inspirational, and a reminder that we are all indebted to our loyal, longstanding volunteers, without whom Scouting would not be what it is today. ▶





SUSAN LEONARD
CUB LEADER AND DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER, ELLESMERE

'I had my daughter at 17 and took a couple of weeks off from Cubs, but I was soon back at the meetings, with Amy in a pram in the corner,' Susan Leonard says with complete nonchalance. She had only been volunteering for a year – helping with Cubs to earn her Girlguiding Service Flash – but even as a teenager, she was determined to support the section as much as she could.

Though she was a young single parent, Sue threw herself into everything and Scouting soon became her social life and support network. 'It was amazing to be surrounded by so many like-minded people with the same hobby,' she says – although times weren't always easy. 'Back then I didn't drive, so my daughter and I would walk to Cubs every week, and to all the District meetings.'

This willingness to support others and put those around her before herself typifies the commitment Sue has shown to Scouting during her 27-year career. From starting as an Assistant Cub Leader at 4th Worsley (Christ the King) Scout Group, she soon became the Section Leader, and took on additional District and County roles over the years. In 2013, she became District Commissioner. 'I knew the role would be demanding because I didn't want to give up Cubs. The thought of

stopping was too upsetting. It's the bread and butter – it's why I joined.'

Somehow, she made the time. 'Continuing to run my own Group helps me avoid getting swamped in the paperwork that comes with being a DC, and helps me be "hands on" in Ellesmere District,' she says.

Sue juggles all her Scouting commitments alongside three demanding jobs, and a new granddaughter, priding herself on always being a listening ear when volunteers need her. 'It's quite often late at night or early in the morning when I get time to respond to emails, and it has become a bit of a joke that if someone has an email that they wake up to, it will be from me!' she laughs.

Supporting others, whether adults or young people, is what Sue does best. 'I like to be out there, seeing the young people,' she says. 'I love it when young people from other groups come and say hello.' In her previous role as Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs, Sue ambitiously extended an

'It's such a rewarding hobby. It's become my life and I wouldn't have it any other way.'

SUSAN LEONARD

invite to the Ceremonial Mayor of Salford, to present the District's Chief Scout's Awards. This was graciously accepted, and now taking tea in the Mayor's parlour, along with a presentation evening for parents, has become an annual tradition that encourages young people in the District to be ambitious and reach for the highest awards.

'There have been a lot of young people who have been through our Group in the time I've been involved, and so often, when I see them or their parents, they say that Scouting made them,' Sue says, her own daughter included. Amy, who came to meetings as a newborn in her pram, is now a mother herself, and something of her mum's Scouting spirit has been passed down. 'She comes along and assists at our Group, with her daughter asleep in her cot,' Sue says proudly. 'Many people have commented that it's history repeating itself. Amy knows the Scouting life and the rewards it brings, and it's amazing to have her support. And we've already said that we're signing up my granddaughter when she's old enough!'

The Scouting journey has been a real adventure for Sue, with plenty of challenges. But the support of her family, friends and fellow volunteers has always kept her going. 'I love my roles,' she says. 'It's busy and demanding, but it's such a rewarding hobby. It's become my life, and I wouldn't have it any other way.' ▶

ZAINAB
SCOUT LEADER,
ANSAAR GIRL SCOUTS

Scouting wasn't part of Zainab's world until she heard an advert on the radio during Ramadan, three years ago.

1st Heckmondwike Ansaar Scouts were looking for more women to help with their new female Scout section, set up to meet a growing need in West Yorkshire. 'Clubs for girls will often be craft,' Zainab says, making no effort to hide her disdain. 'I wanted to give the girls the opportunity to see that they can do other things – they don't just have to sit at home.'

Her headstrong nature and go-getting attitude have been evident since childhood. 'I've always been adventurous,' she recalls. 'My mum and dad always wanted us to do as many new things as we could. I'd go back to school after the holidays and tell everyone about the things I did, and I'd find out that my friends had just been at home all summer. I wanted to do something I could look back on in later life.'

Now an established leader with Ansaar Girl Scouts, and with a strong team of other ambitious women supporting her, Zainab is seeing her girls flourish with Scouting. 'There's more demand for activities for girls than boys,' she says. 'Some of the girls come and they're quiet and shy, but after a few sessions they open up and come into their own, and we can see

in their faces that they love it. There's such a demand for Scouting that we've started an Explorer Unit for the girls who want to carry on. We have some now who are turning 18 and training to be leaders.'

At the heart of the section is Zainab's firm belief that positive female role models are what the girls need. Several of the leaders are successful working mothers – a teacher, a therapist, a driving instructor who does martial arts – and run their homes while also volunteering at Scouts. 'Some of the younger leaders are still searching for their way and coming into their own,' Zainab says. 'We show them, and the young people, what is possible, and that you can be confident and do whatever you want to do.' This ties in perfectly with the Scout Promise to do one's best, in all things – from taking your faith seriously, to working to improve your community.

Even Zainab's Scouting name – Aloe – has been chosen to be inspirational to the young people she supports.

'I am who I am, with or without the veil. It's not a barrier; it doesn't stop me from doing anything.'

ZAINAB

'We didn't want to use the normal Scouting names, like Skip,' she says. 'We decided to use flowers and shrubs that have positive meanings. We believe that your name is who you become, so if you have a positive name, you'll be a positive person. I'm Aloe – a healer and a protector. That's what I want to be for the girls: someone to help them heal and help them grow.'

With anti-Muslim rhetoric dominating politics of late, and hate crimes up 42% in the weeks after the EU referendum, Scouting is a force for good in a difficult climate. 'It is a hard time at the moment, with what's happening in the world,' Zainab says, 'but in Scouting you hardly notice it. It's not about being Muslim, it's about being human. A couple of times we've been out on hikes in our hijabs and neckers, and people have come up to us and given us lots of positive comments. I feel we have a positive impact on the community; we show the better side of what the media portrays.'

In her full Islamic veil, Zainab cuts a striking figure when she takes the girls out canoeing, or goes hiking through the Yorkshire hills. 'I am who I am, with or without the veil,' she says firmly – and has a strong message for anyone who may hold preconceptions or negative stereotypes about the way she chooses to dress. 'It's not a barrier; it doesn't stop me from doing anything,' she says. 'I'm bossy. Nobody can say I'm repressed.' ❁






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The year ahead

Your young people can work towards their World Challenge Award and World Faiths Activity Badge with our guide to the celebrations happening over the next 12 months

Words: Alex Drew

CELEBRATING FAITHS

APRIL 2017

One of the biggest dates in the Jewish calendar is Passover, the Festival of Freedom, held on 10–18 April. This eight-day festival commemorates the liberation of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses, as stated in the Bible.

The first two and the last two days of Passover are full days of rest and the highlight of the festival sees family and friends gather together for meals. Chametz, or leavened foods – foods that contain one of five types of grain, have been mixed with water and left to rise – are forbidden during Passover. Their inflated nature is symbolic of arrogance and during Passover Jews aspire to rid themselves of chametz so that they can become humble vessels.

ACTIVITY: Talk to your young people about chametz and make unleavened bread together by mixing a third of a cup of vegetable oil with three tablespoons of honey. Add half a cup of hot water, stirring well, and then half a cup of milk before stirring again. Gradually add two cups of flour and mix until it becomes dough. Knead the dough – sprinkling flour over it to prevent sticking – and then divide into smaller round loaves. Bake at 200°C for 14 minutes, turning the loaves halfway through.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

As part of the Hindu festival of Rama Navami on 4 April, organise a Group archery session at your nearest outdoor centre to represent Lord Rama's divine bows. This celebration honours the birth of Lord Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu who is one of the main deities of the Hindu faith.

MAY 2017

On 27 May, a month-long fast begins for Muslims, known as Ramadan, which is broken by Eid-ul-Fitr, the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. This month is significant because it's when the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Many Muslims try to read the whole of the Qur'an at least once during this time.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast during daylight, eating a meal just before sunrise and another after sunset. It's a time to be with family and friends, who gather together to eat evening meals. Fasting helps Muslims practise self-discipline and it reminds them of the poor, who may not get to enjoy the same benefits. Ramadan is also a time when Muslims try to dedicate more time to charitable deeds.

ACTIVITY: Every year, hundreds of mosques across the UK sign up to Visit My Mosque – a scheme that invites people of all faiths into their local mosque to share tea and biscuits and to meet some of the people who worship there. This year's scheme was held on 5 February, but keep an eye on visitmymosque.org in early 2018 to arrange a visit. Can't wait that long? Why not contact your local mosque independently to see if you can schedule in a special group visit?

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Between 30 May–1 June, talk to your Group about Shavuot. This day not only marks the all-important wheat harvest in Israel, but also commemorates the day God gave the Torah to the Jewish people. The Torah is the teachings at the core of the Jewish faith, usually written on a scroll in Hebrew.

