

June/July 2015

Scouting

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£300
of camping
kit**

Page 62

SCOUTING ON THE WARDS

Hospital Groups
are bringing joy
to sick children

WATERWAY WALKS

Not one, but two
canalside treks

READER SURVEY

Have your say on
what you want to
see in the magazine

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Scouting Editors

Abbie Cavendish, Lee Griffiths, Celeste Houlker, Laura Sagar, and Kevin Yeates

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Tel: 0845 300 1818

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Email: scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk

Website: scouts.org.uk/magazine

Facebook: facebook.com/scoutassociation

Please send all contributions to:

scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk

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Branded Content, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

Editor Alex Drew

Art Editor James Daniel

Designer Dean Purnell

Project Manager Celia Beale

Director of Immediate Media

Branded Content Julie Williams

Cover image Jon Challicom

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager Jamie Bolton

Email: jamie.bolton@immediate.co.uk

Tel: 0117 314 7356

It is important to note the differing structures of UK Scouting in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, for ease of reading this supplement refers to all variations of 'County'-level groupings simply as County.

You can read Scouting magazine and Get Active! online at scouts.org.uk/magazine.



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Welcome

Join, share and get involved at

 The Scout Association

A Movement to make you proud

Whenever Scouting is mentioned, a lot of people think of campfires, hiking and adventure. While this is a large part of what we do, there is of course another side to our incredible worldwide youth Movement about which we're equally proud – volunteering. It can be difficult to communicate just how hard you're all working to help your young people make positive and lasting changes to the places in which they live (and in some cases, much further afield!).

A Million Hands is our new, exciting partnership with six other big names in the charity sector. Half a million Scouts in the UK want to be able to make big changes in their societies and I'm positive that with access to the ideas and knowledge of charities across the sector, we'll be able to help unlock a massive potential for change – you can see for yourself on **page 27**.*

For another incredible example of volunteers making an impact on their own doorstep, turn to **page 20** to read about 17th Holborn and their amazing work at Great Ormond Street Hospital. It's stories like this, and hundreds of others that I hear about, that makes me truly proud to be part of Scouting.

In 2010, Berkshire Scouts decided to set up an international community project. Fast-forward five years and Project Africa is thriving, with a second trip to help build and refurbish two new schools in Uganda planned for this summer. More than that, though, when fundraising in the community and teaching younger sections about their work, the Explorers, Networkers and leaders taking part in the trip are also able to make a real difference in their own communities. You can find out more about them and their work on **page 36**.

Being in Scouts is like being in a character-building factory! It teaches young people that there's more to life than having the latest trainers or stressing about exams. It encourages the idea that we'll only really be happy if we work together, push our limits and do our best to help other people, and that shines through in this issue of Scouting magazine.

Bear Grylls

Bear Grylls
Chief Scout

*Throughout this edition of the magazine, we have, in places, used terminology in accordance with our charity partners' brand guidelines.



Scouting

WANTS YOU!



We asked three Community Impact Group members to tell us the one thing they'd change in their community.

We also want to hear from you, so head to our Facebook page to share or email **scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk**.



Jack Abrey,
Community Impact
Group Chair

'I'd change perceptions. The Enfield riots had a huge impact on the perceptions of young people within my

community. The stigmas that now surround us are worse than ever. Every day I see kind actions that go unnoticed, from a young person giving up their seat for pensioners, to volunteering at mental health services.'



Eva Penhallurick,
Communtiy Impact
Group member

'Where I live, in south Birmingham, one of the biggest problems I see is the lack of interaction between different

social groups. Some of my peers have no understanding of the daily challenges faced by people who live less than three miles from our school, many of whom receive less than the living wage and struggle to find enough money to clothe and feed their children.'



Rachel Sheridan-Warburton,
Community Impact
Group member

'The one thing I'd change in my community would be the division and lack

of understanding between different groups, especially between teenagers and the elderly. If we had a more cohesive community I think it would make handling other issues – from crime to social isolation – much easier because as one community we would be able to tackle issues together.'

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HAVE YOUR SAY

Head to **page 39** to fill in our short reader survey



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At the forefront of safety

The UK Chief Commissioner reminds us that in a world where safety matters, we're leading the way

Buried on page 83 (paragraphs 12.56 and 12.57) of the Secretary of State for Health's report about the lessons learnt from the Jimmy Saville case was a glowing endorsement of The Scout Association's work in reinforcing safeguarding awareness through training and communication.

Participants in a discussion group considering how organisations ought to manage risks of abuse and reinforce safeguarding measures 'commended the yellow card for offering a constant

recognised for being at the forefront of work, policies and procedures in these areas by external groups and organisations.

Such is the success of our 'Yellow Card: Young People First Code of Practice'. This is a format we have adapted for our wider campaign to promote a culture of safety together with the 'Purple Card: Safe Scouting and Emergency Procedure'. These provide simple messages, guidance and advice to support preventative actions and ensure appropriate responses when necessary.

'The Association is often recognised for being at the forefront of work, policies and procedures'

reminder and reinforcement of the safeguarding message'. In fact, many of the recommendations from the report are already in place within Scouting.

With regular reports of the health and safety 'madness' and daily media coverage surrounding historic abuse cases likely to continue for some time, it may sometimes feel very challenging to be a volunteer, especially when working with young people. It is therefore reassuring to be reminded that the Association is often

Our continued success in changing the lives of increasing numbers of young people is founded on our commitment to ensure that Scouting is both enjoyable and safe for everyone who takes part, young or old. The easiest way to achieve this is through following the simple guidance on the yellow and purple cards and to keep them close to hand.



Tell us what you think

Your next edition of Scouting magazine will be the September issue, which is when we will start publishing the magazine quarterly. That means you'll receive a bigger and better publication every three months, full of activity ideas and advice for planning your programme. The magazine will still feature amazing stories from our volunteers to inspire and make us all proud to be a part of this brilliant movement.

To help us produce the best magazine possible we need you to tell us what we can do to produce a more useful, practical and entertaining magazine. Please head to page 39 and fill out our very quick survey. Thank you

IN THE DIARY

Here's where Wayne will be in the coming weeks...

JUNE

- 6** Essex Cub Mega Camo
- 1st Warsash 50th Anniversary
- 26-27** UKCC Team
- 28** Kent Big Weekend

JULY

- 11-12** Trustee Board
- 12-13** Northamptonshire
- 18** Operations Committee
- 26** Peak 2015, Derbyshire
- 27** LINX Camp - Shropshire
- 28** Grampian Nights, Aberdeen
- 29** Run to the Fun, Devon

AUGUST

- 31-5** World Scout Jamboree, Japan

June/July 2015

upfront

The latest Scouting news and events



The wildest birthday ever!

On 1 January 2016 more than 150,000 Cubs and their leaders will take part in a whopping year-long celebration to mark the centenary of the Cub section.

Be prepared for the Cubs 100 celebrations by planning your Thanks Party, Adventure Camp or Promise Party in advance. The good news is there's no need for a last-minute panic because the 2016 resources are available now. You can download your Cubs 100

activity pack and access a load of fun facts, activity ideas and delicious recipes from scouts.org.uk/cubs100 to make this the wildest birthday ever!

A range of invitations, posters, banners and other materials will be available at the end of June. These can be personalised and printed at home or by our partner N2 Visual Communications. Log in to scouts.org.uk/brand to get started!

Want to ensure everyone looks the part too? Keep an eye out for the Cubs 100 Badge and scarf, which will be available from Scout Shops from autumn (scouts.org.uk/shop).



SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRES

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ADVENTURES

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scouts
be prepared . . .

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Now you can raise funds and change lives, all by enjoying tea and cake!

TEA PREPARED

A delicious new fundraising campaign has been launched

We're excited to be launching Tea Prepared, a fantastic new fundraising campaign allowing people to change lives by eating cake and drinking tea. All you have to do is choose a date for your tea party, get the kettle on, bake some cakes (or buy some homemade-looking treats from the supermarket – we won't tell), and raise money by selling them or tickets to your tea party. The events can be held in your Scout meeting places, gardens, schools or workplaces.

To make them look swish and professional there are some

fantastic branded materials available. Tea Prepared posters, invitations, bunting, 'guess the weight of the cake' posters and Gift Aid forms are all available at the Print Centre. The best part (apart from the tea and cake) is that all of the money raised stays within local Scouting, meaning that next time your Group is looking for some cash for an adventure, you'll 'tea prepared'.

Get started by logging into the Scout Print Centre at scouts.org.uk/brand.

Pictures: Rob Scott

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

This year's London Pride event is taking place on Saturday 27 June so get your **#ScoutPride** on and get involved by visiting scouts.org.uk/pride.

The party isn't just happening in London though; there's a whole range of great Pride events happening across the country.

Our involvement is being organised by **FLAGS** (flagscouts.org.uk), our National Scout Active Support Unit, which supports LGBT adults in Scouting. As you know, Scouts are committed to equality, so join the celebrations and let's spread the word that Scouting is fun and open to all.



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REFRESHING CHANGE

The transition is nearly complete...

After an impressive 12,000 members told us how they'd like the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers programme to change we organised a programme refresh, and it's nearly complete. The re-energised Scout Programme is nearing the end of its transition period and the new and improved Programme will be complete by the end of September 2015. You'll notice that each section has a focus on outdoors and adventure, with updated badges and requirements. For more information on making the transition to the new Programme visit scouts.org.uk/programmeupdates or prepared.scouts.org.uk.



NETWORK IS CHANGING

Updates to the Scout Network are now well underway. Districts and Counties are currently in the process of appointing District Scout Network Commissioners and Assistant County Commissioners (Scout Network). A range of materials are being made available to assist with the development of future activities focused on adventure, international and community projects. The membership will be through District Scout Networks and the UK Scout Network.

The transition period is scheduled to run until November 2015 so if you haven't noticed a difference already, expect a few changes in the coming months. Later this year, the new Scout Network website will provide access to projects happening across the UK. Full details about the changes to Scout Network and the transition period are available at prepared.scouts.org.uk.



network

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FIRE AND ICE 2016: Come and join us for our first camp of 2016! Fire and Ice is a winter weekend filled with fun and adventurous activities, whatever the weather! **15th- 17th January 2016**

VISIT WWW.TOLMERS.ORG.UK OR CONTACT 01707872900

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER @TOLMERSCAMPSITE



housekeeping

Brand updates and the latest Compass progress

BE VISIBLE, BE PROUD, BE PREPARED

Scouts are at the heart of our local communities and it's vital that we stand out. To help you promote Scouting's life-changing adventure, why not visit the Scout Print Centre for a range of signage, vehicle livery, banners, posters, postcards and more. Here are some of the new templates available:

- meeting place signs in a choice of colours and sizes
- posters and flyers – you choose the image, text and header
- bunting
- image creator for Facebook
- bucket stickers
- promotional postcards
- materials for Tea Prepared

Log into the Scout Print Centre at scouts.org.uk/brand to get started.



