

County Review 2018/2019



Scouts
Hertfordshire



#SkillsForLife

Contents

3	County Commissioner
4	Member Statistics
5 - 8	Programme - Sections
9 - 20	Programme - International
21	Capital Appeal
21	Activity Centres
22	Queen's Scout Award
23 - 24	History and Heritage
25	County Chairman

Hertfordshire County Scout Council
County Office
Well End Activity Centre
Well End Road
Borehamwood
Hertfordshire
WD6 5PR

Telephone: 0208 236 0040
Email: admin@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

Registered Charity in England and Wales: 302606, Scotland 039650

www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

County Review 2018/19: Thank you to all those who contributed content and photographs to this year's Review

Designed, edited and produced by Hertfordshire Scouts Communications Team

County Commissioner

by Liz Walker

'Skills for Life' is a strategy that supports and empowers our volunteers, the people who make Scouting in Hertfordshire a reality. It's a strategy to bring communities together and contribute towards a better society, but most of all, it's a strategy for young people and how they can gain the most in an ever-challenging world.

It's difficult to know where to start with the Review of the year. Yet again our volunteers and staff alike have delivered more and more to support our young people with an amazing array of activities which really have meant we've had fun, learnt new things and benefited from excellent programmes to develop our 'Skills for Life'. I hope you will get a feeling for the wide range of the activities we undertake and how much fun we all have taking part – age is no barrier to fun!

I truly believe that Scouts prepares young people for better futures. It gives them skills to achieve the remarkable, and opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of our rapidly changing world.

With recent shifts in local and global politics, society has rarely felt more divided. When the world feels more inward facing, Scouts has a more powerful role to play in bringing communities together, and in Hertfordshire it's a priority to deliver these opportunities to more and more young people.

I'm immensely proud of all that our young people have achieved this year; their Scouting awards, badges and activities. Most of all I'm proud of them for having the confidence to try new things, make new friends and challenge themselves in their own ways to do more and be more. May that continue and may we have many more adults to support that purpose and ambition.

I want to thank everyone in the County and beyond, all of whom have given so much this year – our amazing volunteers and staff. They are the ones who make all we do possible: the hard work of the County Team, the District Commissioners and their teams, the Group Scout Leaders and theirs. I'm also hugely grateful for all the work that the County, District and Group Executives do in support of Scouting in Hertfordshire. I'm proud of everyone, in whatever capacity, who makes Scouting in Hertfordshire happen. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



19346 Members

 13818
  5528

14458 Young People




	2018	2019	GROWTH	BOYS	GIRLS
BEAVERS	3870	3834	-0.9%	3101	733
CUBS	4949	4824	-2.5%	3868	956
SCOUTS	3933	4009	1.9%	2962	1047
EXPLORERS	1453	1408	-3.1%	935	473
NETWORK	393	383	-2.5%	241	142
TOTAL	14598	14458	-1.0%	11107	3351

YOUTH AWARDS

 CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD BRONZE	299
 CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD SILVER	425
 CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD GOLD	130
 CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD PLATINUM	35
 CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD DIAMOND	4
 QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD	7
 YOUNG LEADER'S SCHEME	1
 DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD BRONZE	60
 DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SILVER	22
 DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD GOLD	9

ADULT AWARDS

LONG SERVICE AWARDS	154
 CHIEF SCOUTS COMMENDATION	36
 AWARD FOR MERIT	26
 BAR TO AWARD FOR MERIT	11
 SILVER ACORN	14
 BAR TO SILVER ACORN	4
 SILVER WOLF	1

4888 Inspiring Adults teaching #SkillsForLife

2711  2177 

MEMBER

STATISTICS



Programme

by our Sections' Assistant County Commissioners and the 14-25 team

BEAVERS

Beavers across Hertfordshire have participated in three very different County events.

The first was Beavers in Tents (BiTs) at Well End Activity Centre. This had the Beavers sleeping outside in tents as well as taking part in a variety of activities including fire lighting, cooking on open fires, knot tying, rope making and mini pioneering.

The second was a day out on the hottest day of the year to Gulliver's Land Theme Park in Milton Keynes. Luckily for us, there was an important England football match on the same day so there were very few children at the Park and the Beavers had lots of fun on the rides.

Finally, there was the annual trip to Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne, this time with the extra 'World of Dinosaurs' trail to explore. As always, the Beavers had an amazing time looking at the animals, listening to conservation talks and learning how they can help animals. Most Beavers also had time to play on the adventure playground.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have helped give the Beavers these opportunities both at County events and within their Districts and Colonies.

cubs

Our focus this year has been to build the attendance at all our events and to create more opportunities for Cubs.

The Bushcraft Activity Day at Lees Wood Campsite proved, as always, very popular. We used this event to develop the Cubs' teamwork and leadership as well as helping them to develop their Scouting skills. Cubs enjoyed fire lighting, cooking on open fires, nature challenges, rope making and pioneering.

The Cub Cyclocross competition that took place at Well End Activity Centre and the Water Activities Day at ESSA in Essex were both opportunities for Cubs to develop their personal skills. Cyclocross saw yet another increase in participating teams. The Water Activities Day saw 180 Cubs on the water. Our thanks to Colin and the Water team for making this event happen.

We continue to support our ADCs to help them develop programme activities in their Districts and to make Cubs available to more and more young people.

We look forward to our new event in 2019 – Cub Fun Day at Phasels Wood.

SCOUTS

Twelve patrols of varying experience participated in 'Born 2B Challenged' at Lees Wood Campsite. Teams competed in a number of events including cooking, teamwork and site tidiness, with the added activities of rowing, mini Olympics, campfire entertainment and a wide game.

