



# SCOUTING

'As things got dark the ocean was a very different place. You need to give it 10 times more respect.'

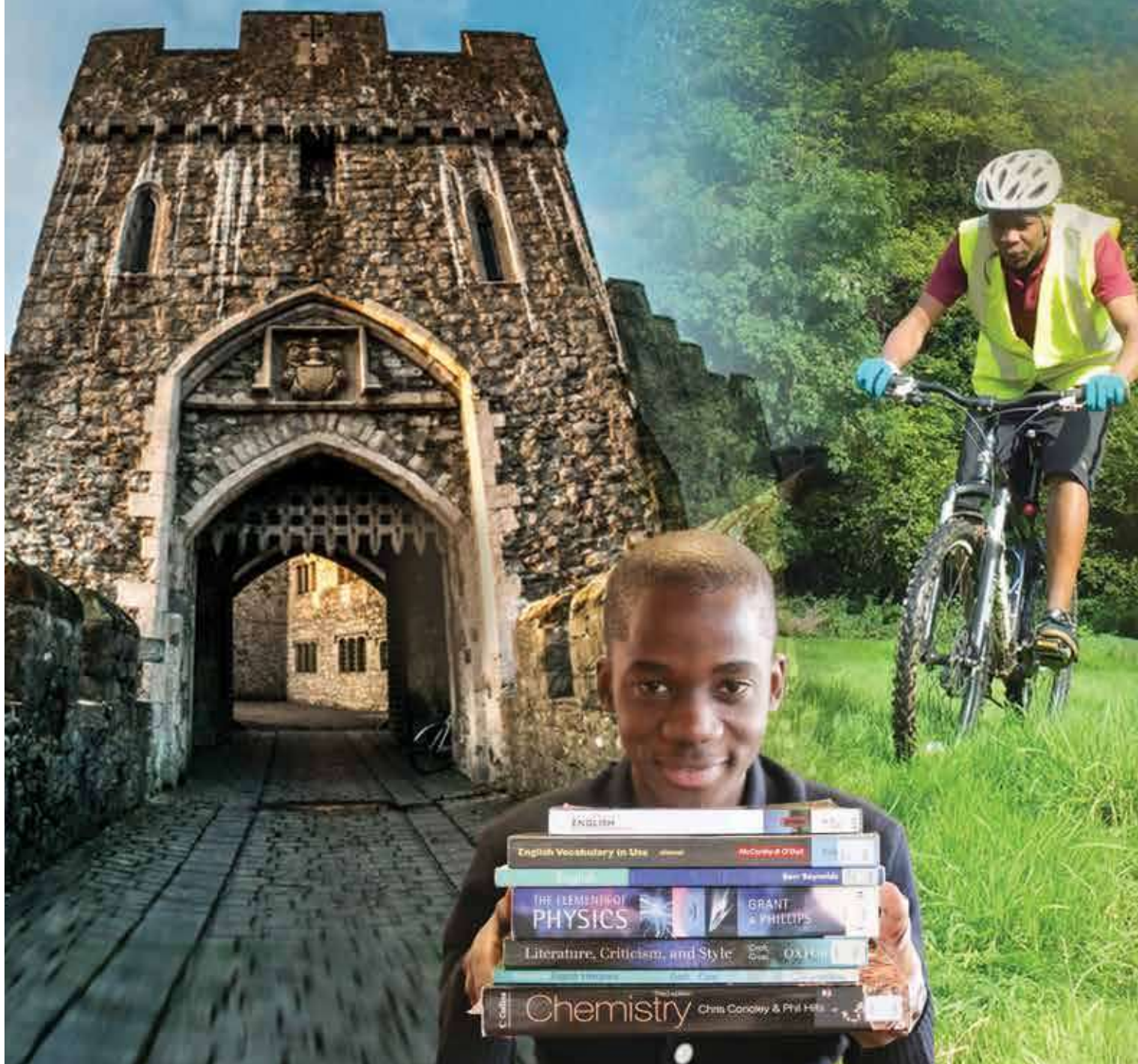
Ashley Wilson, Scout Leader



Issue 15, Autumn 2015



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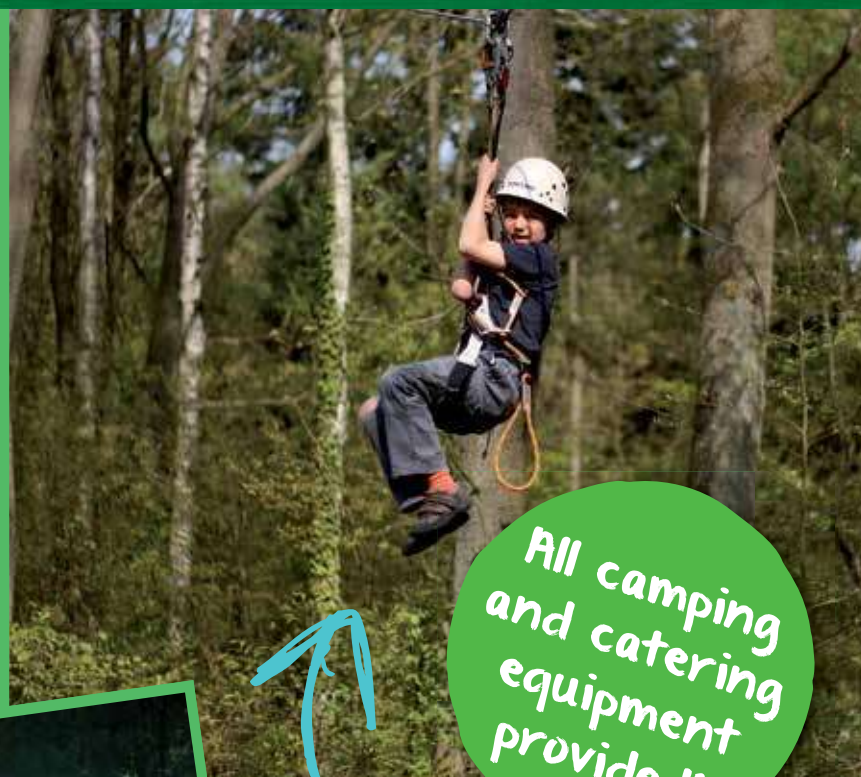
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It is important to note the differing structures of UK Scouting in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, for ease of reading this supplement refers to all variations of 'County'-level groupings simply as County.

You can read Scouting magazine and Make.  
Do.Share online at [scouts.org.uk/magazine](http://scouts.org.uk/magazine).



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## NEW CHALLENGES? TICK!

Did you tick them all off the list? At the start of summer I launched my adventure challenge – a to-do list involving activities like sleeping under the stars and doing something helpful for someone else. Knowing how adventurous we all are, I'm sure that most of us involved in Scouting managed to complete them fairly quickly!

But after a summer of adventure it's time to be inspired by what the next few months have to offer. Whether you are gearing up to celebrate Cubs100 next year, taking on the challenge of a new badge as part of the refreshed Programme or maybe you are already planning next summer's camping event – whatever you're doing, there's a challenge awaiting us all.

Scout Community Week in October will provide the opportunity for you and your Scouts to tackle the issues that are important to our young people, through our community impact project, A Million Hands. Pick an issue, start a project, take action and let's change the world together – one community at a time.

Thanks to everyone who fed back on Scouting magazine, which has been given a fresh new-look and is full of advice and inspiration to keep us all motivated and inspired to be part of the adventure.

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout



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We want to hear your story, please send all contributions to: **stories.scouts.org.uk**

Scouting magazine accepts freelance art, photo and story submissions, however, we are unable to reply to unsuccessful pitches.

Please note that the views expressed by members and contributors in the magazine are not necessarily those of the The Scout Association.

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## MORE CHOICE. MORE ADVENTURE

The Programme refresh will be over on 30 September, which means that all Groups should now be working on their brand new adventure – complete with brilliant new badges – and looking forward to the year ahead.

There are now three key themes to the Programme: outdoors and adventure, skills, and world, making sure young people experience as much excitement as possible during their Scouting journey.

The top awards will now be more challenging for young people to complete but easier to deliver

and understand, while the Chief Scout's Awards will require greater commitment across a range of activities that better reflect the variety of the Scout Programme.

The Scout Network section will also see some changes at the end of November, giving Network members the chance to fully own and shape their Scouting experience.

The other good news is that there will be no membership fees for Network members from January 2016 and there will be an opportunity to better communicate with other people

in the section, either nationally or at District level.

For more information on the revised 6–25 Programme, visit [tinyurl.com/opwwrgl](http://tinyurl.com/opwwrgl), which helps to explain the thinking behind the changes and details of what has changed.

If you've got any questions or comments about the revised Programme, you can share your feedback with us via our online form here: [tinyurl.com/nb3gsxw](http://tinyurl.com/nb3gsxw).

If you want to know how best to make changes in your section, email [programmes@scouts.org.uk](mailto:programmes@scouts.org.uk).



## SCOUTING AND SCHOOLS

In June 2015, think-tank Demos published a report about the impact of non-formal education on young people at school. The report, *Learning by Doing*, used Scouting as a case study and had a high-profile launch at Westminster, with attendees including MPs, the Department for Education, TSA and head teachers.

We are now launching a pilot project, *Character by Doing*, which will run until March 2016 and deliver Scouting in six schools nationwide.

As part of the project we will launch a series of toolkits to support TSA staff and volunteers in their work with schools. If you would like to learn more or become involved in some of our forum events, please register your interest by emailing [dale.koninckx@scouts.org.uk](mailto:dale.koninckx@scouts.org.uk).

## YOUSHAPE 2016

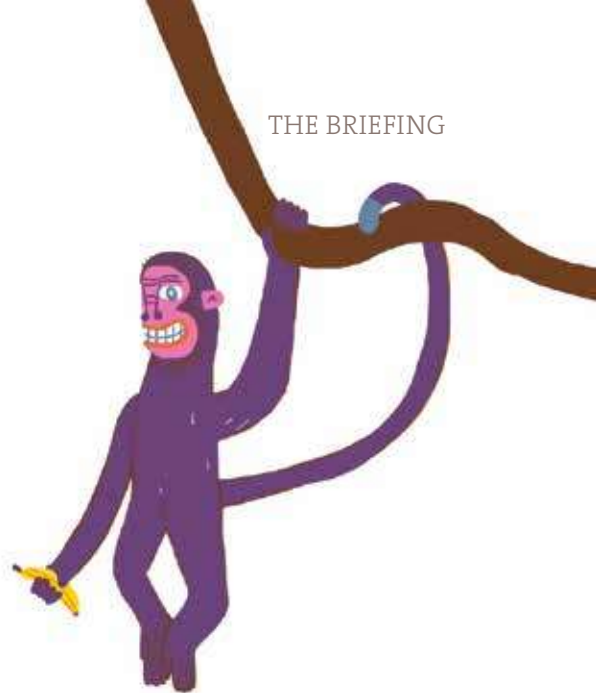
YouShape 2016 will take place on 6 and 7 February 2016, bringing together 200 young people and providing an opportunity for them to voice their opinions and make an impact on what really matters to them.

Youth-shaped Scouting is all about young people shaping their own adventures, developing skills, making decisions and influencing their own Scout Programme. The UK Youth Commissioner Team will host the event over the weekend and people from all over the UK will be able to get involved through social media.

We're encouraging members to hold their forums during the week commencing 1 February and will be developing support materials to help all sections get involved. #youshape

## CUBS100: WILD IDEAS

We're just months away from the launch of Cubs100, our year-long celebration marking 100 years of Cubs, but if you're short of inspiration, fear not! The Cubs100 resource packs are now available to help you and your Cubs plan the Wildest Birthday Ever! Head to [scouts.org.uk/cubs100](http://scouts.org.uk/cubs100) to download your copies and don't forget to check out the Cubs100 customisable resources at [scouts.org.uk/brand](http://scouts.org.uk/brand).



## MAKE AN IMPACT

The A Million Hands project will help our young people tackle the four social issues that matter to them most, from dementia to those disabled by society, and from improving the mental wellbeing and resilience of our communities to ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to clean water and sanitation.

By providing high-quality resource packs, access to local support and activities aligned with existing badges and awards in the 6–25 Programme, A Million Hands will support Scouts in keeping their promise to help other people.

The A Million Hands website hosts hundreds of activities and ideas for you and your Scouts, as well as information about the issues our young people have chosen to tackle. On the site, you and your young people can pick an issue, download a resource pack and start taking action on your own doorstep.

With Scout Community Week taking place from 3–11 October, now is the perfect time to get involved. Visit [amillionhands.org.uk](http://amillionhands.org.uk) and sign up.



## SCOUTING AROUND THE WORLD

Although the 23rd World Scout Jamboree is now over, there's still a chance to relive the magic of Japan online. For access to hundreds of photos and videos of this year's event, head over to [@ukcontingent](#) on Twitter. Alternatively, whip your diary out and take a look at what else we've got coming up.

On the way is Roverway taking place in France from 3–14 August 2016 and the 15th World Scout Moot, which is being hosted in Iceland from 25 July – 2 August 2017. You can register your interest in either of these exciting events at [tinyurl.com/q3h6p3y](http://tinyurl.com/q3h6p3y).

To keep up to date with everything that's going on in Scouting, look out for our weekly Scouting Plus newsletter, or head to [scouts.org.uk/events](http://scouts.org.uk/events) to find details of all of the events coming up.



## FIREWORKS SAFETY

Planning ahead for bonfire night will minimise the chance of accidents during your events. Talk to your Scouts about the firework safety guidelines and the importance of following the Firework Code.

The Health and Safety Executive's guide 'Giving Your Own Firework Display: How to Run and Fire It Safely' is available to download for free at [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk).

Check out the factsheet on firework displays in the resources section of [scoutinsurance.co.uk](http://scoutinsurance.co.uk), which will help you conduct a full assessment ahead of your event.

Best of all, hire professional display organisers for your event. Make sure they have written confirmation of compliance with all regulations.

## IT'S YOUR PROGRAMME SO USE YOUR VOICE

Your Programme, Your Voice makes sure everyone gets the chance to have a say in what works in Scouting. Your responses will help shape the development of the Programme so we want to hear from you.

To pitch your own thoughts and opinions all you need to do is complete the next survey, which is emailed out to members. Keep an eye on your inbox and contact [your.voice@scouts.org.uk](mailto:your.voice@scouts.org.uk) with any questions. Results of the next survey will be released in October.



## BECOME THE NEXT STARS OF MAKE.DO.SHARE

In addition to this issue of Scouting you will have received a copy of our new activity magazine Make.Do.Share. Every issue will feature a 'Wogglebox' reader panel group, who road test the activities ahead of publication. If you would like to apply to be our next Wogglebox group, email us at [makedoshare@scouts.org.uk](mailto:makedoshare@scouts.org.uk) and let us know what makes your group unique in under 100 words.

## COMPASS

Are you up to date with everything that is happening with Compass? You should have received an email in August informing you of the project's progress, but if you missed it, you can always check for the latest updates at [scouts.org.uk/compassupdates](http://scouts.org.uk/compassupdates). 🌿



## IT'S HERE!

Your Programme, Training and Event Guide 2016 – more badge courses, events, resources and residential ideas to support you and your group than ever before. Also introducing a new courses and qualifications section.

Request your copy by emailing [sac@scouts.org.uk](mailto:sac@scouts.org.uk) or view online [scouts.org.uk/sacpte](http://scouts.org.uk/sacpte)





# GET ACTIVE, HAVE FUN, SAVE LIVES

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

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

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

**FIGHT FOR EVERY HEARTBEAT**



## SEPTEMBER

## 4–6 SEPTEMBER

Reunion, Gilwell Park, London

Reunion is an event for Scout Network and adults to socialise with friends, learn new skills, try new programme ideas and enjoy great entertainment at The Scout Association's historic headquarters. If you enjoy this year's event, you can book for next year already!

[scouts.org.uk/reunion](http://scouts.org.uk/reunion)



## BRING IT TO LIFE

Can't make it to Intense?

Why not organise an action-packed night at your HQ using the activities in this issue (see page 83). Alternatively, you could book a night away at one of the Scout Activity Centres, with options for all budgets (see page 58 for inspiration). For more details of what's on offer, go to [scoutactivitycentres.org.uk](http://scoutactivitycentres.org.uk).

## &gt; 11 SEPTEMBER

Intense, Woodhouse Park Scout Activity Centre, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire

Intense is an action-packed weekend with two nights of entertainment, traditional campfires and plenty of on site activities including leap of faith, climbing and crate stacking. Are you ready to get intense? [intense.uk.net](http://intense.uk.net)

## 26–27 SEPTEMBER

Scottish National Scout Regatta, Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre, Scotland

An event for Scouts, Explorers, Network and leaders. It is about taking part, having fun, socialising, making new friends and getting on the water.

Email: [neil@lochgoilhead.org.uk](mailto:neil@lochgoilhead.org.uk);

Tel: 01301 703 217



## CHECKLIST

- ☒ Run the Welcome to A Million Hands introduction activities.
- ☒ Set up a forum in your section to give your Group a voice at YouShape 2016. [tinyurl.com/nrs6wys](http://tinyurl.com/nrs6wys)
- ☒ Watch WeShape, this year's AGM, when it is live streamed on Saturday 12 September: head to [scouts.org.uk/weshape](http://scouts.org.uk/weshape) to watch the events unfold.
- ☒ Reserve your place on the Media and Communications workshop on 3 October in South Wales. [tinyurl.com/ofoane3](http://tinyurl.com/ofoane3)

## OTHER DATES

5 September

**Braemar Highland Gathering, Braemar, Scotland**  
The Royal Family's favourite Highland Games return to the Highland town of Braemar. [braemargathering.org](http://braemargathering.org)

23 September

**Yom Kippur, global**  
Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people.

23–24 September

**Eid-ul-Adha, nationwide**  
Eid-ul-Adha remembers the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son when God ordered him to.