JUNE 2017

When the official news arrives of the first sight of the new moon, the festival of Eid begins. Muslims sit down for their first daytime meal in a month, and give thanks to Allah for helping them practise their self-control and keeping strong during Ramadan.

During Eid there are special services in mosques, Muslims dress in finery, spend time with friends and family and give gifts to children. Women and children adorn their hands and feet with henna. Homes are decorated with lights and, in some countries, celebrations can last up to three days. During this time Muslims give money to charity to help the poor celebrate too by being able to buy clothes and food.

ACTIVITY: Show your young people some examples of henna designs before asking them to draw around their hands onto a sheet of paper and begin designing their own. You can discuss some of the meanings behind the symbols and patterns, for instance acacia leaves represent persistence and long life, or the mandala, which symbolises the universe. You can also look at the meanings associated with where the henna is applied as they all have significance, for instance henna on the palm of your hands signifies an offering from you to the world.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

On the Sunday 50 days after Easter (4 June this year), Pentecost is celebrated in the Christian church as the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. During the celebrations, the Holy Spirit is depicted as a white dove, so why not make paper-plate doves with your young people?



JULY 2017

This year, 9 July is Dharma Day – a celebration of Buddha’s first sermon, or the ‘turning of the wheel of Dharma’, or the wheel of truth. So this festival is all about celebrating the teachings of Buddha, namely his Four Noble Truths and Eight Fold Path, known collectively as the wheel of Dharma.

The most important day in the Buddhist calendar, the festival gives Buddhists the opportunity to meet to reflect on their gratitude for Buddha’s teachings. On Dharma Day, Buddhists read accounts of the lives of the

Enlightened ones and think about what it might mean for them.

Buddhism is different to other religions in that they don’t worship or believe in a personal creator, and they do not consider Buddha to be a god; they are very much about the path taken in life and about the cycle of life.

ACTIVITY: Show your young people pictures of the Buddhist Wheel of Life and talk them through what the various sections symbolise (you’ll find some helpful information at bbc.co.uk/religion/galleries/bhavachakra) and

then work as a team to create your own version on a large sheet of paper, either by using coloured pens or by collaging using magazine pages.

.....
ALSO THIS MONTH...

On 10 July, the Bahá’í commemorate the martyrdom of the Bab, the first prophet. Talk to your young people about tolerance and acceptance – two of the principles of the Bahá’í faith – and how they might be able to work these principles into their everyday decisions and actions. ▶



AUGUST 2017

Paryushan, falling between 18–25 August, is the most important Jain festival of the year. Jainism is an ancient religion, which teaches that the way to liberation and bliss is through a life of non-violence and respect towards all life – even down to the tiniest micro-organism. Because of this, Jains are strictly vegetarian – they also tend to limit the amount of dairy products they consume and don't eat fish, eggs or anything grown under ground (for fear of damaging or injuring the plant or the creatures living on or around the plant).

Paryushan gives Jains the chance to take a break from routine life and allows time for reflection. The final day of Paryushan (which lasts between eight to 10 days) is marked with a feast.

ACTIVITY: Echo the Jain philosophy by cooking vegan meals on camp with your young people. There are plenty of options, from corn on the cob to peanut butter and chocolate quesadillas. For the latter, take a wholewheat tortilla and spread it generously with peanut butter. Finely slice bananas and place several slices over one half of the tortilla and sprinkle over dairy-free chocolate chips. Fold the tortilla and cook in a shallow pan over a medium heat until it's golden on both sides.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

On 15 August, Catholics will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption – the day that the Virgin Mary was inducted into heaven. Find recipes for cloud meringue biscuits online and make them with your section to represent the heavens above and to join the feasting of this day.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Yom Kippur on 30 September is the most holy day of the year in Judaism; it's also the most solemn, with fasting for 25 hours. Known as the Day of Atonement, Jewish people reflect on the year that has just passed and ask God to forgive them for their sins. In order to prepare for Yom Kippur, the 10 days prior to the festival are used to put things right and make up for any wrongdoings.

Traditionally, Jews wear white on Yom Kippur because it symbolises purity. Leather shoes are also avoided. Attending the synagogue is the most important part of Yom Kippur, and there are five services on that day. The day is spent in continuous prayer for forgiveness and it is said that those who properly repent for their sins will have a happy new year ahead of them.

ACTIVITY: Having explained Yom Kippur to your young people, get them involved in a role-play where they explore the themes of forgiveness. You could propose several scenarios, for instance, someone breaks something of theirs, or a friend says something unkind to them and then apologises, or encourage them to work up something of their own. How does forgiveness look and feel in these scenarios?

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Muslims observing Al-Hijra (the Islamic new year) on 21 September this year will do so with reflection, remembrance and gratitude. Ask your young people what they're grateful for and to create posters or poems reflecting these sentiments.

OCTOBER 2017

Also known as The Festival of Lights, Diwali is celebrated by Sikhs, Hindus and Jains, but for different reasons.

For Sikhs, Diwali marks the release of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind, from a Mughal Empire prison in 1619. Sikhs celebrated by lighting the Golden Temple, which is represented today by the lighting of earthenware oil lamps, called diyas. Gifts are also exchanged.

For Hindus, Diwali signifies the spiritual victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Before the festival, Hindus clean and decorate their homes, buy new clothes and light diyas before fireworks, a family feast and the exchanging of presents.

For Jains, Diwali marks the day when the soul of sage Mahavira was finally released and he attained moksha, or liberation. It also represents the new year, when lights and diyas are used to mark the festival and are symbolic of the removal of ignorance.

ACTIVITY: Make diyas with your section (find instructions at scouts.org.uk/magazine) and discuss the significance of the oil lamps for each of the faiths that use them, whether it's for decoration, to ward away darkness or to symbolise knowledge.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Learn about the Jewish festival of Sukkot on 4–11 October which marks the 40 years that Jewish people were wandering the desert, living in temporary shelters, also known as sukkah. Your young people can put their pioneering skills to good use by building their own sukkah. ▶



NOVEMBER 2017

All Souls' Day on 2 November is the day when Christians around the world remember and pray for the dead. This day is primarily celebrated by the Catholic church, which believes that when a person dies, their soul goes to one of three places: heaven, for people who die in a perfect state of communion with God; hell, for those who die in a state of mortal sin; and purgatory, where those who are in a state of lesser sin go to have their souls perfected before they enter heaven. Catholics believe that the sins of the dead may be cleansed through the

prayers of the faithful on earth and this is the focus of this day of remembrance. People across the world light candles in memory of lost loved ones, or visit graves. In Mexico, they even celebrate with a big fiesta.

ACTIVITY: Arrange a visit to your local church and encourage your Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers to find out about the saint to whom the church is attached. Then encourage them to embark on a research project, either in pairs or small groups, where they discover all there is to know about the saint and present their findings back to

the rest of the section. If there is more than one church in your local area you could allocate a couple of groups to one church and the rest to another.

.....
ALSO THIS MONTH...

Encourage your young people to visit a gurdwara (Sikh temple) on 4 November to see the celebrations surrounding the birth of Guru Nanek, the first guru and founder of the faith. Sikhs celebrate by reading their holy book continuously from beginning to end before rejoicing with songs, prayers and a feast.

DECEMBER 2017

From 12–19 December this year, Jews will be celebrating the Festival of Light, also known as Hanukkah. This eight-day and eight-night celebration commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees and the ‘miracle of oil’ that followed. According to Jewish tradition, there was only enough sacred oil to keep the menorah (a seven-branch candlestick) lit for a day and yet it miraculously stayed alight for eight days – long enough to prepare more kosher oil. An eight-day holiday was declared in honour of this miracle.

Today, Jews acknowledge the festival by lighting one candle of a nine-branch menorah per day, using the ninth candle to light all the others in turn while saying traditional blessings. Other festivities include saying prayers, singing songs, playing the dreidel (a four-sided spinning top) and foods that are cooked in oil such as latkes (potato pancakes), fritters and doughnuts.

ACTIVITY: Challenge your sections to create something for Hanukkah – be it a prayer, a menorah made of tin foil, a homemade dreidel, paper chains to decorate the Scout hut, or some latkes for everyone to try – and hold a special evening dedicated to Hanukkah.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Acknowledge Yule on 22 December by making and decorating a Yule log candle holder with your young people. Or if you fancy something a little more mouthwatering, you can try baking and decorating a delicious chocolate Yule log (a log-shaped chocolate cake) with your section.

JANUARY 2018

The 5 January marks the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the 10 human gurus of the Sikh faith. Celebrations begin three days before the festival itself with the Akhand Path, the continuous reading of the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh holy book). Sikh places of worship, called gurdwaras, are decorated with flowers, flags and lights, Sikhs dress up in new clothes, and hymns and poems are recited. In some parts of the UK, there are processions where the Sikh Scripture is paraded around. Food also plays an important part of the celebrations. Sikhs come together to eat special dishes, such as karah prashad – a sweet pudding that is served warm. Free sweets and meals are also distributed at gurdwaras.

