



Scout & Scouting Magazine

BY SCOUTS - FOR EVERYONE!

ISSUE 2

SPRING / SUMMER 2021



**BUILD A CORACLE
WITH BLUE PIPING!**

FOR LEADERS!
Scout & Scouting has games, activities and articles

FOR PARENTS!
Scout & Scouting will let you find out more of what we get up to

FOR YOUNGSTERS!
Scout & Scouting is for you as well. Why not write something for it?

FOR YOU!
Scout & Scouting is published three times a year

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your designs or even create a logo for you.**

We're back with a second issue! Thank you so much for all your kind words, enthusiasm for this project, constructive criticism but most of all for your contributions.

As we wrote for the first issue, one major part of **Scout & Scouting** is you and you've certainly made sure of that. We have been inundated with articles and we are pleased to say that quite a few of them are in this issue. We believe that there will always be a huge appetite for print magazines and judging by the number of subscribers you obviously think so too. What a great place to record some of the wonderful things that our young people have been getting up to recently rather than a somewhat transitory digital file! That said, we do put most of the magazine content online to be viewed or downloaded but as an addition to the printed copy and not as a replacement.

We had a good response to Alan Burnham's ultra hard Christmas Quiz. Starting on Page 17 we repeat the questions and provide the answers so that you can run this quiz yourself if you want to make yourself feel particularly superior. We reckon the best position to be in with any quiz is the person asking the questions. If you are a prize winner please email us and we will get your prize to you.

This issue we have a caption competition on page 7 with a hammock as a prize kindly donated by www.onestopscouting.co.uk.

The front cover is of a couple of blue piping coracles; you can find all about them on page 44. If you've subscribed you will find a scout 'snakes and ladders' pullout; simply print both sides and tape together to make one big game for each participant if playing online.

Please keep the articles flowing in!

With best wishes

Richard and the team at **Scout & Scouting**

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BADGES

The Great Chessington Wicker Basket Badge Scam

As a Senior Scout in 1960s I abandoned my Scouting chums and tumbled headlong into becoming a Scout Leader, attaining wood badge hardly out of my teens and have spent just about every Friday night of my life and a lot of weekends passing on scouting skills to local kids.

My first great challenge was to come face to face with the rough and tumble of the 2nd Chessington Scout Troop, and quite quickly learned of the effect of living under the enormous shadow of the all mighty 1st Hook Group just up the road, who had their own massive HQ and dozens of well badged kids hanging out of every one of their many windows. Our scouts even kept their own top buttons undone, "Because 1st Hook do it." And so was born a cunning plan!

1st Hook had perhaps four times our number of scouts, they won every District competition and gained more badges, as regularly published in the District Newsletter, but I devised a way of beating them, just to show we could! The scheme required all of our scouts gaining a dozen badges over a six month period in the run-up to the next District total so lists and requirements of all the badges were distributed and pressure was applied! First the low fruit; Cyclist, Artist, Sport, Music, Swimming etc. with notes brought from schools, piano teachers, football team managers and so on. Then we needed to make the pips squeak and kids who had never cooked started wrecking their kitchens, bedroom painting wrecked carpets all over Surrey. Notes came from harassed teachers saying the kids had, "Tried hard."

And still we needed more! One scout came up with the Rope Spinning Badge, (which existed) and his fraught-looking mother told us of her son's frantic attempts to lasso the cat with the clothes-line, of near strangling himself in his bedroom and wrecking the living room lamp shade. As luck would have it my dad told me that his brother had been a scout in Portsmouth giving rope-spinning demonstrations at campfires - jumping in and out of the swirling rope and lassoing the DC. My uncle showed us where to buy a specially woven 'spinning rope' which had a brass loop at one end. My scout actually managed a

few twirls, enough to please an ADC and reduce pressure on the family's home insurance policy with another badge!

This is where the Great Wicker Basket Scam was finally revealed; we discovered that for some years the older scouts were boosting their patrol points' totals by forcing young scouts to obtain the Basket Maker Badge quite fraudulently! There existed some ex jumble sale wicker baskets, the scout was told to take a couple to a near-blind elderly lady in Tolworth who was the Basket Maker Badge expert. The kid was primed with what she would ask: The basket took a month to make, the reeds needed soaking, they bought the base from a hobbies shop. Always be polite, eat her biscuits and say thank you. She must have been our busiest badge examiner.

To both my pride, and with a little shame, we beat 1st Hook. Only once. But it was enough, 2nd Chessington had come of age.

Eddie Langdown



OUT & ABOUT

Sea Scouts Sign Off with a Christmas Craft Day

What better way to end a crazy year, and to meet the challenge of continuing to operate in the face of Covid, than to hold an outdoor Craft Day at our HQ? Twenty-seven members, divided into three separate sessions, joined in the socially-distanced action and each of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts went home with a bag of handmade goodies. The projects on offer were a decorated bottle lamp, illuminated with battery operated LEDs, snowmen made from a stuffed sock or from a candy cane and marshmallows decorated with sweets, a snowflake from lollipop sticks, mini bobble hats and a fir cone elf.



This was the culmination of a year which saw us adapt to digital meetings during lockdown. Using Zoom, a varied programme of science experiments, microwave mug cakes, crafts, quizzes, puzzles and online specials were put together. These specials introduced our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to magic, astronomy and forensic fingerprinting provided by enterprising experts who have set up online businesses.

Between lockdowns we returned to face to face Scouting with meetings outdoors in the grounds of our HQ. Activities included cooking, fitness challenges, constructing models, the phonetic alphabet, disability awareness, and games all carried out according to social distancing guidelines. These were well attended and there was great disappointment when we had to end them and return to Zoom. Our Craft Day helped to overcome this disappointment and a great day was had by all. We went back to Zoom in January, interspersed with some outdoor sessions, so that our members can continue to work towards their Chief Scout's Challenge Awards.

Jonathan Swatton, 6th Gainsborough Sea Scouts

CAPTION COMPETITION

Think up your funniest caption for this photo and email it to info@searchlinepublishing.co.uk before 30th June 2021. The winner will receive a double hammock kindly donated by One Stop Scouting www.onestopscouting.co.uk



REX'S PAGE

Rex Hendricksen's Dark Night activities

Scouts love Dark Night as the activities are carried out mainly in darkness.

It's useful if they bring a torch for some activities.

Our hall is large and situated in parkland so we can do activities outside, near the building.

However, outside activities could be done in a local park or campsite etc. as there are several of them that would make an evening – see * for these.

Dark night games for whole troop

1. Shoes in centre - everyone takes off their shoes (undo laces) - they are placed in the middle of the hall and lights go off – scouts crawl on floor to find their own shoes by touch – after twenty seconds put lights on for 5 seconds, then off again – repeat a couple of times – then put lights on fully. It's first patrol standing in a row with the correct shoes on. With large numbers play by age group.

2. Peas scattered - scouts sit down with hands over head – lights go out and a packet of dried peas is scattered around the room. Scouts crawl to pick up peas - after twenty seconds put lights on for five seconds, then off – repeat a couple of times – then put lights on fully. Count up peas collected – patrol with most wins.

3. Candle lighting relay – relay formation - put candle on saucer at end of hall (unlit) – each patrol has a box of matches – patrol members take it in turns to walk to the candle, strike a match, light the candle, then blow it out. Can be played with first player lighting, second blowing out and so on.

4. Hand using ball with bell in it – play a game of conventional hand ball (same as ordinary football but use a hand to hit ball) but ball has a bell in it (used for children with disability). Can also be played with glow stick gaffer taped to ball.

5. Quarters game – divide hall in four quarters – each patrol stands in a section - sponge ball or ball with bell thrown in the dark – after thirty seconds put on lights – patrol holding the ball gets a point – smallest number of points wins.

6. Dark circle - place plastic hoopla hoops on floor, lights out - Scouts have to find a hoop and stand in it, after ten seconds – lights on. Can be played with specific numbers in hoop – 2, 3, Scouts not in a hoop drop out – remove some hoops as number of players gets smaller.

Dark Night bases

- Done as a patrol in separate rooms if possible.
- Some activities need to be done outside the building in a field/park.
- Some can be set up very quickly but others need to be set up in advance – see ** for these.

