

gscouts

News and Views for Scouting in Gloucestershire October 2020



Camp indoors





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Gloucestershire Scouting on the Water Website

<http://activities.gscouts.org.uk>

H.Q. Information Centre

info.centre@scouts.org.uk

Start a live chat by clicking the purple 'help'
button in the bottom right of the screen
(during opening hours

Monday to Friday 9.00 am—5.00 pm
0345 300 1818

Emergency Out-of-Hours Service 24/7
0345 300 1818 (local rate) or
020 8433 7100

Have you seen our new GScouts website yet? Go to www.gscouts.org.uk

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



Editorial

Having recently had sight of several Risk Assessment forms, I am awe-struck at the thought and effort that the Leaders are putting into their plans for their varied programme, in an effort to keep Scouting exciting, interesting and safe for our young people.

This also, of course, applies to the managers of Cranham Centre, which is open for limited use with Covid controls in place.

The ending of production and distribution of *Scouting* magazine is sad and a clear indication of the financial straits the Association is in. So it is not surprising that HQ's part of capitation will rise by £7.50 to £36.50. I understand that County will not increase their charge beyond last year's £15. It is up to each District to determine their increment. But the total per Scout is still not a lot more than one pound a week. Is that still not pretty good value to acquire Skills for Life? That's what our Leaders are providing!



Have you bought your Poppy Badge for this year? It's available from Scout Store. It should be worn on uniform above the left pocket. Most veterans of the Second World War have passed away but should not be forgotten. (I lost an uncle, who was shot down in the Battle of Britain). The numerous conflicts that have taken place since have left many heroes needing our thanks and assistance.

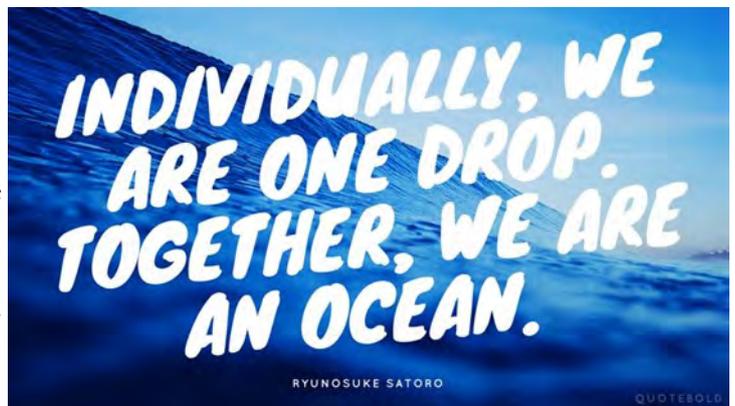


The past few months as the CC

Usually the summer is recognised as being a little quieter in the world of Scouting. I don't know about you, but personally it hasn't slowed down at all. With all of the constant change and uncertainty that is floating around, many of us have found we are guiding and supporting as much as we ever have done.

I recognise that things are evolving quickly and for some, the pace of change will be really unsettling, it is at these times that it is possible to feel overwhelmed and forget one crucial thing... **Every one of us is part of a team** in Scouting. Every one of us has the right and the permission to turn to a Scouting colleague or a team member and say "I'm finding it hard, will you please help me?"

Many of us might not do that because we do not want to add to someone else's burdens. Often we might not know what someone is going through, so we avoid asking for help. I want to encourage us all to reach out. Ask. If they cannot help, you will find out, but you never know, they may be able to, and that one bit of help may make things feel exponentially less difficult.



Over the summer, I was lucky enough to be able to go camping with my family. Okay, it was only to the back garden of another family member elsewhere in the country, but it was an absolutely welcome break, a chance to reconnect with outdoors, a chance to switch off and, more than anything, a week without meetings, via Zoom or MS Teams or Google hangouts. Something I imagine some of you may be experiencing that too.



But, along with the rest that I was able to get, the time outdoors, I was also reminded why Camping in the UK can be less enjoyable, as storm Laura passed over, whipping up winds and blowing our tent noisily! At one point the wind was whipping in under the tent, under the inner and lifting our airbed with Emma and me on it! (*"Airbed?" I hear you say! – I know, I am getting old now and like a little bit of comfort!*)

Thank you to Carole, our DCC People who very kindly deputised for me during this time.

I hope that in some way, you have been able to get some rest or even a change from the daily activity you may be so used to doing.

By the time you read this I will have taken part in eight Annual General Meetings including our County AGM. Every one of them has been uniquely different, but I have really valued that, even though we cannot meet face to face at this time, everyone has put the effort in to try and make them compliant and as engaging as possible.

I've also really valued being able to say 'thank you' to those that have taken part across the Districts and the County. I sincerely hope that everyone that has heard that thank you has been able to pass it on to everyone else in their teams, committees, Groups or sections.