In November, we returned to Tolmers Activity Centre for the annual Green Beret Challenge competition. The Explorers and volunteers ran a fantastic number of bases during the day and night for the Scouts to compete on, as well as the usual orienteering and assault course challenges.

This year's theme for the Cooking Competition in February was 'Free From', allowing Scouts to enter menus for a three-course meal without a number of allergens or meat and dairy items. Meals were judged on their menu, appearance and taste as well as looking out for good teamwork, table presentation and additional points for original use of ingredients.

The Scout Triathlon at Lees Wood saw 18 teams compete in cross-country running, off-road cycling and rifle shooting.

EXPLORERS

This year's main event was the 40th anniversary Chiltern Challenge, which took place on a sunny day at the beginning of March. As well as marking the anniversary with a special celebratory breakfast where the Explorers were served by both the Network and County Team, we were all treated to a talk from one of the competition's founders. This year's Challenge had even more bases and the fantastic help of our Network members. We hope to keep building on this year on year.

In 2018, the Monopoly Run returned to London for a bumper year, with many of Hertfordshire's Jamboree Units taking part as well as teams from across the County and further afield. The 'Bears About Town' theme saw some impressive fancy dress and furry team mascots racing against time to get across the new look 'board', all whilst being tracked by the 14-25 team. The jailers of Pimlico did a great job getting teams to sew on buttons as they 'did their time'.

For Peak Assault, it was great to be back in The Black Mountains, South Wales. We even had fantastic weather and it was brilliant to see so many Explorer teams having a good, but challenging, time.

The Explorers celebrated Christmas in their usual fashion at the "around the World buffet" in Stevenage, joining with the Network. It was fantastic to see so many Districts represented. We are looking forward to hosting the new Explorer Christmas Festival, which is due to be launched shortly. Look out for this and our other events on the Hertfordshire Scouts website.

network

The adventures, thrills and spills just keep getting better. Network members have jumped into their canoes to paddle the Thames around Henley and also donned their walking boots for a weekend in Shropshire.

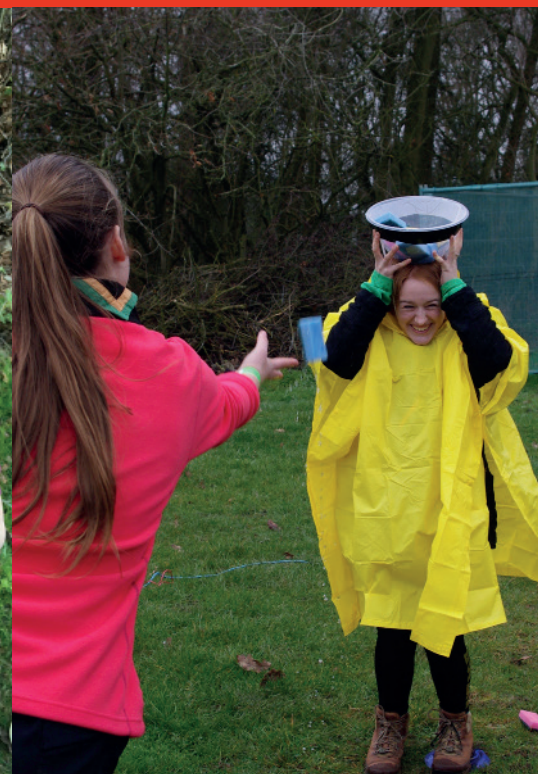
Closer to home our County Sports Nights have proved very popular. Volleyball, basketball and frisbee all featured and are a great opportunity for socialising with members from across Hertfordshire.

As always, the Network celebrated Christmas with an "around the World" buffet and their notorious cheesy raffle.

Chiltern Challenge was another success, with an altered format and Network taking an even bigger role in the organisation. This event takes a lot of hard work and co-ordination from all involved and everyone excelled themselves.

Local Networks continue to develop excellent programmes and we are glad to see a great variety of activities and skills taking place. From barn dances and escape rooms to kite making and cooking challenges, there is something for everyone. A big thank you to all the Networks from across the County for creating some amazing memories for 2018/19.

Lastly, we launched our County Network hoodies this year. It is brilliant to see members sporting them at local and national events.





International and Global Scouting

Hertfordshire Scouts Visits Abroad 2018

by Peter Makewell, Assistant County Commissioner - International

We are very pleased that, given the uncertainty that prevails in many countries, a number of Hertfordshire leaders were keen to take their sections abroad in 2018.

There was another County visit to Swaziland to continue work on the Malibeni Project, which saw the building work completed and another container of donations arrive from Hertfordshire families.

Six Explorer and Network members were able to participate in the UK Headquarters-led Explorer Belt in the Sultanate of Oman, supported by five Hertfordshire leaders.

There were a further eight expeditions to European destinations, which for some of the participants will have been their first trip abroad and a life-changing experience.

It was also great to see that 40 Scouts and seven Cubs went abroad in 2018 and I am sure that their experience of travelling abroad, whilst in the younger sections, will give them the confidence to undertake more challenging trips when they enter Explorers and Network.

The Scouts against Malaria (SAM) campaign continues to support the purchase of malaria nets in Burkina Faso. It also helps to raise awareness amongst the sections of the devastation that malaria brings to families and children in the affected regions.

Looking ahead, Hertfordshire's three Units and two Patrols, along with over 25 Hertfordshire adults who are members of the International Service Team and UK Contingent Teams, will be travelling to the World Scout Jamboree in America this Summer. They have all been involved in training for the event throughout 2018, and as the departure dates are drawing closer the excitement is really beginning to build for them all.

My personal thanks go out to all the volunteers who continue to deliver aspects of the Global and International programme to the sections every week in Hertfordshire, with inspiring activities that help our young people become better world citizens.