ACTIVITY: Make karah prashad with Cubs and Scouts by bringing three cups of water and one cup of sugar to the boil to make sugar syrup. In another pan melt one cup of clarified butter (or ghee) and mix in one cup of wholewheat flour and stir continuously until it turns reddy-brown. Add two crushed cardamom pods and mix well, before gradually adding the sugar syrup. Keep stirring as the mixture thickens until it has a firm pudding consistency. Garnish with chopped almonds before serving.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Epiphany – also known as Three Kings Day – is the day that Christians believe baby Jesus was visited by the three kings or wise men. Falling on 6 January in 2018, bake a king cake (a brightly coloured bundt-shaped cake) or vibrant cupcakes with your section and discuss the significance.

FEBRUARY 2018

In Buddhism, 15 February is Nirvana Day – the day Buddha died and reached Nirvana. The day is marked by meditating or by going to Buddhist temples. In Buddhist monasteries the day is seen as a social occasion, with food prepared and eaten. Visitors bring gifts such as money and clothes. As is fitting with Buddhism, reflection is a big part of the day. Buddhists are encouraged to think about their lives and how they can work towards gaining Nirvana – which is perfect peace. They also remember friends or relatives who have died and reflect on the fact that death is a part of life for everyone.

ACTIVITY: Scouts and Explorers could try meditating as a group. Ask them to sit comfortably on cushions and to close their eyes or gaze at the floor. You are attempting to show them how they can make their minds peaceful. One way of doing this is to encourage them to tune into their bodies and relax each part in turn (starting with the tips of their toes and working up to the top of their heads), while focusing on calm and steady breathing. You could even expand the activity to a yoga night involving all sections. Just make sure there’s a tranquil atmosphere and silence, so they can use the time for quiet reflection.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

During the spring festival of Vasant Panchami on the first day of February, Hindus dress themselves in yellow, eat sweet dishes and fill their houses with yellow flowers to symbolise the vibrancy of life. Join the celebrations by donning your young people and your HQ in yellow. ▶

Life and Energy

MARCH 2018

This year, Holi falls on 2 March. The most fun and colourful Hindu festival, Holi is characterised by people throwing bright powder paint and dyes around in the streets, hence it's known as the Festival of Colours. This festival doesn't focus on religious activity, instead celebrating the life and energy of the new season with dancing and singing. In India, it's viewed as a great leveller because you can't tell what class or caste people are from.

ACTIVITY: This is the messiest and most spirited of the Indian festivals so why not join in the fun by making marble paper with your section?

Get them to put two tablespoons of cooking oil into five small bowls, then add one teaspoon of food colouring to each one, putting a different colour in each bowl and mixing them vigorously with forks until combined. Take a shallow pan that is roughly the same size as your paper and cover the bottom with an inch of water. Using a pipette or a medicine dropper, your young people can draw up the coloured oils and drip them into the pan. Now they can gently lay a sheet of paper on top, leaving it for 30 seconds before carefully lifting it off. Don't forget to lay down plastic sheeting to protect your HQ, and ask your section to wear old clothes that can get messy.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

This is a great time to talk about Nowruz – the Iranian New Year – with your young people and make desk tidies from cardboard tubes or unwanted food packaging to represent the Iranian tradition of spring cleaning. You could even offer your tidying services to the community. ✿

HAVE WE MISSED ANY?

Share your faith celebrations with us by emailing scoutingmagazine@scouts.org.uk. Or find out more about faith badge requirements by heading to tinyurl.com/zdbu22b.

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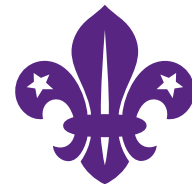
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Put the flags out!

The St George's Day parade might be a time-honoured custom, but is it still the best way for Scouts to be seen in their communities and to change perceptions?

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Gareth Iwan Jones

WHEN YOU THINK of St George's Day, chances are you'll think of uniformed parades around the local village. It's one of those old Scouting traditions that we all respect, but not everyone looks forward to. St George's Day has always been an important celebration

in Scouting, but at times the need to preserve tradition may have prevented us from allowing the celebrations to move with the times and remain relevant to everyone involved in Scouting. Being seen in the local community is important, but are

our celebrations representative of all of our members, of the 21st century and of what our young people want? These are the types of questions District Commissioner James Divall has been asking, and the answers are refreshingly honest. ▶



East Somerset District was only formed two years ago as part of a reshuffle that meant the area went from having seven Districts to having three. With big changes already taking place, James and the new Assistant District Commissioner Programming Team felt encouraged to review how the new District would be run, and to discuss how they would meet Scouting for All, The Scout Association's 2014–2018 strategy. 'We had a lot of workshops and roadshows to calm everyone down after our new "super District" was formed,' James explains. 'It was a good opportunity to let people air any frustrations and gain intel; St George's Day was something that kept coming up in those initial consultations.'

Keen to find out what the day means to members, the team began their quest to discover what people wanted, with a year's worth of consultation with Group Scout Leaders, Young Leaders and other Scouting members. The verdict was mixed.

Parents and carers of Beavers and Cubs said they love watching their

children parading down the street, but many Scouts and Explorers admitted that they hate it. Various young people said they understand the importance of parading for Remembrance Day, but not for St George's Day. 'They wondered why Irish people get to have a party for St Patrick's Day and they have to parade in their uniform, getting cold and bored, while people laugh at them parading,' James elaborates. 'The turnout for older sections is low because of concern for their street cred.' Yet, while the young people were voicing their concerns, the leaders enthused how St George's Day is a fundamental part of the Programme and that uniformed parades are a good way to be seen in the local community. James realised that the only way they could make the most of this opportunity was to take an inclusive, Youth Shaped approach by making sure all young people and volunteers had their say.

The District needed a community celebration that everyone could be proud of taking part in. One thing everyone agreed on was the need to do something collaborative, but with the

sheer size of the District, unless they organised a camp, there was no way of having one event in a location suitable for all Groups. The solution? 'The digital age is here,' James announces. 'Let's use it to bring everyone together and showcase Scouting to the rest of the community.'

The team decided to support individual Groups and sections across the District to celebrate in their own way, whether that's a talent show or a coffee morning in the town hall. To create a sense of togetherness across the District, they decided to gather everyone's St George's Day photos on social media. As a way of supporting volunteers who weren't confident using social media, the team invested in training around social media and digital inclusion, which has in turn also enhanced the Programme. Internally, the aim was to strengthen the District's Scouting community spirit, and externally it was to promote Scouting. The approach gives young people and volunteers more control over celebrations and helps to change people's preconceptions of what Scouting is all about. 'Scouts



walking down the road in uniform isn't really the imagery we want,' James explains. While more traditional imagery isn't a bad thing, James recognises the need to show others how much fun Scouting can be and is aware that images of uniformed parades can be off-putting for new members. The team hopes to highlight the Groups that have done something different – like those who went to Brownsea Island or had a dragon-boat race – as a way of reaching new potential Scouts and volunteers.

'It's a real Marmite subject; some love the approach and others hate it,' James admits. There are still people who want the whole District to march together in Yeovil, but this would mean some members travelling over an hour just to get there.

Last year's trial run with this fresh approach has already resulted in more people wanting to join Scouting. The team has noticed increasing traffic to their website and Facebook pages and are hoping to develop their social media concept for 2017. Sectional leaders have given really positive

feedback, but James is well aware that there will always be resistance when change occurs. A few members of the District tried to tip off the media, James divulges. 'We saw a press release saying that it was the death of St George's Day, but the media understood the need for change, and quoted a balanced argument.'

James goes on to explain how there is a problem when people don't consider the need for growth and inclusion: 'I do understand the traditionalist viewpoint, but sometimes people are so concerned about Scouting changing, they forget to focus on what the young people want.' James elaborates, expressing his desire to get everyone on board, supporting one another and forming new traditions together. In some Groups, a church parade may no longer be relevant to or suitable for the young people, so to make sure everyone can participate it's important to rethink some of the activities and venues.

By giving both young people and adult volunteers the chance to voice their thoughts, they feel more involved and

it becomes an event people enjoy and are proud of taking part in.

This year, St George's Day in East Somerset will be a week-long celebration. The team is encouraging sections to do as they please, whether it's a party or a more traditional event. They've been working on sharing information about the events early on and are incentivising alternative celebrations as a way to generate a variety of images to inspire people.