If you haven't seen yet, at our County AGM, we published our Annual Review which was, thanks to the contributions of so many, another bumper edition with stories, updates pictures and competitions.



[You can read it here](#), (right click—open link—click on rectangle) -

so grab a cuppa, sit back and enjoy.

Those that were able to take part in the District AGMs will know that I have taken the opportunity to re-tell the story of the stranger on the beach with the starfish. I personally love this story as it constantly reminds me of the difference that one small action or even a conversation can make to another person.



If you want the story, right click the image, - open hyperlink

As volunteers in Scouting we are all aware that it is our passion to make a difference to young people through Inspiring Programmes and amazing activities. But it is easy to overlook the impact that we all make on one another. I feel inspired every time I talk to one of my team, or to one of our hard working DCs, or their teams or any Leader that I am lucky enough to meet with, virtually. You all make a positive impact on me, I hope that others recognise this impact that we can all make for each other.

Thank you.

Adult Support Day

Back on the 19th September, in the absence of being able to run our previously advertised GOOSE weekend, we took a hasty decision to run some online support sessions for volunteers across the County. Although it was pulled together with very little notice, I think it was something that we should consider doing again in the Spring.

We will confirm a date soon... Keep an eye on our website.

I am very thankful to those that helped lead the various different sessions; Chris & Ruthie, Kat, Adam, Ash, Liz and Mike, and I am incredibly thankful to the many TAs that signed up to offer some of the 25+ validation sessions that sadly were not used.

I hope that those of you that took part found what we offered useful and were able to answer some questions for you.



From the Count DofE Adviser

True or False? – The only mandatory piece of evidence required for a DofE Award section is the assessors report?

True – BUT, only if it allows the Award Verifier to fulfil their role and answer positively all the checks on the checklist. If the Assessors report doesn't demonstrate those points, then they'll look at the participants evidence for answers. If they can't see the information, then the Award Verifier will Query the award and you'll receive a message from them through eDofE to ask for clarification, or more evidence.

Did you know, if you did your DofE Bronze or Silver Award through another organisation it can still be used to count for the Volunteering, Skill, Physical and Expedition sections of your Chief Scouts Platinum and Diamond Award?

Did you know, if you did your DofE Gold Award through another organisation it can still be used to count for the Volunteering, Skill, Physical, Expedition and Residential sections of your Queens Scout Award?

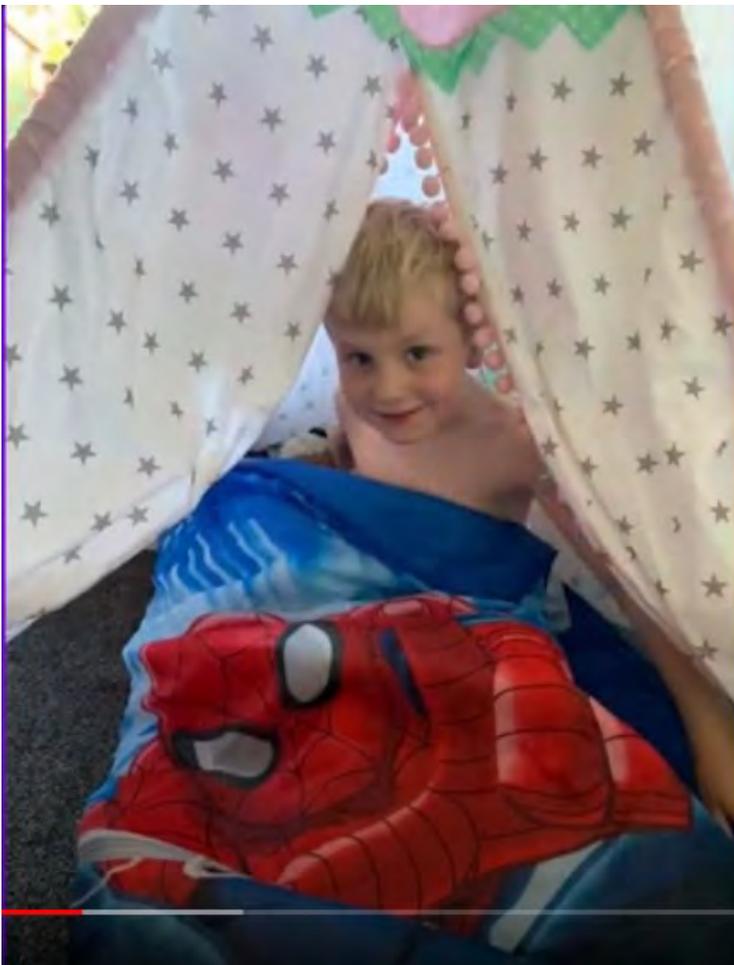
I went to an RNLI party yesterday.

My Goodness! They know how to push the boat out!



