

'If it wasn't for Beavers, I wouldn't have learned first aid or how to help others... I might have done something wrong.' If it wasn't for Scouting, page 66











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

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



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

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

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



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## THINKING DIFFERENTLY

If I had to describe this issue of Scouting in two words, it would be 'thinking differently'. With a Movement as old as ours, it's easy to slip into a routine, but I'm all for trying new things – it keeps Scouting fresh for everyone. Dare to be different and people will respect you for it.

To prove the point, we visit one Group that's offering Scouting on a monthly basis to see how this changes things, both for volunteers and young people.

Innovative thinking can also mean more opportunities for young people. We look into how Groups are sharing resources, opening up adventure for Scouts of all backgrounds. When so much kit sits in store all year, sharing it with others is a brilliant solution.

Young people never fail to inspire me. Meet Najah, an 11-year-old who is schooled at home. If it wasn't for Scouts, she wouldn't have a link to the outside world, her friends and the chance to develop those vital social skills. In fact, we liked the idea of 'If it wasn't for Scouts...' so much, we asked other Scouts for their experiences too. You'll read incredible stories about young people who've overcome challenges and done amazing things, all thanks to Scouting.

Finally, let me pass on congratulations to my friend Tim Kidd, our new UK Chief Commissioner. Like me, he's passionate about Scouting's values and our ability to help young people develop skills for life. Read about his ideas for Scouting's future and how we can deliver Scouting for All.

One thing's for sure, we couldn't do it without you.

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

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

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## THE SCOUTING YEAR AHEAD

This year was a busy one for Scottish Scouting. I have been delighted to visit many events across the country, from going on a Beaver Scout slug hunt in the Western Isles and helping with adult training in the NE Region, to visiting a Cubs100 event in Argyll and visiting our biggest ever Blair Atholl Jamborette in the summer. I continue to be impressed with the dedication of our adult volunteers.

But what of the year ahead? I see many opportunities to continue to grow Scouting in Scotland. We have seen the impact of development officers working in Clyde and South West Regions. We hope to roll out similar posts elsewhere as funding becomes available. A new Scouts Scotland website should make it easier to access lots of useful information. Our expanded Scottish Headquarters team is making a considerable impact in improving our activity centres, our public relations, our media coverage and our funding. And we continue to celebrate the achievements of our young people through our progressive training scheme. Following our successful AGM in November with our A Million Hands charity partners, I also hope that making an impact on our communities becomes an everincreasing focus for Scouting at a local level.

Please accept my thanks for another superb year of Scouting and my very best wishes for 2017.

Graham

Graham Haddock Chief Commissioner of Scotland



## TIME FOR THANKS

Another year is almost over, so take the time to think back on all the people who helped you in 2016. Whether it's a supportive parent who helped out on camp, or your enthusiastic Cub Pack, use this season of goodwill to show your appreciation. The print centre is packed with great resources such as thank-you cards and banners. You could donate to this year's Christmas Appeal and send out some of this year's new cards. Or why not make someone's year by nominating them for an award at members.scouts.org.uk/awards?

## GET READY FOR #YOUSHAPE MONTH!

Following the success of #YouShape 2016 – where over 20,000 young people and volunteers got involved - we will hold an entire #YouShape month in February 2017. #YouShape events provide young people with a platform to voice their opinions and shape Scouting. There won't be a national event, because this time it's all about local impact and good practice. The aim is to increase the understanding of Youth Shaped Scouting across the organisation, provide resources that improve the quality and quantity of sectional Youth Shaped Scouting.

Scouts Scotland is launching 'Youth Approved' which is a tool that will enable local Scouting to measure how Youth Shaped they are. There are also loads of resources online with ideas and inspiration about how you can get involved in #YouShape month, whatever your role may be. Plus there's information about patrol camps, district forums, executive training on Youth Shaped Scouting, support days and more.

Don't forget to order your #YouShape badges, which will be available to buy in early 2017.





## WELCOME TO THE NEW DCC!

We are delighted to announce that Barry Donald-Hewitt has been appointed as the new Depute Chief Commissioner (Programme) of Scotland.

Barry has been a member since joining as a Beaver Scout. He has held leadership positions in the Beaver, Scout, Explorer and Network sections, as well as a number of District and National roles. Barry says: 'I am really pleased to be taking on this role at such an exciting time. I believe Scouting is key in supporting and developing young people, helping them to realise their potential through experience and adventure. I am excited about helping our Movement to develop further.'

## OLYMPIC INSPIRATION

Cubs and Beavers at 3rd Scone Scouts in Perthshire had the chance to find out what it's like to be an Olympic medalist when Team GB swimmer Stephen Milne came to visit.

Stephen, who is part of the volunteer team at the Perthshire

Group, won Silver with his team in the 4 x 200m freestyle swimming relay at the 2016 Rio Games.

The swimmer has been with the Perthshire Group since joining as a Cub age 8 and still helps out as a Scout Leader when he can.



## ISLAND SCOUTING

Scouting has come to one of Scotland's most famous island communities – Islay. Since opening its doors in September 2016, 1st Islay has offered Scouting to more than 60 young people. The Group Scout Leader is local GP Catriona Davis. She says: 'The Group is really thriving and all sections have already tried lots of activities. There has been everything from a treasure hunt around Bowmore to the Air Activities Badge. We are planning a Santa run for December to raise funds and are hoping to have a night away in our hall early in the new year and then a joint camp in the early spring with a Group from Paisley.'

## NEW TRAINING FOR MANAGERS

In early 2017, a new training provision for managers and supporters in Scouting will be introduced across the UK. This will consist of training for appointments, independent learning and skills courses. The scheme will provide essential information and will be accompanied by updated resources. For more information visit scouts.org.uk/training.

## MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

An important new study has found that adults who had participated in Scouting and Guiding as young people had significantly better mental health in middle age than their peers who were not part of the Movement. Former Scouts were 15% less likely to suffer from mood disorders (including depression and anxiety) at the age of 50. Researchers ascribed this to the benefits of being outdoors in natural environments, and learning skills for life.



## BEYOND 2018

We're already looking Beyond 2018 and we'd like you to help us shape the Movement. Consultation events will take place in 2017, there will be a conference for Group Scout Leaders, District Commissioners and County/Area Region Commissioners, and you can send responses to info. centre@scouts.org.uk with the subject line 'Beyond 2018'.



## We know what works.

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## A YEAR OF CUBS100

Cubs100 has been the wildest party ever with Groups across Scotland celebrating throughout the year. We caught up with Moira Milligan, Akela at the 1st Dyce Cubs, to find out what they've been up to:

'We were all really excited in the lead up to Cubs100 and started planning what we were going to do last year. As leaders, we wanted to make this a fun, adventurous and memorable year for our Cubs.

'In our planning we decided that we wanted to celebrate Cubs100 by incorporating the theme into our whole Programme throughout the year. At our Pack meetings we have been focusing on '100' – talking about life 100 years ago, playing games from the last century, as well as setting ourselves some '100' challenges. Have you ever tried to get 100 different items into a matchbox? We have! We're also well on our way to receiving 100 birthday cards from ex-Dyce cubs.

'Our Cubs wanted to share our birthday excitement with the community so, along with a local Gardening club, we planted 100 flowers to make a roadside display spelling out Cubs100. The Cubs were very proud of their display and will be planting a cherry tree at the site later in the year. We also served tea and cake to raise money to design our own Cubs100 birthday T-shirts. 'The highlight of our celebrations had to be joining 900 other Cubs, plus leaders at Aden Park, Mintlaw for a spectacular Big Birthday Bash camp. The Cubs all had a brilliant time!

'But it's not over yet! We have lots more planned, including our final birthday activity looking forward to the next 100 years of Cubs by holding a time travel night, travelling forward into the year 2116. We're already planning how to keep up the excitement for next year too!

'I'm so proud to be a Cub Leader, and of everything that we've achieved this year. To make any event like this a big success, I'd say the key is planning and lots of imagination!'





## Buy a brick and help provide opportunities for more young people

Representation of the second s



You can have a brick engraved to honour someone close to you – whether you are thanking a Scout Leader for years of service or celebrating an important event.

It is also a great opportunity for you to celebrate the impact your Scout Group has had on your community.

The Promise Path will trail through the centre of the spiritual home of Scouting, Gilwell Park – an uplifting new addition built by supporters like you.

Visit **scouts.org.uk/promisepath** or contact us at **020 8498 5308** or **fundraising@scouts.org.uk** to make a donation or get additional details.



## DECEMBER



### 9 DEC

Archery Permit Training and Assessment This two-day course at Scout Adventures Youlbury trains and assesses candidates to hold the archery Leadership Permit for recurve bows. The course costs £85 per person, or £42.50 with Development Grants Board (DGB) funding. Head to tinyurl. com/juntuss for more info.

## 9 DEC

Camp Craft Skills Course This course is based on useful camp skills such as using axes and saws, tent pitching and care, knots and lashings, Backwoods Cooking, bushcraft, pioneering and using camp gadgets. The skills covered in this course can count towards validation of parts of Module 38. Prices are £75 per person or £37.50 with DGB funding. tinyurl.com/zwkqlw6





## 10 DEC

Community Impact Support Day Bristol

A full day at Woodhouse Park Scout Centre in Bristol will help attendees build the skills, knowledge and confidence to support young people and local Scouting to make a positive impact in communities. Attendance is free and lunch is provided. tinyurl.com/zv5gqm5

## CHECKLIST

Download and order Scouting's new and improved resources including the Stay Safe booklets, Programme in a Box, and youth leadership resources.

Help the Movement gather accurate information by heading to members.scouts.org.uk/census and completing this year's census figures.

Don't miss out on tickets for Fundays (9–10 June 2017 at Gilwell Park) – fundays.scouts.org.uk.

Use an A Million Hands resource pack to help your Scouts to Take Action. amillionhands.org.uk/resource

## OTHER DATES

### 10 December

Human Rights Day Use this day to encourage your Group to stand up for someone's human rights. tinyurl.com/bmpovft

### 24 December–1 January **Hannukah**

Celebrate with your Scouts by frying up some latkes and giving small gifts to each other.

25 December Christmas

Spread kindness by urging your Scouts to do a generous act to help their community.