Group	Destination	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	Network/ ASU etc (incl. Guides)	Leaders & Helpers	Total
Ekhaya e Swatini (County Expedition)	Swaziland	0	0	0	30	9	15	54
Harpenden ESU (Harpenden and Wheathampstead)	Switzerland	0	0	0	42	0	9	51
Explorers & Network (Watford South)	Liechtenstein	0	0	4	17	2	10	33
1st Gossoms End Scout Group (West Herts)	Switzerland	0	0	21	2	1	5	29
Ickniel ESU (West Herts)	Switzerland	0	0	0	20	1	6	27
Poplar Scout Group (Stevenage)	Belgium	0	0	15	0	0	4	19
1st Watton at Stone Cubs (Hertford)	Belgium	0	7	0	0	0	9	16
Oddy ESU (West Herts)	Switzerland	0	0	0	11	0	4	15
Boggites ESU (Watford North)	Spain	0	0	0	6	3	3	12
HQ Exp Belt (Herts Participants)	Sultanate of Oman/U.A.E.	0	0	0	4	2	5	11
	Totals (May 2019)	0	7	40	132	18	70	267



Liechtenstein

Watford South

In July/August 2018, Watford South ran a summer expedition to Liechtenstein. The Explorer Units in the District (Apollo and Excalibur) were accompanied by Scouts from the 74th and also Watford South Meteor Network; this facilitated multigenerational friendships lasting throughout the 2-week long expedition and beyond.

Paris, specifically Disneyland, was the first destination, and was greatly enjoyed by all. Next was the drive through France, Switzerland and Austria to Liechtenstein, where we camped in the grounds of a ruined castle.

As well as swimming in both natural and man-made lakes, exploring the capital Vaduz, and white-water rafting down the Vorderrhien, we had two walking expeditions in the Alps. These were the most challenging days for everyone, whilst also being the most breath-taking. We used public transport and a cable car to get onto the ridge line, then hiked along to the mountain hut, where we stayed the night. Some of us even woke up early enough to see the sunrise over the valley. The other day was a climb up the mountain, which we all completed – the same could not be said for the enormous lunch awaiting us!

The journey back home was filled with conveyor belt toilets (really, don't ask), nearly going to the town Stromberg in Germany (again, don't ask), and takeaway pizzas in Luxembourg that again defeated some enthusiastic Explorers!

Last on our gastronomic tour of Europe was fish and chips in Deal (Kent), before finally all arriving safe and sound back in Watford with memories to last a lifetime.

Kandersteg, Switzerland

Icknield ESU, West Herts

Summer 2018 saw Icknield Explorers make their 4-yearly pilgrimage to Kandersteg Scout Camp in Switzerland.

The week passed in an almost non-stop blur of activities, starting with a hike to a beautiful local lake, Oeschinensee, in which warm feet were paddled, followed by some exhilarating descents of the Summer toboggan course. Several Explorers worked out that if you left a large enough gap to the toboggan in front, you could complete the entire course without once using the brakes. We cheated on the descent back to the village by using the gondola lift, passing directly over our Scouting neighbours from Tring, Oddy ESU.

Traditional activities of crate stacking (21 high, in case you were wondering) and zip-wiring led onto a more challenging day of rock climbing in the nearby mountains. White-water rafting on the Lütchine was enjoyed by everyone, despite the worried-looking faces at the briefing. We finished the afternoon with a wander around Interlaken and a trip to the base of the Eiger, to see first-hand the setting of so many epic adventures.

We were fortunate to see Switzerland in the sunshine this year, having spent an entire week in the rain four years ago, watching the river rise and burst its banks and seeing the army deployed to pump out flooded properties.

For most of us, the highlight of the week was a two-day hike in the high mountains surrounding Kandertal. We were split into three groups, each tackling a different route and taking in a variety of peaks and then staying overnight in a Swiss mountain hut. Our group crossed a boulder-covered glacier on the way to the Lotschenpass Hut – which was more like a smart hotel than a simple hut – and then climbed the Hockenhorn (3,293m). We dropped into a neighbouring valley and returned to the camp on a train that passed directly under the hut in which we had been sleeping just a few hours earlier.

Malibeni, Swaziland

Hertfordshire Scouts

This project has been ongoing since 2012 when land was first secured from the elders of Malibeni. During our 2014 expedition, the land was fenced and then in 2016 we completed the foundations for building.

We are pleased to report that the Malibeni Youth Centre (minus a few finishing touches) was completed on last expedition to Swaziland in 2018, with the help of a local builder called Bob.

The 40-foot container we sent over was full of kind donations from people all over the County. These included books and cabinets for the centre's very own library, computers ready for the internet café we want to complete and toys and

bikes for the young people of the community. We also sent over lots of tables, chairs and camping equipment which will be very useful to the centre.

During our expeditions to Malibeni, we also help with the local soup kitchen. This feeds the younger children a hot meal after they've attended pre-school and primary school. Usually, there are around 40-50 children who attend, but on our busiest day we had over 300 children to feed. Whilst this part of the expedition is very emotional for a lot of the young people and the adults from the UK, it is also very satisfying knowing how much of a difference we are making.

The next expedition is due to take place in July/August 2020, when we plan to convert the container that we sent last year into the library and encourage the local young people to use it. We will also be creating a playground from recycled items.

Oman

UK Explorer Belt

Last summer, six Hertfordshire Explorers and Network members, together with five Hertfordshire leaders, joined up with 25 Scouts from all over the UK, plus two Omani Rover Scouts to take part in a demanding team challenge in the Middle East, the Explorer Belt.

