Update No.9

Welcome and thanks for watching

My week this week

Another busy week including a DC and Youth Commissioner meeting, a District Executive, my team meeting and yet again a number of 1:1s

Feel really energised whenever I talk to others. I hope you feel the same when you talk to others.

Your stories

I always love reading about your stories from across the County and promise to share as many that I can. Just email me at [cc@gscouts.org.uk](mailto:cc@gscouts.org.uk)

This week I heard from Paul, the GSL at Upton St. Leonards and how in their group, whilst we were celebrating VE day as part of our We Will Survive camp, they held a 24 hour virtual camp in which 38 young people, supported by 8 leaders all took part alongside lots of family members.

Whilst on camp they undertook lots of challenges with a view to doing as many as possible alongside taking part in the County camp. These included sending coded messages, baking cakes, building towers, using foreign and british sign language, making mini rafts… the list goes on, and on.

Paul also said that leaders are making an effort to exploit the connections we have and enjoy that feeling of togetherness.

Thank you Paul.

Many of you will be familiar with the **Gloucester Gang Show**, which was due to celebrate it’s 60th year this year, but sadly due to the current circumstances, could not go on to celebrate and put on their best show yet.

Instead the gang, obviously disappointed have been meeting weekly via Zoom and having a sing a long. Alan says it’s great to see and hear everyone and how they are still so talented.

Thanks Alan

Another annual event that is very popular e is the **Cotswold Marathon**. Last week I told you about the Isolation Cotswold Marathon where you can raise funds for providing protective equipment for Gloucester and Cheltenham hospitals.

I want to tell you about a Beaver Scout from Warden hill named Sebastian. He has taken on this challenge and so far has walked over 12 miles which is longer than the bronze route on the Cotswold marathon. Well done Sebastian! And keep going!

You can still find out more about this which is for all ages, can be completed day or night at (WEBSITE ADDRESS)

It’s been a huge week for activity this week and one of the highlights for me in the last week has been our wonderful **We Will Survive camp** that took place last weekend celebrating VE Day. Over 3000 people signed up in the end and we enjoyed lots of fun with all ages.

We were overwhelmed with the levels of engagement and interaction, whether it be shout-outs, pictures and videos and interaction with our facebook groups.

Here you will be seeing the winners of the competitions, well done to everyone

While they are playing through I want to say a few thank yous. Firstly to Adam and the whole programme team that helped run and support the event, whether it was Lauren’s storytelling, Ruthies’ singing, Pauls bag packing, Liz and Josh’s spot the difference, Chris, Callum’s and Josh’s technical know how and Adam’s overall leadership. Thank you all of you.

Thanks more so to every one of you as leaders and viewers of this. With your help we managed to get to an enormous amount of young people and their families to provide a sense of fun, adventure and community. Without you being willing to share the message, this would never have happened. So a huge thank you.

You may also have taken part in voting for the Badge design, and you may have seen that Samuel from 2nd Twyning submitted this entry which with his support we have turned into this badge which you can now order. Well done Samuel.

Please goto shop.gscouts.org.uk to order your badges

As soon as this event finished, the team will tell you that I have set them the challenge of offering more events for all ages across the whole county. The team have taken a short rest and are working on ideas which we will be able to share with you all very soon.

We have also seen our Youth Commissioners launch their new series of videos, I really enjoyed the first one, thought it was a lot of fun. Please do share this with as many young people as you are able to, even if not involved in Scouting. The next one will be on Monday 18th.

Next week

Next week is **Mental Health Awareness week** and our mental health is made emotional, psychological and social well-being, especially important at this time when we cannot be close and connect with others.

Across the county we have a team that are trained in Mental Health first aid. You can find details of them at our website.

The theme this year is Kindness. Why Kindness? Well it is proven that Kindness is a great antidote to Isolation, something we are all probably be bored of now. Kindness is defined by doing something kind for yourself and others, motivated by a desire to make a positive difference. It helps reduce stress, deepens friendships and improve feelings of optimism and confidence.

I’d love of you to share with me the acts of kindness that you or your young people undertake in the next week.

It takes courage to be kind. Let’s once again support each other to take those steps and make the most of the benefit of being the giver and the receiver.

Let’s together, over the next week, remember that no act of kindness is ever wasted and join together during this County mental health awareness week to make kindness spread.

This week, look out for the all members email and some possible news for about subscriptions for Zoom, the video calling software.

Sadly, I haven’t been sent a necker for this week so, I have put on my Cotswold Marathon one to remind you all to have a go and help raise funds for this brilliant cause.

Get in touch if you want me to wear your necker, soon you won’t see my face so surely that is a good reason!

As always you’ll find a growing list of ideas and support for you at our special webpage (INSERT VIDEO), thanks Izzy.

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