For areas considering altering their usual Programme, James emphasises the importance of getting the District team behind changes before filtering them out at Group visits and meetings. This project is successful because there have been continuous consultations rather than a top-down approach. The team has invested time in ensuring everyone feels comfortable with the new approach. Working with people on the ground has been crucial for gaining the support of local volunteers and young people. Perhaps with this kind of approach, St George's Day can become an event everyone looks forward to. 🌿

OVER TO YOU



SIX WAYS TO HELP YOU SHAPE YOUR ST GEORGE'S DAY

As the patron Saint of Scouting, St George embodied the qualities to which Baden-Powell wanted Scouts to aspire: faith, bravery and determination. St George's Day is an important day in the Scouting calendar, but as you plan your celebrations, think about developing your traditions to ensure they are inclusive and shaped by the needs and opinions of your young people.

HERE'S A CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Engage with young people and volunteers in the planning process for a Youth Shaped celebration that reflects all of your members.
- Choose your venue carefully. The use of non-religious buildings or open-air venues can help ensure the event is welcoming to all.
- Engage the community. St George's Day is a great chance to be visible in the community, and to show others your achievements.
- Include a Promise renewal. No matter how you choose to celebrate, both adults and young people should be given the chance to renew their Promise during the celebration. Let them know they can choose the wording that best reflects their personal beliefs.
- Promote Scouting in the best way possible. It's down to you to help change perceptions by telling the community about the work you've been doing locally. It's a great way to find new volunteers and support your Scouting family.
- Review accessibility. Consider how easy it is for people of all abilities to attend your event, to ensure your celebrations are open and accessible to everyone.

USEFUL LINKS

Read more advice and support around St George's Day celebrations at tinyurl.com/h4be98o.



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The world is waiting

Excursions abroad may seem like an impossible fantasy, especially when it comes to younger Scouting sections, but it's simpler than you may think. Here are 24 top tips to make your travel dreams a reality

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Oliver Edwards

TAKING YOUNG PEOPLE abroad on Scouting adventures can involve a lot of preparation, but it's guaranteed to result in an experience they'll never forget. But why should Scouts, Explorers and Network members get all the fun? Beavers and Cubs can be taken abroad too, and the experience can give them the confidence and resilience to face future challenges. Taking younger sections away requires just the same planning as any other visit abroad, although it may take more time to prepare the young people for the experience and it is important to fully involve and reassure parents and guardians.

Two volunteers who have taken younger sections abroad recently are Jon Illingworth, Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs) for Bury St

Edmunds District, and Paul Billings, Group Scout Leader at 5th Canvey Air Scouts. Jon took 31 Cubs and 12 leaders to the Netherlands for three nights of camping, adventurous water activities and all sorts of fun. This was Jon and the District's first international Cub camp. Paul is a veteran of the visits abroad process, organising a trip approximately once every three years. He took his Cubs, Scouts and Explorers on a Group summer camp in France for five days, where they slept in a chateau and got a taste of French culture. For some of the young people who took part, it was their first-ever time leaving UK soil.

Here, Jon, Paul and the Global Programme team share their tips for planning and running international trips with younger sections:

- 1** Create a strong, dependable team, and don't try to do it all on your own. Break each part of the plan down into manageable steps so nothing gets forgotten, and divide up the tasks among the team. The Assistant County Commissioner for International (ACCI) should be your first point of contact when you start the Visits Abroad process.
- 2** Make sure everyone stays in contact, in whatever way works best for your team – whether by email, social media or face-to-face meetings.
- 3** If your town is twinned with another in Europe, consider using these existing links when you plan your trip. Be aware of any other Groups who have been on international trips in your District or County – they could share useful information with you. ▶



Above and right: The Cubs familiarise themselves with international flags before designing their own special flag for their eagerly anticipated trip abroad.

4 Remember that a trip abroad doesn't have to involve camping overnight. Depending on your destination, day trips can be fully achievable and a good introduction to travelling for the younger sections.

5 Cost can be a major barrier, so talk to your County or District about financial support, or get your young people involved in fundraising locally. Paul's Group raised funds by carol singing, bag packing and selling tickets for events. They also applied for an international grant: members.scouts.org.uk/grants.

6 Ensure parents and guardians feel reassured, and have the chance to ask questions face-to-face. Throughout the planning, keep them fully informed about the next stages of the process, and demonstrate how feedback has been addressed. A closed

Facebook group can be a great way to share information.

7 Involve the young people and take a Youth Shaped approach to your planning. It can be a valuable learning experience for them, as they get to see how much work goes into this sort of undertaking. You could start by asking them to vote on the activities they'd like to do while they are on the trip.

8 Organising your trip through a tour operator, like Paul did, can mean less work for the team, as accommodation and transport are sorted out for you. However, it is important to check everything with the operator, and ensure they have interpreted your requests as you intended.

9 If you are organising the trip yourself, you have two main options: taking everything with you,

or travelling light and finding accommodation with the facilities you'll need (a hostel or – as Jon did – a campsite with on-site tents and a fully equipped kitchen). Travelling with your own equipment can take up a lot of space, but at least you know it will be reliable. Staying somewhere fully equipped can be more expensive, but you won't have to set up from scratch when you arrive and are exhausted from your journey.

10 Create a watertight budget, including a contingency fund for unexpected extras. Jon's trip took place just after the EU referendum, and the exchange rate was much worse than they had expected.

11 Be aware of hidden costs. For example, a quote for the cost of a coach and driver may not include the expense of putting the driver up in ▶



CUBS ABROAD



separate accommodation if they do not hold a DBS check and cannot camp with the young people.

12 Make sure you have a solid InTouch system (members.scouts.org.uk/intouch) and that everyone understands how and when it should be used. Ensure you have up-to-date emergency contact details, and if parents or guardians are taking advantage of a child-free home to go on holiday themselves, make sure they leave contact details for someone else.

13 Design a badge, necker or special clothing for the trip. This can galvanise Group identity, and have practical benefits, like being able to pick out your young people in the crowd and see from a distance if anyone is struggling. It's something to think about early and build into the cost of the trip.

14 Run a practice camp or team-building day for the young people going on the trip, if they don't already know each other. During this dry-run, get the young people into the groups they will be in during their time away. They will bond as a team, and you'll be able to spot any potential issues ahead of time.

15 Allocate leaders to particular groups of young people. Keeping support consistent will allow the young people to get to know a couple of leaders well. Having an adult they trust on the trip will help to make the experience less overwhelming. Increasing the usual ratio of leaders to young people can also help to make everyone feel supported, and tackle issues before they arise.

16 Send several leaders on a reconnaissance trip. Both Jon and Paul's leaders visited the accommodation several months earlier, to relay important information

about the facilities, supermarkets, hospitals and transport. This helped everyone to know what to expect when they arrived.

17 If you have a minibus or are hiring one to travel, make sure you know about all the necessary permits: tinyurl.com/got3933.

18 Plan a Programme for the time spent travelling. If you have a long journey ahead, make sure everyone is kept occupied to avoid homesickness, restlessness and bad moods. Jon's Cubs had an eight-hour ferry crossing, so the leaders put together a booklet for the Cubs to work towards their International Activity Badge. This can also be a good badge to start before your trip, and it is a great way to include anyone from the section who is not able to go abroad.

19 Put games on the kit list. Leaders can only supply so much, so make sure every young person has something in their bag to keep them occupied. Avoid electrical items: electronic games and mobile phones are useless when the battery is drained. They could also get lost or damaged, and could jeopardise the InTouch system.

20 If you won't be greeted by anyone in your host country, it could be useful to send an advanced party the night before. These leaders can set up the accommodation, buy supplies and get a meal ready for the tired travellers when they arrive.

21 Make sure you know the rules about undertaking adventurous activities abroad: tinyurl.com/zs5jfld.

22 Do your risk assessments as you plan the Programme, but update them in-country. Make sure leaders use them, and that everyone knows the process of reporting an accident, near miss or safeguarding concern.

'If you don't do Scouting activities, it's really just a holiday.'

PAUL BILLINGS, GSL, 5TH CANVEY AIR SCOUTS

23 Do some Scouting activities while you're away. Paul's Programme balanced the chance to experience French culture and try out some language skills, while also visiting an aerodrome, which was relevant to his Air Scouts' interests. There are many Challenge Awards and Activity Badges relevant to trips abroad, and linking up with a Scout Group from another country can be a brilliant learning opportunity. As Paul puts it: 'If you just go to do Scouting activities, there's no point in going abroad. If you don't do Scouting activities, it's really just a holiday.'

24 Hold a meeting when you return to celebrate and remember the experience. You could make a night of it and invite parents, as Paul's Group always do. They show photos and videos from the trip, encourage the young people to feed back on their experience, and, as a leadership team, reflect on the trip and assess what went well. Paul's leaders also hold a short debrief each night they are away, to reflect on the day and to see if there are any issues that need to be addressed. You can record and share your experiences by using Globetrekker: globetrekker.scouts.org.uk. 🌿

Find out more about the Visits Abroad process: scouts.org.uk/visitsabroad.