1. Tallest tower out of Lego bricks in 5 minutes.
2. Fitting shapes into a baby ball – fastest time – do more than once.
3. Tying a rope around the patrol and finish with a reef knot – as fast as possible.
4. **Shadow Kim's game – sheet back illuminated - items held up so their shadow only is visible – teams to identify them – can also do profiles of the patrol with the Patrol Leader to spot them.
5. **Spiders web – get through sisal/string web without setting off alarms! (Hang small bells on the string). Can use LED torches with tape over lens to create a narrow beam instead of sisal.
6. Coins in plastic bottles – find bottles and collect coins – state sum of money in bottles.
7. **Searchlight game – put out tables on their sides for cover (put table legs away from direction of play) – patrol at one end of hall – leader at other with good torch. Leader sweeps the hall in a regular fashion with torch. Scouts try and get to other end of the hall without being spotted in beam. If caught they start again. Keep a note of how many get through or are caught.
8. Lengths of lashing rope scattered about in a room. Patrols have to find ropes - tie them together - longest rope that holds together wins.
9. Timer finder – set timer alarm for five minutes teams have to find it.
10. * **Cats eye trail – outside hall - 2 narrow pieces of fluorescent tape on black card, pinned on trees just at the limit of a good torch beam. Patrols follow trail to find the treasure!
11. Touch game – scouts identify items by touch.
12. Darkness drawing - Piece of paper/pencil given to each scout with an item e.g. large key, screwdriver, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 coins, nut and bolt, pair of spectacles, small toy. Items removed – lights out – scouts draw item
13. Long range Kim – patrols at one end of hall items/cards at the other Scouts use a torch to spot items and cards with letters on that spell a word.
14. Bounce tennis balls into buckets in the dark – give buckets different points values or throw hula hoops over cones.

15. Patrol given shadow hand shapes sheet – they each practice them, and then put on a display.

16. Morse code – half patrol use torch to flash one word in Morse code e.g. name of a place such as Gilwell or Edinburgh etc. to other half of patrol. Then repeat with other half of patrol.

Need to give scouts a Morse code sheet (Scouts find this activity difficult.)

17. Paperclips – make longest chain (need lots of paper clips as it's difficult to undo quickly).

18. Play skittles using glow sticks on neck of skittles.

19. * **Glow stick trail – outside building – attach glow sticks to trees – use torch to follow trail.

20. Scavenger hunt in the dark – scatter items in room – patrol collect specific items from a list.

21. *Spotlight – Leader has a torch – patrol hides outside – time how long it takes to find them.

General – apply to all activities

Issue	Whom it affects	Control measures
Lack of visibility - participants may collide with objects	Leaders / young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's dark, so no running, only walking/crawling allowed Remove any tables/chairs etc. in playing area Need one switch manned by a leader so lights can be restored instantly Warn scouts of danger – crawl rather than walk carefully feeling the way In rooms make sure any sharp corners or protruding items are removed
Over-excitement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scouts get very excited – firm control is necessary to avoid accidents Any scout who acts foolishly should be suspended from the activity
Specific issues		
Candle relay – burns	Leaders / young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candle must be firmly fixed upright on saucer Scouts instructed in correct method of striking holding match Close supervision
Peas game – thrown peas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scouts sit with heads down and hands over head Peas are scattered by leader without throwing
Ball games		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponge ball only to be used
Shadows game – electrical equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a projector is used it must be PAT tested and any trailing leads covered safely
Outside activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do outside activities adjacent to the building so there aren't issues like 'strangers' or getting lost, which would have to be considered in a different/unfamiliar venue

Risk Assessment

We have run these activities for many years without any problems.

However, the issues above are for dark night activities only.

Troops should already have *in situ* a risk assessment for troop games to cover slips & trips, first aid, poor behaviour etc.

HOW TO...

How to light a match in the wind

A small box of matches may contain around forty matches so you may wonder what all the fuss is about. If one goes out before you've lit your tinder or whatever else you're trying to light then just try with another, then another, then another, then....oooooh! Before you know it you're down to your last match and a hot meal is looking like a distant dream. Think of each match as a stick of gold and make each one count. It is possible to buy wind resistant matches but if you don't have any to hand there is a good solution that doesn't involve lighting three or four together at the same time. This may give a good flame for a few seconds but will often then go out as the flame is not sufficiently intense to keep the mass of match stick stems alight. The solution is to turn your matchstick into a fuzz match.

You will need a penknife / small sharp knife. Hold the match by the non-head end vertically down with the head resting on a solid surface. With your other hand slice downwards into the matchstick on the four corners, starting just above the head. Work around and halfway up the stick until you have what looks like a mini palm tree leaf. Now when you strike the match the flame will quickly burn the shavings and give a much brighter flame.

Top tips for lighting matches

1. Strike the match away from your body. (For some reason this is something that females instinctively do more than males.) This is because small molten balls of phosphorus sometimes fly from the head.
2. Once lit, point the lit end down so that the flame can climb up the stick as fire burns up. It will burn too quickly if vertical (although you will get a great flame for a short while) and could easily burn you while holding the head up will usually lead to the flame going out so holding the match down at a forty-five degree angle is a good compromise.
3. If it's a windy day and you, unbelievably, don't have a sharp knife to hand then wait for the wind to die down. It tends to move in cycles and so even on quite blustery days there will often be breaks when you can light your match and keep it alight just long enough to light your tinder.

4. With a light wind shield the lit match with the cupped palm of your hand against the wind direction like a mini windbreak.

Do not...

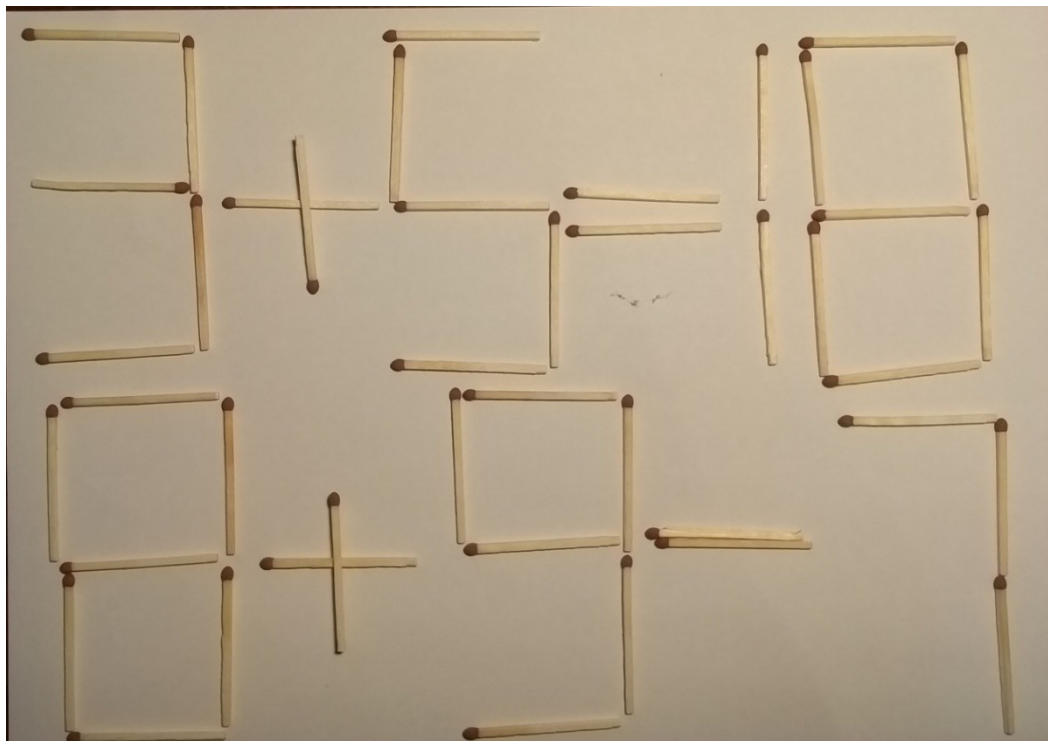
...put a lit match in a box of unused matches. It will produce a load of smoke, go out quickly and waste the whole box. Good fun though.

Did you know?

Over 1,400 years ago the Chinese were using a type of match that comprised small twigs of pine that were impregnated with sulphur. It wasn't until 1805 that the first self-lighting match was invented. However they didn't take off as they had to be dipped into sulphuric acid to ignite. Friction safety matches were not mass-produced until the 1850s.

Now that you have used just one match to light your fire etc. you may be wondering what to do with the remaining thirty-nine...

Move two matches in each equation to make the sums correct



Answer: $8 + 5 = 13$ and $8 - 5 = 3$

ONE HOUR A WEEK

Part One in a series of articles on my years in Scouting

Life before it became hectic

I really started in Scouting when I met my current (just to keep her on her toes) wife. She was an Akela in a local Scout Group (note the capitals - this means they are important - I need to remember this). At the time, the Group (still important) was having troubles - their Executive committee was not functioning - probably because it didn't really exist - and the leaders were (to be blunt) mostly old fogies who should have retired years ago.

