



Scout & Scouting Magazine

BY SCOUTS - FOR EVERYONE!

ISSUE 1

WINTER 2020 / 21



FOR LEADERS!
Scout & Scouting
is a new magazine.
This is the first
edition

FOR PARENTS!
Scout & Scouting will
have something for
everyone who loves a
bit of fun and
adventure

FOR YOUNGSTERS!
Scout & Scouting is
YOUR magazine. If you
have a good idea for it
we will include it.

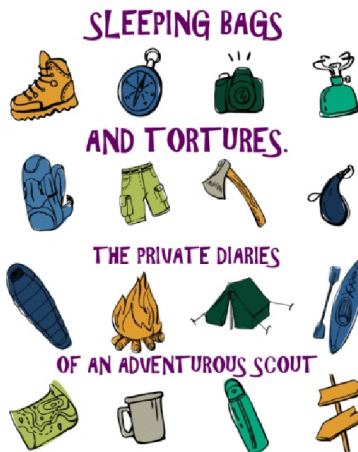
FOR YOU!
Scout & Scouting
will be published
three times a year

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS (& BEYOND)



A YEAR OR TWO IN THE
LIFE OF A SCOUT LEADER

JOHN HEMMING-CLARK



SLEEPING BAGS

AND TORTURES.

THE PRIVATE DIARIES

OF AN ADVENTUROUS SCOUT

AND HIS SCOUT LEADER

JOHN HEMMING-CLARK

Author of the best selling

In You Got A Year or Two in the Life of a Scout Leader

INDOOR PAIRS
WIDE **BALL**
NO EQUIPMENT
~~TEAM DEADLY~~
**1000 FANTASTIC
SCOUT GAMES!**
(plus a few deadly ones)
John Hemming-Clark
QUICK **BLINDFOLD**
RELAY OUTDOOR
DARK QUIET WET
SUITABLE FOR KIDS OF ANY AGE!



Welcome to the very first edition of **Scout & Scouting**. It's something that we've been itching to do for several years and finally we're here. It may seem rather strange starting a new venture like this in the midst of a pandemic but we have had a bit more time on our hands recently so decided that now was the time to get going and so we did.

There is one aim of **Scout and Scouting** and that is to include things that you want to read about. It's not going to be too flashy, it's not going to be too expensively produced and it's not going to include stuff that makes you yawn or quickly turn the page or flick through. We have purposefully tried to appeal to all ages so that there may be some items that you prefer more than others but hopefully those that you aren't so keen on someone else will love - otherwise we will take them out!

One major component of **Scout & Scouting** is you. Although we at Searchline Publishing are going to make sure that each edition is packed full of great stuff we want you to be the magazine and the magazine to be you. That means that anyone, young or old, can write for it. If you think that you would be interested in reading about a particular topic, how about writing it yourself? We would love to hear from you! What about a drawing or a cartoon? We've already been contacted by a number of enthusiastic individuals and some of their contributions are in this first edition.

We hope you enjoy issue one as much as we've enjoyed putting it together. Please do write and let us know.

With best wishes

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

WRITE.....

Send your submissions to **Scout & Scouting**, Searchline Publishing, Searchline House, 1A Holbrook Lane, Chislehurst, BR7 6PE or email: info@searchlinepublishing.co.uk

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HIKING



Charles and Marco spent a few weeks in the summer walking across the Swiss Alps

The Via Alpina National Route 1 is an eighteen stage hiking route across Switzerland from Sargans to Montreux. This journey is 370 kilometres, takes in fourteen Alpine passes and in places reaches in excess of 2800 metres above sea level. It is part of a much longer route through alpine regions of Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Italy and France. However, as our previous hiking journeys had been one or two day trips in the UK when we were in scouts we didn't want to bite off more than we could chew.

The Via Alpina National Route 1 is a must for keen hikers and relative, but well-prepared, novices alike although it was fairly challenging in places so a head for heights is advised; it can be tackled in one trip as we chose to do or can be tackled in sections over several shorter excursions. Whichever way you decide to tackle it, you will not be short of spectacular views each time you venture

out. We experienced the beautiful Engstlensee Lake at the top of the Jochpass, we hiked close to the daunting Eiger and Jaungfrau and we were almost blinded by the glaciers glistening near the Hoturli pass (the highest section of the route). It wasn't scrambles up and down mountains the whole time though - along the way we passed through several major towns where you might choose to spend a couple of days to catch up with a shower and a comfortable bed. One place we stopped off at was Adelboden, a village near the Wildstrubel mountain that hosts the FIS Ski World Cup for one weekend every year. High above Adelboden on the hike route at Tschentenalp there is a giant swing for the young at heart to have a go on. It's quite an expensive country so we were pleased to discover that the swing is free and is a bigger thrill than many theme park rides. Apparently there are people who take a detour just so that they can have a go.

One major plus of the Via Alpina is that it is suitable for a range of hiking abilities since each stage finishes where there is accommodation of some sort. This can include hostels, guesthouses or hotels. For those like us two poor undergraduates on a budget - and a low one at that - who were crazy enough to choose the most expensive nation on earth (according to CEOWORLD magazine) to visit, fortunately most towns also had campsites which is where we ended up more often than not. Although we camped most of the way along the route, having alternative accommodation options was very useful, especially when we needed a day off or when our tent unexpectedly broke! We had borrowed a two-man tunnel tent that weighed only around two kilos but when one of the fibreglass poles snapped we spent several days trying to find a camping shop that sold replacements. Whilst there were plenty of shops no one had any pole repair or replacement kits which we felt was a bit odd, a bit like going to a newsagent's and finding that they had no newspapers. We soldiered on with our flabby tent roof until another camper gave us a spare pole that was miraculously the same length as our broken one and so we were able to effect the necessary repair. We eventually found a camping shop where we found out the problem. Whereas back in England at the height of lockdown everyone was being implored to stay inside and so took to DIY, in Switzerland it seemed that everyone was being encouraged to stay out, so once summer arrived the Swiss took instead to the hills and mountains *en masse*, having made a trip to the *Campingladen*.

There were many amazing places that we visited on the hike, but one that I would definitely recommend staying at is the Kandersteg International Scout Centre. You could take a much-needed rest day after climbing over the Hoturli pass, and whilst you're there enjoy the array of activities they have to offer.

What makes this route particularly amazing is the friendliness and hospitality of the locals. So much so, everyone you pass will say, "Gruße" (pronounced "Gru-say") which means "greetings". We were fortunate enough to meet some very welcoming and helpful people. There was the family in Adelboden that helped fix our tent, and there was also another family in Gstaad that we chatted to and who gave us loads of their cake to eat. However, the icing on the cake, so to speak, was the guy who stuck his hand in his pocket. Ordinarily it would fall into the category of a random act of kindness - a small nonpremeditated action by one human being towards another who would normally not be known to each other. This was no small deed though, more something of such huge significance that we were talking to each other about it for the rest of our trip and beyond. The man's name was René and we came across him at a campsite in Château-d'Œx. We had spent the evening chatting to him, not least of all because he was on his own but also as he offered us food and beer. In the morning he told us that as he was so impressed with our trip he had paid our campsite fees. Naturally we were very surprised but also extremely grateful. It wasn't as if we could refuse. It wasn't as if he was offering to pay and we were replying, "No it's fine thank you." Like someone who leaves your table in a restaurant and goes up to the waiter and settles the whole bill, or better than that, someone who gets up from another table, he had, without any discussion or in an attempt to sound magnanimous but not really meaning it, simply paid our bill. What a generous man! It's acts like that that one remembers for the rest of one's life. It didn't finish there however: there was more to the matter. He explained to us that sadly his wife had died a year ago. As part of the healing process he had taken it upon himself not to do just one good deed a day but several. And so, not only did he pay for our campsite that night he also gave us fifty Swiss Francs to spend on our day out in Geneva. I wonder if he had been a scout? We should have asked him.

With enough adventures on our three week trip to fill a small book, I shall confine myself here to the first and one of the more bizarre incidents - to us at

least if not the Swiss mountain residents. The first was on the first day when we were already high up on a mountain pass. We came across what looked like a small, rectangular, wooden post box. The only problem was there wasn't a house nearby. We decided to open it seeing as there was no lock and have a peep. Inside we found a bottle of gin, a bottle of a local liqueur, a quantity of disposable glasses and an honesty box. "Help yourself," was written on a piece of paper inside the box. So we did. "I can't imagine this in the UK," my friend suggested. He was right. My parents have some friends who live in Headcorn in Kent. One morning they walked to the end of the field at the back of their house that borders a small but well-used country lane. They put out a table, a chair, a basketful of freshly-laid eggs, an honesty box and a sign that read something along the lines of, "Eggs, so much each, put the money in the box." When they returned at the end of the day they were more than a little surprised to find the eggs all gone, the honesty box gone, the sign gone, the table gone and the chair gone. We paid for our drinks and left.