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

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Rolling with the times

Think Scouting is stuck in the past? Think again! Take a look at how our badges have evolved to reflect young people's needs

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Simon Lees

BADGE EVOLUTION



AMBULANCE MAN 1912/ EMERGENCY AID STAGED ACTIVITY BADGE

Back in 1912, Scouts hoping to earn the Ambulance Man Badge needed to know how to drag an insensible man with ropes, improvise a stretcher and diagnose a fractured limb. The badge covered skills as serious as stopping bleeding from a vein to understanding the dangers of poor hygiene. Today's badge requires Scouts to know how to treat someone having a stroke, an asthma attack and a seizure. Each part of the staged badge asks for Scouts to explain the procedure of calling 999 and covers supportive reassurance and physical assistance. These life-saving skills remain as important as they were over a hundred years ago.



BUGLER 1912/COMMUNICATOR ACTIVITY BADGE

Effective communication is an important Scouting skill. In the past Scouts were required to use the instrument to sound army calls for the Bugler Badge. Calls included an alarm, charge, orders and lights out. Now the Communicator Activity Badge asks Scouts to send texts and manage an email address book.

RABBIT KEEPER 1938/ANGLER ACTIVITY BADGE

Rationing made rabbit-keeping a useful skill to have during the Second World War. The skills learnt by completing this badge kept many mouths fed. The Angler Activity Badge recognises Scouts' ability to fish, although nowadays they learn to handle and release the fish they catch.

BASKET WORKER 1913/CRAFT ACTIVITY BADGE

To earn the Basket Worker Badge, Scouts needed knowledge of the raw material used, had to prepare it for working and produce an article of practical use. This badge has transformed into a craft badge, allowing Scouts to also try their hand at glass blowing, woodturning and jewellery making.



ARTIST 1917/ARTIST ACTIVITY BADGE
 Scouts can still gain their Artist Badge, just as they could 100 years ago. While the requirements used to ask young people to draw subjects from memory, sight and the imagination, Scouts now have the option to discuss art and visit places of interest connected to their chosen art form – whether it be sculpture, painting, theatre or break dancing – instead.



AIR NAVIGATOR 1945/AIR NAVIGATION ACTIVITY BADGE
 To earn this badge in 1945, Scouts had to keep a daily record of the weather for two months, and be able to point out the Plough, Pegasus, Orion, the Northern Star and Cassiopeia. Today, Scouts have additional tasks to fulfil and must show that they know about the latest developments in electronic navigation technology.



MASTER AT ARMS 1912/MASTER AT ARMS ACTIVITY BADGE
 The Master At Arms Badge still exists today, but there have been a few changes. In 1912, Scouts had to be proficient in two skills, and could choose from singlestick, quarterstaff, fencing, boxing, ju-jitsu, gymnastics or wrestling. These days, Scouts can specialise in just one, but are required to take part in an official contest.



MINER 1913/CAVER ACTIVITY BADGE
 The mining badge required Scouts to have good knowledge of one branch of the mining industry, such as coal or iron. They needed to be aware of the dangers involved and have worked underground for at least six months. With the decline of the mining industry, Scouts now go underground to explore cave systems. The Caver Activity Badge focuses on environmental knowledge and fun rather than a career underground. It also requires Scouts to have taken part in at least four trips to at least two cave systems, and show understanding of environmental issues around caving. ♣

.....
 These badges are part of the Heritage Collection held at Gilwell Park.

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FOR LEADERS

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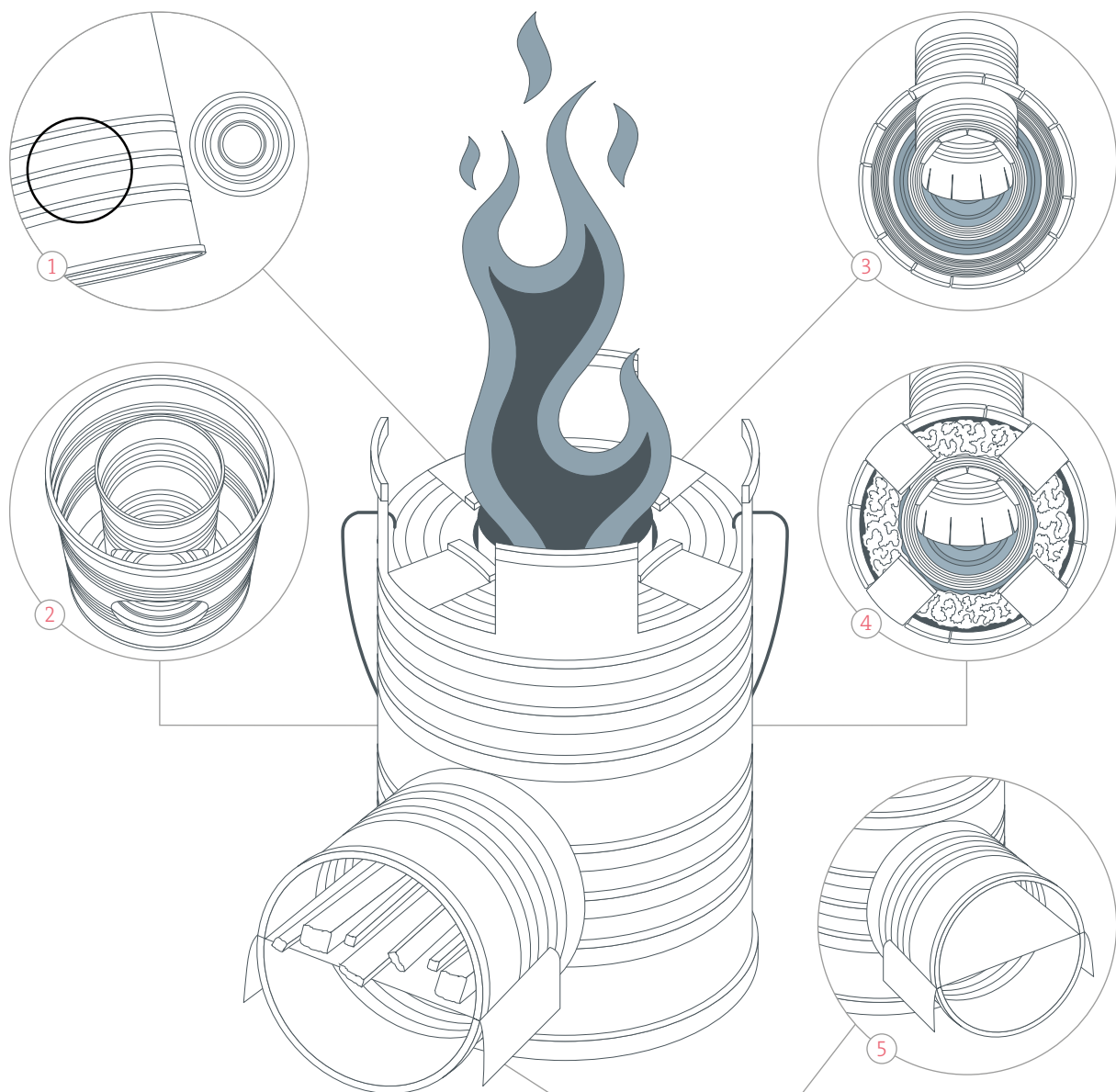
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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BUILD A TIN-CAN ROCKET STOVE

Combining three all-time favourite Scouting activities – building, cooking and firelighting

SUITABLE FOR CUBS, SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS



1 Ask a young person to draw a circle on the side of the large can, around 1cm from the base, using a medium tin can as a template. Use your metal cutters to cut this circle out. You could also use a mini-saw if you have access to one, but make sure you use protective eyewear and gloves.

2 Ask another young person to use the cut-out section of the large can as a template – being mindful of the sharp edges – and draw a circle on a medium can. Cut this out. Place the medium can in the centre of the large can, lining up the holes.

3 With adult help, get another young person to cut off the rim around the top of a second medium can, before cutting down from the top at regular intervals to create 1.5cm-long tabs. Give one of your young people some protective gloves before asking them to carefully bend the tabs inwards and inserting the can through the holes in both of the other cans. Once inserted, the tabs can be bent upwards to fix the tin in place.

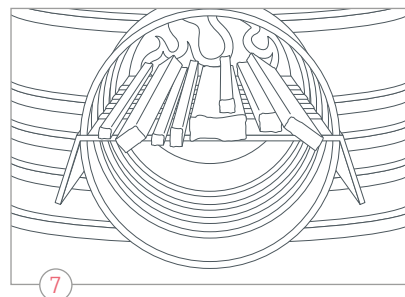
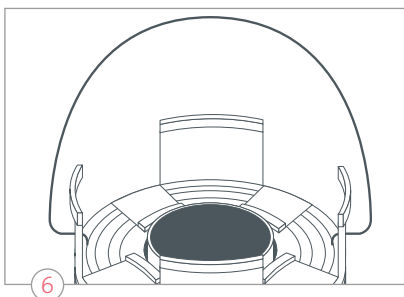
4 Next, ask them to trace another circle in the middle of the lid of the large can. Cut it out to create a metal ring. Between them, they should cut around eight tabs into the top of the large can. The space in-between the large and medium cans can be filled with insulation and the metal ring should be placed on

top. Ask two young people to hammer down four of the eight tabs to hold the metal ring in place. When choosing which tabs to hammer down, make sure one is left on either side of the stove for the handle to be fixed to.