At an AGM that I attended, Norma (for it is she who is my wife - also very important, thus starts with a capital N) asked for volunteers to help. One post was that of Chairman. And I was hastily volunteered for the post by one Andy, who used to be my friend before he did that. As there were no other nominations I thought I ought to be seen to be supportive, so I accepted the role. Thus was the start of my Scouting life.

For the next few years, I was very happy bumbling along being a Chairman. I had to attend meetings 3 times a year, go to the AGM and say a few words and generally be a figurehead if needed. This was fine - I could do this. So what's all the big fuss about Scouting? It's easy if you are a Chairman.

But over time, I came to realise that my job was easy because Norma (remember her?) was actually doing the Akela job (running a Cub pack), the GSL job (managing the Group and the leaders) and also making sure the Exec. ran properly - which I think was supposed to be my job. Oops. Maybe I should think about doing a bit more. So, I did. I started to take an interest in what was going on in the Group and then came the first fatal mistake!

"Norma, what else is going on outside the Group?"

"Well, could you attend a County Media evening at County HQ?"

"Of course I can. Umm - what's a County and where is County HQ?"
(Thus, displaying an incredible lack of knowledge.)

Once I'd been educated as to the Scouting structure I attended this course and came back enthused. (No, seriously, I was most impressed with what was going on.) And then came my second fatal mistake.

"Okay - I've done that - so how else can I help?"

"Did you know there's a vacancy for a District Commissioner? How about you applying?"

"Oh, okay. Umm - What's a District Commissioner?" And so came to pass the second phase of my Scouting career.

Interlude - where I came from

I haven't always been a Scout. In fact, I've never been a Scout. I did spend three weeks when I was eight as a cub but as I couldn't do my knots I quickly gave that idea up. After that I joined an alternative organisation called Woodcraft which didn't require me to do knots or say the Lord's Prayer so that was alright. That lasted until I was about thirteen.

My teen years were dominated by badminton (I was quite good), motorcycles once I got to be sixteen and girls. So no time for schoolwork or anything to do with Scouts. Sorry but there were some of us who didn't see the advantages of sleeping in a muddy field.

I did the normal things that most lads growing up do - played hard, nearly failed my A-levels, went to some sort of higher education (in my day, it was called a Polytechnic) and then got a job. No such thing as unemployment in the early 70s. I had no idea that Scouts even existed, never mind that it was a worldwide organisation. Occasionally I might hear about a "Jamboree" but it didn't register that it was anything important. Girlfriends, wives and children were the way forward for me. (Okay, I had one wife and one child followed closely by one divorce and a few more girlfriends.)

Growing up lessons over, I met my current wife Norma as we were both working at the same place for a while and we seemed to hit it off well. She, of course, had been in Scouting all her life and was just returning to the North to take up a position as an Akela from her Mum who wanted to retire. Norma's enthusiasm was infectious and I began to get an inkling of a completely new lifestyle - that of helping children become good citizens which does seem to be a good thing

and I did wonder why no-one had told me before. And so, back to the story.

The Interview Process

Not knowing anything about this, I just assumed I would volunteer for this position (which had been vacant for some time) and start "doing things." Ha ha ha ha. Silly me.

Of course there was a formal interview process which I had to 'pass' so some planning was in order. Given my background as a reasonably efficient professional, this wasn't too much of a burden. I asked around, had a couple of chats with the County Commissioner and started to write up what I hoped to achieve as a DC. (And was I naïve or what?) Remember from before, when I said I knew nothing about districts? Well that ignorance passed straight onto paper. But the CC was impressed that I'd actually written something down.

The day of the interview approached. Was I nervous? No, not really. I can, if given the opportunity, talk the hind legs off a donkey so I was just worried that too much of what came out would be classed as rubbish - but not that concerned.

The interview itself seemed okay. I was "interrogated" by three people who had been sent the write up. I must have impressed them because I walked out feeling that I had held myself together. In hindsight, once I had got to know everyone, the three who interviewed me were all very nice people - but at the time, they were the gods who held my future existence in their hands.

A week later I heard I'd got the job - and the next phase was up and running.

Starting off as a District Commissioner.

I think this phase is known as "Drop you in the deep end and see if you can swim."

My first official engagement was a district GSL meeting.

Now, a GSL is a Group Scout Leader (I knew that). These people run each of the Scout Groups and are generally very busy sorting out all

sorts of issues that they would love to offload onto someone else - like a newly appointed District Commissioner.

I was not asked to chair the meeting but I was asked to make a decision. You would think that it would be something which materially affected the lives and work of our GSLs but no. What was it?

"Now that we are one district, are we still allowed to wear our old township badges and, if so, where should they be on the uniform?" Huh? Is that really important? But before I go into my answer, you, my dear reader, need some background.

Our newly formed district was made up of three old districts, each a separate township in the borough of Rochdale, each of which hated the other. I'll just call them D1, D2 and D3 to preserve their anonymity. D1 knew they were the best and didn't really see why they needed to merge with D2 and D3. D2 thought D1 was full of rebels and old fogeys who had no idea what scouting was all about. D3 relished their independence and didn't want to talk to D1 or D2. Of course, merging the three district accounts and choosing a DC was fraught with political danger and anything you can imagine ended up three times worse.

So that's where we came from. Three completely dysfunctional old districts merged into one larger dysfunctional district with members who really didn't want to recognise the new district. I could see this was going to be fun. And my decision (see the question above - the most important thing a new DC could decide). Well as far as I was concerned, what badge you had on your uniform was so minor it was untrue so I let them have their township badges and they could wear it below the new district badge, but only for those who already had a township badge. It seemed to keep them happy.

First meeting over and a DC had MADE A DECISION! Something unheard of in past times. And for now, that will do for this article.

Alan Sharkey





THE ALAN BURNHAM ULTRA HARD CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2020 - THE ANSWERS!

Remembering JAD

Congratulations to all those who took on Alan's Christmas stinker in Issue 1 of **Scout and Scouting**. We wrote that it would be worth entering even if you only answer half the questions. No one scored full marks but there were some brilliant efforts. There were a maximum of ninety-two points to be gained and there were only three points between the winner (85) and the fourth place (82).

Here are the questions reprinted plus the answers. Maybe now you could have your own quiz evening using you know what questions. Make sure that any of the winners aren't in attendance though.

The winners can be found at the end of the quiz. Very many thanks to Alan and we hope that he will produce another one for this Christmas.

1. On a recent Bake Off, the contestants had to make a Swiss roll. Having done that, the next item was a dried fruit delicacy in flaky pastry. I immediately saw a scouting link - what? *This would be Jam Roll and Eccles (cake), Baden Powell's Rolls Royce and caravan.*

2. a) Link Ormond castle, Hercules and Ylvis to a scouting activity. *Ormond Castle is in Carrick on Suir which gives us two names for the same knot-carrick bend or Ormonde knot, Hercules is another name for the square or reef knot whilst Ylvis sang a song about the trucker's hitch. The activity is therefore knotting.*

b) Link 0.001435 km to a horse's behind. *Converted to imperial, this works out as 4ft 8½ inches or standard railway track gauge. This is supposedly derived from the dimension of a cart that would fit one horse's backside between the shafts.*

c) Find a link between Burton on Trent and Le Creuset. *Marmite is made at Burton on Trent. The label shows a pot called a Marmite, a small French casserole pot. Le Creuset manufacture, amongst other items, Marmite dishes.*

d) Link Haribo with Spanish in a UK context. *Spanish is a term from, but not exclusively, Yorkshire referring to Liquorice. This was manufactured around Pontefract. Haribo now has a sweet factory in Pontefract and, amongst other items, manufactures the famous Pontefract Liquorice cakes.*

3. A support for each month of the year, a diameter for each day of the year and a height for each week of the year - what is it? *The Millennium Dome (O2 Arena) has 12 support columns, is 365m in diameter and is 52m high in the middle.*

4. Why would a passenger on the Shaukiwan Tram be considered reasonable? *This is the Hong Kong equivalent of the Man on the Clapham Omnibus, recognised in English Law as a hypothetical ordinary and reasonable person.*

5. Who would have been a) the Thirsk British Legion's next door neighbour, b) a former resident of the Grantham Living Health Chiropractice, and c) visible from the Manchester Royal Infirmary across Nelson Road? *a) James Alfred Wight, better known as James Herriot. This was Skeldale House, now a museum b) Margaret Thatcher and c) Emmeline Pankhurst.*

6. Why might a resident of a city in Argolis be a philatelist? *Shoppers in the 1960s collected Green Shield Stamps and could redeem them for gifts. In the 1970s Green Shield was bought up by the Argos chain, Argos is also the name of the Greek city in Argolis.*

