



# SCOUTING

## SCOTLAND

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We open our huts to people from all backgrounds'

**Inclusive Scouting, page 40**



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

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

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



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## SCOUTING ALL SUMMER

It's the best time of the year, and summer promises to be an amazing time for Scouting. One of the reasons I became a Scout was to spend more time with friends in the outdoors. It's among life's greatest experiences and should be accessible to everyone, no matter where they live, what they look like, or how they grew up. For advice about how to keep your Scouting going over the summer, see page 46.

We've already had some brilliant adventures so far this year. On St George's Day, we recognised 640 young people who have reached the pinnacle of Scouting: achieving the Queen's Scout Award. Alongside adult winners, they received their awards at Windsor Castle in front of royalty.

A Million Hands is going well, with many groups taking action and many more making plans. In this issue, we're revisiting Roy and Joyce, who featured in our A Million Hands video about dementia. Roy's moving description of

what it's like to care for a loved one with dementia is on page 38.

In this issue we meet some amazing young people, who will no doubt become familiar faces: the Local Youth Commissioners (page 64). These inspiring young people are shaping Scouting in their communities, and making their voices heard nationally.

We also challenged two leaders to take part in a Scout Swap (page 35) and ask if you would be up for running activities for a different section for the night. Whether you are a volunteer in a Beaver Colony or an Explorer Unit, what shines through in every group I meet is the deep-rooted conviction that we're all part of something special.



Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

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# Summer Camps 2017

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# AN EXPERIENCE TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

NCS is a three-week programme for 16-17 year olds. It costs no more than £50 and teaches you the lessons you can't learn in class. To find out more about the summer programme visit [NCSYES.CO.UK](https://www.ncsyes.co.uk)



NCS



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## SCOUTING ALL OVER THE WORLD

Scouting's youth programme is rich and varied. As summer approaches, our thoughts inevitably turn to camps and expeditions. Many sections have planned exciting adventures for their members, with many of these travelling overseas.

For me, the icing on the Scouting cake is our international dimension. Travelling abroad to enjoy Scouting in another country is a real highlight – and rightly so! One exciting expedition this summer will see 44 Explorers and 11 leaders from South Morningside ESU (pictured above)

travel to Cambodia for a month-long development project. They will be working with local craftsman and volunteers from a small Cambodian charity to build a much-needed two-classroom school building. They will engage with the local community, teach them about Scotland, run a sports day for local children and visit Buddhist monks to learn about their lives and beliefs.

But you don't have to travel overseas to enjoy international Scouting. This summer, over 1,500 young people, from Scotland and

overseas, will come together at the Blair Atholl International Patrol Jamborette to spend 10 days living and working together, and learn about what makes Scouting tick where they live. I hope you will all take the opportunity to see Blair Atholl in action during visitors' day on Saturday 23 July, 2016.

Graham

Graham Haddock  
Chief Commissioner of Scotland



## A MILLION HANDS IN ACTION

Over 205,000 Scouts have signed up to volunteer in their local communities – this represents more than 4,000 unique Groups from all over the UK. Water and sanitation is proving to be the most popular issue. Look out for WaterAid’s touring ‘Loo with a View’ if you’re attending a jamboree this summer.

To date, over 6,000 young people have taken action and given more than 43,000 hours to volunteering – an excellent example of what the Movement can achieve. This outstanding work has been reported in the local and national press, on television and radio, with the news reaching an estimated 35 million people. To register your section, go to [amillionhands.org.uk](http://amillionhands.org.uk).

## CORNWELL COMMEMORATION



The national commemoration of the Battle of Jutland, a full-scale clash of battleships in World War I, took place in Scapa Flow, Orkney, in May.

Representing Scouting at the event, were Noah Buckingham, 13 and Amy Keogh, 18, who are both recipients of the The Cornwell Scout Badge, awarded for dedication to Scouting in the face of adversity.

The badge was created by Lord Baden Powell in honour of former Scout Jack Cornwell, who was critically injured defending his crewmates during the battle.



## NEW CEO AT SCOUTS SCOTLAND

We are pleased to announce that Katie Docherty has been appointed as the new Chief Executive for Scouts Scotland, and will start her new role on 24 May.

Katie previously worked as Head of Charity Services for Age Scotland, and has worked in both politics and the voluntary sector for 15 years. She began her career with a political party working on policy, campaigns, and events. She then spent nine years as Head of Regional and Community Fundraising and Marketing for a leading UK cancer charity.

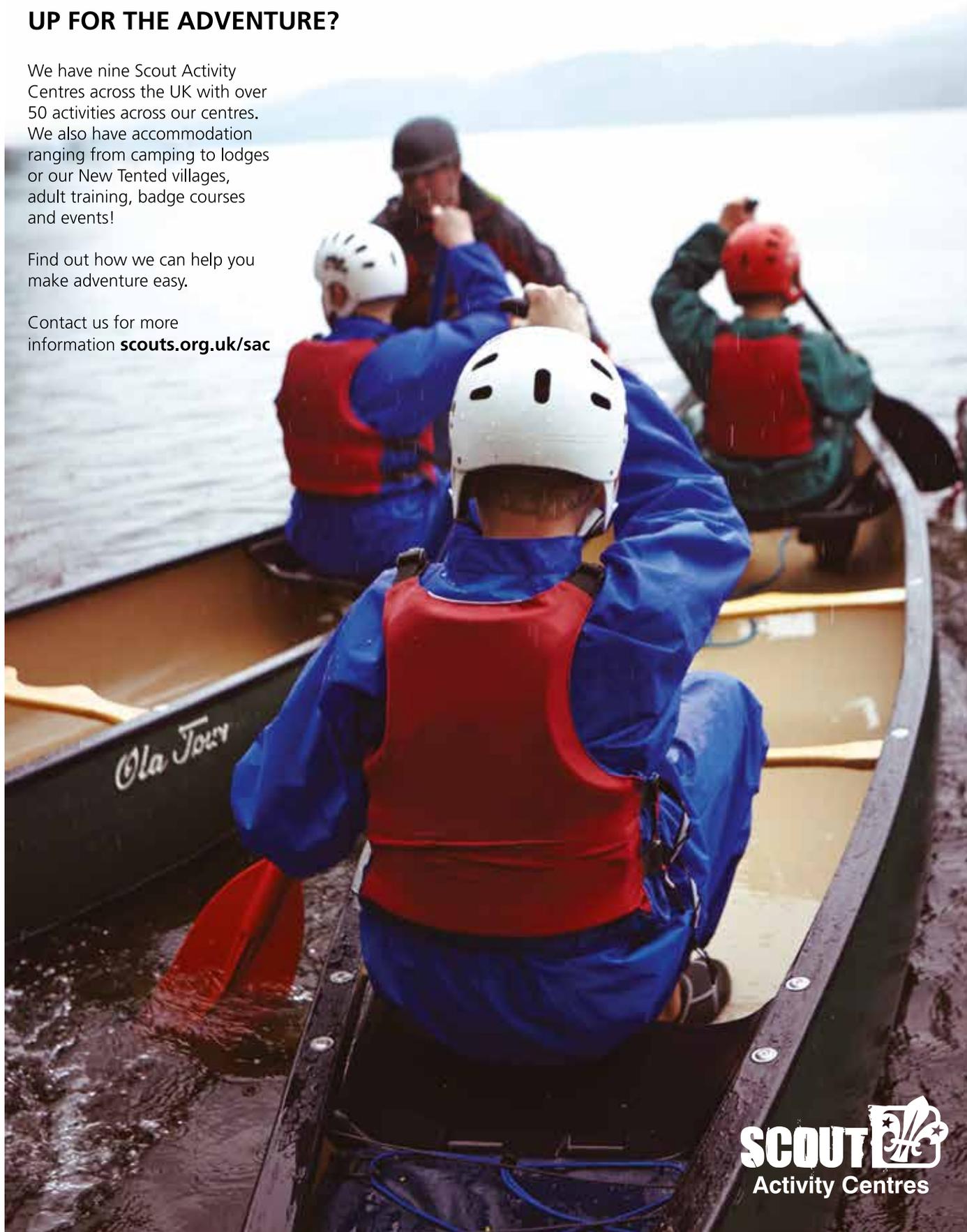
Katie has experienced the opportunities Scouting offers through her son, who is a Beaver Scout. ‘I am delighted to be joining Scouts Scotland and am greatly looking forward to starting in post,’ she said. ‘I think that Scouts is a fantastic Movement and I want to help grow the organisation so that more young people across Scotland can experience the thrills, excitement and confidence that my son gains from his participation.’

## UP FOR THE ADVENTURE?

We have nine Scout Activity Centres across the UK with over 50 activities across our centres. We also have accommodation ranging from camping to lodges or our New Tented villages, adult training, badge courses and events!

Find out how we can help you make adventure easy.

Contact us for more information [scouts.org.uk/sac](https://scouts.org.uk/sac)



## SCOUT MSYPS WIN AWARD

Scouts Scotland MSYPs Molly Kirby and Sorcha Kennedy have been awarded the 'Area or Group of the Year' prize at this year's Scottish Youth Parliament Awards.

The MSYPs also had the opportunity to put forward a motion asking further and higher education to recognise the awards and accreditations that young people can achieve through voluntary work. The

motion was passed with 93% of those eligible to vote in favour of it.

'I am so pleased that our motion has passed at SYP,' said Sorcha. 'We have put so much work into this motion already but strive to continue to implement a real change to the system of applying to universities and colleges so young people involved in Scouting and other youth groups gain the recognition they deserve.'



## BEAR ON TOUR

Bear Grylls is touring the UK in October, with his thrilling live action adventure show, Endeavour. Scout Groups are eligible for an exclusive discount, and The Scout Association will receive a charitable donation through ticket sales.

Hosted by Bear, Endeavour tells the stories of six of the greatest feats of human courage, endurance and adventure imaginable. Audiences travel to the frozen arctic and the

tropical jungle, via the cold edge of space and the arid desert.

The show uses cutting-edge video-mapping technology to put the audience at the heart of the action.

The month-long tour will visit venues in major cities across the UK and Ireland, including London SSE Wembley Arena, Manchester Arena and Glasgow SSE Hydro. To book, call 0844 824 4824 and use the discount code SCOUT10.

## CUBS100 UPDATE

Cubs will be celebrating their wildest birthday ever on 16 December, as well as renewing their Promise. Mark the occasion by holding a Promise Party in the wildest place you can find. For help, go to [cubs100.org/promise-parties](http://cubs100.org/promise-parties).

## CENSUS 2016

Scouting in Scotland has grown for the 10th consecutive year! Our total membership is now 46,095, including over 8,000 adult volunteers. However, we can't grow complacent: there are still many young people on waiting lists to join Scouts, but we are confident that we have systems in place – like start-up grants for new sections – to continue this growth.

For more details, go to [tinyurl.com/zxgnzg2](http://tinyurl.com/zxgnzg2). Or, for more unusual facts, including that you're 10 times more likely to bump into a Scout in Aberdeen than Orkney, go to [tinyurl.com/jaac7x9](http://tinyurl.com/jaac7x9).



British Heart  
Foundation

# GET ACTIVE, HAVE FUN, SAVE LIVES

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

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

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

**FIGHT FOR EVERY HEARTBEAT**

## BRINGING INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING HOME

The Pink Panthers ESU in Edinburgh had an international experience with a difference when they organised an activity evening with Scouts in Denmark using Skype. We caught up with Graham Scrimgeour from the Group to find out how they set this up:

'We all know that International experiences are an important part of our programme, and our Explorers wanted to find a way to incorporate this from our own Scout hall.

'Our Group has a friendship with a Group in Denmark dating back to the 2007 World Scout Jamboree. Since then, the Danish Group has joined us for a summer camp at Meggernie National Activity Centre in 2013, and our Scouts are currently planning

to go to Spejderneslejr Jamboree in Denmark in 2017.

'To set up the Skype evening we exchanged emails with the Danish Group to agree a programme of activities so everyone would have the resources ready to go. We also held a test Skype call the day before, just to make sure everything would work. We used laptops with built-in webcams and larger external monitors, although it would have been even better with a projector.

'At the agreed time we made the call on Skype and the Groups called out Hi (Hej in Danish) to each other. We opted for some fairly simple activities that both the Scottish and Danish Groups could take part in

easily, including competitions and quizzes, but there are loads of different things that you could do. This is a great opportunity for the Explorers to plan the programme.

'The most fun competition was saved for last: an international 'Chubby Bunnies' match, where teams from each country attempted to get as many marshmallows in their mouths as possible. The game is popular on YouTube, so was perfect for the Skype camera set up.

'Both Groups were really excited leading up to the evening and everyone had a great time. This is definitely something that we'd do again – it just takes a little effort to set up, and a reliable internet connection!'



# FEELING INSPIRED TO DO SOMETHING AMAZING?

From motivating marathoners at iconic sporting events to handing out Race for Life medals and manning obstacles at Pretty Muddy, volunteering is a great way for your Scouts to get out in their local community, share and develop their teamwork skills and play their part in life-saving research.



LET'S BEAT CANCER **SOONER**

Sign up at <http://volunteercr.uk/scouts>  
Can't find the role you're looking for?  
Call **020 3469 8905** or  
email [volunteeropportunities@cancer.org.uk](mailto:volunteeropportunities@cancer.org.uk)

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NOW



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# JUNE



## 5 JUNE

### The Scout Memorial Unveiling, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

Commemorate the lives of lost Scouts and pay your respects at the unveiling of the UK's first national Scout memorial, in the beautiful setting of the UK's year-round centre of remembrance. Discover more about the project at [tsmp.org.uk](http://tsmp.org.uk).

## 18–19 JUNE

### Cubs100 Fundays

Head to Gilwell Park and Woodhouse Park Scout Activity Centres for a Cubs100 party-themed funday. While there, you can have a go at a whole range of activities, ranging from face painting, go-karting, grass sledding and water slides, to sumo wrestling, a technology zone, archery and a funfair. [fundays.scouts.org.uk](http://fundays.scouts.org.uk)



## 25 JUNE

### Pride in London Parade

Attend one of the English capital's most colourful and exciting events of the year, and show your support for Scouting's LGBT+ members. The route runs from Baker Street to Trafalgar Square. Find out more about how FLAGS Active Support Network supports LGBT+ adults by visiting [flagscouts.org.uk](http://flagscouts.org.uk).



## CHECKLIST

- Sponsor a brick on the Promise Path. [tinyurl.com/hc8gek6](http://tinyurl.com/hc8gek6)
- Make sure you have an InTouch system in place if you're going away on summer camp. **members.** [scouts.org.uk/intouch](http://scouts.org.uk/intouch)
- Download a Royal Tea-Prepared fundraising pack. [tinyurl.com/gryzrt7](http://tinyurl.com/gryzrt7)
- Been celebrating Cubs100 with your Pack? Share the fun you've been having at [tinyurl.com/zkzj9pm](http://tinyurl.com/zkzj9pm).

## OTHER DATES

1–12 June

### National Volunteers' Week

Encourage your Scouts to lend a hand and volunteer with community projects or national initiatives during this week-and-a-half-long celebration. [volunteersweek.org](http://volunteersweek.org)

11 June

### Queen's 90th Birthday

Celebrate the birthday of the UK's longest reigning monarch by buying the special commemorative badge from the Scout Shop at [tinyurl.com/gme5g7d](http://tinyurl.com/gme5g7d).

20 June

### Summer Solstice

The longest day of the year is the ideal time to play a wide game. [tinyurl.com/hdmtoe6](http://tinyurl.com/hdmtoe6)

# JULY

## 2–8 JULY

**Open Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions, Lochgoilhead**  
Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre is running Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE walking expeditions, including a planning and kitting-up day, followed by the expedition and a day to work on presentations. Email [info@lochgoilhead.org.uk](mailto:info@lochgoilhead.org.uk) or call 01301 703217.