**It's**



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## OCTOBER

## 3–11 OCTOBER

Scout Community Week,  
nationwide

Sign up now to change the world and take part in A Million Hands, a groundbreaking community initiative designed to tackle dementia, disability, mental wellbeing and clean water and sanitation in association with our selected charity partners.



## BRING IT TO LIFE

Head to the A Million Hands website and sign up to register your interest and receive the resource pack. This will help you to design your Programme for the months ahead and start working your way through the five stages of the Community Impact Staged Activity Badge. Let's change the world together! [scouts.org.uk/amillionhands](http://scouts.org.uk/amillionhands)

## 17–18 OCTOBER

Jamboree On The Air/Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA/JOTI),  
Gilwell Park, London

Each year over a million Scouts 'get together' during JOTA-JOTI. All sections are invited to use our specialist amateur radio station and website to communicate with Scouts and Guides during the international Jamboree. [jotajoti.info](http://jotajoti.info)

30 OCTOBER–  
1 NOVEMBER

Scarefest, Gilwell Park, London

Don't miss this spooktacular Halloween weekend activity camp for Scouts and Explorers. This year's event will feature a horror maze, amazing entertainment, a firework and laser show and white-knuckle activities. [scoutactivitycentres.org.uk/scarefest](http://scoutactivitycentres.org.uk/scarefest)



## CHECKLIST

- ☒ Download the A Million Hands resource pack and run the Identify Need activities.
- ☒ Deadline to attend YouShape 2016, taking place on 6 February 2016.
- ☒ Book tickets for Wintercamp taking place from 8–10 January 2016 at Gilwell Park and Hawkthirst. [wintercamp.org.uk](http://wintercamp.org.uk)

## OTHER DATES

3–4 October

**Bear Grylls Cubs  
Survival Race**

Scouts are proud to be the official charity partner of the Bear Grylls Cubs Survival Race, which takes place in Trent Park on 3 October.

[beargryllssurvivalrace.com](http://beargryllssurvivalrace.com)

10 October

**World Mental Health  
Day, global**

This annual event shines the spotlight on an aspect of mental health, with Dignity providing the theme for 2015. [tinyurl.com/ot3m5s2](http://tinyurl.com/ot3m5s2)

11 October

**World Conker  
Championships, Southwick,  
Northamptonshire**

Watch the conker kings battle for supremacy. Other entertainment will include morris dancing and live music. [tinyurl.com/pokjz6y](http://tinyurl.com/pokjz6y)

## NOVEMBER

### 13–15 NOVEMBER

**Adventurous Activity Permit  
Assessors Conference, Great  
Tower Scout Activity Centre,  
Windermere**

This full weekend conference provides an opportunity for permit holders and assessors to refresh and update their skills.  
[scouts.org.uk/greattoweradult-training](http://scouts.org.uk/greattoweradult-training)



### 21–22 NOVEMBER

**Paddlesport**

**Development Weekend**

Come along to Lochgoilhead Activity centre to get paddling tips from our experienced coaches who will be able to develop your skills and give you direction towards gaining permits or NGB awards in paddle sports.

Email: [info@lochgoilhead.org.uk](mailto:info@lochgoilhead.org.uk);  
Tel: 01301 703 217

### 21 NOVEMBER

**District Commissioners' Support Day**

This support day complements the DC Induction by offering the opportunity to meet staff from various HQ departments. You'll also be able to get top tips and advice by attending workshops and seminars on various topics relevant to the DC role.

[scouts.org.uk/dcdays](http://scouts.org.uk/dcdays)

### 27–29 NOVEMBER

**BASP Emergency First Aid ,  
Meggernie National Activity  
Centre, Scotland**

This training event is suitable for outdoor workers, instructors and enthusiasts, leading to a certificate recognised by the Mountain Leader Training Board.  
Email: [warden@meggernie.org.uk](mailto:warden@meggernie.org.uk);  
Tel: 01887 866 231



## CHECKLIST

✓ Use the Million Hands resource pack to run the 'Plan Action' activities.

✓ Set up a local youth forum within your section ahead of YouShape 2016.  
[tinyurl.com/nrs6wys](http://tinyurl.com/nrs6wys)

✓ Register your interest in Roverway 2016 in France, or the World Scout Moot in Iceland in 2017.  
[tinyurl.com/qz5yp9u](http://tinyurl.com/qz5yp9u)

## OTHER DATES

5 November

**Bonfire Night Celebrations, Lewes, East Sussex**

The town of Lewes takes Bonfire Night to another level with costumed processions and numerous firework displays.  
[lewesbonfirecelebrations.com](http://lewesbonfirecelebrations.com)

8 November

**Remembrance Day, Cenotaph, Whitehall, London**

Remember all those who gave their lives at the National Service of Remembrance.  
[tinyurl.com/nteayy3](http://tinyurl.com/nteayy3)

11 November

**Diwali, global**

This five-day festival of lights celebrates the triumph of good over evil.

14 November

**Lord Mayor's Show**

This historic event celebrates its 800th anniversary in 2015.  
[lordmayorsshow.london](http://lordmayorsshow.london)





# Wear dots... raise lots

Join in with RNIB's Wear dots... raise lots this October and explore the challenges of braille with our free alphabet cards. Complete elements of the Communicator Activity, Community Challenge and Friendship Challenge badges with your Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

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## GILWELL REUNION

For one weekend in early September Gilwell Park is turned over to the hosting of The Gilwell Reunion an event for All Leaders and Scout Network members; a chance to kick back, socialise and be inspired.

The origins of the event hark back to Gilwell Park's early Scouting days. Bought as a campsite for Scouts from London's East End within months of its purchase it was also being used as a training venue fulfilling Baden-Powell's dream of a permanent training ground for Scouters and in September 1919 hosted the first Wood badge course. Originally billed as "Scout Officers' Training" the Wood Badge course aimed to provide leaders with the skills necessary to engage and inspire young members. To give Scouters a boy's perspective of life in a troop participants were organised into patrols and took turns at being the patrol leader. Those who attained their Wood badge became members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Gilwell Park Troop and Pack. In 1921 it was decided to hold an event for members and the concept of Reunion was conceived. At least 140 Scouters attended this first event which included a film screening, a campfire and Scouts' Own service; components which still form part of the modern event.

Reunion became an established part of the Scouting calendar and has been held at Gilwell every year since 1921; excepting those during the Second World War when Gilwell was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence. The event has developed and is now open to all Scout Leaders, both UK and international, with over 2,000 participants expected to attend the 89<sup>th</sup> Reunion this September.



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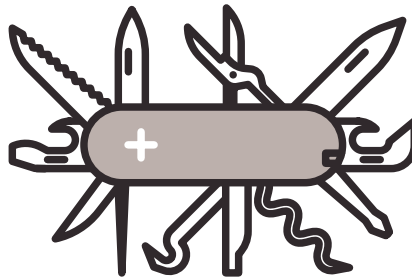
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## ASK THE COMMISSIONERS

We've got UK Chief Commissioner Wayne Bulpitt and his team on hand to answer your questions about Scouting. Here's what they had to say...



THERE SEEM TO BE A LOT OF  
DIRECTIVES FROM HQ AT THE  
MOMENT; WHAT SHOULD BE OUR  
PRIORITY AND ARE WE LOSING  
SIGHT OF WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

We are acutely aware of the number of initiatives at present, especially as we look to progress our exciting Strategic Plan 2014–18. At the same time, we know that many of you are looking for more support in delivering the Programme and Scouting generally.

With this in mind, we have been very careful in developing the initiatives around our plan to ensure they are embedded in the refreshed Youth Programme as much as possible. For example, the Youth Programme has been designed to help you achieve our ambitions to be shaped by young people in partnership with adults simply by following the Programme.

Similarly, the A Million Hands and community impact initiatives provide

the opportunity to achieve these ambitions within the Programme. The A Million Hands initiative has been almost entirely developed by young people, ensuring that the materials are appealing to their age groups, as well as providing you with the practical means of delivering the Programme.

Inclusivity is also being encouraged through innovations such as the Disability Awareness Badge and general programme support, ideas and activities that will help young people to understand such challenges.

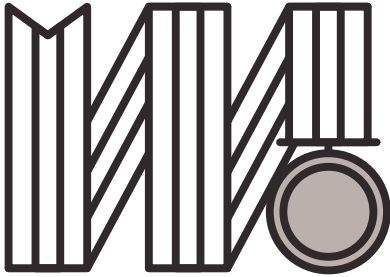
I share this with you not because it is a question of stating the blindingly obvious, but as an example of our commitment to ensuring that we make your life as easy as possible while fulfilling our ambitious plans.

Wayne Bulpitt  
UK Chief Commissioner

HOW CAN I THANK ADULT  
VOLUNTEERS FOR THE BRILLIANT  
WORK THEY'RE DOING?

There are over 100,000 adults who volunteer in Scouting, motivated by the positive energy created through giving young people life-changing experiences. While we're not in it ►

- for the recognition, we all appreciate hearing ‘Thank you; we’ve seen the hours of commitment you have put in and want to say that it is appreciated.’



On our travels around the country, we’ve seen some great ways to do this, from fun presentations of a tea bag (well done Davel!) through to more formal keepsakes produced and given by a county/district/group. Whatever you decide to do, whether fun, formal or a bit of both, it will always go down well and can be a great excuse to get together.

We also have a great national awards scheme to recognise good service, length of service and special acts of heroism and bravery, courage or endurance, and devotion to duty under suffering. We’d love to see more of these award applications sent to HQ, as they are a great way of recognising our adult volunteers.

Any member or associate member can gain an award and there is no minimum time someone has to be involved in Scouting to be eligible. More information on awards and nominations can be found on Adult Awards in the Members Resource area of the website or speak to your District Commissioner.

Alex Peace-Gadsby and Mark Tarry  
Chief Commissioner of England

## PA GAMAU SYDD WRTH DROED YNG NGHYMURU I ADLEWYRCHU CYNWYSOLDEB?

### WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN IN WALES TO REFLECT INCLUSIVITY?

Cymraeg yw un o’r ieithoedd hynaf yn Ewrop ac mae’n dal i gael ei siarad yn eang – 562,000 ohonon ni yng Nghymru yn unig. Mae rhai o’r rhain yn Sgowtiaid, sy’n gwneud eu Sgowtio a byw eu bywydau drwy gyfrwng yr iaith bob dydd. Gan fod y Gymraeg yn iaith swyddogol yng Nghymru, yn gyfartal â’r Saesneg, mae ScoutsWales yn cymryd camau mawr tuag at sicrhau cynwysoldeb i’r sgowtiaid hyn, er mwyn iddyn nhw fwynhau eu Sgowtio yn eu dewis iaith.

Mae newid enw efallai ar y ffordd (i gydnabod y Gymraeg yn syth) ac yn ddiweddar mae panel wedi dechrau edrych ar le’r Gymraeg yn Sgowtio heddiw. Yn barod, mae fersiynau o’r Addewid ar gael yn y Gymraeg i aelodau Cymraeg eu hiaith, ac mae gwefan ScoutsWales yn cael ei diwygio i adlewyrchu’r cyfeiriad mae’r Mudiad yn symud iddo. Mae Sgowtio yn credu’n gryf y dylen ni fod yn fudiad sy’n cynnwys pawb o fewn ei weithgareddau, o ran hil, crefydd, gallu, rhyw a thueddfryd rhywiol – ac mae hynny hefyd yn cynnwys iaith gynhenid yr ynysoedd hyn.

Dechrau yn unig sydd yma ac mae lle i adeiladu ar hyn, ond fel y dywedodd BP, ‘Allan o fesen y tyf derwen fawr’. Yn y gorffennol, mae’n wir i ddweud bod rhai o Sgowtiaid Cymru Cymraeg eu hiaith yn teimlo eu bod wedi’u hanwybyddu, ond dim rhagor. Mae ScoutsWales yn gobeithio newid ei enw i ScoutsCymru yn fuan, ac edrychwn ymlaen at weld y Gymraeg yn ffynnu yn Sgowtio yng Nghymru

ddwyieithog y dyfodol.

Welsh is one of the oldest languages in Europe and it is still spoken widely – 562,000 of us in Wales alone. Some of these are Scouts, who do their Scouting and live their lives through the medium of the language each and every day. Because Welsh is an official language in Wales, on an equal footing with English, ScoutsWales is taking strides towards ensuring inclusivity for these Scouts, in order for them to enjoy their Scouting in their chosen language.

There is a name change possibly on the way (to acknowledge Welsh at a glance) and a panel has recently started looking at the place of the Welsh language within Scouting today. Already, versions of the Promise are available in Welsh for Welsh-speaking members, and the ScoutsWales website is being reviewed to reflect the direction in which the Association is moving. Scouting believes strongly we should be an organisation that includes everyone within its activities, regarding race, religion, ability, gender and sexual orientation – and that also includes a native language of these islands.

This is only a start and there is room to build on this, but as B-P said, ‘Out of a little acorn an oak tree grows’. In the past, it’s true to say that some of the Welsh-speaking Scouts have felt they’ve been ignored, but no longer. ScoutsWales is hoping to change its name to ScoutsCymru soon, and we look forward to seeing Welsh prosper in Scouting in the bilingual Wales of the future.

Gareth Watson  
Prif Gomisiynydd Cymru  
Chief Commissioner Wales



## IS THE ADULT TRAINING SCHEME A LOCAL OR NATIONAL SCHEME?

This is a national scheme delivered locally, with local delivery being the responsibility of the county/area/region. The scheme is modular, with a total of 38 modules. Adults complete the modules appropriate to their roles.

The scheme recognises the prior learning, experience and existing knowledge of adults. It is not necessary for adults to attend training if they can clearly show that they are able to meet module objectives by demonstrating their skills in their Scouting role through validation.

Training provides opportunities for adults to interact with other adults; this can often be an effective way of learning and building contacts. Training uses familiar Scout methods, for example learning by doing and small group work, but these are complemented by methods such as workbooks, DVDs and e-learning. The scheme is UK-wide so that the training and modules that have been completed in one county will be recognised in another.

For any questions and queries about the Adult Training Scheme please get in touch with the team at [adult.support@scouts.org.uk](mailto:adult.support@scouts.org.uk).

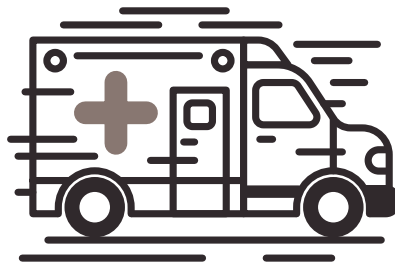
Deborah Bainbridge and Kester Sharpe  
UK Commissioner for Adult Support

## WHEN AND WHY DO I NEED TO REPORT AN ACCIDENT TO HEADQUARTERS?

Completed incident report forms are an important part of the safety

management work in Scouting. They allow us to look at trends, target critical areas and provide statistics to the counties, areas and nationally.

Incidents requiring treatment from a doctor or hospital, or where the emergency services are called, need to be reported to headquarters.



That requirement also applies to damage to property. It is not just for incidents involving young people, but also adults and members of the public. Quite recently, we added a 'near miss' reporting tool on our website to look at situations where a serious accident could have happened, but did not.

Many reported situations had already been dealt with locally, but this mechanism is still important in trying to identify incidences of failure in certain types of safety equipment or concerns with an activity provider. A useful tool to help people with the procedures is our Purple Card. Apart from the card itself, an A4 version can be downloaded and pinned to noticeboards. It also includes other important safety information and is supported by a number of safety checklists, which are also available in card and downloadable formats.

We should never lose sight that Scouting has been a 'safety champion' since it started. Yes, there have been moments where we needed to

reflect and change things, but we are proud to provide young people with opportunities and activities to understand and manage risk.

The Purple Card can be found at [members.scouts.org.uk/purplecard](http://members.scouts.org.uk/purplecard). Other useful information such as the safety checklists, risk assessment tools and guidance can be found on the website under Member Resources, Safety Issues at [tinyurl.com/oahwa7d](http://tinyurl.com/oahwa7d).

Alex Minajew  
UK Commissioner for Safety

## I HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE JAMBOREE AND WONDERED WHAT THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE?

There are two brilliant international events coming up in 2016 and 2017. The first of these is Roverway 2016, which is for 16–22-year-olds and is taking place in France from 3–14 August 2016. You can apply to join the contingent at [tinyurl.com/nm8wteh](http://tinyurl.com/nm8wteh). Then there is the 15th World Scout Moot, which is for 18–25-year-olds and is taking place in Iceland from 25 July to 2 August 2017. Applications will go live in 2016, but you can register your interest now at [tinyurl.com/qgx5ukg](http://tinyurl.com/qgx5ukg).