One of the more bizarre incidents happened on day six whilst we were having lunch. We had grown quite used to the sight and sound of low flying aircraft with roped-up cargo dangling beneath the fuselage. Many of the farms are not conveniently situated alongside any roads and so rely heavily on helicopters to transport equipment and provisions. As we looked up at one particularly low-flying helicopter we thought what we saw was a fibreglass cow being transported in the rope sling. As the helicopter flew by, far too close for our comfort we realised that the cow was a real one, albeit dead. Then there was another helicopter with a cow, then another. As the third flew past it was just as well that I wasn't literally open-mouthed because the decomposition process of number three was much further advanced than the other two. As the helicopter swept past in the direction of the other two that were already far down the valley we were treated to a perversely imagined rendition of the "gastric" Red Arrows, with a rather noxious substance being spewed across, over and down where we were seated and onwards down the mountain. We later discovered, for we had to ask, that the airlifting of dead cows down the mountain is a very rare occurrence and that it is only undertaken when the cause of death is unknown or they die suddenly. We imagined them being whisked off to the bovine coroner's for an inquest. He would have been busy that afternoon.

All in all a great trip and one that I will have to do again sometime. Hopefully I will bump into René.

Charles Hemming-Clark

*Have you had a hiking adventure?
We want to hear it! Write to us
and let us know.*



FUNDRAISING

"What we need is a great, new idea"

As sure as winter follows autumn, sooner or later the ugly face of fundraising will rear its ugly head for you. It's not ugly to have a desire to raise funds for a cause, it's more the feeling that one is going to have to do something that maybe doesn't particularly appeal, to get people to give for something that they don't particularly want and so give with a heavy heart. It's so depressing sometimes! No one wants to have to organise another cookie bake with parents moaning that the ingredients cost as much as they're probably going to make in sales so, "Can't I just give you twenty pounds and be done with it?" Or little Johnnie walking up and down his road with a bag of double chocolate choc chip cookies that are basically chocolate bars that have been melted, fashioned into a circle and sprinkled with baked rolled oats wondering why no one is buying. Nothing to do with the fact that he's been licking them or trying to charge a fiver for one. Then again, we know of a neighbour handing over a ten pound note **not** to have to take any cookies. At least she was never poisoned.

Our four fundraising rules for products are:

They must be

- sufficiently unusual for customers not to think or say, "Oh no, not another tea towel / mug / cookie bake."
- relatively easy to execute.
- marketable, so no corn dollies.
- profitable.

A trip in the summer down to Rochester gave us an idea. Rochester, by the way, is a great place for a day out. There a cathedral, a castle, a river, a museum and a poor house to name but five, all situated along or near a pedestrianised high street. We popped into an art shop to buy a birthday card and came out with a blank greetings card with an A to Z of Medway on the front. Each letter was depicted by a drawing of a local person or place. There was a bit of artistic licence with X marks the spot but fortunately for Medway fashion designer, Zandra Rhodes, was born locally. "We could do this," we thought. And we did, once we looked at our four rules which the cards more than met.



A to Z of Medway

Blank greetings cards of this type are a great fundraiser. As they are hand drawn they are certainly sufficiently unusual. They are relative easy to produce and they are extremely marketable. Not only do they have local interest but they can be used as thank you cards, birthday cards or simply how are you cards. They don't cost much to make and can be sold with a huge mark up, in our case over one thousand per cent. We set to work drawing mostly people or places that were connected to our local area. We scanned the pictures into a computer, designed the cover, printed them and sold them locally. Everyone wants a piece of local memorabilia so they soon all went! Here's how to do it:

1. Research people, buildings, places. You're looking for twenty-six items - an A to Z. This will leave two boxes. One at the beginning for "An A to Z of [place]" and one at the end for "By [name of group etc.]". "X marks the spot" is a good fallback for X. For Z you could always put in "Zzzz - sleep well in [place]" or "zebra crossing" or maybe take liberties (as you can with every letter, it's that that makes this fun and original), so how about, "AmaZing [place!]"? Start with the most obvious contenders. These will be famous people, alive or dead, and local landmarks, pubs and churches are a good bet, then move to lesser subjects. Start in your village or town and move slowly out in ever-increasing circles.



A to Z of Chislehurst

2. Draw them. If you're doing this with your young people give them a letter each. Start with an HB pencil then go over with a good quality, black ink. We used a Rotring Tikky Graphic 0.5 Fineliner. Fill in some of your drawing with black using a thicker nib, something like a Stabilo Pen 68. This will give great contrast to the drawings. Look at Florence Nightingale in the Medway drawing for a good example. Then rub out the pencil drawing. One of the delights of this activity is that you don't have to be brilliant at drawing as each design is going to be reduced in size, this will hide most imperfections! Use a piece of good quality white paper that measures approximately 10cms wide by 12cms long for each drawing. The Medway design includes the alphabet, the Chislehurst one doesn't.

3. Colour them. The Medway design is just black and white but with the Chislehurst one we included colour sparingly - it made no difference to the price. As with the black fill in with small blocks of bold colour, again using Stabilo Pen 68 or similar.

4. Scan them into a computer. For a drawing with colour other than black, scan as a picture with 300 ppi. For a black and white drawing scan in Gray Scale, again with 300 ppi, then adjust each black and white drawing to give minimum

- light and maximum colour and clarity, then save. It may be necessary to erase electronically any superfluous marks that have crept in.
5. Open an A5 page in, say, Microsoft Word. Set the left and right margins at 3mm and the top and bottom at 4mm. (Depending on the printer that you use it may be necessary to use one half of an A4 page.)
 6. Import each drawing and resize to 2.9cms x 3.5cms.
 7. On the back of each card we included an A to Z description of each drawing.
 8. Send it off to the printers. Companies that we can recommend include Solopress in Southend-on-Sea and Tradeprint in Dundee. Both of these companies will include envelopes. If you order 1,000 cards they will cost between about 9p and 15p to print plus VAT.
 9. When your cards arrive put them in individual cellophane bags that can hold an A5 card and C5 envelope. These will cost a couple of pence each.
 10. Start selling! Give them to your young people to sell or with a quality product ask local shops and tourist attractions (especially if they're featured!) if they would stock them. There is VAT involved with cards so bear this in mind when setting your prices but we sell to shops at 82.5p plus VAT each and direct to consumers at £2.49 so there is a good amount of profit to be had for this project.

However, if you don't fancy producing your own greetings cards there is an easier way - collecting used stamps. Last year a couple were convicted of buying around 700,000 used stamps and washing them before selling them as new stamps. We're not suggesting that you embark on a criminal enterprise but collecting used stamps is perfectly acceptable. They are mostly bought by dealers who will sift through them looking for stamps of value or use them for making up packs for collectors. The rest can be used for arts and crafts. Expect to receive around ten pounds for a kilo. Happy fundraising! *If you have a fundraising idea, let us know! info@searchlinepublishing.co.uk*

Dear Scout and Scouting

Last year 1st Bramshill Rotherwick, beavers, cubs and scouts were collecting used stamps for The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. The total weight was 10.4kg and was collected by their team. They are a charity and can use the stamps to raise much needed funds. Unfortunately we couldn't get all the group together for a photo due to Covid and time constraints. This is Evan, one of our cubs. Dan Pearce, Skip at 1st Bramshill Rotherwick



CHRISTMAS POST

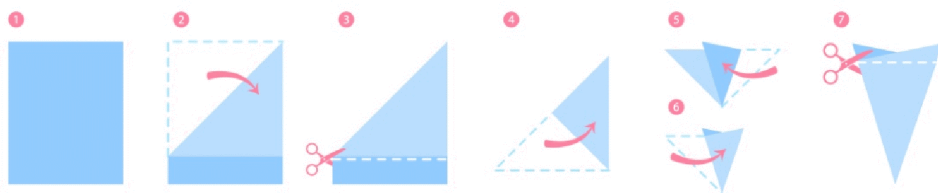
Always a good fundraiser

The Postal Services Act 2000 forbids a person from conveying a letter from one place to another unless they hold a licence authorising him to do so, or he is acting as an employee or agent of a person who is authorised by a licence to do so.

However, the Act then gives a list of exemptions. One is for, "the collection, conveyance and delivery of Christmas cards by a charity, provided that the activity concerned takes place during the period starting with 25th November in any year and ending with 1st January in the following year."

This is the legislation under which charities set up post boxes around their local area, sell their own stamps and deliver Christmas cards locally. Your meeting place may resemble a mini sorting office for a few weeks but it can be a very lucrative venture considering a second class stamp is currently 65p! Or how about Christmas trees...

HOW TO MAKE PAPER SNOWFLAKES



USE YOUR IMAGINATION AND SHAPE SNOWFLAKE BY CUTTING EDGES IN DIFFERENT WAYS





Charity Christmas Tree Sale

From Saturday 28th November

09:00 to 17:00 Daily

Where to find us: Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor
Centre, Featherbed Lane, Croydon, CR09AA

- Non-Drop Trees
- Card Payments accepted
- Local Delivery for a donation to Frylands Wood



**FRYLANDS WOOD
SCOUT OUTDOOR CENTRE**

All proceeds to support Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Centre. Helping to provide outdoor adventure, which encourages and enables as many young people as possible to enjoy and experience the benefits of the natural environment.



020 8657 1154

GAMES

SSSSSNAKE BINGO!

A game that be played over the internet

During lockdown we've been playing more than our fair share of bingo over the internet. Ours differs from online bingo where you play on established websites against hundreds of other people whom you don't know and lose loads of money. Our internet bingo was based on downloading bingo cards and nominating one of the players as the caller each time. However it soon became apparent that the only reason for using pre-printed bingo cards was to lessen the chances of more than one player calling "Bingo!" at the same time - something that wasn't really much of a problem between friends. We had been playing so many games that we were beginning to run out of sources of free cards. The answer wasn't long in coming - make our own! We researched the various types of bingo card and then decided that we would throw the rules out of the window and write our own.