5 To make a shelf for the stove, ask a young person to measure the width of the third medium can before removing the base and cutting down one side. It can then be beaten flat and a rectangle can be marked out at the same width at the tin can, but with two flaps at one end. Ask another young person to make two parallel cuts in the mouth of the stove, the same depth as the flaps, then insert the shelf and fold down the flaps.

6 To make a handle, ask a young person to straighten out a wire coat hanger and bend it into an arc. Pierce or drill a hole through two of the tabs, thread the ends of the hanger through and bend with pliers to secure.

7 The stove is ready to use! You can paint it with high-heat spray paint if you want a smart finish. If not, build a fire by putting small pieces of coal and shredded newspaper in the centre and long, thin pieces of wood or kindling on the shelf so that it reaches the flames. Keep feeding the stove and make sure that anyone who handles the stove is wearing heatproof gloves.



TIME NEEDED

90 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Marker pen
- Large tin can with lid (2.5/3kg) from school kitchens or caterers
- Medium tin cans (800g) x 3
- Protective gloves
- Metal cutters and hammer
- Insulation (eg sand, clay, foam)
- Wire coat hanger
- Pliers
- Drill or Swiss Army Knife
- High-heat spray paint (optional)
- Heatproof gloves
- Coal, newspaper, kindling etc

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Cub Backwoods
Cooking Activity
Badge



Cub Our
Outdoors Challenge
Award



Scout Outdoor
Challenge Award



Scout Camper
Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

Your young people will love working as a team to create this portable stove, while at the same time learning how to use tools responsibly and safely.

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The theme for these iconic cards is Scouting skills, a fun way to help young people and adults learn thirty different skills, from backwoods cooking and first aid, to shelter building and tracking! The cards are played in the usual way, with categories including 'Difficulty', 'Usefulness', and 'Survival Factor'.

Ideal for a Scout meeting as a unique learning aid or as an enjoyable activity at Scout camp. They are equally great for the playground or on long minibus journeys to Scouting events. Packed with useful information, they are the perfect introduction to Scouting skills and can be played again and again.



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MAKE WATER DRINKABLE

Purify even the dirtiest water with this charcoal filter

SUITABLE FOR **BEAVERS**, **CUBS**, **SCOUTS** AND **EXPLORERS**

1 Start by making charcoal with your section. Ask them to build and light a wood fire, making sure it gets really hot, and then extinguish it with earth. Once the charcoal has completely cooled, your young people can grind it up into small pieces. This is a messy job so make sure their clothing is protected.

2 Cut the base off of a plastic drinks bottle and drill or pierce a hole through its lid. Now, cut the second two-litre bottle in half.

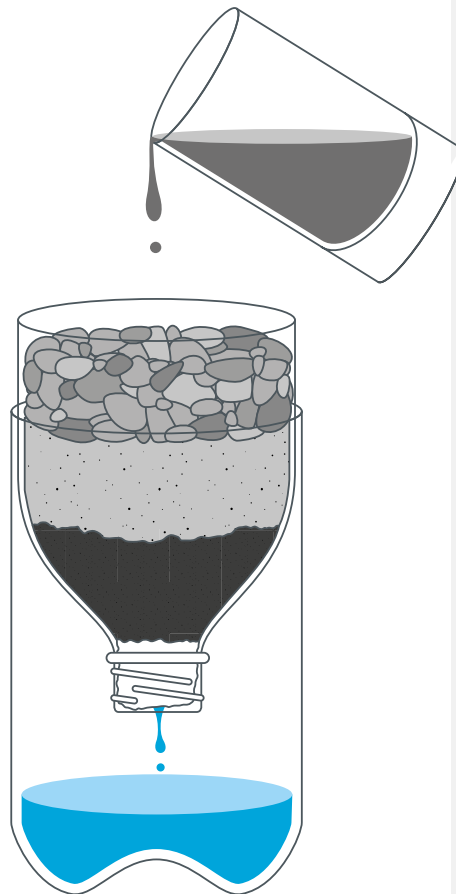
3 Taking the bottle with the pierced lid, ask your Scouts to line the inside of the lid and neck with grass or a piece of cotton. Next, they should pack the crushed charcoal in as tightly as possible, half-filling the bottle. Now, ask the young people to pour in a few inches of sand and pack it down firmly. They can now add the final layer of small stones or pebbles.

4 Next, they can place the bottom half of the other plastic bottle base-down onto a flat surface and rest the charcoal-filled bottle inside it.

5 Slowly pour in your dirty water, being careful not to displace the sand, and let it percolate through the filter. The water should drip from the

bottom; if it gushes out, your layers aren't packed tightly enough.

6 Run the water through the filter twice more and then boil it for a few minutes to make sure it's sterilised. You can even add a small piece of charcoal to the boiling water for a cleaner taste.



TIME NEEDED

60–90 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Wood
- Fire-lighting materials
- Earth or sand
- Protective clothing
- 2-litre plastic drinks bottles x 2
- Hand saw or sharp scissors
- Drill or Swiss Army Knife
- Grass or cotton (a piece of T-shirt)
- Small stones
- Saucepan

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGE



Scout Survival Skills Activity Badge



Scout Outdoor Challenge Award



Scout Camper Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

You can use this activity to spark discussion about the quality of water globally and link it to our charity partner, WaterAid.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Use this activity on camp to fulfil badge requirements, or compare different versions of natural water filters to see which is the best.

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CREATE ORIGAMI BOOKMARKS

Help your section fold, fold and fold some more to make these quirky paper creations

SUITABLE FOR **BEAVERS**, **CUBS** AND **SCOUTS**

1 Ask your young people to take a square of paper and position it in front of them so it looks like a diamond, then ask them to fold the top half up to create a triangle.

2 Next, show them how to take the right-hand corner and fold it up to the top point of the triangle and then do the same with the left-hand corner. This should leave them with a small diamond shape.

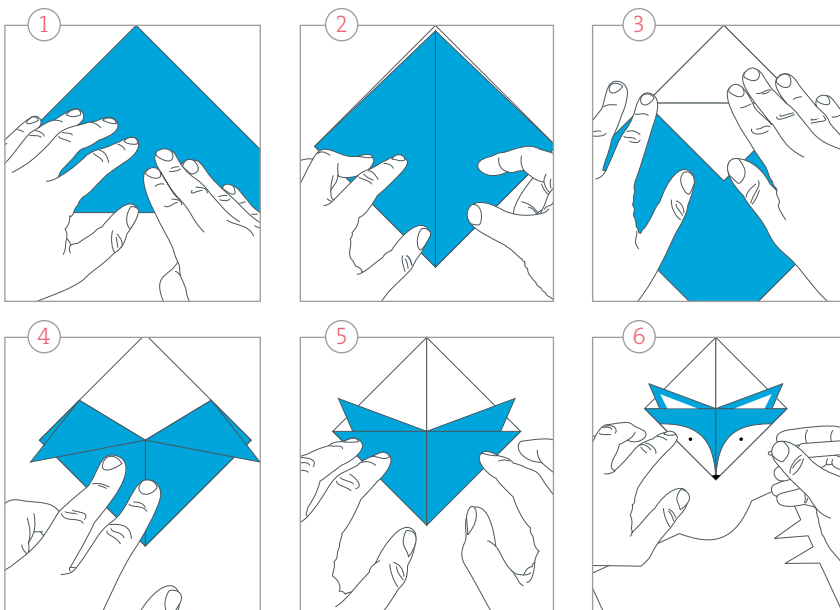
3 Now they should open those two folds out so they have their triangle shape again and fold down

the top point to centre of the bottom of the triangle.

4 Ask them to fold each corner back up to the top point of the triangle and then fold it back on itself.

5 Next, they should tuck the top of the ear backwards into the concealed flap behind it so that the point of the ear flips upwards. Repeat this on the left-hand side.

6 Now they can decorate their fox with coloured pens or cut-out pieces of plain paper.



TIME NEEDED

20 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Squares of paper (15cm x 15cm)
- Colouring pens or pencils

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver Creative Activity Badge



Beaver My World Challenge Award



Cub Our World Challenge Award



Scout International Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

This simple but effective activity will not only create something fun and functional for your young people to keep, or give to others, it will also offer a great opportunity to discuss the origins of origami, its relevance as an art form and its significance within Japanese culture.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Why not try more ambitious origami projects, such as a Japanese paper crane (or orizuru), and learn the Japanese name for each one? Scouts could learn other Japanese greetings and phrases at the same time. They could also try experimenting with scale, attempting to complete very small or very large origami projects.