Dan Wood  
International Commissioner

## JOIN THE DISCUSSION

We'll be running live, regular, online question and answer sessions with the Commissioners in the coming months. Submit your questions by visiting [scouts.org.uk/connect](http://scouts.org.uk/connect) and we'll send you details of the next session. ♣





# From Farm to Fork

Help to educate your Scouts on where their food comes from with The Tesco Eat Happy Project

IF YOU'VE EVER wondered where your fruit and vegetables come from, are looking for a decent bread recipe or you're just curious about how some of your favourite foods are made, Parbrook Cubs may well have the answer you're looking for.

Back in March, Parbrook Cubs visited the Tesco store at Broadbridge Heath to take part in a Farm to Fork Trail. This included a visit to the Tesco bakery to discover how bread is made and take a sneaky look at the delicious recipe. The Cubs later chilled out by the fridge area where they found out where their milk comes from and the fact that not all milk comes from cows.

After the Trail, the Cubs used the Explore the Kitchen worksheet and conducted their own kitchen investigation to earn their Farm to Fork Badge. As part of the activities,

the Cubs each found five items in their kitchen that had come from overseas and created a food miles map using their results.

Farm to Fork is part of The Tesco Eat Happy Project – a nationwide initiative dedicated to getting young people interested about where their food comes from.

So far it's been a big hit with Scouts; more than 17,000 Beavers and Cubs have taken part in the Tesco Farm to Fork Trails; not only learning all about where their food comes from, but enjoying fun, foodie activities like tasting lots of different cheeses and even gutting a fish just like a professional chef.

If you think your Beavers and Cubs are up to the challenge, you can book your trail at [eathappyproject.com](http://eathappyproject.com).

From here you will be able to find your nearest participating Tesco store and get trailing.

Also, get your Beavers and Cubs clued up on food miles and how to cook delicious dampers at their next camp; visit [scouts.org.uk/eathappyproject](http://scouts.org.uk/eathappyproject) for more activity ideas, gastronomic gems to help you plan a delicious feast and fun facts about fruit! You can also find out more about the Farm to Fork initiative and learn everything you need to know to send your Beavers and Cubs on their way to a delicious adventure with Tesco.

We want to see what you and your Scouts get up to on your adventures, so please don't forget to share your Farm to Fork experiences and photos with us online by tweeting [@UKScouting](https://twitter.com/UKScouting) and [@EatHappyProject](https://twitter.com/EatHappyProject) using the hashtag [#scouttrails](https://twitter.com/scouttrails). Happy trailing!

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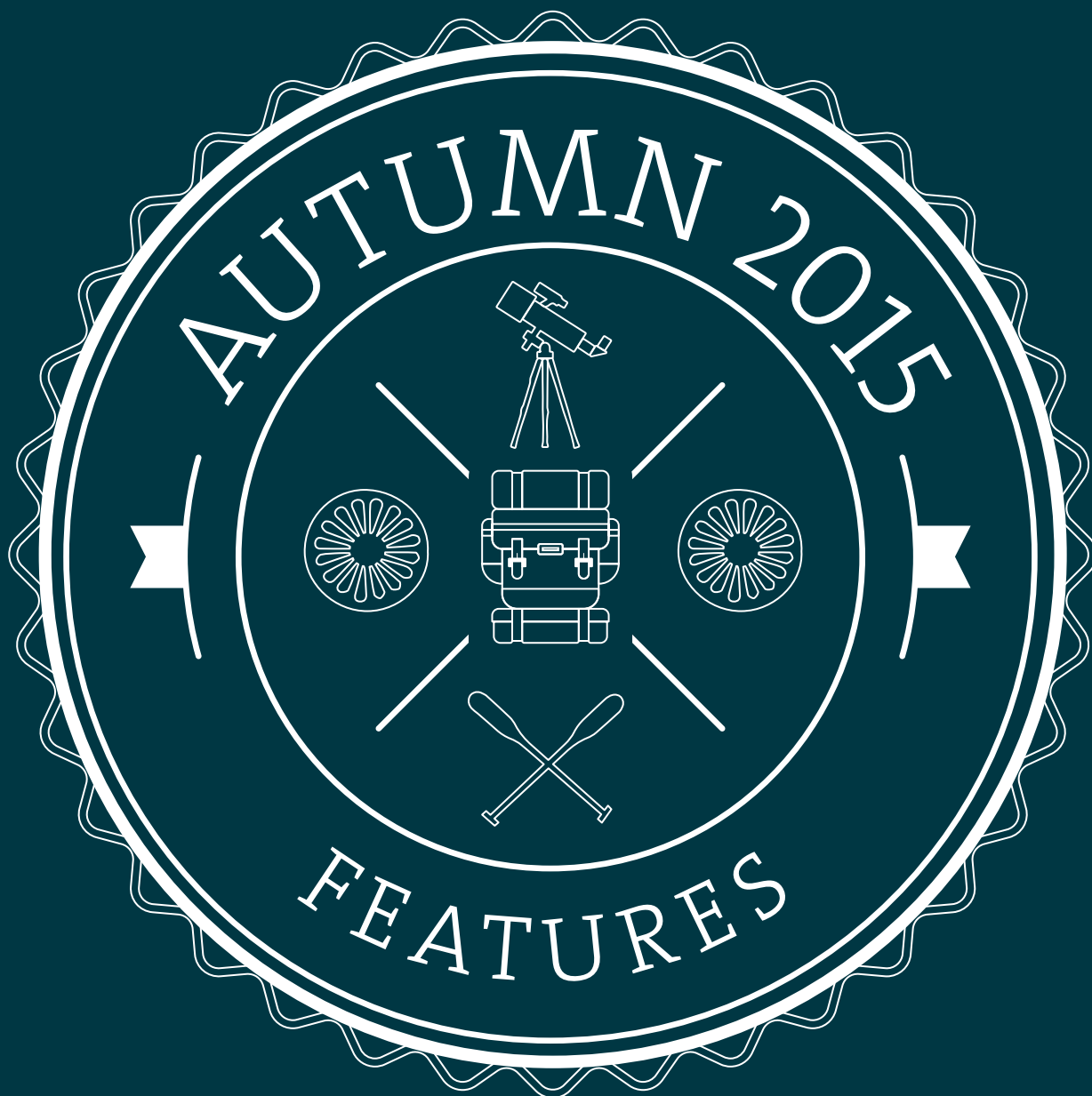
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# Sheffield united

A new Scout Group is helping to connect the diverse community around Page Hall in South Yorkshire, which once found itself in the headlines for all the wrong reasons

Words: Lee Griffiths | Pictures: Jo Denison







YOU MAY REMEMBER the media coverage Page Hall attracted a couple of years ago. The headlines focused on this small area of Sheffield, where scenes of vigilante patrols, police vans and gangs of youths on street corners suggested it was the scene of some sort of societal breakdown. Indeed, a quick Google search on Page Hall today still reveals stories of multi-national conflict: potential riots, gang warfare, burglaries and alarmist quotes from former MP David Blunkett, pleading for something to be done to prevent potential catastrophe.

Apparently, the problems really started when the Roma immigrants arrived a few years back (though many will identify themselves as Slovak, not Roma). Though a diverse community beforehand, the melting pot began to seriously overflow when families from Slovakia fled conflict

and discrimination in their own country for a better way of life in the north of England. Slovak children spilled onto the streets of Sheffield and tensions rose between them and Muslim, Afro Caribbean and British communities, leading to some seriously bad press.

Walking around Page Hall today, there are still a disconcerting number of children on the streets – and not just teenagers on street corners. You might spot the odd six-year-old meandering at dusk, or a group of junior school kids out on their bikes. But while concerns for safety naturally arise, there are at least a handful of these children making their way to a local church where Scouting takes place each week.

‘The children around the Page Hall area are generally at a loose end,’ says Sian Bagshaw, a Regional

Development Officer based in South Yorkshire, who is using funding from the Youth United Foundation (YUF) to develop Scouting in the area. ‘They hang out and see what’s going on; they might see some Scouts having fun outside and they’ll wander over and ask what’s going on. That’s why we get kids just wandering in – they hear the noise and turn up. Scouting is just what they need – structured fun.’

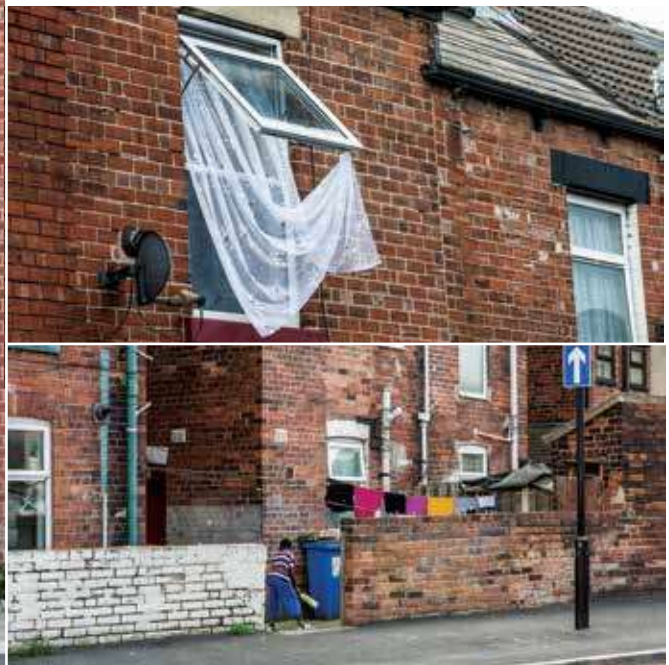
Scouting here is easier said than done, though. ‘There are so many communities from all over the world here,’ Sian continues. ‘There are different religions, cultures and attitudes; the Slovak kids will occasionally heckle the kids going to the mosque and the young people from Slovakia will get shouted at by another group. Scouts gives them something to be a part of together –





‘The children around Page Hall are generally at a loose end. Scouts gives them something to be a part of together’

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SIAN









- a sense of belonging – somewhere to do activities and make friends.’

The Scout Association teamed up with The Development for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the YUF to identify UK communities in need of support. The lack of community cohesion in Page Hall made this area an obvious contender. ‘There were a lot of kids on the streets at all hours and that problem remains. Sheffield now has the biggest Roma community in the UK,’ explains Sian.

To reach out into the community and see how Scouts could help, Sian got to know the area and its people. She networked at local council meetings and attended conferences and coffee mornings. She also attended forums for immigrants in the community, visited local schools and searched youth clubs, building up contacts and becoming a familiar face in the community. Unfortunately, not everyone was as enthused as Sian. ‘The main comment I would get was “you’re fighting a losing battle”, especially from youth workers. Engaging a multi-national community and instilling cohesion seemed an impossible task. But then you’d meet a certain community champion and they’d be up for trying something.’

Sian met the District Commissioner and the team, and was eventually pointed towards the only Scout Group in the area that still existed – 76th Sheffield (St Peters). It was struggling, with about four members per section and a leadership team that had their work cut out for them and needed support. This Group was the way in – a starting point for developing community cohesion in the area.

With the help of passionate leaders, the Group was re-launched. A local building that belonged to the church was lent to the Scouts for free and the leadership team did an induction for new volunteers.

Will, now a Beaver Scout Leader, was a familiar face in the community whom the Scout leaders went to for help. ‘I heard about Scouts through a neighbour so I brought my kids, who are aged five, eight and 10,’ he explains. ‘One of the leaders spotted me with my kids and asked me if I wanted to volunteer. When I arrived the group literally just rebooted.’

Will now shares his street with many Slovakian families, and has become the go-to guy for fixing the locals’ bikes. ‘Some of the Roma children saw me fixing my own kids’ bikes and they asked if I could fix theirs, so I got to know quite a few that way,’ he continues. ‘People move in from another country and other people think it’s the end of the world. It’s not a problem on my street though.’

Will ended up bringing some of the Slovakian young people to Scouts, along with his own kids, helping to show the young people what they have in common.

‘Some of the Cubs don’t get on with other Cubs; some have come to loggerheads but there haven’t been major issues,’ Will says. ‘The Beavers are more likely to just get on with it. Young people tend to pick up things from the media or their parents about different cultures, but then they’ll come to Cubs and see kids from different backgrounds and realise they’re not so bad.’

‘We rarely see the parents – the young people around here don’t tend to get dropped off by adults’

GROUP SCOUT LEADER NICO

Unfortunately, we don’t have so much parent involvement.’

When we visited the Scout group on a Wednesday evening, it was a peculiar picture. There was barely a single parent dropping off or picking up their children – just Beavers and Cubs wandering into the Scout meeting at various times before disappearing into the night. Nico, Group Scout Leader and a key figure in keeping Scouting alive in the area, has been involved with the group for a few years now and has witnessed all kinds of challenges, including the lack of interest from adults.

‘We rarely see the parents – the young people around here don’t tend to get dropped off by adults. Five or six-year-olds will just wander in on their own. They just follow other kids. So it’s really hard to engage with adults and get them involved if we don’t see them.’

The age-old problem of adult volunteers is one of the many obstacles that continue to hinder the Group’s development and the plan to address the disconnect in its community. Aside from the challenges of working with a multi-national community, the general danger and deprivation certainly hasn’t helped matters either. ►



- 'It's not been easy working in this area,' admits Nico. 'Things are a lot calmer than they used to be; the area was quite notorious for shootings and stabbings in the past. I've had to contact safeguarding for a number of reasons – we had a kid that came in and had been beaten up by some older kids. They tried to steal a mobile from our Scout Leader, but it was an old brick so they decided to give it back to him! We've also had issues when we've had to call the police – it's quite normal but you get used to it.'

Nico also reveals that lack of money can be an issue. The Group has a uniform bank so the young people can borrow neckers, jumpers, polo shirts etc (the leaders then take the uniforms home to wash) and not have to worry about purchasing clothing. The group also doesn't bother with subs for the

younger sections: 'We get £1 a week from Scouts but that's it,' says Nico. 'But money isn't the biggest challenge; you can always do things without money. It's the lack of help from volunteers. We need adult support.'

In the months and years ahead, changing perceptions and getting regular attendance from the young people and adult volunteers are the main self-imposed goals that have been set by the team at Page Hall.

'I've met a couple of the parents who are really enthused. Getting them to help is tricky, but there is potential,' says Sian. 'It's going to take a while to get there. These guys will need a hell of a lot more support than your 'standard' Scout Group does. We need more consistency – in kids and volunteers and a regular camp

**'These guys will need a lot more support than your "standard" Scout Group does'**

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SIAN

perhaps. It takes a lot of people to try and keep this going.'

Sian summarises: 'but this is the next generation. If we can change attitudes about the community, about people from other backgrounds and how these people can live in the same community together, then we really will have achieved something. I'd love more adults to engage with the community so we can really make a long-lasting change here...' ♣



## OVER TO YOU

### HOW TO REACH YOUR COMMUNITY

WANT TO MAKE SOME LONG-TERM CHANGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY? RDO SIAN BAGSHAW OFFERS HER TOP 5 TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED.

#### 1. REMEMBER THAT EACH COMMUNITY IS DIFFERENT

There will be different issues in every community. It's a lot of learning about the community, the existing community champions and the attitudes and cultural differences. Put yourself out there – talk to the local council, visit youth clubs and identify the community figures that can help.

#### 2. BE OPEN MINDED

If we want to engage diverse communities, it's important to not be too closed or stuck in our ways; we have to be open to social change; not having a cross on the wall or

stressing the Promise too much; it's about accommodating everyone. For example, if a young person comes to you with ADHD, the group might not have any specific experience with this, but we can figure it out and try.

#### 3. LOOK FOR FUNDING

Local and national funding can be found through many organisations. You and your group can apply for grants such as a Development Grant or hardship fund through Scouting. For details see [scouts.org.uk/grants](https://scouts.org.uk/grants). I've been lucky enough to work with funding provided by the Youth United Foundation, which supports uniformed youth, but there are many other grant opportunities through independent businesses or small grant applications; contact your local council for details.

#### 4. USE THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (RDS)

The RDS works on developing your local Scouting area. We help create new groups, develop existing ones and support volunteers in their Scouting journey. There are Regional Development Officers (RDOs) across the country; you can make contact with us through your local district and county, or, if in doubt, you can always contact us through HQ.

#### 5. BE PATIENT

It takes time and resources to get to know communities and to work with them – it took us a year to get to the point we're at with Page Hall. Discrimination, community cohesion – it's an education, but we can help to make sure that the next generation is better at it than we have been.







# Braving the elements

Cub Scout parent Alya Al-Khatib on her daughter's first Cub camp...

‘WAS THAT LIGHTNING?’

It's about 8pm, and I'm sitting by the lounge window at home; a shot of white light saturates my vision for a split second. Two hours ago I dropped my daughter off for her first Cub camp under canvas and now I am worrying about her out there, braving the elements.

My daughter has already been away from us on a couple of weekends so she was feeling pretty confident. So confident, in fact, that she almost forgot we were there to wave her off. The moment she saw her friend, she was running into the network of tents. We had to call her back to say goodbye.

Then our little woodland creature turned and ran off – into the wild.

As we walked back to the car, my non-Cub daughter wished we were joining them. It was exciting walking through a woodland park on a warm summer evening to discover the clearing and the huge settlement of canvas structures. The entire district was together for the weekend, each group had its own ‘base camp’ and you could feel a real buzz in the air.

So up until I thought I saw lightning race across the sky I was feeling fine about my little one out there.

I check my weather app. Nothing more than a slight chance of showers tonight, it reassures me.

OK – she'll be fine. The Scout leaders have my number – if they're not OK to camp, I'll get a phone call and within 20 minutes I'll be picking her up and taking her home.