Planning your AGM

Why is it that the thought of your AGM fills many of us with dread? It doesn't have to be like that. With ample planning and some thought you can use your AGM as a great PR exercise and social activity as well as complying with legal requirements. Use these tips to help:

- your AGM needs to be advertised before the scheduled date to ensure full attendance and should be held within six months of the end of your financial year
- how about running a competition within the Group for a young person to design the invitation?
- try holding your AGM in combination with another event: eg a presentation evening, family camp or summer barbecue
- include videos, slide shows or photo montages of the events that have taken place in the Group, District or County/Area/Region over the past year
- allow social time before and after the event so that people can get to know each other
- get young people involved – it's great for parents to get to see what their children have been doing and hear it directly from them
- invite members of the community who might be interested in Scouting
- have a Plan B, make sure that you have covered all eventualities and have a contingency plan in case guest speakers are unable to make it at the last minute
- short and sweet, ensure that the key AGM business is covered, but then make the social part as long as you need

AGM RESOURCES

Do you need help creating posters and invitations to advertise your AGM? Do you want to create folders for your annual reports? Simply log onto the Print Centre to start creating resources.

Badge



The sky's the limit

Our partner, **Heathrow**, is helping local Scout Groups reach for the skies...

Heathrow

As the UK's hub airport, Heathrow aims to support the economic prosperity of the communities surrounding the airport by positively engaging with local schools, colleges and universities, raising awareness of high-quality careers, supporting skills development and helping businesses grow. As a pioneer member of Step Up to Serve, Heathrow's partnership with The Scout Association affords both organisations the opportunity to achieve their mutual objective of engaging young people in youth social action.

The Heathrow-partnered Aviation Skills Activity Badge encourages

Scouts and Explorers to learn about the aviation industry along with the skills and responsibilities the sector requires, through an activity pack designed by colleagues working at the airport. Additionally, the Heathrow team has hosted local Scout evenings, that have included activities such as how to marshal a plane, identify different types of aircraft landing on the Northern Runway, and understand the layout of the airport by building a model version of Heathrow.

In addition to the Aviation Skills Activity Badge, the Heathrow Community Fund, an independently-run grant-making charity, has provided financial support to

various local Scout Groups who were in need of help. 1st Englefield Green Scouts Group received £1,700 towards rebuilding the barbecue and campfire area of their HQ, while 13th Twickenham (St Mary's) Scouts were granted £8,000 towards a replacement outdoor storeroom. 1st Langley Scouts were awarded £41,000 to replace their roof and their HQ also hosted the launch event for the Heathrow-partnered Aviation Skills Activity Badge.

Heathrow is proud to partner the Aviation Skills Activity Badge and to continue developing its relationship with The Scout Association to inspire the next generation's curiosity and encourage new ideas to take flight.

More info

Heathrow partners the Aviation Skills Activity Badge. To find out more about badge requirements and to check out further resources, visit scouts.org.uk/heathrow.



what's on

Exciting dates for your diary

July



3-5 JULY

Hill and Mountain Skills Course

Head to Yr Hafod Scout Activity Centre in Snowdonia to develop practical skills and gain accreditation. Email yr-hafod.sac@scouts.org.uk to find out more.

10-12 JULY

Gilwell 24

The biggest event for Explorer Scouts is back with a bang this summer as attendees see if they can stay awake for 24 hours, while cramming in as much action and adventure as possible. Find out more at gilwell24.info.



20-23 JULY

BCU UKCC Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Paddlesport

This course introduces the fundamentals of safe, ethical and effective coaching. Contact **01301 703 217** or grant@lochgoilhead.org.uk.

August



28-8 AUGUST

23rd World Scout Jamboree, Japan

The long-awaited Japan 2015 gets underway this month, but don't be sad if you're unable to attend – there are loads of ways to work it into your Programme. Visit scouts.org.uk/pol for ideas.

15-22 AUGUST

CamJam 2015

After a four-year hiatus, CamJam is returning to Huntingdon Racecourse in Cambridgeshire for 2015. Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Guides aged 14–18 can attend. Visit camjam.org.uk for more info.

23-29 AUGUST

Project 826

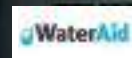
This Epping Forest Conservation Project is now in its 26th year. Here Explorer Scouts can benefit from hands-on conservation project experience for £65 per person. Head to explorerproject.co.uk to learn more.

September



31-5 SEPTEMBER

World Water Week



Every year, this week aims to bring global access to clean water and sanitation to the public conscience. Turn to page 24 of Get Active! for water-related activities from our A Million Hands partner, WaterAid.



Further ahead

Reunion 2015

4–6 September

Gilwell Park Scout Activity Centre

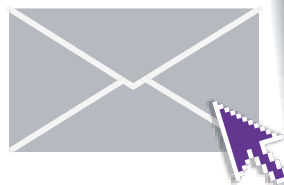
A fun-filled weekend of activities, new experiences, entertainment and catching up with friends, both old and new. Reunion offers plenty of inspiration and programme ideas whether you are new to Scouting or an experienced leader. Now in its 89th year and one of the most hotly anticipated events in the Scouting calendar, Reunion 2015 will see hundreds of Scouting adults and Scout Network members coming together at the home of Scouting.

To book and find out more information, visit scouts.org.uk/reunion.



June/July 2015

mailbox



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Email: scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk | Write to: Scouting magazine, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW

Picture of the moment

Wild Wolf ESU

experienced life on the edge while hiking on Glyder Fach in Snowdonia



Point Blippar here to see loads more of your wonderful photos

Cindy Scott


My Troop was at an Easter Seals walk when the wind gusts took hold of two pop-up canopies. They all scattered from our booth to rescue the occupants from the flying canopies. No one was hurt, but only one canopy survived. It was nice to see what we've been teaching has taken hold.

Anna-Marie Spencer

Last weekend we had a Special Award given by a special guest at West Glamorgan Area Camp 2015!

Chris Gavriel

I was one of the Queen Scouts who led the service at the Windsor service in St George's Chapel back in 2005! Can't believe it's been 10 years already. I will be at Longleat on Sunday organising a day with over 700 adults and young people from my District to renew our promises! Amazing where Scouting takes you!

 **Kirrily Swan** One of our Beavers has earned her five nights away badge. This is a first for our Colony! Laura completed her fourth and fifth night away in September 2014. Laura has been with us for nearly two years and her Dad is an Assistant Beaver Leader. Laura has attended a Beaver sleepover, the Group camp in 2013 and

2014 allowing her to achieve Nights Away stage 5. The nights away are optional but Laura enjoys camping and can't wait to move up to Cubs to do even more camps! This is a special achievement for Laura and our colony.

The Scout Association Huge congratulations to Laura. What a fantastic achievement!

Charlotte@CharlotteBird0

I'm **#ProudtoScout** how about you! Well done @BearGrylls for staying Chief Scout for another 3 years!
@scouts
#scouts





Helen Williams

I thought you might like this photo [see above] taken at SLaM district Harry Potter camp while we were playing Quidditch on the archery range with Professor Snape, Madam Hooch and a muggle called Mark! This was just one of 10 Harry Potter-themed activities everybody enjoyed.



Nigel Taylor

My happiest time at Scouts has to be the time one of my Cubs went up a climbing net for the first time. One leader either side of him for the first two climbs. He then spent the next 30 minutes going up, over and down. The smile on his face was brilliant. When I said to his mother about the things he

had done, she was amazed. Scouting changed his life. This was 30 years ago and I remember it as if it was yesterday.



Adele Robbins-Brown

To help ward off homesickness when we are on camp we have "campy" the crocodile. He was my camp teddy but the Cubs nicked him as their mascot. If a Cub is upset they get to look after him. They can tell him whatever they want and it seems to work. Even the leaders have cuddles!



Dawn Williams

I just wanted to share this sweet photo [see above] of our oldest Explorer teaching one of our youngest Beavers to tie their shoelaces. This is what Scouting is all about!

OVERHEARD

The funny things Scouts say

Explorer scout on first night of camp: 'I packed my own bag. I packed three socks... But not three pairs!' Jay Thompson

Overheard at camp: 'Where are your torch and spare batteries?' Reply: 'I'm not sure where my mum put them.'

Helen Westmancoat

A cub turned up for lunch at camp with only one shoe on. When asked where the other one was, he replied 'Forgot it!'

Penny



Tweet us using **#overheardscouts**, get in touch via Facebook or email to tell us what you've overheard.



STAR LETTER Artistic triumph

I finished my Baden-Powell drawing, thank you all for the support you gave me while drawing it – it has been awesome (Facebook.com/bryonysartwork).

Bryony Jackson



KNOTS AND LASHINGS



PROJECT A-FRAME SHELTER



FIRELIGHTING TIPS AND TRICKS



WRITE IN TO WIN

Our **STAR LETTER** writer wins a copy of the Outdoor Adventure Manual: Essential Scouting Skills for the Great Outdoors. Available from scouts.org.uk/shop at a special price of £14 (RRP £21.99).





REAL TROOPERS

**GREAT ORMOND STREET
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Founders: Scouts David Mitchell, Billy Harwood and Scout Leader Alf Porter.

Members: 200 visits per year from Scouts, Guides and all patients.

Trips: BBC Television Centre, Harrods and the London Aquarium.

Did you know? There have been at least two marriages as a result of meeting at the 17th Holborn Scouts and Guides.



SCOUTING ON THE WARDS

Thanks to Scouts, young people at Great Ormond Street Hospital are able to experience fun, friendship and support at a time when they need it the most

WORDS: CELESTE HOULKER



The unpredictability can make it hard to plan Programme material, but GOSH doesn't let that stop them

'Right, let's go and round up some young people!' exclaims Chris, a leader from 17th Holborn Scouts and Guides after helping to rearrange the activity centre for the evening session at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London.

Leaders have been doing the rounds since the Scout and Guide hospital Group first opened in 1957 and for the young people who are not already part of the Scouting and Guiding Movement it can take a bit of coaxing to get them off the

ward and into the session. Chris explains: 'The kids can be here for observations; where the doctors see if there is something wrong. They can be here for days and there's only so much TV a child can watch before getting really bored. Suddenly they are presented with Scouts and Guides; we get a couple of kids who are not sure, so we have to encourage them to come down for five minutes and they usually stay the whole time. Scouting and Guiding gives them a reason to leave the ward.'

and will come back to the hospital every few months. 'We don't follow the formal Programme because only about 10% of people who come are Scouts and the rest are not,' says Chris. 'At the moment we tend to take a mix of Scouting and Guiding programme each week as it makes for an interesting mix!'