Since we started on these new cards we have honed the cards and the rules but Ssssssnake Bingo was one of our first reincarnations. We will include others in future editions of **Scout and Scouting** but for now enjoy the fruits of our thoughts!

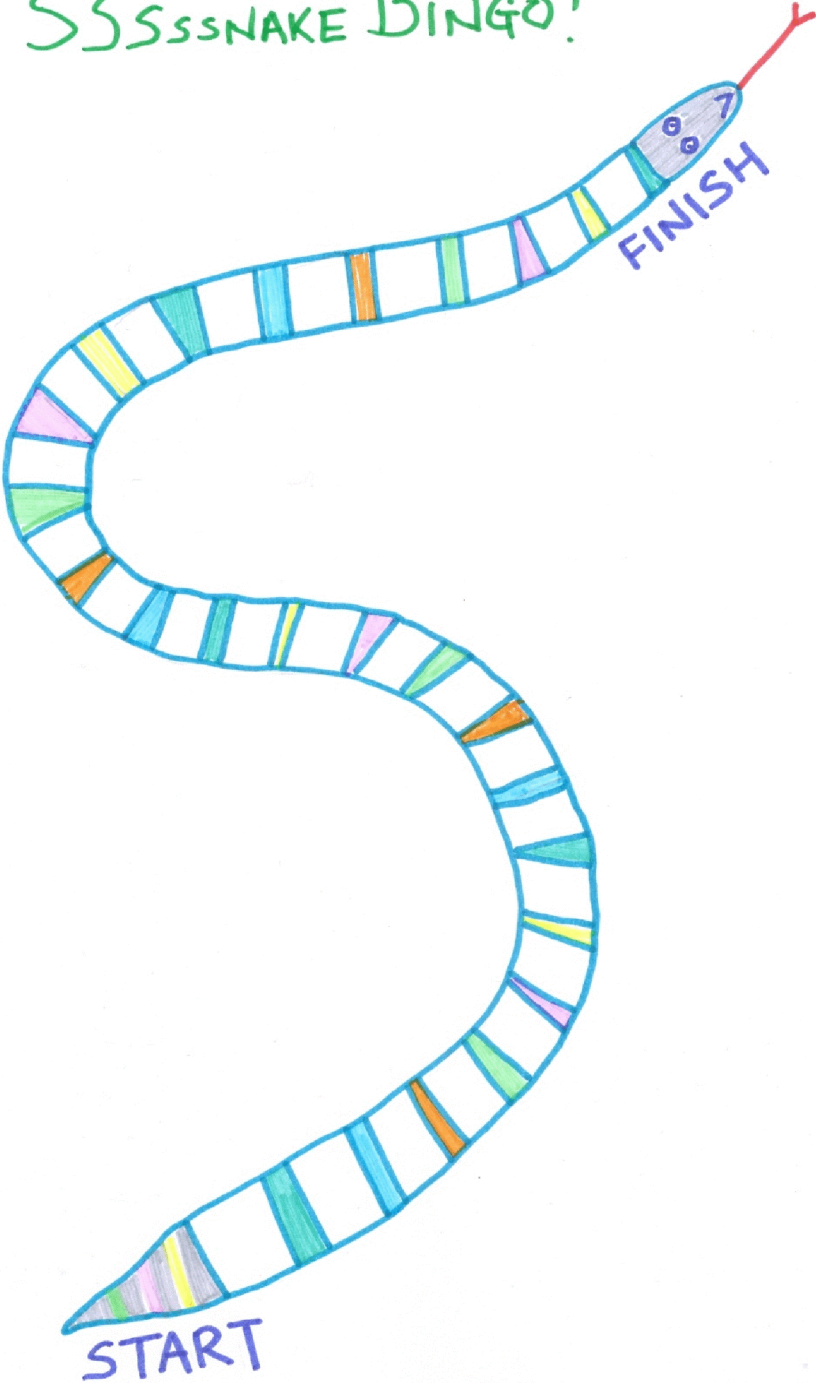
How to play Ssssssnake Bingo

The object is to get from the tail to the head by crossing off the numbers called. Print off the template, one per player per game.

1. There are twenty-five white squares. Each player writes the numbers one to twenty-five in the white squares of their ssssssnake in a random order. One number per square, no duplications / omissions.
2. Players take it in turn to call out a number. Any player whose next number to be crossed off going up the ssssssnake matches the number called each time can cross it off.
3. The first person to get to the ssssssnake's head by crossing off all the numbers is the winner.

Do you have any great games? Write to us at info@searchlinepublishing.co.uk

SSSSNAKE BINGO!



APPS

Maps for walking. Free except where stated and for iOS and Android



A good start

O**S Maps.** Ordnance Survey, Great Britain's mapping agency, is well-known to lovers of the outdoors. It started with mapping the Scottish Highlands following a rebellion in 1745. Then, as the French Revolution stirred on the other side of the English Channel, there were real fears that the fighting might spread across to the south coast. The government's Board of Ordnance began to survey those parts of coast that were considered vulnerable to attack. Over 250 years later this state-owned organisation is going from strength to strength.

The maps that are most beloved of walkers and cyclists is the Explorer series. With a 1:25,000 scale the 403 sheets cover the whole of Great Britain from the Isle of Scilly (101) to Unst, one of the Shetland Isles (470) although somewhat incongruously the Isle of Man isn't represented. Every four centimetre square

on the maps is one kilometre enabling users to find marked public rights of way, byways, trails, cycle routes, bridleways, road networks, and railway lines.

In around 2012, OS Maps was launched. There is a free version but the premium version allows users for the first time to view, navigate and download the most up-to-date Landranger and Explorer maps of Great Britain on mobile devices in high resolution. This premium service costs £29.99 for one year that includes access to almost 2 million routes stored in the routes' database, a large proportion of them public. You can also experience aerial 3D footage of any route in OS Maps in order to preview the terrain as well as see the views you can expect.

Although known for its comprehensive range of printed leisure maps, the digital side of the company now accounts for more than ninety percent of turnover.

For rambling

AllTrails lacks Ordnance Survey mapping but has hand-curated route maps, along with reviews and photos crowdsourced from a community of over 20 million hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers and runners. With over 100 thousand routes, users can filter to find the route that's right for them, and ramble with confidence.

For walking around London

Go Jauntly is a walking app that helps people discover over 700 walking routes throughout the UK. The founders are nature-loving city dwellers who spend much of our time deskbound and yearn to be a bit more active. In London you can find information including walking times to the nearest tube and overground station, Santander Cycles' docking stations and details of local walks. As part of its partnership with Transport for London it also brought the Walk London Network's Capital Ring and Jubilee Walkway to the app. There are walks around the rest of the UK also.

For easy route planning

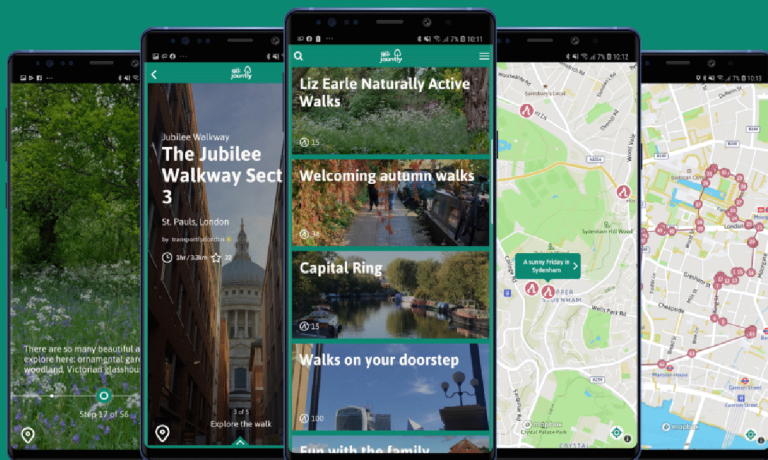
MapOut costs £4.99 and is for iOS only, but its streamlined interface, despite being slightly less detailed than Ordnance Survey, (it uses an open-source map called OpenStreetMap) makes route plotting a doddle.

For more challenging hillwalking

ViewRanger is seen by some as better for more seasoned hillwalkers than OS Maps with its specialist walking maps including Harvey that can be downloaded for offline use.

Finally, not an app

Discovering Britain is a website created by the Royal Geographical Society to help people learn more about the geographical stories behind Britain's rich and varied landscapes. Its routes are now also available in the ViewRanger app. www.discoveringbritain.org



Outdoor Family Fun: Scat Spot!



This is definitely a 'look don't touch' activity! Can you find any animal scat (poo!) whilst out in the woods? Vegetarians drop small pellets:



Squirrel. A few pellets found on a log/fence. Often darker than this.



Rabbit. Often in large piles. You can see bits of undigested grass in them.



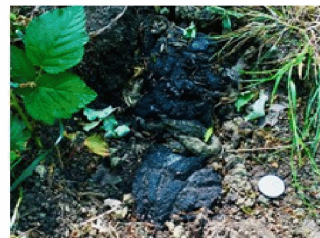
Female fallow deer. Cylinder shaped with a point, all spread out.



Male fallow deer. All the cylinders are stuck together!



Carnivores poo out one long poo. This is beetle rich hedgehog poo!



