

# gscouts

News and Views for Scouting in Gloucestershire

January 2020



Beavers' Christingle Service 2019 at St. Lawrence's Swindon Village  
Cheltenham





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1.00 pm-4.00 pm      01452 812309

H.Q. Information Centre

[info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk)

Monday to Friday 9.00 am—5.00 pm  
0345 300 1818

Emergency Out-of-Hours Service 24/7

020 8433 7100

Gloucestershire Scouting on the Water Website <http://activities.gscouts.org.uk>

**Have you seen our new GScouts website yet? Go to [www.gscouts.org.uk](http://www.gscouts.org.uk)**

**If you want to print this magazine, it can be presented in A4 or as an A5 booklet.**



## Editorial

A couple of months ago, I came across an article on plastic pollution. The message was so shocking that I was prompted to include a précis of it in this magazine (see p.22). Since then the situation has come to the fore and it has become apparent that a

significant number of separate efforts to ease the problem (mostly by charities) are being made. For example a boat with opening jaws collects the flotsam and conveys it by moving belt into its hull. We need a fleet of these!

It has been realised that much disused plastic packaging reaches the sea via rivers — probably mostly by around 1200 major ones. So, schemes are afoot to dam these and collect the rubbish before it passes into the oceans. Rumour has it that a bacterium that eats plastic has been discovered. Let us hope that this awful pollution can be brought under control quickly.

Likewise, the level of greenhouse gases in the world's atmosphere must be reduced and somehow reversed without delay. Otherwise the melting of polar icecaps could cause a sea level rise which would flood every port (which includes many of the world's capital cities) and inundate entire countries (islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans). Just think of the number of refugees that that would involve!

**Copy date for the next edition is 20th April.**



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**My friend asked me where I see myself in the New Year.**

**How should I know? I don't have 2020 vision.**

# Top Awards Project

## From the CC and County Youth Commissioners

I'm pleased to announce that Gloucestershire Scouts have been selected to participate in the second phase of a national "Top Awards Project". The first phase focused on the experience of an urban based Scout County, and now, Gloucestershire has been selected to explore the Top Awards experience in a rural environment.

This is a great opportunity for us to help shape ideas for supporting adults and Young People in the Top Awards through the Scouting sections, for both the Gloucestershire and around the country.

### What does this entail?

This project will be supported by Oliver Dibbens, working alongside the County Top Awards team. Initially, we aim to meet with sections of all ages around the County to understand;

- Your experience in delivering Top Awards through the programme
- Where you may need support, guidance or advice
- What successes and challenges you are having

It's important to note that if selected to be visited, this will not be an audit of activity, purely a fact-finding mission so that we can build a full picture of the barriers and successes when delivering Top Awards. This will enable us to identify gaps in knowledge or skill, understand what resources are needed, and celebrate the best practice that you are already doing.

All of this will help us as a County Team better support you, in supporting your young people achieving more of their Top Awards in a sustainable manner.

### Who is Ollie Dibbens?

Ollie Dibbens works for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme as the Operations Officer working with The Scout Association, we are the DofE's largest Licenced Operator. He progressed through Scouting and really appreciates the link between DofE Awards and their equivalent Scout Top Awards.

Ollie's time on this Scout Association project is being funded and supported by the DofE

Diamond Fund. While this may lead to some initial focus more towards the 14-25 Top Awards, we recognise that a Beaver Scout starting out on their Chief Scout Bronze Award is as much a part of the picture as a Network Member attending the Queen's Scout Award parade at Windsor Castle. So, we are also looking for ways to engage with the younger sections to understand their stories too.

### What are the aims of this project?

A successful outcome to the project should see;

- Us develop and support a Top Awards programme that is sustainable and able to be passed from Leader to Leader,
- More Young People undertaking their Top Awards,
- Increased knowledge of the Top Awards throughout the Young People, their parents and volunteers and,
- Resources to enable you better to support Top Awards.

Any outcome will only be as good as its input, so we're looking for folk to get involved, offer feedback or joining some brain-storming sessions, when we have the feedback from the section visits.

We will also be looking for your help to create resources like Leader handovers and on-boarding processes, so that we can make this sustainable and useful for the future.

We're just starting on this journey, so please look out for more communications over the coming months.

### How can I get involved?

If you'd like to get involved, please email Liz Orchard on

[acc.topawards@gloucestershire-scouts.org.uk](mailto:acc.topawards@gloucestershire-scouts.org.uk).

Or if you'd like to share your Top Awards successes and/or difficulties, feel free to use the same.

*Mark, Kat and Callum*

*County Commissioner & County Youth Commissioners*

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Ignorant is what you call people who don't know what you've just found out!

## The Unknown Soldier

**The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** refers to a monument dedicated to the services of an unknown soldier and to the common memories of all soldiers killed in any war. Such tombs can be found in many nations and are usually high-profile national monuments. Throughout history, many soldiers have died in war with their remains being unidentified. Following World War I, a movement arose to commemorate these soldiers with a single tomb, containing the body of one such unidentified soldier.



On November 7th, 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme.

None of the soldiers who did the digging was told why.

The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-sur-Ternoise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the Union Flag.

Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at random. The other three were reburied.

A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin of the chosen soldier overnight.

On the morning of the 8th November, a specially-designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court arrived and the Unknown Warrior was placed inside.

On top was placed a crusader's sword and a shield on which was inscribed:

"A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country".

On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside.

There, he was saluted by Maréchal Foch and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard.

Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen-gun salute - something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals.

A special train had been arranged and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London.

He remained there overnight, and, on the morning of the 11th of November, he was finally taken to Westminster Abbey.

The idea of the unknown warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton, who had served on the front line during the Great War. The Union Flag he had used as an altar cloth whilst at the front was the one that had been draped over the coffin.

It was his intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother or son...

We do not glorify war.

We remember - with humility - the great and the ultimate sacrifices that were made, not just in this war, but in every war and conflict where our service personnel have fought - to ensure the liberty and freedoms that we now take for granted.

Every year, on the 11th of November, we remember the Unknown Warrior.

“At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.”