Unlike most Scout Groups, the leaders here never know how many young people will turn up each night or what age they will be. 'We may get five kids or 10, loud kids, really quiet kids or kids who may not speak any English. You can never really tell from week to week what age group we're going to get,' says Chris. 'If there are enough of us leaders and we find that we have young people that are older, we will sometimes split them up'.

Doing the rounds

Starting from the top floor, the Sky Ward, Chris works his way through the hospital asking nurses on every ward for young people who would like to join the Group for the evening. On an average night they can get six or seven young people involved,

A flexible approach

The coming together of Scouts and Guides is part of the reason why 17th Holborn is so unique. Scout and Guide Groups are not that common, but the partnership works well for the hospital, due to the fact that the young people who attend are not regulars



Scout Leader James Rodden brings Scouting to one young patient



The average Group night can see up to seven young people getting involved in the fun



‘Scouting gives them a reason to leave the ward.’

CHRIS, SCOUT LEADER

other nights can be quieter. The number of young people who take part in an evening's session depends on whether or not they are well enough to take part. ‘Sometimes they don't get let off the ward,’ explains, Chris. ‘For example, if they have had a blood transfusion, then it's not a good time for them to leave. If they are on drips then they can sometimes come down. We have to play it by ear really.’

A little patience

While wandering the wards this evening, Chris meets a Scout called Cathal from Ireland who has been eagerly waiting for the session to start. ‘He's another one who comes maybe once or twice a year,’ says Scout Leader Andrew. ‘I think he has been on camp several times at home – he seems to have gotten taller awfully quickly!’

Andrew started volunteering at the Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) Group as a teenager while he was visiting his younger brother who was a patient at the time. ‘A lot of people get in touch with us because they are thinking of setting up a hospital Group themselves. They usually come down to visit us and we try to help them, tell them what to expect, how long it will take them and what we think they should do. Some of them have been quite successful and some we don't hear from again. I think the most recent was Evelina London Children's Hospital. When you're setting up a hospital Group, you have to be quite patient and persistent’.



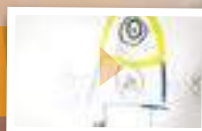
‘We need to make sure that Scouting reaches the whole community, no matter where they are, to become the inclusive and diverse organisation that we strive to be, which all young people could belong to, regardless of their background or situation. We need to make Scouting more visible; going out talking to people, taking part in or organising social events for the community, and volunteering in order to contribute to what defines a large part of individual identity.’
Rachel Sheridan-Warburton, Community Impact Group member



The combination of Scouting and Guides works perfectly in the hospital environment



Blipp here to check out GOSH's stop-motion films



✦ Just a regular meeting

On this Tuesday evening the young people are making stop-motion videos. The eldest in the room is 12-year-old Elis from Loughton, east London; it happens to be her first night at the GOSH Group, but she is also a Guide in her local Unit. Her stop-motion film is about a pig that gets lost and can't find its way home. 'I enjoy being a Guide. I'm one of the older ones there, so it's nice to help people and help them get the experience and become better people.'

When looking at Elis it's not obvious she is a patient; the same goes for Louie who is the youngest of the Group. 'It doesn't usually matter what treatment they are having,' says Andrew. 'We don't need to ask so we don't. The nurses tell us things that we need to know, that they might have fits for example. Apart from that we don't ask anything about their condition.'

'You get a couple of kids come down on a drip or wearing a bandage around their head and another kid will ask them "what are you here for?"' explains Andrew. 'They will talk about their conditions; they will

'It doesn't matter what treatment they're having... We don't need to ask, so we don't.'

ANDREW, SCOUT LEADER

say something like "I've got cancer of such and such". The hospital makes a great effort to explain the treatment to the children and what is going to happen. The children will then tell us about it and each other.'

The leaders here are great at being flexible and supportive around the different needs of the young people, but there are times when they are faced with young people who are terminally ill and those times can be heartbreaking. 'It can be hard when you find out that a young person has passed away,' says Andrew. 'It depends on how well you've got to know them. Unfortunately that's something you have to expect.'

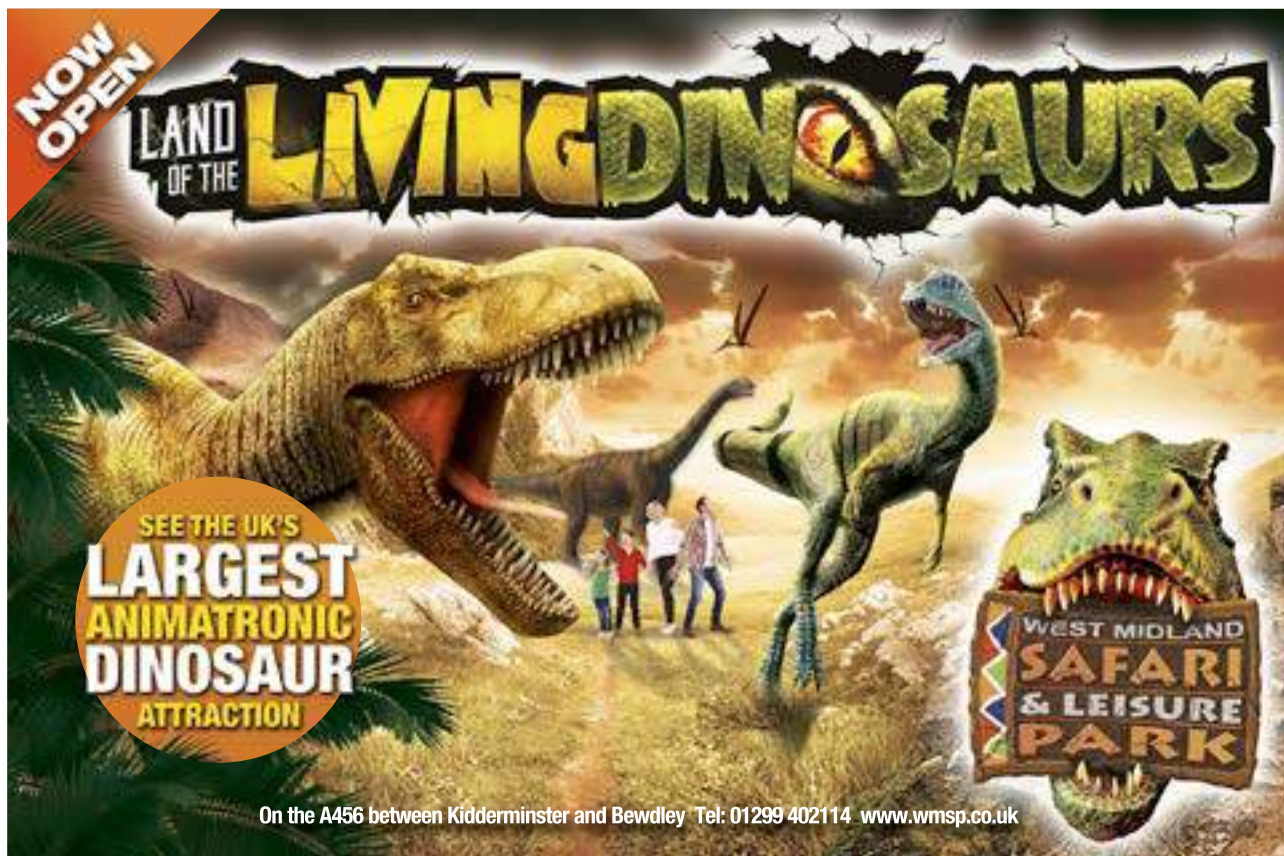
A place of happiness

In a place that can be very sad, joy and fun can be found at 17th Holborn. There are some young people who experience Scouting

and Guiding for the first time in the hospital and go on to join Groups in their local area. 'Because they have experienced it with us, when they go into the environment of another Scout Group they are better prepared for it,' says Chris. 'There was a girl who we saw for a long time and we saw get progressively better. We like to think that coming down to us really helped her because it felt like home here. For her it was a home from home that she could relate to and that's why we do it: it is fun for the kids and it is fun for us.' 📺

More info

Have you opened up a Scout Group in a hospital or somewhere unexpected? Tell us all about it at [scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk](mailto:magazine@scouts.org.uk).



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‘WE WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD’

Young people lead the way with like-minded charity partners in a bid to make a real, long-lasting impact across all communities...

WORDS: LEE GRIFFITHS



I've been in Scouts since I was six. When I was seven, my dad passed away, so I saw Scouts as something I could really throw myself into.

It took my mind off things during that tough time; I had so many good experiences and so eventually I wanted to give something back.'

Jack Abrey, a student and Scout volunteer, is one of the inspiring and amazing young people that form the Scouts' Community Impact Group (CIG). Jack is Chair of the CIG, which is formed of mostly young people in Scouts between the ages of 14–21. It was formed to act as the driving force behind an exciting project where giving something back is key: A Million Hands.

This is an ongoing community impact project that celebrates all of our great work so far and looks ahead at the amazing things we could achieve. A Million Hands will provide fantastic development opportunities for young people, brilliant activity ideas for leaders and the chance for us all to make a positive, long-lasting impact in our communities. In a nutshell, it's doing what we do already, but much more, and with a little help...

What we stand for

To help us carry out the work and identify the issues that matter most to our young people, the CIG set about identifying the key issues in today's society that young people are most passionate about. The team carried out research and spoke to Scouts and volunteers around the UK and eventually uncovered four key issues that Scouts want to help address:

- mental wellbeing and resilience
- people affected by dementia
- those affected by disability
- access to clean water and sanitation for everyone, everywhere.

Teaming up with other amazing

Scouts and leaders to go out into their communities and improve them for the better.'

Raising awareness

Different members of the CIG are partnered with each of the other charities to lead on projects and resources that Scouts can use to help make a difference.

Jack, who is passionate about raising awareness about mental health, was a natural partner for Mind. 'Mental health is an issue that is close to me; I have a few friends with close links to mental health and it's a topic that's just starting to come to light,' explains, Jack. 'It's largely brushed aside and for young

'Mental health is an issue that is close to me... It's largely brushed aside and not really understood.'

JACK, STUDENT AND SCOUT VOLUNTEER

charities **Mind, Alzheimer's Society, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Guide Dogs, WaterAid** and **Canal & River Trust**, a groundbreaking partnership was

formed to provide Scouts and volunteers with the support and the means to make a real and lasting difference in the world around them.

'Scouting positively affects over 500,000 people across the UK but many people still have misconceptions about us so we need to show them what we stand for,' says Eva, 16 and member of the CIG.

'Community impact is one of the principles upon which Scouting was founded, and it's still prominent in the Movement today. We want

people it's not really understood. It's important to raise awareness and make sure we all understand it.'