Badger. It marks its territory by pooing in latrines round the edge.



Fox. Often twisted with a tapering end.



Otter. Full of fish bones. This one's quite old & dry.



That isn't poo! It's a tawny owl pellet!

TinderSticks

Don't miss the next instalment:

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REVIEW

Quechua 2 Man Pop-Up Blackout Tent - 2 Seconds 2XL

One of the joys of being a leader in scouting is that you rarely have to justify buying yet another tent either for yourself or your young people or maybe even your own family. It's just understood by most that you can never have enough tents. In my twenty years as a leader I've managed to convince others that we need patrol tents ("ours are so old"), then troop tents ("we need built in groundsheets"), then a fire shelter (that isn't really a tent but we had nowhere to shelter apart from when we were asleep), then a mess tent ("fire shelter's too small"). Now I'm coveting a large tepee. Then we bought some tiny expedition tents ("we can't go with the tents.") for hiking troop As



myself I aimed high from the start and secured a Vango Force Ten that I love and that is still going strong. There is, however, one small problem.

Early on I soon realised that what one expects to happen when one arrives at a campsite with the scouts, and what actually happens are poles apart. I imagined giving the scouts the troop tent with the simple instruction to "put it up." I would then be able to have a relaxed twenty minutes or so putting up my Force Ten before putting the kettle on and having a nice sit down whilst the scouts sorted out their sleeping bags and other camp necessities

that were nestling in their rucksacks. How could I have been so wrong? On my first camp I was reminded of those riddles that go along the lines of, "How many economists does it take to change a light bulb?" only I was presented with, "How many scouts does it take to put up a patrol tent?" Answer: Fifteen - Two to wander off to find the toilet and not return until the tent is up by which time they need to go to the toilet again, two to decide to go off wooding and not come back for at least an hour, returning with no more than a couple of twigs, two to go and help one of the other groups because, "they look more in need," two to stand so still I think they've seen a ghost, one to wonder round swinging a mallet and whacking everything in sight apart from a tent peg, two to crawl under the canvas as soon as it's laid out in order to claim their berth and four to do all the work albeit extremely slowly. They need constant cajoling and metaphorical caressing, encouraging them every couple of minutes. It takes them so long that by the time they've finished they are starving and I have yet to start on the mess tent. With all hands to the pump it goes up with a certain degree of competence and then the kitchen needs to be assembled, the tables positioned, the benches arranged, the tables rearranged before food, wide game, hot chocolate and a story. The young people are finally in their tents if not asleep, it's about one o'clock in the morning, I seem to have contracted a headache because I haven't drunk nearly enough and the problem is the Force Ten is still in its orange canvas sack in the corner of the mess tent. I stare at it and silently wonder if I can - for just one night - unroll my sleeping bag and sleep in the mess tent on a table next to the still warm gas stove. It was time for a rethink.

By the next camp I had bought myself a one-man pop up tent. After the Force Ten no one was going to buy me another tent for a while. By now I had progressed from a roll mat to a blow up mattress. The tent popped up perfectly. I took it out of its bag and removed the elasticated restraining strap before wondering whether I needed to read the instructions. It was too late. With no warning the tent uncurled, literally popped up and out as I let go in shock. It landed one second later just ever-so-slightly curled up at either end on the ground. I unzipped the door and climbed in. I'm not going



to complain - it did its job - but the mattress was too long for it, it was only single skin so was quite cold and I awoke at four in the morning bathed in so much light I could have got my book out and had a read. The groundsheet was freezing and when I suddenly had an attack of cramp in one leg I tried to stand up then sit up before attempting a spot of self-massage with a ferocity and speed that I have only ever seen matched by physios on the pitch at Premier League football matches. A further rethink was required.

As so often happens the answer came courtesy of another leader. Back with my Force Ten I was pouring out my troubles to my good friend Polish (as in the stuff for shoes not the nationality, but even then I don't know why) who invited me on a tour of his latest acquisition - a Quechua 2 Man Pop-Up Blackout Tent - 2 Seconds 2XL.

A two-man tent for a one-man person is a good start. I asked if he minded if I had a quick lie down. I then asked if I could zip myself in. With a length excluding the porch area of seven feet there was more than enough room for me and my mattress. It had a solid-enough ground sheet but what was unusual about it was that the inner wall material was black! The manufacturers claim ninety-nine percent darkness even in broad daylight. That would be good enough for me. The only light that was seeping in was through the two little ventilation panels. I could sit up in it and as it was double-skinned it should hold the warmth well. "Can I sleep in it tonight?" I asked Polish. "No," he replied a little too firmly for my liking.

When I awoke in the morning and was just about to start on putting down my Force Ten, Polish called me over. He crawled inside his tent and came out holding onto a clip that was attached to the back of the tent. Pulling on this clip flattens the tent into four circles. He then pulled on a strap that twisted and folded the four into eight and popped it into its bag. I was very impressed. I went out the next day and bought myself one.

I will use the Force Ten again - it will withstand, presumably, a force ten whilst the Quechua is "only" resistant to up to a force six but for space, speed of erection (two seconds is acceptable compared to my one second one-man pop up), but most of all for being pitch black when it's light outside at four in the morning you cannot beat it.

James Black

Or can you beat it? Drop us a line to info@searchlinepublishing.co.uk and let us know. Also let us know if you have something that you would like to review.

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RECIPE

There are plenty of young people who don't like tea but love Tea Loaf!

You would be mistaken for thinking that this is a cake such is its sweet, fruity taste but it doesn't have any butter in it at all which also means that it can keep for longer. It's more like a very tasty currant loaf with a fantastic light brown colour. But is it bread then? It has no yeast although it can be made with self-raising flour. In this recipe we use plain flour and baking powder. What is unusual about tea loaf is that one of the ingredients is, er, tea and the dried fruit is steeped in it for several hours to plump it up and to add to the fabulous spicy flavour.

Traditionally made with standard black tea it would be a pity not to take advantage of the wonderful array of flavoured varieties that are available in most supermarkets, including Earl Grey and Lady Grey to name but two. This is another reason why we love tea loaf so much - so many alternative ingredients can be used. Cinnamon or nutmeg can be used instead of mixed spice or make up your own mixture. One other plus is that it can be eaten not only for tea but how about breakfast? Throw a few chopped nuts in the mix and it would start to become a sort of muesli bread with wheat instead of oats. Instead of, or in addition to, sultanas, raisins and currants try dried apricots, figs, dates, cranberries, glace cherries or crystallised ginger.

Enough for four greedy people

250g currants, raisins, sultanas • Zest of 1 orange or 50g candied citrus peel

250ml hot strong tea - English breakfast or Earl Grey both work well

1 large egg, lightly beaten • 250g plain flour • 230g light soft brown sugar

5 tsp mixed spice • 15g baking powder • butter for greasing and to spread

1. Put the currants, raisins and sultanas in a large bowl and pour the hot tea over. Leave to infuse for several hours or overnight.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C/160 fan/gas 4 and grease a 900g loaf tin and line with greaseproof paper.

3. Add the orange zest / peel, egg, flour, sugar, spice and baking powder to the bowl and mix well until all the flour and sugar is absorbed and you have a sticky lump. Spoon into the tin. All of it. Don't leave any in the bowl for chef's privilege. It's much better cooked. Oh go on then, just a bit.
4. Bake in the lower half of the oven for 90 minutes or until firm to the touch. Leave to cool for 20 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack.
5. Cut and serve with plenty of butter.
6. Once cooled, place in an airtight container where it will last for up to a week. In our humble opinion, the flavour improves after a couple of days. But with children around it probably won't see the end of the first day.

Do you have a favourite recipe that you would like to share? Email info@searchlinepublishing.co.uk and we will include it in a future edition.



THE ALAN BURNHAM ULTRA HARD CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2020!

Remembering JAD

£50 first prize



Stuffed full of Christmas Cheer? Have a go at the Ultra Hard Christmas Quiz! Make the most of being locked down or possibly up and take on this Christmas stinker. It's worth entering even if you only answer half the questions! Answer as many as you can and **post** to The Alan Burnham Really Hard Christmas Quiz c/o Searchline Publishing, Searchline House, 1A Holbrook Lane, Chislehurst, BR7 6PE or **email** quiz@searchlinepublishing.co.uk (with CHRISTMAS QUIZ in the subject line) to arrive no later than midnight 4th January 2021. Don't forget to include your name and address. There will be prizes awarded to the top three most correct answers. Good Luck!

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**.

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 linkwhat?

2. a) Link Ormond castle, Hercules and Ylvis to a scouting activity
b) Link 0.001435 km to a horse's behind
c) Find a link between Burton on Trent and Le Creuset
d) Link Haribo with Spanish in a UK context
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?
4. Why would a passenger on the Shaukiwan Tram be considered reasonable?
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?
6. Why might a resident of a city in Argolis be a philatelist?
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
8. a) What distinction does the Isle of Wight have roughly twice a day?
b) On a similar theme, how come Cornwall moves vertically by around 10cm roughly twice a day?
9. Which king from Scotland is a knight and, also a Brigadier?
10. What do Danish pastries, croissants, Swedish meatballs and Tikka Massala have in common?
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.