Together, we truly smashed the record for the UK's biggest virtual summer camp, with more than 120,000 young people taking part from 36 countries.

Activities provided included building a den, making a rocket, origami, compass exercises, signalling, cooking, astronomy and much else.





The CC's rocket has lift-off



Oil stoves — are they paraffinalia?

Cooking!



**Bun
Sandwiches!**



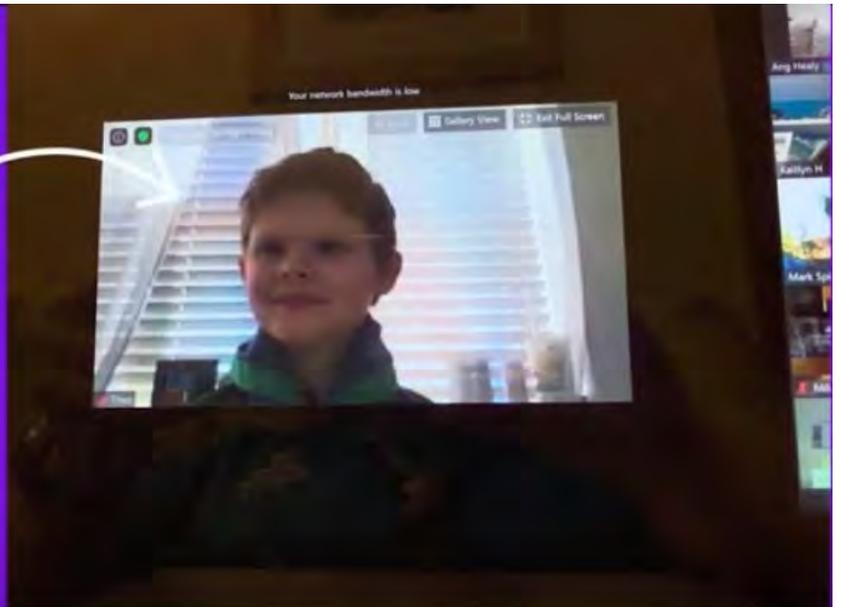
**Water
Activities**





How awesome is this photo?

Very proud!!



**We got to invest Theo at
1st Royal Forest Cubs**

**Who has never met any other Cubs yet!
(Joined during lockdown)**

Proud beginning

Ten years later!



From BSL Sara Boulton, 10th Cheltenham (All Saints) Beavers 21st July 2020

Congratulations Beavers!

I was so pleased that many of the Beavers managed to continue their Scouting at home during lockdown - I am truly amazed at what they have achieved and loved seeing the photos!

Their hard work is represented by the HUGE amount of badges that have been gained during the end of the spring term and the summer term. These include 18 Challenge Awards, 25 Activity Badges, 8 Staged Activity Badges as well as the 4 Bronze Awards.

WELL DONE BEAVERS!





These mallows could not be more marsh!

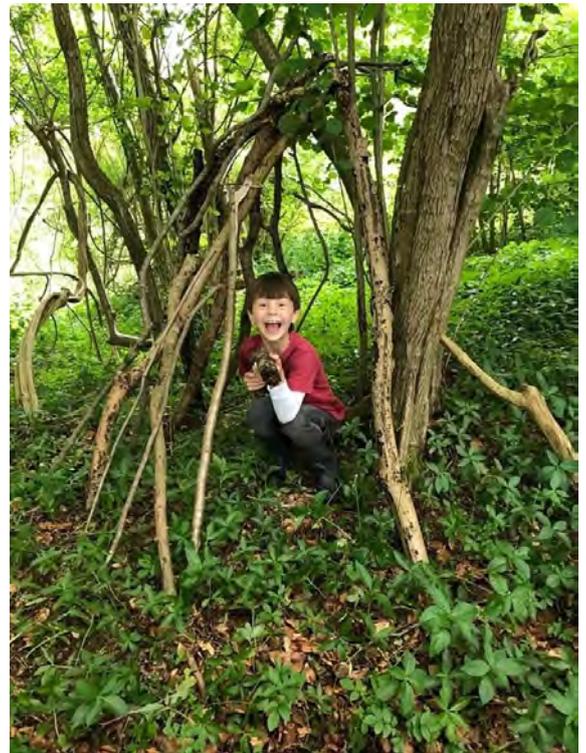
10th Cheltenham (All Saints) Beavers

10th Cheltenham (All Saints) Beavers

Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Congratulations to Harry C, Charlie P, Oliver I and Lucas R, who have all managed to complete their Bronze Award during the last term. To gain this award is a huge achievement anyway but, as they had to complete it at home during lockdown, they should be very proud of gaining this award. 🏆

In September, we will hopefully be able to present their awards at a badge and award ceremony, but for now, I send them my congratulations. 🏆🏆🏆🏆





Badge Courses Report 2019/2020

Scout Air Weekend

Scouts from six Troops enjoyed a weekend on the airfield at Croft Farm near Evesham. They camped for the weekend, learnt about aviation and aerial navigation and gained several related activity badges. Then they all had the chance to fly thanks to the pilots who took them up in their aircraft. The Scouts were then expected to navigate around a triangular route before returning to the airfield. They even had the chance to fly the plane themselves whilst in the air. Many thanks to the team for running the event and Black Pig ESU for doing the catering. Another weekend is booked for 2020. Places fill fast so contact [Ron Shell](#) if your Troop would like to go. (Note that applications are not open individual Scouts but to patrols of six.