I have to take a minute's break from my parental paranoia to acknowledge just how amazing the volunteers really are. They are super organised, motivated, and are better leaders of people than you'd find in many workplaces. But what really surprised me is that they're so young. Although some have been involved in Scouting for decades, the vast majority of the leaders at our group are in their early 20s. And they're so calm and capable – Scouting has really developed them as individuals.

Sunday, and pick-up day comes before we know it. My little Cub Scout is there. She says she has had a brilliant time – we get a few snippets about the food (which always sounds delicious)

and the night-time pranks that were played in the tents.

Then weeks later, we're having lunch with friends and I overhear her casually talking about her camping weekend. She speaks confidently about setting up and striking camp, before saying with a light-hearted chuckle, ‘And there was some thunder and lightning on the first night!’

I knew it! But clearly, I would have been more worried than she was. I think being a parent these days is tough – we're acutely aware of all the risks our children could face. We naturally want to shelter them from it all. But to an extent, facing risks – and managing them – is what really prepares children for the future.

Trips like these don't just prepare children for the day they go off on life's adventure; they prepare parents for the day they have to let them.

It doesn't stop you from looking out for lightning, though. ♣

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Volunteer, parent or both? Share your stories with us: [stories.scouts.org.uk](https://stories.scouts.org.uk)



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# Social media #sorted

Social media is becoming ever more popular as a tool to promote Scout Groups' activities. To help you get started, here are some top tips courtesy of Scouts' social media team

Words: Abbie Cavendish | Illustration: Jamie Cullen

IF YOU'RE WONDERING if it's time you and your Group started to embrace social media, the statistics would seem to suggest that it is. On average, one in four people uses some form of social media (and not just to follow celebrities), which means that if you use it correctly you'll reach lots of people interested in knowing more about what you and your Group get up to.

Used well, social media can help you to recruit new volunteers, to stay in contact with your young people and to share information with their parents and carers. It can also be used to tweet pictures of pets in neckers if you like that sort of thing (we know we do).

However, unless you like to spend your evenings and weekends sharing carefully-composed photos of your

meals, watching videos of 'epic fails' or trawling your Facebook timeline, it can be difficult to know exactly where to begin.

Sometimes the amount of information on the subject can be overwhelming – not to mention full of jargon. So, to get you started, we've put together some simple advice on social networks and how to use them for maximum impact and benefit.

Don't worry, none of this means you have to start saying 'lol' in real life or using emojis to avoid talking about your feelings – unless you really want to, of course.

## FACEBOOK

Best for versatility  
Number of users: 1.8 billion  
Age of users: 13+

You can use Facebook to post links, photos, questions, invite people to events and share information. If you want to recruit new members a Facebook page is the best option. Thirty million people in the UK are on Facebook; your Group should be too.

Facebook pages are open to anyone who 'likes' them and, once 'liked', your page will appear in their timeline every time you post. If you want to be able to discuss events and activities, you need to create a Facebook group, allowing discussions between members who know each other.

## Quick tips

- Always be sure to double check your spelling and grammar.
- Post regularly to keep people engaged – ideally create a schedule of when you'll post and start to create a backlog. ►



© 2015



- It's important to post at a time of day when people are likely to be online. Commuter times are most popular 7.30 – 9am and 4 – 7pm. Midnight on a Sunday less so.
- Make sure your images show as wide a variety of young people as possible.
- Friendly interaction with members will help you to build a sense of community. It will also encourage other members to engage with you.
- Posting images of young people who look engrossed in their activities is a wonderful selling point for your Group so take lots of photos and don't forget to share them.
- Clear and concise sentences are always best for conveying your message, so decide what you want to say and get straight to the point!

#### TWITTER

Best for messaging (and following Stephen Fry)

Number of users: 500 million

Age of users: 13+

Twitter enables users to send and read 140-character messages that can contain links and photos. A Twitter account can be used to recruit members, keep your young people and parents updated or share a photo of a cloud that looks a bit like a fleur-de-lis. It operates using hashtags – words that describe your tweet. Simple hashtags such as #volunteer help people find your tweets.

#### Quick tips

- A clear, concise message is the best way to engage people on Twitter.
- Include links to provide more information.
- Don't shorten words to the point that their meaning is lost.
- #Avoidusingtoomanyoroverlong-

hashtags as they can confuse your message.

- Check if a hashtag has been created for the event you're talking about, rather than inventing your own.
- Use photos. A lot. They generate a greater response than text alone (especially ones of funny cats or people falling over).
- Never send out lots of messages asking for support. Emails or phone calls are best for this.
- A message congratulating a member or Scout is a really nice way to engage with people directly and personally. It's also more likely to encourage others to go beyond the call of duty.
- Interact with local social media communities. If you have just been to a local park, club, restaurant or supermarket, give them a tweet.
- Share or retweet content from relevant channels – over 500 Scout groups are already using Twitter, so get involved, engage, discuss and spread the word with them.

#### INSTAGRAM

Best for photography

Number of users: 100 million

Age of users: 13+

Instagram is a social networking service that allows users to share pictures and videos with their followers. Use it to share shots of your young people taking part in activities and to recruit new members. Alternatively, you can collect your young people's pictures by using hashtags. People search for pictures using clear hashtags and lots of them, such as #scouts, #camping or #funnycats (we're not obsessed, honest), which will lead them to your pictures if tagged.

#### Quick tips

- Take fun, engaging images in a square format.
- Show what your young people get up to rather than a posed shot of them smiling afterwards.
- Make sure you ask open questions and start discussions where possible – it's the best way to get a response.
- Use and encourage your young people to tag your account in their photos so that their friends can find out who you are.

#### PINTEREST

Best for inspiration

Number of users: 70 million

Age of users: 13+

A Pinterest account allows users to upload, save, manage and sort images and save them to boards. Use Pinterest as an aid for gathering future activity and Programme ideas, and to show what the young people in your Group have been up to in order to attract new members. It's also a rather handy way of collating all those funny cat pics. For maximum impact try to update your boards with only the strongest images/ideas, and try to think about the sort of images that are going to portray your Group and what you get up to in the best possible light.

#### Quick tips

- Name your boards clearly.
- Choose engaging, vibrant images that aren't cropped too closely for the covers of your boards.
- Update your boards little and often and avoid flooding people's feeds with lots of photos at once.
- If you're not sure what kinds of boards to post, you could take inspiration from important upcoming dates in the year. Or ask your Scouts for inspiration.







# All at sea

One Scout leader, one adventurer and 3,600 miles of treacherous ocean between them and their destination. What could possibly go wrong?

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Dave Bird, PA



ONLY 16 PEOPLE have braved and completed the perilous 3,600-mile row across the Indian Ocean and only four of those were in pairs. The record time for crossing was 85 days, two hours and five minutes, but in July, adventurer James Ketchell and Scout leader Ashley Wilson set off to break that record and raise money for Scouts.

Both Ashley and James had already accomplished some impressive feats. When serial adventurer James was injured in a serious motorbike accident and told he would have to discontinue his physical lifestyle, it wasn't good news. Yet rather than admit defeat, he channeled his determination into single-handedly rowing across the Atlantic Ocean, climbing to the summit of Mount Everest and completing an 18,000-mile cycle through 20 countries, unsupported.

Ashley's equally admirable and character-defining feats include beating cancer when he was just 19, as well as battling a series of epileptic seizures that numbered up to 20 per day at their peak.

Ashley's decision to take on this rowing challenge was inspired by a talk that James had given, where he felt motivated to make some major changes in his life. So, after the talk, they joined forces and the Nothing's Impossible challenge was born.

The challenge they proposed was to row across one of the world's least rowed oceans, from Geraldton, Western Australia to Port Louis, Mauritius. They had less than 85 days, two hours and five minutes to beat the record, and Ashley's weekly epileptic seizures meant that thorough planning and preparation was vital.

'James went on specific epilepsy training so he knew how to deal with my seizures,' explains Ashley. 'He also learnt how to give emergency medication if needed.'

On 18 May the pair set off, spirits high and ready to tackle the ocean. Then, just 24 hours later, the weather took a turn for the worse and, like the waves, suddenly all hope of rowing the ocean came crashing down around them.

Though the weather wasn't quite perfect for their departure, the forecasted change in wind direction arrived as promised and everything appeared to be going to plan. During the daytime the pair were making good progress, but as the evening descended conditions on the water started to conspire against them.

'As things got dark the ocean was a very different place; still stunning, but in a very different way,' says Ashley. 'I quickly realised that you need to give it 10 times more respect at night as you can't see the waves, you have to listen for them and because you can't see the horizon it was harder to balance.'

At midnight, Ashley and James realised that they had a major problem with their guidance system and had to switch it off. With no hope of fixing it, they decided to head back and use their satellite phone to arrange a tow back to Geraldton. Luckily enough, a local fishing boat nearby agreed to tow them back to port.

The drama didn't stop there though; on the way back to find the fishing boat, the pair got their first taster of just how dangerous the ocean can be: 'The winds picked up to 35 knots and we had some huge seas.

'When having a wee at sea make sure you check which way the wind is blowing first!'

Unfortunately, we had yet more bad luck as the tow rope snapped on us. So it was pitch black, 35-knot winds, four to five metre seas and we were looking for a tiny little boat!

Their boat was quickly recovered but sustained a substantial amount of damage. Almost 12 hours later they arrived back in Geraldton to face expectant TV crews.

So their first attempt didn't go to plan, but Ashley was insistent that the excursion had taught them some useful lessons to prepare for their second attempt, including to travel lighter and always remember a crucial lesson at sea: 'When having a wee at sea make sure you check which way the wind is blowing first!'

Round two began well. The pair rowed to a 'brutal' two hours on, two hours off schedule, and began to hit their stride after three days of hard rowing. But rather than easing up, the challenge got harder. They spoke to their weather router who warned them that the weather was going to get particularly bad.

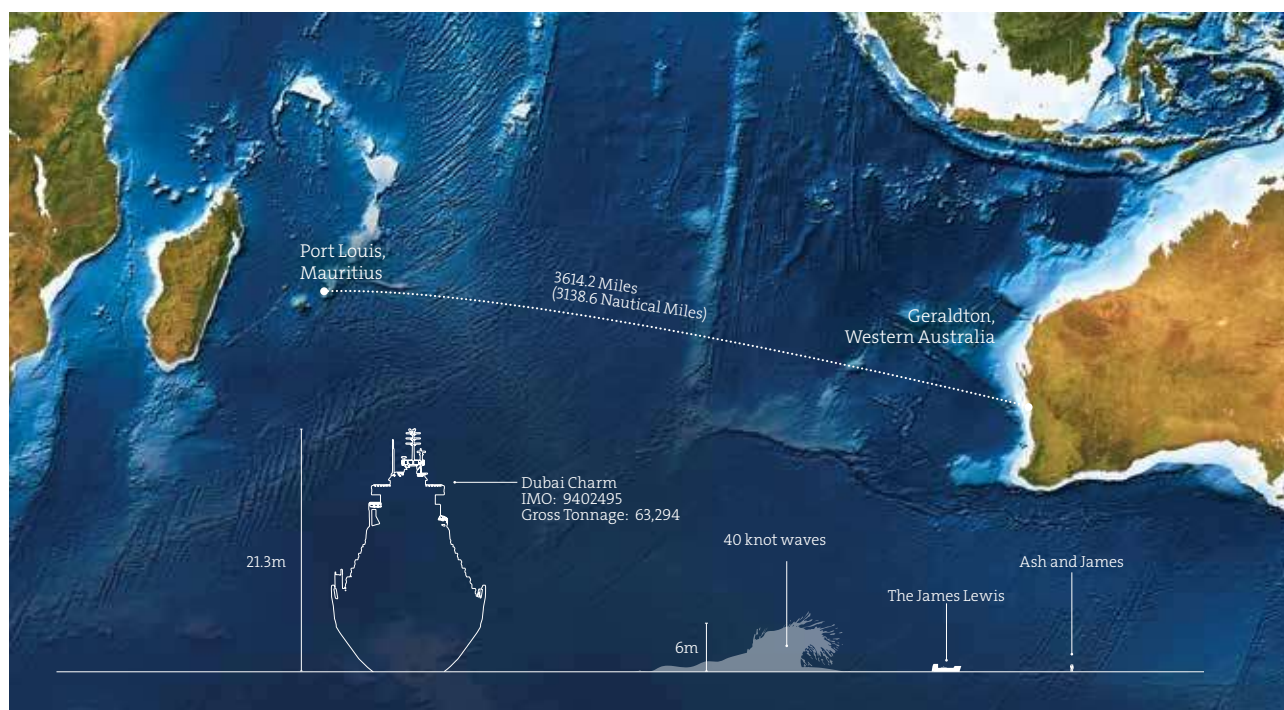
With conditions worsening, the wind began blowing the boat in the wrong direction so they decided to use a para anchor, which is an underwater parachute-type mechanism that keeps the boat pointing into the waves and prevents it from drifting too far ►





Left and above: Ashley Wilson and James Ketchell test their Nothing's Impossible boat for the first time in the docks around London's Canary Wharf. Below: Ashley (left) and James answer questions from a group of inquisitive Scouts





- off course. Ashley and James waited all night, praying for the weather to improve as the seas got bigger and the winds got stronger. When morning arrived a giant wave hit the side of the boat causing it to completely roll over. By now the waves were around six metres high and the wind was blowing at a dangerous 40 knots.

When the boat rolled for the second time Ashley's luck ran out. The vigorous movement resulted in a severe blow to the head and it didn't take long to recognise that Ashley was suffering from concussion. The weather became progressively worse and the boat threatened to roll for a third time. With Ashley's head injury, epilepsy and the frightening unpredictability of the weather they decided to activate their EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon) and request a rescue.

The pair had three hours to wait until an oil tanker was able to pick them

up. With the waves threatening to roll the boat once more, Ashley began to wonder if he would ever see his family again. 'When the oil tanker appeared, we still weren't safe!' Ashley exclaims. 'It was 250 metres long and as tall as a house, and we had to get on board during a storm using a rope ladder. I also had concussion.' Those onboard the oil tanker threw down ropes to Ashley and James, but with the boat rocking violently beneath them and Ashley suffering from dizziness caused by his head injury, he was struggling. Instead, he was forced to put on a harness and jump into the sea, allowing the crew to pull him up to the ladder that he used to climb the rest of the way to the top.

Their decision to abort the challenge was a hard but sensible one, as the wild weather lasted for days after the rescue. Also, once onboard the tanker Ashley had a seizure. 'The crew of the tanker were amazing; they looked after us for two days and gave me

medical attention,' he recalls. 'We will be forever thankful for their help.'

Despite their determination to complete the challenge, Ashley acknowledges that sometimes you need to accept that not every challenge will be a success. However, an enthusiasm for adventure still radiates from him and he now plans to share his amazing story with schools and youth groups in order to raise awareness about epilepsy.

When asked what advice he would give to others with epilepsy who are hoping to complete a major challenge of their own, he is both passionate and practical: 'Go for it. But, make sure you're safe.' ♣

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You can read more about James and Ashley's adventure at [nothings-impossible.co.uk](http://nothings-impossible.co.uk) and follow them on Twitter: @ashandlouuk





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# Talking autism

Assistant County Commissioner (Additional Needs) Helen Gregory tells us how her son Zack inspired her to make a difference

Pictures: Steve Sayers

MY SON STARTED as a Beaver Scout about 15 years ago. Zack is on the autism spectrum and has Asperger's Syndrome, dyspraxia, dyslexia and dysgraphia. He went to Beavers and then on to Cubs and managed pretty well. However, when he made the move up to Scouts it didn't work out.

Zack couldn't cope with the chaotic structure of the meetings. They were too noisy and took place in a building that echoed, driving him mad. One evening it all got too much for him and he ran out, disappearing into the night. The leader called us straight away and we went out to look for him. We later found him trying to walk the three miles home and he never went back to Scouts again.

Zack didn't attend primary school. He ended up going to a mental health unit and they were the ones who eventually diagnosed him. He went to a mainstream secondary school that had an enhanced resource facility for young people with autism, which meant that he got support throughout his school years.

Zack's outlook and interests are now very narrow; getting him away on holiday for example, is near

impossible. We used to go caravanning when he was younger, as it was like a second home, so we've tried that again but he struggles. We went for a two-week caravan holiday and managed a week; for four days of that Zack stayed in bed – he just couldn't cope with being away from everything that he was familiar with.

He tried college but there wasn't enough support there; he had numerous panic attacks and eventually dropped out. He struggled and eventually had a nervous breakdown, which led to him being housebound for six months.

Zack now has two support workers who visit him a couple of times a week and take him out of the house, helping him to do whatever he wants to do: usually going shopping or to the gym. He also plays a fantasy card game that we take him to every Friday evening.

There's talk of a job or apprenticeships, which makes him anxious as he tends to put so much pressure and stress onto himself. It's difficult for him.

