Welcome

Thanks for watching one again and thanks too for continuing to share your stories

This week

This week, has been another brilliant week. I was privileged to take part in the team meeting with our County Youth Commissioners and Deputy County Commissioners. Also, I have been able to spend time with some of our wonderful DCs.

As I listened to all of our wonderful team I am reminded so often of the great work that so many of you are doing out there, and also the challenges that so many of you are experiencing.

This week, these two meetings were really informal and I laughed a lot and we just chatted. Right now, I know there are many others out there that would benefit from just that. Can you be that person?

Also, I took part in the District Exec meeting in Cheltenham and have had some 1:1s

I heard about Forest of Dean held a very useful and engaging coffee with Gary, look out for others doing something soon. They are a great way to check in, meet others and share experiences. The Forest of Dean will be doing them weekly, look out for others near you.

Many of you will have seen or read news stories in the past weeks about the worldwide protests and demonstrations about the prevalence of racism throughout the world.

It is desperately sad that any one person is considered of any less worth or value than any other because of their skin colour, their faith, their background, who they love or the opportunities they have been afforded.

Across Gloucestershire Scouts we are made up of over 7,000 unique individuals, each with a history, each with different opportunities and backgrounds.

One thing unites us all, our commitment to our communities, our commitment to developing and educating young people, all of which are the future of our society.

We have a duty to every young person to support them in their understanding in as many ways as we practically can, and understanding and eradicating racism is an opportunity that we have the privilege to support right now.

As ever, you are not alone, and you do not have to come up with the ideas yourself. There are lots of resources to support you and young people.

There has also been a great deal of coverage about those fighting to protect statues of Baden-Powell, which I understand.

We are very proud movement, proud of what we together, initially inspired by Baden-Powell himself have achieved over 113 years.

In these troubling times, my ask of you, is let’s focus on the values which he created the Scouting movement on, the values of respect, care, co-operation, belief and integrity. Let’s focus on what Scouting stands for.

Robert Baden-Powell lived in a generation that none of us will ever know. But what he inspired, is something we all should be proud of, regardless of what happens to a bronze bust or memorial.

There are many people outside of Scouting that do not understand what makes Scouting what it is. That’s okay. Some may see Scouting as the man that was Baden-Powell.

We all know, we have moved on in over 100 brilliant years of growth and change.

Lets not worry about trying to save statues right now.

Lets devote our efforts and time to educating ourselves and helping young people through these worrying times.

Coming up

This weekend is our Water Activities day. We have had lots of great photos and videos in already from around the county, which is fantastic. Thank you for sharing this with others.

You hopefully have already seen our website with everything on it including instructional videos, the guide to the activities which the Forest Of Dean devised, and a space where you can share your pictures.

This activity is ideal for leaders, because you don’t have to do anything! Just send a message to young people and parents saying “look at this – lots of great activities, and get a certificate too” and then just give them the website link.

If you haven’t done so already, please share this with as many young people as possible so that they can be a part of one big county once again.

Don’t forget to share your photos and videos and encourage others to do so as well.

Next weekend is the fantastic S&E at home weekend, a weekend packed full of fun and activities. Because we are at home, its open to all ages, so get involved and get families involved too.

You don’t have to camp, you can if you want to, but everyone taking part is encouraged to create their own S&E site. You’ll be able to see a virtual version of the site to compare to. All you have to do is decide which corner of the lounge or the garden you want your portaloo to be in.

The team will be showing links to other activity badges, so that they can show our leaders how they have been working towards them. As ever, you can get an S&E badge too.

If you don’t get time to take part next weekend, don’t worry it is on until the 28th June, so there is plenty of time to sign up at s-e.org.uk and take part.

And finally…

This week I have had neckers from

46th Gloucester, which actually I received last week, but wanted to save it for this week because today (Friday) sees the start of their Group Virtual Camp. I’ve sent them a welcome message and hope that you all have fantastic weekend and that you don’t get too wet, although its not too far to go if you get wet when camping at home.

Farriers Explorers, who I get to follow on Facebook and see all of their great activity including how they have done joint meetings including one with Fareham West in Hampshire. A few weeks ago we celebrated Mental Health Awareness week and the theme for the week was kindness. The members of Farriers had a Random Acts of Kindness week in which they made websites for friends, taught English to a girl from Germany, cooked for families, made hedgehog cafes and many other things in their local communities. Thank you all for sharing and more importantly for demonstrating what our promise Scouting is about – helping others.

Also this week, I have a scarf from Dursely Scout Group, thank you. This is the first from Cotswold Vale, so I now have a necker from every district. I have also been watching as a member of the their facebook group, all of the great activities they have been doing, particularly this week where they have been learning and doing all of the water activities

Thanks for all of your neckers, don’t forget if you want me to wear your group’s scarf, get in contact. The thing I love most about receiving the neckers is the letters that you are taking time to write to go with them.

Round up

I know that many of us are really keen to get back to Scouting soon and with the changing of advice and rules by the Government it would be tempting to start meeting. Please do not. Scouting Face to face in any form is still suspended and you will be advised when it is permitted to begin again, which will be supported by lots of guidance, support and information on how we can keep young people, ourselves and families safe.

So, that’s it, week 13 of these updates, thank you so much for all the kind words that you share with me, I hope they prove useful in some small way.

Don’t forget there is lots of additional information and support on our webpage at [www.gscouts.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gscouts.org.uk/coronavirus)

Thanks for watching, stay safe and again, thank you so much for all that you do.