12. What did John Hughes, Mahonri Young, Lee Blair and David Wallin all achieve?
 13. New Zealand 85, Wales 58, Massachusetts 45, South Africa 44. Explain.
 14. What possible link could Scotland have to the Parthenon and the Colosseum?
 15. Whips Retrieal Decoded. What is the significance?
 16. Murder on the Orient Express. What is incorrect about the title of this Agatha Christie novel?
 17. A man with a flat cap, a moustache and a cat became which inventor and his companion?
 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.
 19. What has Rolanda Hooch in the Devil's Crown done that the original, according to legend, never actually did?
 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.
- 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?

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REX'S PAGE

Rex Hendricksen has sent in some great ideas

Whilst putting together this first issue of **Scout & Scouting** Rex contacted us in response to our appeal for those with some ideas for content that others would love to get in touch.

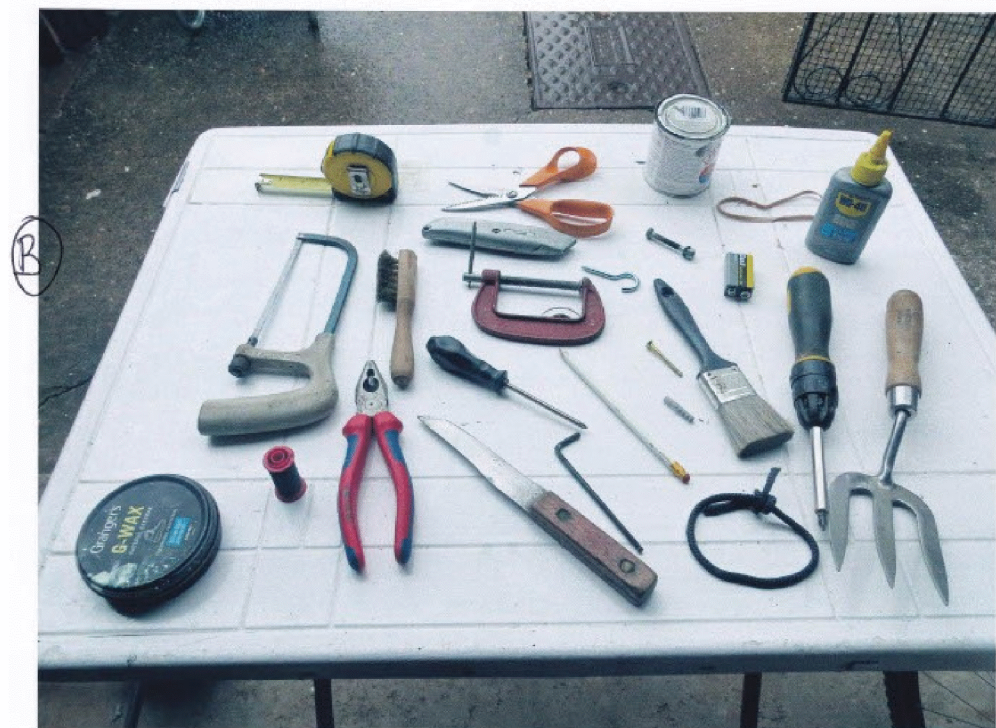
We had exchanged emails in the past; Rex has an extensive collection of scout games books and wrote to tell us about some of them. He mentioned theme nights and that he could get hold of activities based on clothes pegs or balloons or mouse traps. This last one sounds fun! He said that he picks an item then invents activities based on it.

He's continued to send us ideas for stunts, pioneering and songs - all very useful stuff that we will pass on in these pages from time to time.

One item that he sent us immediately caught our eye. In Robert Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* he describes Kim's Game thus:

"Place about twenty or thirty small articles on a tray, or on the table or floor, such as two or three different kinds of buttons, pencils...and cover them over with a cloth...Then uncover the articles for one minute...Then cover them over again. Take each boy separately and let him whisper to you each of the articles that he can remember...The boy who remembers the greatest number wins the game." Pity the poor boy that was last to go! Rex's take on Kim's Game is to use two photos of mostly the same objects but in slightly different positions. You can show the scouts the first photo A for a minute or so then replace it with the second B and see who can write down most differences. In this way the game can also be played online. Thanks Rex - some are stinkers! The separate photos can be downloaded from www.scoutandscouting.com

There are 22 primary answers: Hand fork turned around; Type of screwdriver changed; Screw changed silver to brass; Screwdriver bit changed; Tape changed to 8cm was 10 cm; Rawlplug changed and moved; Knife turned over; Scissors open; Cord knot changed reef to sheet bend; Allen key introduced; Nut removed from nut bolt; Tin of paint turned around; Gwax turned through 90 degrees and moved; Cup hook changed brass to silver; No leather thong on fork; Pencil has changed now has rubber on it; G clamp closed and adjuster in the air; Paint brush changed; Pliers closed; Wire brush turned over; Stanley knife blade in; Battery changed



OUT & ABOUT

A Pirate's Life for Us

Since our regular face-to-face scouting was paused back in March, 14th West Lothian Scout Group's beavers have shown amazing digital talents by joining online Zoom meetings each week instead, but we could not contain our excitement when our latest risk assessments were approved which meant that our annual beaver sleepover could include some outdoor fun together. At the 14th we have one 'big' sleepover each year for the whole colony with around twenty activities which we plan around a central theme for extra fun. This year's theme was pirates and from the feedback received by parents it did not disappoint!

Our motley crew of nineteen beavers and five leaders assembled in the local woodland on Saturday 3rd October. We worked together in small teams searching for parrots in the treetops to reveal our theme. There was a cannonball battle, hunting for (natural) treasures and 'climbing the rigging' with a blindfold rope trail. Even in the middle of Storm Alex there were no tears, ships sunk or beavers overboard. An excitable crew was sent home with a 'booty bag' full of odd items (needed for the crafts / activities), a 24-page 'logbook' full of activities and a souvenir mug!

Once home and dry (literally) the adventures continued online making our own pirate hats and telescopes (with leaders having a bit of fun by giving everyone piratey names on their Zoom screens). Then it was off to the galley to make our dinner – pizza in a mug and a fruity pirate ship pudding... YUM!

We played some screen games (including Captain Greybeard Says – the pandemic has had an effect on his ageing process) before using teabags to make our own parchment paper and having fun with a fact or fiction quiz. Who knew pirates really DID wear an eyepatch all the time so they could quickly swap it over to see below deck in the dark? Our local hero, 'Campfire Craig' led a virtual campfire with a mixture of themed songs and some of our old favourites while dancing in his back garden in the rain (yep, his neighbours are used to it).

We battened down the hatches by screen-sharing a bedtime story called A New Home for a Pirate, read by Matt Baker of The One Show fame.

We warmed ourselves up for more fun on Sunday morning by joining Peg Leg's stretching exercises class before getting crafty again creating rafts to float in our baths (or kitchen sinks) from corks, elastic, skewers and plastic sails. There was time for a quick game of Bones' Bingo before we recovered our tea-stained parchment to draw our own real or imaginary treasure maps (X marks the spot!).

Finally it was time to hoist the flag and we held our Scouts' Own gathering in the woods with beavers bringing along their own treasure chest (the cardboard box which had carried their mug), showing each other what their precious treasures were and why it was precious to them which sometimes was because of who had given it to them, or a memory it evoked. Then we played some socially-distanced games with hula hoop islands and following the leader actions before challenging ourselves to a bit of target practice, the grand finale of which can only be described as a mash-up of pétanque and conkers. Before setting sail back home beavers finished their swashbuckling with a breadstick 'swordfight' leaving a rare treat for the birds to feast on.

Batten down the hatches land-lubbers, there's a storm a-brewin'!

"Squirrel, Otter, Rabbit & Bear"

What have you been up to recently? Write to us at info@searchlinepublishing.co.uk and let us know!



CLOTHING

Wrap up warm this winter!

In *Scouting for Boys* Robert Baden-Powell suggested that a "...scout's clothing should be of flannel or wool as much as possible, because it dries easily. Cotton next to the skin is not good unless you change it directly it gets wet..."

Wise words indeed that are as true today as they were over one hundred years ago. Yet much more science has gone into what we wear these days and synthetic materials have been invented and adapted to keep us warm and dry, as well as cool at other times of the year. They may not always be as hard wearing as good quality woollen products but are just as effective in the right conditions. So let's wrap up warm this winter and don't forget the wind and rain protection either.

Which material?

Wool. Great for keeping warm. Not a great outer layer when it's raining or as a base layer when exercising as it absorbs moisture even though it stays warm when wet. However it's an excellent fabric for trapping the warm air layer next to your skin. Treat yourself to an Aran sweater and you will be warm in the winter (and cool in the summer) for years.

Silk. Expensive but great as a base layer because it is moisture-wicking. This means that it moves (wicks) sweat to the outer surface of the material and dries quickly so that the sweat doesn't then get cold and chill the skin.

Polyester or polypropylene. Moisture-wicking like silk. Despite being formed from strands of plastic it can feel soft to the touch as the strands are very fine. Good as an outer layer for keeping warm although not completely waterproof.

Gore-Tex. Gore-Tex is a branded and patented stretched polytetrafluoroethylene material that is waterproof, windproof and breathable. This makes it an excellent choice for outer layer jackets and hiking boots.

Nylon. Good as an outer layer as it's designed to repel water.

Cotton. Save it for the summer when you may wish for a bit of moisture next to your skin to keep you cool when you're awake. However denim jeans, denim being a heavy cotton material, are a complete nightmare if they get wet so should only be worn in the rain under waterproof trousers. This is not a pretty sight if you're going shopping.