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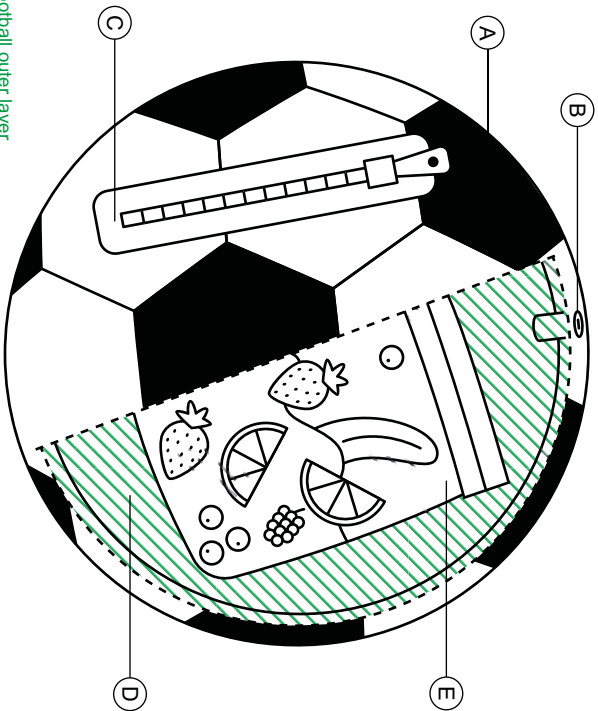
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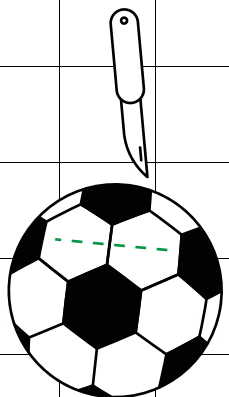
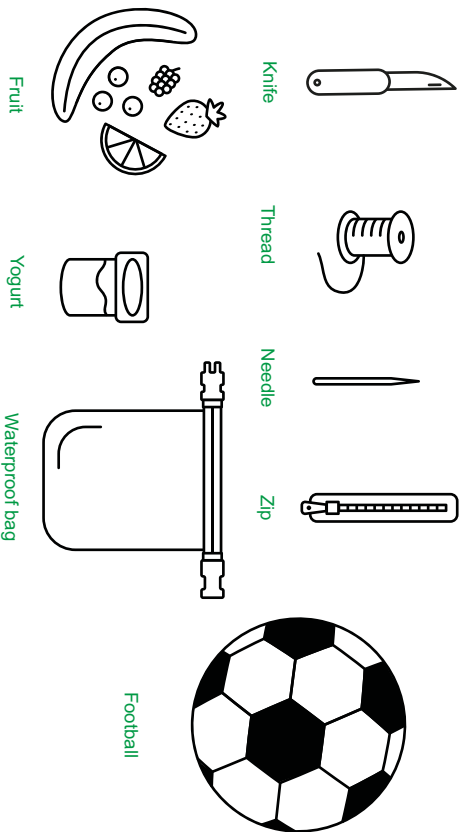
Smoothie Making Football

Make a healthy smoothie drink by playing football!

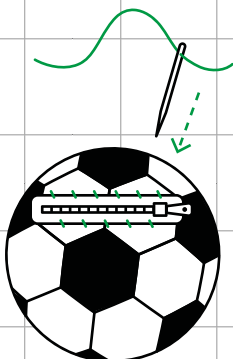


- A - Football outer layer
- B - Football valve
- C - Zip
- D - Inner bladder
- E - Waterproof bag with smoothie

What you need



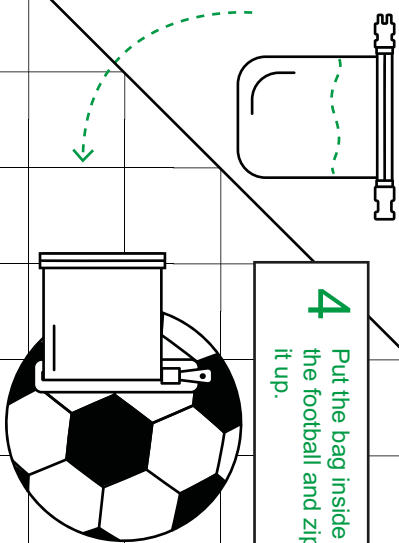
1 Cut a slot in the outer skin of the football for the zip.



2 Stitch in the zip to the football.



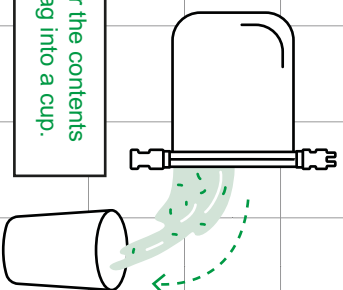
3 Add your fruit and yogurt into the waterproof bag. Close the bag.



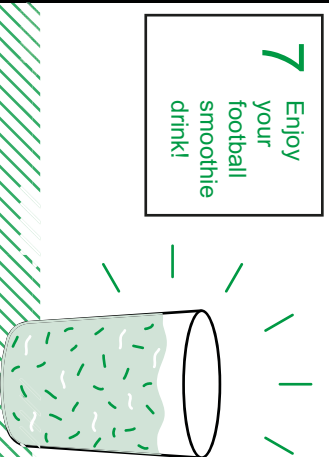
4 Put the bag inside the football and zip it up.



5 Play football!



6 Pour the contents of bag into a cup.



7 Enjoy your football smoothie drink!



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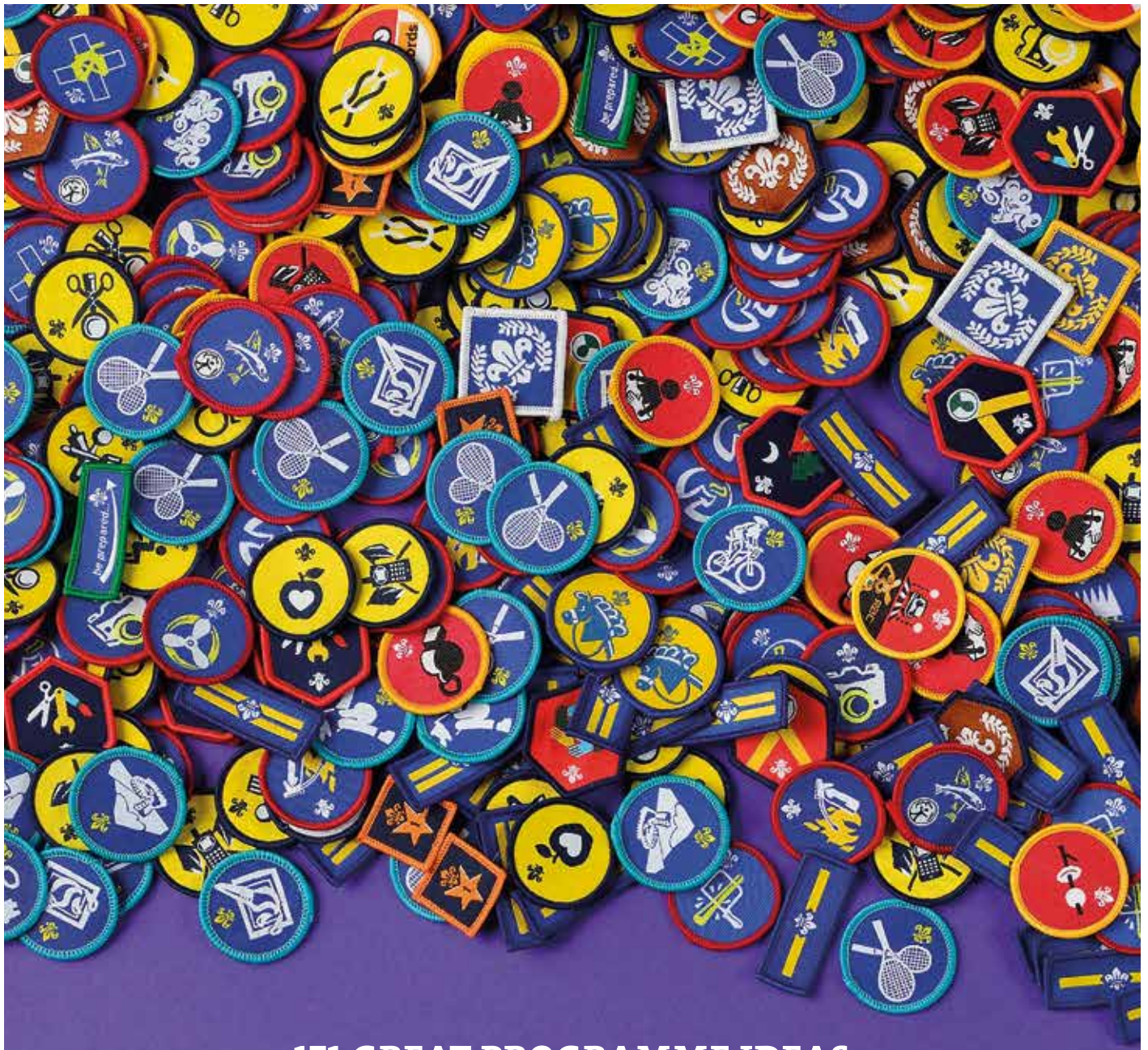
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EAT THE RAINBOW

Colour in each vegetable or fruit inside the rainbow.