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Leader Lily Hough (left) and Akela Ang Healy, with 1st Royal Forest (Tuesday) Cubs attending Bream Remembrance Parade, 10th November 2019



L

A Ruardean (Forest of Dean) Scout and Cub ready to lay their wreaths

# **BURNS SUPPER & CEILIDH**

Haggis, neeps and tatties  
(vegetarian option available)

Traditional bagpiper  
Calling by Life of Riley  
Raffle



**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

**Doors and bar open at 6.00pm**

**Sit down at 6:30pm**

**Tickets £15**

Tickets and more information available  
from [callumjohnston66@gmail.com](mailto:callumjohnston66@gmail.com) or  
**07504964862**

**Shurdington Community Centre, Bishop  
Rd, Shurdington, Cheltenham GL51 4TB**

All profits will go towards the Explorer Belt  
expedition to Thailand in 2021  
Tickets will not be available to buy on the night

## Dursley Rotary Club hand out huge donations to a number of good causes in the area

Reproduced from the *Gazette*.



Dursley Rotary Club welcomed a number of charities to a special event in which they made donations to good causes.

The Rotary Club regularly donates money to charities from the area but last week a special event was held.

On Monday, October 28 the group welcomed representatives from nine

local groups in the Dursley area.

The Rotary Group had made the decision to award all of them with a donation of £500. The money was presented by members of the Rotary Club at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Berkeley after a two-course meal.

The recipients each gave a resumé of the work undertaken by their respective charities to the Rotary Club prior to the event and were then selected.

Those that received donations included: Woodfield Youth Centre, Breakheart Quarry, Women's Refuge, **Cam Scout Hut**, South West Air Ambulance, Rednock Young Carers, Stroud Food Bank, Tumpy Green Riding for the Disabled and the Bournstream Trust.

The money had been raised by events organised by the Dursley Rotary Club members and also by the Friends of Dursley Rotary Club group.

**Cam Scout Hut** was included after they were targeted by a rogue trader that took nearly £3,000 from the Group.

1st Cam Group Scout Leader, Donna Cook, said: "The support we have had from the community has been incredible.

"We were incredibly surprised, and humbled, by the level of support from everyone in the community.

"Without the support of the community at this time, we would be looking at another winter with a failing roof."

## **A Village is celebrating hosting a full Scout, Cub and Beaver Group for the first time in 30 years.**

Reproduced from *The Forest of Dean and Wye Railway Review*, 6 November 2019  
by Mark Elson, Editor.

Former leaders from the 1970s and 1980s are among those toasting the revival in St Briavels, where Scouting can trace its history back more than a century. And they marked the resurgence at a recent 'sausage sizzle' event at the Scouts' new home on St Briavels Pavilion playing fields.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoyed outdoor games and activities, while adults looked over old photos and reminisced about Scouting events of the past. Group Scout Leader Emma-Jayne Williams said: "We've been given such a warm welcome by the village and it was wonderful to see photos and uniforms that people have kept for all these years.



Issy Chapman, Young Leader,  
helps out on the swing with Beavers and Cubs

Scouting has clearly had a positive impact on many people's lives, and we're delighted to bring the fun and adventure back to the village. It was great to see the community turn out to show their love of Scouting and support the new 1st St Briavels Scout Group."

The new Group was originally formed in Woolaston in 2016, with the Scouts section moving its weekly meetings to St Briavels a year ago, as it wasn't possible to find a single venue with sufficient capacity on three different evenings.

Beavers and Cubs continued to meet at two separate locations in Woolaston, but have now joined the Scouts at St Briavels Pavilion, where the Group hopes to put down roots and build strong links with the community.

Records show that a 1st St Briavels Scout Troop may have existed in 1911, although the earliest official registration was in 1921.

Tim Griffiths, who led the last St Briavels Scout Group in the 1980s, said hearing about the new Group had prompted former Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts to dig out photos and

remember old times:

“When I heard that Scouts were back in the village, I started a Facebook Messenger chat to find out if anyone had photos or neck scarves we could show the new Leaders. My phone hasn’t stopped buzzing since.

“Everyone’s sharing memories of camps and all the other things we used to get up to and there have been a few sad moments, remembering people who are no longer with us. We are now planning a proper reunion sometime soon.

“Many of the people I knew from Scouts have become lifelong friends, and it’s really good to be back in touch with people from the wider group as well.”

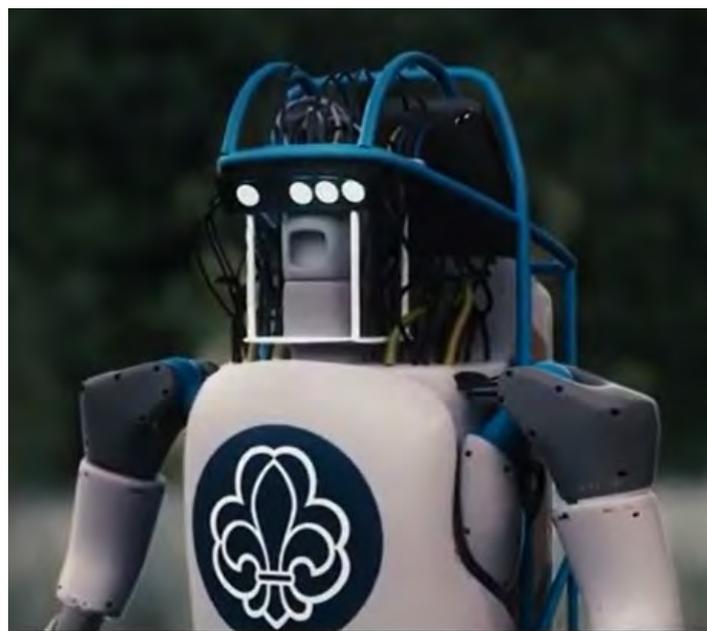
In the 1970s and 1980s, only boys could join Cubs and Scouts, though older girls could join the Venture Scouts. Beavers – the youngest unit – only launched in the UK in 1986, so there has never been a Colony in St Briavels until now.

Today, all girls and boys aged six to 14 in the local area can join 1st St Briavels Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

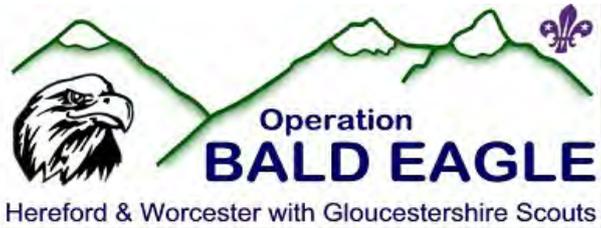
Emma-Jayne said: “We’ve been looking for a single place our Group can call home for the past year, and I’m so glad that St Briavels can accommodate all three of our sections.