Troops attending were:

• Sevenside	• Chipping Campden
• Rodborough	• Swindon Village
• 41st Cheltenham	• Sevenhampton

PADI Advanced / Specialism Weekend



The PADI Advanced / Specialism weekend did not run as its usual residential weekend this year due to lack of numbers making it financially unviable. Instead, those divers who did register to further their skill sets have been catered for on alternative dive dates alongside other dive school activities. The first of these dates at a very wet [Cromhall](#) saw four intrepid teenagers arrive for their revised one-day session. One had come purely to refine his skills on an Experience Dive whilst the other three went for their Digital Underwater Photography qualification. Three very different cameras were used as the three lads gained their qualification.

Those attending were from:

• Rodborough 1	• 31 st Gloucester 1
• 31 st Gloucester 2	

Derek Newman Explorer Scout Leader, Octopus (Scuba) Unit & Cheltenham [Wwell](#) (Young Leader) Unit

Scuba Report



The first Discover Scuba Diving session of the decade was a small scale affair with only 10 participants – mind you that's the maximum for an individual session anyway! The excited scouts from 5 districts across the county descended on Tewkesbury School on the afternoon of 26th January for their taster session. Now we wait to see how many sign up to continue and do their Open Water qualification in May.

Those attending were from:

• 1 st Royal Forest	• Rodborough
• 3 rd Tewkesbury	• 1 st Tetbury
• 45 th Gloucester	• 15 th Gloucester
• 1 st Hatherley	

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 2 hours early each day. A truly excellent group who will take some beating! *Derek Newman*



Octopus ESU on an Open Water dive

- Those attending were from:
- Extreme ESU 2
- No Name ESU

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 on to the Open Water qualification course we are running next spring. *Derek Newman*

Those attending were from:

• Double 2 ESU 1	• 1st Winchcombe 3
• 1st Tetbury 2	• Severnside 5
• Selsley 2	• Staunton & Course 2
• 7th Swindon 1	• Amberley 2
• Bob's Dinosaur's ESU 1	• 3rd Tewkesbury 1
• 1st Dursley 2	• 1st Woodmancote 2

Canal Weekend



Lock safety talk at Springwell Lock

This year's Canal Weekend proved to be a lot wetter than usual. Saturday saw many short showers which turned into torrential rain luckily after we had moored up for the night. Sunday was even wetter with several showers with bright periods in between. This did not prevent the Scouts from making a first-rate job of steering the boats and working the locks.

We had three boats this year due to the many Scouts who applied; Pisces, Merlin and Theo with a total of twenty-four Scouts and twelve leaders.

We arrived at the base at Harefield on Friday evening and were fitted with life jackets before boarding our boats. On Saturday morning we worked up through nineteen locks travelling about

fourteen miles during the day. We stopped at Tesco's at Rickmansworth to buy food for the rest of the weekend – the Scouts had chosen the menu themselves. We arrived at Hemel Hempstead and winded (turned round) the boats and moored for the night. All the Scouts helped



with the cooking and clearing up for meals.

Then on Sunday we worked all the way back again.

Finally, having returned to the base at Harefield it was time to present the Scouts with their Power Coxswain badges before returning to Gloucestershire. A big thank you to the team of leaders and to the Scouts who worked so hard.



Those attending were from:

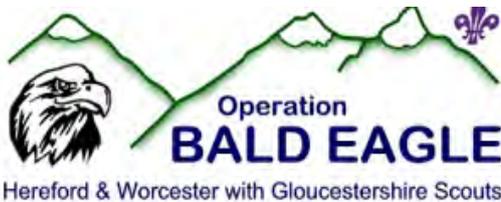
• 1 st Royal Forest 6	• 1 st Dursley 2
• 1 st Hatherley 1	• 45 th Gloucester 2
• 1 st Chipping Campden 5	• Churchdown 2
• 1 st Tetbury 1	• Swindon Village 2
• Adder's Tongue ESU 1	• Random ESU 1
• Innsworth 1	

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.