Lewis, 19, is a Scout leader and student and brings bucketloads of passion to the CIG, and mental health is something he's particularly keen on shouting about too. 'Young people are under more stress now than ever before and it does affect them and people are getting diagnosed younger and younger,' says Lewis. 'Our work through A Million Hands will help us all to realise that within Scouts there will be people that suffer from mental health issues; we can then make sure Scouts is a safe space for addressing this and raising awareness in our own communities.'

'It's also linking up with Scouts and communities throughout the world and helping make a difference,'





The Scout Community Impact Group worked tirelessly to select the four key social issues that our young people feel most passionately about





Our six charity partners can help provide essential information to boost understanding of these key issues

'We have half a million young people that really care about these issues...' – CIG member, Robert, is confident that A Million Hands can produce effective social action

'It's important that Scouts keep helping. We can make a difference. Small actions can have big results.'

HUW, YOUNG LEADER

✦ says CIG member, Robert. Our partnership with WaterAid will help us do just that: encouraging better sustainable practice within the UK and across the globe.

'We have half a million young people that really care about these issues so working with the partners gives us expertise and a better understanding of how we can make a positive impact,' explains Robert.

Small actions, big results

The A Million Hands partnerships with Guide Dogs and Leonard Cheshire Disability will help us improve the lives of those affected by disabilities, which, as research with our Scouts proved, is a crucial issue that young people are keen to tackle.

Huw, a young leader and CIG

member has already seen the brilliant potential of working to help tackle this issue. He explains: 'In one of my local Groups we have Scouts with learning difficulties and I've seen leaders who have modified or tweaked the Programme to make sure everyone gets to experience Scouting no matter what. It's really inspiring and it inspired me to want to take a lead on making even more positive differences.'

He continues: 'It's important that Scouts keep helping. When you have lots of people helping – we can make a real difference. Small actions can have big results.'

Dementia is also something that kept coming back time and time again when the CIG spoke to young people and volunteers.

'This is a subject that means a lot to me,' says CIG member, Becky. 'My great-grandmother had dementia. I have all these memories of visiting her in the home where she was staying and I hated it; I always begged my mum not to go and visit. Now I understand what she had and why she may have been behaving that way, I wish I had spent more time with her.'

She continues: 'Alzheimer's Society ran a Dementia Friends Information Session for us and we learned that, although a person might quickly forget they were visited for example, the feelings of happiness, joy and pleasure that gave them, they don't forget and that stays with them. I never knew that. If we can make sure that all Scouts know this, we'd be achieving something amazing.'

Rachel, CIG member and Explorer Scout, also has first-hand experience with Alzheimer's: 'My granddad, Mickey, has been affected by Alzheimer's. If I'd known a bit more and learnt a bit more through Scouts, I would have no doubt viewed





Our young people have already been extremely motivated by A Million Hands, something that can only go from strength to strength

the situation differently and my granddad in a different light. I think I would have been more comfortable about talking about it with other members of my family.'

Taking action

While it's all very well talking about social action, first steps can be intimidating. A Million Hands and the CIG are committed to helping Scouts and volunteers take those initial steps. For starters, we've teamed up with The Canal & River Trust for A Million Hands, which will provide access to its sites and facilities to help Scouts physically make a positive impact in their communities. And crucially, the CIG, Scouts and volunteers from all over the UK have worked with our charity partners to develop resources for volunteers to take to their Groups and get their Scouts thinking about how they will make a difference.

'We've developed resources to help people make a change,' says Jack.

'Leaders can then easily make this part of their Scout night. It can be as little as a 20-minute session, but we've also researched and worked with Groups to offer resources on events that Scouts could run too.'

The community impact activities will also provide the perfect opportunity for Scouts to earn their Community Impact Badge (see this issue of Get Active! for loads of community impact ideas). A microsite dedicated to A Million Hands will also provide further information about activity resources (you will also be able to download them from there), the issues we are tackling and how you can get involved.

And why should we get involved? Because young people care – and

surely there's no greater motivation than that...

'Despite how young people are often portrayed in the media, we're concerned for our society – we want to change the world and Scouts provides a great platform for this,' says Rachel. 'You can go into any school or Scout Group and there's so much fundraising and community cohesion going on, and it's not for us – it's for others. Scouts represent the young people of our country and show we really do care. Everyone wants to change the world and every day Scouts change it for the better. We want to make a difference. We want to see a better world for those that come after us. If we make those changes – the smallest changes – we'll be creating a better place.' 

More info

Get involved in A Million Hands: scouts.org.uk/communityweek. The A Million Hands microsite is also coming soon – look out for details on scouts.org.uk.

**'Everyone wants to
change the world
and every day Scouts
change it for the better.'**

RACHEL, CIG MEMBER AND EXPLORER SCOUT

AFRICA CALLING!

The brainchild of the **Berkshire Scouts County Team**, Project Africa has given young people the chance to make long-lasting community impact overseas

The best way for an international community project to get off the ground is to capture the imagination of the young people and leaders who are taking part,' explains Project Manager Mick Stocks. This premise has been the key, in many

ways, to the success of Project Africa, the newest feather in the cap of Berkshire Scouts' extensive international offering. When members of the County Team came together in 2010 hoping to widen the international activities on offer to Scouts in Berkshire, they quickly hit upon the idea of an international community project abroad, and Project Africa was born.

Working overseas

The project's first international visit to Uganda in 2011, was when the County took 90 Explorers and leaders to the Bukeka Children's Centre in central Uganda and to the Kavule School for the Deaf to its east. There, the Scouts began the construction of a number of much-needed buildings,

including classrooms, a kitchen and a washroom, at the schools.

The Scouts' Project Africa will be doing the same when it heads back to Uganda this summer – 50 Explorers and eight Network members will build three new classrooms at the Butagaya Primary School.

The second part of Uganda 2015 will be at the nearby Iwololo Primary School, where many classrooms need refurbishing. The Scouts will also be building teacher accommodation, which is important to help retain teachers at remote and rural schools.

'The project is as much about helping the Scouts grow, develop and experience new things as it is about the end result' says Mick.

Project Africa has partnered with Soft Power Education, a British-registered charity whose extensive





INTERNATIONAL
SCOUTING

2011
90 Explorers and
and leaders

2015
50 Explorers and
8 Network members

‘Every section should have the chance to feel involved in the international adventure’

MICK, PROJECT MANAGER

local contacts have supported Project Africa in identifying the most suitable schools for their Scouts to work with. With time, money and scale all being important considerations, this partnership has been invaluable to the leadership team back in the UK.

Building momentum

Raising funds is, of course, a massive part of the project. Each of the young people going on the trip will be expected to raise £2,450 in order to meet their costs, but £250 of the money will go towards funding the building work in Uganda. In addition to the money raised for the buildings in Uganda, Project Africa has been supporting teachers at the Buweka Children’s Centre – the first school they worked with in 2011 – at a cost

of £3,000 a year.

While these figures might seem daunting, the leadership team of Project Africa have put processes in place to ensure that it’s as straightforward as possible for young people to get started.

They also run information evenings for parents, leaders and young people to ensure that expectations are laid out right at the beginning of the project and that there are no financial surprises further down the line.

‘There are a few parents who are in a position to write a cheque without question,’ concedes Mick, ‘but we wholeheartedly believe that the experience starts long before getting on the plane to Uganda. That means the fundraising and training sessions are an integral part of the whole experience.’

Fundraising fever

When it came to raising funds for Uganda 2015, the participants have truly got stuck in! From quiz and race





Beavers learn what it's like to be a child at one of the schools in Africa the Explorers are going to help



❖ nights to live band performances, marmalade making to cake sales. One mum spoke about her son who had organised a 'night at the races' to raise money with one of his friends. At the end of the evening, the pair announced they had raised £800. An audience member stood up, explained that he had enjoyed the evening immensely and offered to double the amount. According to the boy's mum, there's no way her son would have had the confidence and initiative to run such a thing before joining this project. 'He's already growing,' she said, 'and it will only continue when he gets to Africa.'

Getting involved at home

It's not just the participants who benefit from Project Africa. For Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, there's the opportunity to take part in the Global Awareness Programme, culminating in the Project Africa Challenge Badge. 'It has always been important to the leadership team that every section should have the

chance to feel involved in the project and the international adventure,' explains Mick, 'and the way we see it, we're preparing the participants of tomorrow!'

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts can now learn about what it feels like to be a child of the same age in one of the schools in Africa that Explorers are going out to help. While Scouts at 1st Cookham chose to dress up in traditional costume, eat traditional foods and learn some words in African languages, 13th Maidenhead's Young Leaders ran a programme on Uganda for Beavers including local games, paper-making and a bucket balance relay.

There's a real sense that it doesn't matter exactly what Project Africa might look like in the future, as long as Scouts from the county continue to be supported to help others in need. At the heart of Project Africa is the idea of young people helping young people. As long as that continues, then Project Africa has been a success. 🌍

'International-themed projects are something that can be completed on home soil as the UK is one of the most multicultural countries in the world. This allows us to learn and experience other cultures without travelling very far at all. One example of an international community themed project is Enfield District's (North London) International Day. Each community will be represented at the event: a day of fun, food, education and social action with an international theme!'

Jack Abrey,
Community Impact
Group Chair



Make an international impact on your doorstep

We've worked with our charity partner, WaterAid, to develop activity resources so your Scouts can learn all about worldwide issues like access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene and how they can make a difference in their own community. The resources will be available to download from the A Million Hands website when it goes live next month.



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'WHAT I WOULD CHANGE'

We know you've all got plenty of ideas to improve where you live. You shared some of the things that bug you, and some of the ways you're already making changes



'I'd like to work on making the place I live a proper community again. I want people to smile, say hello and get to know each other again. Then I'd live in a community, rather than just another place...'

LARRAINE



'I'd put an end to all bullying. It's heartbreaking to see what children have to go through when they should be enjoying their childhood. If every adult would stand up to bullying, we could show them what is and isn't acceptable and the children could learn for themselves.'

SARAH



'I'd like to bring back the local business that provided so many local families with jobs, gave support to local groups like Scouts by providing money and transport assistance and help with fundraising.'

DAWN



'I'd make it my mission to plant more trees! Our town can sometimes look a bit grey – I'd love the kids to have trees to climb, and to have somewhere green to walk the dogs and spend the summers gardening.'

JANET

'I would stop people stereotyping! People give me wary looks when I walk down the road sometimes, just because I happen to be a teenager who walks with a lot of confidence. If they looked in my bag they'd find revision guides and, quite often, ice cream!'

NATASHA

'There needs to be more for our young people to do and more places for them to go! Personally, I'd like us to have the resources to redo our Scout hut. Let's continue to grow Scouting – it's such a beacon in our communities for so many.'