## JANUARY

## 6–8 JAN

Wintercamp is a sub-zero activity camp running in the middle of winter at Scout Adventures Gilwell Park and Hawkhirst. Be bold (and probably a tad cold) at this weekend packed with activities and entertainment. It's a sell-out event, so make sure your Scouts and Explorers get their tickets soon! wintercamp.org.uk





20—22 JAN Brass Monkey Camp Enjoy a packed programme at our extreme winter camp at Fordell Firs National Activity Centre. All Groups will be camping under canvas so pack your thermals! This fully catered camp costs £55 per young person and £20 per adult. For more information, contact warden@ fordellfirs.org.uk.

## 21 JAN

Community Impact Support Day Manchester This Community Impact Support Day at Linnet Clough Scout Camp near Stockport provides attendees with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to help young people to make a positive impact in their communities. tinyurl.com/ z22vhot



## CHECKLIST

Start planning for your next Annual General Meeting (AGM) and think of ways to increase parent and community participation.

Make a new year's resolution that will have a positive impact in your local community.

Reflect on what your young people have learnt from their A Million Hands project and encourage them to do more.

Check the Scouts events web page for information on UK Jamborees in 2017. Register your interest and get planning! scouts.org. uk/events

## OTHER DATES

### 1 January

### Hogmanay

People in Edinburgh will be celebrating the arrival of 2017 with a three-day festival – how will you see in the new year?

### 25 January

### **Burns' Night**

Recite poetry and eat haggis to honour all things Robert Burns for Burns' Night 2017.

### 28 January

Chinese New Year

Celebrate with your Scouts and get the year of the rooster off to a great start!

## **Calling all units!**

Cha

Fundraise for your unit and help save young lives!

Open to all Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Mr. Men and Little Miss Marathon Challenge is a fantastic fundraiser based around the number 26 - the number of miles in a marathon. In addition to raising vital funds for Children with Cancer UK, you can also choose to keep up to 50% of what you raise to support your own unit. Fundraising ideas include naming 26 countries, running 26 laps or staying silent for 26 minutes! It's up to you what fun challenge you take part in.

Children with Cancer UK is the leading national children's charity dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer. About Children with Cancer UK The money you raise helps to fund life-saving research into the causes, prevention and treatment of childhood cancer.

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- How your unit can benefit

 You can have an amazing amount of FUN. You can relate your activities to badges. • Each member of your unit will receive a very special Mr. Men and Little Miss medal! • You can choose to keep up to 50% of the money you raise to support your own unit.

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## FEBRUARY



## 10—12 FEB

Brass Monkey Camp Another chance for Scouts to brave the chill at our Brass Monkey Camp at Fordell Firs National Scout Activity Centre. Tickets cost £55 per young person and £20 per adult. The event is fully catered and all attendees will be sleeping under canvas, so wrap up! For more info, contact warden@fordellfirs.org.uk.





## 22 FEB

1-28 FEB

#YouShape month

This year, we're devoting the

whole of February to #YouShape

in order to celebrate some of the

best examples of Youth Shaped

people and volunteers embed this founding principle into everyday

Scouting, and to help young

Scouting. Find out more by

uk/youshape.

heading to members.scouts.org.

Founder's Day Celebrate the birthday of Scouting's founder, Robert Baden-Powell (1857–1941). On this day, Scouts across the world continue to enjoy adventurous activities in the outdoors and live out Lord Baden-Powell's inspiring ideas. Share photos of your Founder's Day celebrations with us on Facebook and Twitter.

## CHECKLIST

Check you have all the permits needed for this year's planned activities.

Get involved in #YouShape month and think of new ways to encourage Youth Shaped Scouting in your Group.

Complete health and safety checks for this year's trips away with your Group.

Celebrate what your young people have achieved through A Million Hands and log in to record their action – amillionhands.org.uk/ user/login.

## OTHER DATES

12–18 February **Random Acts of Kindness Week** Take part by doing something lovely for someone else.

### 14 February **Valentine's Day**

Teach your Scouts about the history of this red-letter day or ask them to make a Valentine treat for someone they care about.

### 28 February **Shrove Tuesday**

Host a pancake party and encourage your Scouts to show off their cooking skills. They'll have a flipping great time!

## GET MOVING AND JOIN THE GLOBAL CELEBRATION



Earth Hour takes place on **Saturday 25 March 2017** and in the run up to this unique global event we want you to come together and enjoy a starlight night to show you care about our planet. Take part in night hikes, sleepovers under the stars, or stories around the campfire!

New for Earth Hour 2017 – head out for an evening of stargazing at a Forestry Commission England wood near you. Try a trail, download free activities, or come along to a stargazing event. Find out more at **www.forestry.gov.uk/earthhour** 



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## ASK TEAM UK

The UK Chief Commissioner and his team answer your Scouting questions. Here's what they have to say about Programme delivery and the importance of teamwork



### WHO NEEDS TEAMS?

If you were at the closing of Reunion 2016, or listened to Scout Radio you will have heard my comments on working in a team. Some people say that a Commissioner's role is a lonely one; my experience tells me that it can be less so if you work as part of a team. As a County Commissioner, I was in the most teams ever in my Scouting experience, but now as UK Chief Commissioner, the number of teams of which I am a part is set to grow even more!

Group Scout Leaders and Commissioners are under a huge amount of pressure. Everyone expects them to answer all the questions and solve all the problems. There are doubtless some things that we can do with our rules and structure to make those roles easier to handle (and we are working on that), but even more important is the need to delegate sensibly. At the heart of this is the need not to be at the centre of every conversation and every decision. That's not always easy. It comes down to good briefings and trust.

For my part, I expect to use the members of Team UK for their expertise and enthusiasm and to spread the load. They are really a good bunch, so use the contact details on this page to get in touch and visit tinyurl.com/jfrhexf to find out more about them.

There is another challenge to building teams, and that is how we use help more flexibly – how we fit in someone who can help once a month rather than every week. It can take more of our time to co-ordinate, but I think that it's worth trying. We have talked a lot about flexible volunteering over the years, but I wonder if it's sometimes easier for us to demand that people fit in with us rather than us fitting in with them – something worth considering perhaps.

Tim Kidd UK Chief Commissioner

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH SUPPORT FOR LOCAL YOUTH COMMISSIONERS?

We are putting together a bespoke induction programme for Youth Commissioners. This will be rolled out for newly appointed Youth Commissioners in the new year, although Youth Commissioners who have been in role for longer are welcome to sign up too. Also, for current Youth Commissioners, we are producing an action plan toolkit to focus the responsibilities of the role, and we have run a trial support weekend in the NE/NW region, which we will roll out to all areas over the next 12 months.

Hannah Kentish UK Youth Commissioner

### I'M CONFUSED; I'M AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, BUT SOME PEOPLE HAVE SAID I'M A TRUSTEE?

.....

Executive Committees in Scouting are like a school's governing body; essentially they ensure that the best quality Scouting is delivered to young people in their area. The volunteers that make up the Committee make some of Scouting's most important decisions and give their time to ensure that Scouting continues to meet its charitable purpose safely and legally.

To comply with legislation, all charities must have a governing body, which in Scouting we call an Executive Committee. Every Scout Group, District, County, Area and Scottish Region has an Executive Committee. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, all members of the Executive Committee are Trustees.



In Scotland, only those Groups/ Districts/Regions registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) will have Trustee status. Those not registered still have an Executive Committee with the members acting in the same way as Trustees.

It's vital that all members of the Committee understand the role's requirements before starting. Executive Committee members have a number of specific legal responsibilities that they must fulfil collectively as charity trustees to ensure the effective running of the charity. If things go wrong, Trustees may be liable for debt or financial loss incurred by the charity. However, this is rare; Trustees can protect against this by following the duties and responsibilities as laid out in Policy, Organisation and Rules and publications from the Charity Commission/OSCR.

While it's a benefit for Committee members to come from all walks of life, some aren't eligible, including undischarged bankrupts, disqualified company directors and under 18s. Remember that committees do need to ensure the views of young people are taken into consideration in decisionmaking. This can be achieved in a number of different ways. To find out more about Executive Committees, head to tinyurl.com/qzmewv2.

Charity regulation does differ slightly in Scotland and Northern Ireland, so please contact the relevant Country headquarters for more information.

Kester Sharpe UK Commissioner for Adult Support

.....

AS AN ASSISSTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (ADC) HOW CAN I ENSURE THAT A QUALITY PROGRAMME IS BEING DELIVERED IN MY DISTRICT?

All of us involved in delivering the Programme should ensure that young people and their parents think it's amazing. ADCs have a particular role in prioritising support for the sections in their District that need it the most. Some sections may find it challenging to offer nights away experiences or to do outdoor activities where permits are needed. While District events can be useful. ADCs should also look at how many top awards are being achieved, as well as how many nightsaway experiences have been enjoyed. These can be useful indicators of where to focus support.

### Craig Turpie

UK Commissioner for Programme

AS A DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, HOW CAN I MAKE HANDLING COMPLAINTS EASIER?

The short answer is that handing complaints will never be the easiest or

most pleasant task, however, you can do a few things to make it a bit easier:

- Use someone you trust, maybe from your District Executive Committee, to undertake the investigative work

   to meet with the complainant and others to find out what happened and to produce a short report on which you base your conclusion.
- Ask a Deputy District Commissioner to handle some complaints for you. Some will find this sort of task interesting and satisfying, so use them if it isn't your sort of thing.
- Spend some time each year discussing the complaint process with the Group Scout Leaders and others in your team. Ensuring that everyone knows how to handle complaints is very important and can stop small issues escalating.
- Read the complaint support documentation on scouts.org.uk/ managers – it provides simple checklists and an explanation of managing the process.

If you notice improvements that can be made to the complaints process, please let us know through por@scouts.org. uk – we are always reviewing and improving the process where we can.

Tim Kidd UK Chief Commissioner

EXPLORERS IN MY UNIT ARE INTERESTED IN THE EXPLORER BELT – HOW DOES IT WORK?

.....

If you know someone who is interested in starting an Explorer Belt expedition there is lots of support at scouts.org. uk/explorerbelt or from your Assistant County Commissioner (International) or your area/region International Advisor. Explorer Belt is a challenging, exciting expedition that Scouts will remember for the rest of their lives. It's a chance to venture outside of the UK and learn about another country while completing several small projects.

Explorer Scouts, Network members and members of the senior section of Girlguiding can take part in the Explorer Belt. They'll need to plan a 10-day expedition in another country with at least three other Scouts. Excursions should include a minimum of 50 hours travelling time over the course of the trip by foot, bicycle, horse, canoe, boat or dinghy. Participants must also show a number of competencies while they're away, all of which are outlined at members. scouts.org.uk/explorerbelt.