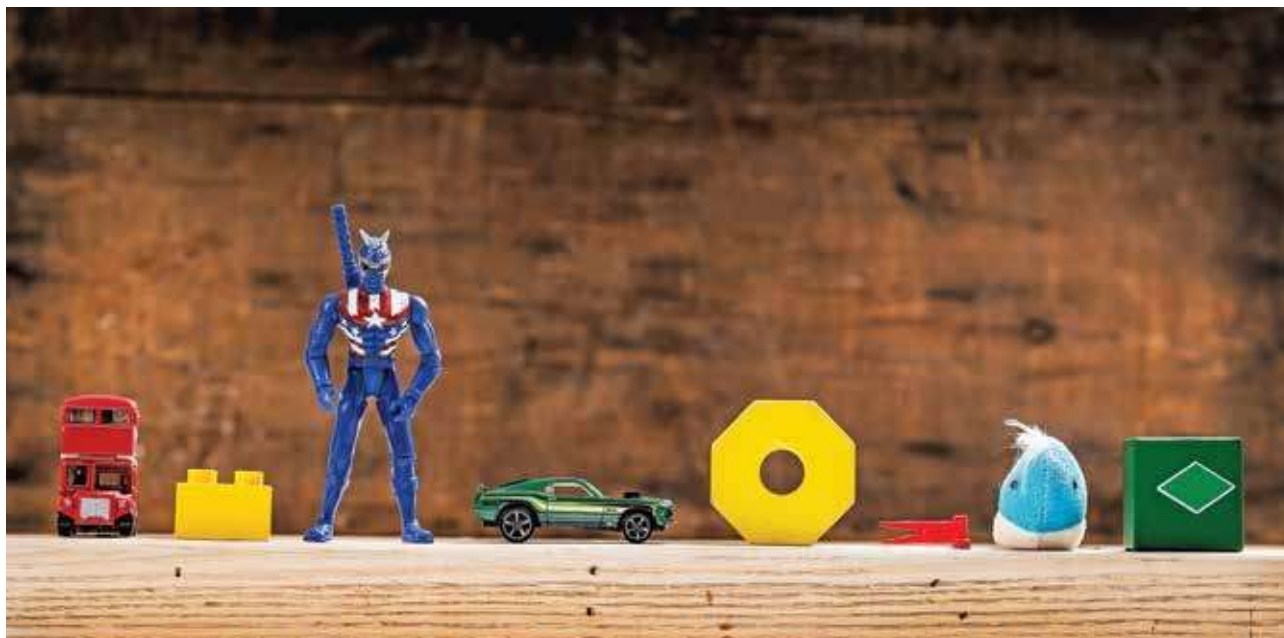
Seeing what happened to Zack as he grew up inspired me to get involved in Scouts to give every young person

'I see young people going through Scouts and getting so much out of it; it breaks my heart that Zack couldn't'

the chance to succeed, regardless of whether they have an additional need or not.

Thankfully, circumstances are different now; children are being diagnosed much earlier. As a result, my Scouting role has exploded. Leaders are more aware of the difficulties young people face with autism, and, if they don't understand, there is support in place. I go out to groups, help put into place strategies and offer help, advice and support to leaders who need it. I also run talks for leaders to raise awareness of ADHD and autism.

There are lots of things leaders can do to help. It's about understanding the conditions the young people with additional needs have, keeping things structured in meetings and talking ►



- to the parents to get to know what triggers cause their autistic children to have a meltdown.

It's also about identifying the quiet place where the young person would be happy to go. However, you don't want the Scout to go to their quiet place and have nothing to do, so to combat this, we introduced a shoebox system; asking the parents if there are any small objects the young people are particularly attached to for us to keep at the Scout meeting.

The leaders then put the shoebox into the designated quiet place and if they feel the need, the Scout has something familiar in the box to occupy them. The need for the box decreases as time goes on; the meltdowns are less frequent and the young person ends up managing themselves to adjust to the situation.

Had we had diagnosed Zack earlier, we would have been more informed and would have been able to get more information to the leaders at

Scouts. Zack would have been able to experience Scouts. Whether he would have been able to go through to Explorers, I'm not sure, but he would have had a better chance.

I see young people with additional needs going through Scouts now and getting so much out of it, it breaks my heart that Zack didn't or couldn't. We didn't have the knowledge then and therefore the leaders didn't. I always hear parents say how Scouts has been the making of their autistic children – giving them a friendship group, confidence, amazing experiences and amazing relationships. I think about how all of that could have been Zack's and maybe now he wouldn't be hidden away in his bedroom seven days a week.

Scouting offers a fantastic environment for young people with autism because it's a structured environment. We have a well-organised programme and regular Scout meetings. That structure and familiarity is what Zack responded

to initially. Once it got a bit more challenging – where he was expected to do more and be a bit more independent – he couldn't cope.

Hopefully, with the support he has now, Zack can start to become more self-sufficient. He's currently doing the odd driving lesson, which is fantastic. Then we'll start to look at jobs. His support workers will help him with the interview preparation. Zack knows what he needs to do and he's aware that there needs to be independence at some point. It's going to be tough, but he'll get there... ♣

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#### HELP AND SUPPORT

There is advice and resources on [scouts.org.uk/autism](https://scouts.org.uk/autism) to help volunteers understand autism and deal with young people on the spectrum. Our Specialist Advisors for Diversity and Inclusion are there to offer support and can run courses at UK events for Leaders. Email [diversity.inclusion@scouts.org.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@scouts.org.uk) for contact information.



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# Sundowners

We joined a group of Explorer Scouts at Hawkhirst Activity Centre in Northumberland to uncover the magic of Scouting under the stars

Words: Celeste Houlker | Pictures: Jason Friend and Dave Taylor





LOOKING OUT FROM the climbing tower at Hawkthirst Scout Activity Centre, the view is breathtaking. The tops of the trees glow with the sunset haze and the sky is washed with a merging of blues, greens and yellows as the sun slowly sinks behind the trees.

'I can't believe I finally did it!' exclaims Owen, slightly breathless after running up the stairs following his abseiling descent. Owen recently started in Explorer Scouts and earlier in the day made his dislike for abseiling clear; now he enthusiastically re-joins the queue of Explorers.

When not making fun of each other's abseiling techniques, the guys survey the night sky. Although darkness is upon us, our Scouting activities are only just about to begin. Tonight we're exploring the type of adventures

Scouts can have in the dark, proving that when you're part of Scouting, the adventure doesn't stop once the sun goes down or the weather turns cold.

On our itinerary is cooking, abseiling, hiking and stargazing – activities perfect for after-dark Scouting, especially at somewhere as atmospheric and impressive as Hawkthirst Scout Activity Centre.

Josh, 15, loves to hike at night. 'Doing activities in the dark is great,' he says. 'You get to do more stuff, especially if you're not afraid of the dark. You have to rely on each other a lot more at night; there's a lot more talking to each other and looking out for each other.'

Scouting activities don't have to end at a night-hike; there are so many activities with minimal risk, cost and

even planning, which can take place at night. For example, wide games, which are a favourite with Cory, an Explorer Scout who is celebrating his 16th birthday: 'I think there are a lot more games that work a lot better in the dark, anything where you're trying to find people or trying to run away. The dark adds a bit of mystery to it. If you're playing hide-and-seek during the day, you can see somebody 100 metres away, but if you're playing in the dark you have to be right in front of their face before you find them.'

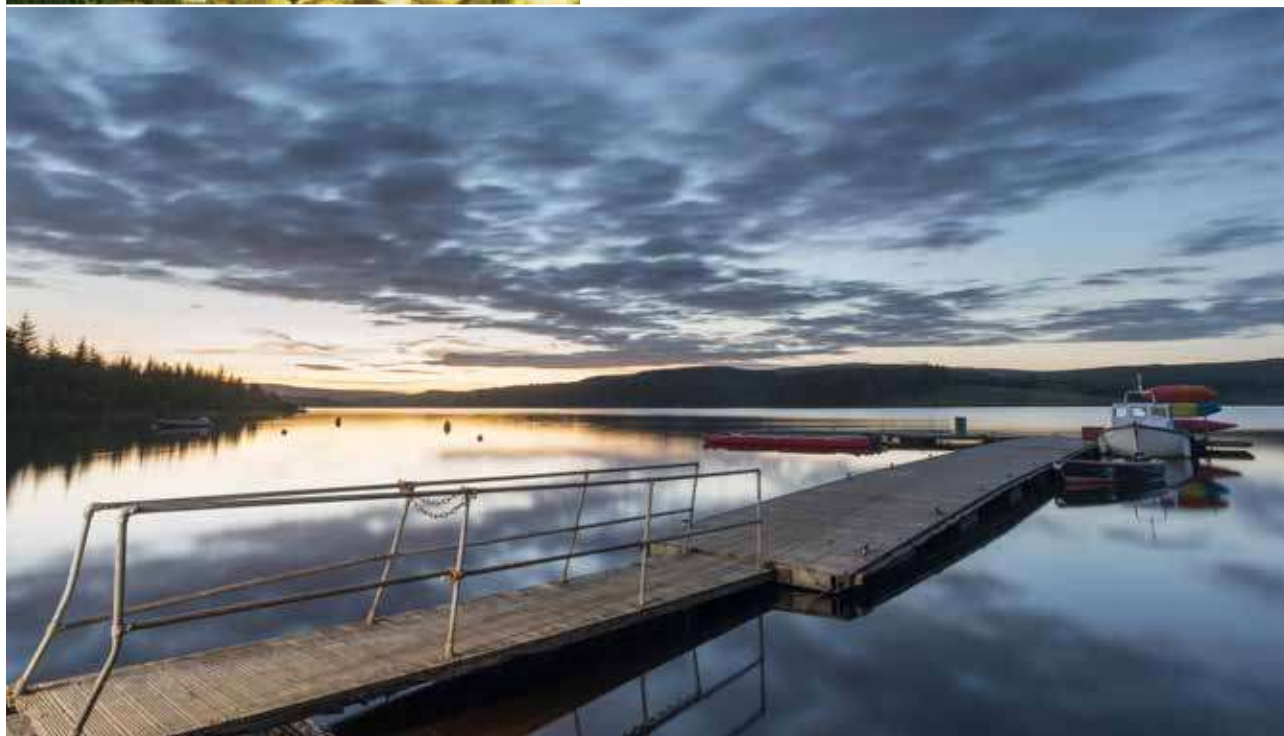
After abseiling, it's time to refuel with some food. Earlier that evening the Scouts had tried to cook over an open fire down by the jetty, but because of the dampness of the wood caused by the storm it took too long to get a long-lasting fire going. They did, however, manage to fry the onions for ►

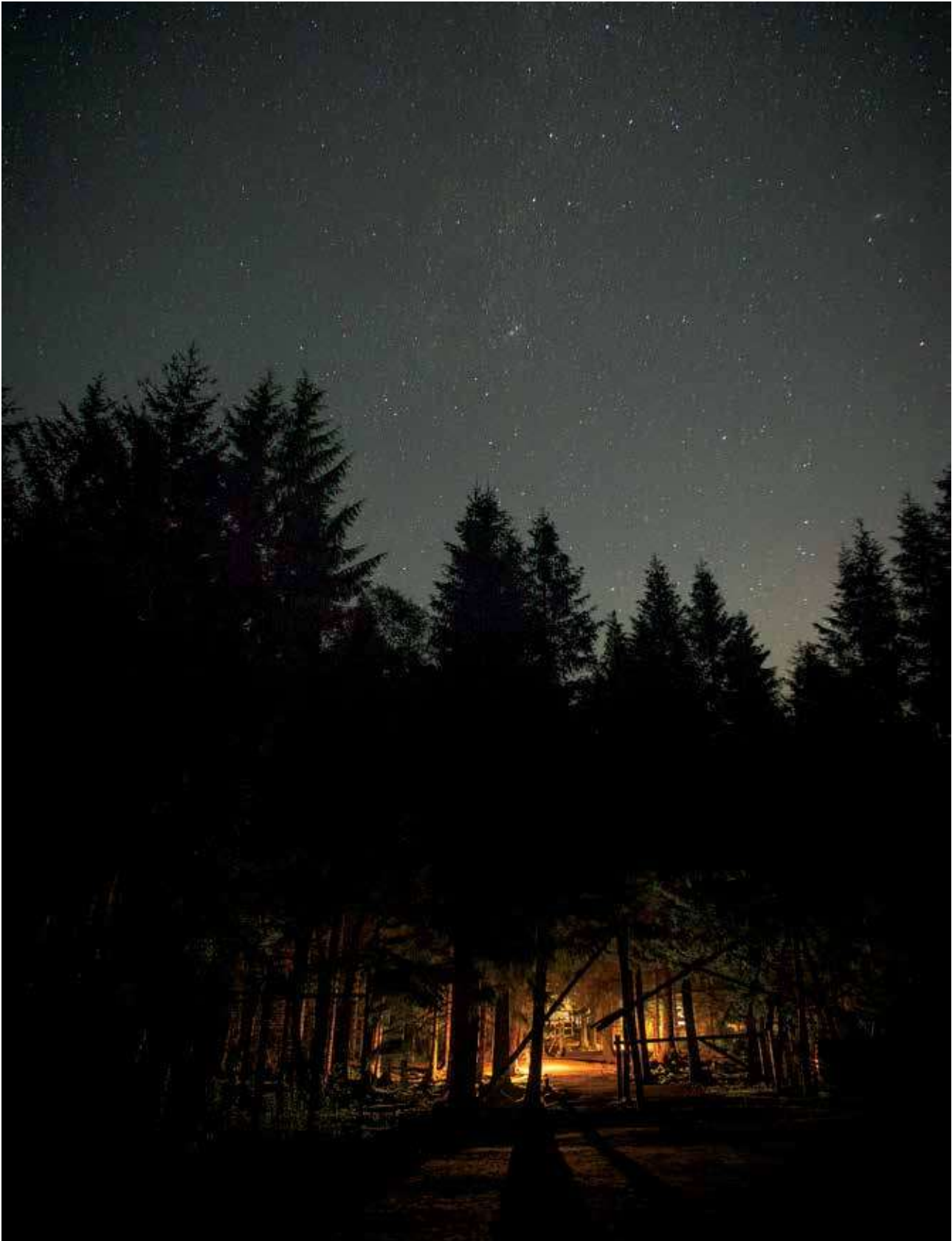




‘Doing activities in the dark is great. There’s a lot more talking to each other and looking out for each other’

EXPLORER SCOUT JOSH









- their green Thai curry before retreating back to their lodge to finish cooking their dinner free from midges. Before abseiling started, we visited the Kielder observatory in preparation for tonight's stargazing activity. The astronomer had told us to look out for the moon at around midnight.

When we reached South Beach we understood why: overlooking us was the moon, so big and magnificent; surrounding the moon were hundreds and thousands of stars. At the observatory we learnt the difference between stars and asteroids, satellites and shooting stars.

We were handed pieces of moon rock, Mars and a piece of the famous shooting star that dazzled Russia in 2013. Kielder is the world's third largest black spot in Europe and we had the opportunity to see for ourselves the

galaxies that had been discussed in the observatory.

Michael, an Explorer Scout, sat looking up, mesmerised by the sky while the others huddled together, pointing out the stars and galaxies. 'When you look up at the stars and you realise how many there actually are, it makes you feel small and it's just amazing how many planets and moons and satellites are out there,' he says. 'The amazing thing about it is that you can actually see them.'

'Being able to see some of the constellations that you wouldn't be able to see in the city is great,' says Cory. 'You don't get to see constellations like Cassiopeia. It's a really calming experience being able to look up at the stars and reflect over everything that has happened during the day.'

In the very small hours, we round off stargazing with campfire songs and roasting marshmallows – the perfect end to the night. We're all tired as it's been a long day but as we head back to base, Owen reflects on why he enjoys activities at night so much: 'It's just great for team bonding. You really get to know each other a lot better.'

There are a lot of things to do and experience when the sun goes down and there's something special about the night; it's almost a secret world of its own ready to be explored by Scouts not afraid to venture into the darkness looking for adventure. ♣

#### CHECK IT OUT:

To see a video on Scouting at night and read the bigger story, go to [scouts.org.uk/magazine](https://scouts.org.uk/magazine).

## SCOUTING AT NIGHT



‘When you look up at the stars  
and you realise how many  
there actually are, it makes  
you feel small’

EXPLORER SCOUT MICHAEL





## THREE MORE NATIONAL PARKS FOR AMAZING NIGHT SKIES



### LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

The Lake District is one of the best places in the country to stargaze, and its National Park is a designated Dark Sky Discovery site. These are a network of places in the UK that provide great views and which are accessible to everyone. All have been nominated by local groups and organisations as their top local spot to see the night-time stars. The park is blessed with a jaw-dropping night sky due to its remoteness (the nearest public road is two miles away), mountainous terrain and lack of light pollution.

Close to the shore of Lake Windermere, within the boundaries of the National Park is Great Tower Scout Activity Centre, which is an ideal base for exploring this amazing area. It offers a wide range of land and water-based activities, including low and high ropes, archery, sailing, climbing and canoeing, not to mention starry night skies. [lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://lakedistrict.gov.uk)



### SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

Snowdonia is Wales' largest National Park and home to its highest mountain (Snowdon). The park is a living and working area and is home to over 26,000 people. It is currently making a bid to become an International Dark Sky Reserve, placing it on a par with Brecon Beacons and Exmoor National Parks in the UK. Dark Sky Reserves are defined as 'public or private land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights'. If successful in its bid, Snowdonia National Park will be protected from the threat of future light pollution.

In addition to being a great site to stargaze, Snowdonia boasts a varied landscape that includes waterfalls, steep river gorges and lush green valleys. For visiting Scout groups there's a camp site on the banks of Lake Crafnant, which is open between Easter and September. [snowdoniatourism.co.uk](http://snowdoniatourism.co.uk)



### EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Exmoor National Park works with local councils, businesses and communities in the area to limit light pollution. The result is stunningly starry skies, which is why it was successfully designated Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve in 2011.