ALISON



'I'd like to see more local support for those with mental health issues. Whether it's physical support and activities or a heightened level of awareness and understanding through educating the community, we need to see some change.'

ADAM

'The streets need to be kept cleaner. Dog mess in particular is becoming a real problem where I live. If everyone worked together and made a bit of an effort, there's no reason we couldn't keep the streets clean.'

PAUL



'Recycle, recycle, recycle! I'd like to make it easier for people to recycle the things they no longer need. We need more charity shops, more recycling banks and clearer rules for people who'd like to recycle their rubbish.'

BUD

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Head on over to our Facebook Page to tell us what else you're working on in your community.

the knowledge

Advice and know-how to inspire and inform



VOLUNTEER IN PROFILE

‘We can provide some real opportunities for young people...’

Cub Scout Leader and Community Impact Group member **Becky Alexander** is passionate about making a difference

I joined Scouts when I was six. My mum was a Beaver Leader and my brother was a Beaver. Basically the day I turned six I wanted to join.

One of my best memories is my 11th birthday – it was November on a District survival camp and it was freezing cold. We’d built our own shelter and fire and then we were given some fish to gut! It sounds unpleasant but I remember sitting with other Scouts, having a great time – we all stank and were cold, but had a brilliant time.

I continued to Scout through university – I’m now a Beaver Leader there. I also sit on my District Executive Committee and sit on two national working groups including the Community Impact Group, so all of that just about fills my time!

Working with young people has always been something I’ve been passionate about. I became a Young Leader when I was 14 and I haven’t

stopped. I ran my first camp as a Young Leader; I was 16 and with some help from the leaders I ran a family camp for 80 people – I did it and it was mine and I felt so proud.

The possibilities are endless with Scouting. We need to get young people out there raising awareness – not just in relation to our A Million Hands campaign, but about anything to do with community. Scouts can contact their local communities and local MPs and actively make a difference.

Scouting is all about helping other people and making the world a better place. We can provide some real opportunities for young people and let them know that they can make a change and how; if they see something wrong in the world, they will know how to make it better. Equipping young people with the skills to make a change is an opportunity that can’t be missed.



Make an impact

For more information about the Community Impact Group, see page 27. Get involved in A Million Hands at scouts.org.uk/communityweek.

Badge



Take perfect pictures

Canon

Winners of the Canon photography competition

Beer Scout Group found an old picture in a box from 1962 of a small group of Scouts holding a jumble sale and decided to recreate both the photo and the jumble sale.

Canon has created an amazing resource to help your Scouts capture and keep beautiful images

The Scout Association is working in partnership with Canon, one of the leading global imaging companies. Canon produces a range of products and services, from compact cameras to digital SLRs and high-quality printers, providing something for every stage of the imaging journey.

Canon supports the Scout Photography Badge and is passionate about inspiring young people to develop photography skills and capturing the world around them from an early age. Exploring photography encourages young people to use their imaginations and to think creatively about their surroundings.

A new resource has been developed with Canon aiming to give Scouts information and guidance in working towards their Scout Photography Badge. The pack will be launched online this month, and offers advice on choosing your subject, tips and hints on taking good photos and information on how to care for your camera. It also includes technical information so Scouts can learn how to use different camera functions and settings to great effect, as well as lots of creative ideas.



More info

Canon partners the Scout Photography Badge and has created some great resources to help Scouts fulfil the badge requirements. Visit scouts.org.uk/Canon for more information.



Your problems [SOLVED]

Our panel of experts answers your questions



Do we still have to insure borrowed equipment?

Bella Wilson, Group Scout Leader



Ralph Doe, Unity (Scout Insurance Services), says:

Check with the owner of the equipment. If you are not covered

under their insurance, you should consider insuring it while it's in your possession. If your Group already insures under Unity's Scout property and equipment policy, you may be able to insure it free of charge. For more details, visit scoutinsurance.co.uk/cover_equipment.html.

I'm an executive member of a Group – what are the main responsibilities for safety that I need to fulfil?

Jasminder Singh, Group Executive Member



Stuart Carter, Safety in Scouting Coordinator, says:

As an executive member, your main responsibility is to check that

the appointment process is being followed. Line managers should be explaining the Safety Policy to new adults, and the approval meeting will ensure that adults understand their roles and responsibilities. The main points to remember are:

- check all adults (including Executive Committee Members) have undertaken the relevant training
- ensure that support and resources are being made available for training – are there any barriers to adults completing training?
- review the safety of your meeting

place using the factsheet on members.scouts.org.uk/factsheets/F5320010.pdf. Assess and use external professional/competent help in areas that lie outside of the Executive's expertise

- lead by example. If you know of hazards and risks, be seen to be addressing the issues

To find out more, visit scouts.org.uk/safety and for further advice, consult the Safety Checklist for Executive Committees (tinyurl.com/nfqx8qc).

I'm confused about applying for a DBS check with the new System. Can you help?

Tim Burns, Cub Leader



Simon Martyn, Information Centre Adviser (TSA), says:

The new Atlantic Data System completes disclosure checks

for members in England and Wales. At present the system for Northern Ireland and Scotland hasn't changed. Members need to have their details held in Compass so that it can pass their information on to the Atlantic Data System. We currently have the Add New Adult process to capture information for Adults New to Scouting. Once the information is in Atlantic Data, any member within the management hierarchy of the person being assessed is able to complete the check. Full user guides, videos and FAQs on how to use the Add Adult Process and Atlantic Data are available at tinyurl.com/nr7l2n7.

The big issue

What do we mean when we talk about 'community impact' and what can my Group do to get involved?

Ryan Mitchell, Scout Leader



**Jack Abrey,
Community Impact
Group Chair, says:**

Often people associate community impact within Scouting as just picking up litter from a local park, but it can be so much more. From reducing social isolation by visiting an elderly person, to promoting inclusivity through events such as Pride and international days – it is any form of positive social action that impacts a community. Every community is unique and therefore community impact is not 'one-size-fits-all'. You are the experts within your community; you know what needs changing and what is not right. It is important that community impact is not 'tokenistic' but must be something that has sustained impact.



**Rachel Sheridan-
Warburton,
Community Impact
Group member, says:**

Community work doesn't have to be large-scale international volunteering. We can make a difference with community impact projects in the local community, in order to make a lasting effect on an issue, or issues, which matter to the people affected. A community impact project can be anything from visiting noticeably isolated members of the community, to doing an audit of a public building to see if it is accessible. These actions have long-term, positive resonations and not only promote Scouting, but improve the lives of others.



**Lewis Addlington-Lee,
Community Impact
Group member, says:**

Community impact is raising awareness, changing social attitudes, breaking down stigmas and ensuring those who are disadvantaged by society feel comfortable and part of the community. Community impact is the fundamental values of Scouting being applied to the wider community. You can help your community by inviting them to be a part of starting your community impact project and helping you to see it through. Bringing new ideas and attitudes to your community is fantastic; what's even better is making sure as many people are a part of that as possible – you will build friendships and bring those around you together.

Over to you...

Do you have a query about Scouting or experience you could share with others? If the answer to either question is yes, email us at scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk with your questions and advice.



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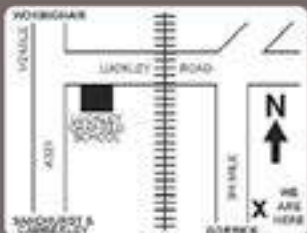
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A PROBLEM SHARED...

Student mental health nurse and Deputy UK Youth Commissioner, **Jay Thompson**, shares his advice on being honest and open when talking about mental wellbeing with your Scouts

While we often talk about mental health in the context of illness, it's equally important to consider what good mental health can look like – in Scouts, leaders and our communities. Good mental health is often the ability to be resilient, being able to fend off whatever life throws at you and having the ability to cope with the difficult things that happen to us all. Scouting can help, of course.

Activities such as pioneering might not seem like they would be linked to mental wellbeing, but what you're actually teaching young people is how to work as part of a team, to rely

upon others and to work collectively to overcome challenges. In time, those skills translate to good communication and interpersonal skills, which form a package of skills.

As well as offering these amazing activities, it's also really important that we start looking at mental health and wellbeing in the same way we do physical health and wellbeing and actually talk about it.

Show your support

We wouldn't argue that someone with a broken leg was weak for seeking help, but mental health problems are often seen as less severe.



In turn, that means that someone struggling with their mental health has to be incredibly brave to disclose how they're feeling and may not try to seek help at all.

The more we talk about mental health issues, the more normalised it becomes to admit that you're struggling. Millions of people struggle with the same issues each year – you'd be getting plenty of help and support if you were on crutches, so why should

moment decision for a young person to make a disclosure.

The important thing is that you're open and available to chat and you're willing and ready to listen. You don't have to be a mental health expert. It's totally fine to say that you're not sure what to do if a Scout approaches you with a problem and you shouldn't feel like you have to promise that you can make everything OK. Quite often you'll find that young people just want to

'It's important that we start looking at mental health in the same way we do physical health and actually talk about it.'

we sympathise less with someone struggling with anxiety?

It's estimated that one in 10 young people under the age of 16 suffers with a mental health condition – that's at least two in a Troop of 20. It's possible that Scouts could spend years in the Movement without discussing how they're feeling with anyone, but actually, as a leader, you might be in a really good position to provide support.

Don't be formal

In my experience, your Scouts will talk to you when it's convenient for them rather than for you. Whether it's around a busy campfire or on the way to the kitchen laden down with plates, it's important not to discourage them or formalise the chat by offering them a set time to come back and talk to you – it can be a spur-of-the-

be properly heard. As their first port of call, it's up to you to listen and advise who might be able to offer appropriate support – it could be a teacher or a young person's parents or GP.

Raise awareness

It's really important that dialogues around mental wellbeing happen at every level in Scouts. I'd like to see activities being integrated with the Programme and being 'upgraded' at every level. As a Movement with half a million members and over 100,000 leaders, we're in a real position to make changes. I'm excited about our new partnership with Mind; think of the difference our A Million Hands project can make across the UK if we start up conversations in each and every Group!

Tell us your tips

Share your experiences and advice on dealing with mental health: email scouting_magazine@scouts.org.uk.



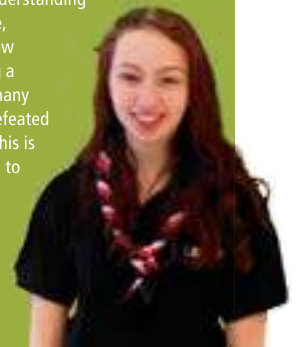
'One issue we know that matters to young people is mental health, and it is receiving increasing amounts of coverage in the media. With an ageing population and seemingly more societal pressures than ever on young people, it's important that we face this head on, for the sake of the future. If we don't address the 10% of young people living with a mental health problem at any given time, or the one-in-five elderly people affected by depression, we'll face further problems with employment, healthcare and much more.'