“We’re really excited about getting involved in village life and helping to meet local demand for activities for young people.”

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The search for new Leaders is getting desperate!



2019 was once again a fully-booked year for our Annual **Operation Bald Eagle Scout Camp**. On Friday evening, over 500 Scouts and Leaders from all corners of Hereford & Worcester and

Gloucestershire descended on Rhydd Covert Campsite and as soon as the tents were pitched, the Scouts raced to find and complete the challenge for the **Friday Night Trophy**.

After a quick flag break, the Day Base Challenge started as the teams raced around the site to complete as many bases as possible, with activities ranging from go-carting to bridge-building, plus a lot of buckets of water! A late afternoon break gave just time for everyone to have a meal and get ready for the circular **Night Incident Hike**. A couple of coaches and a lot of communication saw all the teams and base staff in place, ready to



**Duck shoot**



**Spider walk**

all start at the same time.

Night bases included the ever popular Wall, provided and run as ever by Smurf and his team from North Cotswold. Despite some rain, most teams completed the hike, and enjoyed a much needed lie-in on Sunday morning before campsites were packed away in time for flag down and the last excitement of the weekend – who had won the trophies?

Congratulations to 2nd Twyning, who came 3rd in Bald Eagle Overall and 2nd in the Night Team Challenge. Other Gloucestershire Troops were: Minchinhampton, Sevenhampton, Slimbridge, Selsley, Swindon Village, 1st Dursley, Moreton-in-Marsh, Wotton under Edge, 1st Cam and 41st Cheltenham.

**Chris Langham**, on behalf of the OBE organising team

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Over the Christmas period, I found out that Santa had nine reindeer, not eight as usually believed. The ninth reindeer was called Olive and she was always abusing Rudolf. The song tells you all about it—“Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names.”

## Hill Walking Weekend

The hill walking weekend was a two-nights-away trip to the Brecon Beacons sleeping in Brecon



Scout Hut. This was luxury accommodation compared to camping in the saturated mud and drizzle outside. Paul and Phil took us onto Pen Y Fan, the highest of the Brecon Beacons, at an altitude of 886 metres. The weather started well, as we climbed south towards the summit. Once we had reached the peak, we met

another Scout Group, who, like us, were using their Group shelter for a quick lunch break on the top. We had an adventurous hike down the mountain, through poor visibility and sporadic rain. We were somewhat relieved once we reached the minibus, but well satisfied that we had shown we could survive the worst of the weather that the mountain could throw at us that day.

The following day, we drove to a picturesque valley, where we practised our map reading and compass skills. The highlight of the weekend came on our return trip, where we were led into a disused narrow-gauge railway tunnel that was once used to transport workers to the mountains. The tunnel itself was over 1 km long and the entrance was ankle deep in water. During our tunnel adventure, we felt like Indiana Jones in search of the Holy Grail. Once on the other side, we were picked up by the minibus, where we could change out of our soaked shoes – something Indiana Jones never had to do.



Overall, this trip was great fun. It was great to be in the mountains and we learnt a lot about surviving there. We would like to thank Paul and Phil for organising the trip and Wendy for the excellent catering.

*Dominic, Matthew, Nicola No Name ESU*

## Module A

Another batch of Young Leaders competed Module A in October. They have all been invited to attend their District's YLU to complete the other modules and missions and gain the YL Belt Buckle.

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Whose cruel idea was it to put an "s" in the word "lisp"?

## Guernsey – Extreme & Random ESUs CSA Diamond & DofE Silver Expeditions

Ten Explorers, 1 Mascot, 3 adults, 1 car, 3 bikes on a ferry to a place none had been before... leaving from a Gloucestershire service station at 4 am to catch the ferry. We arrived in sunshine, left in torrential rain, mainly sunny in between, with the dampest day being on the expedition.

What a great place, such warm welcoming locals and true Scouting help from everyone we met! Arriving midday Sunday after a 'short stroll' to Les Maingys Scout Centre, tents and camp were soon up and ready for our first visitor, Richard the Expedition Assessor, to chat to us and check we were happy with our routes and kit – all good.

Monday was up and final prep of kit, then off for food shopping and a visit to the German Naval Signals Museum for some project research and to see what an occupied bunker might look like.



Serious stuff done for the day, Sam Theo Beaver had to investigate the rumour he'd got from the Woodmancote Leaders, who were here a couple of weeks earlier with their Scouts, that there's a certain kiosk at the end of the harbour that does ice cream in a waffle....



The aim of the trip was to undertake a three-day expedition (Tuesday to Thursday) investigating the impact of the fortifications on the island. They are so big that after trying and failing a couple of times to blow some up after the occupation, most were just filled and left. Over the years they attracted many inquisitive youngsters (many were Scouts!), often chased off by the landowners, but now those youngsters have grown up there's a renewed interest in the history of these structures, so they are digging out the infill and using them to run activity days in some.

Richard, the Assessor, mentioned our trip to another local Scouter, Mark from 5<sup>th</sup> Guernsey, who turned up with the keys to a gun pit at Batterie Mirus, a huge labyrinth of concrete dug into the hill to house a 12" gun from the WW1 Russian Battleship Imperator Aleksandr III and he gave us our very own personal guided tour!



The three-day expedition was a fantastic experience, camping in a remote farmer's field one night and at 8<sup>th</sup> Guernsey Sea Scouts site the next. Starting out on the first day was reminiscent of our wet expedition last August Bank Holiday in the Black Mountains; the rain was lashing down, but it cleared after an hour or so and the sky brightened as we headed west across the southern side of the island, occasionally heading to the coast to see a bunker or one of the many 17<sup>th</sup> century Martello Towers.

Near the end of the day we found a well restored field gun emplacement that had what looked like a tank turret. Sam Theo Beaver had to stop for a look before we left the coast to find our field for the night. Having set up camp and cooked our evening meals, we were rewarded by a beautiful red sky silhouetting the five-storey Pleinmont Observation Tower.