7. Link each item to the previous one: Peter Pan's nemesis, Mi Amingo, Nottinghamshire's Police HQ, Styria, the 1975 and 2014 Eurovision contests, and S J. *Peter Pan's nemesis was Captain Hook who links to a Pirate radio ship (should have read Mi Amigo not Amingo) which was the home of Radio Caroline. Nott's Police HQ is at Arnold which is the name of Tony Blackburn's mythical dog - Blackburn being a Radio Caroline DJ. Styria in Austria is where Arnold Schwarzenegger was born, also Getty Kaspers, lead singer of the Dutch Band, Teach In, who won the 1975 Eurovision and Conchita Wurst, 2014 Eurovision winner who was raised here. These two contests were held in Stockholm and Copenhagen respectively, which are linked by the S J Train.*

8. a) What distinction does the Isle of Wight have roughly twice a day? *The Isle of Wight has the distinction of being England's smallest county, but only when the tide is in. When the tide is out, Rutland becomes the smallest county.*

b) On a similar theme, how come Cornwall moves vertically by around 10cm roughly twice a day? *This is due to Ocean Tide Loading; when the tide is in, the weight causes the land to dip.*

9. Which king from Scotland is a knight and also a Brigadier? *Brigadier Sir Nils Olav III is a king penguin living in Edinburgh Zoo. He is the mascot of the Norwegian King's Guards.*

10. What do Danish pastries, croissants, Swedish meatballs and tikka masala have in common? *None originate from where you might think. Danish pastries were first made in Austria,*

croissants also in Austria, Swedish meatballs are believed to originate from Turkey and tikka masala is believed to have been invented in a Glasgow restaurant.

11.

Ice	Shirt	Tegan	Allow
Lolly	Oprah	Ono	Grub
Leola	Broad	Godiva	Buck
Stag	Orch	Broad	Ent

For fans of Only Connect, this is the Wall. Basically sixteen items that have to be divided into four groups of four. The four items in each group are linked, the groups are not linked. There was an error here. Broad was given twice. There should have been one, the second should have been Wedge. Answers will be marked taking this into account. Answer would have been Godiva, Wedge, Lolly and Buck, various names for money. Shirt, Orch, Ent and Allow can be preceded by T. Ice, Broad, Ono and Grub are types of axe. Stag, Oprah, Tegan and Leola are various terms for deer.

12. What did John Hughes, Mahonri Young, Lee Blair and David Wallin all achieve? *All won Olympic Gold Medals, but back in the early Olympic Games when The Arts were included. These medals were variously won in Architecture, Sculpture and Painting.*

13. New Zealand 85, Wales 58, Massachusetts 45, South Africa 44. Explain. *Longest place names Taumatawhakat etc. 85 letters New Zealand. Llanfaipwll etc. 58 letters Wales. Chargoggag etc. 45 letters Massachusetts. Tweebuffels etc. 44 letters South Africa.*

14. What possible link could Scotland have to the Parthenon and the Colosseum? *The National Monument in Edinburgh was based on the Parthenon, McCaigs Tower in Oban was based on the Colosseum. Neither was finished.*

15. Whips Retrial Decoded. What is the significance? *This question highlighted the dangers of autocorrect and the one failing of What 3 Words. The question as printed was not answerable so this question will be discounted.*

16. Murder on the Orient Express. What is incorrect about the title of this Agatha Christie novel? *Not strictly the Orient Express! This was on the route of the Simplon Orient Express.*

17. A man with a flat cap, a moustache and a cat became which inventor and his companion? *This evolved into an inventor and his dog - Wallace and Gromit.*

18. Divide this list of nine British birds into three groups of three, and explain why: Firecrest, Great Bustard, Osprey, Common Crane, Cettis Warbler, Red Kite, Little Egret, Mediterranean Gull and White Tailed Sea Eagle. *Cettis Warbler, Mediterranean Gull and Firecrest are colonisers, having spread to the UK for the first time. Little Egret, Common Crane and Osprey are re-colonisers, having been made extinct in the UK previously. Great Bustard, Red Kite and White Tailed Sea Eagles are re-introductions by humans. (Some may be argued. For instance the Red Kite was never truly extinct with a very small population clinging on near Aberystwyth.)*

19. What has Rolanda Hooch in The Devil's Crown done that the original, according to legend, never actually did? *Zoe Wannamaker played Rolanda Hooch in Harry Potter. In The Devil's Crown she played Berengaria of Navarre, Queen of England by being wife to Richard I. Legend has it Berengaria never set foot in England, though she does in the series.*

20. Motorways - everyone's bane in life. But consider a one mile stretch of three lane motorway, one carriageway only, filled only with cars, each doing 70mph and managing to keep to the two second rule. How many cars are in our one-mile section?

Assume a car is 5 yards long and the two second rule is from the rear of one car to the front of the car behind. *At 70mph a car covers 1760×70 yards = 123,200 yards in an hour. Doing the necessary maths this gives 68.44 yards in 2 seconds. Add on 5 yards gives 73.44 yards which is the distance each car will occupy including its 2 second spacing. Dividing 1760 by 73.44 gives 23.96. The .96 is enough to fit another vehicle at the front of the queue with its safety zone extending partly into the next mile. So 24 vehicles in one lane gives 72 in three lanes.*

If 48 additional cars joined our one-mile section, assuming the two second rule is still adhered to, and all cars move at the same rate, what will the speed now be? *Add another 48 cars is an extra 16 per lane giving 40 per lane. 1760 divided by 40 is 44 yards available for each car. Minus the 5 yard car length gives 39 yards to be covered in 2 seconds. Multiplying up means a car will cover 70,200 yards in an hour or 39.88 mph.....40mph as makes no difference.*

Winners

First prize: £50 cash.

Second prize: Double hammock kindly donated by One Stop Scouting www.onestopscouting.co.uk.

Third prize: A year's subscription to Scout and Scouting.

1st Place Ron Davies 85/92

2nd Place Paul Haigh SAGGA Birmingham and Severn 84/92

3rd Place Emily Read SAGGA East Midlands/North 83/92

and an honourable mention to William Willets with 82/92.

A very well done to all of you.

OUT & ABOUT

A new era begins at Sapcote in Leicestershire

Back in 1977, Sapcote Scouts moved into a new era when a second-hand cedar wood building was acquired and erected on the village playing fields, with a new purpose built kitchen and toilets. This has served the village Scouts well, but was becoming 'very tired.'

Fast forward forty years and with housing developments within the village, section 106 funding was earmarked to refurbish this well-used building. However, before this was accomplished a further development of about one hundred houses by David Wilson Homes (DWH) was planned. This development was attracting much more section 106 funding and a plot of land, originally offered to a local medical practice, was available, and offered to us to provide a new scouting facility for the village.

I, as the Group Scout Leader, had no option but to support this development, although it did meet some contention from several corners of the village.

Following outline planning permission, and after an initial meeting with DWH, I felt all our Christmases had arrived at once.

It has been slow process, not helped by the wording of the section 106 agreement which just stated that DWH would 'provide us with a new Scout HQ.'

Early drawings were for a two story building with bunk house accommodation to allow for sleepover weekends, a facility lacking within the District.

Unfortunately this proved to be outside of the budget of approximately £260,000 and although we made several grant

applications, raising funds for a building which was not yet built proved impossible.

Some three years down the line, and still pursuing all the options, a meeting with DWH and one of their technical planners resulted in a set of drawings which proved to be a suitable compromise. They offered a first class facility that would secure the future of scouting within the village.

By now we had been granted some further section 106 funding, increasing our budget to just over £300,000 and, although the project was still slightly over budget, DWH had no option but to build it so as to satisfy their section 106 commitment.

In July 2019, the housing development now complete, our work commenced. The project was expected to take about eight months notwithstanding any winter stoppage due to the weather and of course then the Covid 19 pandemic.

Our building is now complete, the legal documents all signed and exchanged, and we have full use of the building. We now have a facility with a substantial hall with underfloor heating, a first class kitchen, a meeting room, ample storage for day to day use and a twenty-five square metre loft to store our camping equipment. Outside we have a secure grassed area and a car park.

Whilst the building is primarily for Scout use the Brownies and Rainbows will also be moving in. We already have 'Twins at Totstime' moving with us along with a very active judo group and a dementia care group. Negotiations for a post natal care group are well underway.

With the building in place we have now secured a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery to furnish with new tables, chairs, crockery and the like.

I returned to Scouting in 1989 after helping out at a camp when my son was a cub. (He now has a son in the Scouts!) I never anticipated the 'two hours a week' would result in thirty years of enjoyment, seeing so many youngsters develop into first class citizens and many continuing as leaders in the movement. With our new Scout Centre I can honestly say, when I decide to 'hang up my woggle' I will have left Sapcote with a facility that should serve our group, and the wider community, for many years to come.