Teams of three or four Scouts were required to travel the length and breadth of Oman, carrying out one major project and ten minor ones over a period of ten days.

Travel could be by road or by dhow/ferry, with the object of meeting people (and quite a number of camels!) in rural Oman and linking up with local Omani Scouts wherever possible. All teams managed to view sea turtles during the breeding season and some teams ventured north to the Musendham Peninsular overlooking the Straits of Hormuz and the coast of Iran. Others managed to reach Masirah Island and sample the fish caught in the Arabian Sea.

All those who took part in the expedition gained their Explorer Belt badge and certificate after making a presentation.

"The unending kindness of the Omani people meant that we were treated as distinguished guests. We learnt so much about life in Oman and the history of this beautiful country. Our time together culminated in a festival held in our honour. Nearly all the local Scouts came together. We sang and danced well into the night. After the festival was over, we presented the Scout Leader with some gifts as a sign of thanks: some Scout badges so they could remember us and some British tea so they could experience our culture." – Rory, participant



Picos de Europa, Spain

Boggite and Nomad ESU, Watford North/Hertford

The Boggites leaders took a small group of Explorers from the Boggites and Nomad Units to the best mountains in Europe that few have heard of, the Picos de Europa. The mountains are fantastic; predominately limestone, with soaring peaks and high alpine meadows. They are located in northern Spain, just inland from Santander.

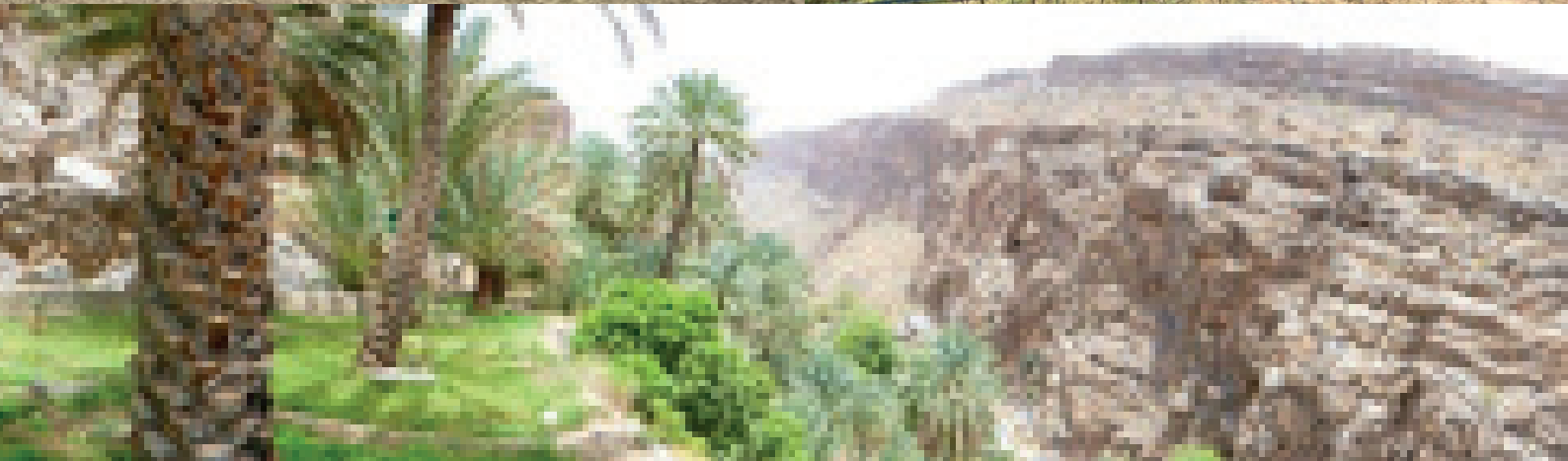
Most of us flew out with Ryanair, who then interestingly decided that they couldn't bring us home; so we ended up being a day late after driving to Toulouse to come home with Easyjet! We also took our trusty van, driving through France with a couple of volunteers and all the kit to enable us to have a comfortable base camp near the small town of Cangis.

We all took part in a day hike which started off with a trip in an underground funicular railway to get up to the alpine village of Bulnes, where we split off to explore the various high alpine valleys. There was also a 2-day hike through the mountains, staying out in a high mountain hut (Refugio de Tenerosa). Other activities included a day canoeing on the river Cangis, horse riding on mountain trails, a day on the beach and the now traditional visit to a local cheese factory!

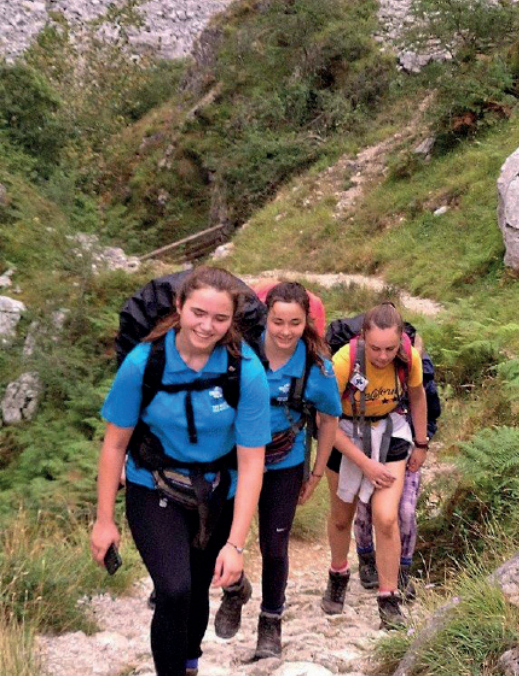
This trip reminded us all that it doesn't have to be a large County expedition, or to somewhere really exotic; just taking a handful of Explorers on a simple trip into Europe can make a Unit's year, and whet the appetite for exploring the world!