Which body part?

Head. "Half our body head is lost through the head" is now considered to be an urban myth. A British Medical Journal report in 2006 stated that at most ten percent is lost which is not much more than the area of the head to the rest of the body in adults but there's quite a lot inside the head that needs to be kept warm. Furthermore, if your head is the only thing exposed to the elements you will lose more - ask anyone who's slept in a sleeping bag on camp without a hat or built-in hood - so invest in a thick woolly hat that covers your ears. If you have fabulous thick hair earmuffs may suffice.

Hands. Gloves. There are also hand warmers that after they've been used once can be reused by heating up in a pan of boiling water. Alternatively try a metal version that uses lighter fuel and stays warm for up to twelve hours. Zippo do a version that is described as a pocket-sized furnace. Zippo also now produce a rechargeable electric version that includes a power bank for recharging your 'phone.

Neck. Scarf or neck warmer / scarf tube. A snood used to describe a hairnet that gathered long hair in a bundle at the back of the head but is now interchangeable with a neck warmer or scarf tube. As well as a neck warmer

it can be used as a hood, a balaclava, a head band, a beanie, a wrist band and, of course, a face mask - unless you're a footballer as the International Football Association Board has banned them. At the time the then FIFA president, Sebb Blatter, said, "...it can be dangerous, even like hanging somebody." So wear them, but only after having completed a risk assessment.

Chest. Think layers. The correct material will trap warm air and wick moisture. This is how a sleeping bag works as your body heat will warm up the thin layer of air between you and the bag Aim for a base, middle and outer - vest (not cotton), fleece / sweater and jacket with hood will do just fine. The layers need to be comfortable and not tight-fitting. If you're standing around outside an electrically-heated jacket is a great option. These use standard batteries or plug into a power bank.

Legs. Possibly it's not vital to keep the legs covered, especially when using them, i.e. walking, as muscle movement and good blood flow will enable one to more easily tolerate cold temperatures. As for shorts in winter we would suggest that they're only recommended if it's raining and the alternative is jeans. Ugh. Have a long woolly jumper or waterproof trousers over some polyester leggings.

Feet. Socks, but don't worry about having great big thick ones as it's the air between sock and shoe / boot that will keep you warm. It is worth taking some time to find a good sock as you have only two layers. Silk is good unless you are walking. Synthetics can dry quickly but can become smelly very quickly, cotton becomes damp and stays damp and wool may not on its own withstand the constant gentle rubbing of foot in boot. Socks that contain a high percentage of wool with a synthetic mix will be hard-wearing, breathable with a great moisture-wicking performance as well as keeping you warm and dry when combined with a Gore-Tex or leather boot with Thinsulate (being another synthetic thermal insulator with fibres thinner than polyester) lining.



While on the subject of keeping warm...

My friend keeps borrowing her boyfriend's lovely warm jacket and he's always happy for her to have it. And they say that shivering is dead.

My friend's going to the Andes for a holiday. He said that he would have to take loads of warm clothes because it's Chile.

Luke: A glass of water please waiter, cold or warm - it doesn't matter.

Waiter: Of course sir. Here you are sir.

Luke: This water is neither cold nor warm. What would you call it?

Waiter: How about waiter-warm?

Luke: I have a better idea.

Two scouts light a fire in their boat to try to keep warm. However, the fire burns completely through the boat and so it sinks. This proves that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

FORAGING

Acorns

There are millions of them this year! I have an oak tree on my drive and most days, without fail, when I am sitting in the car just about to go down the drive I am bombed by them. CRASH! on the roof. THUD! on the windscreen. They're everywhere. They are literally carpeting our drive. Even the squirrels can't keep up. I'm imaging the acorns will be falling between the pieces of shingle and next spring I will be able to start a nursery by the road with little oak saplings.

This year is most definitely a "mast" year. This is when trees and shrubs produce substantially more fruit, nuts and seeds than normal. Yet it's not just on my drive and neither is it confined to acorns. I spent much of November on my hands and knees in the local woods, normally in daylight, gathering up the most enormous sweet chestnuts. They have already either been roasted for half an hour (don't forget to score a cross into each one first or they will explode) or boiled, shelled and frozen ready to make chestnut stuffing for Christmas. It's worth doing when a tin of whole chestnuts works out at about twenty pounds a kilo. How trees know to be a mast year all at the same time is one of life's mysteries but let's embrace these years and store up the land's goodness.

I did mention to a friend that it was a good year for sweet chestnuts to which he replied, "They're not conkers are they?" No, they're not and although similar looking they are not related and neither are conkers (horse chestnuts) edible to humans so it's worth knowing the difference. Sweet chestnuts have a matt sheen and packed two or three to a shell that is covered in furry spikes whereas horse chestnuts are glossy, are just one or sometimes two to a shell that has fewer spikes but are more rigid.

Acorns in their raw state aren't edible either. They have a bitter taste and are considered toxic due to their high concentration of tannins. A nibble on one shouldn't harm you but you won't want to as they taste almost as bad as uncooked sweet chestnuts. However these tannins can be removed by leaching when the acorns are soaked in water and then drained making them safe to eat. It's worth the effort because they are very tasty! Whether the acorns are soaked

in hot or cold water depends on what you are going to do with them afterwards (hot water removes some of the oils) but in all instances wait until the acorns have ripened and their shells are brown and not green. Maybe use last year's acorns: older ones are easier to work with. Remove the shells first before leaching. To do this use a sharp knife to cut lengthways all the way round the shell then ease it away from the nut. Scrape off any of the bitter-tasting dark brown bits of pithy skin to leave the beige-coloured nut. You may find it easier to cut the acorn into quarters before removing the nut. They will also dry quicker if you use this method which is fine if you're going to grind them up. It's worth the effort! You will need a bucketful but with them you can grind them into flour and make bread, pancakes, pastries and much more.

Cold water leaching

Use whole or crush the acorns into small bits or grate / blitz them into a coarse meal before soaking in a bowl of water for several hours then draining. Do this several times each time the water goes brown and with fresh water until the water runs clear or until the acorns lose their bitter taste. Alternatively you can place them in a piece of muslin in a colander and run cold water through them. This is much quicker although you will lose more of what you are trying to keep using this method. Whichever method you choose, once complete, strain the bits in a fresh piece of muslin. Then spread them out on a sheet of baking paper on a baking tray and put in the oven on a low temperature to dry them out. This could take up to two hours and they will start to go brown when they are ready. Move them around occasionally to avoid burn spots. Finally blitz them using a coffee grinder until they have a flour-like consistency. Store this gluten-free flour sealed in a cool dark place, fridge or freezer until ready to use.

Hot water leaching

Place the shelled acorns in a pot of cold water and a pinch of salt. Bring to the boil and simmer for thirty minutes. The skins will detach easily. Drain the acorns and immediately put into a new pot of boiling water. Repeat another once or twice or until the water runs clear. Don't let the acorns go cold until you have finished otherwise the tannins will not be completely removed and the acorns will remain bitter to the taste. Then strain, dry and store them as before.

Enjoy these recipes!

Acorn Coffee

Once the hot water leached acorns have been dried, coarse grind them in a coffee grinder and use like ground coffee for a caffeine-free refreshment.

Roasted Acorns

After hot water leaching place the whole acorns on a baking tray (no need to dry them) and sprinkle with salt. Bake at gas mark 7 for twenty minutes or until they've started to darken. Once they've cooled down - eat!

Nutty Acorn Pancakes

Makes (8 pancakes): 50g plain or self raising flour, 50g acorn flour, large pinch of salt, 1 egg. 250ml milk, 1 tbsp melted butter, oil. Filling: Sugar, lemon / orange slices