Those attending were from:

• Churchdown 1	• Phoenix ESU 1
• 3 rd Tewkesbury 2	• Staunton & Corse 4
• Amberley 2	• Adder's Tongue ESU 1
• Rodborough 1	• 41 st Cheltenham 2
• 1 st Hatherley 1	• 1 st Winchcombe 1
• 1 st Dursley 1	•



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 all start at the same time.



Spider walk

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



Duck shoot

who had won the trophies?

Congratulations to 2nd Twyning who came 3rd in Bald Eagle Overall and 2nd in the Night Team Challenge.

Gloucestershire Troops taking part were:

• Minchinhampton	• 2 nd Twyning
• Sevenhampton	• Slimbridge
• Selsley	• Swindon Village
• 1st Dursley	• Moreton in Marsh
• Wotton under Edge	• 1st Cam
• 41 st Cheltenham	

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 practice rigging and climbing ladders in a caving environment – not easy! On their return to the centre they enjoyed a talk and discussion around troglobites, trogloliths, troglonexes 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*

Those attending were from:

• Severn Steel ESU 3	• 1 st Tetbury 2
• Inferno ESU 2	• 31 st Gloucester 2
• Adder's Tongue ESU 1	• 1 st Royal Forest 2
• 1 st Dursley 1	• 1 st Cheltenham 1

Hill Walking Weekend



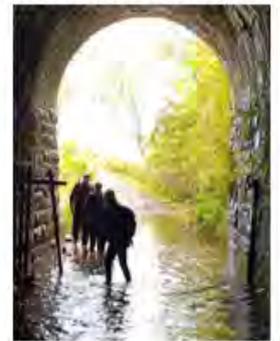
The hill walking weekend was a 2 nights away trip to the Brecon Beacons sleeping in Brecon Scout Hut. This was luxury accommodation compared to camping in the saturated mud and drizzle outside.

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*



Those attending were from:

• 31 st Gloucester 2	• Amberley 2
• 1 st Chipping Campden 1	• 1 st Cam 1
• Innsworth 1	• No Name ESU 3
• 1 st Dursley 1	

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 Devil's Chimney ESU



Those attending were from:

• Extreme ESU 1	• Staunton & Corse 1
• 1 st Dursley 1	• May Hill & Huntley 3
• Chipping Campden 1	• 45 th Abbeydale 1
• 41 st Cheltenham 5	• Churchdown 2
• Freeminers ESU 1	• Minchinhampton 2

Electronics Badge Weekend



We had twelve Scouts covering the full age range. Some had some experience of Electronics and some were complete novices. By the end of the weekend they had all learnt a lot about the theory and practice of this exciting hobby, which some of us turn into a career! They all built beat the buzzer games, automatic nightlights and flashing guy rope indicators from basic components. After a small amount of fault finding they all worked. We had no accidents with soldering irons this year so well done everybody.

Dave Hall

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.

Those attending were from:

• 1 st Dursley 5	• 45 th Gloucester 1
• Severnside 1	• Staunton & Corse 1
• Wotton-under-Edge 4	



“Can I get my badge now?”

Steerers Course



This two weekend course was completed just before the coronavirus restrictions came in. Seven leaders were able to complete the course and gain a Scout permit for narrowboating. The first weekend was spent near the base on the Grand Union Canal at Harefield. Apart from a run up to Rickmansworth to do a supermarket shop the rest of the time was spent in lock and mooring practice.

The second weekend saw a trip up to Hemel Hempstead and back. On both weekends they had the use of two narrowboats, - Pisces and Merlin

Module A

During the last year we have held two evenings, and 48 Young Leaders have completed.

Those attending were from:

• Adder's Tongue ESU 2	• Black Sheep ESF 2
• Chalford Intrepid Alpacas ESU 1	• Meyer ESU 2
• Cotswold YLU 1	• Extreme ESU 4
• Forest YLU 1	• Gloucester YLU 8
• Habberpakka YLU 4	• Hereford YLU 1
• No Name ESU 1	• Nutty Badgers ESU 1
• Pioneers ESU 1	• Red Wolves ESU 4
• STYLE YLU 5	• Unmentionables ESU 2
• Wyell YLU 8	

Due to the corona virus lockdown we had to cancel:

- **Scuba DSD: 21st March**
- **Module A: 23rd March**
- **Expedition Weekends: 27th /29th March AND 17th/19th April**
- **Climbing Course: 8th & 9th April**
- **Scuba Open Water: 15th/17th May**
- **Survival Skills: 23rd/25th May** Novice, Activity +, Advanced Survival, Bushcraft & Survival
- **Scuba Adventure Weekend: 12th/14th June**
- **Module A: 2nd July**
- **Nautical Skills Weekend: 19th/21st July**
- **Canal Weekend: 2nd/4th October**

We plan to run Module A with restricted number as soon as we can. We have over 40 YLs on the waiting list!

Let us hope we can run courses again in 2021.