Wednesday morning broke with west wind and threat of rain. A quick breakfast and strike camp meant we were moving before the drizzle hit; still it was OK to explore the Pleinmont area, covered in fortifications and dug outs, even some old minefield markers (no mines!), before heading off toward our lunch stops. Guernsey is similar but different to our local area; main roads are more like our B roads, minor roads are sub single file and the hedges are Normandy style, thick stone base to 3' high with shrub on top, so cars with broken door mirrors are not unusual, oh, and there are not many pavements outside of St Peter Port, but the cross country footpaths are numerous and the scenery is fabulous. Then there's all those lookout posts, there are so many and so varied. They were built to turn the island into an unsinkable battleship, 1,000s of workers were brought to the island to build them, along with huge amounts of concrete and other materials. One of the biggest engagements they fought was to drive off a night attack. Firing over 100 shells from the 12" battery at Mirus, they fought the attackers to a halt, badly damaged and left drifting in the bay. Jubilant Germans waited for daybreak to seize the spoils, only to be confronted by a deflated barrage balloon hanging limply entangled below another barely airborne one.....this was the last time the big guns were fired in anger.

Our third day on expedition was travelling eastward across the north (definitely flatter) side of the island. With enticing views of soft sandy beaches and blue waters, we resisted the temptation and stuck to the paths and dunes, as we made our way towards our destination at St Sampson, rerouting to avoid the shooting ranges at L'Ancrese. It was Thursday after all! We made it to the end with tired feet, but huge smiles at what we had accomplished. The Guernsey Scouts' media lady also met us at the end of the last day, wanting to hear about our experience. Hopefully our adventure will inspire more to visit the island and enjoy its warm hospitality and beautiful scenery.

Expedition done, we headed back to camp – the Leaders actually gave us a lift! – for the luxury of a hot shower and a treat of steak and chips. The final day arrived with the threat of rain (again!), but again it held off until we were all packed up and walking down to the ferry.

Thank you again to Mark for kindly picking up our baggage from the campsite and dropping it off at the ferry for us, so we wouldn't have to carry them around St Peter Port while gift shopping. Most of us slept on the ferry, arriving back in Poole just after midnight, to be met by the parents to taxi us back to our start point.

*Andy Holter AESL Extreme ESU*

## **PADI Scuba Open Water Diver Course**

The first ever PADI Scuba Open Water Diver course where all the participants were Explorers with no Scouts (and that was not by design) took place over two weekends in October and November. Five youngsters (aged 14 – 16) from two Units took the course by storm, romping through it at a pace which staggered the dive school (not to mention our leader team). Nothing (and no one) stood a chance – exams? Scores between 98% and 92% returned for the main exam and 100% - 96% for the residual gases exam; pool skills training completed in times which allowed 30+ minutes of free swim time; both Open Water dive days completed a minimum of two hours early each day. A truly excellent group who will take some beating!

*Derek Newman*

## **Climbing Course**

Half term saw another group of Scouts at the Warehouse Climbing Centre in Gloucester. They completed a two-day course using both the extensive climbing walls and bouldering room to complete their badge under the expert tuition of the Centre's instructors.

*Paddy Langham*

Gloucestershire Scouts Badge Course Coordinator

The 2019 Gloucestershire Scouting Paddle Weekend Group photo.  
Thanks to all the helpers, coach team, leaders and participants.



**Bob's Dinosaurs ESU Ball**



Leaders' Backwoods  
Weekend, Cranham.





Congratulations to 1st Dursley Cub Leaders  
on the award of the County Inspiring Programme Champion neckers



Also to the three Cubs who were presented with their Chief Scout's Silver Awards

**Cotswold Marathon**  
8th February 2020

Scouts  
Girlguiding

The Cotswold Marathon is a winter night hike for members of Scouting and Girlguiding.

The Route starts in Gloucester and takes you over the Cotswold Hills, across fields, along country paths and lanes.

For more information or to register visit  
[www.cotswoldmarathon.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldmarathon.org.uk)

There are 3 different routes:  
All finishers will receive a medal and trophies will be awarded to the fastest finishers in the different classes for each route.

<b>Bronze Route</b> 10 MILES Aged 11 and over 1st round of 1000m only. Without a compass, you will be disorientated by the end of 100m of English Clogs.	<b>Silver Route</b> 20 MILES Aged 13 and over but under 18 on the day.	<b>Gold Route</b> 30 MILES Aged 18 and over on the day The Ultimate Challenge!
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For more information or to register visit  
[www.cotswoldmarathon.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldmarathon.org.uk)

@cotsmarathon cotsmarathon /cotswoldmarathon #cotswoldmarathon

## County Cooking Competition

The County Cooking Competition has been arranged for **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020** at Shurdington Social Centre.

The entry cost is **£20.00** per team. Entry fees can be paid by bank transfer to Gloucestershire Scouts sort code **55-61-08** account number **66 58 63 99**. Please note your payment with District name.

DC's and previous years entrants have been contacted to try and get some District competitions sorted out.

Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the entry criteria and [HERE](#) for the marking scheme.

Teams should consist of 4 Scouts, no older than 14 years and 6 months on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 (date of Regional Competition). The food, table setting and menu design should reflect this year's theme: "Olympics, Past, Present or Future". The budget for preparing and cooking a three-course meal for four people is £20.00 per team.

*Jean Buxton*

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More Smilers:

Did you know that Davy Crockett had three ears? His left ear, his right ear and his wild frontier.

A Dutchman has invented shoes that record how many miles you've walked. Clever clogs.

What should you call a woman whose voice sounds like an ambulance? Nina.



Murder  
wielding crustaceans  
commonly found in Scandinavia,  
Iceland and North America.

## Britain's oldest Beaver

The scouting movement has made a dream come true for Pip Peek, a 101-year-old woman who has become a Beaver, the first rung on the ladder. Ms Peek had made her desire known on a wishing tree at St Pauls Care Centre in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and staff contacted the local colony who visited the home and enrolled her.

spotted this in the newspaper. How lovely [See more](#)

   Zak Elkins and 261 others

19 comments

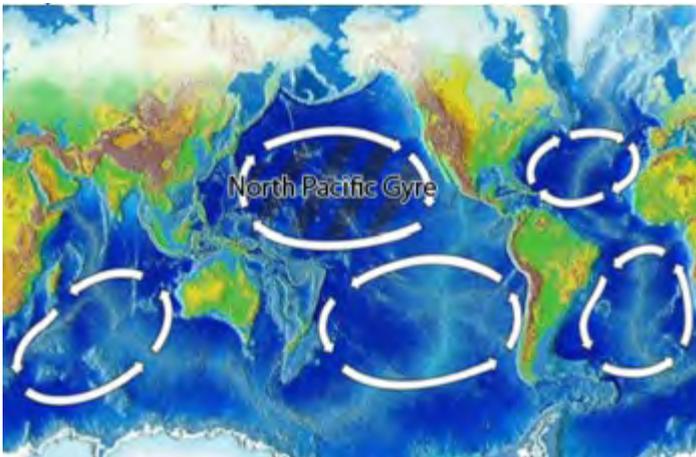
 Like  Comment

After all, P.O.R. states that a young person may join at  $5\frac{3}{4}$  years and remain until  $8\frac{1}{2}$  years.  
There is no limit for an old person!