## 23 JULY

**Blair Atholl Jamborette Visitors' Day, Blair Castle, Perthshire**  
The 35th International Patrol Jamborette will take place at Blair Castle in Pitlochry and, once again, we would like to invite all of our members and friends to experience this action-packed international camp at our open day. For more information, email [shq@scouts.scot](mailto:shq@scouts.scot) or call 01383 419 073.

## 23–30 JULY

**Water Sports Academy, Lochgoilhead Activity Centre**  
Fully-qualified instructors will be on hand to coach your Scouts and Explorers in a range of water sports, as well as taking them through their staged paddler, sailor and nautical skills badges. For more info and costs, email [info@lochgoilhead.org.uk](mailto:info@lochgoilhead.org.uk) or call 01301 703 217.



## CHECKLIST

Thinking about planning an Explorer Belt trip next summer? See page 32 for more information.

If a new section will be opening at your Group in September, don't forget that start-up grants are available. [tinyurl.com/h2aee4w](http://tinyurl.com/h2aee4w)

See our events page for all sorts of training opportunities: [scouts.org.uk/events](http://scouts.org.uk/events).

Book your Cub Pack in for one of the Cubs100 Takeover Days, happening in September. [tinyurl.com/ze9jbsq](http://tinyurl.com/ze9jbsq)

## OTHER DATES

2 July

### **Tour de France**

The world's biggest bicycle race sets off from Mont Saint-Michele in Brittany, with Britain's Chris Froome trying to defend his title. [letour.com](http://letour.com)

6 July

### **Eid-el-Fitr**

One of the most important dates in the Islamic calendar, it marks the end of Ramadan with feasting and gifts.

9–10 July

### **Wimbledon Finals**

Dust off your tennis racket and cheer on the finalists with a bowl of strawberries and cream. [wimbledon.com](http://wimbledon.com)



# CLAIM YOUR **FREE\*** OFFICIAL CUBS100 MEDAL

This year a limited number of free Scouts medals have been authorised for **free\*** distribution to Scouts both past and present. To claim yours today visit:

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## AUGUST



### 30 JULY–6 AUGUST

#### International Jamborees

Take your Group to an international Jamboree in the UK, with three to choose from. Essex International Jamboree, BrumJam (Birmingham) and Charnwood International Scout and Guide Camp (Leicestershire). All take place on the same dates. See [eij.org.uk](http://eij.org.uk), [brumjam.org](http://brumjam.org) and [charnwood.org](http://charnwood.org) for details.

### 3–14 AUGUST

#### Roverway

Discover France in a completely different way during Roverway, a camp for 5,000 Scouting and Girlguiding members aged 16–22, offering a unique cultural experience. Participants will spend time with local communities, before converging at Jambville, north of Paris, to celebrate. [roverway2016.org/en](http://roverway2016.org/en).



### 19–21 AUGUST

#### Cubs100 Big Adventure Weekend

Celebrate the centenary of the Cubs section with an action-packed 48 hours at one of our activity centres. During your visit, your young people will be able to try out all sorts of pursuits, from kayaking to hill walking, and meet other groups from around the country. For more details, visit the website at [tinyurl.com/hry6fwr](http://tinyurl.com/hry6fwr).



## CHECKLIST

Register your interest for the Gilwell AGM in September: [members.scouts.org.uk/board](http://members.scouts.org.uk/board).

Make sure your badge supply is stocked up, ready for the start of the new Scouting term.

Use your A Million Hands resource pack to plan in your first week's activities. For more details, go to [amillionhands.org.uk](http://amillionhands.org.uk).

Schedule in some time in September to review how Youth Shaped your section is.

## OTHER DATES

5 August  
**2016 Summer Olympics Opening Ceremony**  
Don't miss the spectacular start of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. [tinyurl.com/chrcgyb](http://tinyurl.com/chrcgyb)

13 August  
**Persid Meteor Shower**  
Watch up to 80 shooting stars per hour enter the Earth's atmosphere. For details of the Astronomer Activity Badge, go to [tinyurl.com/jh7zuv3](http://tinyurl.com/jh7zuv3).

29 August  
**Summer Bank Holiday**  
Enjoy the sunshine – hopefully! – and consider planning a getaway during this long weekend.



# Wear dots... raise lots

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

**Sign up today at [rnib.org.uk/dotsscouts](http://rnib.org.uk/dotsscouts) or call 0345 345 0054 to receive your free fundraising kit.**

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with sight loss

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## ASK THE COMMISSIONERS

UK Chief Commissioner Wayne Bulpitt and his team answer your questions. Here's what they had to say about visits abroad, reviews, Nights Away Permits and more...



### WHAT WILL BE THE KEY CHALLENGE IN THE COMING YEARS?

The single largest challenge we have is ensuring that we have effective leadership and management at all levels in Scouting.

When assessing what initiatives have and haven't worked over the past few years, many of the issues that are deemed to have failed to be addressed are those that fall within the control and responsibility of local line management, whether that's District, Group or County/Area. For that reason, our Leadership and Management Strategy is vital to the success of the Movement. First, it provides line managers with the tools and support to undertake their roles, starting from the recruitment and induction process.

In the longer term, our work around the Youth Shaped strategy, Young Leaders' Scheme and the Future Leaders' Programme, will provide solutions.

Of course, it's a fine balance for volunteers. Some worry that all this talk of efficient management is too much like 'business speak' or that it feels like 'the day job', but irrespective of whether we call people Commissioners or Group Scout Leaders, their responsibilities are to lead and manage fellow volunteers, and unless they do that effectively we are unlikely to see an improvement in local support.

For Scouting, when we talk about management and leadership, it's simple really: there needs to be clear direction – an understanding of where we are ultimately going. There must be inspiration – a real passion and feeling that it is worth being involved and giving it our all. And there must be support – to help people to do their best.

Above all else, where we have effective leadership we are much more likely to have inspired and motivated leaders delivering fun and exciting programmes for more young people.

Wayne Bulpitt  
UK Chief Commissioner

I'M STARTING TO THINK ABOUT NEXT TERM – HOW DO I COPE WITH 'SILLY IDEAS' FROM MY SECTION WHEN WE ARE PLANNING OUR PROGRAMME TOGETHER?

Set the tone of your planning session by explaining to your Scouts that no idea is a bad idea. Even if an idea initially seems 'silly', it can easily be worked on to become a practical and sensible idea. Explaining this will help them feel more comfortable about sharing their ideas, especially for the quieter Scouts who find it difficult speaking up.

It's important to explain that not all ideas will be taken forward, but may be used at a later time in the year and that all ideas shared in the planning session belong to the group. This helps to encourage shared responsibility and accountability for ideas.

It's worth spending some time coming up with lots of ideas in a large group. Then split the group into Lodges, Sixers, Patrols or smaller groups for Explorers and give them each some of the ideas to discuss further. These smaller groups can be led by Young Leaders or Patrol Leaders.

The goal here is to work on these ideas so they become practical. For example, if a Cub suggests they would like to visit the moon, a practical way of making this happen could be running a space-themed camp.

For more ideas on to how to run a forum, download our Youth Shaped resources, which you can find at [scouts.org.uk/youshape](http://scouts.org.uk/youshape).

Hannah Kentish  
UK Youth Commissioner



WHY HAS THE VISIT ABROAD RULE CHANGED AND WHAT'S IT THERE FOR?

We reviewed the Visit Abroad rule and process in 2015 to ensure that it continues to support the delivery of brilliant International Scouting experiences within a safe and supportive environment.

Over 200 members contributed to the review and the resulting changes have now been made to the Visit Abroad rule 9.64 and the accompanying documents.

There is now a clear definition of a visit abroad and a two-stage approval process, which means leaders can get more help planning a visit and Commissioners hear about visits at a much earlier stage in the planning process.

I want to ensure that all Scouting visits abroad happen in a safe and supportive environment, resulting in life-changing experiences for young people. We hope simplifying and clarifying this process goes some way towards this goal.

Jack Maxton  
International Commissioner

IT SEEMS LIKE WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE NEXT DC, CC, OR GSL – HOW CAN I IDENTIFY PEOPLE FOR THESE ROLES AND HELP THEM TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY SKILLS?

Our aim is to develop young people to their full potential, but we also want our adult volunteers to be supported to reach their full potential. We're always looking to identify the next District Commissioner or Group Scout Leader.

We call this talent management: identifying people to fill these positions early on, helping them to develop their skills with directed learning and experience and then supporting them to find the right role within the Movement.

If you're a Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner, or part of an Appointments Advisory Committee, you might meet or know of someone who you think could take on a more responsible role in the future. Once you have identified an individual ready to take the next step, you can help them to find opportunities to develop until the next role comes up. These opportunities might include:

- Completing some Leadership and Management modules from the adult training scheme
- Joining a local or national working group, matched to their interests
- Taking on a focused management role, such as Assistant District Commissioner.

Support from the line manager is vital in these situations. It can also be useful to appoint a mentor for them – this should be someone who is an

experienced manager and can support their ongoing development. Find out more at [tinyurl.com/jszpmmn](http://tinyurl.com/jszpmmn).

Kester Sharpe  
UK Commissioner for Adult Support

ARE REVIEWS AS IMPORTANT AS THEY'RE MADE OUT TO BE?

There is a myth that reviews only take place when something has gone wrong, someone is 'in trouble' or because it's time to move on to another role. As a result, reviews can be seen as a bad thing, unnecessary or feel uncomfortable.

In reality, a review in Scouting can be a really positive experience for both parties. They provide an opportunity to sit down and look at what has happened since someone started their role, or since their last review, and to see what further support and guidance might be needed.

Unless we chat to someone about how they are finding their role they may be suffering in silence or be in the wrong role. Too many times we do not know there is an issue until someone leaves!

Reviews can be both formal and informal and we recommend at least one review a year, to build on the chats you have during the year. A formal review then takes place at the end of an appointment and an agreement is made over whether the appointment should be renewed or whether a different role is considered.

Alex Peace-Gadsby  
Mark Tarry  
Chief Commissioners of England

I WANT TO TAKE MY CUBS CAMPING. DO I NEED A NIGHTS AWAY PERMIT, AS I DID MODULES 16 AND 38 WHEN I GOT MY WOOD BADGE?

Yes, everyone who leads a nights away event for young people within Scouting must hold a Nights Away Permit for the type of event they are running.

You don't need to have completed either Module 16 (Introduction to Residential Experiences) or Module 38 (Skills for Residential Experiences) to gain a Nights Away Permit.

The Nights Away Permit Scheme is different to these modules, so there is no requirement to gain a Nights Away Permit to finish your Wood Badge training, and, vice versa, validating modules 16 and 38 does not automatically grant you a permit.

That said, gaining a permit is one way of validating those modules and is the best way to gain the skills needed for a Nights Away Permit where training is required.

To find more information about organising nights away, visit



[members.scouts.org.uk/nightsawaypermits](http://members.scouts.org.uk/nightsawaypermits). Enjoy your camping trip!

Kester Sharpe  
UK Commissioner for Adult Support  
Craig Turpie  
UK Commissioner for Programme

NOW WE ARE SCOUTSCYMRU, DO I HAVE TO SPEAK WELSH?

ScoutsCymru is not just about the Welsh language. We are encouraging our sections to use a bilingual approach if they can. However, it is also about being proud of Scouting's identity in Wales as an organisation representing young people. We offer fun, friendship and life-changing adventure too.

NAWR RYDYN NI'N SCOUTSCYMRU, OES RHAID I FI SIARAD CYMRAEG?

Nid am y Gymraeg yn unig mae ScoutsCymru. Rydym yn annog ein Hadrannau i ddefnyddio agwedd ddwyieithog, os gallan nhw, yn enwedig os yw hyn yn adlewyrchu'r gymuned maen nhw'n ei gwasanaethu. Pa fodd bynnag, mae hefyd am fod yn falch o hunaniaeth Sgowntio yng Nghymru fel mudiad sy'n cynrychioli pobl ifanc. Rydym yn cynnig hwyl, cyfeillgarwch ac antur newid bywyd hefyd.

Gareth Watson  
Chief Commissioner of Wales  
Prif Gomisiynydd Cymru

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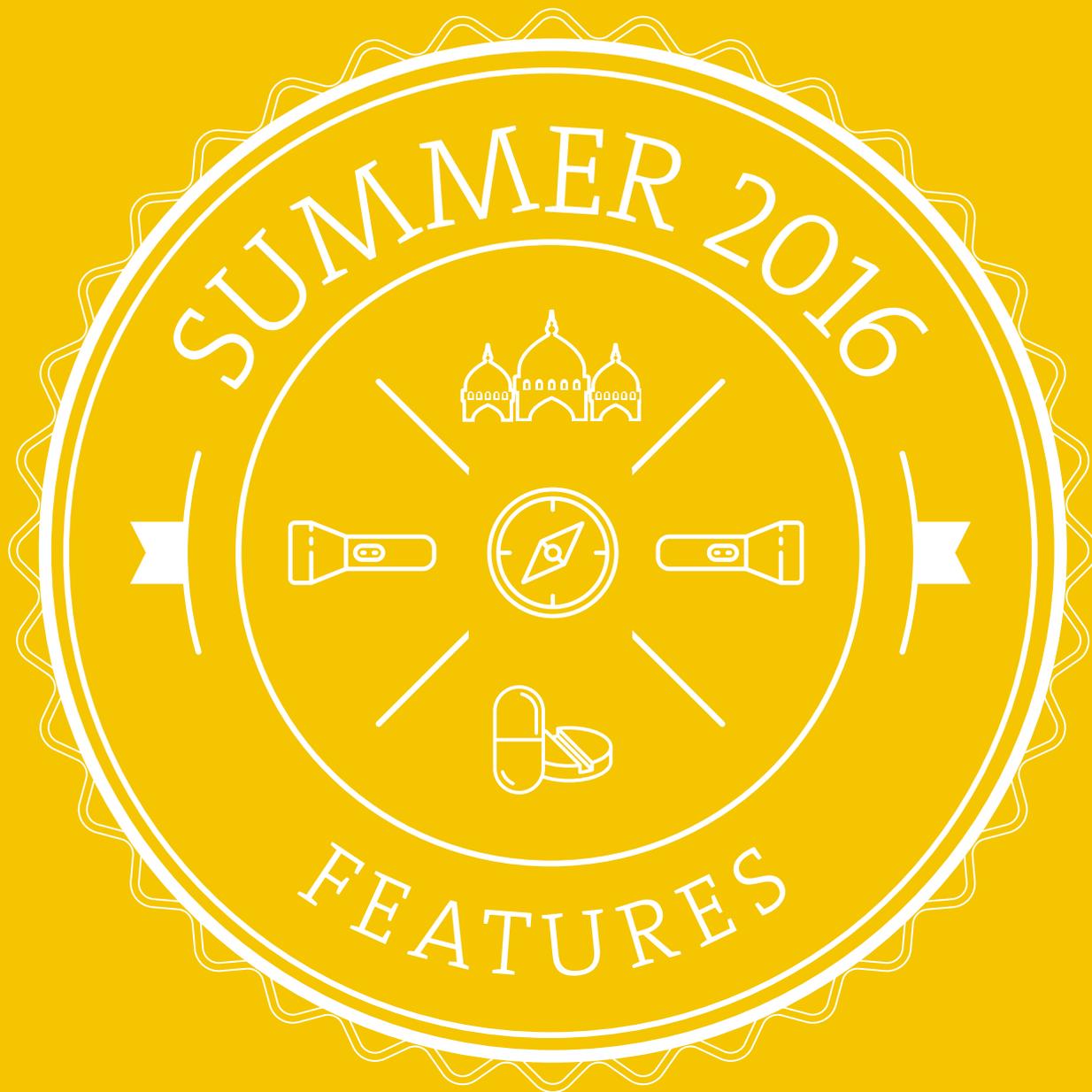
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# Next stop: Austria

We join Clyde Region Explorer Scouts and Network members in west Scotland as they start their preparations for the trip of a lifetime: an Explorer Belt expedition to Austria

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Ed Smith



## EXPLORER BELT

THE THREE GIRLS' hiking boots squelch along a country lane, near the pretty village of Drymen, west Scotland. Beside the road are rolling green hills, brushed by cloud. The rain is holding off, but we're not mentioning it, just in case we jinx it.