I would like to thank the many leaders who have run or helped on these events. Their input has been excellent and is very much appreciated

Paddy Langham

County Badge Course Co-ordinator (Gloucestershire)

County Narrow boating Assessor (Gloucestershire)

Map Grid Game

Here's something else for you to try:

You will need a piece of paper with squares on it.

Mark a line along the bottom and label the lines 0 to 20

Mark a line up the left side and label the lines 0 to 15

Grid looks like this but with numbers on lines and not in squares

15																				
14																				
13																				
12																				
11																				
10																				
9																				
8																				
7																				
6																				
5																				
4																				
3																				
2																				
1																				
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Pick a column of numbers: A to E

Mark first four figure grid ref on chart.

Mark second grid ref on and join with a line.

Continue to end of grid refs. You should have drawn an animal.

**** When you have done all five email your results to me:**

Remember to *crawl* along the bottom number before you *climb* up the numbers at the side.

On a real map you will have six figure grids to work with.

A	B	C	D	E
08 10	14 06	13 06	05 01	17 00
08 07	08 06	15 03	04 01	18 02
06 07	07 04	13 05	04 02	19 03
05 08	07 02	11 03	05 02	16 03
05 09	06 01	11 01	06 03	14 04
05 08	05 01	10 00	06 04	10 10
03 05	06 02	09 00	08 03	10 11
04 08	06 05	10 01	10 01	11 12
02 07	05 08	10 03	10 04	14 12
02 03	04 08	09 04	07 09	13 13
01 03	03 09	09 05	05 11	11 13
01 09	03 11	09 04	05 12	09 11
03 12	02 11	05 03	04 13	09 10
06 12	02 12	05 01	02 13	06 05
08 10	03 11	04 00	01 12	04 06
16 10	04 12	03 00	01 10	02 06
17 09	05 12	16 01	04 01	02 09
17 04	06 11	15 01	04 03	02 10
17 06	07 12	16 02	03 07	04 10
16 05	07 11	15 05	02 08	05 11
16 02	06 11	14 02	01 07	04 10
15 02	06 09	13 01	00 08	03 10
15 06	05 08	12 01	04 11	03 08
14 06	06 09	13 02	04 10	04 06
14 02	06 10	14 06	05 07	06 04
13 02	16 10	08 06	12 07	
13 05	17 09	09 03	13 06	
10 05	17 04	09 02		
09 06	07 06	17 07	08 01	
09 02	07 02	16 05	07 01	
08 02	06 02	17 03	08 02	
08 06	06 08	17 02	07 04	
07 06	16 01			

Scouting for Boys

Are you getting bored with no Scout meetings or activities? Why not order Scouting for Boys from the Scout Shop? It only cost £9. This is the book that starting Scouting back in 1908. The twentieth centuries best sellers were: **1st** The Bible; **2nd** Chairman Mao's Little Red Book; **3rd** Scouting fir Boys. This made it the world's best seller in English. It's a really good read.

September 2020

Module A

We hope to run courses once social distancing allows us to do so. We cannot of course give definitive dates yet but will contact you when the alert level allows.

Meetings will take place at Cranham on Tuesdays or Thursdays. They will run under tight social distancing guidelines which have been approved by the County and with much smaller numbers.

Please complete the attached [application form](#) (*right click, select arrow at bottom—Ed.*)

2021

Once it is safe to do so we hope to run many courses next year:

- ***Steerers Course: February AND March Leaders only***
- ***Badge Weekend: March*** Naturalist Electronics or Geocaching badges
- ***Expedition Weekends: March AND April***
- ***Climbing Course: Easter OR October***
- ***Survival Skills: May*** Novice, Activity +, Advanced Survival, Bushcraft & Survival courses
- ***Nautical Skills Weekend: July***
- ***Canal Weekend: October***
- ***Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) Weekend: October***
- ***Caving Weekend: December***

Module A: Once each term (or more often if required)

Challenges

Complete any two of the challenges set in [July](#) and [August](#) to win a £5 discount off your next badge course.

If you haven't already:

July Challenges

- Build a catapult
- Do the Map Grid game
- Read 'Scouting for Boys'

Make a Survival Skills kit

August Challenges: 3 codes:

- Semaphore
- Morse
- Flags

Paddy Langham

Luke Jerram's Gaia is coming to Gloucester Cathedral

Gloucester Cathedral has hosted the Moon and now it's the turn of planet Earth – when Luke Jerram's Gaia takes up residence in the cathedral nave, this October 2020.



Luke Jerram's *Gaia* is coming to Gloucester Cathedral from Tuesday 13 October and Sunday 1 November 2020 – for an opportunity to see planet Earth like never before and get some incredible Insta pics, of course.

This will be the second time that Bristol artist Luke Jerram has exhibited at the Cathedral following last year's hugely popular Museum of the Moon at Gloucester Cathedral, which attracted over 70,000 visitors. He has also created *Of Earth and Sky* across Gloucester this summer.