# Plastic Pollution

The first plastic was bakelite, produced in the 1930s and used for water jugs, radio set frames and much else. Since then, of course, many different sorts of plastic have been produced and used for numerous purposes. All of it is derived from oil. We use it, and in fact rely on it, so much that it is difficult to think of any everyday product that we use as being plastic-free. It is currently treated as a cheap commodity, to be thrown away after a single use. The problem is that it is difficult to dispose of it. Burning it produces carbon pollution.

A recent report highlighted the scale of disposable plastic use across Europe. The findings were shocking: 46 billion plastic drinks bottles a year, 16 billion coffee cups (which of course are lined with plastic, and cannot currently be recycled), 36.4 billion plastic drinking straws and much more. Over 5 trillion pieces of plastic currently litter the world's oceans.



You may have heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch trapped in the North Pacific Gyre. As you see from the map, there are also accumulations in the South Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean.

This collection of plastic and floating rubbish originates from the Pacific Rim, including countries in Asia, and North and South America. An ocean current about 6,000 miles long, referred to as the Subtropical Convergence Zone, connects

the two Pacific patches. They contain exceptionally high concentrations of plastic, chemical sludge, wood pulp, and other debris trapped by the currents.

An estimated 80,000 metric tons of plastic inhabit the North Pacific patch, totaling 1.8 trillion pieces. 92% of the mass in the patch comes from objects larger than 0.5 centimetres, while 94% of the total objects are represented by microplastics.

Some of the plastic in the patch has been found to be over 50 years old, and includes fragments of items such as plastic lighters, toothbrushes, water bottles, pens, baby bottles, cell phones and plastic bags.

It is estimated that approximately 100 million tons of plastic are generated globally each year, and about 10% of that ends up in the oceans. The United Nations Environmental Program recently estimated that "for every square mile of ocean", there are about "46,000 pieces of plastic". The small fibres of wood pulp found throughout the patch are "believed to originate from the thousands of tons of toilet paper flushed into the oceans daily". The patch is believed to have increased "10-fold each decade" since 1945.

Research indicates that the patch is rapidly accumulating. A similar patch of floating plastic debris is found in the Atlantic Ocean, called the North Atlantic Garbage Patch.

A number of countries are, of course, attempting a clean-up programme. However, some of the poorer ones are not able to do so. This photograph, taken by Jo Ruxton of Plastic Oceans UK, shows the horrific result.

Her company is attempting to help reduce the pollution. The Pacific Island of Tuvalu achieved independence in the late 1970s and the people began importing goods from Asia. Whatever they imported became packaged in plastic. Over the years the plastic waste began to take over the islands. The lagoon on the main island filled up with it and poisoned the fish. Fish are no longer on the menu but they are still fed to the



pigs. Plastic is burned perpetually. On a recent expedition, Plastic Oceans encountered overwhelming sickness in the families there. About a fifth of them had cancer and the children were constantly coughing. Many island nations are heading the same way.

So, of course, we must dispose of our waste responsibly. Make sure you recycle your plastics (and separate them properly when you do so), and when you can't, make sure they end up in a bin and not in the sea.

This means being careful about what you flush away (cotton buds and wet wipes, for instance, both contain plastic and both end up in our seas and should never be flushed). It also applies to cigarette butts (a little known but important source of plastic pollution), which are often discarded on the street, where they can be washed into waterways and onwards to the sea.

Furthermore, we all need collectively to reduce our use of these single-use plastics. They are not necessary and alternatives do usually exist. Use your refillable drinks bottle. Remember to take your reusable cup when you get your coffee (it will be cheaper too, in many outlets). Ask for your drink to come without a plastic straw. All these are easy.

However, we also need systemic change. Not so long ago, we were used to plastic bags being doled out free with our shopping. Nowadays, many countries have put a stop to this, and yet we cope – it isn't that hard to live without them.

*John Morton*

Acknowledgements to Wikipedia, Jo Ruxton of Plastic Oceans UK (article in *Geoscientist*, a magazine of the Geological Society of London) and Fauna & Flora International's Director of Science, Dr Abigail Entwistle.



# FIVE WAYS YOU CAN SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE

## WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS CHOKING



### 1. Cough it out

- Encourage the person to keep coughing



### 2. Slap it out

- Give up to five sharp back slaps between their shoulder blades.
- Check their mouth



### 3. Squeeze it out

- Give up to five abdominal thrusts
- If that doesn't work call 999/112

## WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS BLEEDING

### 1. Press it



- ### 3. Secure dressing with a bandage to maintain pressure

- ### 4. Treat for shock.

### 2. Call 999/112 for emergency help



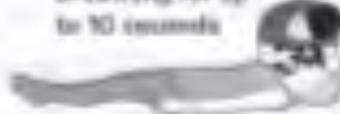
## WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS UNRESPONSIVE

### 1. Open their airway

### 2. Tilt head



### 3. Check for normal breathing for up to 10 seconds



### 4. If they're breathing normally:

- Put them in the recovery position
  - Then call 999/112 for emergency help
- ### If they're not breathing
- Call 999/112 for emergency help
  - Start CPR



## WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS UNRESPONSIVE AND NOT BREATHING NORMALLY

### 1. Call for help

- Tell them to call 999/112 and find an AED



### 2. Pump

- Do Chest Compressions at a rate of 100-120 per minute



### 3. Breathe

- Give two rescue breaths if you can't see the person's chest rise



Continue to pump and give rescue breaths until help arrives.

## WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE HAS HAD A HEART ATTACK



### 1. Call 999/112 for emergency help



### 2. Sit them down

- Keep supported with something



### 3. Give them aspirin

- 100mg Aspirin Chew

Make sure you always have life saving knowledge at your fingertips. Download our free first aid app from your app store today.