So the next era of scouting in Sapcote begins. My only regret - this project was instigated by the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mike Guntrip. Mike retired early in 2020, a former Scout and a supporter of scouting in Market Bosworth, but sadly died before seeing the project complete. May he Rest in Peace.

Mick Angrave, GSL, 1st Sapcote Scout Group



FUNDRAISING

Superstar Scout DJ has been busy entertaining the young people of Norfolk 2020, a year that we will all remember and year that a majority of us will wish to forget! On 23rd March 2020 the Prime Minister announced a UK-wide lockdown. The announcement came several days after restaurants, cinemas, theatres, gyms and leisure centres were told to shut their doors to customers. This was shortly followed by libraries, schools, playgrounds, sports clubs, youth associations and places of worship that were also forced to close. It was the time that our young people engaged in home learning and school lessons online. These were very strange times for a majority of people in the UK.

Liam Osler who is eleven and a half and a Scout at 2nd Runcton Holme and Watlington Scout Group had been looking forward to taking part in lots of planned outdoor activities. Events such as night hikes, summer camps, survival camps, water-based activity weekends, shooting and lots, lots more. As Scouts they are encouraged to master new skills and try new things, make new friends with other young people and other Scout groups, have fun and go on adventures, at home and abroad, explore the world around them and to help others and make a difference in their own communities and beyond. We had also planned fundraising events such as a litter-picking weekend in the villages of Runcton Holme and Watlington, and helping out and entertaining the residents and staff at Diamond House Care Home, our adopted care home in Downham Market. However everything was put on pause!

That was until the Scouts held online meetings and carried on learning new skills and taking part in activities via the internet. Liam managed and has been awarded the following Scout activity badges during lockdown: Personal Challenge Award, Fire Safety, Local Knowledge, Meteorologist, Hikes and Navigator as well as taking part in Crafting, Emergency First Aid, Cookery, Knife Safety, Writing, Air Activities and Orienteering to name a few. Liam has also been busy learning to play the guitar and was awarded a Blue Peter Music Badge for his efforts.

Lockdown also threatened to stop Watlington Community Primary School's end of year, Year 6 school leavers' disco from happening. Liam was one of those young people who was looking forward to

attending the disco. Liam (aka DJ L.I.AM) with some help from his father, Chris Osler, had other plans. On Friday 17th July, DJ L.IAM hosted the King's Lynn Primary Schools' Virtual End of Year and Year 6 Leavers' Disco. Over 1,400 young people logged in and attended this event! Following this event Liam was asked by Darren Fryer from Inspiration Sound and Lighting to do a demonstration on the Denon DJ equipment. Darren must have been impressed because he then recommended Liam to attend a DJ session at Fenland Youth Radio. Liam was invited back to the official launch of Fenland Youth Radio. He even got to meet George Elliott who was a finalist on The Voice Kids UK. Liam now has a regular Friday evening session from 6pm to 8pm. This has helped Liam to be awarded his Scout Entertainer badge. Not content with entertaining us with his amazing DJ skills, Liam has been learning to play the guitar. In June last year we shared the Blue Peter badge scheme on our Scout Group Facebook page, his parents applied to Blue Peter, and I am proud to announce that Liam has been awarded his Blue Peter music badge (designed by Ed Sheeran). Liam took part in an online carol service with the residents and staff of Diamond House Care Home just before Christmas, an event that we would have attended in person.

With fundraising events placed on hold DJ L.I.AM, again with some help from his father, decided to host a New Year's Eve online disco as a fundraising event for the Scouts. We set a target of £300 and asked if friends and families would like to make a small donation. We very quickly smashed the £300 target and managed a grand total of £650 towards 2nd Runcton Holme and Watlington Scout Group. We also thanked those that made donations by holding an online grand prize draw. The evening was a great success and has helped Liam and his father to earn their Scout Fundraising badge. Liam's parents also recently applied to Blue Peter for his fundraising and online DJ activities and he has now been awarded his blue Blue Peter badge.

Well done Liam, you are an inspiration to all young people. You have studied, learnt new skills, worked tirelessly and helped other people during some difficult times. Keep up the great work young man. I am very proud to be your Scout Leader.

Andy Nicol



OUT & ABOUT

Scouts Doorstep Remembrance

Whilst the news was announcing the new President of the USA, the Scouts of Luton were showing their respect for the men and women who died in WWI, WWII and through the years to modern times serving their country.

2020 proved difficult for society with lockdowns due to Covid-19 that stopped many face-to-face activities but Luton Scouts found a way of showing respect for the two-minute silence.

Young people including our newest six-year-old Beaver Scout, Cub, Scouts, Explorers and adults paid their respects on their front doorsteps or in their gardens.

A spokesperson said, "Scouting is part of Luton's local community. Normally Scout Groups would attend remembrance services and memorials across Luton on Remembrance Sunday supporting their local communities. Most of us are fortunate that our fathers and grandfathers returned from war but this gives us a chance to remember the men who never had the opportunity to be fathers and grandfathers."

Susan Law



ACTIVITIES

EV'S HISTORICAL WORLD

We've had fun during lockdown

After the first lockdown, way back in March 2020, when we were allowed to go out and visit places I bought my son who is a cub at 1st Bramshill Rotherwick, a GoPro camera to record his visits. I'm a scout leader by the way.

The reason behind this was that we had borrowed one in February when we went on a trip to Iceland. He recorded everywhere we went just like a mini TV documentary. When we returned home it was edited down from hours of footage to a few minutes. You do get an awful lot of sky, ground and backs of people when you are only eight years old.

Then we bought our own and let him have it for the duration of a visit. So, on returning from say Wolvesly Castle, Winchester or Portsmouth or Southsea, we would edit the footage and upload it to his YouTube account - Ev's Historical World.

His account is monitored by myself and we have uploaded sixty videos so far. These range from visiting castles and abbeys around Hampshire to mudlarking on the River Thames in London.

During the summer last year we managed a socially-distanced visit to grandad in Devon which gave him the opportunity to have a go at more filming of various places such as Clovelly and Lydford. Back in Hampshire he has filmed at Butser Ancient Farm in all their different Iron Age round houses, Saxon buildings and Roman villa.

Leap forward to November 2020 and we are back in lockdown two. No visiting anywhere so no chance of filming his documentaries. Now since he's such a fan of history and an outdoors kind of kid, due to his love of beavers and cubs he asked if we could build a roundhouse in the garden.

A quick look around and we found some old fence posts and bits of wood so we settled for a Saxon house - three metres by three metres in size. This occupied us every weekend in November, luckily they

were decent weekends with regard to the weather. I managed to cut the hazel whilst at work and we collected the necessary horse poo from a friend in the village. Then we had to make the wattle walls and daub them with the mixture of soil, horse poo, hay and water. This was the first time we had ever attempted this and to be fair I think we pulled it off. We used an old canvas for the roof and covered that with birch bark screening to give it a thatched appearance.

As I write we are in lockdown three. We are now spending our weekends making things such as rocket stoves, Canadian candles, trying our hand at charcoal making and making our own fire-lighting materials along with building furniture from green wood. We are busy trying everything we can possible can so that when we return to face-to-face scouting, we're ready. Plus gaining some cool badges along the way since there's been no cub camps.

We've missed cubs and scouts and although we do Zoom sessions it's not the same as being outside.

The full build along with the lockdown projects can be found on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfPcVppilUbeXODWnLdYvPg/featured>

Dan Pearce



OUT & ABOUT

Scouts Race Round the World

Bear Grylls, The Scout Association's Chief Scout, challenged Scouting nationwide to take part in a Race Around the World during December, to raise funds for Groups that were struggling as a result of the Covid crisis. Four teams, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts, each led by different celebrity Scouting Ambassadors, were challenged to walk, cycle, kayak, skateboard or use any other means of travel, to complete a journey equivalent to a race around the world. Although it was a team challenge, social-distancing guidance meant that participants had to complete the challenge individually with support from an adult family member.

Whilst taking part in the challenge there were a number of complementary activities, provided by scout associations worldwide, which enabled participants to learn more about different countries and their cultures.

Collectively across the UK Beavers, Cubs and Scouts travelled over 150,000 miles and raised £330,000. 6th Gainsborough Sea Scouts took part in the race, covering a distance of 757 miles and raising £534 for the Scout Recovery Fund. Those that took part were out in all weathers and had great fun. Ben said, "I liked getting outside, exercising, litter picking and getting very muddy." Elsie thought, "jumping in puddles and riding my bike through mud was great fun" and Grace "enjoyed being out on my bike and spending time with my family." They have all received a digital certificate and will be presented with a commemorative badge as soon as we are able to resume face to face meetings.