Rachel Sheridan-Warburton,
Community Impact
Group member



'Mental health is becoming more and more understood in our society, but there are still so many stigmas associated with the topic. While this is a very relevant issue for our age group, mental health can affect people in all stages of life, either directly or from the diagnosis of friends or family. One of the big issues is that the NHS is not currently in a position to deal with every single case requiring attention. Too many teenagers suffer from school-related stress and depression, and the number of recorded cases of eating disorders is so much higher than it should be. Too many of my peers skip meals and lose sleep because of the increasing standards imposed on our generation, and these can lead to worse conditions that can seriously affect their physical health. Too many people refuse to acknowledge mental health as viable grounds for missing social events or days at work or school, and this is something that needs to be stopped. We need to get people talking about it, understanding what is preventable, and working out how to go about leading a healthier life. Too many people are being defeated by mental health. This is something we need to change.'

Eva Penhallurick,
Community
Impact Group
member



TAKE A HIKE

DROITWICH TO WORCESTER

This rewarding and varied walk will take you along the banks of Britain's longest river and the towpaths of one of its earliest canals

The route

If you're arriving by train, follow the road east from the station (that's the side with the shop and ticket office). When you come to a roundabout, turn left, signposted to the town centre. Before long, you'll see the canal on the left – this is Vines Park. Cross the canal on the swing bridge and turn left.

Head west along the canal and pass the wide Netherwich Basin. Continue under the two railway bridges out of Droitwich. After two miles, you enter the quiet Worcestershire countryside.

Soon, you'll reach the first lock on the Barge Canal, which enjoys a remarkably

pretty situation with the lock cottage alongside. Continue along the towpath, passing more locks. As the towpath opens out onto a road by a picnic area, you'll have to follow the road for 50 yards, before re-joining the towpath at the other side of the bridge.

Keep walking past the original farm accommodation bridge (Linacre Bridge) to Mildenhall Mill Lock. The River Salwarpe, which has a reputation for being a haven for wildlife, is close on the right here.

After three-quarters of a mile, the towpath will take you underneath a busy main road. This is the A449. Continue to walk along the towpath until you reach Lock 2, cross the canal at this point and walk along the canal until you reach Lock 1, at the junction with the River Severn. At the end of the towpath, on the left-hand side there are steps that lead you up onto Hawford Lock Lane.

Once on Hawford Lock Lane, walk for approximately 80 metres until you see a footpath, on the right-hand side, which will take you along the Severn. The river parts around Bevere Island. You'll pass an impressive weir, with the lock on the opposite bank. Continue for two miles until you reach the outskirts of the city of Worcester.

Eventually, the riverside path ends and you'll turn left up a passage. Turn right at the top, and follow the signs for Worcester Bridge, along a leafy road and through a housing estate. When the road bends to the left, follow it round

then take the signposted footpath to the right. Cross a park and look out for the elegant pump house on the right. Turn right after this, then follow the road round until you reach Worcester Racecourse and the river again.

The tree-lined path follows the river along the edge of the racecourse. Keep walking past the stands, underneath the pedestrian bridge and railway bridge, until you reach the main road and Worcester Bridge.

Continue along the banks of the river, through the grounds of the stunning Worcester Cathedral – well worth a detour. You can end your walk here and head into the city centre for Foregate Street station, but if you have the time, continue along the river to discover the canal heritage at Diglis Basin.

After the boat houses beside the river, a footbridge marks the junction of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal with the River Severn. Cross it and turn left beside the locks, complete with resident keeper's cottage. Continue along the canal to the Commandery, just by the next lock.

This charming half-timbered building by the canal was Charles II's headquarters during the Battle of Worcester, one of the pivotal battles of the Civil War. Continue along the canal, passing a bridge, another lock, a modern industrial estate, and turn right at the second next bridge. Head up to the main road and turn right. This will take you to Worcester Shrub Hill station for your transport home.

Access the canal path
via the picturesque
Vines Park



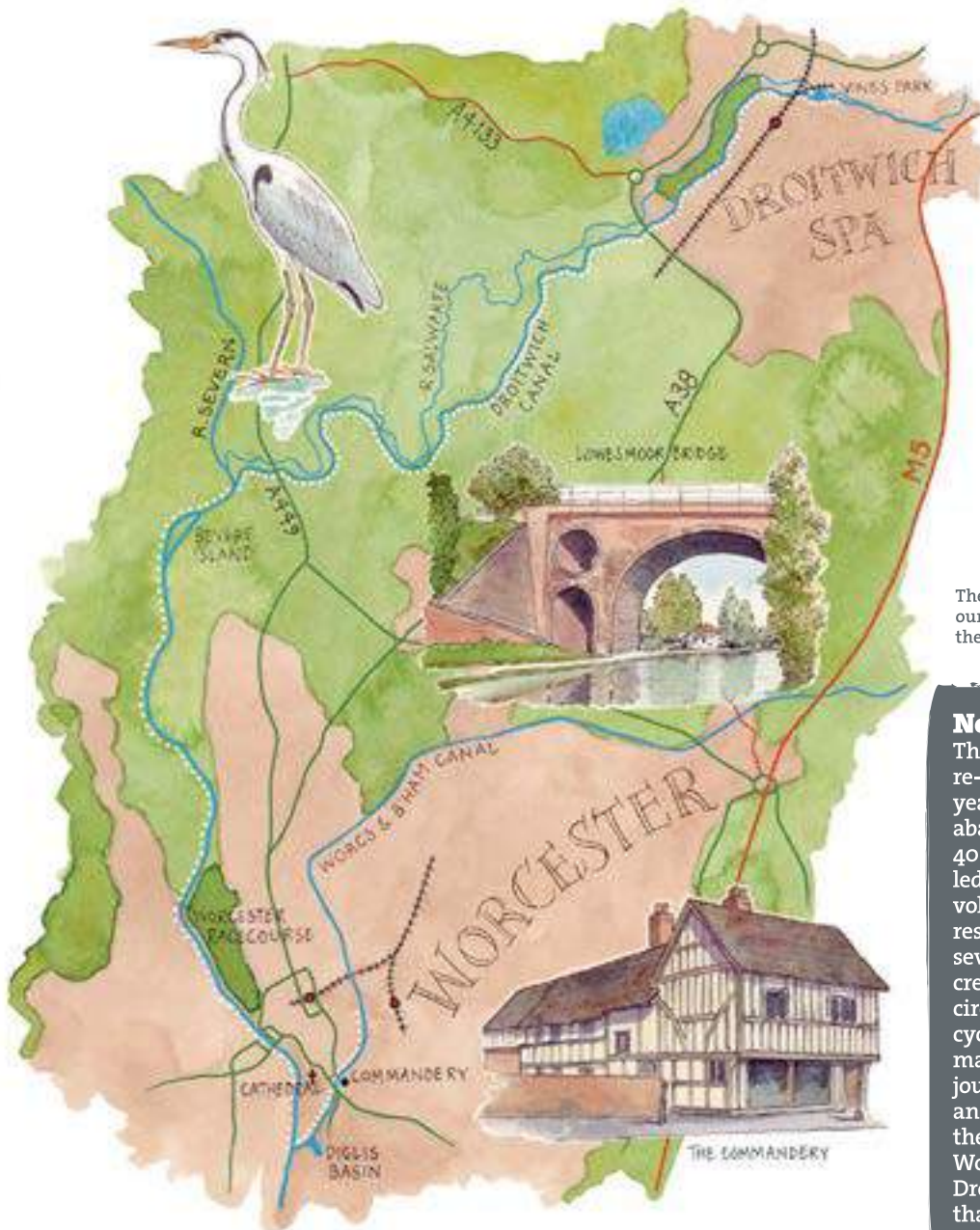
Map OS Explorer 204

Scouting Classification Terrain Zero – well-maintained footpaths throughout. When planning your own walk, it is important to check the terrain definitions at scouts.org.uk/a-z.

Distance 16km (9.94 miles)

Total ascent 191m

Start and finish Droitwich Spa Station to Worcester Shrub Hill Station. Frequent trains run between Worcester stations (hourly from Shrub Hill, at least two per hour from Foregate Street) and Droitwich Spa.



These walks have been provided by our A Million Hands charity partner, the Canal & River Trust