The girls are Lucy, 14, and Isla, 15, from 29th Explorer Unit, Glasgow, and Iona, also 15, from Kilsyth Explorers. They shoulder comically large rucksacks. The tent they'll sleep in tonight is strapped to Iona's, and lurches towards the ground with every step.

They're about halfway through a 12-mile practice hike and, despite mud to the knees thanks to a wrong turn taken through a bog, spirits are high. 'It's like I'm wearing brown socks!' says Iona, laughing.

Iona, Isla and Lucy, plus 90 of their peers, are here for their first training weekend in preparation for their Explorer Belt in Austria next summer. Supported by leaders, but ultimately operating alone, 20 small teams of Clyde Region Explorer Scouts and Network members will travel through Austrian towns and countryside.

The Explorer Belt is one of Scouting's most prestigious awards, and one of the most enjoyable to earn. During a 10-day overseas expedition, small teams aged 16–25 must travel for a total of 50 hours by foot, bicycle, horse, boat or public transport.

Unlike other awards, which require wild camping on tough terrain, the Explorer Belt encourages participants to enter towns to meet local people, to gain understanding of a different culture by completing one major and 10 minor projects.

The Clyde Region Explorers and Network members will complete their Explorer Belt in Austria and then travel through Europe, including a visit to Kandersteg International Scout Centre. It's still over a year until the trip and, to the girls, Austria is an unknown entity. 'It would be cool to see some of the wee villages,' says Iona. 'I think the people and the cities will be different – probably posher! Definitely nicer than a lot of the cities here.'

We tramp along, the sky darkening. The girls are exhausted, having walked for over eight hours with their packs. Lucy's feet are blistered. They consider giving in, but refuel with Irn Bru and press on. This fighting spirit will be vital during their Explorer Belt – and it's remarkable to see it in some of the youngest participants.

'It's cool that we're one of the youngest teams,' says Lucy. She recently joined Explorers, but if she's overwhelmed by the scale of the challenge, it doesn't show. 'If we've done [the Explorer Belt] well, it'll be an even bigger achievement – we're doing the same thing as people in their twenties, and we'll only be 16.'

Isla nods emphatically: 'I think people will admire that'. 'Also' – Lucy butts back in – 'if we make some mistakes and work the solutions out, it will show our Scouting skills.'

I ask what skills she means and Iona jumps in. 'You have to mature a lot, to make sure you're safe and you know what you're doing.' We're sloggng uphill in the fading blue light, land rising all around us. 'If you're mature and responsible, when you move away from home, it'll be easier for you to

## 'We're doing the same as people in their twenties, and we'll only be 16'

ISLA, 29TH EXPLORER UNIT

look after yourself,' she continues. We pause before the path turns uphill, towards the lights of the campsite. 'It's all giving you skills for later life.'

Rolling in hours late, we're greeted by the Leaders at the gate, lighting our way with torches. We're the last of the 26 teams: the others already have dinner boiling away on the Trangias they've lugged around all day.

Iona, Isla and Lucy gratefully relinquish their weighty packs, stretching sore shoulders. They're still in good enough spirits to joke about our tardiness: they blame me.

Next morning we're up with the sun, stretching weary, mud-caked legs. Beyond the stumps of recently felled trees, the snowcapped peak of Ben Lomond rises. If you squint, it could almost be the Austrian Alps.

For the leadership team, this is the second Explorer Belt they've organised. An imposing figure in a green kilt and sporran, John Rafferty (known as Raff) – Assistant Regional Commissioner for Explorer Scouts – tells me about the Explorer Belt they ran in 2013.

'We put a questionnaire out to everyone on Young Leader training,' says Raff. He commands nothing but respect from leaders and young people alike, in the most effortlessly affable ►



Clockwise from above: US Explorer Belt participant Neil demonstrates how to pack a rucksack properly; Essential expedition kit; Clyde Explorers navigate the obstacles of the West Highland Way



## EXPLORER BELT



Clockwise from top left: Lucy, Isla and Iona carry heavy packs on their training hike; Network members gather around the fire after a long day of walking; Regional Commissioner Marion Rankin chats with participants

way. 'We asked whether they wanted to do Duke of Edinburgh, an Explorer Belt, or a trip abroad to go to a jamboree. And 99% [of the response] was for the Explorer Belt.'

The team put together a budget to run a blowout three-week trip to America. 'We needed 12 young people to justify it,' Raff grins conspiratorially. '70 turned up for selection.'

Fifty-six participants completed their Explorer Belt in America. Some are back now, mentoring groups to help them plan routes and projects.

'The mentors make sure that as [each team] are planning, they're guided to make sure they get the most out of the 10 days,' Kevin O'Gorman, Chair for Clyde Region, tells me. He describes the Explorer Belt as 'the freedom to explore and adventure, in a safe

environment,' and has seen just how much it can benefit the young people taking part. 'Sometimes, at 16 or 17, you need guidance to show just how broad your horizons can become,' he says. 'Once you've pointed out the things they could achieve, they run with it.'

Angus, 23, was a participant in America and will be a mentor in Austria: 'The Explorer Belt is all about teamwork – it's not really a physical challenge.' He works offshore on a North Sea oilrig, and is spending his time off volunteering.

During his Explorer Belt, his team hiked the Appalachian Trail, pit-stopping in small-town America. His advice for his mentees is to get to know one another: 'Your team are the ones that will pull you out of the mud and say, "You're alright, you can do another 10 miles today."'

Angus describes a day on the Trail. They were on the 'rollercoaster', deep in the Virginian woods, where the path pushes you up a punishing hill in sweltering heat, followed by a merciless descent to leave your knees screaming. There are nine in a row. On the eighth, Angus cracked. 'I was like: "This is not happening."'

The team spurred him on and, as they neared the crest of the final hill, he knew he could make it. But then a teammate began to flag and the roles shifted. 'Whereas [earlier] I was taking a lot of help from the team, I was then giving the help back. You're all there for each other.' They finished their hardest day of hiking still united.

'We met this "thru-hiker" called Soul Flute. He'd taken seven months out of his life to walk the whole Trail,' says another participant-turned-mentor,



Left: John Rafferty briefs the group. Above: Explorers eagerly scribble notes about essential camping equipment

Amy, stifling a laugh. Her team opted to stay in towns, joining the Appalachian Trail for the final two days. 'They all have Trail names; nobody goes by their real name. I still have him on Facebook.'

Amy is now 21 and in the final year of her degree. 'It's really interesting seeing [the Explorer Belt] from both sides,' she says. She'll be mentoring the three girls I hiked with. 'I'm excited to work with my team and make sure they're ready. It'll be a challenge because they're young and they've not done a lot of this before.'

As the Explorers and Network members learn how to properly pack a rucksack, discuss a code of conduct when travelling abroad and take notes about weight-saving camping gear, the mentors' talk turns to the future. 'Our approach is that in four years'

time, we'll take a step back,' says Raff. Having started the process, they now want to make it self-sustaining. 'Those who are participants now will be the mentors, and the mentors this year should be the ones running this event.'

Angus seems ready for the challenge. 'Before I did my Explorer Belt I wasn't as confident as when I came back,' he says. 'You experience all sorts of things. It's a physical journey, and a journey through yourself too.'

All too soon the weekend is over – the participants rush out of their final briefing to pack tents and shake off muddy boots. They swap numbers and make plans to meet up. Iona, Isla and Lucy wave goodbye as they climb into their parents' cars, back to real life.

For the former Clyde Region Explorers and Network members, their Explorer

Belt took them to America: hiking in bear country, meeting the Boy Scouts of America, and – for one unlucky group – camping on the White House lawn, only to be rudely awakened by the US Secret Service. But the experience didn't end there. They have taken the skills and resilience cultivated in America, and applied them: to living away from home for the first time, looking after themselves, and thriving on the path that life has led them down.

And as mentors, helping a new generation of Scouts to succeed, the experience has given them responsibility and aspiration. 'This isn't just a 10 day Explorer Belt,' says John Rafferty. 'This is a three-year adventure.' And it isn't over yet. The teamwork, confidence and self-belief of these amazing volunteers will surely last a lifetime. ✿

## OVER TO YOU



## HOW TO ENSURE EXPLORER BELT SUCCESS

IF YOUR DISTRICT, COUNTY OR REGION ISN'T RUNNING AN EXPLORER BELT, IT'S POSSIBLE TO ORGANISE EVERYTHING INDEPENDENTLY IF ALL TEAM MEMBERS ARE 18+. VIX WALLIS, ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER (NETWORK), NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, OFFERS HER ADVICE:

### FORM A TEAM

The team, of 3–7 members, doesn't have to come from the local area, but it's important to meet in person to make sure you can all work together. The UK Scout Network website [ukscoutnetwork.org.uk](http://ukscoutnetwork.org.uk) is a great way to make contact.

### REGISTER ONLINE

Once the team has formed, each individual must register their interest at [tinyurl.com/hsy7mqo](http://tinyurl.com/hsy7mqo).

### ALLOW ENOUGH TIME

Paperwork (including a 'Visits Abroad' form) must be completed at least three months before departing for Europe, or six months elsewhere. All team members need a passport and insurance. A European Health Insurance Card, immunisations and visas may also be required. Ask your District Scout Network Commissioner or Assistant County Commissioner (International) for advice, and check [gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) before leaving the country.

### MAKE A BUDGET AND A FUNDRAISING PLAN

Explorer Belt trips require international travel, and can get expensive. The team will need to budget for their 10 days abroad – including travel costs, food and accommodation. Start fundraising early: how about

designing a badge, running a quiz or linking up with local businesses?

### PLAN A ROUTE

Teams have the freedom to pick their own major and minor projects, so make sure they plan things they are interested in. The route should take them through urban areas, to allow them to meet local people and complete their projects. Try linking with local Scout Groups through social media to get more information.

### DOUBLE-CHECK EQUIPMENT

The team will need to carry all of their equipment and supplies, so packing light is vital. Encourage them to do practice hikes with all their gear, and make sure the challenge is achievable for all, whatever their ability level. For Nights Away resources, including kit lists, go to [tinyurl.com/hovwo9k](http://tinyurl.com/hovwo9k).



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[wwf.org.uk/greenambassadors4youth](http://wwf.org.uk/greenambassadors4youth)





# Role reversal

We asked two Section Leaders to swap positions for a meeting to see how they coped with being taken out of their comfort zone

Words: Celeste Houlker | Pictures: Robin Mellor

IMAGINE THIS SCENARIO: you're about to order a load of lolly sticks and chocolate moulds online after searching for how to make edible googly eyes for your next Cubs meeting. Your mobile rings and it's your District Commissioner. He tells you that the leader of a short-staffed Explorer Unit has been struck down ill. As a last resort, they ask if you could cover their next meeting. Would you do it? Could you do it?

If your group is low on leaders, swapping roles with those from other sections can be a great way to build local networks, get a more rounded experience of Scouting and provide a back-up plan for emergency cover.

To find out how life as a leader varies from one section to another, we organised our own Scout Swap in Orsett, Thurrock. The experiment was to see how new Scout Leader Daniel

and experienced Beaver Scout Leader Paula would fare swapping roles for a regular evening meeting.

For the Scout Swap, each leader had to design a fun evening for their new section. At the end of the night they had to rate how well they thought they did and their District Commissioner, Graham, who has been both a Beaver and Scout Leader, also rated their performance. ▶



**A BEAVER SCOUT EVENING WITH SCOUT LEADER DANIEL**

Knowing that 2016 marks the 30th birthday of the Beaver section, Daniel decides to celebrate by organising an evening around decorating cupcakes and placing them on a cardboard cut-out of the number 30. To save time, the cupcakes are shop bought and the cardboard cut-out is already prepared.

To get the activity going, Daniel enlists help to set up the tables for decorating, while another leader keeps the Beavers occupied with a game of Keeper of the Keys. After their game, the Beavers are full of energy. Daniel asks them to wash their hands for the activity in a sensible manner, which inevitably results in a loud and chaotic rush to the bathrooms.

Despite the Beavers' boisterousness, Daniel's cupcake activity goes well – each table has a leader to help the Beavers. Daniel gets stuck in at his table too. On the table is a selection of cakes, food colouring and decorations.

'Can we spell something with the cakes?' asks one of the Beavers.

The group decide to spell the word Beavers and they each choose a letter to ice onto their cake. Some find squeezing the food colouring out of the tube difficult, so Daniel helps. Once they are finished, they place the cakes on top of the cardboard cut-out.

After the activity, the Beavers sit down for their favourite drink – blorange (blackcurrant and orange juice) – before sharing their achievements during the week.

The night comes to a close but, before the Beavers can run off with their cakes, Daniel must organise the Colony for their closing songs. He doesn't know them and has to enlist Beaver Scout Leader Paula's help before gathering the Colony in to sing them.

**DANIEL'S VERDICT**

'Running the Beaver meeting was great! I discovered that there

are differences in the format of the evening so, if you're covering a meeting, you need to know the opening and closing ceremonies and their Promise.

'I prefer working with the older sections because they are more independent; they get on and do things themselves. With Beavers, you have to keep one eye on them at all times. They have so much energy! I also like doing adventurous outdoor activities, which you can't do as much with the younger sections.

'I've learned that I can be quite shy at first. Not knowing the Beavers' names was an issue when trying to get them to do something. Next time I'd ask them to wear name badges.

'I enjoyed the energy of the little ones! Seeing them enjoy the activity was very rewarding. I don't think the Beavers are a section I would volunteer in, but I would be happy to cover a Beaver Colony any time.'



#### A SCOUT EVENING WITH BEAVER SCOUT LEADER PAULA

The Scouts are in for a tasty treat: tonight, under Beaver Leader Paula's guidance, they will be making chocolate nests by piping dark, milk and white chocolate on to balloons, stabilised using Maltesers as feet.

The evening starts off with an energetic and unforgiving game of dodge ball. Daniel then introduces Paula to the group and explains the swap experiment, which is met with comments such as 'Oh no, really?' and 'Can the photographer only capture my best side, please?'

Before the activity begins Paula quickly chats to Daniel to find out how to lead the Troop in the breaking of the flag opening ceremony. There's a bit of a mishap with the flag when it gets stuck. The other leaders go over to help her get it down.

With the ceremony over, Paula asks the Scouts to help take the tables out

and melt the chocolate in the kitchen. Once shown what to do, they get on with the activity quite easily. The ones who finish piping their nests first help the others complete theirs. Piping chocolate on to the nests is tricky and it takes two people to secure the balloon.

It's a messy job and Paula and some of the Scouts manage to get into a mini chocolate fight by rubbing chocolate in each other's faces, creating even more mess than the Beavers. As the nests harden up in the fridge, Graham is called in to invest a Cub into the group.

It's a special moment as the Scouts, leaders, Paula and his Cub Scout Leader watch in admiration. Once the investiture is finished and the new Scout is handed his badges, Paula then leads the Troop to a close before sending them home with their nests.