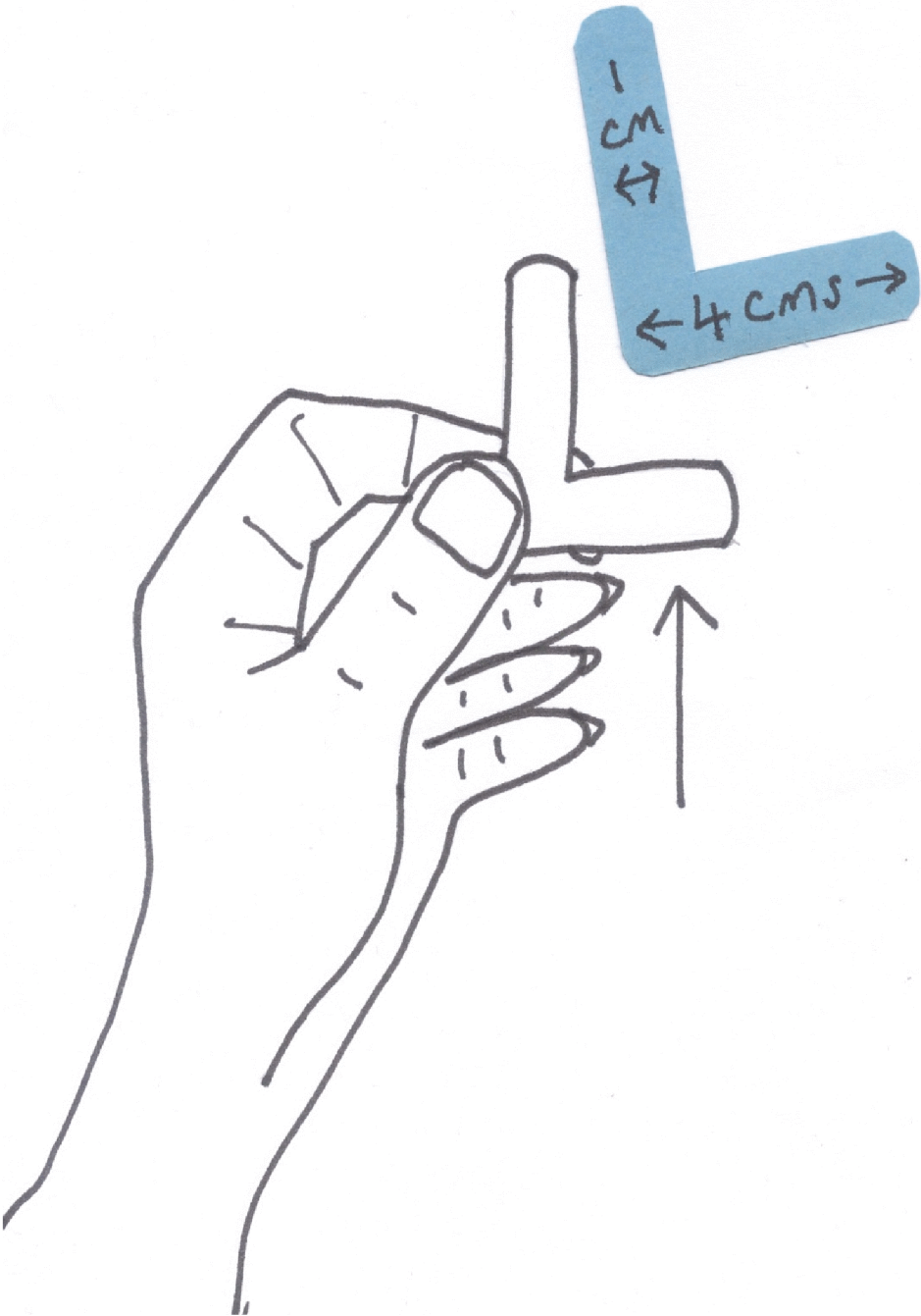
Sift the flour and salt into a bowl. Add the egg, half the milk and the butter and beat until you have a smooth batter. Add the remaining milk and stir in.

Heat a small quantity of oil in the frying pan. Use a sheet of kitchen towel to put a thin veneer of oil across the pan. Pour in the batter so that it covers half the frying pan then tip the pan around so that the batter covers the base completely. After a minute put the spatula under the batter and flip it over. Cook for a further minute then serve with sugar and squeezed slices of orange or lemon.

Foraging Fred

Do you have any foraging ideas or stories? Email us at info@searchlinepublishing.co.uk and let us know!



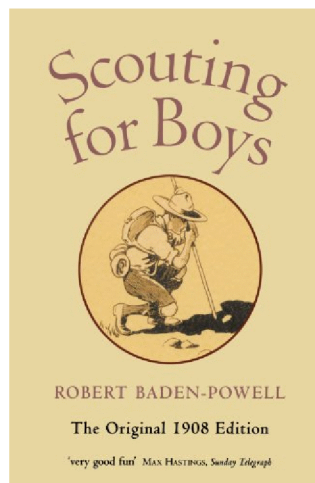


MAKE A MINI BOOMERANG - See The Mischief-Maker's Handbook

BOOKS

A few Christmas gift suggestions

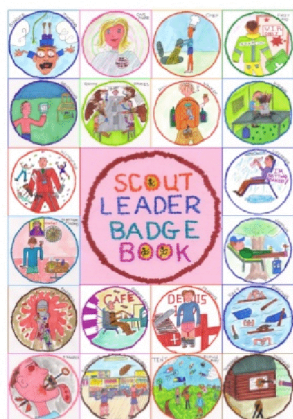
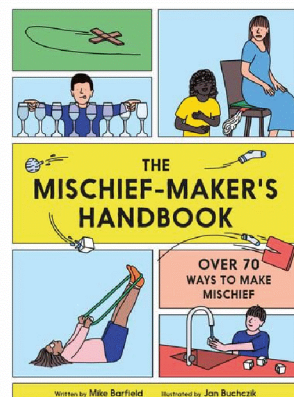
In one day in September around six hundred books were published making it all but impossible for an individual to know but a fraction of what's out there. Let us distil it into three that any scout parent, leader or child (except maybe the last one) would love to have as a present this year and that we can heartily recommend.



The first is **Scouting for Boys**. For those that have yet to read this book, it may well be a little outdated in places but this is hardly surprising since it was first published in 1908. More recently it has been republished under the editorship of Elleke Boehmer who has added an introduction and explanatory notes which help the reader enormously in negotiating a maze of names, places and events that Robert Baden-Powell tosses into the text. At times it is eye-raising, "I have eaten the huge kind of lizard called an iguana. He had his head and tail cut off to enable him to go into the cooking pot, and when he was boiled and put on the table he looked exactly like a headless baby... And when we ate him he tasted just like a baby too." Occasionally it is a little uncomfortable, "Alcohol is now shown to be quite useless as a health-giving drink, and it is mere poison when a man takes much of it. A man who is in the habit of drinking wine or spirits in strong doses every day is not the slightest use for scouting, and very little use for anything else." Throughout there is sound advice, "A great cause of illness nowadays is the amount of medicine which fellows dose themselves with when there is no reason for taking any medicine at all. The best medicine is open-air and exercise and a big cup of water in the early morning if you are constipated, and a pint of hot water on going to bed." Overall it's a fun, easy read for all ages with plenty of anecdotes, rules for life and practical advice that would be to everyone's advantage mostly to follow.

The second is **The Mischief-Maker's Handbook**. A book that we love as much for the drawings as the 70+ plus descriptions of ways to make mischief. Some ideas you may have come across before; others are extremely brief; some we tried, such as Mini Paper Boomerangs, didn't work very well but the chapter on noisy toys was a delight.

To make a mini boomerang that does work, cut out an L shape with each arm being 4cms in length and 1 cm wide. Smooth the edges and outer corner, hold between thumb and forefinger and flick. Keep trying until it returns!



Third is **Scout Leader Badge Book**. For many years there have been embroidered badges available that depict wine glasses and the like but now a parent has gone one step further and produced a book of well over one hundred badge ideas for grown-ups. Each badge includes a description and a drawing. "Why should the kids have all the fun?" the book's author asks and with this book it's not just fun that the leaders will be having, it's evenings of mayhem and madness. There is a warning in the book not to actually attempt any of the badges and having read some of the requirements we would hope that no one

would be so daft as to try. A great read. Each book comes with a colour poster. Not suitable for children.

Scouting for Boys by Robert Baden-Powell £8.99 ISBN: 9780192802460

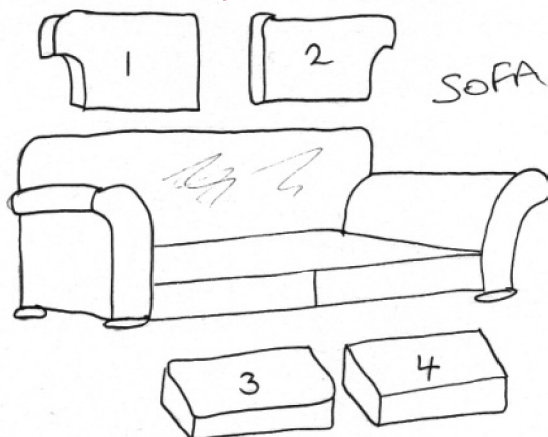
The Mischief-Maker's Handbook by Mike Barfield £9.99 ISBN: 9781786275509

Scout Leader Badge Book by Karen Shirore £9.99 ISBN: 9781897864616

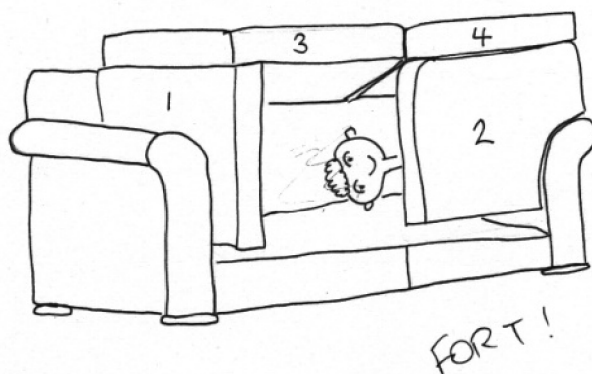
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ACTIVITY

Convert any sofa into a fabulous fort!



CONVERT ANY SOFA
INTO A FABULOUS
FORT!



For all ages: You may not have a sofa at your meeting place but you probably do at home, or someone else's home, or a hotel or one of those posh shops. You know what to do. Just rejig the four moving parts or get the young people to do it whilst you look the other way.

LETTER HOME FROM CAMP

The choice of film is so important.