Jack Maxton International Commissioner

WHY HAS MY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER ASKED ME TO OPEN AN ADDITIONAL SECTION IN OUR GROUP?

.....

There are a number of reasons why you might have been asked to open an



additional section: it could be because your sections are full and you have a sizeable waiting list or because you are missing a section within the Group.

We all believe that every young person who wants to Scout should have the opportunity to do so. Unfortunately. we know the only Scouting experience that some young people get is the opportunity to sit on a waiting list! Where Groups have a missing section, young people typically miss part of their Scouting or, in some cases, leave and never come back. In Groups where there is no existing Scouts section, we might believe they have joined another Group to continue with Scouting, but at age 10½, young people find the new surroundings, leaders and Scouts overwhelming and the majority drop out. We need to make it as easy as possible for young people to join in and to achieve this. Our Scout Groups all need to be complete, with each section present, and with an Explorer and Network provision within the District.

There is help available when opening a new section. The Group Scout Leader leads this with the District Commissioner but there is also support from your ADC, who are great mentors, the Regional Services Team and the growing team of growth facilitators.

### Mark Tarry

Deputy UK Chief Commissioner Alex Peace-Gadsby Chief Commissioner of England

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

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- hold a fun tiger themed activity day to learn more about tigers wwf.org.uk/iptyouth
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#iProtectTigers

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# A friend indeed

10th Ipswich Rainbow Cubs might have risked seclusion, but with a little help from their buddies, they're as much a part of mainstream Scouting as the next Group

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Robin Mellor



'What's the time Mr Wolf?' chorus the small group of excited Cubs. The question is met with an unexpected silence. It's 10-year-old Thea's turn as the wolf and she stands on the opposite side of the hall, with her back to the others and a huge grin on her face. Keen to answer, she begins using her hands to sign the time, but the Cubs can't see her and not all of them understand sign language. Instinctively, fellow Cub, Wren, wanders over and stands by Thea's side. She begins to translate, shouting to the others, 'It's three o'clock!' Thea's smile is radiant. Acting Cub Scout Leader Kevin Bean breathes a little sigh and his eyes well up. There was no need to prompt it – these young people are remarkably intuitive.

Every other week, Kevin arrives at Thomas Wolsey School in Ipswich to meet the 10th Ipswich Rainbow Cub Pack (named in honour of Nancy McArdle, former headmistress of the school who loved all things rainbow related and in whose memory the coloured glass at their meeting place has been installed) for their hour-long Scouting session. The young people at the school all have moderate-to-severe physical and learning difficulties and as a result this Pack is largely made up of young people who are unable to speak or move without assistance. Despite the Group only starting up earlier this year, it already has strong support from parents and carers, who accompany each Cub to their meetings. But not everyone's convinced that Groups like this are a good idea.

### CAUSE FOR CONCERN

When reading through Facebook

comments about his Group's promise video, Kevin noticed people raising concerns that this specialised Group segregates young people with disabilities. The video shows members of the Group using iPads and computer programs to help them say their Promise. While Kevin's thrilled at the overall flood of support and positivity, he also tries to see things from the other perspective: 'I do understand why they see it like that. They think we're going, "here's a school for children with special educational needs, let's keep them there behind that fence." They don't know all the details.'

The existence of this Group may lead some to question whether the Rainbow Cubs should have joined the more mainstream local Groups instead. The main worry is that the



'It's great because he can just join in – there's nothing being organised that he can't take part in.'









Clockwise from top: 10-year-old Thea gives Rainbow Cubs the thumbs-up; infectious smiling from Euan; ASL Kevin and Ryan pause between musical games.

young people involved in this Group, and others like it, won't have the opportunity to mix with other members of Scouting. UK Scouting encourages diversity and inclusion, so it's important to make sure our young people meet others from different backgrounds. But the Rainbow Cub Pack's approach to District events and its use of a buddy system ensure that the Cubs are not segregated.

Regional Services Officer Michelle Frost, who has been supporting the Group, begins to explain its functionality: 'This Group was never going to be a standalone section. Although they meet in a special educational needs school, they're not meant to be a closed-off Group. They meet where they do and when they do because it's more convenient for the young people.'



### BUDDIES

Most weeks, a handful of Cubs from 10th Ipswich Scout Group join the Rainbow Cubs at Thomas Wolsey School. The visiting Cubs join in the fortnightly activities and their eyes are opened to the ways Scouting must be flexible to meet the needs of the individual. Their presence also empowers the Rainbow Cubs with the knowledge that this isn't just an after-school activity, they're part of something bigger. This sentiment is reinforced when the Rainbow Cubs attend District events. One Cub, Ryan, recently went on a District trip for Cubs100 and is also going on camp with some of the Cubs from 10th Ipswich. The young people are invited and supported to attend District events and every effort is made to make adjustments and source logistical solutions to make events

'You can't just read advice off a fact sheet – it's about looking at the individuals,'

KEVIN BEAN, ACTING CUB SCOUT LEADER

more accessible. District events can be adjusted in many ways, whether it's considering wheelchair access, tailoring the day's activities or making sure there is an extra pair of helping hands.

In many cases, Groups can easily welcome young people with physical and learning disabilities and this should, of course, be encouraged. The approach the Rainbow Cub Pack

applies to most situations is to use reasonable adjustment. One session, they might go on a hike, but for this Group, a hike is a planned route around the nearby housing estate. One of the parents, whose son Euan has a multitude of severe physical conditions, suggests that being inclusive relies on lateral thinking: 'It depends on leaders being creative. It's not just assuming something isn't appropriate, it's figuring out a way of making it suitable.'

### NEEDS MUST

When more specialised Scout Groups like this exist, there's usually a reason for it. In this instance, the young people are living with such severe conditions that placing them in a Group without the right knowledge and existing support would be unfair and, at times, dangerous. It wasn't feasible for each Cub to join a preexisting local Group, as in most cases those Groups didn't have the right support system or accessibility. 'Most Groups can cope with conditions such as autism, but if there are a few children with multiple disabilities, a lot of Groups don't have the resources. We wouldn't want a leader to just read advice off a fact sheet - it's about looking at the individuals,' Kevin explains. This Group is learning what works well and what needs improving, and the aim is for these learnings to be passed on to the wider Scouting community as resources. But even with resources and physical accessibility, it's crucial for leaders to make reasonable adjustments depending on what they learn about the young person as an individual.

This is the first time that Kevin has worked with children with disabilities like these, so at first it was a real challenge for him emotionally. He thinks back to early days and describes times when he would introduce himself to the young people and get no response, how he was unsure how to proceed and how it took time to learn the best ways to communicate with each individual. Cubs from the supporting Group were faced with the same experiences, so Kevin and Michelle told the young people what to expect. 'We told them that not all of the young people talk, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't talk to them, because they can communicate in different ways,' Michelle explains.

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

This buddy system is having a positive effect on both Cub Packs. Kevin explains that it has given the Cubs visiting from 10th Ipswich a lift in confidence. 'It's something they'll never forget, all the parents have said that. They have a greater understanding of the efforts made to enable children with disabilities to take part. It's also given them pride that they are helping out.'

Euan's mum Sam talks about the impact the Group is having on her son, 'I just end up smiling and laughing all the time because they are enjoying it so much.' Euan also attends another, more mainstream Group, and while he enjoys them both his mum feels that this one is different: 'They're excited about everything! It's because there aren't that many activities out there that are as accessible. Here it's great because he can just join in, there's nothing that's being organised that he can't take part in.' Endorsements don't come much bigger.

So do these Groups have a place in Scouting? It would seem the answer is

'We get to spend time having fun with our child, and not in a hospital waiting room.'

10TH IPSWICH RAINBOW CUB PACK PARENT

a resounding yes. While in many cases young people can happily join pre-existing Groups, there are times when these Groups are necessary to meet the needs of the young people. Just as each young person should be treated individually, so should each Group. While the set up at 10th Ipswich Rainbow Cubs might not work for everyone, it's a good example of how Groups like this can be successful when finding other opportunities to connect with the rest of the Scouting community. The key is having flexibility and knowledge about the young people you are working with. It's good to recognise that at times the young person's needs outweighs the ideal 'one Group for all' approach, and that's fine. For the Rainbow Cubs, this approach is working well. The positive impact it's having is put into words at the end of today's meeting when Kevin explains how he knows the Group is a making a difference: 'A parent came up to me and said "This is so nice, we get to spend time having fun with our child, and not in a hospital waiting room." That's a quote I'll hang on to.' 🚸

James Dwerryhouse of 10th Ipswich Rainbow Cubs recently passed away. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.





Clockwise from top: Nine-year-old Ava is ready for the next round of games; Kevin's approach has made Scouting possible for the Rainbow Cubs; Thea raises the flag during the Promise.



## OVER TO YOU



## FOUR WAYS TO OFFER SCOUTING FOR ALL

MAKE SURE YOUR GROUP IS APPROACHABLE TO ANY YOUNG PERSON THAT WANTS TO JOIN. USE THESE HANDY HINTS TO ENSURE YOUR GROUP IS ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE:

MAKE REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS All Scout Groups should improve accessibility by making reasonable adjustments that support young people with disabilities to fully participate. The aim is to remove physical barriers, provide support and make adjustments to practices.

MEET WITH PARENTS AND/OR CARERS It's useful to discuss the individual



needs of a young person with the people who know them best – their parent or carer. Work in partnership with parents and carers to support the young person so that they can participate fully.

BE FLEXIBLE The Scout Programme is flexible to ensure that all young people can achieve badges and top awards. Remember that badge requirements can be adjusted to make sure that everyone has a similar level of challenge.

### BE POSITIVE AND REALISTIC

Focus on what you can do to support the young person, be realistic about the support that's needed and keep reflecting on how things are going.

USEFUL LINKS Further support and guidance for inclusive Scouting can be found here – tinyurl.com/jk4gcrp.





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### IN MY EXPERIENCE



For homeschooled student Najah, Scouting is so much more than a hobby – it is her entire social world

My name is Najah. I'm 11 years old, and I am a homeschooled student. Homeschooling is when you study at home and you don't attend mainstream school. It is rather different to normal school. Maths, English and Science are mostly what I study, with a pinch of History and Art. I've also been teaching myself piano and guitar, so there's never a boring moment (unless I'm studying Maths, of course). I am homeschooled because my school wasn't very good, and since my mum is a tutor, she knew she could give me a good education at home.