#### PAULA'S VERDICT

'I struggled a little bit with coming up with an activity for tonight because it's a different age group and I know

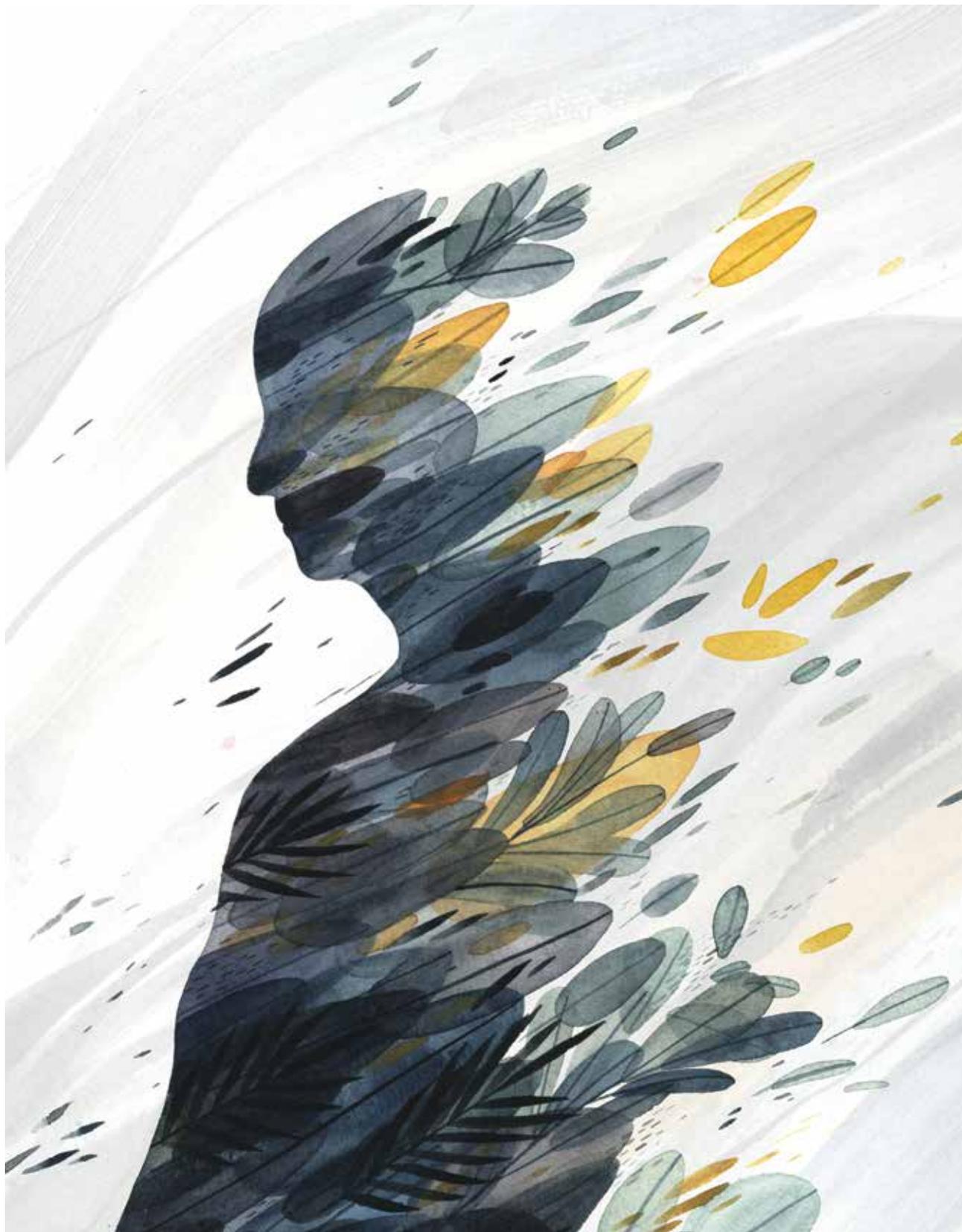
they don't want to do Beaver stuff. I had to crank it up a notch and think like a Scout instead of a Beaver. I think it's easier to work with Beavers, and I prefer working with younger children.

'Doing this experiment has taught me that I can do things if I put my mind to it. It helped that I had support – I think I need to have more confidence in myself to work with older children.

'The swap has been a great experience. The Scouts all listened and took part in the activity. It was fun when we put chocolate on our faces. I think the Scouts absolutely love it when leaders get involved in the mess. I've enjoyed tonight, but I wouldn't consider becoming a Scout Leader [laughs].'

#### GRAHAM'S FINAL VERDICT

'From what I've seen, they have both adapted pretty well and both sets of young people had a great time. As Daniel is still learning, I'll give him three-and-a-half stars and the more experienced Paula four stars.' ✨



# Winning the battle

Nine months after featuring in our A Million Hands video to help raise dementia awareness, Roy Briggs talks about caring for his wife, Joyce

Words: Roy Briggs | Illustration: Maggie Chiang

IT'S EASY TO be told a person has no memory but, unless you have experienced living with the illness first-hand, it's hard to comprehend. Simple routine tasks become awesome hurdles to overcome for a dementia sufferer because they have no memory of ever having tackled them previously. Can you imagine that? Since the A Million Hands video was made, there has been some deterioration in my dear wife's condition but, despite this, we continue to enjoy life to the full.

Frustration remains our worst enemy. If Joyce becomes exasperated over some difficulty she encounters, it affects us both because, generally, I am the only person available on whom she can vent her frustrations. Sometimes she forgets that I've told her things and feels I am keeping her in the dark, that I cannot be trusted. Initially I felt deflated and dismayed; as a carer you do your utmost to ensure the maximum comfort, compassion, kindness and affection at all times, so to be told you can no longer be trusted can leave you gutted.

I find it easier to go along with Joyce's version of events because a golden rule with dementia sufferers is not to

argue. It upsets them, knocks their confidence or confuses them. Unless it's essential from a safety or health point of view, it's more tactful and calming to agree with what is said at the time and then change the subject.

Despite these challenges our love for each other has grown stronger than ever since Joyce was first diagnosed on 31 March 2009. That we have gone on to enjoy seven more wonderful years of real happiness and contentment together shows that life does not have to end when dementia starts.

Hardly a day goes by when we are not off in the car visiting some tourist attraction, coffee shop, garden centre, wildlife park, or enjoying a stroll in the countryside. Our favourite pastime is walking through woodland or a nature reserve. This passion for nature is therapeutic for us both. Joyce may not remember what she did earlier today, but that does not detract from having enjoyed every minute of it. There's an added bonus – return a few days later and it's just as exciting and new as the first visit.

Challenges do confront us in the community and, as Joyce's carer, I am on guard for any hazards or difficulties

she may encounter. Facilities such as public toilets can be a minefield for someone with no short-term memory retention. There are so many different types of tap fittings, flushes and door locks/handles. For someone who has difficulty sorting out the hot tap from the cold tap at home, you can imagine the dilemma Joyce sometimes faces on a trip to the bathroom in a restaurant or shop. Occasionally, she finds herself locked inside a ladies' loo unable to remember how to operate the door-release lock. More than once I've had to rescue her by using a coin on the external emergency groove. The best scenario is a unisex facility large enough to accommodate two people comfortably.

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's is about 'being prepared' for anything, especially as it is so unpredictable. Together, we make a strong team so dementia is sidelined for long periods. Roy and Joyce 9, Dementia!! 🌸

## LEARN MORE

To watch Roy and Joyce's video, visit [amillionhands.org.uk/issue/dementia](http://amillionhands.org.uk/issue/dementia). For dementia-related activities to try with your group, turn to page 85.

# Better together

Faith-based Groups are opening up Scouting to Muslim communities in their Districts. We visit two Scout Groups to see success in action

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Gareth Iwan Jones and Andy Lord

THE GIRLS AND boys hurriedly slip off their shoes and make their way inside the hall to join friends and leaders. While the younger Scouts stick together, the older Scouts file off into separate groups of girls and boys, everyone waiting to see what the meeting has in store for them.

10th Fulwood Scout Group – based in suburban Preston – is one of the growing number of faith-based Groups opening across Britain but, once the Scouting begins, there’s no obvious difference to your standard weekday sessions. You might even be surprised to see how familiar things are.

Inclusion and diversity are part of the inherent values every Scout in the UK lives by. We open our huts to people

from all backgrounds, ages, genders and abilities but, when it comes to ensuring that Scouting is truly inclusive, there are challenges to address. One of these is ensuring the way we Scout is flexible enough to accommodate the faiths and beliefs of everyone involved.

We decided to visit 10th Fulwood and Cardiff’s 1st Cathays Al-Huda Scout Group to discover how successful Scouting is in their communities and the difficulties they have faced putting this into practice.

Preston’s 10th Fulwood Scout Group is a mere eight weeks old but, unlike many other fledgling Groups, there’s no obvious shortage of young people or volunteers. The Group already has

Beaver, Cub and Scout sections, with the hope of a new Explorer Unit being launched in 2017.

‘The reason it works so well is because, like other faiths, Muslims want their children to have the best opportunities in life,’ explains Group Scout Leader Fatima Ismail. ‘A lot of the volunteers are doing it because they want to invest in the community.’

Still in its infancy, the Group is full of expectations and aspirations but isn’t exempt from the usual challenges that arise along the way. ‘At the moment we are constantly changing because some kids try it out and then decide to leave, and we’ve had volunteers helping out before deciding they can’t carry on,’ continues Fatima. ►



## INCLUSIVE SCOUTING

In contrast, 1st Cathays Al-Huda is celebrating its 10th anniversary, with festivities such as a big dinner party taking place this year. This Group has had much longer to settle into Scouting and the confidence they exude shows what the future of 10th Fulwood could look like.

‘The idea for the Group came about 12 years ago,’ explains Group Scout Leader Naveed Rahman. ‘We had a meeting in this very mosque – there were about nine of us here. We only had a few leaders but there weren’t many kids either. It was always our aim for the kids within the Group to become the leaders. We were lucky that the original people who started the Group stuck with it. We have about 45 official leaders now.’

It’s intriguing to see how Scouting in Muslim communities in the UK has blossomed and continues to grow with such vigour. When comparing the set-up and Programme of these Groups with other non-faith-specific Groups, it becomes apparent that this success is due to the flexible nature of Scouting.

Fatima from 10th Fulwood recognises that they’ve made some alterations to better suit their needs: ‘I think the biggest difference is probably that the meetings are suited to the majority of the children in our Group. Because they have after-school Muslim school, we meet on the weekends instead of during the week. Secondly because all sections meet at the same time, parents only have one drop off.’

Fatima lists a few more basic differences, such as ensuring camp food is halal and making sure the young people are properly clean

for prayers by washing their face, arms and feet.

More problematic are the bigger, Christian-based celebrations, such as St George’s Day: ‘I looked into it and thought, realistically, this isn’t really going to work for us as Muslims. There are certain things like these that cause a dilemma,’ she explains.

‘We need to find a way that people of other faiths and no faith can attend a St George’s Day celebration, and that they’re aware of the meaning and importance,’ adds County Development Officer Andy Marsden.

As a faith-based Group, 10th Fulwood are actively seeking out ways to teach their young people about other religions so they can understand and appreciate them. Cubs from 10th Fulwood visited a local nursing home to give presents to residents, and leaders taught the young people how Christmas is celebrated by Christians.

When asking 1st Cathays about the differences, they don’t feel there are many. ‘We follow the same structure and agenda,’ says Leader Ibrahim. ‘Whenever we’ve met up with other Groups it’s always been seamless.’

Young Leader Sara agrees: ‘It’s not too different because they’re usually attached to a church hall even if they aren’t religious, and we’re attached to a mosque, so it’s similar in that respect.’ The only differences are the slight changes to the way things are being run, which means Scouting is more accessible to them.

The reason these faith-based Scout Groups formed was to open up the world of Scouting to the Muslim

## ‘The volunteers are doing it because they want to invest in the community’

FATIMA, GSL, 10TH FULWOOD SCOUT GROUP

community in their Districts, explains Fatima. ‘I think it gives parents peace of mind. At a certain age there are things that young people have to do, like go to prayers, and everyone at the Group understands that, so when they go away to camp, there’s no worrying.’

When establishing 10th Fulwood, the Muslim community gathered in the mosque and all agreed to give Scouting their backing, which secured a solid number of volunteers to help run the sections.

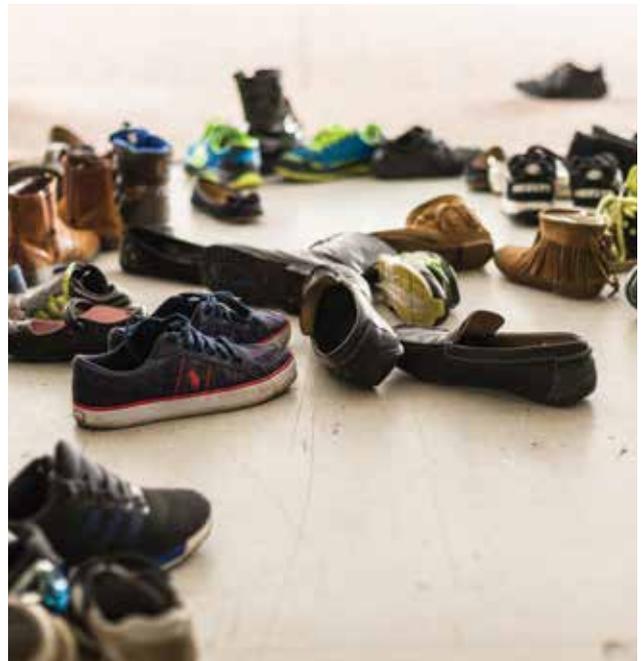
The process was similar for 1st Cathays, in that the local Muslim community recognised a need for some kind of group for the young people and saw how beneficial it would be to follow a structured Programme rather than meet without a sense of purpose.

‘It’s the longevity of it, the support we get and variety of things that the kids can do within Scouting, as opposed to a youth club where structure can fall by the wayside,’ explains Naveed.

Just as most other Groups face problems when establishing themselves, 1st Cathays and 10th Fulwood have had the additional challenge of dispelling the concern that faith-based Groups aren’t integrated enough in the rest of the Scouting community. This is particularly the case with Muslim ▶



Above and right: All ages celebrate 1st Cathays' 10 year anniversary in Cardiff City Hall. Below: Young people kick off their shoes before the fun begins in Preston





10th Fulwood Cubs plant seeds at the Madrasah while the rest of the group get together for some classic Scout games

## ‘Whenever we’ve met up with other Groups it’s always been seamless’

IBRAHIM, LEADER, 1ST CATHAYS

Groups that have the added backing of the Muslim Scout Fellowship, a National Scout Active Support Unit working to promote Scouting in the Muslim community, support all Muslim members and represent their needs within The Association.

Even though 10th Fulwood is still in its infancy, CDO Andy Marsden is already aware of how important it is to remain connected. ‘The Muslim Scout Fellowship is great for support,’ he explains. ‘We want to avoid

segregation, so we also want our Group involved in an active District and County Programme.’

1st Cathays’ Sara also insists that segregation needn’t be the case: ‘One of the advantages the District has is us being the only Muslim Scout Group in Wales. A couple of sections have visited the mosque for the My Faith Badge and we talk to them about our faith and how things are run here.’

Members Faisal and Yusuf also attended last year’s Jamboree in Japan. They talk about how great it was to meet Scouts from all over the world and how excited they are that the Group aims to send more members of their Group to the next one.