Dear mum

On Sunday for a treat we were allowed to watch a film. We were inside which was fun. We watched an old film that was called "The Great Escape" about some men escaping from a camp. I don't know why they couldn't just've walked out but Freddie said that we couldn't just walk out of our camp. Then he said that maybe we should try to escape. He got hold of a shovel from the mess tent. David [leader] said it was a toilet shovel for emergencies. We couldn't dig in the hut because it had a concrete floor and the leaders were in the bedrooms so we thought they might hear. We thought we could just dig in the field but then we would be seen then we thought of the woods but it was a bit scary so Freddie said we should start in our tent and then we could dig down and then go sideways under the fence. It was only about fifty yards because we measured it with paces and Freddie said that it wouldn't take long. In the film the men got rid of the earth by putting it in their trouser pockets and then emptying it down their trousers. On Monday night we were awake for hours and we took it in turns to dig and we dug a hole in the middle of the tent but first we had to make a hole in the ground sheet. We dug so much all our pockets were full up and we had nowhere else to put the earth and it was quite wet so David asked us in the morning why we were wearing dirty clothes but we didn't say. Then on Tuesday night we dug some more and we filled our rucksacks with the earth and Freddie could stand in the hole and he disappeared up to his waist then he found a branch or something so he attacked it with the other end of the shovel that had a pickaxe bit on it then there was a hiss and then water came spurting up like a fountain only in our tent and not outside like at Trafalgar Square and we put our coats on but it was like being in a shower only the water was coming up and down instead of just down and in the end we had to go and wake David but we're not in trouble because the hole had filled up with mud so no one else knows except you and we're now in a new tent but further from the road so there's no chance of escape now and I think I may need a new sleeping bag. And a rucksack. Sorry.

Love George xxx

MY FAVOURITE CAMP GADGET

Giles gives us his favourite and his least

I'll start with my least favourite gadget, not just for camp but ever! I do like to know how many steps I've taken in a day so rather than do it on a 'phone which would wear down my battery too much I invested in a Rapid pedometer. It's very simple to operate, you just clip it onto your trouser waist band and it springs into life. It has two functions and they are as a pedometer and as a counter. If you were wanting to count the number of people going into a building or something like that you can click on a little white button and it will register on the LCD screen. That seems to be accurate - unlike the pedometer. The first time I used it I went on a three mile walk. I know how far it is because I had previously paced it. It's about 5,630 paces. I popped on the pedometer and set off. When I returned home I looked at the screen and found that I had done 6,217 paces which is over ten percent more! The following day I counted my paces with the pedometer on my waistband. The results were almost the same! I've no idea why it is so wrong apart from the fact that it counts a pace at the slightest movement. I can only imagine that it counts ten percent of my paces each as two paces. It may be of use to someone who wants to believe that they've done 10,000 paces a day although they've only done just over 9,000 but apart from that it's pretty useless for doing what it's supposed to.



My favourite camp gadget, although it's less of a gadget and more an essential piece of kit, is my UCO Titan Stormproof Match Kit. I often make my own waterproof matches but what I like about these is not only are they extremely wind and water resistant but also they are over 100 cms long. Each one will burn for more than twenty seconds. They will even relight when dunked in water! They come with several strikers in a waterproof tub that floats. They do shorter ones and larger boxes of the longer ones but the Match Kit is the best!



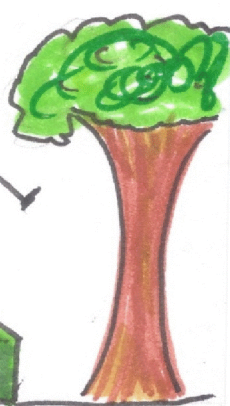
Giles Jones

Let us know your (least) favourite gadget!

CAMPING

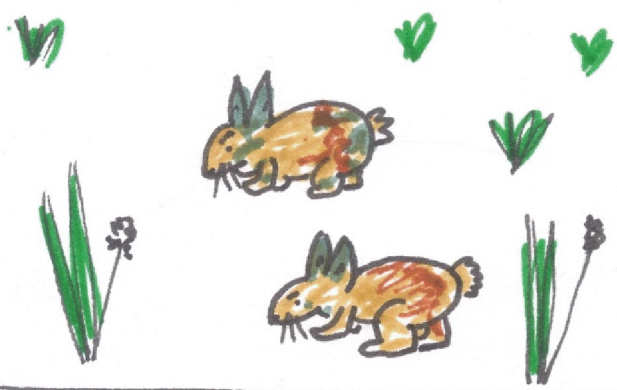
2019

HAPPY KIDS



CAMPING 2020+2021

HAPPY BUNNIES



CAMPING 2022

HAPPY LEADERS



©Beane

QUIZ

25 questions for the family - everyone will get at least one correct!

1. In the carol, "Silent Night," what comes next?
 - a. Holy night
 - b. Holly night
 - c. Noisy night
 - d. Still night
2. How many ghosts appear in *A Christmas Carol*?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four
3. Which saint does Santa Claus come from?
 - a. St Claud
 - b. St Claus
 - c. St Nicholas
 - d. St Christmas
4. Traditionally what is put at the top of a Christmas tree?
 - a. A star
 - b. An angel
 - c. Nothing
 - d. A Father Christmas
5. Which actor played six different roles in *The Polar Express*?
 - a. Robert de Niro
 - b. Denzel Washington
 - c. Will Smith
 - d. Tom Hanks
6. What are couples supposed to do under the mistletoe?
 - a. Argue
 - b. Sing
 - c. Kiss
 - d. Drink
7. Which country started the tradition of putting up Christmas trees?
 - a. Norway
 - b. England
 - c. Germany
 - d. Scotland
8. In "The Twelve Days of Christmas" how many gifts were given in total?
 - a. 360
 - b. 364
 - c. 365
 - d. 366

9. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do in *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*?

- a. Play any reindeer songs
- b. Call anyone names
- c. Join in any reindeer games
- d. Go down in history

10. The first gingerbread houses were reportedly inspired by which famous fairy tale?

- a. Hansel and Gretel
- b. Little Red Riding Hood
- c. Cinderella
- d. Rumpelstiltskin

11. Eggnog originates in which country?

- a. Germany
- b. England
- c. Denmark
- d. France

12. Where was Jesus born?

- a. Jerusalem
- b. Jericho
- c. Nazareth
- d. Bethlehem

13. Which country donates the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square?

- a. Germany
- b. Norway
- c. USA
- d. Canada

14. Which patron saint is celebrated on 26th December?

- a. Boximus
- b. Nicholas
- c. Michael
- d. Stephen

15. What colour are mistletoe berries?

- a. Red
- b. White
- c. Blue
- d. Yellow

16. How many major tips does a snowflake have?

- a. Two
- b. Four
- c. Six
- d. Nine

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17. What is *Smoking Bishop*?

- a. Mulled wine
- b. Eggnog
- c. Coffee
- d. Herbal tea

18. What year did *Do They Know It's Christmas* first reach number one?

- a. 1980
- b. 1984
- c. 2000
- d. It never has

19. Which saint introduced carols to formal church services?

- a. St Nicholas
- b. King Wenceslas
- c. St Francis of Assisi
- d. St Stephen

20. What would you find in mince pies made in Victorian times?

- a. Fish
- b. Beef
- c. Chocolate
- d. Potato

21. What country is the red and green Christmas plant, Poinsettia, native to?

- a. Germany
- b. France
- c. Holland
- d. Mexico

22. How many "wise men" does the Bible say visited the baby Jesus?

- a. 2
- b. 3
- c. 4
- d. Doesn't say

23. What is the most popular meal for Christmas in Japan?

- a. Fish
- b. Sushi
- c. Kentucky Fried Chicken
- d. Turkey

24. Which cartoon character is a Christmas Eve staple in Sweden and is watched by millions?

- a. Donald Duck
- b. Mickey Mouse
- c. Bugs Bunny
- d. Popeye

25. Who was born on Christmas Day?

- a. Dido
- b. Humphrey Bogart
- c. Isaac Newton
- d. Justin Trudeau

Good luck!
You can find the
answers on the next page.

SKITS

Short sketches to amuse or entertain

"A campfire with skits is like a day without sunshine" to paraphrase a saying that has been attributed to at least a dozen individuals. Skits are marvellous activities. They teach the scouts to listen and to concentrate. If they're performing they give them confidence. Even the shyest of individuals can be encouraged to perform a skit where they have a small speaking part or they can be given literally just a few words to say. Here's one of the shortest that we like:

BOAT 99

For two people

One: Come in boat 99, your time is up!

Two: Er, boss, we don't have a boat 99.

One: Are you in trouble boat 66?

Do you have a favourite skit? Write to us and let us know.

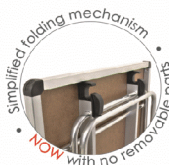
Answers to Quiz on pages 50-52

1.a, 2.d, 3.c, 4.a,b, 5.d, 6.c, 7.a, 8.b, 9.c, 10.a, 11.b, 12.d, 13.b, 14.d, 15.b, 16.c, 17.a, 18.b, 19.c, 20.b
21.d, 22.d, 23.c, 24.a, 25.any of them!

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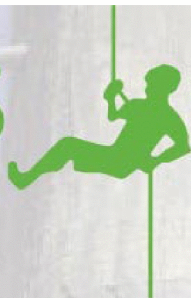
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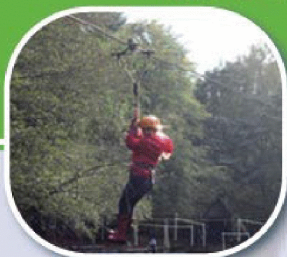
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