Draw a red food here

write the name here

Draw an orange food here

write the name here

Draw a yellow food here

write the name here

Draw a green food here

write the name here

Draw a purple food here

2 Peel them and cut them into small cubes. Arrange them on a plate in rows, in the shape of a rainbow.

3 Take an orange. Squeeze it. Pour the juice over the fruits. Now eat! Yummy.

1 Take a banana, a kiwi, an apple, a handful of blackberries, blueberries and strawberries.

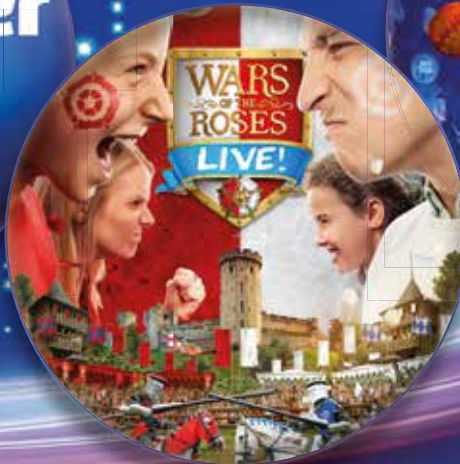
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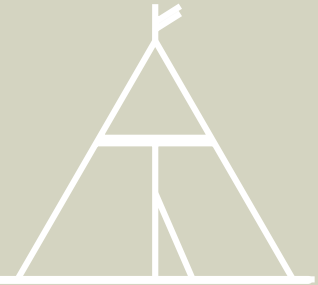
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SCOUTING SITES AND DAYS OUT

Whether you're looking for an exciting excursion or somewhere for an overnight stay, our listings section will point you in the right direction



Appropriate Scout Association authorisation is required by leaders and adults running activities and events, even when using products and equipment supplied by commercial companies. Inclusion in this listing does not imply endorsement by The Scout Association.



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To advertise in the Directory, please contact Jamie Bolton on 0117 314 7356 or email jamie.bolton@immediate.co.uk.



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ACTIVITIES AND ACTIVITY CENTRES

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Hampshire, SO31 1BH

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bookings@isdsc.org.uk

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Email: **warden@needwoodforest.org.uk | www.needwoodforest.org.uk**

ACTIVITIES AND ACTIVITY CENTRES

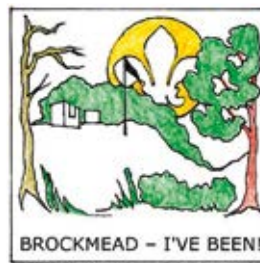


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ALAN SHUTTLEWORTH (deceased)

This notice is being posted by the executors of Mr Alan Shuttleworth (deceased) late of 20, Mayfair Avenue, Maidstone, Kent and also of 2, Crittenden Cottages, Gallants Lane, Maidstone, Kent, and latterly of 84, Knight Crescent, Middleton in Manchester, Alan Shuttleworth was a former member and Troop Leader of the 25th Lanarkshire (6th Motherwell) Boy Scouts and of 'T Troop' Loose Swiss Scout Group.

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 section 27 NOTICE IS GIVEN to all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of ALAN SHUTTLEWORTH.

ALAN SHUTTLEWORTH died on the 10th February 2014 and his will was proved in the District Registry of the High Court by the executors named within it.

All creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested on the estate of ALAN SHUTTLEWORTH are required to send particulars of their claim in writing to the undersigned solicitors, Stephenson Solicitors LLP, whose address is 1st floor, Sefton House, Northgate Close, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 6PQ (Reference AJG/S73475.3). All correspondence should be marked for the attention of Mr A Gregory and should be sent to those solicitors within a three month period after the date of this advertisement. If no further claims against the estate are intimated within the specified period of 3 months from the date of the advertisement the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them having regard only to the claims of which they have notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they have not had notice of.

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- 9 doughnuts
- 8 sports bottles
- 7 frisbees
- 6 dogs
- 5 snails
- 4 blackbirds
- 3 lost socks
- 2 stereos
- 1 Bear Grylls

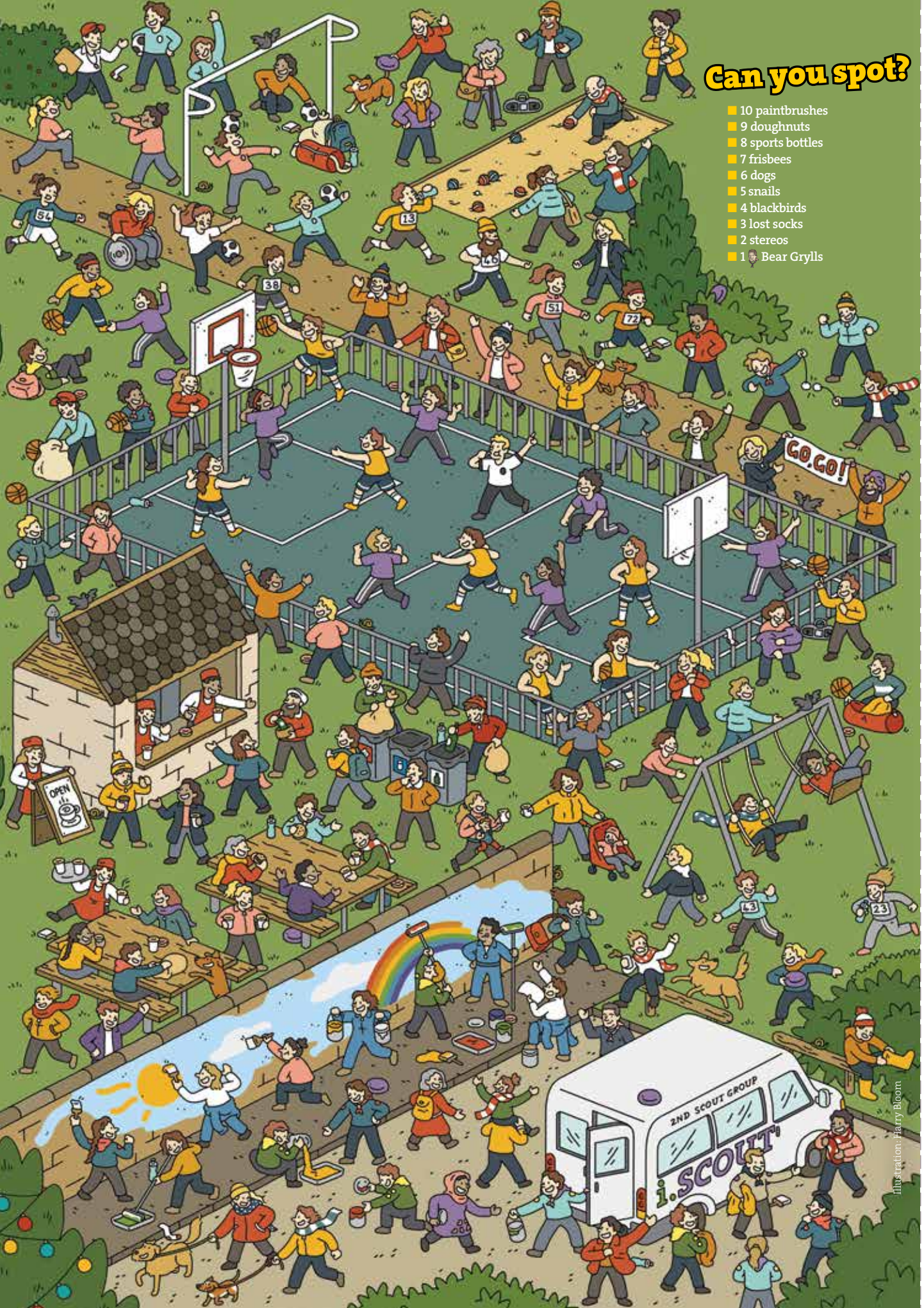


Illustration: Harry Bloom

Where's Bear? Can your young people find our Chief Scout and the other items listed? This page is available to download at scouts.org.uk/magazine.





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