Learn first aid

Help save lives

Be the difference.

[sja.org.uk](http://sja.org.uk)

## Using an AED

If the casualty has stopped breathing, make sure someone has called for an ambulance, and give CPR until someone can bring you an AED.

- Keep calm, you can use an AED with no training.
- Open the device and switch it on
- Follow the instructions 1-3

1. Remove pads from sealed pack. Remove or cut through any clothing and wipe away any sweat from the chest
2. Remove backing paper and attach the pads to their chest as shown exactly on the pad.
3. Once you've done this, the AED will start checking the heart rhythm.

**Make sure that no-one is touching the person.** Continue to follow the prompts that the machine gives you, until help arrives.



## Signs of Stroke

The easiest way to check is to do the **FAST** test

- **Face:** Can the person smile? Has their face fallen on one side?
- **Arms:** Can the person raise both arms and keep them there?
- **Speech problems:** Can the person speak clearly and understand what you say? Is their speech slurred?
- **Time:** If you see any of these three signs, it's time to call 999.

Other things you may notice are

- Sudden weakness or change in sensation on one side of the body
- Sudden change in vision or sight loss
- Sudden memory loss or confusion
- Dizziness or a sudden fall
- Sudden, severe headache.

## Useful Sites

First Aid app for smart phones <https://www.redcross.org.uk/first-aid/first-aid-apps>

First Aid tips and information <https://www.sja.org/sja/first-aid-advice.aspx>

## Badge News

### Young Leaders Module A - Prepare for Take-off!

**Monday 23rd March#:** Cranham This is the mandatory course all Young Leaders need to do. The module has been revised and includes all essential information needed before starting as a Young Leader **Course is free but please book as numbers are limited.** Application form is [HERE](#) . Young Leaders are welcome to attend any YLU. If you would like details of programmes then just let me know.



\* For the following courses use this [application form](#) \*

**NEW \*Badge Weekend 6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> March Cranham** indoors, catering provided. Choose **ONE** badge:

#### 1. Geocaching Badge: £40

- Use GPS and learn about this exciting new sport:
- Complete a hike using a Map and GPS
- Find and solve the clues found in a night-time “glow stick” multi-cache
- Locate two local geocaches from geocaching.com
- Create geocaches for each other to find
- Set off this year’s Scout Geocoin



#### 2. Electronics Badge: £45

- Create clever systems and circuits that support our modern lives
- Make three working projects
- Gain an insight into a fascinating hobby and career!
- Learn how to solder safely



It is very exciting when the buzzer sounds and LEDs flash in circuits that you build

**3. Naturalist Badge:** We rely on the natural world for our very survival. This badge will demonstrate your impact and role in preserving it. **£40**  
Learn about man's impact on the environment

- Walk around the area and chose where they would be surveying, Cranham has a good choice of areas, with grassland, woods and a river among the choices
- Use a bat detector to pick up on the bats
- Investigate how the river is being used as a water resource



**NEW \*Expedition Challenge Weekends (Scouts) 27<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March (W1) AND 17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April (W2) £55 covers both weekends**

**W1:** Training\*\* based at Eastcombe HQ.

**W2:** Expedition hiking with day kit and camping at Cranham.

*\*\*Training will include map reading, compass work, route planning, first aid, hike camping, cooking, kit check, Highway & County Codes, emergency procedures, etc.*

**Bonus!** Your walking during both weekends will also count towards the Hikes Away and Nights Away Staged Activity Badges.

**All this for just £55!** Read [HERE](#) what we did last year.

**NEW \*Climbing Course Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April** Mid-week course at the Warehouse Climbing Centre in Gloucester:

Climbing & bouldering using the extensive facilities and fully qualified instructors. Scouts gain the Climber badge. Explorers gain the Explorer Climber badge. All climbing equipment provided. Non-residential. **£50**



**NEW \*Survival Skills Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> / Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May £50**

Held at Miserden Park. We will be 'surviving' in an area of outstanding natural beauty. We aim to live up to the description of the badge as 'the ultimate challenge for Scouts'. We are NOT based on a campsite, you will NOT be sleeping in tents (even during the training), there is NO running water, and NO flushing toilets! For these reasons, the minimum age is 12, and it is highly recommended that all applicants have camped under canvas with Scouts and had some experience of open fires before attending this weekend.

Read [HERE](#) what we did last year.

## ***SURVIVAL SKILLS COURSES***

**1. Survival Skills Badge** A challenging weekend including cooking natural food over open fires without pots and pans; building and sleeping in a bivouac; learning all about surviving in the great outdoors. Scouts must have camped under canvas with the Scout section previously.

**Minimum age 12**

**2. Survival Skills (Activity +)** - For Scouts who have done our first course but are not yet 14. This is a stage between the standard Scout and Explorer badges, giving you the chance to complete a few projects during your survival exercise.

**3. Bushcraft & Survival** (more experienced) – for Explorers (or Scouts over 14) who have already done our basic survival course. Learn new survival skills, including setting up 'home' in the bush. **Minimum age 14.**

**4. Advanced Survival** (Explorer Survival Skills Badge) This time you will have reduced resources and need to take more initiative than for course 1 or 2. Participants will work with minimal equipment and will have the chance to practise previously-learnt skills and gain new ones. **Minimum age 14.**

**Courses 3 and 4 can be completed in any order as long as you have already completed course 1 or 2 and are over 14.**



**5. NABO** This is a really advanced course on which you 'survive' with just the basics. If you have already completed the advanced courses and believe you can complete this ultimate challenge, please apply stating when you attended the courses and why you feel you are a suitable candidate. **NB** not every applicant is accepted - the course leaders have the final decision, bearing in mind the need for safety as well as adventure.

Look at our survival skills website for lots more info: <http://scoutsurvival.co.uk/>

Show clearly which course you are applying for

We are keen to add new Leaders and Network members to our teams. Particularly for **Expedition & Survival Skills weekends**. If you feel you would like to join our teams then please contact [Paddy](#).

## **Narrowboat Steerers Course 2020**

**Dates: 28<sup>th</sup> February/1<sup>st</sup> March AND 13<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Course Fee: £200**



This two-weekend course is for adults and will cover narrowboat steering, operation of locks, basic maintenance and safety requirements, and crew management.

The course on both weekends will start on the Friday evening from Harefield, returning there on the Sunday afternoon. The course fee will include boat hire and food (assistance with the catering will be required), and Certification.