Nora Nagi, representative of the Muslim Scout Fellowship explains why Scouting in Muslim communities

is so important: ‘There is an important need to combat the lack of integration of many British Muslims, and need for Muslim youth to feel they are valued and influential members of the British society in which they live. Scouting provides a solution to this. Our aim is to work collaboratively with the District to make Scouting even more accessible to the Muslim community.’

Just because a Group follows a different religion, or runs their evenings slightly differently, it doesn’t mean they will become separated from the rest of the District. If anything, Groups such as these have proven they can encourage people to come together and learn from each other. Religious beliefs aren’t an issue in Scouting. The key is to ensure that members’ faith, or lack thereof, is recognised as a diverse element that enriches our Scouting experience. ✨

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# Endless summer

When school's out for the holidays, it doesn't have to signal an end for Scouting – with a little creativity, the fun can keep going

Words: Jess Connett | Illustrations: Marina Muun

THERE'S NO SEASON like the British summer for Scouting. At this time of the year, with light evenings stretching on and on, the Programme possibilities seem endless. As July creeps onwards, the woods, gardens and green spaces around Scout huts fill with excited young people playing games and doing adventurous outdoor activities. But for many Scout Groups, as soon as the light evenings really arrive, Scouting halts for the summer. Tradition dictates that when the schools are out for the holiday, Scout huts also close their doors.

But it's not true of every Group, and some continue to run a very successful Programme over the summer months. Ash is Group Scout Leader at 14th Coventry, and a summer Scouting veteran, with over a decade of experience running summer sessions for Cubs and Scouts. Debbie, a Beaver

and Cub Leader in Craven Lea, Hull, continued Scouting over the summer for the first time last year, with a brand-new Beaver Colony and Cub Pack. Here are their top tips for successful summertime Scouting:

## FIND A SUITABLE VENUE

This doesn't have to be the usual meeting place: Ash's Group meets in a school during the term so, when it closes for the long summer holiday, they move just up the road to utilise the facilities at their local County campsite. Debbie's Group stayed in their usual hall last year but ran nights outside when the weather was good – often taking the young people out to play in the big field nearby.

## MAKE LINKS WITH LOCAL GROUPS

Finding leaders for activities through the summer can be tough, but Ash's Group successfully linked up with

others in the District and County to 'borrow' volunteers and ensure they had enough adults each week. Ash's Group is quite small and doesn't own much camping kit so, through these links, they've been able to share equipment, and have taken their young people away on big summer camps together.

## BE PREPARED FOR THE WEATHER

Summer ought to be the time that Scouting goes outdoors and stays there until it's told to come back in, but sometimes a Great British washout is inevitable. Ash says they always keep an eye on the forecast and have a contingency plan for outdoor activities. They also make sure the young people arrive in suitable clothing and shoes, no matter how nice the weather looked when they set out from home. Debbie ran a flexible Programme last year, where ►

## SUMMER SCOUTING

activities could be swapped at short notice, depending on the weather. If it was a glorious evening, they scrapped the indoor badge work and went outside to play.

### KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SCOUTING HABIT

Both Debbie and Ash have found that continuing to Scout during the summer has meant they retain more young people and don't see numbers dropping off much in September. Scouts can occupy young people in a fun but structured way, especially in areas where lots of clubs and activities are closed during the school holidays.

It's easier to keep young people – especially older Scouts, entering their teenage years – in the habit of coming to meetings every week, rather than getting them back into the habit after they've dropped off the radar for six weeks over the summer.

### TRY MORE TRADITIONAL SCOUTING SKILLS

Being outdoors during daylight hours offers a unique chance to do things that there often isn't time for during Scout meetings, like going on long hikes in the local area, or making a whole meal during an evening of backwoods cooking. Not having to worry about it getting dark while you're out means you can make sessions longer too, although be sure to check with parents first.

### GET OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY

The summer is a great time for trying adventurous activities at Scout Activity Centres, or visiting attractions in the local community that are open later than usual during the summer holiday. Last year, to add



variety to the summer Programme, Debbie took her Beavers and Cubs out to visit the local city farm and waterways, which they really enjoyed and might not otherwise have had the chance to see.

### CHARGE BY THE WEEK

Forget trying to charge subs for the summer: Ash found through experience that parents are unwilling to pay for a block of sessions when they are pretty sure their young people won't be able to attend them all. Instead, both Ash and Debbie opted to charge a small nightly fee to each Scout, which worked out much better and stopped the cost of participation from being a barrier to access.

### SELECT SUMMER BADGES

Debbie's Group carried on with badge work during the summer, but they strategically picked badges that encouraged the whole Group to go outside, such as the Adventure Challenge Badge. Keeping up with badge work over the summer provides an added incentive to come to each

session, especially for the younger sections, for whom getting a badge feels like a real achievement.

### HAVE A PARENT ROTA

Running sessions every week can be a really big commitment for volunteers, especially during the summer when there are additional childcare commitments as well as holidays to contend with.

An effective way to take the pressure off everyone is by drawing up a rota. If there are gaps in the rota and you need more adults, invite parents and guardians along to supervise and help their young people with activities.

### RUN LOW-COST ACTIVITIES

The impact of receiving payment weekly, and running sessions for fewer young people than during term time, means a summer Programme will either dip into Group funds, or will have to be run on a tight budget. But low-cost doesn't have to mean low-fun. Debbie ran a den-building night using nothing but old cardboard boxes, which entertained the Group for over two hours.

So, as we race towards the summer holidays, it is worth considering that summer doesn't have to mean the end of Scouting. A more outdoor-focused and less formal, pay-as-you-go Scouting model might be a departure from the norm for many Groups. But for the young people, spending long August nights messing around in the river on rafts they made themselves, or going for a long walk through woods and toasting marshmallows over the campfire might just be the rose-tinted, halcyon days that they remember every time they smell wood smoke on the air. ✿

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

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

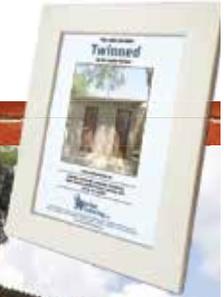
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# Engineering success

Reaching out to parents helped 79th Reading Chieftan Scouts discover a pool of talented and willing volunteers who, in turn, were able to help them learn some impressive new skills

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Andy Donohoe

SCOUT LEADERS ARE called upon to be experts in many fields. From changing the inner tube on a bike in lashing rain, knee-deep in mud, to cooking breakfast for 60 people: Scouting often takes a leader way outside their day-to-day comfort zone.

And that's not to mention the skills required of leaders to tackle particular badges. Coupled with a demand for a varied Programme, leaders are increasingly pushing themselves to offer their section badges and activities they might never have done before.

But what happens when a leader reaches their limit? Not everyone can be good at everything, and not every team has the diversity in its ranks to tick every box. Where can Scout Leaders look for skilled people to run activities?

Peter McBride, Scout Leader at 79th Reading Chieftan Scouts, struck gold when he reached out to parents – an often under-utilised resource for Scout

Groups. It allowed them to run an Activity Badge they hadn't been able to try before.

'I'm a software engineer in a research company,' says Lois. Having studied a degree in electrical and electronic engineering, she's been working in a rapidly changing field for over 20 years. 'The simulations that used to take us days to work through now take minutes,' she says of the advances in computing power and technology within her industry.

Both of Lois's children attend Scouting, after some encouragement to give it a go. Her son joined as a Scout, and her daughter – after seeing her brother enjoying it so much – asked to become a Beaver.

'I used to be in Girlguiding,' explains Lois. 'I got so much out of those opportunities.' She had the desire to 'give back' to Scouting in a traditional leadership role but, as the main

breadwinner in her household, she found that she often got home from work too late to help regularly at her son's Scout Group.

As a chartered engineer and a member of The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), Lois's job occasionally gives her the chance to speak to young people about careers in engineering. She is passionate about the need to encourage more young people into the industry – especially when it comes to the damaging negative stereotypes surrounding the ability of women to excel in subjects such as physics and maths. 'It's easier to change the attitudes of younger people,' she says.

So, when Lois discovered that the IET partners a Scout badge to encourage more young people to take part in electronic engineering projects, and has produced lots of online resources, Lois had a look into them. 'There was lots of badge material that had loads of helpful information,' she recalls. 'For ►





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‘The leaders are brilliant but we knew they probably didn’t have the skills to run the badge’

LOIS, PARENT VOLUNTEER

me, especially with my background in engineering, none of it looked too difficult to do.’

Picking her son up after Scouts one night, she got talking to two other parents, Graham and David, who work in a similar field. They discussed the idea of collaborating to run a couple of evenings, and to do the badge with the Scouts. ‘The leaders are brilliant but we knew they probably

didn’t have the specific skills to run [the badge],’ says Lois.

With the blessing of the leaders, Lois agreed with the other parents – neither of whom had volunteered with Scouts before – to complete the IET Scout Electronics Badge over three sessions. They spaced them out over the course of a term to keep things interesting and fit the sessions around their work commitments.

On the first night, the leaders helped them to run games, and then the parents’ team took over running the night, showing the Scouts how to make a simple electrical toy. It was a toothbrush bug – an activity described in the activity pack. ‘We were able to supply a lot of the equipment ourselves, like the soldering irons,’ says Lois. Between Lois, the two dads, and

some equipment borrowed from work, they were able to get their hands on everything they needed.

‘On the second night we made a more complex circuit with more components, like a light-sensing diode, which we used to make night lights. The Scouts had more of a feel of how to put the components together by then,’ says Lois.

The third night was a real leap in skill progression. ‘We did some soldering, which a lot of the Scouts had never done before. We helped them all to do it safely. When we first showed them the project they were going to make, they said things like “I couldn’t make that.” But by the end of the session they had all done it. There was a real sense of achievement.’ She pauses, and adds: ‘Without us parents, they would never have done it.’



Previous page: Lois helps a Scout fix a component. Clockwise from left: Scouts make toothbrush bugs from mobile phone parts; Parent volunteer Graham assists 79th Reading Chieftain Scouts; an activity from the IET



## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

This occasional, flexible helping isn't usually the sort of volunteering parents imagine they'll be involved with if they offer to help at Scouts. For many, helping on a regular once-a-week basis is just not practical, perhaps because of other commitments. But the parents, grandparents, guardians and extended families of every member of Scouting have skills – whether they are professional or social.

'I think a lot of parents don't want to offer up their skills as they don't think they have the time to be a leader,' says Lois. The flexible volunteering route they took – to come and help with specific activities – was a good alternative to the traditional promise to help out a number of times a month. And it has the potential to be replicated in many different Scout Groups, and in many different ways.

Overall, for 79th Reading Scouts, the experience was positive. 'We did something new,' Lois says, 'and opened the eyes of the Scouts to new possibilities.' It'll be a good few years before we know if any of them have gone on to become engineers, but the seeds have been sown.

The only challenging part of the experience for Lois? 'The risk assessment for the soldering irons!' she laughs.

For Scout Leader Peter it's been a great experience: 'For a varied programme, it's important to have other people's input,' he says. 'Having parents that are willing to put their hands up and help on occasion is extremely useful.'

The leaders have now potentially widened their pool of helpers, and the

parents have had a great volunteering experience with Scouting: something they might talk to their colleagues at work about, or keep in the back of their mind the next time they see a notice in the hall saying the Scouts need more leaders.

'Many parents might lack the confidence to stand up in front of a bunch of kids, so [the flexible volunteering option] is a confidence builder,' adds Peter. 'Next time they can run it themselves, or maybe get involved in Scouting.'

And for the young people, they've had a glimpse into a world they might never otherwise have had access to. It's more than another badge: it's a learning experience and one that, for a few, might just define their future career choices. ✿



Clockwise from above: The Scouts compare notes; learning how to use the right tools for the job; the finished bug is ready to be released



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# Lessons for life

We join Explorer Scouts from Staffordshire as they launch a project to raise awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse

Words: Celeste Houliker | Pictures: Jo Denison

'I'M REALLY NERVOUS,' whispers Leonie softly, before rushing over to join fellow Explorers Dana, Alastair and Jamie as they sort through a stack of handouts they've prepared for the evening ahead.

Tonight is an important and potentially life-changing occasion for her and 11 other Explorers as they deliver their pilot drug and alcohol awareness workshop to a group of expectant Scouts at their meeting place in Leek, Staffordshire.

As the Scouts filter into the small hut, the room hums with chatter and activity as the Explorers make last-minute preparations and the Scouts are rounded up. The atmosphere in the hut is tense – the excitement and nerves palpable as hush slowly descends over the room.

The issue the Explorers are here to discuss is a serious one. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Britain currently ranks 13th highest for heavy drinking out of 196 countries. Young drinkers between 16

and 24 are more likely to binge drink than adults, with 26% of young people consuming up to 14 units of alcohol in one drinking session. Roughly 10,000 fines are issued to young people under 19 for being drunk and disorderly in the UK every year.

However, the issue is not just limited to alcohol. Now, more than ever, there is easy access to legal highs (psychoactive drugs) that can be purchased online with the click of a button. According to statistics, one in 40 young people aged between 16 and 24 have used a legal high at least once in the past year.

There are many reasons why a young person will binge drink or take drugs recreationally, including peer pressure, wanting to have fun or using alcohol and drugs as a way to deal with situations at home or school.

Repeated use of drugs and alcohol has been known to delay the development of a young person's brain, modify behaviour and cause long-term damage to their health.

In light of this, the Staffordshire Moorlands Scout Group has decided to tackle youth involvement with drugs and alcohol head-on by devising and running awareness-raising workshops for the other Scout Troops, Explorer Units and Network members in their local community.

In 2015, Staffordshire Moorlands requested support with setting up a community impact project. As a result, they took part in a workshop in London where they were given guidance on how to deliver a high-quality project. Lucy, 17, and Explorer Scout Leader Nathan attended this workshop and since then the group have been developing their drug-awareness programme.

'I find it surprising how common drug and alcohol abuse is,' says Lucy. 'I think one of the reasons for it is peer pressure. If we can make young people aware of the drugs and alcohol issue and the negative effects it can have on them and their health, the risk of them being influenced by others will hopefully be minimised. ▶

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

‘Young people taking drugs isn’t acceptable,’ she continues. ‘Something needs to be done about it so that they understand the consequences of their decisions and how their actions now will affect them later in life.’

Using what they learned from the community impact workshop, the Explorer Unit contacted the local council. They spoke about the different social issues in their area and decided to focus on drug and alcohol awareness.

‘It was a slow start; it took many attempts to get the project off the ground, working out everything we had to do, from developing the workshop to delivering it,’ says Lucy.

Their Explorer Scout Leader and District Commissioner, Julie, was

very hands-off when working on the project, but did step in to help the Explorers find a partner to train them in alcohol and drugs mentoring. ‘From the very beginning it was their project and their issue to tackle,’ says Julie, ‘and they have done all of the work towards it. I was absolutely determined they were going to do it themselves, but we still needed to find a partner to help us plan and develop the workshops.’

‘A few teacher friends mentioned they had previously worked with T3, a charity that educates young people to reduce the risks and harm associated with alcohol and drug misuse.’

The Explorers spent two, six hour-long sessions with T3. Explorer Scout Leonie, who took over from Lucy as the youth lead midway through

‘If we can make young people aware of the issue, the risks can hopefully be minimised’

LUCY, STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS EXPLORER

the project, recalls what it was like having to be educated on this topic: ‘That weekend was really eye-opening. We did a drug, alcohol and mentoring workshop.’