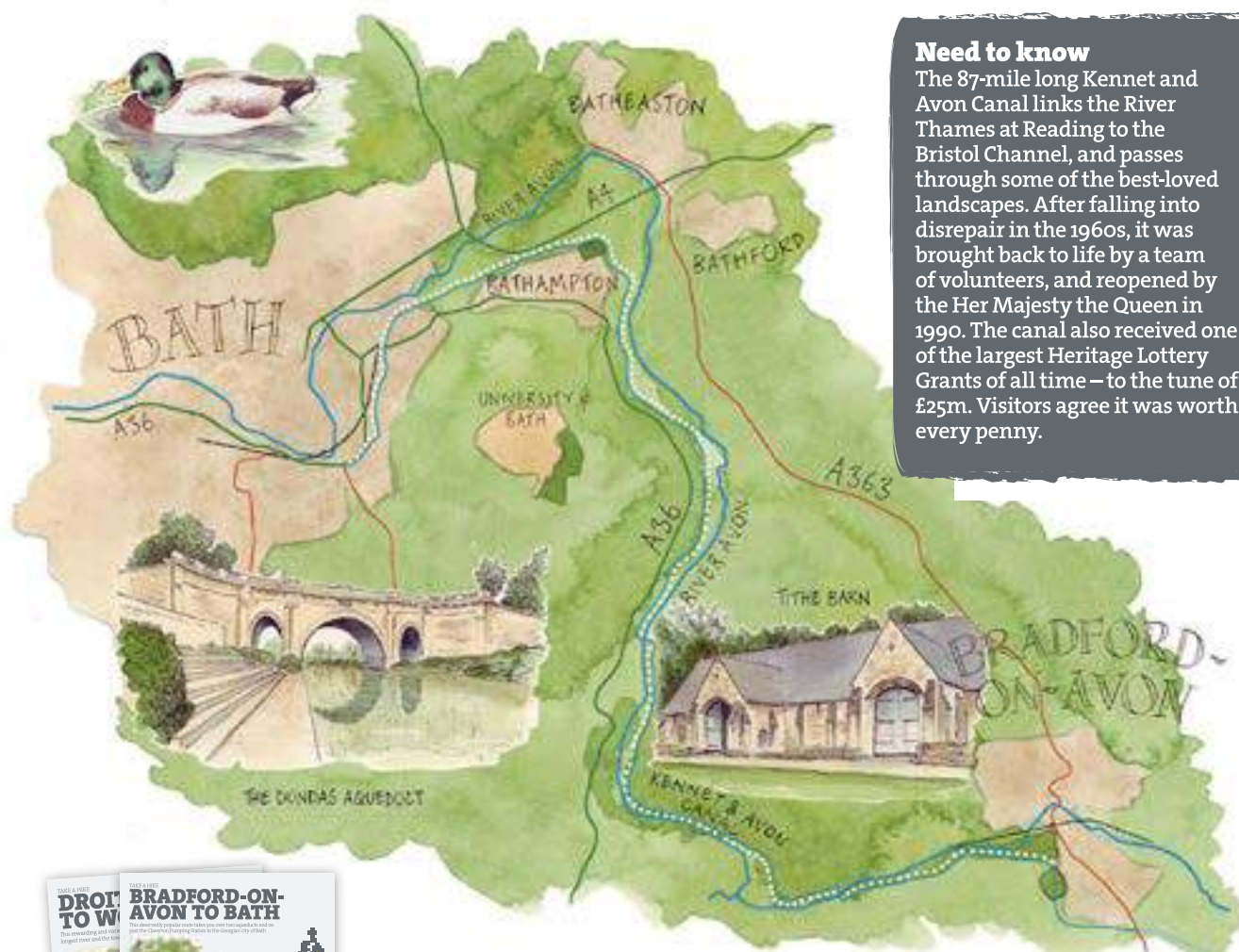
Need to know

The Droitwich Canals re-opened in 2011, after 72 years of officially being abandoned and nearly 40 years of community-led campaigning and volunteering to get them restored. Today, the restored seven-mile waterway creates a fantastic 'cruising circuit' which allows boats, cyclists and ramblers to make a 21-mile circular journey, from the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, to the River Severn, through Worcester and back to Droitwich. And it's all thanks to the hard work of volunteers.

TAKE A HIKE

BRADFORD-ON-AVON TO BATH

This deservedly popular route takes you over two aqueducts and on past the Claverton Pumping Station to the Georgian city of Bath



Need to know

The 87-mile long Kennet and Avon Canal links the River Thames at Reading to the Bristol Channel, and passes through some of the best-loved landscapes. After falling into disrepair in the 1960s, it was brought back to life by a team of volunteers, and reopened by the Her Majesty the Queen in 1990. The canal also received one of the largest Heritage Lottery Grants of all time – to the tune of £25m. Visitors agree it was worth every penny.



Plan your route

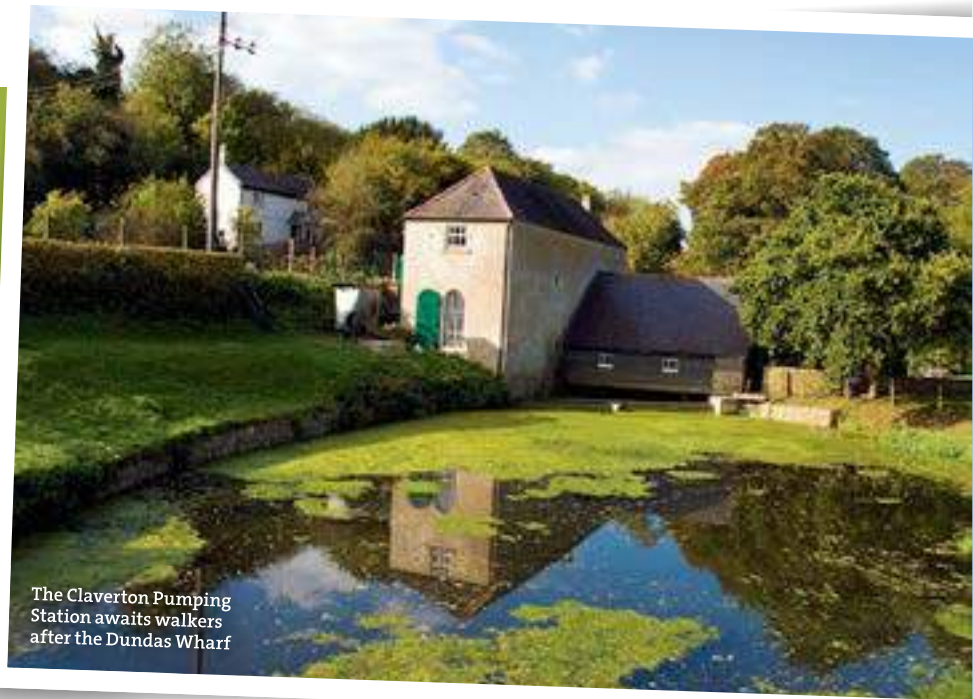
To get a PDF of the maps for both of these canal walks, email your request to scouting.magazine@scouts.org.uk. Alternatively, why not have a go at drawing a map of your favourite canal walk and send it to us?



Map OS Explorer 155

Scouting Classification Terrain Zero – well-marked and well-maintained footpaths throughout. When planning your own walk, it is important to check the terrain definitions at scouts.org.uk/a-z.
Distance 16km (9.94 miles)

Start and finish Bradford-on-Avon car park and Great Pulteney Street in Bath



The Claverton Pumping Station awaits walkers after the Dundas Wharf

The route

To reach the canal, walk out of the car park, turn right and follow the road for 500m. When you reach the canal, turn right on to the towpath (the canal should be on your left).

The route between Bradford-on-Avon and Bath clings to the side of the Avon Valley, sharing it with both the river and railway. The canal is raised above the railway, which has limited local traffic, so there is little to disturb your peace. As you leave Bradford, on your right you will find the town's 14th-century Tithe Barn. Originally owned by Shaftsbury Abbey, it's now owned by English Heritage and open daily 10am–4pm. The large building is split into 14 bays and has an impressive wooden roof requiring substantial buttresses to maintain it.

The canal is lock-free until it reaches Bath and it achieves this by sticking to the valley side. In order to maintain this, it crosses the River Avon and railway twice via two impressive aqueducts designed by John Rennie. The first is the Avoncliff (after two miles). Before you cross the aqueduct, you will need to transfer to the other side of the canal. This is done by following the broad path

beneath the aqueduct.

The canal was designed with broad locks and wide bridges to accommodate boats that could also travel along the River Thames and River Avon. As you walk, you will see a wide variety of different-sized weird and wonderful craft moored along the bank.

The route then follows the wooded towpath to the east of the valley before re-crossing the river via the Dundas Aqueduct (after 4.5 miles). The aqueduct was built of Bath limestone and is considered to be the finest example of architecture on the route (despite being smaller than the Avoncliff). As you reach the aqueduct, there are steps down to the left, which afford you an excellent view of Rennie's architecture. The far side of the aqueduct marks the junction of the Kennet and Avon Canal and the former Somerset Coal Canal.

Immediately after the Dundas Aqueduct, the towpath crosses the junction on a small swing bridge. Today, the first half mile has been restored and is used as moorings. As the name implies, it was built by Somerset coal mine owners to transport coal to Bath and Bristol, as they feared that the new

navigation would make supply from other parts of the country cheaper. The canal was opened in 1805 and was initially successful, carrying over 100,000 tonnes of coal a year in the 1820s, but railway competition saw it decline, and close in 1898.

Cross the opening to the Somerset Canal, skirt around the remains of the Dundas wharf and cross the canal on the footbridge (Bridge 177) to continue your journey north.

The canal continues north and then turns east to approach Bath. At Bridge 183, (7.5 miles) the canal reaches Bathampton.

About a mile after Bathampton, the canal enters a tunnel. On the other side are two wrought-iron bridges. Between them is a gate, leading into Sydney Gardens. Pass through the gate and ahead of you, and slightly to the right, you will see a path crossing the railway line. Follow this until you come to the road, turn left and take the second right. This is Great Pulteney Street, surely one of the finest architectural achievements in the world. It leads straight to the heart of Bath, via Laura Place and Pulteney Bridge.

SCOUTING CENTRES AND SITES

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

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



Alf Villages

ALF Villages offer unique locations for adventurous camps in Buckinghamshire. Green Park has 80 acres of park and woodland, as well as a range of indoor and outdoor activities, while Longridge is renowned for its water activities, such as sailing, rowing and kayaking.

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✉ bookings@alfcharity.org

🌐 alfvillages.org.uk



The Association of Scout and Guide Centres

Visit the ASGC website to find a regional directory, campsite info and reviews. The ASGC is the biggest network of Scout and Guide campsites in the UK and you'll find everything from a small district site to large activity centres, plus training courses and events.

🌐 asgc.org.uk; like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



Beaudesert Park

With 124 acres of open parkland and woodland, Beaudesert is an ideal setting for camps and residential visits. Our range of activities and flexible booking system means you can build a programme to suit your needs. We can also offer team-building and survival camps, all designed to suit your requirements.

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🌐 beaudesert.org



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☎ 01702 562 690

✉ info@belchamps.org.uk

🌐 belchamps.org.uk



Blackwell Court

Owned by Birmingham Scout Association, Blackwell Court is a fully equipped outdoor adventure centre with 52 acres of parkland. Our residential camping and adventurous outdoor activities are used by over 25,000 young people every year. Just half a mile away from Pikes Pool.

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✉ info@blackwelladventure.co.uk

🌐 blackwelladventure.co.uk



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☎ 01606 882 709

🌐 cheshirescouts.org.uk/campsites

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Cranham Scout Centre

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☎ 01452 812 309

✉ info@scoutcentre.org.uk

🌐 scoutcentre.org.uk



Eaton Vale

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☎ 01603 501 228

✉ office@eatonvale.co.uk

🌐 eatonvale.co.uk



Hesley Wood

The team at our Scout Activity Centre is here to help you and your group enjoy an outdoor adventure with a programme that is tailored to your needs, turning great ideas into great memories. We are ready to deliver your outdoor adventure, so come and join in the fun to create memories of a lifetime.

☎ 0114 246 7912

✉ enquiry@hesleywood.org.uk

🌐 hesleywood.org.uk



Cricket Camp

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☎ 023 8040 5151

🌐 isdsc.org.uk



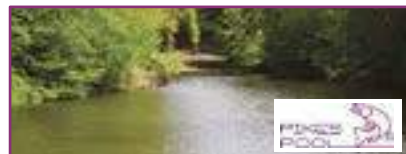
Linnet Clough

Linnet Clough is a year-round Scout activity centre and campsite with facilities for a multitude of activities. We have 40 acres of grassland for camping. We also have indoor accommodation to suit large or small groups and a complex suitable for residential training courses.