As a result of its efforts to maintain its nighttime displays, the Park is home to some of the darkest skies in the country. Particularly good spots for stargazing include Holdstone Hill, Brendon Two Gates, Webbers Post, Haddon Hill and Wimbleball Lake. On a clear night – even with your naked eye – you can see many astronomical sights. To help fledgling astronomers, the Park authorities have produced a new Dark Skies Pocket Guide which you can pick up from one of their National Park Centres. Brilliantly, you can also hire telescopes to get an even more detailed look at the stars above. [exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](http://exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)





## HOW TO BE A NIGHT SCOUT

THINKING OF TAKING YOUR SCOUTS ON A NIGHT-TIME TRIP? HERE ARE SOME TOP TIPS FOR A SAFE – BUT EXCITING – AFTER-DARK ADVENTURE...

### WHY SCOUT AT NIGHT?

Nights away are a great opportunity for Scouts to practise survival skills, work on their Outdoor Challenge Award, Expedition Challenge Award, Queen's Scout Award and Duke of Edinburgh Award. They give young people the chance to be in a new environment, creating lasting memories, and explore the outdoors with a different perspective.

### GET A PERMIT

Before planning a night away, as a leader you will need to have your

Night's Away Permit. There are four different types: Greenfield, Campsite, Indoor and Lightweight Expedition. For young leaders there is a special permit called the Nights Away Events Passport that can be granted by a Nights Away Permit holder. All other permits need to be granted by a District or County Commissioner. If you don't have a Nights Away Permit, you can always invite a leader – who is already a permit holder – along to your trip. To find out how you can apply for the Nights Away Permit visit [scouts.org.uk/prepared](http://scouts.org.uk/prepared).

### FIRST AID

In the dark, Scouts and leaders are more likely to be exposed to trips, slips and falls. It's important to understand and to know what to do if you find

yourself in a situation where you may need to administer first aid. Doing a course will give you the skills and knowledge to help young people and adults in need. There are two different courses that can be found at [tinyurl.com/njgwn6](http://tinyurl.com/njgwn6).

### RISK ASSESSMENTS

Most activities without much risk can be done at night. However, it is always best to run a risk assessment to make sure the activity is safe. It is the responsibility of all those involved to ensure that all activities are conducted in a safe manner. When planning a night hike for your Scouts, try to go on a recce beforehand during the day to make sure the path is safe enough to walk at night. For information about running risk assessments, visit [tinyurl.com/pbsosn6](http://tinyurl.com/pbsosn6).



Everyone was incredible.

I learnt that my  
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# Student accommodation

It's estimated that 50,000 students volunteer during their time at university, and 2,000 of these choose to volunteer at Scouts. Here are our 10 tips for recruiting them to work with you and your Group

Words: Abbie Cavendish | Illustrations: Michael Parkin

## 1. RECRUIT RIGHT

When recruiting student volunteers the Freshers' Fair seems an obvious starting point. However, this is a time when students are bombarded with opportunities so consider contacting students via a relevant university group instead. Student community action groups and individual clubs and societies can spread the word about the flexible opportunities you have on offer.

Ask the local Students' Union for a list of societies. Also look at talking directly to students on relevant courses – their CVs could be improved as a result of volunteering.

## 2. MARKET YOURSELF

If Freshers' Week remains your strongest option, there are a few

aspects to consider. Leafleting has a place at such events and a follow-up call or email to anyone interested should follow swiftly, so budget time for that. Also make sure you have plenty of sign-up sheets so that you can gather details from as many potential volunteers as possible.

Any design needs to be eye-catching so use the Print Centre for templates to help you create your posters.

## 3. USE FREEBIES

Freebies are very popular during Freshers' Fairs, so consider what you'll offer: frisbees, T-shirts, calendars and postcards will help you draw in students for a chat throughout the day. You could even include something interactive like a 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' competition.

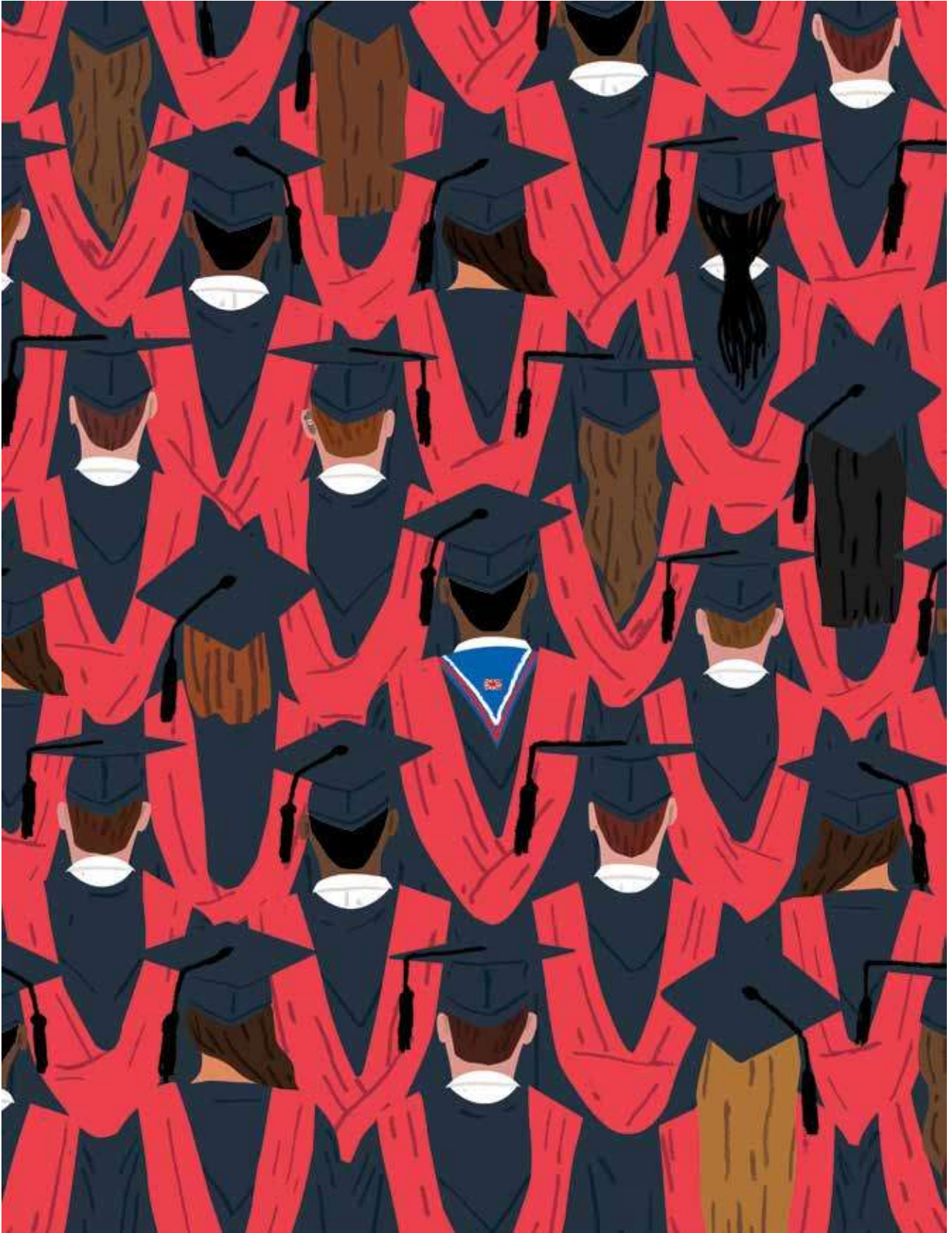
## 4. GET THE RIGHT KIND OF STUDENT

Think about the kind of students you want to recruit. First years have more spare time but final year students may know the area better and have a realistic idea of how much time they can commit. Some students will have more experience than others so think about your leadership team and who is best placed to support them. Consider the kinds of opportunities to offer; you might partner with a local university or invite individual students to come in and help out on a one-off basis.

## 5. BE FLEXIBLE

The key to successfully recruiting students is flexibility. Quite often, owing to the structure of the academic year, long-term roles aren't suitable for students. Short-term or one-off projects may be more appealing and





## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

- introduce students to the idea of making a longer-term commitment to volunteering. It's also important that you discover the skills that students haven't told you about. You may find that your new volunteers are perfectly suited to get your social media pages up and running, or design promotional materials for events that your group is running.

Always have a host of opportunities on offer and be open to new ones. Some examples of typical projects, which suit students, include one-offs like local research, working as service crews at local events or running programme activities based around their degree subjects.

### 6. WHAT ARE THEIR AIMS?

When recruiting students think about how to help them get the most out of the experience. Often, students volunteer to enhance their CVs, meet people with shared interests or simply to have fun. In addition they may not be looking for a long-term, regular volunteering arrangement. Try to find all this out.

### 7. TAILOR THEIR INDUCTION

It's imperative that volunteers have a comprehensive induction that takes account of their Scouting knowledge. Create a checklist of all the things they need to cover and the training they need, and arrange for them to shadow another volunteer so they can see how much fun is to be had. Also think about the people students will need to build relationships with, and consider finding a volunteer who started as a student who would be willing to share their experience.

### 8. BE CLEAR ABOUT YOUR EXPECTATIONS (AND MEET THEIRS)

Make sure both you and your volunteers are clear on your agreed commitments to each other. Written clarification will make life a lot easier once you're up and running. Find out what your students are interested in learning; some may want to know all about Scouting, whereas others might be looking for a general introduction to non-formal learning or working with children and young people. Either way, help them find their place in Scouting.



Also consider what students might find frustrating, so you can avoid it. Pitfalls include (but are not limited to) routine office work (if the requirement to do so was not made clear from the outset), being denied training opportunities, and lack of support. Regular and constructive feedback is good and helps to keep communication lines open.

### 9. RETAIN, RETAIN, RETAIN

Get your volunteers started quickly and always ensure you are giving them a helping hand. As well as regular feedback, take the time to talk to them about the importance of what they're doing. Food and drink is a good way to ensure students stay

motivated, and will also give you the chance to debrief them after events, especially when the volunteers are new. So long as volunteering feels like more of an event than staying at home, you're on the right track.

### 10. SUPPORT YOUR EXPLORERS

If one of your Explorers leaves for university, think about starting an exchange programme with other counties, districts or Groups to effectively swap volunteers. Stay in touch with former Explorers – an email or newsletter once a term can encourage people to come back to volunteer when they can.

Student volunteers bring a whole host of new ideas and enthusiasm and opportunities to the role. Whatever they end up doing you're sure to find yourself with a welcome and vibrant source of support. 🍀

### LINKS:


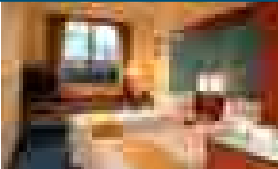
Head to Scout Shops to pick up the goodies you'll need to give away at Freshers' Fair: [shop.scouts.org.uk](http://shop.scouts.org.uk)

Login to the Scout Print Centre to download templates for posters and flyers: [tinyurl.com/q2ljcmb](http://tinyurl.com/q2ljcmb)

Find out how to design the ideal induction for your students by downloading our toolkit (in PDF format) here: [members.scouts.org.uk/induction](http://members.scouts.org.uk/induction)

For more information on how to roll out student Scouting in your area, contact your Regional Development Officer (RDO). You can find out who your RDO is at: [tinyurl.com/pzjbtay](http://tinyurl.com/pzjbtay)



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Month	Room for Single Occupancy	Room for Double Occupancy
<b>September 2015</b>		
1-3, 6-10, 13-14, 22-24, 27-30	HK\$600.00	HK\$700.00
4-5, 11-12, 21, 25-26	HK\$800.00	HK\$900.00
15-16	HK\$700.00	HK\$800.00
17-20	HK\$1,100.00	HK\$1,200.00
<b>October 2015</b>		
1, 5, 11-12, 16-17, 19, 23-24, 26, 29-31	HK\$900.00	HK\$1,000.00
2-4, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	HK\$1,100.00	HK\$1,200.00
6-8	HK\$600.00	HK\$700.00
9-10, 15, 18, 22, 25	HK\$750.00	HK\$850.00

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# Time well spent

A unique project at HMP Low Moss in Glasgow, Scotland, is helping to bring prisoners and their children together through Scouting

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Ed Smith

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING a team of volunteers lock up their belongings, offer up their IDs and pass through an airport-like security system to enter Low Moss Prison, just north of Glasgow, for their weekly Scouting and Guiding session.

For 45 minutes volunteers from Scouts and Guides offer the children of prisoners the chance to play games, get crafty, and interact with their parents in a relaxed, fun environment.

It all started back in 2012 when Girlguiding members Sally Hadden and Maxine Gow started helping

out at the prison's visitor centre cafe. Inspired by the success of Scout Groups that had been established in hospitals, they were keen to do more than supply sweets and drinks to the kids visiting their parents in prison, so Girlguiding joined forces with The Scout Association to form the Kelvin Scout and Guide Club. This partnership transforms the experiences of both girls and boys and opens their eyes to the worlds of Scouting and Guiding.

Breaking preconceptions about prisoners losing contact with their families, HMP Low Moss is very family oriented, allowing and

encouraging prisoners' families to visit as often as six times each week. The focus here is on building strong family relationships so when the prisoners have completed their sentence they have the support of their family to help smooth the transition back into society. Therefore when the idea of Scouting and Guiding in prison was put forward, managers at Low Moss were keen to bring it to life.

The volunteers involved in this project are overcoming a number of challenges to make this unusual set-up work and ensure that Scouting

- and Guiding is accessible to all young people.

After passing through security, we arrive to meet the Low Moss Prison Group's Group Scout Leader, Nicholas Divers, and find him busy decorating the visitation room with large posters and lining the tables with tubes of glitter: 'We go around the tables and say that we're going to start,' he explains. 'We can have anything from two to 16 kids, so you never know what or who you're going to get. We need to have a flexible programme.'

Thursday nights are run like taster sessions for the kids and comprise creative, global, outdoor, fitness, friendship, promise-based and community activities. 'It's a non-traditional method of Scouting,' Nicholas explains. As this is a collaboration between Scouts and Guides, the Group can't work towards particular badges. Once the children have completed three activities they are rewarded with a sticker, with three stickers earning them a wristband. This evening's meeting plan involves the parachute game and making postcards.

While the volunteers at the Kelvin Scout and Guide Club have no idea who will decide to join in each session, another challenge they face is the restrictions placed on the type of equipment they can take in with them. 'There's silly things like Blu-Tack and scissors,' says Nicholas. 'While scissors may be an obvious hazard, Blu-Tack isn't permitted because of the risk that prisoners may take some and use it to make key moulds.'

Visitors to the prison must comply with a long list of other restrictions,

including leaving all unauthorised electrical equipment outside and removing scarves to avoid any choking hazards. 'Also, we don't ask what they're in for,' says Nicholas. For confidentiality reasons, the volunteers never ask for names. With this in mind, it would be easy to assume that the prison is a scary place, but despite its towering walls and understandably strict security measures, the large, bright room where the Scouting takes place feels safe and controlled.

Once the visitors have arrived, the meeting has a happy vibe and the room soon resembles a playground with the kids running around laughing and smiling. When chatting about the opportunities to get outside and pitch tents Nicholas tells us: 'They have a small outdoor area that we can use in the summer and the size is similar to that of many other Scout sites, so the kids can have just as much fun as those at local groups.'

Although there have been surprisingly few problems setting up or running this group, Nicholas recalls that not everyone was on board with the idea at first: 'People were hesitant about young leaders being involved, but they have to be over 16, which classes them as an adult anyway, and the whole set up is really safe.'

In fact, the project is such a success that the idea is being duplicated at a higher security prison nearby. Meanwhile, Nicholas and his team of volunteers are continuing to focus on making the Kelvin Scout and Guide Club sustainable so that future children visiting their parents can receive the same support and enjoyable experience.

## 'Blu-Tack isn't permitted because of the risk that prisoners may take some and use it to make key moulds'

NICHOLAS DIVERS, LOW MOSS GROUP'S GSL

Now we've learned how things work, it's time to hear what the prisoners think of the project. Mark\* introduces himself and his two kids with a smile, then encourages them to join the other children around the tables, colouring in and gluing handfuls of glitter to their postcards. Within minutes his son's hair is sprinkled with red glitter so he walks over to dust some off for him. When asked what he makes of Scouting and Guiding in the prison, he's genuinely enthusiastic: 'It's brill, they do loads of different activities and the kids love it.'

Thursday evenings provide his family with time to relax together and offer the kids a chance to have fun with their dad. Mark considers himself lucky to have the option of seeing his kids six times a week and though he understands when they are busy, relishes the time they have together. This isn't the case with every prisoner though, and he admits that there are other prisoners who don't seem to care as much about having their family visit.

The prisoners here are all male and either offenders on remand, short or long-term offenders, life sentence offenders or extended sentence offenders, but being unable ►





Above: a mother and son arrive to join the fun at visiting time. Below left: HMP Low Moss is a modern prison. Right: Nicholas (left) and a volunteer set up the session





- to ask what individuals are in there for means that volunteers treat them all equally.

After spending time at a number of other prisons, Mark says that HMP Low Moss is the best he's been in. He feels that the weekly visits from his children and the Thursday evening sessions are having a really positive effect on his relationship with his children. In particular, he says he has appreciated the opportunity to develop a bond with his daughter, who was just a baby when he was sentenced, by becoming a more constant figure in her life.