It's fun to wake up late and wear whatever I like, but it's also rather lonely. My mum teaches me most things and we have one-to-one lessons rather than learning in a class with other children. Homeschooling has many upsides to it: however, it does lack many important qualities. Mainly, I think it's a shame that I don't socialise with fellow students, unlike other children who see their friends every day at school. I only have a small selection of friends from my previous school that I rarely see.
But things improved for me when I joined 11th St Marylebone Scout Group. I must admit, I have more fun there than anywhere else I go. Life-changing lessons and enjoyable activities are all included in Scouts. Participating in different projects to help the less fortunate is very important to me, and I've had a wonderful time taking part through Scouting.

At first, everything was a bit overwhelming. Everyone was so comfortable in Scouts, and they all knew each other already. It was nerve-racking until I got to know everyone's names. Slowly, I became immersed in their world. Then, I started enjoying myself so much it seemed unreal.

I attend a Muslim Scout Group, so it makes our teamwork and companionship better when we pray together. Another of our favourite activities is to play dodgeball. We love to play it at any opportunity! We sometimes have to scavenge for a ball to play with, and venture into the darkness of the cupboard to find ropes and chairs.

# 'Scouts is a second home for me'

Scouts even helps me to quench my boredom at home. My mum will set me homework to complete Scout badges as part of my homeschooling – the last one I did was my Craft Activity Badge. I decided to sew some plushies (cute objects made from felt), and one of my mum's friends helped me with the sewing so that I would meet my homework deadline. She used to be a GP, so she was more used to stitching people than pillows! We later sold the plushies at a Scouts fundraising fair.

# 'l cannot wait for Sundays'

Scouts has helped to bring back my confidence, which I had buried for so long. It also gives me something to feel excited about, to feel a part of, to be proud of and to love. I used to feel nervous and uncomfortable around others my age, but now it feels like Scouts is a second home for me. Do you ever have that feeling when you're really happy just being in a group with other people? When you get to talk and share secrets, work together and overcome things you couldn't do alone? I get that great feeling in Scouts, every time.

This is the reason why I cannot wait for Sundays, when I throw on my Scout uniform and jump on the train. That wonderful feeling is really special, and I hope that all who attend Scouts feel the same ecstatic excitement as I do, each time I rush towards my next session.

# Share and share alike

Meet the leaders making varied and adventurous Scouting possible for their young people, all by working with others

Words: Celeste Houlker | Pictures: Gareth Iwan Jones

IT'S SAFE TO say that all leaders want to offer an incredible Programme, packed full of adventurous activities for their young people to enjoy. However, conquering the country's tallest mountains, white-water rafting down fast-flowing rapids and sleeping in historic public museums can be tricky activities to pull off without the appropriate funding, resources and support.

But now there are many Groups around the country who are managing it. How? By sharing resources with other Groups within their Districts and Counties; resources such as equipment, specialist skills and beneficial relationships with other organisations, all of which are making incredible experiences that much more accessible.

Craig Turpie, UK Commissioner for Programme, is a big supporter of sharing resources and advocates opportunities that give young people the chance to experience new adventures. 'We want as many young people as possible to enjoy all aspects of our Programme. Not all Groups and Districts have the range of resources they need to make that happen, but by coming together to identify how they can assist each other, they can identify ways to ensure that the Programme experienced by every young person is challenging, relevant and rewarding.'

One Group that is ahead of the curve is 1st Kilworth Air Scouts in Leicestershire. Based on an airfield, they have already proven that sharing resources can benefit multiple Counties. With masses of land and glider planes at their disposal, they pioneer a Youth Aviation Day. Once a year in the summer, Scout Groups from all corners of the Midlands descend upon Husbands Bosworth Airfield to learn how to fly the gliders. The event attracts two-thousand land, Sea and Air Scouts as well as other uniformed youth organisations, such as the Police Cadets, for the meagre sum of £1 per person. Keeping costs low allows as many young people as possible to attend the day. They can also choose to camp overnight.

Heading up the event is Air Scout Leader Rob Barsby whose background in aviation has enabled him to make air activities more accessible to Scout Groups in his surrounding area.

'As a Scout Leader I never could get my head around why we didn't partner with the Air Scout Groups for air activities,' explains Rob. 'So when I became the Chief Flying Instructor at The Gliding Centre it inspired me to set up an Air Scout Group operating on the airfield.'

'The other Districts get involved with what we do too,' he continues. 'When we put on large youth events like



#### SHARING RESOURCES

Youth Aviation, they bring down other activities like zip wires to create a traditional Scouting zone.'

When Groups in the surrounding area are unable to attend Youth Aviation, the leaders of 1st Kilworth Air Scouts take the camp to them. Their portable equipment includes a 360-degree virtual reality headset, glider planes and flight simulators. When a Scout sits inside a simulator wearing a virtual reality headset, they experience the illusion of flying over Dubai. 'Working collaboratively with other Groups and leaders has helped Air Scouting reach young people who may not have thought about getting involved,' says Rob.

But the sharing of resources isn't limited to such grand schemes; it can also work on a far more modest – but equally effective - level. Surrey-based Sea Scout Groups 1st Cuddington (Warspite) and 4th Thames Ditton (Ajax) have been running the Warspite and Ajax Royal Yachting Association centre (RYA) together since 1986, despite coming from different Districts. The two Groups are connected by sharing the same patch of water and, in more recent years, a motorboat for the occasions when they are stretched for resource. Their 30-year relationship has not only helped to strengthen their Groups, but also others around them.

'Working together and sharing equipment enables us to contribute more widely to national events such as the National Leader Sea Scout Regatta, the National Sea Scout Regatta and the National Sea Scout Leaders conference,' says Richard Hunt, the Group Scout Leader of 1st Cuddington (Warspite). Warspite and Ajax are known to do well at these competitions and it's this sailing expertise that they pass on to others. 'Ajax has a very strong sailing leadership and runs a series of courses, which we've been able to open up to Warspite youth and neighbouring Groups,' continues Richard. 'We use our centre to train Scouts and leaders from other Groups for their sailing permits.'

Ajax also shares assessors for most other disciplines with other Groups. Leaders obtaining Adventurous Activity Permits and knowing assessors are two major keys to unlocking the door to do more activities, something that is wholly encouraged and supported within the Movement.

'Where possible we would encourage Districts and Counties to communicate and share assessors, to ensure that as many people can experience the outdoor and adventure that our Programme is known for.' says Craig. 'Support is available to help leaders develop a quality Programme. Training and skills development is also available. Our Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme provides leaders, including Scout Network members, the opportunity to learn skills needed to take their Group out to do adventurous activities.'

The absence of the correct permits and assessors can often deter leaders when considering adventurous activities, so for Explorer Scout Unit Endeavour it was the sharing of skills and qualifications, rather than equipment, that bridged that gap and made a highly anticipated excursion possible.

While working towards their Silver

### 'Having Peter's expertise on the trip gave me the confidence I needed'

BERNARD SACARELLO, ENDEAVOUR LEADER

Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE), Endeavour, who are based in Limehouse, East London, faced desperate times when they nearly had to call off their expedition due to not having the right assessors and permits.

Coming to the rescue was Peter Banks, their County Duke of Edinburgh Award Advisor. He was able to fill in the missing gaps by finding a DofE assessor for the expedition. The Unit's leader, Bernard Sacarello, was more than a little relieved to know the expedition could go ahead.

'Peter was able to find an assessor in the area where the hike was taking place,' says Bernard. 'This meant I was able to run over their routes with the assessor and he shared his local knowledge. Having the assessor's expertise on the trip gave me the confidence I needed.'

So next time you're planning an excursion or adventurous activity, and you hit upon a stumbling block, why not reach out to other nearby Groups? Who knows what opportunities may develop, or what you might be able to offer in return. As Bernard says: 'Without Peter the expedition wouldn't have happened. And now we have a group of young people who will be awarded their Silver DofE Award.'

Isn't that something to aspire to? 🌸

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#### UK CHIEF COMMISSIONER



# From strength to strength

With the handover now complete, we talk to new UK Chief Commissioner Tim Kidd to find out about his vision for the future of Scouting

Interview: Helen Pearce | Pictures: Dave Bird and Michael Bowles

# TELL US ABOUT YOUR SCOUTING BACKGROUND.

My twin and I joined the Cubs in our village and I have been in Scouting ever since. I went to Scouts and Venture Scouts in the same Group. I helped with the Cubs when I was 16 and 17. At 18 I became a Scout Leader with another Troop in Oxfordshire.

I've undertaken many adult roles, initially within the Scout Section (Scout Leader, Assistant District Commissioner and Assistant County Commissioner, I've been a District Commissioner and a County Commissioner and a County Commissioner. I have also held some national roles: UK Commissioner for Adult Support, Chief Commissioner of England and Deputy UK Chief Commissioner. Locally I am on the Appointments Advisory Committee, I am a Training Advisor (which I love) and I help to run training courses. I also help out on some Oxfordshire County events: the Beaver Scout 'sing-along-a-Santa' (where I am the sing-along part) and the County Patrol Camping Weekend where Scouts camp without their leaders, cook on wood fires and enjoy some fascinating and bizarre activities!

Scouting gave me some fabulous experiences and opportunities. I was not an adventurous child and the thought of activities such as abseiling or canoeing scared me. Scouting showed me that I can do those things (although not very well!) and that it's fine to try things that are a bit stretching. If I hadn't been a Scout there is no way that I would have tried climbing, hill walking, canoeing and many other activities.

# WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE SCOUTING MEMORIES?

There are so many! As a teenager, I fondly remember the many hours spent on camp around a fire in the evening discussing all sorts of things with people who became incredibly close friends.

My favourite memory of my time as a Venture Scout is the first summer camp that we organised ourselves (with a little help from our leaders of course!). We spent two brilliant weeks in Guernsey. On the ferry on our way over an announcement was made for the Scouts to report to the purser. We immediately thought that we were in trouble (what else!), but it turned out that we were asked if we would go around the boat and collect money for the RNLI.

#### UK CHIEF COMMISSIONER

Possibly my best memory though is that of a Cub Scout (Phil) who joined the Troop when I was first a leader. I asked him what he wanted to do most in Scouts and he said 'abseil'. We used to go abseiling at the local campsite three or four times a year so I thought that this wouldn't be a problem. However it turned out that Phil was scared of heights and it took him his full five years in the Troop before he was able to get to the top of the climbing tower to attempt his abseil. It was a tense moment as 21 of us at the bottom of the tower watched the climbing instructor clip Phil onto the ropes and tell him to lean back and trust the instructor. Phil managed his first abseil that day. It had taken him five years of trying and encouragement. And that's why I love Scouting – its power to help us to find courage within ourselves.