Malibeni



Oman
13



Picos de Europa

Scouts Against Malaria

by Richard Bird, Global Support Team

Hertfordshire has raised around £4,000 to support the SAM Project in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) along with a number of Scout counties working in four other central African countries. Malaria remains a serious public health problem in this French-speaking country, despite the implementation of preventive and curative measures. It constitutes the first cause for consultation, hospitalization and death in their health facilities.

Statistics from the National Health Information System reveal that children are the most affected, with 44% of the reasons for consultation; 53% of hospitalizations and 30% of deaths. Malaria is highly endemic throughout Burkina Faso. The northern Sahel region has short seasonal transmission of two to three months and is prone to epidemics, while the central region experiences long seasonal transmission lasting four to six months. Permanent transmission occurs in the southwest with peaks during the rainy season.

The high intensity of malaria transmission positions the disease as the leading cause of illness and mortality in the country, with an estimated 300,000 deaths each year. Whilst malaria is a risk to the entire population, young children and pregnant women are the most susceptible.

Hertfordshire's Global Support Team put together a 'Case of Malaria' resource available to all 18 Scout Districts and our various Activity Centres. Each case contains games, models and activities to use during the weekly meetings and outlines the requirements for gaining the SAM badge for each section. SAM can be borrowed from DCs or District SAM co-ordinators.

We thank our Beaver colonies, Cub packs, Scout troops, Explorer units and Districts right across the County for their support so far. The money raised (and we need a lot more) will be used to buy long-life impregnated bed nets and train Scouts to visit families in the villages and show them how to use the nets effectively.

Look out for our young people wearing the badge.



24th World Scout Jamboree

West Virginia, 2019 - by our participants and leaders

The County is sending 117 Scouts and Explorers to join 45,000 from over 165 countries at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia from 22nd July to 2nd August. The Hertfordshire Scouting and Girlguiding forms three full Units of 36 (plus leaders) and contributes to two other Units which include Scouts from Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex, and Anglia Guides. They have spent much time getting to know each other in order to function well as teams during the Jamboree, and have had much fun in the process, as the accounts below describe from Unit and individual perspectives.

Unit 14, Antares - combined Unit with Hertfordshire Scouts and Guides

Scouts from around the world have been selected for the 24th World Scout Jamboree and we are in Unit 14, also known as Antares. We are looking to representing our County and ourselves on the global stage.

We have had meetings every month since December 2017, each focusing on the different skills we will need for the Jamboree. April saw two back to back meeting days taking in the best Hertfordshire Scouting has to offer. Phasels Wood Activity Centre welcomed us on Saturday for camp skills and then a Scout HQ in Stevenage the next day for some personal development and team building.

In June, volunteers from the Unit attended the Hertfordshire Scouts AGM. We met with lots of dignitaries from across the County and members of the Herts Scouts team and got to tell them about all the exciting things we had been up to.

We went to PACCAR Scout Camp in July for our summer weekend camp. This was a time to catch up as a Unit and have fun. We spent the weekend cooking, playing games and having campfires. This weekend was quite monumental for us as Liz (CST) came to visit with a very exciting delivery of our UK Contingent scarves, badges and Jamboree in a Bag.

We took a trip to Brighton in September by train, did a treasure trail around the fantastic town, saw the sights such as the Pavilion (that looks like the Taj Mahal), took a dip in the sea, played some games in the Pier Arcade and ate fish and chips as one does when visiting the seaside.

The first of three major county-wide events was the Green Beret Challenge, which we attended both as participants and also as providers of not one, but six activity bases! This really helped to strengthen the teamwork within the Unit, as we learned how best to pull together to create a great experience for Scouts, something the Jamboree will be all about.

In Late November, the Unit descended on London to take part in the Herts Scouts Monopoly Run: Bears about Town. We got set up in our teams, planned our routes and then were unleashed on the streets of the capital, all in the name of good fun! This involved lots of running around London, teamwork and making new friends. The aim of the challenge was to compete with other teams and to go to locations around a custom Monopoly board of London. Teams spread out in search of properties to gain them Monopoly 'money', with clues as far afield as Camden and Canary Wharf. The challenge included visiting the Mexican Embassy and secretly meeting the giraffes and zebras from over the fence at London Zoo. We all used our navigational nous to get to the places but that was only half the battle as we then had to answer clues to get the points. The event was a great day to practice for our Big City Experiences in New York and Washington D.C., as we will be planning our own routes and activities to youth-shape the Jamboree experience. As well as this, it gave us another opportunity to practice team-working skills, so crucial to a happy environment at the World's Largest Scouting Event.

Our last meet of 2018 was the Herts Scouts Christmas FEST-ival, held at The Priory School in Hitchin. We did some Samba drumming and looked at our wellbeing before going into activity sessions like indoor caving and fire lighting. We ended the day with a very successful (and tasty!) Christmas dinner, to relax and share experiences with other Units from across the County.

Our first Unit meeting of 2019 was held at Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre in Hitchin. However, as practice for the Jamboree site, we were dropped off deep in the countryside and had to find and hike to the site! The rest of the weekend gave us a chance to relax together, important as during the Jamboree our Unit is our family so we need to feel comfortable with each other. These are relationships that will last a lifetime.

February saw another hiking-based meet, this time from Watford to Phasels Wood, with a parents' meeting included so they could be updated on all the key dates and what kit to buy! When we arrived at Phasels Wood we began to film our Unit video which involved drones, campfires and an awful lot of powder paint... thankfully not all at once! The video was completely organised by members of the Unit, once again showing how youth-shaped this Jamboree is.