The focus for this Group is on the children and how life-changing Scouting and Guiding in prison is, but it also appears to be having a noticeable effect on the prisoners too.

### 'It's brill, they do loads of different activities and the kids love it'

'MARK' PRISONER HMP LOW MOSS

'It's more fun than just sitting down,' says Mark. 'My kids think I'm working so this club allows them to see me actively doing something rather than just sitting at a table.'

It has been well documented that Scouting can provide life-changing experiences for participants, and as unconventional as the Kelvin Scout and Guide Club is, it is certainly changing the lives of everyone involved. The prisoners are given an

incentive for good behaviour and more importantly the children are given a more relaxed environment in which to engage with their parents.


The club aims to show the children just how much fun Scouting and Guiding is so that they are encouraged to join Groups in their own local areas. Those involved in the project hope that with the support of the community and the continued help of volunteers the club can be there for all of the other young people visiting the prison in the future. 🍀

\*Names have been changed for this article.

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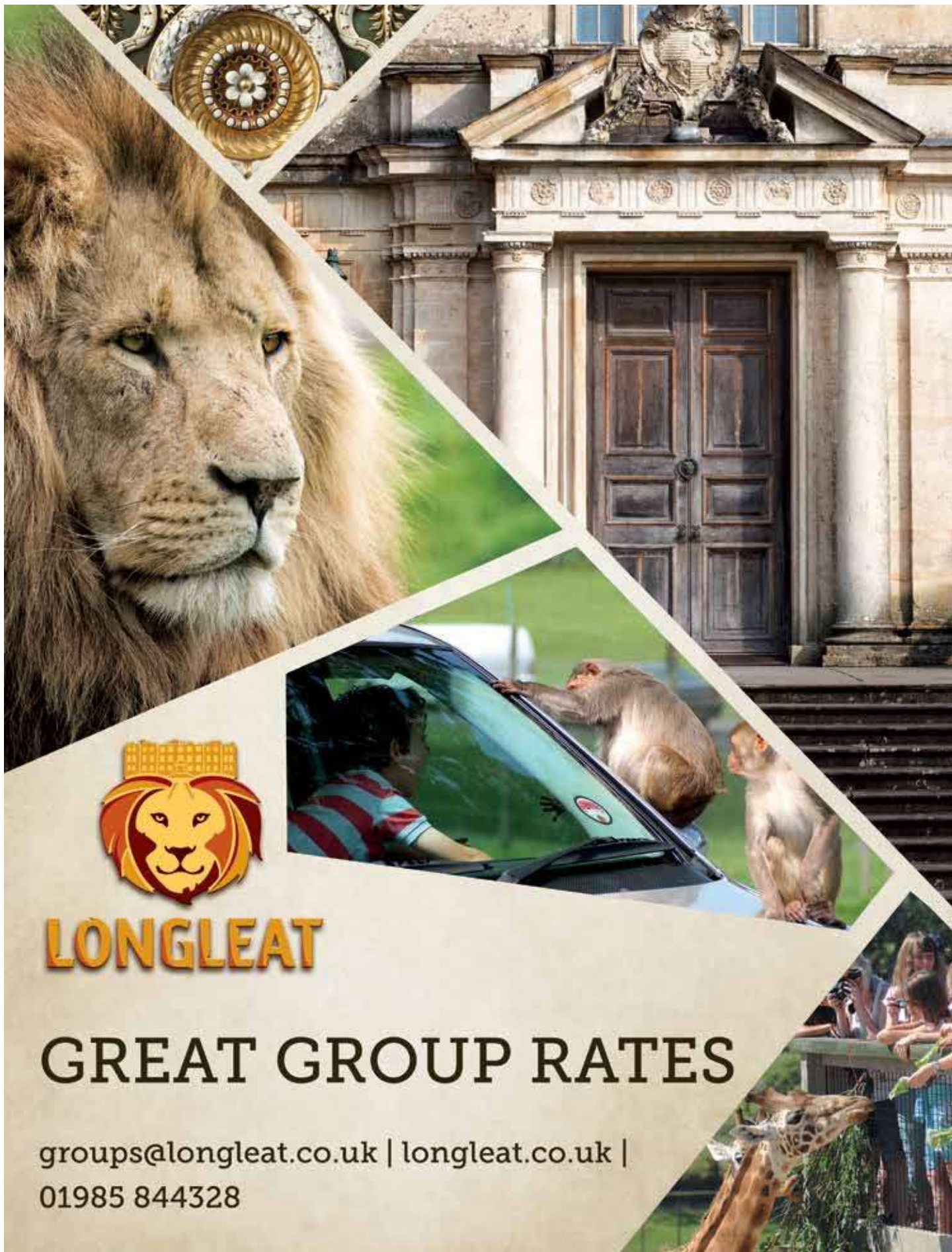
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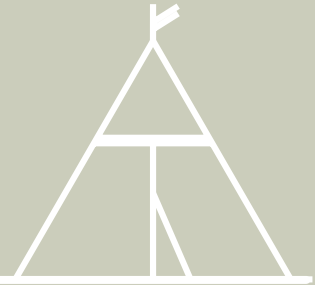
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[blackland@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:blackland@girlguiding.org.uk)  
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# BUILD AN EDIBLE RAFT

Inspire your section to understand the basics of raft-making through this task with a tasty treat at the end

SUITABLE FOR **BEAVERS** AND **CUBS**

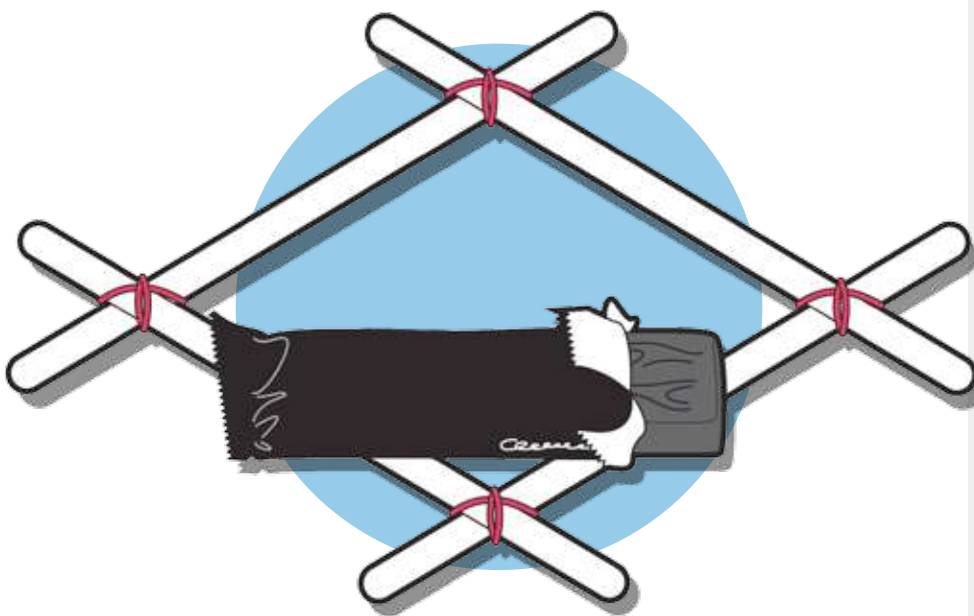
**1** Take four breadsticks and make a square with them, resting two on top of the others. Make sure there is enough overlap at the ends so they can be tied together.

**2** Use Strawberry Laces to lash the ends of the breadsticks.

**3** Fill the washing up bowl with water and get the Cubs to come up with their individual rafts. Invite them to talk about the techniques

they used to lash the ends together. Ask them whether they think the raft will float and if it will stay together.

**4** Take a mini Milky Way bar or a similar treat and place it on top of the raft in the water in the washing up bowl. If the Milky Way stays on the raft and the raft stays afloat then the Cubs can eat them. If not they can be dried off and placed back for the group to make another attempt at building a raft.



**TIME NEEDED**  
**15-20** minutes  
(initially)

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Breadsticks
- Strawberry Laces
- Washing up bowl
- Mini Milky Way bars or similar

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Nautical Skills



Pioneer



Camp Craft

## OUTCOMES

The raft-makers will understand a little about the complexity of tying two sticks together and the concept of lashing. Please note: If the 'raft' has been touched by a few people, you may want to give your troop 'spares'.

## OTHER SECTIONS FOR SCOUTS

Try increasing the complexity and the size of the raft you are asking your group to build, using more breadsticks to create a solid base. You can then ask your Group to add a paper sail lashed to a vertical breadstick to their raft and challenge them to sail it across a paddling pool using a fan. See which team can create the fastest raft. The size of the treat can be increased with the vessel!

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# PLAN YOUR CAMP

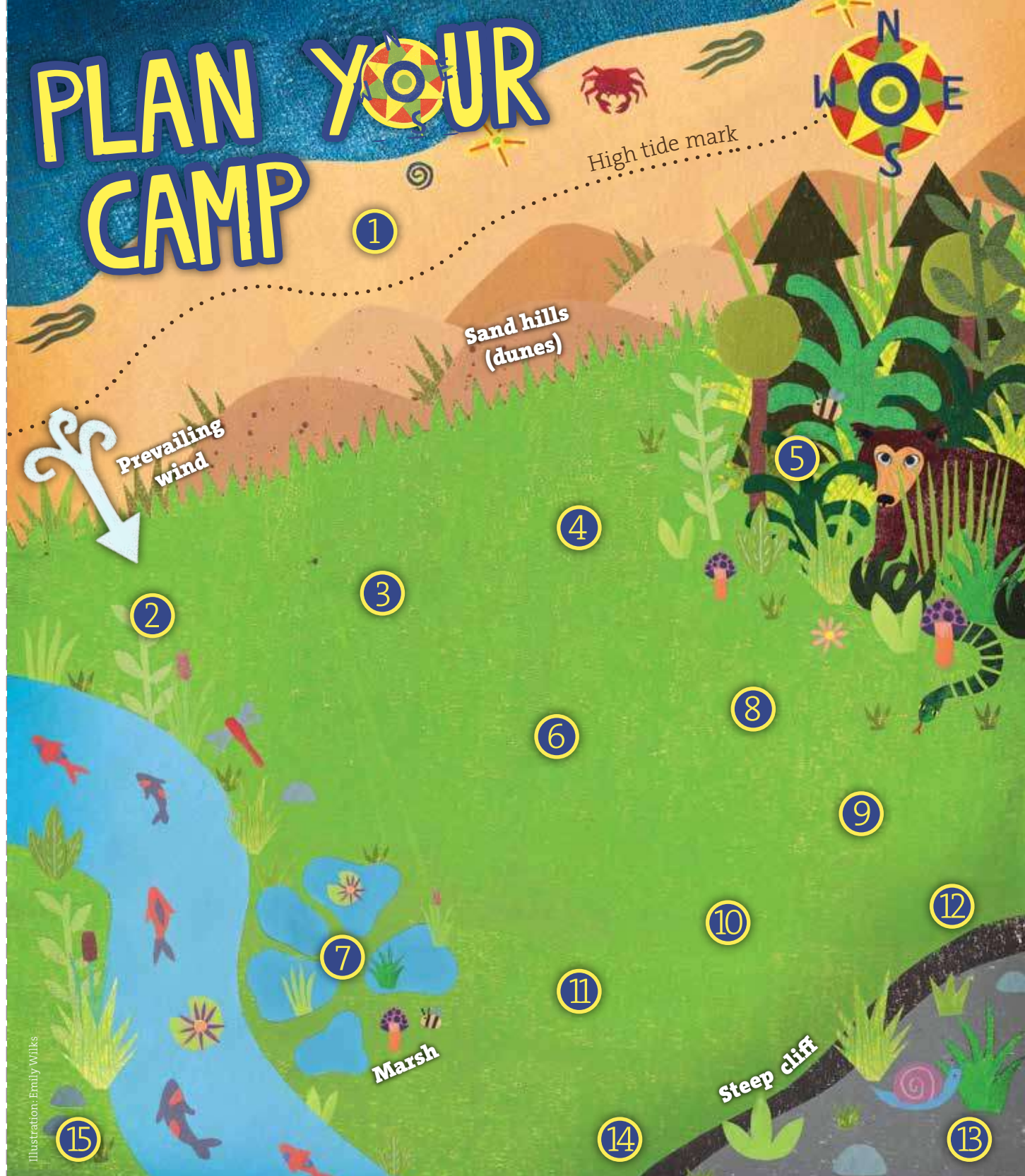


Illustration: Emily Wilks

Cut out these icons and decide where each should go, thinking about potential hazards



Eating area



Washing area



Campfire



Logpile



Sleeping tents



Cooking area





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# MEASURE THE WIND SPEED

Check the wind speed with this quick and easy construction activity

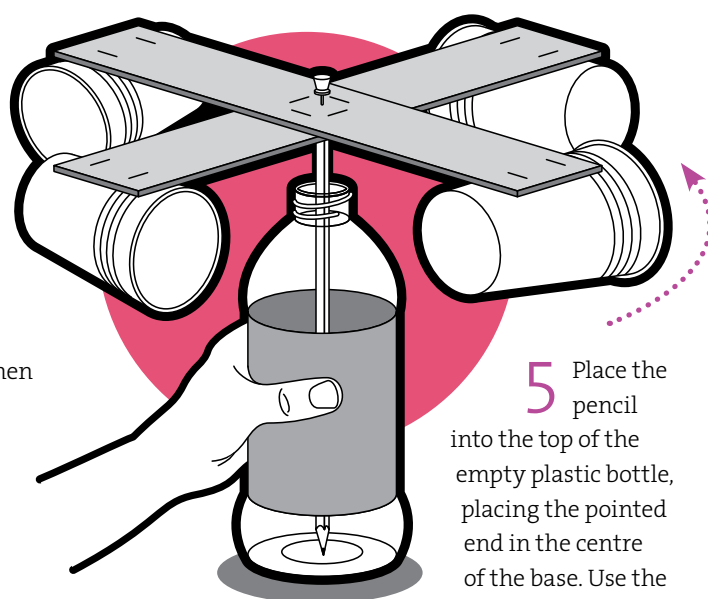
SUITABLE FOR **CUBS**

**1** Ask your Cubs to cut the cardboard into two identical strips – each about one inch wide and seven inches long. Then staple them together.

**2** Staple a plastic cup to both ends of each strip. Place them sideways-on and facing in opposite directions (refer to diagram). Mark one of the cups with a bold cross or dot with the marker pen.

**3** Cross the strips of cardboard at right angles, ensuring the cups are all facing in the same direction.

**4** Put a drawing pin through the centre of the cardboard cross and push this into the eraser on the end of the pencil. Gently turn the cross to check that it spins freely.



**5** Place the pencil into the top of the empty plastic bottle, placing the pointed end in the centre of the base. Use the marked plastic cups to

count the rotations and then set some outdoor tasks.

## Task one

Try to find the windiest area and record the number of rotations in 60 seconds. Then try to find the least windy area and compare results.

## Task two

Send the Cubs outside and challenge them to map the wind speed around a structure by comparing the different results of rotations per second on different sides of a building's corner.

**TIME NEEDED**  
**30-45** minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Plastic cups
- Stiff cardboard
- Stapler
- Empty plastic bottle (less than 300ml)
- Drawing pin
- Pencil with a rubber at the end
- Marker pen

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Scientist Activity Badge



Environmental Conservation Activity Badge

## OUTCOMES

This activity will test your Cubs engineering skills and introduce the idea of wind speed and how it can be measured. When comparing results, your section will see how windspeed changes because of the landscape around them. Get your Cubs thinking about wind energy too and work on your Environmental Conservation Activity Badges.

## OTHER SECTIONS FOR SCOUTS

Challenge your Scouts to create several anemometers using different materials, different-sized cups and larger bottles with a knitting needle in place of the pencil to see how this affects the results and data they collect.

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\*Suggested donation £1 per badge

'You will find others  
on the same path  
as yourselves,  
possibly not so well  
equipped; give them  
a helping hand  
as you go.'

*Robert Baden-Powell*





# GET SOCIAL WITH YOUR SCOUT GROUP!

Ask your Scouts to set up a YouTube or Instagram account on your website and start sharing their photos and videos

## SUITABLE FOR SCOUTS

**1** Sign up for a YouTube (Google) or Instagram account on their websites – one of your Scouts should be able to do this, but make sure you have access to the email address they use to set it up.

**2** Download the relevant App (YouTube or Instagram) from your app store – you can upload content via the website but the apps can make this process easier on a

phone or tablet. A lot of smartphones will also have the 'upload' option in the same place as the email a photo/video option.

**3** Ask your Scouts to start taking photos/videos of interesting activities they have taken part in.

**4** Upload the images and videos onto your YouTube or Instagram account (videos can be edited on the YouTube website). Encourage your Scouts to include short descriptions and experiment with tagging people and hashtags.

**5** Share your posts with the Scouts' families and friends through Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels.

**6** Once you are up and running, ask your Scouts to look at what other groups are doing on their websites to see what ideas you can adopt for your own to make it as exciting as possible.



## TIME NEEDED

**30-60** minutes per week

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Digital Maker



Digital Citizen



Writer

## OUTCOMES

This activity will teach Scouts about creating an online resource using multi-media. It will equip them with useful IT skills and understanding that they can apply in later life. Whenever using the internet in your sessions it's important that young people understand the issues and how to stay safe online. To order our Stay Safe leaflets for all sections, go to: [tinyurl.com/oypyn9u](http://tinyurl.com/oypyn9u).