A touring artwork, *Gaia* will take up residence in the cathedral nave, it measures seven metres in diameter and features detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface.

Luke Jerram said: 'It's an honour to present my work in Gloucester Cathedral again and wonderful that we've been able to programme it to coincide with my poetry installation *'Of Earth and Sky'* which will be installed across the city at the same time!

Gaia will be ticketed to limit capacity for social distancing, with details of how to book tickets due to be announced in September 2020.



In Gloucester Cathedral, carved by the Cathedral's master mason, Pascal Mychalysin.





For my collection I have recently acquired a set of beautifully-made badges in high definition of a French Scout association, the Éclaireuses et Éclaireurs de la Nature. They are a Buddhist organisation, founded in 2007, with about 1000 members in 14 Groups in metropolitan France, in Polynesia and on the Île de la Réunion.

Their equivalent of Beavers are called **COLIBRIS** which translates as

Hummingbirds.



The 8 to 11-year-olds are Voyageurs, represented by a tiger.

11 to 14-year-olds are Vaillants (Braves), sporting a lion.



The Pionniers are from 14 to 17 and show a phoenix.



The Compagnons (17 to 20) have a dragon.



Leaders (Animateurs) are identified by a horse supporting a stupa (a domed edifice housing Buddhist relics).

The colours and animals are all symbols that relate to Buddhism.



John Morton

When I was a kid, my parents would always say “Mind my French” after a swear word. I’ll never forget my first day at school, when my teacher asked if any of us knew any French.

Scouting in the United Arab Emirates



The U.A.E. is a group of seven emirates at the eastern end of The Gulf (south of the Strait of Hormuz). The two largest are Abu Dhabi and Dubai and the others are Sharjah, Ras al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm al-Qaiwain and Fujairah.

Between 1870 and 1971 they were known as the Trucial States, a British Protectorate. I first went down there in the late 1950s, soon after oil was discovered and Dubai was just beginning to grow. Originally it had been a small village with a few pearl divers' boats pulled up on the shore. Now it is a very large town, featuring the world's tallest building, the Burj Al Arab. There is friendly rivalry between Dubai and the capital Abu Dhabi, about 40 miles across the desert to the north. There are only a few onshore oil wells, many more under the waters of The Gulf. Abu Dhabi and Dubai provide servicing for the industry.

Only about a fifth of the population of 2.4 million are nationals, the rest made up of expatriates who flocked there from the West in the 1970s to develop the oil industry and to build the infrastructure. Most of the manual labour is undertaken by expatriate Indians and Pakistanis.

Scouting was founded in several of the individual emirates prior to unification. It is known to have existed in Sharjah by 1947 and in Umm al-Qaiwain before 1971. It was founded in the U.A.E. in 1972 and became a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement in 1977. It is taken under the wing of the Ministry of Education and is part of the school curriculum. There are about 5,500 members. There is a national Scout camp in Sharjah.

The Scout Motto is Kun Musta'idan (كن مستعداً) meaning Be Prepared. The word for



Scout is Kashaf (كشاف). For the children of expatriates there are Groups of British Scouts Abroad in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. I visited a Cub Pack several times on my occasional trips to Dubai. The Boy Scouts of America also have a presence there.



Incidentally, it is believed that the people of Dubai don't like the Flintstones— but those of Abu Dhabi do.

John Morton

🌟 SCOUTS 🌟

by Clare Cutts, Bear 🐻, 17th Bournemouth 2020
with a little help from my Scout, Nathanael

Dyb dyb dyb, dob dob dob

Throwing an axe and chopping a log

Making a fire and cooking your tea

There is no better life for you and for me

Tying a knot and making a raft

Hiking in rain and having a blast

Learning first aid and tying a sling

Sitting round campfires and having a sing

Reading a map and finding your way

Saluting the flag your promise to say

Arm in the air so the leaders don't shout

There's no better life of that there's no doubt

Doing your best and supporting each other

Treating your friends as a sister or brother

Learning Morse code cos you never know when!

Sewing on badges there are way more than ten!

Putting up tents and setting up camp

Making camp gadgets by the light of a lamp

Toasting marshmallows and sharing them all

Meeting each week at a church or a hall

Visiting places and learning new things

Climbing, abseiling and huge giant swings

Filtering water - can you make it clear?

Listen at midnight what sounds can you hear?

Wide games and dodgeball and running around
Manhunt in darkness are you out of bounds?
Shooting blunt arrows straight through the air
Firing air rifles be sure to take care!

Kindness to animals, growing your food
No need for violence, no need to be rude!
Ironing your uniform for church parade
Bringing your family gifts you have made.

Swimming, kayaking and just getting wet
The more that you do the more badges you'll get!
Integrity, respect, care and belief
And cooperation these values we keep!