March was a major event; the County Jamboree Launch. The 3-day extravaganza included two sets of presentations by the Hertfordshire and combined Units on their personal experiences and offered us the chance to get to know each other even better so that we can all represent Hertfordshire together at the World's largest Scouting festival.

April brought a new meeting at ESSA in Nazeing, where we received our travel itinerary and found out that we were going to Ontario for our Hosted Hospitality, which was greeted with a very positive reception. However, this was only after we had some time rafting, which resulted in all of us taking an unscheduled dip in the lake! Planning for NYC and DC then followed to firm up some of the finer details of our travel.

All of this preparation will soon be put into practice, as we embark on what will be a month to remember. We are looking forward to an adventure of a lifetime and want to thank everyone for their support thus far and in the future. Let's go and "Unlock a New World"!

Unit 15, Psychedelic Squirrels

Unit 15, or the 'Psychedelic Squirrels', come from all over Hertfordshire and over the past year, we have had an amazing time.

We got together in April for the fourth time. There was a brainstorm for our badge design and a quick look at Unit clothing, followed by cooking on cardboard ovens and some time to chat. Afterwards, we went to the local pool and enjoyed underwater pyramids, dives and piggy in the middle.

The next meet was in June; it was a quick Friday evening of bowling so as to not interfere with exams. In July, we received our UK scarves, and spent half an hour trying (and failing) to create paracord woggles before moving on to attempt to create a bridge using just pioneering poles and no rope. There were some more activities, including a wide-game.

There was a rafting session in August and in September it was time for our first Unit camp. It was rather damp, but we had a good time scavenger hunting, blindfolding patrol members and guiding them around trees and raft-building. October was Peak Assault and the Monopoly Run, whilst November was Green Beret and an opportunity to meet up and help out the Scouts.

December saw a hectic weekend with a multi-Unit Christmas party. A few of us turned up on Friday to help set up. The other Hertfordshire Units arrived the next morning, and we spent the day doing activities, including laser tag, baking and craft. The day was rounded off by a Christmas dinner in formal dress (including something American themed), a movie and a party. There was a Disney quiz, resulting in far too much karaoke for anyone's liking, and a disco. We all left the weekend with fantastic memories, photos and the promise to meet up with new friends at the March Launch Weekend.

In January, we had a short day meet where we learnt our patrols. Any missing patrol members were replaced by balloons with their names on, and sadly that did result in the loss of many members that day, including Josh 1.0 through to 5.0, and so a mini balloon graveyard was made! We wrote some thank you notes to anyone who had bought our golden badges, and finally decided on our Unit clothing designs.

The February weekend was an opportunity for some patrol bonding and general fun/chaos. We played what quickly became our new favourite wide-game, which involved the leaders throwing glowsticks all over the school and three patrols collecting them and taking them to the safe zone, all the while being hunted by the fourth patrol.

March was the Launch Weekend. There was a campfire on the Friday night, then on Saturday there were presentations from each Unit to visitors from across the counties and the Scouting movement. There were also stalls set up with information and fun activities. There were two campfires on the Saturday night where we found friends from the December party and made some new ones.

In April, we learnt about our Hosted Hospitality (in Canada) and had an A-Z on safety, which included some interesting talks on hydration and the buddy system. However, the most exciting part of the day was being given our Unit kit, UKC bags and hats, and some unexpectedly funky psychedelic cutlery. One of our leaders created an awesome QR system so that people could 'hunt' all of us 'Squirrels' whilst on Jamboree, which we tested, followed by a parents' meeting.

This camp was given entirely over to the four Unit Patrol Leaders to organise, which was a little daunting, but successful. We spent Friday night playing manhunt with glowsticks and planned in a nice late start for the Saturday. We set off by 11am and had around a hike in patrols to Watford, where we all regrouped to eat lunch in the park. Throughout the day each patrol was set a photo scavenger hunt, including 'Sabotage Points' where patrols could gain points for spotting other patrols whilst we were all out. There was an Easter egg hunt that night, plus an educational talk from the leaders on how to organise a balanced meal to help us plan meals during Jamboree.

We now only have two meets left before we all leave for America and, needless to say, lasting friendships have formed. Each camp is a fantastic opportunity to catch up with one another (although we are talking daily online, and have created a group chat with 100 members from across all the Herts Units). The excitement for the main event is growing stronger with each day we count down, and it is definitely one of the most exciting opportunities we have ever had the

Unit 16, Wapiti

As a Unit we have had an amazing time planning our journey to the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia.

We have gained confidence and skills, and most of us have grown a few inches – a shame this doesn't include the leaders. The whole experience has pushed us out of our comfort zones and helped us to gain independence and the ability to stand on our own two feet. We have made new friendships, not just within our own Unit, but with the other Units across Hertfordshire, especially by sharing experiences at some of our excellent combined activities.

We have hiked around Ivinghoe Beacon, camped at Lees Wood, Phasels Wood and Tolmer and picnicked, and barbecued with the parents. After the summer break we had an evening at Harmergreen Wood, then took to the water in Hatfield Pool for an Inflatable fun session to prepare ourselves for some of the activities on offer at the Jamboree.

We all attended the Christmas festival in Hitchin, which gave us a wonderful opportunity to meet friends old and new on the Herts Jamboree team. In January we attended the Harpenden Gang Show in support of four of the Unit who were taking part – the show was an outstanding advert for the skills and talents of several of those participating.

We held a parents' information update at the Canyon in Stevenage, which gave everyone the chance to swap stories, exchange fundraising ideas and understand the complexities facing the Leaders and Contingent Teams when planning for the Jamboree.