## OTHER SECTIONS FOR EXPLORERS AND NETWORK

Ask the young people in your Group to set up their own personal blogs and to write about the adventures they go on. Set a challenge to create two written posts, two picture-led posts and one video blog over a three-month period, then ask them to critique each other's work and discuss how they could improve it.

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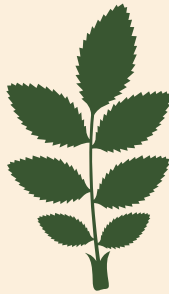


# LEAF IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Hey nature detectives! How many of these leaves can you spot this autumn?



Oak ☐



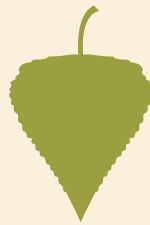
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# 10 ICEBREAKER GAMES

Give new young people in your section a warm welcome and get to know them with these games

## COMMON GROUND

### TIME:

15-20 minutes

### SUITABLE FOR: SCOUTS, EXPLORERS AND NETWORK

Divide the section into groups of three or four. Tell everyone that each group has to find their common ground – that is something they have all done. The catch is it has to be something they have all done but none of the other groups has done.

## I'M GOING CAMPING

### TIME:

15-20 minutes

### SUITABLE FOR: CUBS, SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS

Sit the section in a circle. Choose one person to start. They need to say, 'I'm going on a camping trip and I'm taking X'. 'X' has to be an item that conforms to a criterion they have set but kept secret: things that start with P, things that start with the last letter of the previous item, items that rhyme and so on. The player starts to list what they will take camping saying, 'I'm going camping and I'm taking pyjamas' (if the criterion is beginning with P). Another player who thinks they know the criterion can put their hand up and say, 'I'm

going camping and I'm taking pins.'

If they get it right the other player will say, 'Yes you can take that' and they both continue until other players join in. Any player who gets the criterion wrong is told, 'No, you cannot take that.' The game ends when everyone has figured out the secret criterion.

## TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

### TIME:

15-20 minutes

### SUITABLE FOR: CUBS, SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS

Get the section to sit in a circle and ask one person to say two truths and one lie about themselves. After they have finished, you, as compere, must get the section to vote on which statement they think is the lie. If the majority get it wrong, the player goes again. If everyone gets it right, play moves clockwise to the next player.

## PULSE

### TIME:

5-15 minutes

### YOU WILL NEED: CHAIR, TENNIS BALL SUITABLE FOR: CUBS AND SCOUTS

Form the section into two lines facing one another, holding hands. At one end of the line is a chair with a tennis ball on it; you stand at the other

end. Get everyone in the section to close their eyes apart from the two players nearest to you and flip a coin. Whenever it comes up heads the players have to squeeze the hand of the next person. This chain continues until the hand of the player at the end is squeezed. Then that player grabs the ball. Every ball picked up correctly (when the coin lands up heads) scores a point; any ball picked up incorrectly loses a point.



Illustration: Tom Hughes





## COAT OF ARMS

### TIME:

20-25 minutes

**YOU WILL NEED: PAPER, COLOURING PENS AND/OR PENCILS**

**SUITABLE FOR: BEAVERS AND CUBS**

Get the section to divide their paper into quarters to create their coat of arms. They should have depictions of their favourite things in each quarter; these can be pets, food, a sports team, activity etc. After the time is up, ask each Beaver or Cub to talk everyone through their coat of arms.

## NEVER HAVE I EVER...

### TIME:

5-10 minutes

**SUITABLE FOR: BEAVERS AND CUBS**

Ask the section to sit in a circle and hold 10 fingers out in front of them. One player starts by saying, 'Never have I ever...' and then says something that they have never done. Anyone who has done that particular thing loses a life and has to put one of their fingers down. The winner is the last person to have fingers held out.

## BEAVER/CUB BINGO

### TIME:

10-15 minutes

**YOU WILL NEED: PENS, 'BINGO CARD'**

**SUITABLE FOR: BEAVERS AND CUBS**

The bingo card is a photocopied piece of paper divided into squares filled with different statements such as 'I hate onions', 'I love burgers', 'I have a dog' and so on – try to create about 10 of these. Hand them out with pens and ask the new section to go around asking each different player if they agree with the statements. When they get a 'Yes' they cross out that statement. The winner is the first to fill their card.

## FORM A LINE

### TIME:

10-15 minutes

**SUITABLE FOR: BEAVERS AND CUBS**

First tell the section that they have to line up, left to right in order of height. When they are lined up tell them to remember their spot. Then tell them to line up in order of age, birthday, first name (alphabetically) and so on. When this is all done, give them a quick fire round where you shout, 'Line up in order of...' and see how quickly they can organise.

## A COLD WIND BLOWS

### TIME:

5-10 minutes

**YOU WILL NEED: CHAIRS (ONE LESS THAN THE GROUP SIZE)**

**SUITABLE FOR: BEAVERS AND CUBS**

Create a circle of chairs. Choose one player to be 'It' and get the rest to sit down. 'It' then has to call out a sentence such as 'A cold wind blows for anyone with brown hair.' All the members of the section with brown hair then have to find another chair, including 'It', whatever their hair colour. The next 'It' is the player who cannot find a chair.

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#### Scarf

Be ready for Cubs 100 with this colourful Cub Centenary Uniform Scarf celebrating 100 years of Cub Scouts in 2016. Features winners badge on the apex of the scarf including fleur-de-lis.



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**cubs  
100**



# SEARCHLIGHTS

A great game for dark nights, offering quick and safe target practice for Cubs

SUITABLE FOR **CUBS**

**1** Take the Pack outside and separate them into pairs. Give them one torch between them.

**2** You then need to line one pair outside the Scout building and nominate a feature on the outside (the smaller the better) – an air vent or a door handle, for example. Make sure they know what feature

you mean – it's worth shining your torch on it.

**3** Then give the instructions 'Ready, Steady, LIGHT' and time how long it takes each Cub to locate the item in their torch beam.

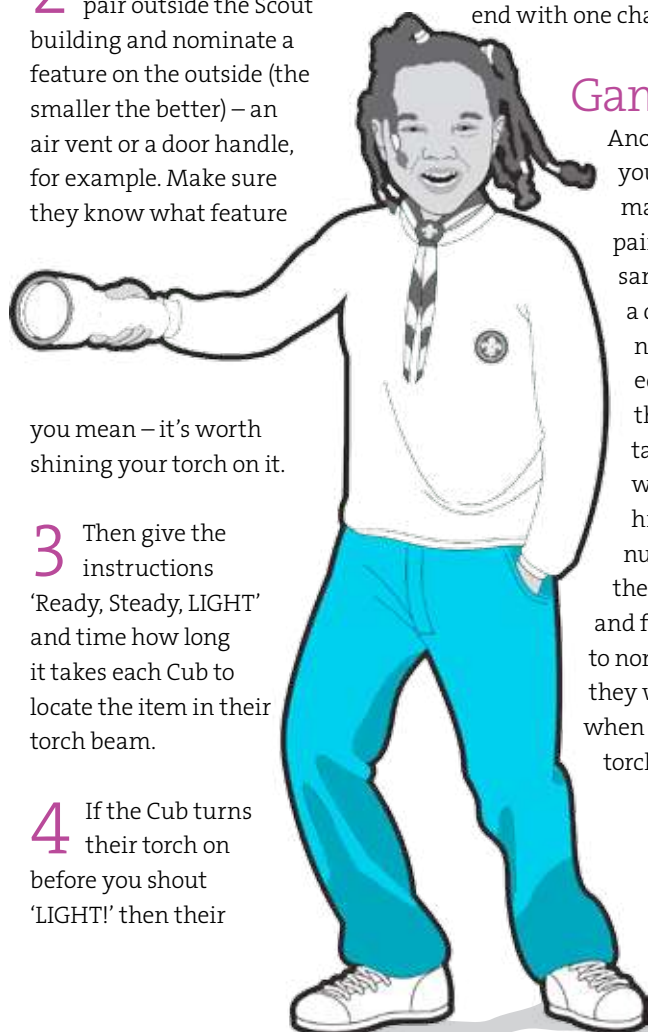
**4** If the Cub turns their torch on before you shout 'LIGHT!' then their

turn is forfeited. If the Cub lights the chosen item immediately the next Cub has to do the same to beat them.

**5** The competition is run as a knockout tournament so should end with one champion.

## Game Two

Another element you can add is a target made from card and painted white, about the same circumference as a dustbin lid, and with numbers around the edge and a bullseye in the middle. Hang the target on the wall and with your own torch highlight the different numbers. In this game the Cub has three goes and for each go they have to nominate the number they will attempt to hit when they turn their torch on.



TIME NEEDED  
**15-20** minutes  
(initially)

**THIS ACTIVITY  
LINKS WITH  
THE FOLLOWING  
BADGES**



Teamwork



Team Leader

## OUTCOMES

Cubs will develop hand-eye coordination. They will understand the utility of torches at night. They will learn to target and also to patiently wait to 'shoot'.

## OTHER SECTIONS FOR SCOUTS

This game is all about hand-eye coordination and target practice. To increase the challenge for older sections, you could always book an archery or air rifle session at a local outdoor activity centre.

## ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY

Morse Code is a classic activity to conduct with flashlights. Give your Scouts a copy of the Morse Code Training Aid (available to download at [scouts.org.uk/pol](https://scouts.org.uk/pol) – search 'Morse Code') to help decode the messages. Split the group in half, sending each half to opposite ends of your meeting place (inside or out). Give the Scouts at one end a message and get them to send it using their flashlight; the receiving team then have to decipher the message. Trying this at night outside will really test your young people's Scouting skills!

## DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

Find this and other great activities at [scouts.org.uk/magazine](https://scouts.org.uk/magazine).

# PACK YOUR BAGS

You're off for an adventure, but can you choose the right equipment for your bag?

SUITABLE FOR **CUBS**

**1** Divide your Pack into four groups with the same number of people in each.

**2** Give each group a bag and ask them to open it ready for packing.

**3** Write down each of the four activities on a piece of paper – get each group to pick a piece of paper and keep it secret from the other groups. Don't tell them what the list of activities are.

**4** Each group gets a turn to pick an item and place it in their bag in order – however if at any stage they think there are no more things to choose for their activity they can stop.

**5** Once all the items have been used up choose the first group and get them to empty their bag.

**6** Get the other groups to try and guess which activity the group has been given.

**7** When everyone has guessed, get the nominated team to announce their chosen activity. They then have to go through their choices item by item explaining what they chose and why – at this point you

should say there are an equal amount of items per activity and a number of red herrings.

**8** Ask the other groups how they thought that team did and if they agree with everything that was chosen. Then go through the full list of what they should and shouldn't have in there – including anything that might be in another bag.

**9** Do this for all the groups and then get the groups to collect the right set of equipment for the activity.



**TIME NEEDED**  
**15-20** minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

■ Four rucksacks  
Four types of gear for the following activities:

■ Night hiking

■ Rafting

■ Summer camp

■ Den building

Try not to include items that can be used in two activities.

You could also include some red herrings that aren't suitable for any of the activities.

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Our Outdoors  
Challenge Award



Hikes Away

## OUTCOMES

Scouts will understand how to pack correctly for different activities and the essential items they will need for each.

## OTHER SECTIONS FOR SCOUTS

Do the same activity but simply place all the kit in the centre of the room with four bags around the outside. In groups of four the teams must go through the equipment and work out what activities are represented. Each group should then take turns to choose the relevant equipment for their bag.

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# MAP THE PATH OF THE MOON

With this month-long project you'll excite curious minds about what happens in the night sky

SUITABLE FOR **CUBS**

**1** Firstly, check where the moon is in your region and when it rises above and falls below the horizon. Ensure it will be visible above the horizon over the next few weeks. Go to [timeanddate.com/worldclock/moonrise.html](http://timeanddate.com/worldclock/moonrise.html).

**2** At the next meeting tell the section to go outside at a set time with a piece of A4 paper, a pen and something to rest on. Tell them to find a spot where they can easily see the moon.

**3** They then need to sketch the horizon from that position, sketching in the position and shape of the moon. Before they go back inside they need to note their position and the time and write the date by their



image of the moon. The moon on a horizontal piece of A4 should be about the size of a 5p piece. Give them all a coin to draw around.

**4** A week later they need to go back outside at the same time and sketch the shape and position of the moon again.



**5** Continue this every week for a month and then compare your horizons.



## TIME NEEDED

**15-20** minutes initially (5-10 minutes a week thereafter for four weeks).

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Astronomer Activity Badge



Space Activity Badge

## OUTCOMES

Cubs will understand that the night sky changes and 'develops' over the month and that it is not the same night after night.

## OTHER SECTIONS FOR SCOUTS

Go on a night walk and try to find North using the direction of the two stars that form the far edge of The Plough. Go here for instructions: [tinyurl.com/nfwpxwz](http://tinyurl.com/nfwpxwz) and check out [kidsastronomy.com](http://kidsastronomy.com) for general advice on astronomy.

## SPOT THE STATION

Get your Scouts to keep their eyes on the skies when taking part in night adventures to see if they can spot the International Space Station. There are thousands of sighting opportunities worldwide and throughout the year – head to the website, select your location and find out when you and your Scouts can catch a glimpse. See [spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings](http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings).

## DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

Find this and other great activities at [scouts.org.uk/magazine](http://scouts.org.uk/magazine).



# Can you spot?

- 5 beavers
- 4 cats
- 3 skulls
- 2 owls
- 1 Bear Grylls

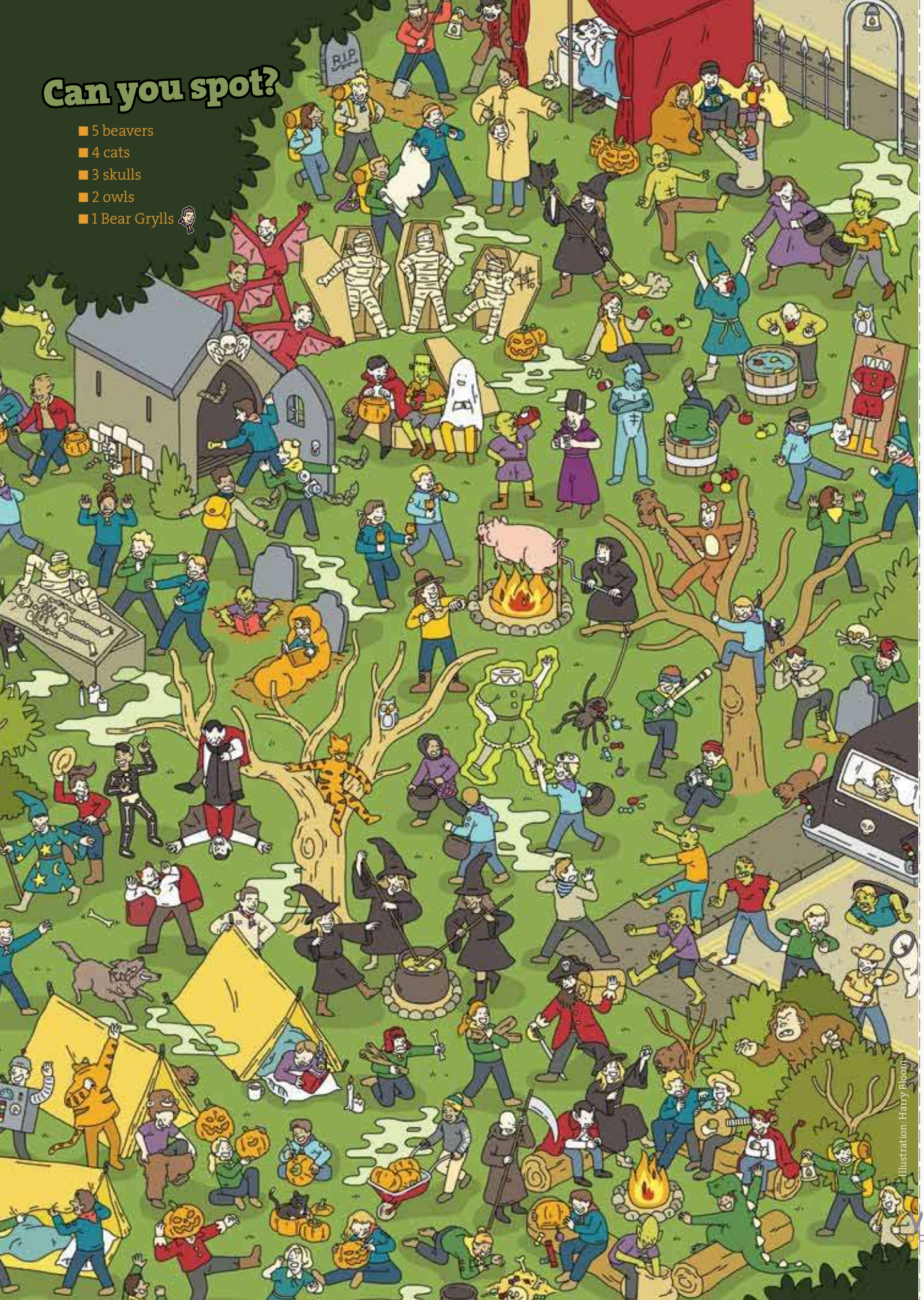


Illustration: Harry Bloom





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