#### WHAT SKILLS DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE GAINED AS A MEMBER OF THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT?

There are very many – for my professional life, the skills that I learned as a Scout trainer have been invaluable. I would go as far as to say that I wouldn't have my job now if it wasn't for the skills that I learned through Scouting.

#### DESCRIBE THE BEST CONVERSATION YOU'VE HAD WITH A YOUNG PERSON.

The best ever was with an Explorer Scout from Devon who asked me if I would present his Chief Scout's Award when I was visiting a County camp. I said yes, of course. And then he told me that we would be doing it on the 'death slide' (or something similar at the nearby amusement park). All I can say is that I have forever left a little of my breakfast at that amusement park...

# WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SCOUTING ACTIVITY?

It has to be lighting fires. I know it's not very high-tech but it's great fun and it's always fascinating to watch a fire. My experience is that if you start lighting a fire on your own, you are very quickly joined by other people willing to give a hand!

#### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BACKWOODS COOKING FOOD?

This is easy – chocolate in bananas, heated well so the banana is soft and the chocolate melted. The key, of course, is to choose the best chocolate!

#### IF YOU WERE A SCOUT NOW, WHAT BADGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

I'd love to do the Explorer Belt. I never knew about it when I was younger and I feel that I lost out. I have seen some stunning presentations by Explorer Scouts when they have returned from the Explorer Belt expedition. It's a great award because it is all about engaging with people in an area that you don't know and completing some pretty tough challenges that you don't know about until you get there. My advice to any Explorer Scout (over 16) or Scout Network member reading this is to pop over to the website and check it out tinyurl.com/hm6ejmh.

# WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE UK CHIEF COMMISSIONER?

I love feeling that what I do actually makes a difference and helps people.

My hope is that as the UK Chief Commissioner I can help to grow Scouting and make it easier for more adults and young people to enjoy it.

# DESCRIBE YOUR FIRST FEW MONTHS IN THE ROLE.

There's been quite a queue of people ready to tell me about things that need changing. And that's a great thing – that people care enough to talk about things that can be improved.

Alongside attending meetings and listening to the concerns and suggestions of members across the UK, I have had a few highlights over the past few months. In September, I attended the Durham County Awards, to celebrate top awards for all sections. It was such fun and so important to celebrate the achievements of young people, as well as the support of adult volunteers.

In November, I attended the annual Westminster service where we gave thanks for the Scout and Guide Movements and thanked many of our volunteers who have given long service to Scouting.

I'm looking forward to the Cub Promise celebration on 16 December. I'll be joining Greater London Middlesex West at Paccar campsite to reaffirm my Promise with hundreds of Cub Scouts.

# HOW IS YOUR ROLE RELEVANT TO SCOUT LEADERS?

It might be easy to imagine that my role has very little to do with everyday Scouting, but I hope that it makes a difference for the better.



'There's been quite a queue of people ready to tell me about things that need changing...'





#### UK CHIEF COMMISSIONER



My responsibility is to ensure that we listen to the successes and issues that people face in daily Scouting and that we design rules, support material and processes to help people more easily deliver great Scouting. People will be aware of the huge amount that Wayne improved how we listen and respond to people – my intention is to continue that and ensure we understand what it is like to Scout 'on the ground.'

#### WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR 2017?

Apart from getting around the UK to meet people, I think that the key item for 2017 is to work with the Movement to build our strategic plan for the next five years. We've done stellar work across the UK on Scouting For All, now it's time to consider what's next. What I expect our new strategic plan to do is lay out how we will support our volunteers to run a brilliant Programme for young people.

#### AND POST-2018?

We've done brilliantly in our plan to 2018, now is the time to start planning for post-2018. We have a national conference in April 2017 to start this process. Everyone will get a chance to be involved. My personal hope is that we can develop Scouting For All to help us for the next five years. I'd like to see Scouting, led by young people, to continue making an impact on communities locally. I would also like to see us make more progress in our diversity and also to ensure that our numbers grow based on a gripping Programme for young people that teaches them invaluable life skills.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD LEADER IN SCOUTING?

There are many things that a good leader in Scouting should both be and do, but for me, the most important item is to ensure that we live and act according to our Scout values. Our values are very powerful and ensure that we approach everything – whether it's fun or challenging – in the right frame of mind.

#### WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR LEADERS IN SCOUTING?

Enjoy this great game of Scouting but always remember that its purpose is to develop young people. Young people have the right to be in Scouting; for us adults it is a privilege. **\*** 



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# All in good time

When the strain of weekly meetings started to take its toll, 1st Redbourn decided to take a fresh approach to their Scouting

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Brian Doherty



'You get excited when you realise it's a Scouts weekend.'

NISSA, SCOUT

THE SCOUTS ARRIVE at the hut, laughing, in their too-big shirts and black-and-yellow neckers. Every parent lingers, handing in forms and lunch money and stopping to have a chat with the leaders. There's no rushing off or dropping the kids in the car park at 1st Redbourn: time is something this Troop has plenty of. It's Saturday morning, and the beginning of a full Scouting day.

Many leaders would baulk at the thought of planning enough activities to fill a whole day. But for this Troop, running a single, six-hour-long Scouts session one Saturday per month makes perfect sense. From finding volunteers, to retaining young people, and working towards their Chief Scout's Gold Award, the experiment has been a roaring success so far.

The Troop runs in leafy Hertfordshire, in a village full of chocolate-box cottages. The commuters drive into



London every morning, forever trying to beat the traffic. They work long and busy hours, returning home late, often after their children are asleep, arriving in the glow of orange street lights.

Many parents have chosen this village community for a better quality of life outside the big smoke. But the high-pressure commuter lifestyle threatens the precious work-life balance. Regular volunteering is all but impossible without letting someone down along the way.

'There is no way I could help on a weekday evening,' says Craig, Scout Leader at 1st Redbourn's new Saturday Troop. 'I don't get back until 7 or 8 o'clock at night. I can't just leave if work is running late and say, "Oh sorry, I've got Scouts".'

It's a story familiar to Annette Payne, District Commissioner. 'More than 50% of adults living here are commuters,' she explains. 'Often, keen would-be volunteers say they can't get back in time to help. We especially struggle to find Beaver Leaders, as their meetings tend to be early,' Annette continues. 'Long commutes don't lend themselves to volunteering.'

Another real struggle for the Group was the availability of the space. With two Beaver Colonies, two Cub Packs and an existing Scout Troop, the hut was full-to-bursting every night of the week. Cubs were reaching Scout age and finding themselves on waiting lists; interest waned and numbers dropped. The existing Troop met on Friday evenings, which also spelled trouble: clashes with hobbies or family routines were unavoidable.

'It didn't fit with our family life,' says Zonda Cherry, Scout Leader and the driving force behind the new Troop. She started volunteering with Beavers when her son joined. They moved

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'We are trailblazing. It wouldn't work for everybody, but it does for us.' zonda cherry, scout leader















This page, clockwise from left: Trangia cooking for the Outdoor Challenge Badge; Scouts blowing off steam after lunch

through the sections together until they were on the brink of joining Scouts. But Fridays posed an insurmountable issue. 'Our Scouting career threatened to come to a grinding halt, and we didn't want that, we wanted to continue the experience,' she says.

It was true for many others too. 'I considered going to Scouts on a Friday, but then I thought, because it's on Friday, I didn't really want to do it,' says Sam, aged 11. 'I want to see my friends, and I have cricket.'

Zonda talked to other Cub parents, and floated a bold idea: to open a new Troop on a Saturday. To get around parents' other commitments and reluctance to relinquish their precious weekends away from the office, they would condense the Programme into a single Saturday per month. Four evening sessions would become one full Scouting day. With support from the Group Scout Leader, they took their proposal to the District to talk it over with Annette and her team.

'A District Commissioner should always try to think outside the box,' Annette laughs. 'This was just another model to be tried. It was a compromise. Families would still be able to do the things everyone else does at the weekend, and for volunteers it didn't seem like such a big commitment.'

Zonda agrees. 'It seemed sensible to do it this way. The hut wasn't utilised at the weekend, and when we canvassed the parents about their willingness to volunteer once a month, they said, "Why not?" It all fell into place. We didn't know if it would work, but we felt like it was the right thing for us.'

'We're all new to this level of Scouting,'
Zonda admits, although she was able to draw on her previous experience volunteering with Beavers and Cubs.
She recruited an ex-Guide leader and two dads with good outdoor skills, and together they form a solid, dependable team. The four new leaders got together to plan their first few monthly sessions, taking into account bank holiday weekends, school terms and District and County events.
'We play to our strengths,' Zonda says.
'We work out who wants to do what, who is going to lead each game and



activity, and who wants to get stuck in. It takes the pressure off.' Each leader takes responsibility for running a portion of the day, sharing the workload. So far, it's working perfectly.

Starting with seven Scouts, in the two terms the Troop has been running they have doubled their numbers. They have taken young people off waiting lists, and are helping to ease the backlog that was becoming problematic in the area. The secret to their success? Time.

'We get more done, doing it like this,' says leader Craig, echoing the sentiment of everyone at 1st Redbourn. 'Last month we did raft building – you couldn't have done it in 90 minutes. By the time the health and safety demo was done and we were in our wetsuits, it had been an hour. You can do more and not be in a rush.' 'It's more exciting than having it every week,' says 11-year-old Nissa. 'When it's once a month, you get excited when you realise it's a Scouts weekend.'

'We plan it like a day camp,' Zonda says. 'We have a long list of activity ideas – we might go off the plan at points, but we always manage to keep the Scouts occupied.'

DC Annette admits that, for new leaders, the idea of volunteering with Scouts for a whole day can seem overwhelming. 'It can be daunting. But when one person takes the lead, the others back them up, and then they swap over. The responsibility is shared.' Just like a weekly Scout meeting, the leaders break things down into manageable chunks.

'Every month is different,' Zonda says of their Programme, but in general

their focus for badge work is Challenge Awards, as they want every Scout to have the opportunity to achieve their Chief Scout's Gold Award. 'We dip in and out of the Awards. At first we thought we'd pick one and work through it – and maybe we will do that when we're more skilled as leaders, but for now we're just trying to do a bit of everything. It keeps things varied, and they were all pleased as punch when they got their first Challenge Badge!'