Two teams entered the Monopoly Run in February, managing to navigate around London without getting too lost, but gaining blisters and sore feet in the process. This will stand them in good stead for the U.S. big city experiences to come. Fundraising has taken place individually and as small Unit and District teams, and has raised the profile of Scouting in and around Hertfordshire. The Unit was very lucky to have a fantastic fundraiser organised by some of the parents, that involved the leaders and parents enjoying a wine and cheese tasting competition. The Unit has developed a great sense of fun and adventure; members have gelled together really well and are becoming firm friends.

We plan to embrace every opportunity at the Jamboree to grow and make even more friends from different cultures and countries. From our many, varied, Unit meets we now feel like a real family. Just like our namesake the Wapiti, an elk found in the USA and Canada and a cousin of the European red deer, we are now a herd. We cannot wait to see what adventures are coming next and we plan to enjoy every single second of this experience.

Unit 17, Busby Bears - combined Unit with Cambridgeshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Scouts and Anglia Guides

The Busby Bears is a Jamboree Unit comprising Scouts from Hertfordshire, Essex and Cambridgeshire, and Anglia Guides. The start of February had us meeting up at Thriftwood Scout Campsite & Activity Centre in Brentwood, Essex. This camp was all about gaining some much-needed first aid skills as well as learning how to get around as a patrol in a big city. Two patrols headed into London and had some fun completing a Monopoly Challenge, while the other two patrols remained on site to learn some emergency aid. In London, members of one of the patrols used their initiative and jumped on some hire bikes to get around a bit quicker. On Sunday, the two patrols swapped and now everyone is ready for the Jamboree site, and well as New York and Washington DC. We also had our new leader, Jade, join us.

The Hertfordshire patrol attended the Jamboree Launch weekend in March, and to trial the Jamboree experience we were welcomed to camp with Unit 16. This weekend it was clear how far these Units in Hertfordshire had come, and the bonds were obvious. We were invited to dine with other Units, swapping a patrol and becoming a guest of another Unit, which was great fun. It has given us a good feeling for what to expect when we do the same in West Virginia.

Our kit then arrived and we picked up our bags and new uniforms. This was the line in the sand that we had all been waiting for, and started to make things a bit real. The countdown had started. Our leaders attended the last Unit Leader weekend and dropped off our additional kit bags to be delivered to site. They also received our home hospitality host details, and we now know we are going to meet up with 101st Ottawa. They have a lot planned for us, and even intend to meet up with other Units and Groups in Ottawa to have a joint campfire.

We now only have one camp to go before we leave. This is the last checkpoint, where we will act like we are off. Bags are going to be checked, weighed and personalised. Any last training that we are missing is going to be given. We are especially looking forward to giving the 'bear' training.

It's getting close: two years of preparation and hard work all coming together. To say we are all excited would be an understatement.

We plan to embrace every moment at the Jamboree: making friends, understanding differences and similarities, and creating connections we will have for life.

Unit 51, Swans and Stags - combined Unit with Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire Scouts

My name is Kit and I'm 14 years old. When I went to my Jamboree selection weekend, I was full of nervous excitement. Most people around me were a lot older than me as I am in the youngest possible year group to attend Jamboree.

Despite this, after meeting my Unit for the first time, I felt that they were all just like me and we all bonded quickly. Each Unit camp has been good fun, even though remembering everyone's names was a nightmare! Although at these camps we have done lots of training for Jamboree, I am still a little apprehensive about what's to come (after all, 3 weeks is a long time to be away from your family in a different country) but I know that I will have my new friends around to support me along the way.

My hope for the Jamboree is that I will meet many different people from many different cultures and learn from everyone around me....and of course have lots of fun. After the Jamboree, I'd love to stay in touch with some of the people I have met; if I can do that, I'd be very happy. I believe the Jamboree will be an experience that I will always remember. I can't wait to set off.





Capital Appeal

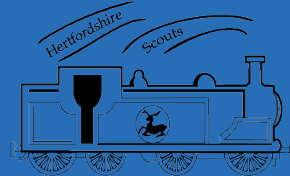
by Roger Sands, Appeal Director

Since its inception, Lottery proceeds have been mounting up, enabling us to support Scouting in Hertfordshire. We are delighted that the sum of £35,000 has now been used towards the excellent refurbishments at Harmergreen Wood. This means that our “back to basics” camping area is back in full use under the local management of the Tolmers team. We are also currently raising funds towards refurbishments at Well End, now managed by the Phasels Wood team. Things are really looking up there too!

As well as the funds used to support our Activity Centres, around £2,000 each year has been shared with participating Scout Groups. If anyone wants to know how their Group can raise funds from our Lottery, we are always happy to let you know how to take part. Alternatively, information is available on the website or in our new-look leaflets.



PHASELS WOOD



LOCHEARNHEAD SCOUT STATION

TOLMERS



SCOUT CAMP & ACTIVITY CENTRE



Activity Centres

Our Activity Centres continue to deliver adventure for both our members and young people across the wider community, allowing them to gain a taste of all that Scouting has to offer. We continue to look for creative ways to support our volunteers, through training, events and by making our Centres as accessible as possible for Hertfordshire Scouts and others seeking adventurous activities in a safe and secure environment. Following a recent restructure of our operations, the Managers of Tolmers Scout Camp & Activity Centre and Phasels Wood Activity Centre have taken responsibility for operational management of Harmergreen Wood and Well End Activity Centre respectively.

Both Tolmers and Phasels Wood continue to grow, with Phasels Wood hosting another 'Activity Spectacular' in September and Tolmers being joined by many hardy campers at 'Fire & Ice' in January, delivering a great 'Come To Tolmers' (CTT) summer camping fortnight and finishing the year hosting another fantastic 'Green Beret Challenge' competition. Throughout the year, improvements to our facilities and equipment have been made at both sites.

