Welcome

Hi, thanks for watching.

Scouting has now been suspended for over 3 months and I look at what we have achieved as a County and am filled with pride in so many ways.

If I had said 6 months ago, that through June we would be running meetings for adults and young people using technology, or completing lots of badge work at home, you might have said I was mad.

If I had explained that we would be running a County-wide water activities day where everyone could take part but didn’t have to leave their homes, you would have laughed at me.

In fact if you had asked me 6 months ago, would I be doing a video week after week and anyone would watch it, I would have laughed at you.

But no, in just three months, we have evolved the way we are delivering Scouting, we have learned new skills and new ways of doing things faster than Scouting has ever seen.

We have taken part in camps, we have designed and delivered new ways of training and validation that are more flexible and more accessible.

I am amazed at the learning journey we have all been on together.

I think Scouting, especially for adult activity has changed for ever. Don’t get me wrong I cannot wait to meet up with some of you again as soon as I am able to, but this strange time has helped us find ways to deliver things like training, meetings and activities in new ways, ways that make it easier for those taking part and ways that make sure we are making the very most of the resources we have.

I know it’s not easy for all of you, and that’s the bit that our team and I have to look at is how we can practically support those that are not able to do what they want to. My first ask of you to help with this is to please let your DC or I know.

But for all of you, thank you for your patience, your commitment and your support to do what you can to help Scouting going in this great county in this difficult and different time.

This week

This week is National loneliness week and you may be someone who right now is experiencing loneliness, I know that I have done so over the past few months.

Carole, our DCC for People has done a brilliant blog for us, so please do take a look. Go to our GScouts home page, and find the new post about National Loneliness Week. Thanks Carole for your tips.

You may remember that last week I put on the Necker of 46th Gloucester as the started their group virtual camp. Well they sent me a brilliant video of them passing the necker which you can watch too If you want. Just search 46 glos in YouTube to find it and their virtual water fight.

Last weekend was our Water activity day, it was lovely to see all of the posts, pictures and videos of so many of you taking part in and around our Water activities day last weekend.

The weather wasn’t brilliant, but that meant that some of us were able to use more recycled water.

We’re in the process of putting together a highlights video of photos and videos, so if you haven’t uploaded yours yet, do get it done soon.

In the meantime here are some photos and videos we’ve already got…

A final thanks to the team for helping us take part, including all of those that recorded videos, Ruthie for co-ordinating and the team at Forest Of Dean for the activities pack…

I’ve also been sent a great video put together by Randwick Scout Group doing a water challenge, here is some of it…

Coming up

There’s lots more opportunities to get involved in more great Scouting activities over the coming couple of months..

S&E at home launched a short while ago with a great welcome message from our UK Chief Commissioner and I hope you have all signed up to take part over the weekend. Don’t forget anyone of any age can take part in the 15 activities, it lasts until next weekend and you can still sign up and take part.

Take a look at their interactive map and get involved!

I look forward to seeing all that you have been up to next week.

Many of you will have received the email from The Scout Association with details of an All Members call on Wednesday 24th June covering these topics. (Graphic)

It will be great if you can take part, it’s always great to hear directly from our leadership about plans and support.

You may have seen online, or on social media, news of the first ever national online camp at home.

The Great Indoors Weekender is taking place over the 11th & 12th July and is another amazing opportunity to take part in a camp in the garden, in the shed or in the lounge in the UK’s biggest digital summer camp. It will have special guests, crafts, cooking, music, other activities and a UK wide campfire.

Once again, you don’t have to do a lot, just get involved and sign up, then let your young people know about another great opportunity.

(scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/the-great-indoors-weekender)

July is looking like a busy month and following on from amazing Water Activities Day at home, we are pleased to start telling you about our next activity – “Land activities day at Home”. This will be the second part of a four part series covering, Water, Air, International and Land. The four parts will all create one amazing badge together which we will make available later this summer.

And finally…

This week I have had neckers from

2nd Rodborough in Stroud & Tetbury. Mary gave me a great explanation of all the parts of the scarf as well including that the Cross represents Rodborough Tabernacle and that the colour green represent Rodbourgh Common. Thank you Mary

And of course in celebration of S&E at home, I’ll be wearing my Strategy & Evolution scarf as I get involved this weekend.

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.

As ever, there is lots of additional information and support on our webpage, keep a look out as we update it with Land at Home information soon. [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.