‘Being 17 and one of the oldest Explorers in the group, it was strange to be sitting there and still learning things. I thought I knew everything there was to know about drugs!’ ▶





Facing page: Leonie and Jamie share facts about Class A drugs. This page, clockwise from top: Elwyn tests the Scouts' knowledge; Alastair explains the pizza game; enjoying a game of True or False; Dana leads the pizza game



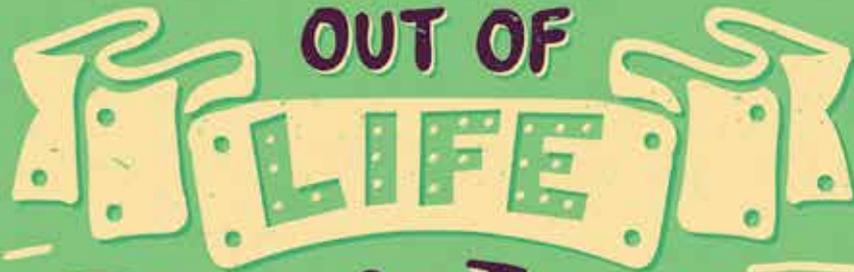


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It's clear that the session left a lasting impression on the young people. Soon after their training, the Explorers banded together to run a pilot workshop, which is how they came to find themselves in front of an audience of excitable Scouts at their meeting place in Leek.

While the Explorers have a quick team brief, Lucy leads the Scouts into a game to keep them occupied. A typical workshop would have a flip board, table and pens, but not so tonight. Each activity teaches the Scouts about the consequences of drug taking.

'After we did the course, we thought about the Scouts' concentration span and decided we wanted to make the workshop both fun and informative,' explains Alastair, who was in charge

of creating a game called Risk, which taught the Scouts about the side effects that come with drug taking.

The first activity is a game of True or False where the Scouts are presented with a question or fact about drugs or alcohol and they have to run to either the 'truth' wall or the 'false' wall to give their answer.

The Scouts let out an eruptive cheer when they get the answer right and poke fun at each other when they get it wrong. After each question, Leonie and Jamie take time to explain the correct answer, explaining the legality and science behind each of the substances mentioned.

'We're hoping that the Scouts will see us as role models and that we think

**'It was strange to still be learning things. I thought I knew everything about drugs!'**

LEONIE, STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS EXPLORER

misusing drugs is wrong,' says Alastair. 'Hopefully this will result in them seeing it as wrong too and start a chain reaction among their friends.'

The meeting continues with the Explorers taking it in turns to run their activities. The team works well together, supporting each other when they need it. 'The teamwork aspect is ►

## ‘I’ve never seen a group of Scouts so engaged and they took a lot away from the session’

JULIE, EXPLORER SCOUT GROUP LEADER

great – we vaguely knew how to work as a team when we first started the project, but this pilot has brought us together,’ says Alastair.

‘My favourite bit of tonight was playing Risk and the pizza game – learning about how many people die

from drugs each year,’ says one of the Scouts taking part.

After the workshop, Julie has some constructive feedback for the group: ‘I think they did a brilliant job, I’m so proud of them,’ she says. ‘I’ve never seen a group of Scouts so engaged and they took a lot away from the session. There’s still room for improvement though – they need to work on their timescales and tightening up their activities next time.’

The Explorers celebrate with a sigh of relief and high-fives. ‘We weren’t totally sure about what we were going to do for the workshop tonight, but we now know that this is a good start,’ says a beaming Alastair.

‘I hope that, as the older Explorers, we can pass this project down to the younger Explorers,’ adds Leonie.

Having successfully piloted their workshop, the hard work for the Explorers now begins: planning, organising and delivering more workshops to realise their ambition of educating young people about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. ✨

### PLAN YOUR OWN WORKSHOP

If your Group would like to take part in a local community impact workshop and get working on their Community Impact Staged Activity Badge, email [community.impact@scouts.org.uk](mailto:community.impact@scouts.org.uk).



Clockwise from left: The Staffordshire Moorlands Explorers brainstorm their workshop; setting the agenda for the evening; Leonie and Quaver present their research about cannabis to the rest of the Unit

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# Voices of youth

A year after the Local Youth Commissioner roles were created, we caught up with five young people who took the positions to hear their experiences

Words: Celeste Houlker

IT HAS BEEN a year since the County Youth Commissioner (CYC) and District Youth Commissioner (DYC) roles were first created. The CYCs and DYC's are appointed to represent the views and voices of the young people involved in Scouting locally, and to help make decisions about Programme activities alongside adult volunteers. These roles are important to really help embed Youth Shaped Scouting and reach the goals set out as part of Scouting For All.

We talked to five CYCs and DYC's who are flying the flag for Youth Shaped Scouting to see how they are finding life in their roles so far.

**FRANKIE SMITH**  
EAST SUSSEX COUNTY  
YOUTH COMMISSIONER

When Frankie was an Explorer he volunteered as a Young Leader in his local Scout Troop. He helped make decisions about the Scouts' activities and organised meetings. From there, he progressed to becoming an adult leader and now CYC.

'Being the CYC is great – a real learning curve for me. When I was appointed,

six other DYC's and my Deputy CYC were also appointed. I really enjoy the fact there is a team of us who work together. I'm learning how to manage and support volunteers as well as how the County and District teams work.

'East Sussex is a very large County. Since being appointed, I've had the opportunity to learn about each District's needs, and have been supported by the DYC's who know their District very well. Having their knowledge helps when coming up with plans on what we want to achieve and understanding how to support the District team.

'In my role so far, along with the DYC's, I have set milestones we want to reach as a County. These are around putting into place the changes to the Scout Network, developing Young Leader training and setting up a youth team for every decision-making committee in the County. This year we ran a roadshow during #YouShape Week. We also held a youth forum on the weekend of YouShape for every section.

'I enjoy having the chance to represent the voice of young people in County

team meetings. I'm not the token young person at the table; I am instead a team member responsible for championing the young person's voice.'

**ANNA SKIPWORTH**  
BARKING AND DAGENHAM  
DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSIONER

Anna got involved in Scouting aged 11, when her best friend Conor brought her along to Scouts as a way of staying in touch before they left for different secondary schools. When she was transitioning into becoming an adult volunteer she enrolled at the University of Essex to study modern history. She took a brief break from Scouting to concentrate on her studies, but soon realised she missed it.

'It was actually Conor's dad who got me back into Scouting. He asked me if I'd like to volunteer with an Explorer Unit that needed an extra pair of hands. Within three weeks I was putting in my application to become an Explorer Scout Leader.

'It was my first leadership role. I just love every second of being an Explorer Scout Leader and the opportunities it gives me. I do this role as well as my ►



Clockwise from top left: Anna and her Explorer Scouts; selfies with the County team; Frankie's horror show on Scout FM; Frankie embraces his wild side; Frankie visits Beavers and Cubs in his county; Frankie with Jagz talking all things Youth Shaped; Anna finds a new friend

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## 'The closer we work with the young people we're trying to help, the more effective we'll be'

ALEC, BURTON DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSIONER

DYC duties. I get to be a part of the planning meetings, which means being able to run the camps instead of just attending them!

'I was appointed at the Greater North-East selection day along with my deputy. Since then we've been finding our feet in our roles. A lot of leaders are unsure about what Youth Shaped Scouting is, so we are looking at hosting a workshop to address this.

'The first event we did as a District youth team was an activity day for all sections in the District. Beavers, Cubs,

Scouts and Explorers ran activities and the young people chose which activity they wanted to do. We asked them if they had a good day and we received a massive "yes". That's when I thought, "Right I've done my job!"

MATTHEW MOLLART  
WILTSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSIONER

Matthew is passionate about Youth Shaped and local Scouting. Before his role as CYC, he was a Young Leader and Youth Representative on his County Executive committee.

'Since my appointment, my County Commissioner has been a guiding light for me and has helped me find my feet in the role. I was appointed at the end of 2015 and we are now appointing our DYC team.

'This role gives me the chance to really make a difference to Scouting locally. I enjoy visiting the different Districts in the County and find meeting the young people really rewarding. One

of my highlights has been working on the County development plan, making sure it is Youth Shaped. As a County team we are looking at how to meet Scouting for All, so I am concentrating on how to encourage young people to attend youth forums.

'Going forward, I want to have regular youth forums. However, I do think they need to happen in the District first, which is why I'm looking forward to having the DYCs in place. I'm also looking at organising a Young Leader weekend. Young Leaders are the future of Scouting, so it's important we give them their say.'

EMMA COOPER  
EAST LANCASHIRE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSIONER

Emma joined Scouting as a Beaver. When she was an Explorer, she decided to leave Scouting for a period of time after feeling frustrated with the Programme. Now she dedicates her time to making sure young people in Scouting are able to share their



Left: Matthew with his UK contingent team in Japan for the 2015 Jamboree. Above: Matthew masters the art of making a newspaper sun hat while on camp

## LOCAL YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

opinions about the activities they do. 'Since my appointment we've held two County youth forums. We discussed the camps the young people would like to go on and we talked about having a County necker or badge. Now we have that information, we can work towards making them a reality.

'I've met with the District Commissioners to discuss the DYC role. I want to start working with DYCs but I'm not going to pressure District Commissioners into appointing young people.

'Working with the social media team is a lot of fun. The local news websites have picked up our social media posts. I want to raise the profile of Scouts in our area and change perceptions.

'For the future, I want to run a regular County forum three times a year. This will be the place where District teams are able to put forward ideas at County level. My deputy has been appointed

now, so together I'm sure we will be able to work on a good plan.'

ALEC TOMLINSON  
BURTON DISTRICT YOUTH  
COMMISSIONER

Alec is currently studying food science at Huddersfield University, which is outside his Scout District. Like most volunteers, he manages to balance his student/working life with his Scouting responsibilities. Before being appointed DYC, Alec held roles as a Beaver, Scout and Network Leader.

'My current role as DYC is my favourite role because it's uncharted territory – nobody has done the role before and that's exciting. Since my appointment, we've been running youth forums and have already seen a change in attitude towards Youth Shaped Scouting.

'Youth forums are not a case of putting forward an idea and then leaving it. We ask young people

to think about the ideas, how to make them happen and vote on the best. Ultimately, I would like to have more young people represented on decision-making panels. I also think forums are a great place to spot future leaders.

'Being away at university means I'm not always on hand, so there is a team of us spanning different age ranges. We all work well together and I know the others will look after things when I'm not in Burton.

'As a Movement, the closer we work with the young people we're trying to help, the better we'll understand them and the more effective we'll be.' ✿

---

### FIND OUT MORE

To read more about the County Youth Commissioner and District Youth Commissioner roles, visit [scouts.org.uk/youshape](https://scouts.org.uk/youshape).



Clockwise from above: Emma and some of the UK Youth Commissioner team face their fears at an indoor climbing centre; Emma helps to host a County forum, sharing the vision of Youth Shaped Scouting; Alec leads from the front and gets involved in a game of Slip and Slide; making Promises at #YouShape 2016

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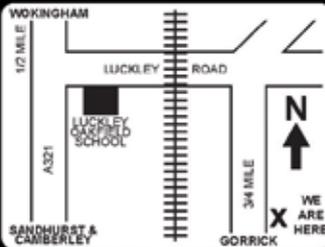


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Lesley Ashton,  
LEADER, GIRLGUIDING SLOUGH



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# CREATE A SOLAR TOWER

Harness the warmth of the sun by making a heat-powered tower

SUITABLE FOR **CUBS**, SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS

**1** Split your section into pairs. Each pair will make a tower, so make sure you have enough equipment for everyone. Ask each pair to tape three cans together to make their tower, ensuring there are no sharp edges.

**2** Unfold a paper clip and use it to create an arch across the top of the tower. Tape it in place.

**3** Tape a drawing pin at the top of this arch.

**4** Make a pinwheel. Cut diagonally towards the centre from each corner of the square card. Stop 2cm from the centre each time. Fold every other point to the centre, taping down.

**5** Balance the pinwheel on the drawing pin on top of the tower.

**6** Put the two books next to each other and then move apart by about 2–3cm.

**7** Position the tower on top of the books over a space to allow air to flow from below.

**8** When this tower is placed in the sunlight, warm air inside the cans will create a convective updraft and spin the pinwheel – an example of renewable energy.

TIME NEEDED

30–40 minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

For each tower:

- Three large, clean, empty tin cans (top and bottom removed)
- Tape
- Paper clips
- Drawing pins
- A 15cm square of thin white card
- Four hardback books, same size

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Cubs Environmental Conservation Activity Badge

## OUTCOMES

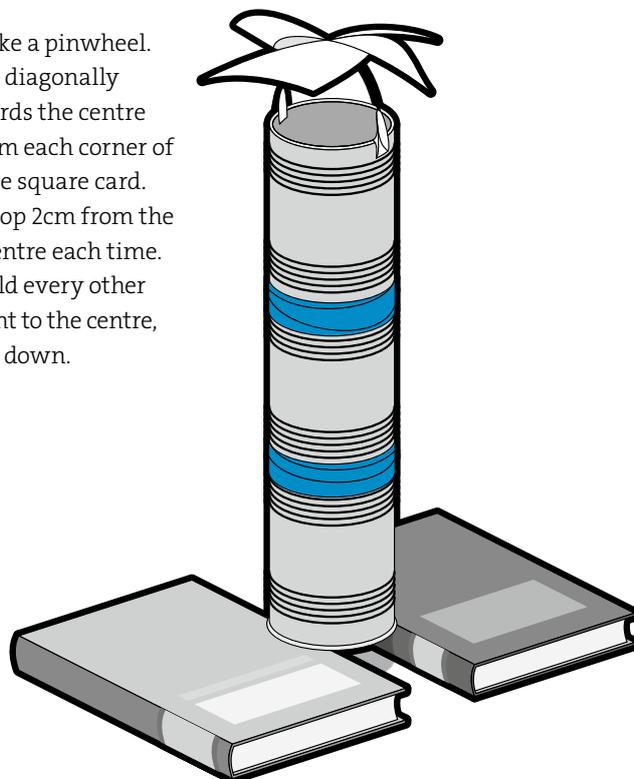
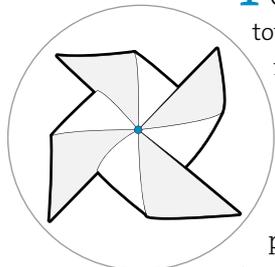
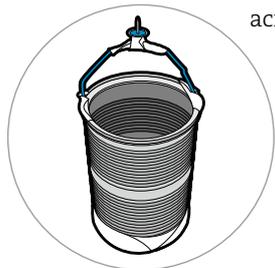
The young people will learn how to create a thermal tower, which will help them to understand simple thermodynamics. They will also be introduced to the idea of how a convective updraft can be used to spin a wheel, and how this is a source of renewable energy. To find out more about thermodynamics, go to [tinyurl.com/qzqz3gf](http://tinyurl.com/qzqz3gf).

## TAKE IT FURTHER

Now that the young people have found out about the affect of warm air, they can find out about what 'warm' and 'cold' air masses do to the typical weather in your area and note down the effects of land and sea on air masses.

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# CRAFT STICK CATAPULT

Construct a powerful catapult using craft sticks and everyday items

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

**1** Ask the young people to take two craft sticks and place one on top of the other. Join them together at one end with an elastic band, looping it around to secure the sticks together tightly.

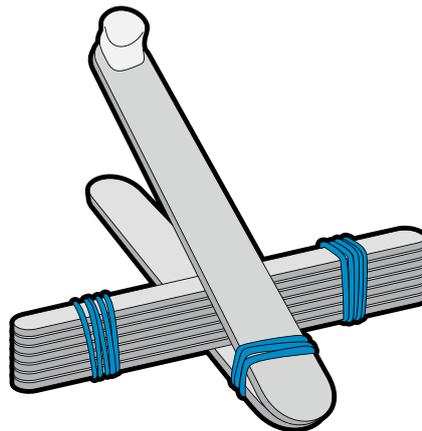
**2** Place the remaining eight craft sticks on top of each other, and tie together at each end with elastic bands. Alternatively, tie them with string to practise your knots.