Jonathan Swatton, 6th Gainsborough Sea Scouts



VIEWS

Scouting, Suspension and Mental Health

After about 60 years in scouting, I can safely claim that Scouting is hugely advantageous to your physical and mental well being, but must warn that for some it can also be a real danger to your mental health. I am saying that we should all be aware of this and managers be prepared to improve their Duty of Care to adults in the movement.

As someone who is not a 'sporty type' nearly all of my years of hiking, camping and canoeing have been while undertaking activities with young people. Most of my courting comprised of visits to country pubs and creepy village churchyards which would soon figure heavily in a troop night hike or weekends in fields and forests checking-out possible hike routes, canoe journeys and campsites.

Most of my friends and social activities have been linked to my scouting activities, however when I was later officially suspended from scouting I was glad that I had also maintained an involvement with a church, a homeless project and as a school governor. For most of my scouting life I had never known anyone to be suspended by HQ, I hardly knew where Gilwell was or what it did other than make badges and uniforms.

Then on a most beautiful summer morning while walking up onto the South Downs, with God in His heaven and everything right with the world, my phone rang and a cloud drifted across the sun. It was a good friend, a young professional woman, a Queen's Scout, who had moved away to the countryside with her small children and started a village scout group in the parish hall. During a Beaver picnic she had pulled a child to safety from the road, leading to a police interview and immediate scouting suspension. The child's parents quickly withdrew charges for the bruising to their daughter's arm but the scouting process continued for weeks and months. Her local professional practice withered overnight; it was an isolating and stressful time. I had written to Gilwell to support her but in that buttercup meadow my friend told me that Gilwell had advised that I stop supporting her, hinting that it could be bad for me too!

Twenty years later I received that same warning letter in gut-wrenching disbelief. I was physically shaking, like I was standing outside the headmaster's door, with friends passing on their way to lessons and you knowing that you would eventually smell his bad breath and the cane across your palms. I knew I had done wrong, I had not eaten my beetroot and salad cream, I had failed to inform my DC of a concern I was aware of. I could explain but there is no opportunity for 'explanation' just the cane, weeks, months of stressful isolation, humiliation, anger, rage, distress..... feeling dirty and uncared for... and prevented from having anyone to properly support you in a 'professional' manner. As a school Governor we hold a disciplinary panel within days and suspended staff sit alongside a trade union rep. who ensures that we run our process fairly and efficiently, and we do, because we want that skilled person back working with our children asap. In Scouting the reverse is the norm.

As a trained Mental Health Social Worker I soon recognised something similar to the 'Bereavement Process' of Denial, Bargaining, Anger and Depression. The final is Acceptance but two years on I am only just sieving the ashes of incinerated memories and finding genuine flecks of joy in past Scouting friendships and fun.

During my long dark days in what I called 'the coal-hole' my family were my rock. I continually fear for single colleagues for whom scouting is their main social circle - 'their life'. I was later to find that suspension fractures lives, damages relationships and employment. I was experiencing waves of rage and distress - kicking the wall and shouting at Gilwell. I shouted on the bus, in shops, I raged inside, I woke at 3am with my brain in full action. I wanted to sit down quietly with my DC and chat, explain, discuss.... I thought we had been trusted colleagues, we communicated well for years. I believe that when you are suspended, your DC should be standing up for you, arguing toe to toe with Gilwell. Instead they have to 'remain neutral'. Quite frankly suspension is planned and sustained bullying. After sufficient humiliation and you are seen to be totally alone and unable to see the final charge sheet, the verbal beating coming from all sides until, it suddenly stops.

I am aware of fresh guidance and some changes as to how suspension is used in some circumstances. There has also been an

acknowledgement of the need to be mindful of the effect suspension may have on people's mental health. You may yourself know of suspended leaders for whom Scouting has been a major strength and stay; you can play a positive part in their recovery by listening, like the few people who met me in parks at lunchtime, just to sit with me. Scouting should be setting an example of friendship, trust, well-being and honesty.

The purpose of this article is threefold:

To warn you that if you suddenly get 'the suspension letter' be prepared for a dreadful time.

To encourage all leaders to diversify and to do other things with their lives.

For those who run Scouting to start a dialogue with a mental health agency to develop a holistic Duty of Care to all suspended adults.

Eddie Langdown



Outdoor Family Fun: Building a Den!



On your next outdoor adventure why not make a den or debris shelter for your favourite toy? This design is known as a 'kennel shelter'.



This is what you will need to find / bring.



Only collect branches from the forest floor.



Interlock the two smaller Y shaped sticks.



Lean them back on to the longer Y stick.



Add sticks to both sides of the longer Y stick.



Keep going! You're almost there!



It's finished! Pop your toy inside his new den.



Level up: make a big version for yourself!



Remember: leave the forest as you found it.

TinderSticks

Don't miss the next instalment:

Follow us on Facebook @tinderstickscic

GAMES

FIGURE OF 8 BINGO

A game that can be played over the internet

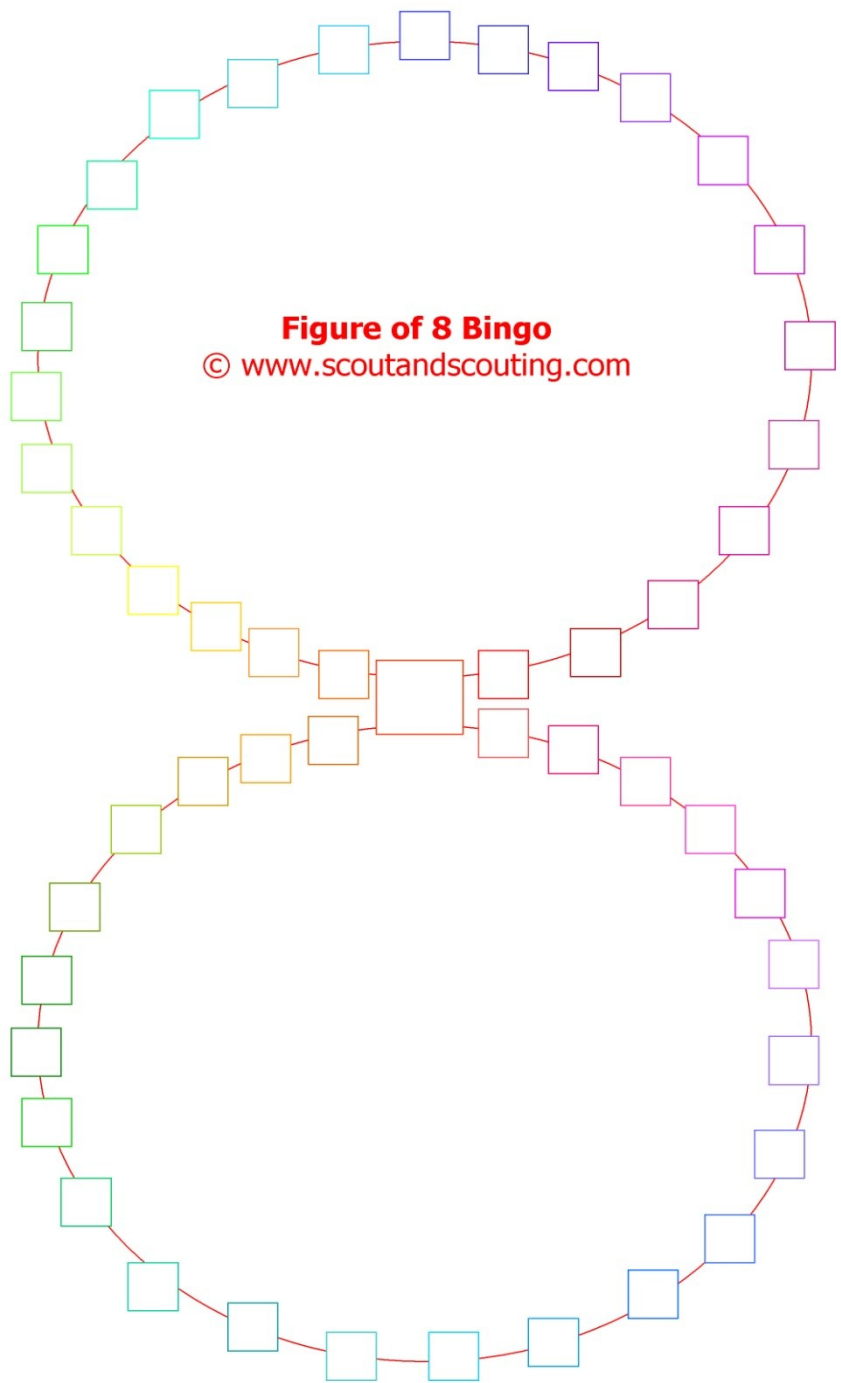
Thank you to everyone who let us know how much they enjoyed playing Ssssssnake Bingo from Issue 1 with their young people. Although it was designed to be played over the internet it doesn't have to be, it can be played with everyone present in person.