The boats used will be "Pisces", "Hillingdon Star", and "Merlin", run by Hillingdon Narrowboats Association - HNA.

The course should enable the candidate to reach the Technical Standard for the Scout Association Water Authorisation for canal boating, with the BHC (the Boat Handling Certificate from the National Community Boat Association, the N-CBA) and sufficient and appropriate experience.

Click [HERE](#) for full details and application form. Read [HERE](#) what we did last year.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **"Waltzing Matilda",**

a favourite camp fire song, is Australia's best-known bush ballad, and has been described as the country's "unofficial national anthem".

The title was Australian slang for travelling on foot (waltzing) with one's belongings in a "matilda" (rolled blanket) slung over one's back. The song narrates the story of an itinerant worker, or "swagman", making a drink of billy tea at a bush camp and capturing a jumbuck (sheep) to eat. When the jumbuck's owner, a squatter (landowner), and three troopers (mounted police) pursue the swagman for theft, he declares "You'll never catch me alive!" and commits suicide by drowning himself in a nearby billabong (watering hole), after which his ghost haunts the site.

Some people think that the swagman didn't have a name. In fact he was called Andrew.

The song tells you: "Andy sang as he watched, Andy waited 'till his billy boiled... "

## PADI Discover Scuba Diving



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January.** Time 3pm. Venue Tewkesbury School. £28

Thinking....I want to do something different, but what? Ever tried scuba diving? Do you get enthralled watching Blue Planet and other underwater exploration programmes? Do you want to be like the teams producing these shows? You NEED to be a scuba diver!

Come along and give it a try. Our 1-hour session in the safety of a swimming pool is an ideal way to decide if scuba diving is something you would like to do – and our professional instructors make sure it's a fun event too. Cost is £27 including kit hire.

Oh – and you earn the Water Sports Activities Badge too.

You can find the application form [HERE](#).

**21 March 2020 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm** Venue Tewkesbury School.

Cost is £28 including kit hire.

This event is open to Scouts and Explorers.

You can find the application form here : [2020 Scuba DSD Application form](#).

## **PADI Open Water Scuba Diver Weekends** 1 May - 3 May AND 15 - 17 May £495

There's been a lot of enthusiasm out there for scuba diving recently.

Is it the blue sea, crystal clear water, beautiful multi-coloured fish swimming happily just inches away from you in the tropical River Severn? ..... who wrote this rubbish?



Perhaps it's the fun and sheer delight of making the leader team struggle to crow-bar you into the wet-suits. For whatever reason, for the last two years (to satisfy demand) we have had to run two Open Water courses each year. Now here is the 2020 one.

Our close relationship with the JCScuba Dive School, now in its twelfth year, means that the Octopus Scuba Explorer Unit will again be running the PADI Open Water Scuba Diver course for those Scouts and Explorer Scouts wanting to gain this **lifelong qualification** and embark on thrilling holiday adventures well into the future.

Our course set-up consists of two Scout weekends. Prior to the course you will be sent the training manuals. During the first weekend the friendly instructor team from JCScuba will then take you through a review of the manuals and also give you training time in the pool before heading off to some Open Water dives at a local site. Weekend 2 is similar but has the added bonus (?) of two theory exams leading to the full qualification on completion of the second weekend. (Don't worry, nobody has failed the exams on our courses.....yet).

The course also has the potential to deliver various Scout activity badges and these will be agreed with Scouts and their Leaders. For Explorers, gaining the qualification is listed as one possible route for completion of the DofE Physical Activity section.

The course is residential, based at a Scout HQ in Gloucestershire over both weekends, with training manuals, PADI registration, equipment hire, accommodation, food, transport and entrance fees to the training and dive locations all included. Unfortunately there have been significant price rises in 2018, which I have to pass on this year. The discounted cost is now £495 for the whole course but it can be paid in instalments by arrangement with the Course Director (see booking form for contact details).

The two weekend dates are: 1st – 3rd May AND 15th – 17th May, 2020. Early booking is advised, as there is only a small number of places available.

Booking Form available here: [2020 Scuba OW1 Application form](#)

## **Butterfly Conservation**

Butterfly Conservation are - for the first time - offering a very special free opportunity to students completing their Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award in Gloucestershire.

With an itinerary specially designed to get students out into nature, those who follow the programme will explore the secret life of butterflies, moths and caterpillars and complete their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering section.

We will help students build a schedule that suits individual needs and interests. Activities can include a mix of: lending a helping hand on our nature reserves; surveying for butterflies; moth trapping; surveying for rare Rugged Oil beetles; volunteering at events or working with a school/organisation to create butterfly friendly habitat.

Please see the attached flyer - which can be copied and circulated to students - for more details.

Students or Leaders can express an interest in the first instance by e-mailing [DofE@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:DofE@gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk). Students contacting us should copy in a responsible adult and should briefly introduce themselves as well as briefly explaining why they'd like to volunteer. This information can come to us in any medium.

Placements can begin immediately or in the new year. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire*

## **Warehouse Climbing Centre**

In the near future the Warehouse Climbing Centre is looking to move to the outskirts of Gloucester to build a bigger, better centre. As part of this we are looking to offer a high ropes area. To help us with our application we need local groups to confirm they will continue to use the centre and use this new offer.

We only need a little write-up to the following e-mail: [andrewg@newgenbs.com](mailto:andrewg@newgenbs.com) including the following information.:

- Name; Organisation.

A brief statement of support ("I would certainly be interested in using this with my Scouts", "having this on our doorstep would be wonderful for the school", etc.

If you can help, that would be great.

## Badge Course Reports



### Jamboree on the Air Weekend

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) is an official event of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. Every year Scouts, Guides and Girl Scouts are invited to enable and encourage young people to communicate with one another by the means of amateur radio and the internet, providing a fun and educational Scouting experience and promoting their sense of belonging to a worldwide Scout and Guide Movement.

We had 17 young people join us for the weekends course in which, as well as taking part in JOTA-JOTI, they would also earn their communicator badge. We ran a number of activities on how radios

work, using Morse, and radio direction-finding, as well as exercises in effective communication and various games and challenges. We made contacts with Scouts all over Europe using the radios and worldwide using the internet. We also took part in the worldwide digital campfire, which proved very popular.