For this Group, less frequent sessions have made Scouting infinitely better. 'If we weren't there for a consolidated period of time, we couldn't run such a diverse Programme,' Zonda says proudly. And the leaders? 'We're growing with the children,' Zonda continues. 'We are trailblazing, to a degree. It wouldn't work for everybody, but it does for us.' �



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# retention tricks

Use our section-by-section advice to keep your young people Scouting

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Ralph Spegel

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE to move on to the next section is vital for progression through Scouting. Without the right support, they might not be aware of the amazing opportunities available to them in the older sections. Here are six top tips to help leaders of each section support moving on.

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#### **BEAVERS TO CUBS**

- 1 ENCOURAGE LEADERS TO TALK This doesn't have to be a formal meeting: just encourage the leadership teams from Beavers and Cubs to meet periodically and chat about who may be moving on soon. Remember that age ranges are flexible: young people should move on when it is right for them and they feel ready.
- 2 BUDDY UP

Chat with Cub Leaders to develop a buddy system where older, more experienced Cubs (perhaps Sixers) look after new arrivals, to aid their integration into the Pack. The new Cubs will instantly have a friend they can pair off with during games and activities.

3 COMMUNICATE

WITH PARENTS/CARERS For parents and carers who haven't previously been involved in Scouting, they may know little about Cubs. Invite them for a chat about what will be different when their child moves on, including terminology, camping, badges and uniform. The Cub Activity Log is a great resource, aimed at young people, to show them what to expect from Cubs, and the Parent's Guide to Scouting series also contains vital information.

#### 4 TRY THE GRAND HOWL

If a few of the Beavers are moving on together, consider spending an evening with them trying out some Cub activities, like the Pack's opening ceremony. It will seem much less confusing if they've been shown it in a familiar environment first.

5 SWIMMING UP CEREMONY Make the moving on process celebratory by holding a ceremony – for example, Swimming Up. Beavers and Cubs stand together, and the young people who are moving to Cubs 'swim' up the line. Read more: tinyurl.com/j46dd22.

6 MOVING ON AWARD

This award is designed to support the transition between sections. Make sure each young person leaving Beavers to join Cubs earns their Moving On Award – a badge they can wear proudly on their uniform. This is a way for the young person to find out more about the next section, and to ensure they see moving on as an achievement. The badge should be sewn onto their Cub jumper.

#### CUBS TO SCOUTS

1 VISIT THE SECTION

Cubs are welcome to join in with some Scouts meetings before they officially join, to meet the others and see what it is like. A leader from Cubs could accompany them, or hold a debrief to find out how it went and allay any concerns. This will count towards their Moving On Award too.

2 PLAN A JOINT CAMP Scouts are likely to do more camping than Cubs, so encouraging young people to meet in on camp is a good way to both allow them to get to know each other, and get used to camping. A Group or family camp is ideal, as there will be lots of adults around to support them.

#### 3 STRENGTH IN NUMBERS Wait until there are several Cubs who are ready to move on, so that they can go together. Breaking into pre-existing friendship groups can feel difficult for some young people, so it can be reassuring to have some familiar faces around.

4 TEACH FLAG BREAK

Cubs may be used to an opening ceremony, but Scouts' flag break is a little different. Before they move on, explain what happens during flag break and perhaps some of the history behind it.

- 5 HOLD A CEREMONY Make sure you celebrate Cubs moving on to Scouts, in whatever way works for your Troop. When other Cubs see that moving on is being celebrated, they won't be so concerned when their time comes.
- 6 MOVING ON AWARD Cubs should work towards their Moving On Award, using their Cub Activity Log to record actions. The award should be sewn onto their Scout shirt.

#### SCOUTS TO EXPLORERS

1 VISIT THE MEETING PLACE As Explorers is a District-organised section, rather than being attached to particular Groups, the meeting place will often be different to where the Scouts currently go. Visiting to meet leaders and young people, and to make sure travel will be feasible, is a good first step and part of the Moving On Award.

#### 2 PLAN A JOINT ACTIVITY

While Explorers have quite a different Programme structure to Scouts, there are overlaps – particularly the Staged Activity Badges. The leadership teams could run a joint session, perhaps towards the end of a term, or during a District camp, to allow Scouts and Explorers to meet. This could even be an activity to achieve the Chief Scout's Award: it can be finished off within the first term of joining a new section.

3 COMMUNICATE WITH PARENTS/CARERS

Explorers are given more freedom to try an adventurous Scouting Programme, so it's important to communicate with parents and carers. They may have questions about new uniform, the Young Leaders' Scheme and the Programme. There is additional information in the Scouts Activity Log.

4 EXPLORER BELT

Being in Explorers offers young people amazing opportunities, including the chance to go abroad with Scouting. The Explorer Belt is just one of the great things they could get involved with if they carry on Scouting through their teenage years. Scouts could attend Explorer Belt presentations to see what their peers have achieved, and give themselves some inspiration.

5 HAVE A LEAVING PARTY Recognise the achievement of continuing through Scouting until the age of 14 by throwing a leaving bash. Other members may be inspired to continue along their Scouting journey if they see their older peers moving on to Explorers.

#### 6 MOVING ON AWARD

Young people of all ages like to receive badges, no matter how cool they think they are by the time they become a teenager! Scouts should work towards their Moving On Award as it will help them bridge the gap to Explorers by finding out more about it. The badge should be sewn onto their Explorer shirt.

#### EXPLORERS TO NETWORK

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1 EXPLAIN AUTOMATIC JOINING On their 18th birthday, Explorers will automatically become part of their local Scout Network and cease to be Explorers. Network is a way to stay in touch with other young adults who are still involved in Scouting, to hear about opportunities and take part in all sorts of activities. Scouting doesn't have to end as a participant when young people turn 18.

#### 2 NETWORK PROJECTS

Networks vary in their proactivity from region to region, but many run projects that others can join in with. Find out what your local Network is running by having a look at the UK Scout Network site. Explorers may be able to contact current members about their projects before they turn 18: ukscoutnetwork.org.uk.

3 ADULT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES If they choose to, young people aged over 18 can go through the appointments process and start working towards their adult leadership qualification. The training will teach them skills for life which could make them more employable in the future – like teamwork, public speaking and time management. There are also many other sorts of voluntary roles available for adults, aside from working with young people, which members of their District can advise on.

4 INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES If the young person didn't complete their Explorer Belt as an Explorer, or missed out on a great camp because of exams, Network offers them the opportunity to give it a go. They also have the freedom to organise their own camps and trips now that they are over 18.

5 QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD This is the top youth award in Scouting, and can be started any time after a young person's 16th birthday. It can be worked on as an Explorer or as a Network member. Many award holders combine their efforts with bronze, silver or gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards – achievements that all look brilliant on a CV or university application, and which give young people the chance to try all sorts of new and exciting experiences.

6 MOVING ON AWARD Explorers who have journeyed all the way through the Explorers section and been committed to Scouting deserve recognition from their peers and leaders. They should work towards and be awarded their Moving On Award, as a reminder of their time in Scouting. •





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# In his own words...

Eighty-two-year-old King's Scout, Ron Frost, shares his memories of Scouting in a bygone age

Interview: Laura Sagar | Illustration: David Despau

'I JOINED THE 1st Bagshot Scout Troop in June 1947. I was 13. The Troop was going to camp in Hayling Island in two weeks' time and I asked if I could camp with them. The Troop was run by Derek Papworth, a King's Scout who was about 18 years old at the time. 'We travelled to camp in furniture vans packed full of tents, digging tools, cooking billies and buckets. The Scouts all sat on top of the kit and off we went. We dug holes in the ground for our toilet, a wet pit and a dry pit. We put four sticks in the ground and wrapped a piece of sack around it for a bit of privacy and that was our toilet. Things were so primitive. We slept on the ground, with a ground sheet and two blankets and that was your bed for the night. Can you imagine Scouts doing that these days?

#### INTERVIEW: KING'S SCOUT





Pictures left, above and right: cherished mementos from Ron's lifetime of Scouting – Ron's Scout Group help Father Christmas navigate Bagshot; Ron aged 12; and the summer camp to Hayling Island in 1951

'Take it seriously, always tell the truth, work hard, study hard and you'll have a good life.'

'We would dig shallow trenches to light fires and we'd put the turf to one side, keeping it watered, so it could be replaced at the end of the camp. Back then, when you left a campsite you'd leave nothing but your thanks behind.

'On one camp, the weather wasn't very good so the local baker asked if we'd like him to dry our bedding and clothing. We took along all our wet clothing and he put them in the oven.

'We often made aerial runways. The boys would hold onto the homemade

handle and leap into the air. I don't think that would be allowed these days, but we never had any accidents. Well, actually, we did have some accidents.

'Once you'd passed a first-class Axemanship Badge, you were allowed to wear a sheath knife. One day a boy had been at the top of a tree, tying a rope to it, and he dropped his knife. It landed in the shoulder of a boy at the bottom of the tree. We took him to hospital and they removed the knife quite easily. He wasn't badly hurt, but it was a little stressful at the time!

'I started out as number 8 in the Kestrel patrol. We'd know from details that were published in Scouting books which badges were available and would choose the badges we wanted to achieve ourselves. You had to get a second-class badge to start and once you had that, you worked for first-class, a much bigger oval badge. I worked hard and passed the second-class badge and became the patrol second. A year later I had the first-class badge and became patrol leader. At 15 I became a Senior Scout, but I had been working hard on some of the senior badges before that.

'For the Fireman's Badge, I went to the fire station and took part in all the drills. I climbed the tall ladders with wheels at the bottom, climbed a three-storey building and carried a body down to the bottom (it wasn't a real body, of course!). We would have to deal with various fires – oil and electrical – and know how to organise people to keep them away from dangerous areas.

'I joined St John Ambulance to work towards the Ambulance Badge, and used to attend once a week. We would have an hour's lecture from a doctor



and an hour's practice with a senior St John Ambulance officer. You had to know about pressure points and the circulation of blood as well as how to splint and bandage broken bones. The doctor and the officer would test you and determine whether you had passed the badge or not. These were useful skills we were learning.

'Most of the repair work we did for our Handyman Badge was done to our leader's house. He wanted a new door fitted, there were windows that needed re-puttying, and the house needed painting.

'The Dispatch Rider Badge was a real challenge. Someone gave you a message that you needed to remember word for word. The message contained times of the day and numbers of roads, it was a complicated story that you needed to remember perfectly. The only problem was, your destination was 10 miles away and you had to travel by bicycle. Along the way there was always a major incident, and you had to deal with it. You needed to make sure the injured person made it to hospital. Then you would continue on your journey until you got back to Scout HQ where you would have to repeat the message that you were given right at the start.