What we like about Ssssssnake Bingo is that, apart from the template, it is a DIY game where participants get to choose where to place their own numbers. The same is true for Figure of 8 Bingo which moves from going in one direction to going in four. This keeps everyone on their toes. It is also a much quicker game because you have four chances of crossing off a number each time instead of just one.

How to play Figure of 8 Bingo

The object of the game is to cross off all the numbers called. Print off the blank template. A copy can be found at www.scoutandscouting.com/games. You will need one per player.

1. There are fifty squares. In the larger box at the intersection everyone puts in number 1.
2. Each player puts the numbers 2 to 50 in the squares of their figure of 8 in a random order. One number per square, no duplicates / omissions.
3. Starting at 1, players take it in turn to call out any number. Players whose next number to be crossed off in any of the four directions from the number 1 matches the number called each time can cross it off.
4. The first person to cross off all the numbers on their figure of 8 is the winner. There may be more than one winner.



ACTIVITIES

Getting Back Together

1st Border Scout Group is based in north Carlisle.

This pandemic has played havoc with everyone. During the first lockdown we did weekly Zoom meets with mixed success. Some were great, others were not. We could not wait to get back together. It became obvious we could not meet at the local church, our normal base. So outdoors it had to be.

Risk Assessments done and passed; programme planned, we came together at the earliest opportunity at Ratlingate, our local campsite. The programme was simple just some socially distanced shelter building and finishing with something to eat that they cooked on an open fire.

What became apparent was that the programme was just the catalyst for the young people to get together and socialise. They



were excited to be outdoors with their friends, talking and working together, just being scouts.

So before being locked down again we had managed several long sessions on a Saturday or Sunday, twice a month for three to four hours. The more we did the better it got. Everything from fire lighting to cooking their Christmas BBQ on 19th December.

Yes, it is hard work ensuring that everyone remains safe. However, the rewards were brilliant.

Now we are back to the Zoom meetings. We have done everything from making pizzas in a mug to origami Pikachu's, quizzes to map reading. Thinking about being outdoors.

Yes we have lost about 30% of our troop but we have gained the help and support of parents. Plans to start a Beaver Colony as a result of this and grow the Cub Pack. As a Group we are rising to the challenge.



Don McCutcheon 1st Border Scout Troop



ACTIVITIES

We're all off to scout camp, we're going to have a great time!

For one of our Zoom meetings we asked the Scouts to create a story. They took it in turns to supply a sentence to add to it each time. The story was to be about going to scout camp. We would like to point out that this is nothing like the camps we run and just over half of the Scouts have only just joined us and have not attended a camp with Scouts yet. The text has been kept as original as possible, so it is the Scouts' work not the Leaders'!

When we were on our way to camp, we asked the leaders to turn up the radio and we all sang along to 'Let It Go' on the radio. We ate lots of sweets in the minibus and the adults told us to calm down because we were too hyper. Because we had too many sweets in the minibus we continued to sing songs together. As we were singing too loudly the leaders told us to quieten down. We heard on the radio that there was a campsite which was haunted, the leaders said it's fine we're not going to the haunted campsite.

We arrived at our summer camp, the way to the campsite was down a grey muddy ramp. Then we had to climb over fallen trees to get past. The sun began to set so we decided to build a warm fire to toast Marshmallows. Later on we were just settling down to sleep when we heard a roar in the distance, quickly we set up our tents and got to bed. During the middle of the night there was a crash as one of the tents fell down! We rushed over to the tent that fell down to see if the people inside were ok. We wanted to tell the Scout Leaders, but they were all sleeping, we soon found out there was no one in the tent.

All of us then decided to go climbing down the mountains. After this we went hunting because it was morning. Everyone caught a rabbit, we cooked them up and ate them... they tasted disgusting! We then decided to roast some more marshmallows. We split up into two groups to decide what activities to do, Archery or Air rifle shooting. Whilst going to Archery half the Scouts got lost in the woods. Later on we heard a loud bang, it turned out to be a firework. A while later we heard another big bang and it was a Deer running into a tree crashing its antlers. We were all told to go to bed and sleep in the tents, whilst the leaders thought we were all asleep, we all watched them eat all the cake and biscuits from last night's dinner!

We were woken up very early in the morning, which none of us liked! For breakfast we had bacon sandwiches and saw all the crumbs from the biscuits and cakes. When we finished our breakfast we went to go and do Archery, so we went to get our kit and uniform ready for the activity. On the way to archery the path was very muddy. When we got to the Archery Range all the leaders had started to do the Archery without us. We went back to the campsite to find our tents were missing! Only to find out the cows had taken them. Dundundunnnnn!

As we went to retrieve our tents we were shocked to see the cows had been slaughtered by a Grizzly. By the time we had searched the perimeter we headed back and found the leaders having Bear soup. Later on in the afternoon we found a river and decided to make a rope swing most of us fell in! We heard a crashing in the trees behind us and discovered a Tyrannosaurus Rex roaring. Seeing as it was getting dark and we didn't have any shelter we decided to search around for materials to build one. We saw the vibrant oranges and reds in the sky as we laid down to sleep.

A few of the scouts snuck out at night to go and climb the mountain, one of the scouts tripped and fell down the mountain. A massive water fight broke out back at camp that was started by the leaders. After that we went back to the woods and roasted grapes because we were so tired. To get revenge on the Scout leaders who had eaten the cake and biscuits we snuck into their hideout and stole their biscuit tin. The person who had fallen down the mountain had survived and had climbed back up! As we had all forgotten about the Scout that had fallen down the mountain the leaders were furious at us.

Because we get so smelly on camp, and don't change our pants, by about day four the leaders had to take us to the local swimming baths so we could clean ourselves and make us change our pants. We went back to the campsite and we heard thunder and lightning, then the rain poured. Because all our tents had been taken we had to make shelters in the woods but it was very cold and wet. After the rain had stopped we didn't want to be clean so we went and rolled around in the mud. As we were rolling around in the mud we had the best adventure of our lives.

Soon after we decided to go canoeing in the nearby lake. As we were canoeing someone came up from behind the boat and tipped us over. But on the other side of the lake two of the scouts wandered into a cave and stumbled across a weird looking machine. As they were gazing upon it, it appeared to be a teleportation machine. It turned out it wasn't a cave, it was a washroom and the machine was actually a washing machine. But the washing machine was no ordinary washing machine as soon as we opened the door it dragged all the scouts into it and to another place in the universe. Fortunately the leaders were left behind so they couldn't steal any of our cakes anymore. We went back into the washing machine to try and find the leaders, however we appeared on a beach with sand as soft as silk. We weren't on a beach, we were on a beach in another universe on the hottest planet we had ever been on with sand as hard as rocks. Whilst we were in the hottest universe we went sunbathing and ended up getting burnt. We got transported back to the campsite.

Back at the campsite the leaders wanted to annoy us by putting Ants and Spiders into our sleeping bags. Luckily the Ants and Spiders didn't like the smell of our sleeping bags so they went to stay with the leaders instead. The spiders ended up growing and eating one of the leaders. Luckily in the end the spiders and ants ate all of the leaders.

We were all so happy the leaders were gone we decided to take a joy ride in the minibuses. Once we found our way back from a long treacherous hike we decided to pack everything up and make our way home, although for the leaders this trip home was very nice as we were all so tired and fell asleep. We started to eat all the cake, the leaders heard this from inside the spider and were outraged so they fought their way out. The spiders puked up the leaders and they were covered in green goo just in time to go home. When the leaders had appeared they saw us all eating the cake and started to shout at us but we all argued that we had seen them eating the cake. After we stopped arguing we started to pack up all our things and get ready to go home. Because we forgot about the scout down the mountain he jumped out at us to attack us, unfortunately he was hit by the bus.

Meanwhile, after the leaders had picked up the scout and put him on the minibus we realised the leader had been driving at full speed away from the apocalypse that was happening. As we were so long camping we realised there was a global pandemic and we all had to self isolate. The apocalypse seemed to be of Zombies, they were running at us and were catching up with the minibus. As we were driving along through the countryside you could see the lush green grass through the cracked windows. Then Zombies started coming out of the ground and the countryside was ruined. When the Zombies came out of the ground they were all wearing masks because of the pandemic. The Zombies turned into spiders and they were after the scout leaders so all of the scouts left the bus. Then we realised it wasn't an apocalypse, Donald Trump had unleashed the mutant Zombies from the bunker. Then on the final step home the leaders all started singing 'Sweet Caroline' as the scouts trembled in fear at the back. As people started turning into creatures of all sorts everyone decided to start singing. Once we had made our way home safely we realised the Zombie Apocalypse wasn't really a Zombie apocalypse it was a load of boys who hadn't had their hair cut since the start of lockdown.