Courageous and loyal, our promise to be
Doing our best for our Queen and country
Our honour is endless, our care is the best
Becoming a Scout sets you out from the rest!

Beavers and Cubs then Scouts isn't all
There's Explorers, Young Leaders they all have a ball!
There's Network and then when you're too old for that
Be a Section Leader - there's no limit to that!

You could stay home on your consoles and pretend to do things
Or get out and Scout and survive anything!
If a zombie apocalypse is what your about
The only way forward is becoming a Scout!

At the moment we Zoom meet and virtually Scout
But we'll soon be together of that I've no doubt!
We will persevere and continue I'm sure,
Because Scouts and all Scouting will always endure!

Know your County

Bourton-on-the Water is a charming village, nicknamed the “Venice of the Cotswolds”,



because the River Windrush flows through its centre. The river is crossed by five low bridges, the oldest of which dates from 1654. The nearby Roman Road (the Fosse Way) linked Exeter (Isca Dumnoniorum) in the southwest and Lincoln (Lindum Colonia) to the northeast, via Ilchester (Lindinis), Bath (Aquae Sulis), Cirencester (Corinium) and Leicester (Ratae Corieltavorum).

Lower Harford, on the northwest edge of the map, is a deserted medieval village. Throughout the 13th century, and parts of the 14th, Europe suffered from a climate change with severe winters and cold, very wet summers. This resulted in crop failures and livestock diseases. Here in the Cotswolds, overgrazing and poor soil fertility only added to the problem, putting too great a strain on village communities that were already in slow decline anyway. Many families left the high Cotswolds for the Vale of Evesham and the Severn Vale, never to return. The Black Death also played its part. The shrinking workforce was beginning to affect the long-established feudal system that would eventually break down, which in turn would hasten the decline of the village.

The railway which served the town ran for 100 years, from 1662 to 1962.

Questions on the Map:

1. Would this be a good place to eat spaghetti?
2. How high above sea level (at Liverpool) is Goms Hole?
3. Why is there a kink in the Roman Road by Sweetslade Farm?
4. Which farm could be particularly useful for Scouts?
5. Which farm might have wood for kindling?
6. Where does it sound as though everybody goes hungry?
7. Where would you dig a hole to put fish in?
8. What might demonstrate the Queen's Method?
9. Would the contents of this feature make you cry?
10. An anagram of which name is HUGER RUST APPLE?

Answers on p. 34.



After Kipling

If you can keep your internet connection, when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you,

If you can mute yourself, when all are shouting, but remember how to *un*mute yourself too,

If you can zoom and not make zoom your master, if you can skype and not make skype your aim,

If you can wear an earpiece or a headset, and treat those two imposters just the same,

If you can queue with patience for your shopping, and go without a haircut for a year,

If you can work from home... never stopping, and carry on without the slightest fear,

If you can wash your hands for 20 seconds, while singing Happy Birthday as a rhyme,

Or sanitise when you've no source of water, and catch it, bin it, kill it every time,

If you can walk with friends and keep your distance, or walk alone remembering not to touch,

If you can wear your gloves and mask and visor, and take this virus seriously, but not too much,

If you can fill each minute of this lockdown, with love and hope and happiness and fun,

You'll make the world a better place, post virus, and what is more, you'll be a **Scout** my son.

Know your County (p. 32) — Answers

1. The Fork.
2. 195 metres.
3. To avoid high ground on either side.
4. Camp Farm.
5. Fir Farm.
6. Starvall.
7. Salmonsbury.
8. Monarch's Way.
9. River Eye. (eye water).
10. Upper Slaughter.

The Tortworth Chestnut



If you sometimes feel your age, console yourself with how this magnificent Sweet Chestnut tree faces the day! It became known as “the Great Chestnut of Tortworth” as early as 1150. A plaque beside it states that the tree was supposed to be six hundred years old on 1st January 1800. However, an amateur dendrologist, Peter Collinson, claimed in 1792 that it grew from a nut planted in the reign of King Egbert in 800 AD.

The tree measured 51 feet in circumference at 6 feet from the ground in 1720. The canopy is made of five or six stems, the original stem having little live growth in the middle. Some shoots have emerged from low on the stem and where branches have drooped low and touched the ground they have rerooted.

A large number of engravings, lithographs and paintings of the tree are held in the Tortworth estate and it has been referred to as “By far the most fully documented tree in Britain”. A plaque nearby tells us that, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2002, the Tree Council designated it as one of fifty great British trees.

You can easily view the tree — it is 2½ miles west of Wotton-under-Edge at 705932 on OS sheet 162. It is simply marked as “Chestnut”. Drive up to Saint Leonard’s Church and walk to the right across the grass. You will find a gate into the spinney where the tree is located.

John Morton

gscouts

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