'Once I'd passed all the badges for the King's Scout Award, I received a visit from District Commissioner Mr Genneas (I'm not sure how you spell it), who we affectionately called "Hold ya Knees" because his name sounded like that. He came to our Troop meeting and asked me to go to Windsor Castle for the award.

'I went to Windsor and was met by Chief Scout, Lord Rowallen, a friend of King George VI who would be presenting our certificates. I was very excited, if a little nervous. Twenty-two of us were presented with awards that afternoon.

'I've been a Scout my whole life. I have been connected with many different Troops and generally helped out for many years. I've run camps for Cubs and Scouts. I always found running Cub camps more difficult – you'd tell them all to go to sleep and the next thing you know they'd be up and running around the site.

'The things I've learned through Scouting have served me well in life. Not only am I very good at knots, I'm proficient at brick-laying, plumbing and electrical. Being a Scout gave me the confidence to tackle anything.

'I would recommend the Scouting life to everyone. Take it seriously, always tell the truth, work hard, study hard and you'll have a good life.'



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# If it wasn't for Scouting...

Three exceptional young people tell us how being a part of Scouting has changed their lives for the better

Words: Jess Connett | Pictures: Kendall Thow and Oliver Edwards

#### JOSHUA, 10, INVERUIE SCOUT GROUP 'If it wasn't for Cubs, I would just sit in a corner feeling sad and worried that I was being made fun of.'

'I hate crutches,' complains Joshua. At home with his mum Kay in Inveruie, he is full of beans, laughing and chatty. But it isn't always the case. Joshua has severe haemophilia: a chronic, lifelong bleeding disorder that he was born with. His blood doesn't contain a certain clotting factor, meaning that without medical intervention, injuries he sustains will not stop bleeding.

'If I cut myself and it's a big cut, I have to go to hospital and I might need surgery to have it sorted out,' Joshua says matter-of-factly. For other families, taking their child to hospital would be a scary ordeal; for Kay and Joshua, it's a regular occurrence. 'I go to hospital every three months for check-ups,' Joshua says. 'If I bang my head, I have to stay in hospital in case I have a bleed inside my skull. I've been to hospital five times this year, for a few days at a time. It can be scary because I don't really know what's happening.'

Joshua's condition is completely unpredictable and spontaneous. It makes things difficult day-to-day for the family. 'He could go for months with no incidents, and then be in hospital for weeks at a time,' says Joshua's mum, Kay. 'He can go to bed totally fine, and then have a bleed during the night and not be able to walk the following day. You just don't know what it's going to be like from one day to the next – you can't really plan for anything.

Despite all of this uncertainty - the medical procedures, hospital visits, missed periods of school and dreaded crutches – Joshua has managed to keep one stable thing in his life: Scouting. 'I started as a Beaver, and now I'm a Cub,' he says proudly. 'We do medic stuff, play games, have water fights -I absolutely love water fights!' The excitement in his voice is contagious: despite missing sessions due to hospitalisations, and attending Cubs in his wheelchair when he's had a bad bleed, Scouting is a release for Joshua. It's a time when he can do the things every other 10-year-old boy would, and it's a peer support system that his frequent stays in hospital have otherwise largely prevented.

'Cubs helps me to take my mind off things, because it's such fun and all my friends are there. If it wasn't for Cubs, I would just sit in a corner feeling sad, worried that I was being made fun of. Everybody knows how to help me, and they all want to push me in my wheelchair!' Joshua laughs. For Kay, seeing Joshua flourish with Scouting has been incredibly rewarding. 'Even though he's got this condition. I don't think it should be something that holds him back,' she says. 'A lot of the friendships that he's made at Cubs will carry on until he leaves school, and certainly the skills and experiences will stand him in good stead for his future.'

Without Scouting, Joshua wouldn't have found his community: his friends, his support. The people who will push his wheelchair to the campsite so that he can sleep out in a tent with them for the first time. 'Everybody at Inveruie Scout Group wants him to succeed at all aspects of his life,' Kay says with emotion in her voice. 'At Cubs, Joshua has seen that it's OK to try things, and if you don't manage it at first, it doesn't matter, as long as you've done your best.' For Joshua, growing from a little boy to a teenager, there will be many days when he needs to use crutches – and many more when his friends from Scouting will support him.

#### HENRY, 7, 3RD RINGWOOD SCOUT GROUP 'If it wasn't for Beavers, I wouldn't have learned first aid or how to help others.'

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Henry enjoyed learning first aid at Beavers. He has the Activity Badge

sewn onto his jumper as a reminder – and as well as being fun, the skills stuck. Henry's exceptional calmness and bravery in a medical emergency earned him the prestigious Lieutenant Commander Henry Bruce Young Person's Award, and saved the life of a stranger.

'It was after school, on a Tuesday, with my daddy and my little sister Anna,' Henry explains. They were walking home on a windy afternoon when Henry asked his dad if he could hear a noise. 'Someone was saying, "Help me, help me",' Henry's dad, Will, says, picking up the story. 'We found a little gap in the fence to look through, and that's when we found Sylvie,' Henry continues.

They discovered 90-year-old Sylvie Downer in her garden, injured and unable to get up. She'd gone to let out her dog, and a gust of wind had pulled the door out of her hands, toppling her onto the concrete. Her lunch was boiling dry on the stove, and her slippers were still at the back door. She had been calling for help for over three hours.

'When we went into the house she looked absolutely hurt,' Henry says. 'We just knew that we had to help her.' While they waited for an ambulance, Henry sat with Sylvie, stroking her hand and keeping her calm. 'I knew how to help because I remembered it from Beavers,' he explains. 'If it wasn't for Beavers, I wouldn't have learned first aid or how to help others; if I hadn't completed my badge, I might have done something wrong.'

Sylvie was beginning to look better, until she suffered what they later discovered was a stroke, and fell from

# 'If I hadn't completed my badge, I might have done something wrong'

her chair, causing a gruesome head wound. Despite the stress of the situation, Henry stayed with Sylvie. 'I think having us with her made her feel better because she had been there for hours calling for help, and no one came except us. It was only us that saved her,' he says.

With the ambulance's arrival imminent, Henry was given the job of signalling the paramedics. 'I had to go out to the front of the house and look. The car was big, yellow and dark green, so I knew that was the one. I did a waving signal and then I opened the gate and let them into the house.'

The paramedics took Sylvie to hospital, where she stayed for a month before being allowed home. The family knocked on her door one afternoon when she was back. 'She opened the door and said, "It's you, isn't it." She remembered Henry and his sister: it was a lovely moment,' Will recalls. 'She told us how proud she was of the children, and how she'd been telling all the doctors and nurses that, out of a horrible situation, her one abiding memory was of the two of them carrying a huge chair for her to sit in. It was taller than Henry!' 'Twice the size!' Henry says, exuberantly.

'After we left, I took Henry and Anna by the hand and told them that I was ►





'I have a whole array of skills, thanks to the badges. Having them will definitely help me.'

TROY

incredibly proud,' Will says earnestly. 'They handled it so well.' Will is rightfully proud of how his children reacted, staying calm and doing their best to be kind and helpful in a frightening situation. 'I went through Scouts myself, and I wanted them to have that same experience. I think Scouting gives you the moral values and tools you'll need for life. The learning methods stick.' Will looks over towards his son. 'If it wasn't for Scouting, Henry wouldn't be the fine, upstanding little boy he is – and long may it continue.'

## TROY, 15, 4TH BOWDON EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

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'If it wasn't for Scouting, I wouldn't have done all the things that I've done, and had the chance to try so many activities.'

Troy is studying for GCSEs. He has a few hobbies that he's pretty into – so far, so normal. But, were you to glance at his CV, you might be forgiven for mistaking it for the life of a fictional character. From becoming a black belt in karate, to being invited to meet Theresa May at Downing Street, there's not much Troy hasn't tried – or succeeded at. And, it was Scouting that started him on this incredible journey of overachievement. 'I joined Beavers when I was six,' he explains in a lilting Mancunian accent. As a Beaver, Troy collected every Activity Badge. 'I was motivated by the experiences I got from doing the badges – I was doing things I wouldn't normally do,' he says. When he moved on to Cubs, he started again with another set of badges. The allure of a new challenge was irresistible.

'I started skating because of the Cub Skater Activity Badge, and now I've been doing it for six years,' Troy explains. 'I went to the local rink to be taught how to skate, and it turned out I was quite natural at it. It's something I wouldn't have considered without doing the badge.' Now, Troy trains three times per week, and has represented the UK at international figure-skating competitions.

In 2013, Troy became one of only two Scouts in the country to achieve the Astronautics Activity Badge, sponsored by the UK Space Agency. As a reward, he was invited to the UK Space Conference in Glasgow, where he was presented with his badge by an as-yet-unknown trainee astronaut: Tim Peake. They chatted about Tim's hopes to go into space, and parted ways until 2014. 'I saw a competition to design Tim's mission patch,' Troy says. This was a cloth patch, sewn onto Tim's spacesuits, to represent his mission aboard the International Space Station.

'Because I'd met him once already and had talked to him about him going to space, I thought, "why not enter?"' Troy says. 'I remembered some of the things he'd said – like how he wanted to see the Earth from space – and I incorporated it into the design. Out of 3,000 entries, I ended up winning the competition.'

Troy met Tim again, and filmed a segment of TV show Blue Peter with him at The Science Museum in London. 'It was absolutely incredible!' Troy says. It was just the beginning: as soon as Tim blasted off for his sixmonth mission, the media coverage was near constant. 'It was surreal – Tim was all over the news and doing interviews in his spacesuit with my patch on his arm,' Troy says. 'You could buy my design on T-shirts, bags, pencil cases – all sorts.'

Troy earned all 74 Scout Activity Badges, collating the evidence in huge scrapbooks and presenting each badge to his leaders as he earned them, developing his confidence and communication skills in the process. He earned kayaking, sailing, windsurfing and powerboating qualifications from the Royal Yacht Association, and is a certified rockclimbing instructor. 'If it wasn't for Scouting, I wouldn't have done all the things that I've done, and had the chance to try so many activities. I have a whole array of skills, thanks to the badges,' Troy says. 'Having these qualifications will definitely help me in later life. When you apply to university, it's not just about results: they want to see what else you've done. All of it will definitely help.'

Troy is now an Explorer, and achieving his final set of badges is next on his to-do list, along with getting his GCSEs and picking some A-levels. 'It's not something you'd normally get the chance to do,' he says, contemplating just how much he has packed into a handful of years. 'It's been an amazing journey so far.'