**3** Slide the stack of eight sticks in between the two sticks, so that they form a 'V' shape. Press the ends of the 'V' shape towards each other and you'll see how strong the spring is.

**4** Glue a bottle top to the end of one of the sticks to use as the catapult bucket. Hold the

bottom stick of the catapult down firmly. Press down the bucket on the other stick, put in place the 'ammunition' (such as a pom-pom or small ball) and let it go.

**5** Get the young people to measure how far the ammunition goes and practise their aiming skills.



**EXTRA ACTIVITY:** With any leftover craft sticks, the group can layer them to create tension, resulting in an explosive 'chain reaction' when they are released. See the illustration on the left for an example of how to layer the sticks correctly.



## TIME NEEDED

**30** minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- 10 craft sticks per catapult
- Elastic bands
- Plastic lids from soft drink bottles
- Glue
- Pom-poms or small rubber balls

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Pioneer Activity Badge



Beavers Camp Craft Activity Badge

## OUTCOMES

The project will help the young people to understand simple engineering skills and the basics of catapult physics – the use of stored energy to launch a projectile. Once the catapult is created, they can practise their aiming skills.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Get the young people to make a craft stick chain reaction by layering them to create tension, as shown in the diagram (see left). The chain can be as long as you like (the longer the better). When the young people release them, they'll be amazed at what happens! They could also try creating a more powerful catapult using a similar design to the one featured here, but instead using a metal foldback clip inserted into the 'V' and tied to the craft sticks with string.

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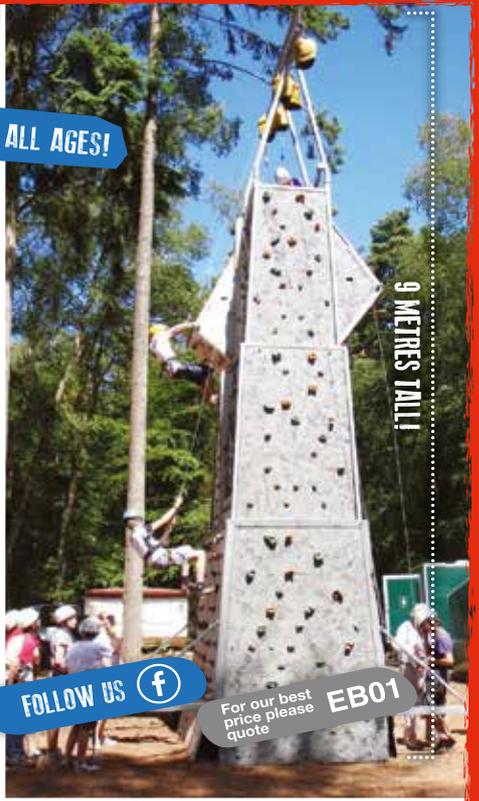
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[Wicksteed Park](http://Wicksteed Park)

[wicksteedpark.org](http://wicksteedpark.org)





# BALL GAMES

As a big summer of European football gets under way in France, it's the perfect time to host your own football fun!

## ON YOUR HEAD

### **TIME NEEDED:**

20 minutes

### **SUITABLE FOR:**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts

Line the young people up in front of a hoop on the floor. Choose a term like 'offside'. Throw a football to the first person, who must head it into the hoop. If they don't 'score', they say the first letter of the phrase and go to the back of the line. When a person misses enough hoops to spell the phrase, they're out. The last person in wins.

## FOOTIE SWERVE

### **TIME NEEDED:**

30 minutes

### **SUITABLE FOR:**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts

Split your group into two teams. Set up two rows of obstacles using chairs

and cushions alternately until you have 3–4 of each, ending with a flag. Line up a team in front of each row of obstacles. The first person taps the ball through the chair legs, round the cushions and round the flag, then back down to the start. The next person does the same. The first team to complete the course wins.

## COLOUR CONSCIOUS

### **TIME NEEDED:**

20 minutes

### **SUITABLE FOR:**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts

Split your group into two lines, facing each other. Write out different colours. Attach a 'colour' to each player. One person kicks the ball to another in the opposite line and shouts out a colour. The receiver must kick the ball on to someone with that colour on their jersey. If they fail to hit to the right

colour, they're out. Keep going until only the winner is standing.

## CHEST AND SHOOT

### **TIME NEEDED:**

30 minutes

### **SUITABLE FOR:**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts

Make two teams, each with an equal number of footballs. Set up a 'goal' about 20m from each team. Half way, make a line across the ground with string. All teams should split into pairs. A pair from each team places a ball between their chests. They must carry this to the line without dropping it, *then* drop it and one must take one shot at the goal. The team that scores the most goals wins.

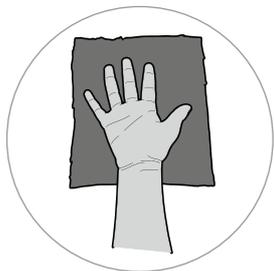
**WANT MORE?** Go online to [scouts.org.uk/magazine](http://scouts.org.uk/magazine) to download our extended list of 10 football games.

# BUILD A MODEL ROBOTIC HAND

Challenge your section to design and make a model of a robotic hand

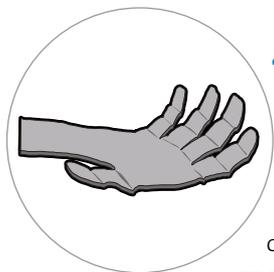
SUITABLE FOR CUBS, SCOUTS, EXPLORERS

**1** Get each member of the group to cut a rectangular piece of corrugated cardboard.



**2** Get everyone to place their hands flat on the cardboard, spreading out the fingers and thumb a little.

**3** Each young person should cut around the line – they'll be left with a 'cardboard' hand.



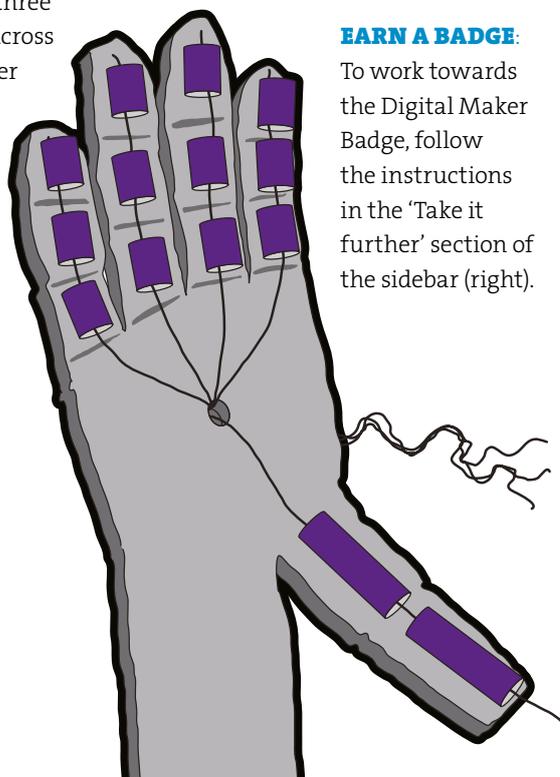
**4** Mark three lines across each finger and thumb, like the creases on your hand. Gently score these lines with the tip of your scissors, so that the 'fingers' bend a little.

**5** Cut drinking straws into short lengths and stick a piece into each segment of each finger and thumb.

**6** Cut five 30cm lengths of string for each hand. Attach a piece to the top of each finger and thumb and feed down through the straws.

**7** Poke a hole in the centre of each hand and feed the five strings through. Gather and tie into a knot.

**8** Place the hand against an object such as a plastic bottle. Pull the strings through the hole, and the model hand will grasp the bottle.



## EARN A BADGE:

To work towards the Digital Maker Badge, follow the instructions in the 'Take it further' section of the sidebar (right).

## TIME NEEDED

30–40 minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- String
- Drinking straws
- Scissors
- Cardboard
- Tape

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Digital Maker Staged Activity Badge

## OUTCOMES

This will give your Scouts the chance to build a model to test the principles of simple robotic engineering. As the project uses readily available materials such as straws and cardboard (you can even cut up old boxes and use pieces of cardboard from them), each young person will be able to make their own robotic hand.

## TAKE IT FURTHER

To make this activity work towards the Digital Maker Staged Activity Badge, ask the young people to get into pairs, with one playing the role of the robot and the other sending the robot commands to complete tasks using their robot arm and hand, such as opening and closing a jam jar or drinking a glass of water. Record on paper what sort of commands worked best and which were hard for the robot to follow.

## DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

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

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Tel +44(0)1442 252851 Email: [info@phaselswood.org.uk](mailto:info@phaselswood.org.uk) [www.phaselswood.org.uk](http://www.phaselswood.org.uk) Charity No. 302606 VAT Reg No. 761 4558 19

**SHARE** Ask the young people in your group to follow illustrator Ben Jennings's guide to drawing caricatures. This page is available to download at [scouts.org.uk/magazine](https://scouts.org.uk/magazine).

# Learn how to draw a caricature

Create cartoons of your friends and Section Leaders with the help of Illustrator Ben Jennings.

**STEP 1:** Borrow a phone and take a snap of your friend or Section Leader (we've taken one of UK Youth Commissioner Hannah)

**STEP 2:** Decide what shape the face is going to be and where the features should be placed



**STEP 3:** Draw an outline

**STEP 4:** Add features



**STEP 5:** Add details, colour and shading



Now it's your turn...



# WRITE WITH STORY STONES

Create and play with painted story stones to spark the imagination of your section

SUITABLE FOR BEAVERS, CUBS, SCOUTS

**1** Get everyone in your group to bring in around 5–6 stones each. Make sure they are all smooth and have been cleaned well.

**2** On a sheet of paper, ask everyone to write a list of 5–6 everyday objects or ideas such as clothes, flowers, weathers, foods, faces, shapes and so on.

**3** Each young person should paint each item on their list as a simple symbol on the stones they have.

**4** Leave the stones in a safe place to dry. Once dry, put everyone's stones, or a selection of them, into the drawstring bag.

**5** Get everyone to sit in a circle. One person picks a stone out of the bag and, using the symbol as inspiration, says a couple of sentences to start the story.

**6** The next person picks a stone and carries on the story, again using the symbol on the stone to work their imagination. Continue in this way until the story reaches its natural conclusion.

**7** The group can make another bag of story stones and tell another tale. You can also use your stones to create an artistic scene or as inspiration for a poem or short story.



## TIME NEEDED

60 minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- A selection of smooth stones that fit in the palm of your hand
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- A drawstring bag

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver Creative Activity Badge



Cub Artist Activity Badge



Kip McGrath Scout Writer Activity Badge

## OUTCOMES

Young people enjoy painting on stones and come up with ideas, prompted by these, to tell a story.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The group could use any spare stones to make a simple outdoor 'noughts and crosses' game. They just need 10 stones – five painted in one pattern and five in another. Then lay out four thin strips of card, or dowelling in the usual noughts and crosses grid and they're ready to play.

## DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

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



# SECRET SPY NIGHT

Help your section to perfect their espionage skills with these secret agent-themed games

## IN DISGUISE

### **TIME NEEDED:**

15 minutes

### **SUITABLE FOR:**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts

Give each young person a pile of pipe cleaners. They must all make at least three simple disguises to help them become an undercover spy. They can bend the pipe cleaners into glasses, beards and moustaches and eye patches – the more creative the better!

## FANCY FOOTWORK

### **TIME NEEDED:**

15 minutes

### **SUITABLE FOR:**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts

Get each young person to place their foot on a piece of paper and draw an outline. Number the outlines and make a list for yourself that no one

else sees, telling you which outline belongs to whom. Choose one outline, trace it and colour it in red and put it in the middle of the room – the traitor's footprint. Hand out all the foot outlines to the group. They must match them to the right person and figure out who the traitor is.

## WALK THE WIRE

### **TIME NEEDED:**

20 minutes

### **SUITABLE FOR:**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers

The spy must escape by walking a wire between two houses. Set up a length of string on the floor, weighed down at each end. Each young person tries to escape in turn, while everyone else stands 1.5m either side of the 'wire'. As the spy walks the wire, the rest try to distract them or knock them off by throwing soft balls, cushions,

making loud noises. If the spy steps off the wire, they fall to their doom!

## LASER LIMBO

### **TIME NEEDED:**

30 minutes

### **SUITABLE FOR:**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers

Cut long lengths of coloured wool. Tie a small bell in the middle of each. Place the group in two rows facing each other. Each person in the group holds a length of wool with the person facing them, one of them holding it up high, one down low. This creates the 'laser beams' the spy has to pass through by crawling, hopping or even limboing. One ring of a bell and they're zapped!

**WANT MORE?** Go to [scouts.org.uk/magazine](http://scouts.org.uk/magazine) to download our extended list of 10 spy games!



[SCOUTS.ORG.UK/PROMISEPATH](https://scouts.org.uk/promisepath)

UNDERSTAND THE NEED:

# TRY TO BUY TREASURE HUNT

Use a treasure hunt to learn about the ways dementia can affect someone

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

**1** Set up a 'treasure hunt' by placing coins in an area, including some obstacles such as chairs and boxes. Hide coins in, on and under obstacles, behind cupboard doors, and so on.

**2** Decide on what you want to sell the participants and for how much. For example, £2.18 will ensure they require a number of different coins to buy, perhaps, a book.

## FINDING THE COINS

**3** Ask the section to pick one finder, who will need to wear a blindfold. Ask the finder to leave the room.

**4** Give the rest of the section two minutes to look where the coins are and what they are worth, making sure they don't remove anything.

**5** Bring the finder back. The section must instruct the finder to collect the coins while blindfolded. They have four minutes to collect as much money as they can.

**6** After the activity, ask the finder how they found the experience. What was hard about it? How useful were the instructions? How did it feel? Could you have done it without the instructions?

## USING THE COINS

**7** Ask the finder to put the money in the bag and blindfold another young person – the payer. The payer now must walk up to the leader to try to buy an item for your chosen amount, with the coins. They must count out the money blindfolded.

**8** After a minute, ask someone to help the payer. After the activity, ask the payer how they found the experience. How did it feel? Did they manage it easily? Was it difficult to work out which coin was which?



## TIME NEEDED

**20** minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Coins with a variety of values
- Blindfold/scarf
- Bag/purse to hold money

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver Disability Awareness Activity Badge



Scout Community Impact Staged Activity Badge

## DISCUSSION

Dementia is not just about memory loss. Vision and speech can be affected, making everyday tasks, such as finding objects and paying with money, difficult. How might this feel? How did the finder and payer feel? Could you help someone count their money, or tell them which coin is which?

## OUTCOMES

Young people will learn that dementia doesn't just affect someone's short-term memory; other functions of the brain to do everyday tasks can also be affected.

## TAKE IT FURTHER

Your group has now completed an UNDERSTANDING THE NEED activity. Next you need to PLAN AN ACTION. See page 86 for a great activity or download the dementia resource pack on [amillionhands.org.uk/dementia](http://amillionhands.org.uk/dementia) for more activities.

## DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

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

PLAN ACTION:

# HOW FRIENDLY IS YOUR AREA?

Conduct an audit of your neighbourhood to discover how dementia-friendly it is

SUITABLE FOR CUBS, SCOUTS, EXPLORERS, NETWORK

## WEEK 1 INSTRUCTIONS

**1** Ask the group to make a plan about what they will audit in week two. They must think about how someone with dementia will access their local area. Places people might visit could include the high street, local park, place of worship, bus or train station.