We all had a story to tell for the rest of our lives and to tell our grandkids, grandkids' grandkids, grandkids.....

By 17th Purley Scouts

ACTIVITIES

CORACLE

Chance encounter but never met yet

Coracle /ko-ruh k'l/ **noun** a small, round boat made of wickerwork covered with a watertight material, propelled with a paddle. ORIGIN Welsh *corwgl*

Early last year I, like many other Scout Leaders, was looking forward to new adventures in Scouting. The reason for my excitement was because I had replied to a request that was issued through Facebook. As the person who had made the request was only in the next county I thought I would see if I could try and help.

The request was for blue mains water piping but it was the reasons behind it that stirred my interest. The piping was to make coracles, something I had never done before so therefore a new challenge; the next reason was that the activities were to be held at a campsite that I had never been to before. However, the most important reason was because this was to be a camp for children who, for want of a better expression, were from less well-off families - this was my biggest driver for wanting to help as I have always held the belief that Scouting should be accessible to all.

I thought that I could help because of the stuff to make coracles with that was being requested. To my mind there is no better material than blue piping and, as I work for a utility company, accessing this product shouldn't be too hard I thought. The feelers went out to everywhere that I thought would be able to assist. To my relief the call was answered with plenty of promising responses.

Now for the sad news. Everything Scouting was put on hold due to Covid-19 and, at the time of writing, still is but that was not my biggest disappointment. I messaged the original poster who had requested materials who instantly replied; private messages went back and forth and before I knew it I had now agreed to attend a week-long camp and run the activity!

The people I will be going with are the Muslim Scout Federation whom, to be honest after being in Scouting for over twenty-five years, I had never heard of. So as we are now slowly coming out of lockdown this is something I can start looking forward to again and even as an oldie I am still looking forward to learning new things.

Lastly I am also looking forward to meeting the person who sent the original Facebook post so that we can swap our Scouting stories around the campfire.

Steve Gray



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OUT & ABOUT

I am a parent – I cannot tie my shoelaces!

I write this as an adult volunteer but in all seriousness, this is a reminder to all us 'Parent Scouters' and for you to show your parents to prove that volunteering is neither scary nor time consuming; not if you do not want it to be.

When I was younger, I wanted to be in Brownies (my only option) but I never got to be because my mum couldn't afford the uniform. The want to join such an organisation stayed with me until, when in 2017, I was offered a place at Beavers for my son. I jumped at the chance and in around eight months he will be off to Scouts.

All Scout Groups are different, with different needs but none will turn down the offer of help if it is on a plate. From 2017 to 2019 I went from Treasurer to Assistant Beaver Leader, Beaver Leader and Group Scout Leader, Training Adviser and Area Trainer! I am one of those 'parents' who know nothing about Scouting, can't tie their own shoelaces and haven't a clue about some Geezer called Bear Grylls, let alone that old bloke Baden Powell. Of course, I jest, but there is a serious note to my tomfoolery. Many parents stay away from Scouting because they are nervous, they do not want to look stupid, get found out that they do not know anything, they will never be as good as 'Bill' the Scout Leader or such like. As Leaders we know this is not true and we will snap anyone's hand off who is willing to fold a raffle ticket but joining Scouts is daunting.

It is quite possible, now we are over on the dark side, we have forgotten how it feels to be a 'normal parent' and the immeasurable anxiety people can experience when they are faced with the unknown. As a Group Scout Leader, I still feel this anxiety and I am sure I will soon be found out that I am no good at my role. In fact, I will tell you a secret which is purely between you and me: I pulled out of the District Training Team because I would look stupid next to 'those people' who knew so much more than me. It is human to perceive our own ability as doubtful and inadequate. It is easier to stay away than look stupid. The voice in our head can be extremely loud and powerful and I still refuse to join the Training Team!

I doubt myself all the time, worry about what I am doing, are people laughing at me, pointing and poking? To be fair, they probably are, but then, does it matter if, at the end of the day, I am doing something which is not only helping my child but is also helping other children too? It does not really matter that I do not know how to tie my shoelaces (ok, I'll give you that one, I do really) because Scouting is about family. There will always be people who know more than someone else and there will be those that have differing opinions about the way Scouting is evolving but no one will ever discredit anyone for joining in and doing what they are doing; helping young people develop #skillsforlife.

We all rationalise our reasons for not joining but we genuinely are flexible in our approach to volunteering. I dispel, with immediate effect, the adage that 'it is only an hour a week', some things go right through me and this saying, which people say, trying to be funny, really rattles my spine! Of course volunteering is not an hour a week, shockingly it can be less but, to be frank, it can be more too. As Group Scout Leaders we are not looking for the next Superman or Woman, we are looking for people who can be Raffle Ticket folders, Hotdog Cookers, Kit Karters as well as those who want to experience the joy of Scouting from a Leadership point of view and put a little extra in. You are all very welcome.

I empathise with those that do not have enough time, work long hours or shifts, who are single parents or carers for their elderly relatives, have taken on Life-long Learning and the plethora of reasons people have. Do not be ashamed or feel insignificant because of your responsibilities but I want to take this opportunity to turn these apprehensions on their head.

Think of volunteering in Scouts as 'their achievements are your achievements'. If the Scout Group hit their fundraising target because you stood at the bottle tombola and sold the tickets, then you are amazing. We thank you for the couple of hours you gave, and we all know, you will go home feeling amazing. It did not matter a hoot that you work long hours and had to go and cook dinner for your elderly relative because you still nailed it. Ironically, by giving up some time and by doing something you would not ordinarily do, you found time for yourself and felt good in the process. If every week you see the

children laughing and having fun but know you can only chip in every third week, then come and chip in then. We will not ask you to take the Scouts on a hike and teach them navigation skills (well not unless you are an orienteering expert, of course), but we were grateful that you could assist us managing the safety of our young people and by giving us a hand with the little jobs. On that third week you gave a hand, you went home feeling like you had been of benefit and secretly you watched 'Bill' the Scout Leader and what he did. You went home to watch some YouTube videos on Sheet Bends underneath your duvet. It's cool, I've done it too!

I joined when my second child was three weeks old, I was breast feeding, knackered, did not know what time of day or day of the week it was but I wanted my son to achieve so I chipped in when I could, then I chipped in a bit more and now I might have even put an application in to join a UK wide team, but that is another secret!

My point to all of this is, it really does not matter what your circumstances are the flexibility and support all Scouters give every other Scouter is something which we are all proud of.

Do not be afraid of the voice in your head that tells you are you are not good enough or you will never have the time, or the damn Devil that tells you, you will be made to do things you have no idea about because, I believe in you. I will be the first person to stand by your side and say, 'it will be ok'.

All of us 'Parent Scouters' crossed the threshold into the unknown, some of us were excited, some nervous and some doing it because they thought they should (let's be honest) but we all crossed it, and we are still alive!

We all start at point A and it does not matter how far you get along your alphabet journey because now YOUR achievements become THEIR achievements.

**Sam (of the female flavour) Gregory,
Group Scout Leader - Buckley St
Matthew's Scout Group, Flintshire, Clwyd,
North Wales**



LETTERS HOME FROM CAMP

Dear mummy

Please pick me up a day early. On the first night Tim couldn't get to sleep because our tent has a huge lump of random wood under the groundsheet and it's right where Tim sleeps so he was very uncomfortable as you can imagine. Yesterday evening he decided to investigate. We were going to move the ground sheet but it's sewn in so Tim decided to cut a big slit in the sheet and pull the lump of wood up then duct tape it back and he said no one would find out if no one told [scout leader] which of course we wouldn't. He said that if he duct taped the inside no one would know because no grown-up comes in the tent.

So this morning he cut a long slit but unfortunately he soon discovered that it's not some piece of random wood it's a tree root from I've no idea where because there aren't any trees that close. He then thought that if he cut out a large square of groundsheet he could dig out the root with his penknife and then duct tape the square, well two rectangles actually because of the slit he had already made but it wasn't that easy to dig with a penknife and so we were soon all at it but then we had breakfast

and activities and [scout leader] made us all go and have showers BEFORE breakfast because we had got so muddy. Now we have had ANOTHER shower and our tent is like a mud fest and Tim has lost the ground sheet patch and no one knows where the duct tape is and no one's going to ask [scout leader] and tonight Tim's going to be sleeping on top of a root with a hole and no insulation and [scout leader] will be watching the tents coming down on Saturday that's why I need picking up on Friday.

Thank you.

Dan



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