At the end of the weekend all the young people were presented with their communicator badges and their 2018 JOTA-JOTI badge.



*Rory Lucas*

### Discover Scuba Try Dive

The last Discover Scuba Diving session of 2019 saw two dozen Scouts and Explorers descend on the Gloucester swimming pool – only to find the pool had allowed us to be double-booked with a swimming club. Quick discussion with the club and we were able to agree how both activities could continue. The youngsters obviously enjoyed the session as three of them have already booked onto the Open Water qualification course we are running next spring.

*Derek Newman*

### Mechanics Badge

Another group of Scouts from across the County had a great day learning how to look after dad's car!



Skills Involved included: how engines work, checking and filling the windscreen washer bottle, changing bulbs, radiator water levels, tyre pressures, how to change a wheel and wiper blades and MOT requirements.

*Paddy Langham*

Gloucestershire Scouts Badge Course Coordinator

## Caving Weekend



The last weekend in November, as well as being the coldest of the winter so far, was the one where a collection of Scouts and Explorers embarked on their caving badges. Having arrived on the Friday evening for the start of the course at Viney Hill Adventure Centre in the Forest of Dean, they were sent for a practice down the on-site artificial caving system.

Saturday dawned bright and clear, if a little frosty. The new cavers on the course spent the day exploring caves around Symonds Yat, whilst the more experienced (survivors from January's caver course) headed to the Mendips to do some more difficult caving, including

vertical pitches.

The two groups came together on Sunday and headed off to practise rigging and climbing ladders in a caving environment – not easy! On their return to the centre, they enjoyed a talk and discussion around troglobites, troglaphiles, trogloxenes and their stygo-equivalents. This covered requirement 5 of the Explorer Caving Badge but was also an enjoyable bonus for those going for the Scout Caver Badge. Late afternoon saw parents arrive to take some very, very tired (but happy) young people home.

*Derek Newman*

## Circus Activity Badge

January 13th-26; February 3rd-14th, 24th-29th; March 2nd-22nd

Shooting Stars Circus Skills are working in your area on the above dates in Winter term 2020. We would like to introduce you to Shooting Stars Circus Skills, who offer Beavers Cubs and Scouts units the chance to enjoy the fun and excitement of a circus skills evening at a special discounted rate. Whether they want to work on their Circus Activity Badge or just have a fun and creative evening, we can offer a brilliant workshop with a highly experienced instructor at the rate of:

**£150.00** for a 1 - 2 hour session with one group

**£240.00** for a 2 - 3 hour session with two groups (£120.00 per group)

**£300.00** for a 3 - 5 hour session with three groups (£100.00 per group)

**£300.00** for an all-day workshop (usually Saturday or Sunday 10.00 - 16.00)

The workshop consists of a circus instructor and circus equipment (which is tailored according to age groups, space available and length of session time). Examples include juggling balls, rings and scarves, spinning plates, diabolos, flower sticks, and larger equipment such as stilts, fun wheels, pedal racers, unicycles & mini-bikes. Equipment used will be at the discretion of your instructor.

With the volume and variety of equipment available, we can take a group of up to 30 children/young people per workshop, keeping them involved and engaged at all times. If we are running workshops specifically for the Circus Performer Badge, then equipment available will be tailored for this event.



## Gloucestershire Out of the Ordinary Scouting Event

Did you know, there are over 30 species of Goose? There is only one we want to talk to you about; our **Gloucestershire Out of the Ordinary Scouting Event...**

We are in the process of confirming key arrangements for our all sections and Leaders' weekend camp and now we would like to ask you to hold the date so that you can plan it into your inspiring programmes.

**The dates to hold? Friday 18th – Sunday 20th September.**

This out of the ordinary event will be an action-packed, fully catered weekend, will be open to all members of Gloucestershire Scouts and taking place at a central Gloucestershire location.

Subject to final governance reviews and being able to grow the team we will share more details including costs and booking in early 2020.

Your opportunity to get involved

We have got a committed team in place who will work together to bring this experience to life, but they will need your help.

We are going to need

- People to work as part of the team to shape the programme for all ages
- People to help build and strike the site
- People to offer some of their time leading activities on the weekend (not the whole weekend as you may well be camping with your section)
- People to support the promotion, administration and finance management
- Many other areas of support

If you are interested in getting involved in any way, see the new GScouts website:  
[www.gscouts.org.uk](http://www.gscouts.org.uk)

Duck... Duck... Duck.... **GOOSE!!**

## Scouting in the South Pacific

The UK Scout Association has four branches in the South Pacific (Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). They are all part of The UK Scout Association but operate in a largely autonomous environment. They still need the support of the UK, as some of them are very small. For example, hidden in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean, Tuvalu is the world's fourth smallest independent country., comprising of nine small islands which can only boast a combined land mass of 26 km<sup>2</sup>.



At an early stage it became obvious that the methods of administering and organising Scouting in the United Kingdom were unsuited to the needs and conditions of those overseas, and this led to the formation of the Overseas Branches. Each was granted a constitution, a Chief Commissioner was appointed and the Sovereign's representative in that territory was invited to become the local Chief Scout. This system of organisation and administration is still used in our Branches today, although now the arrangements for member programme, Leader Training and so on are decided upon by the Branch itself and consequently vary considerably around the world.

The Scout Association and the World Scout Bureau are committed as far as possible to enabling Overseas Branches to stand on their own feet and to apply for direct membership of World Scouting at the appropriate time.

Some of the countries in which there are still Branches have gained their political independence, and are aiming for their Scouting independence as soon as the Branch has met the basic requirements for membership of the World Conference, i.e. a sound training programme, the nucleus of a training team, and a Constitution which follows the fundamentals of the Movement laid down by the Founder. Small Associations find these requirements difficult but it is a

challenge with which The Scout Association is helping. In particular Branches in the South Pacific are receiving support additionally from the Asia Pacific Scout Office and from New Zealand and Australia. Other islands are assisted by connection with the Scout Associations of countries such as the United States (Western Samoa) and France (Nouvelle-Calédonie).





Scouting is strong in Fiji and there are 30 Districts, each with their own colourful badge.



Papua New Guinea has 18 active Districts, assisted by the Australian Association and the nine Cook Islands are looked after by New Zealand.



East Timor, now independent, was a Portuguese colony.

Kiribati is just to the east of the International Date Line.



*John Morton*

\*\*\*\*\*



*Shelley Wright*

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