**2** The audit could take the form of a survey that they have to fill in when they visit the area (see facing page). The survey should include spaces to fill in the following details: street and town name; date checked; age and name of person taking survey.

**3** Survey questions can include the following:

- Is it clear what each building is for (shop, residential, etc)?
- Are entrances to premises clearly visible and/or obvious?
- Are signs clear with simple information, in the right places?

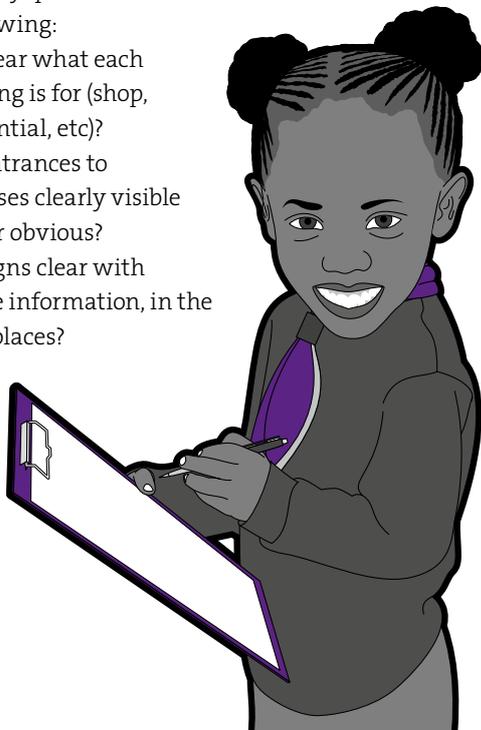
- Are signs easy to read – for example, dark letters on a light background?
- Are the footpaths wide, flat and well maintained?
- Are pedestrian crossings and public toilets at ground level?
- Are the bus shelters enclosed and do they have seating?
- Are bicycle lanes separate from the footpaths?
- Do crossings have noise as well as lights to let you know when to cross?

## WEEK 2 INSTRUCTIONS

**1** Agree a meeting point, give everyone a survey, or a particular batch of questions to find answers to.

**2** Go to the area and look at what is working and what isn't. Think of solutions to improve things.

**3** Return to your meeting room and compile all answers. Consider what you could do to help as a group.



## TIME NEEDED

60–90 minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Paper
- Pens
- Clipboards

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Cubs Local Knowledge Activity Badge



Cubs Disability Awareness Activity Badge



Scout Our World Challenge Award



Scout Community Impact Staged Activity Badge

## DISCUSSION

Discuss how you can use the survey findings to improve a local area for people with dementia.

## OUTCOMES

Young people will learn what dangers people with dementia face and how to make public spaces more dementia friendly.

## TAKE IT FURTHER

Now it's time to TAKE ACTION. Head to page 88 for a great activity or download the dementia resource pack on [amillionhands.org.uk/dementia](http://amillionhands.org.uk/dementia) for more activities.

## DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

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

Street name: .....

Town name: .....

Your name: .....

How OLD ARE YOU? .....

DATE: .....

## WHAT'S THAT BUILDING?

 SHOP  
 Cafe  
 office  
 HOUSE  
 NO idea!  
 HINT  
 Buildings should be CLEARLY SIGNPOSTED for people with dementia

HOW MANY OF THESE HAVE OBVIOUS ENTRANCES?

→ — of — buildings

## RATE YOUR FOOTPATH! IS IT...

- A: W I D E a: flat  
 B: N A R R O W b: bit bumpy  
 C: What footpath? c: Very uneven

a: neat and tidy.

b: a bit messy.

c: REALLY Rough

- Mostly A's: Top Marks! \* \* \* \* \*  
 → Mostly B's: MUST IMPROVE!  
 → Mostly C's: oh dear.

DOES IT HAVE A SEPARATE CYCLE LANE?

YES = Woottoo! NO = BOO!



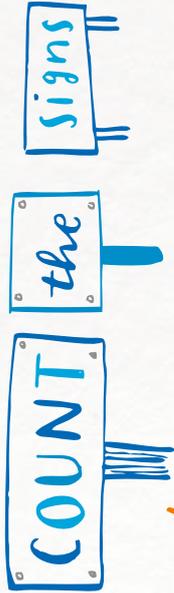
## Stop the bus!

(Stick a photo of your bus stop or draw it here)

Is it...

- Enclosed/open
- Seating/no seats?

Fact: Bus stops with roofs and seats are better for people with dementia



How many are there?

How many of these are dementia-friendly because they are...

CLEAR... SIMPLE... Easy to read

## HOW FRIENDLY are your TRAFFIC LIGHTS?

RATE IT GREEN, AMBER or RED FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:-

→ dementia friendly (average) (unfriendly alert!)  
 → ACCESS

easy to USE

ACCESS

lights

NOISE



TAKE ACTION:

# DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SIGNS

Help your young people understand and create dementia-friendly signs

SUITABLE FOR BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

**1** Ask the group to discuss what would make a good sign – what colour should the background and the lettering be? How large should it be?

**2** Consider particularly what makes a sign dementia friendly. For example, people with dementia might find it harder to read, so symbols and pictures might be easier to understand than words.

**3** What materials would make the best sign? It should be non-reflective, as a reflective sign

could be harder for someone with dementia to read.

**4** When all this has been considered, get each person in the group to make a sign for your Scout hut using the facing activity page (this can also be downloaded from [scouts.org.uk/magazine](http://scouts.org.uk/magazine)).

**5** When their signs have been made, show them to the group and check whether all the different criteria have been met to make them dementia friendly.



✓  
Good sign



✗  
Bad sign

TIME NEEDED  
**60–90** minutes

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

- Large sheets of cardboard cut from boxes
- Paints/felt-tip pens

**THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES**



Beaver Photography Activity Badge



Cub Artist Activity Badge



Scout Artist Activity Badge



Scout Community Impact Staged Activity Badge

**DISCUSSION**

Discuss how people with dementia's needs are different from ours. How does poor signage affect their ability to get about?

**OUTCOMES**

Young people learn how to make an area more dementia-friendly, and how to understand the impact of signage on people with dementia.

**TAKE IT FURTHER**

Visit [amillionhands.org.uk/dementia](http://amillionhands.org.uk/dementia) and download the Dementia Resource Pack for more ideas to help you LEARN AND DO MORE and TELL THE WORLD.

**DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE**

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



Step 2  
Write the words for your sign in the dotted box, making them clear and easy to read.

Step 1  
Find a suitable picture for your sign in a magazine, cut it out and stick it in the circular space.

Step 3  
Paint the rest of the sign in a bold colour, making sure the text stands out against it.

Step 4  
Step 4 the rest of your group and explain the design.

- 50g unsalted butter
- 1 clove garlic
- Grated parmesan
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 fresh tomato, sliced
- 1 clove garlic
- Grated parmesan

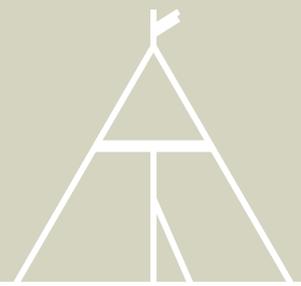
Simmer of water skin (1) and p...

\*  
ratty  
Devine  
\*

e S P  
B

## SCOUTING SITES AND DAYS OUT

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



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



### BELCHAMPS SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE

Belchamps is set in the Essex countryside, just a short train ride from Southend's beaches. You can opt for self-catered or fully catered, fully programmed packages. With great indoor accommodation and over 40 activities, camping has never been easier.

01702 562 690  
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### THE ASSOCIATION OF SCOUT AND GUIDE CENTRES

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

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



### THRIFTWOOD INTERNATIONAL SCOUT CAMPSITE

One of the UK's premier campsites and activity centres is located south-east of Brentwood, at Ingrave, just off the A128. Open all year round, the site has two one-acre lakes for canoeing, rafting, pedalos, swimming and fishing. There is also a large Pack holiday centre, which can sleep up to 32 people.

01277 212 784  
thriftwood.org.uk



### LINNET CLOUGH

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

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



### BEAUDESERT PARK

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

01543 682 278  
beaudesert.org



### ADAMSWELL SCOUT CAMPSITE

Adamswell Scout Campsite is located on the outskirts of Langton Green, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. The site is owned and managed by Royal Tunbridge Wells District Scout Council. The site is open for use by all Scouts, Guides, youth groups, schools and commercial organisations from all over the UK and abroad, and is open all year round.

adamswell.org.uk



**DUNHAM PARK SCOUT CAMP**  
 Dunham Park is located on National Trust land adjacent to Dunham Massey deer park in tranquil unspoilt countryside, just 12 miles from Manchester city centre. For visiting groups we have numerous secluded sites, suitable for all sizes of camp, and we also have two indoor accommodation buildings with a large dining/activity area.  
 0161 928 1699 (weekends only)  
 dunham@gmwscoouts.org.uk



**CRICKET CAMP**  
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 023 8040 5151  
 isdsc.org.uk



**GRADBACH SCOUT CAMP**  
 NR BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE  
 Located near Buxton, Gradbach Scout Camp is a 'natural playground', covering 48 acres of varying terrain and offering 18 unique camping sites. Gradbach is ideally located to access a range of adventurous activities in the Peak District.  
 01260 227 679  
 bookings@gradbachscoutcamp.org.uk  
 gradbachscoutcamp.org.uk



**ALF VILLAGES**  
 ALF Villages offers unique locations for adventurous camps in Buckinghamshire. Green Park has 80 acres of park and woodland, as well as a range of indoor and outdoor activities, while Longridge is renowned for its water activities, such as sailing, rowing and kayaking.  
 0330 303 0101  
 bookings@alfcharity.org  
 alfvillages.org.uk



**LAPWING LODGE**  
 Lapwing Lodge, owned by West Region Scouts, lies on the Gleniffer Braes above Paisley. Its two wings sleep a total of 76 people and include fully stocked kitchens. We have a large camping area and a beautiful wood, burn and dam. It is an ideal base for visiting Glasgow, central Scotland and Loch Lomond.  
 01505 812 035  
 warden@lapwinglodge.org.uk  
 lapwinglodge.org.uk



**SHARE DISCOVERY VILLAGE**  
 Based in County Fermanagh on the shores of Upper Lough Erne, Share Discovery Village is Ireland's largest residential outdoor pursuits centre, a perfect spot for your Scout camp. We offer on-site residential accommodation, group camping for up to 300 and a campsite and bothy on Trannish Island that your group can canoe to.  
 028 6772 2122  
 info@sharevillage.org

## Kibblestone

International Scout Camp

**KIBBLESTONE ICS**  
 Kibblestone ISC is situated in Staffordshire, six miles south of Stoke-on-Trent, providing an ideal base for visitors to Alton Towers and the Peak District. Open all year round, it has 98 acres of camping fields, indoor accommodation, modern amenities and a wide range of on-site activities.  
 01785 813 407  
 manger@kibblestone.org  
 kibblestone.org



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[visitparliament@parliament.uk](mailto:visitparliament@parliament.uk)  
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**THE WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM**  
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 01243 811 459  
[education@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:education@wealddown.co.uk)  
[wealddown.co.uk](https://wealddown.co.uk)



**AFRICA ALIVE!**  
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 01502 740 291  
[africa-alive.co.uk](https://africa-alive.co.uk)



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 Banham Zoo is an award-winning family attraction in Norfolk with over 2,000 animals from around the world. Throughout the day there are plenty of activities, including daily animal feeding talks, a free road train and more. Open daily from 9.30am, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Please phone or see the website for prices and closing times.  
 01953 887 771  
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[royalarmouries.org](http://royalarmouries.org)



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01342 810493  
[blackland@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:blackland@girlguiding.org.uk)  
[www.blackland.org.uk](http://www.blackland.org.uk)  
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## ACTIVITY CENTRES

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Lyndhurst SO43 7DE  
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[foxlease@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:foxlease@girlguiding.org.uk)  
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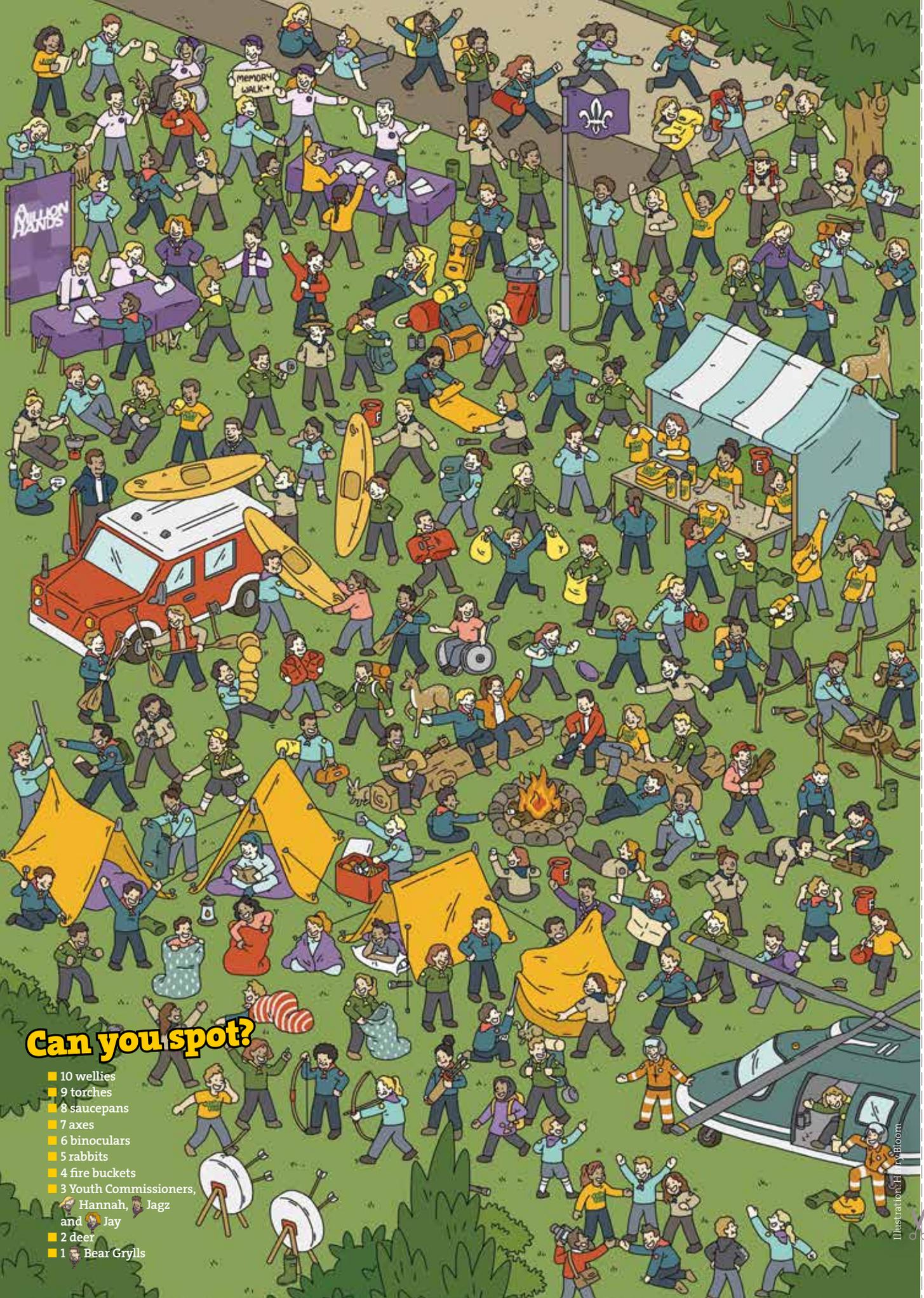


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