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# winter 2016–17 3 ACTIVITIES ©

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# MAKE A MINI BOW AND ARROW

Your young people can unleash their inner Katniss Everdeens and Robin Hoods with this fun activity

SUITABLE FOR CUBS AND SCOUTS







Ask your young people to work together to put two of the skewers together and tape them up at each end, around 1cm–2cm from the ends (1). Roll tape around the middle too. Repeat with another pair of skewers.

2 Next, get them to cut one skewer into three parts. Take one piece and tape it to the end of your combined skewers with about half its length sticking out – this will form the centre of the bow. Take another piece and tape it to the other side of stick, creating a gap in the middle of the two shorter skewers.

3 Ask them to take the other pair of skewers and, holding them sideways, slot them into the space made by the shorter skewers (2) so their two sets of combined skewers are connected end to end. Tape this up to form the centre of the bow – use plenty of tape so your bow remains strong and flexible.

A Now they can take a piece of string and tie a triple stopper knot (see above) in one end. Slot it in





between the two skewers, at the end (3), the knot should be big enough to lock the string in place.

5 Your young people should then take the other end of the string to the other end of the bow, pulling it taut. While one person keeps their finger on the bit of string that reaches the end of the bow, another can make a triple stopper knot in this place. The knot should reach around 1cm in from the end of the bow.

6 Gently bending the bow, ask them to pull the string taut and slip the knot through the end of the bow, between the two skewers. Flex the string to make sure it has good tension.

**7** To make the arrow, take a foam peanut and make it shorter by cutting or tearing it across the middle.

8 Take a wooden skewer and stick it into the peanut at one end (4). Add glue to secure it. Add tape to the other end, wrapping it around and cutting it to resemble a feather (5).

#### TIME NEEDED



#### **EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

- Wooden BBQ skewers
- Black PVC tape
- Scissors and string
- Foam peanuts and glue

#### THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGE



Cubs Teamwork Challenge Award



Cubs Pioneer Activity Badge Scouts Pioneer Activity Badge

#### **OUTCOMES**

Your Scouts will learn the skills necessary and understand the materials needed to make a mini bow and arrow. This instrument is a fun source of play both indoors and outdoors, where Scouts can practise their hand-eye co-ordination by shooting at targets.

#### **TAKE IT FURTHER**

Build on your Group's archery skills by making targets, which could comprise upturned disposable drinking cups marked with different numbers – individual Scouts should try to rack up the biggest score by hitting the higher numbers with their arrows. Alternatively ask your Group for ideas.

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VIEW FROM - MISTRAL 300, GLENIFFER BRAES, SCOTLAND

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# CONSTRUCT A THERMOMETER

# Your Scouts can measure temperature shifts with this simple science project

#### SUITABLE FOR BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

1 First, ask your young people to take the empty water bottle, add a few drops of food colouring to it (1) and then fill it to the top with lukewarm water. The food colouring will make the results of the experiment more visible.

2 Next, put the straw into the bottle, holding it in place with modelling clay (2). Leave at least 10cm of straw sticking out of the top and make sure it does not touch the bottom of the bottle. Ensure the clay seal is tight. Water should travel up the straw.

3 To test the thermometers, ask the Group to place them in a bowl of iced water. Watch the level of the

coloured liquid inside the straw – as the cold penetrates, the liquid in the straw will drop downwards. To prevent the liquid in the straw from evaporating, add a drop of oil to the top. Mark the level on the straw.

A Next place the thermometers in a bowl of hot water. As the solution warms up, the liquid will rise. Mark the level again.

5 Encourage the Scouts to test the thermometer in other parts of the room, eg a sunny window ledge or an outdoor porch. They won't actually be measuring the temperature but rather temperature changes.



#### TIME NEEDED



#### **EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

- Plastic water bottle
- Food colouring
- Clear plastic straw
- Modelling clay
- Ice
- ∎ Oil
- Hot water
- Marker pen

#### THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver Experiment Activity Badge Scout Meteorologist Activity Badge

#### **OUTCOMES**

Your Scouts will see temperature changes in their environment and can use this exercise to learn about the recording of temperatures. They will also witness the cycle of convection, which is when water heats up, becomes less dense and rises; when it cools, it contracts, becoming more dense so that it sinks down.

#### **TAKE IT FURTHER**

The next step for this activity would be to make a template on which the measurements from a real thermometer are marked. Add the index card to the straw with clear tape and Scouts can use it to make a note of the temperature as it changes.

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3-9, 12-16, 19-23, 26-28	HK\$550.00	HK\$600.00

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# PLAY GIANT PAC-MAN

# Beavers and Cubs will love taking vintage video-game fun to a whole new level

#### SUITABLE FOR BEAVERS AND CUBS

Depending on the size of your Group, you may like to divide your young people into two teams. Ask your young people to work together to plan their Pac-Man maze using paper, pens and rulers.

2 Ask one of the teams to stick the ghosts to cardboard and cut them out. Then they can attach the four ghosts onto a pencil or ruler with tape. While this is happening, the other team can mark out the maze using the tape.

Place the plastic counters at regular intervals around the maze and put a ball in each corner. Divide the players – you'll need four ghosts, one in each of the following colours: pink, blue, orange and red. Give each of them a ghost cut-out to hold. The rest of the Pack can take it in turns to be Pac-Man (in yellow).

Now you're ready to play! The object of the game is for the Pac-Man team (ie anyone who's not a ghost) to instruct their Pac-Man around the maze, collecting as many plastic counters as possible while avoiding the ghosts. If caught by one of the ghosts, the Pac-Man team loses a life and must start again with a different player. If they pass a ball, they should pick it up and continue. They cannot be caught out while holding this ball, but the effects only last 10 seconds so they should use this time to collect lots of counters.



#### TIME NEEDED



#### **EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

- A very large space
- Paper, pens and rulers
- Ghost templates, downloaded from scouts.org.uk/magazine x4
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Tiddlywinks or plastic counters
- Four identical balls
- T-shirts or bibs x 5 (pink, blue, orange, red and yellow – optional)

#### THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES





Beaver Teamwork Challenge Award Cubs Teamwork Challenge Award

#### **OUTCOMES**

Your Cubs will learn how to plan and action a project working entirely as a team, honing their communication skills and developing confidence in themselves and each other.

#### **TAKE IT FURTHER**

To take this activity to the next level, and work towards the Scouts Teamwork Challenge Award, divide the Group into two teams – one ghost team and one Pac-Man team. Ask each team to choose who's going to play and who's going to direct, then blindfold the players while the remaining members instruct them around the maze for a team-building trust exercise.

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# 5 THINGS TO DO WITH... A JAM JAR

#### **CHURN BUTTER**

Ask Scouts to pour 8oz of room-temp heavy whipping cream into a jar, then add 2 marbles, screw the lid on tightly and shake for five minutes – pausing every minute to check progress – until they have butter. It's hard work, so let everyone have a go. To eat, remove the marbles and rinse off all buttermilk.



#### **MAKE A TORNADO**

Scouts should add **3–4 drops of blue food colouring** to a jar that's ¾ filled with **water**, then add a teaspoon of **blue washing-up liquid** and **vinegar**. They should tightly screw on the lid, making sure it doesn't leak (if it does, carefully add **hot glue** and wait for it to dry) and swirl in a circular motion.





#### **PLAY A XYLOPHONE**

Ask your Group to collect eight jam jars and fill them with different quantities of **water**. They can use **spoons** to hit each jar and a **tuning app** on a smartphone to find the correct quantities for a scale of notes. Now challenge them to play a tune!

WANT MORE? Then head to **scouts**. **org.uk/magazine** for the full list of 10 jam jar activities.

## **PLANT A GARDEN**

Scouts should line the base of a large jar with a **thick layer of moss**, followed by a layer of **pebbles** for drainage, then half-fill it with **earth**. They should then add **small plants** such as ferns or succulents (cacti, aloe vera etc). They're done! Remember, they mustn't over-water their garden – just a light mist every so often.



#### **CREATE A LAVA LAMP**

Ask Scouts to fill a quarter of a jam jar with **water**, top it up with **vegetable oil** until it's 2cm from the top and add **10 drops of food colouring** before gently swirling the jar to mix it into the water. Now they can drop in an **Alka-Seltzer tablet** to get the lava bubbling.





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# 5 THINGS TO DO WITH... BALLOONS

#### **BEND WATER**

Scouts should rub an inflated balloon against their heads until they've built up a static charge. Now turn a tap on, just enough for a steady but slow stream of water to come out, not just drips. Get them to bring the balloon close to the stream of water and watch as the water bends.





Set up a row of **chairs** or a line of **rope** to act as the net. Divide your Group into pairs and give each pair an inflated balloon and **2 fly swatters**. Set them either side of the net and start play. They can play doubles for even more fun!





#### **CREATE A SOLAR SYSTEM**

Use different size balloons to represent each of the planets in the solar system, asking your Group to decorate each one to resemble its respective planet. Ask your Group to put them in the correct sequence and then discuss the conditions associated with each planet.



#### **BUILD A HOVERCRAFT**

Ask Scouts to glue a **water bottle sports cap** over the hole of a **CD** using strong glue. Now they should close the sports cap and put their CD on a smooth surface before putting the end of the inflated balloon over the cap. Lifting the cap will start the hovercraft! 

#### **MAKE STALACTITES**

Scouts should sprinkle a packet of **gelatine** (or **agar-agar** if they're veggie) onto a clean worktop and inflate their balloon before charging it with static by rubbing it on their heads. Now they can hold the balloon close to the gelatine and draw it away slowly.

WANT MORE? Then head to **scouts**. **org.uk/magazine** for the full list of 10 balloon activities.

#### EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Paper
- Pens
- Two or three friends
- Buckets of imagination

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

Draw a head at the top of the page, making sure you keep it hidden from view by folding the paper over at neck level. Pass the paper to your friend. He/she is now in charge of drawing the body and folding the paper again. Now it is time to draw the legs and feet, which you or a third friend can do. Unfold, reveal (ta-da!) and... enjoy!

If your final creature has  $7\frac{1}{2}$  limbs, it means you will be lucky for  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years. \*\*

The game's original name was 'cadavre exquis', French for exquisite corpse. Yuck!

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\*\*OK maybe not. Worth a try though.

French artists from the 1920s invented this game. That makes it almost 100 years old! M

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weeheehee What do you call a bird in a snowstorm? A brrrrr-d!





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