☎ 0161 427 1688

✉ linnetcloughcamp@aol.com

🌐 linnetclough.co.uk



Pikes Pool

Owned by Birmingham Scout Association, Pikes Pool is a traditional campsite and Water Activity Centre encompassing 55 acres of natural picturesque rustic woodland, open camping meadows and a one-acre pool, which is ideal for taster sessions of both rafting and kayaking. New for 2015: high poles course and zip wire.

☎ 0121 445 1285

✉ info@blackwelladventure.co.uk

🌐 blackwelladventure.co.uk



Scout Activity Centres

National Scout Activity Centres offer fun, challenge and adventure to Scouts, Guides, schools and other youth organisations through our network of nine UK centres. With over 50 activities, fully catered options and a range of accommodation, we make outdoor learning affordable. Accredited and delivered by qualified instructors.

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🌐 sac@scouts.org.uk



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✉ admin@walesbyforest.co.uk

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FOOD
BANK
FAVOURITE

Gigantes plaki (or 'big beans')

This classic Greek dish could easily become one of your summer staples and, what's more, it's made entirely from everyday ingredients!

Ingredients

SERVES 4

- **Tinned butter beans**
3 x 400g
- **Olive oil** 3 tbsp, plus more to serve
- **Onion** 1, finely chopped
- **Garlic** 2 cloves, finely chopped
- **Tomato purée** 2 tbsp
- **Tinned tomatoes**
2 x 400g
- **Sugar** 1 tsp
- **Dried oregano** 1 tsp
- **Ground cinnamon**
a pinch
- **Flat-leaf parsley** 2 tbsp, chopped, plus extra to serve (optional)

Method

- 1 Drain and rinse the beans, then set aside.
- 2 Pre-heat oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4. Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan, tip in the onion and garlic, then cook over a medium heat for 10 minutes until softened but not browned.
- 3 Add the tomato purée, cook for a further minute, add remaining ingredients, then simmer for 2–3 minutes. Season generously, then stir in the beans.
- 4 Tip into a large ovenproof dish, then bake for approximately 1 hour, uncovered and without stirring, until the beans are tender. The beans will absorb all the fabulous flavours and the sauce will thicken.

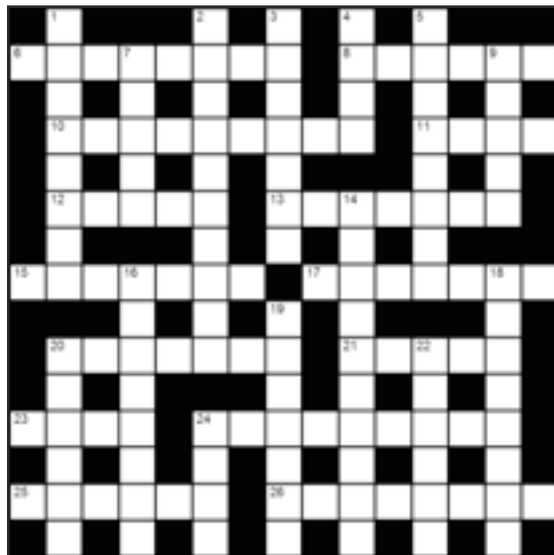
- 5 Allow to cool. For the best flavour, eat at room temperature the day after cooking, drizzled with olive oil, scattered with more parsley and served with crusty bread.

Food bank favourite

Between 2013–2014, food banks were responsible for feeding over 900,000 people*. There are hundreds of food banks in the UK, each of which collects non-perishable food donations and redistributes them to those in need. Recipes that contain mostly store-cupboard items, such as our 'big beans' recipe, can help make the best of food bank items, or can simply make a delicious summer supper.

FUN and GAMES

SCOUTING CROSSWORD JUNE/JULY

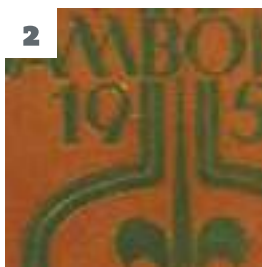


Crossword by Eddie James

For the solutions to last issue's puzzles, head to scouts.org.uk/magazine.

INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE TEASER

It's our final instalment of the challenge and your last chance to prove your Jamboree expertise – good luck!



Across

- 6** Religious settlements abroad – could earn you a Scouting badge (8)
8 French city hires 'M' possibly (6)
10 No city mum upsets the neighbourhood (9)
11 A 10 ac. fundraising function – amount charged outside time (4)
12 Slightest... odd tales (5)
13 Dr June, I moved – needing first aid! (7)
15 Trail follower needs some extra 'C' kerchiefs (7)
17 US camera I adjusted (7)
20 Weir was adapted as a bushcraft cutting item (4,3)
21 Group of Brownies' gate-keeper's cottage? (5)
23 Initially, several senior Scouts identify an area needing protection, conservation (4)
24 Elementally, it's K! (9)
25 Leave... in Guide party (6)
26 Astronomical events less epic, possibly (8)

Down

- 1** Round leaflet? (8)
2 Unpaid helpers... who join one of the services? (10)
3 Analgesic drug mixed in Paris (7)
4 Squirrel's nest (4)
5 Sailor traveller fears ear being twisted! (8)
7 South Pacific island state partly uses a moat (5)
9 Temporarily turned off the sound (5)
14 Blame Jules, possibly, for a fund-raising activity (6,4)
16 10 ac. type of event – Rio speciality? (8)
18 Afternoon treat – team care reorganised (5,3)
19 Birdsound that's popular for social networking? (7)
20 Brownie's centre, SE county, forms this old English county (6)
22 Wimpish, like a melting icicle? (6)
24 A track ... in camp at Hylands Park (4)

WIN!

£300 of Regatta camping kit!

REGATTA 
GREAT OUTDOORS

We've teamed up with Britain's best-loved outdoor clothing and footwear brand, Regatta, to give one lucky reader the chance to win a camping package worth over £300.

The package consists of a rucksack, a jacket and a pair of walking boots from the Point 214 technical walking range. And if that's not enough, we're also throwing in a brand new Kivu four-man dome tent.

Point 214 is designed to reliably protect you on a wet and windy peak and to withstand unpredictable weather, whether in the hills or on the campsite.

For your chance to win Regatta's camping package, all you have to do is answer the following question:

- Q.) What is the highest mountain in England?
 a) Scafell Pike
 b) Helvellyn
 c) Skiddaw

Send your answer with your name and address to:

**Scouting Magazine,
 The Scout Association,
 Gilwell Park, Chingford,
 London E4 7QW**
 or email your answer to scouting_magazine@scouts.org.uk

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- 1) The prize consists of a rucksack, a jacket and a pair of walking boots from the Point 214 range, plus a Kivu four-man tent, worth £330 in total. 2) The closing date for entries is 1 September 2015. Winners will be picked at random from the correct entries after this date and contacted within one month of closure. For a full set of terms and conditions, please visit regatta.com/scout-comp-rules.

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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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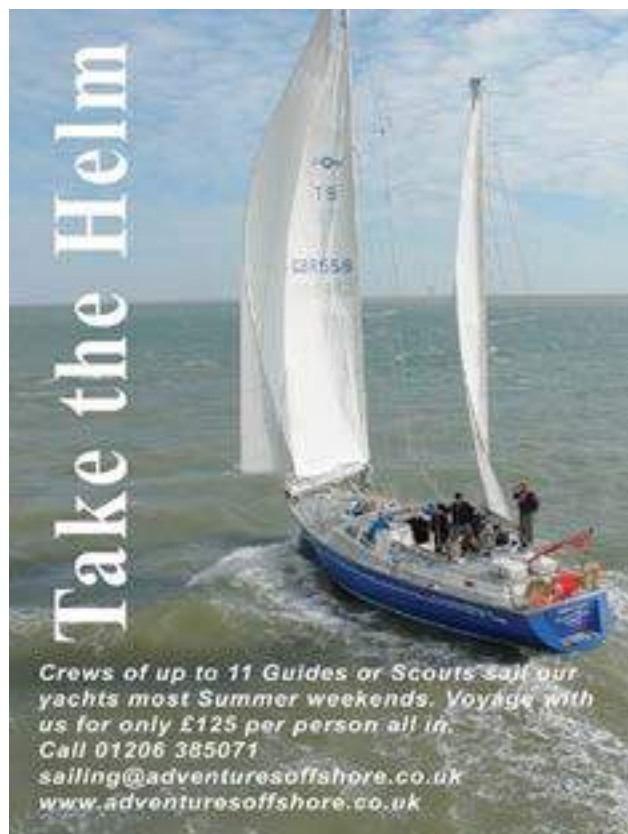
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Scouting Magazines audited circulation has increased by 5% to 122,106 Scout Leaders!

DAME JULIA CLEVERDON

The co-founder of Step Up To Serve and #iwill campaigns to get more young people involved in social action, talks about making an impact

Why start something like Step Up To Serve?

I had worked as Chief Executive of Business in the Community where the Prince of Wales was a very active president. He had always been keen to encourage young people to be of service to their communities. When the Prime Minister asked Amanda Jordan and I to do a review in the wake of the Olympics, I jumped at the chance. The Olympics, through its gamesmakers, had shown a

have a campaign that I believed was worth fighting for.

What is social impact?

Social impact comes in all forms and Scouting has been at the heart of supporting young people's contribution to communities. I shall never forget a young Scout at the Step Up to Serve launch at Buckingham Palace who told us all how he had worked tirelessly to raise funds to support the cause he

the rise in the number of people affected by dementia desperately needs a focus.

What can Scout Leaders and parents do to encourage social action in young people?

Work with your young people to support, encourage and get involved together in the causes and people who most need help in their local community.

'I can't remember a time when I didn't have a campaign that I believed was worth fighting for.'

practical vision of engaging thousands of volunteers. From there, it was asking ourselves how we could help build a society where many more young people from the age of 10 to 20 could contribute to communities though their energy, skills, passions and campaigns.

From where did your passion and drive originate?

My Welsh grandfather was a vicar in the Welsh valleys during the Depression in the Thirties and as a result my mum believed fervently in supporting neighbours and being involved in the community. My father was immensely energetic and passionate about his work as a BBC Radio producer – so they were both role models of energy and drive! I can't remember a time when I didn't

cared about most – the appalling impact of the massive flood in the Philippines. Community impact is about practical action in the service of others.

For our A Million Hands project, young people picked four social issues to tackle...

I am thrilled with the social issues that have been chosen as they cover some of the biggest challenges for our society. For me, the need to connect young people with those in old age is vital. Loneliness – in one of the most connected societies ever – is a scourge of old age and

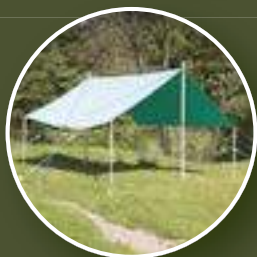


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