Update No.8

Welcome and thanks for watching

Key messages this week:

I am still being inspired by the great many things that are being done across the County. Week after week I am seeing new ideas being shared, examples of brilliant programmes and lots and lots of young people getting engaged.

1st Royal Forest Tuesday Scouts from the Forest of Dean shared with me that their young people are having lots of fun Scouting from home. Steve and Lucy are also experiencing what many of you are with some young people not engaging, but many doing so. The Scouts have been working towards their Carry On Scouting badge and looking forward to celebrating VE day and camping this weekend. (Images)

I mentioned last week that you don’t have to run online meeting s with your young people, but if you are thinking you would like to try, but are not sure how, please do let me or your DC know. I have had many kind offers of people willing to support you in getting to experience and then try out online meeting using a range of tools. If you have offered your time and experience I say thank you to you. If you are interested in stepping into this world and would like some support from a fellow Scouter, please get in touch.

VE Day

As I record this it is VE Day today where we are celebrating Victory in Europe at the end of the Second World War. During the Second World War, Scouting continued to do what it does best, support our communities and look out for each other and our families. Although the threats and risks are very different right now, I am pleased to know that so much of the same is still happening. Whether it is the way we are applauding key workers on Thursday evenings, helping each other in any way we can or sharing experiences even if we cannot be together.

Today, many of us may be joining in with the lyrics of We’ll Meet Again by Dame Vera Lynn and as I read them I think at this time they are just as poignant as they were back when they were first sung.

We’ll meet again

Don’t know where

Don’t know when

But I know we’ll meet again some sunny day

Keep smiling through

Just like you always do

I think this speaks so true of our values in Scouting and want to remind you all that tough as it is right now, we’ll meet again.

WWS

Today is also the day where over 2,500 of us are coming together to share our We Will Survive camp. In the last week, the organising team have been working really hard in pulling together a programme which we hope you will be able to enjoy.

I’ve completed my challenge, set to me by Adam last week and we are looking forward to sharing what we have put together with you.

A huge thanks to Adam and all the team for doing what they have to help us share this experience.

Some have already set up their camps and we are nearly ready to welcome you all.

Thank you for helping promote this and getting so many people involved.

(Images of Camps already set up)

If you can’t take part, we hope you enjoy some of the images and videos we will share afterwards celebrating not only VE Day, but one of the greatest things we get to do in Scouting – Camping and having fun together.

If you cannot take part because you are having to work, we say thank you to you.

For a couple weeks now, we have been talking about Hike to the moon. Well, we are nearly there and back, with only 2,000 miles left to go. If you haven’t taken part yet or want to do a few more miles with your family, please do. It’s amazing to see that with Scouting in the UK we have walked over 475,000 miles and raised over £330,000 for BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief.

This week

I want to share with you a few of the things we are talking about this week.

Cotswold Marathon Isolation

Many of you will be familiar with Cotswold Marathon. Well you can take part in one right now and raise funds for Protective equipment being provided to Gloucester and Cheltenham hospitals. This is usually only open for Scouts or older, but for this one off fundraising opportunity, all ages can take part. You can find out more about the isolation Cotswold Marathon the Go Fund Me page (gofundme.com/f/t24jv-cotswold-marathon-walk-at-home)

Also coming soon, our amazing County Youth Commissioners will be launching their own series of videos aimed at young people with ideas, activities, interviews and lots of fun. Look out for the advert tonight and for your first one very soon.

Finally, I am very pleased to say as Carole, our DCC for People mentioned a few weeks ago, we are now able to deliver Safeguarding training and Module 12A – the Quality Programme using a virtual classroom method. If you want to or need to complete this learning please visit our website to see dates.

If you are due to complete your Safeguarding, Safety or GDPR training, please do. We are making amazing progress as a County and I thank all of you who have recently completed these important modules, even though we are not meeting Face to face. If you are overdue, please do take some time to try and complete these.

Also, if you are a Group Scout Leader, a DESC or a Network commissioner, last week you will have received an email from me asking to find out a few things. One is the level of Scouting you are able to deliver in your sections and units, then what you feel about our communications at this time. Over 50% of groups have completed this and I would really love to get as complete a picture as it is possible to.

So, if you haven’t yet, I’d really, really appreciate if you could take some time, to complete the short survey, it will really help us understand what we need to do to support you now, and when it comes to restarting Scouting.

This week, I’ve again been sent two scarves. This one is from 45th Cheltenham. Thanks.

This one is from Deer Park Kemble Scout Group. Thank you to you too.

You will all get your scarves back, but in the meantime who is next week?

I’ve had some necker flips this week, thanks for sending them in.

Please keep doing them and sending them to me, even if they are not that successful.

Thanks for watching, see you soon, stay safe, stay home