At Well End, we are focussing on creating a great space for Beavers and Cubs to enjoy being outdoors, along with building partnerships with the local community. With completion of the lease negotiations at Harmergreen Wood, our 'Back to Basics' Centre, we have embarked upon a major overhaul of the facilities, including the refurbishment of Stag Cottage – supported by the generosity of those who play our County Lottery.

Lochearnhead is managed by a volunteer 'Station Manager', with support from a Management Committee. The Station continues to be a base for both our mountaineering courses and District summer expeditions, with some exciting future plans being developed by the volunteer management team.

Queen's Scout Award

by Sheena Burrus, QSA Co-ordinator

This year, seven 16 – 25 year olds reached Scouting's pinnacle of achievement by gaining their Queen's Scout Award. Several of them also completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award alongside. There were some amazing activities carried out, learning new skills, trying new physical challenges along with the opportunity of meeting new people in their residential experiences. Expeditions are also one of the biggest challenges, with participants travelling all over the UK into unknown areas and camping out in the wild. The biggest highlight for me is to be able to attend their Award presentation and hear all about the adventures our young people have experienced along their journey working towards this prestigious award.

We recently hosted our annual Awards Dinner at Gilwell Park, this year with 32 guests. A fantastic meal was served and guests were treated to a truly inspirational and entertaining speech from Robert Scott (Hertfordshire Constabulary). Robert emphasised how the Awards can help any young person overcome personal challenges and use what they have learnt to go on to do bigger and better things. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this.

Our Awardees took part in the Annual St George's Day Celebration held at Windsor, where they had a great day meeting Queen's Scouts from all over the Country along with Bear Grylls and members of the Royal Family.

I would once more like to say a huge congratulations to you all and thank you for sharing your experiences.

Queen's Scout Award recipients 2018:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Darcia Au | Hertford |
| Peter Errington | St Albans |
| Alexander Hawkins | Letchworth & Baldock |
| Catherine McInnes | Hertfordshire ASU |
| Marc Redman | North Watford |
| Alderney Smith | Royston |
| Charlotte Stromberg | Watford South |



History and Heritage

by Frank Brittain, County Archivist and Historian

Soon after the last County AGM the Heritage Team visited an Antiques Roadshow filming at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire where we took some items of interest for valuation. These included the book *The Star of Youth*, the restored brief case that had previously belonged to Baden-Powell, the Well End Visitors' Book and the vase from New Zealand that was given to Hertfordshire by B-P during his visit to Well End in 1933. The Roadshow's specialist showed a significant interest in the items.

Soon after this we were invited to a Rover Crew reunion in Yorkshire where Michael Baden-Powell is the Patron and had come over to visit and dedicate their new flag. Michael is a frequent visitor to the UK from Australia and also visited his brother (the current Lord) during the trip. Later in the year at the Gilwell Reunion, County Archivist Frank Brittain, was fully invested as a Rover Scout in the presence of many other Rover Scouts from all over the UK. Also present were Imogen Baden-Powell and Gill Clay both related directly to B-P.

A considerable amount of time was spent during the year preparing for a unique event to mark the 111th anniversary of the first Boy Scout in Hertfordshire to make the Scout Promise. His name was Alan Emery. The event took place on the anniversary of the Promise being made, 1 March 2019. Due to restrictions, it was only possible to invite a maximum of 60 people. These included members of Alan's family, former fellow Scouts and volunteers and members of the local Council who helped to make the event possible. The plaque shown was unveiled on the front of Alan's house in Watford where he made his Promise.

Several exhibitions and talks were held around Hertfordshire by the County Heritage Team. We continued the theme of "What the Scouts of Hertfordshire did in WWI". These included talks to Scout Active Support Units, historical societies and other kindred organisations. We were also asked to participate in the well-organised "Back to the Front" sessions masterminded by Roger Yapp (the project's leader). These were in the Bedmond, Abbots Langley, Hunton Bridge, Langleybury and Leavesden areas. This research took years to come to fruition and it was a privilege to experience the results.

The team was invited to put on a display of previous World Scout Jamborees at the meeting of the combined Hertfordshire Units for the 2019 Jamboree, including those from Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Girlguiding. This was held at Phasels Wood Activity Centre on 23rd March. The event was organised by volunteers from across Hertfordshire Scouting and Girlguiding. This was another well-organised event covering two days, firstly for local dignitaries and Scouting members and then with the participants' family, friends and supporters. The Jamboree participants were able to demonstrate their plans and talk about their journey so far. Our display of previous Jamborees included the first in 1920 at Olympia, 1929 at Birkenhead, 1957 at Sutton Coldfield and the most recent in 2015 in Japan.





Chairman's Report

by Mike Shurety, County Chairman

'Skills for Life' is a winner for everyone.

These days, it seems there are more and more demands made upon us, which makes the little spare time we have even more precious. We need, therefore, to be very careful how and where we choose to spend this valuable free time. The years I have spent as County Chairman have shown me that time invested in Hertfordshire Scouts is both well spent and extremely rewarding. The fun, the fellowship, the core values we all hold so dear and watching our young people grow in skills and confidence are just a few of the reasons that make it so worthwhile.

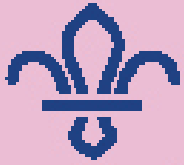
I am clearly not alone in holding this view as the number of young people on our County waiting list has, somewhat alarmingly, increased from 2,695 last year to 3,402. Whilst this no doubt illustrates the desire of young people to join and the confidence of their parents in the Scouting Movement, it presents us with a considerable challenge. The decrease in adult numbers in leadership roles, reported elsewhere in this Review, does not help and more volunteers are desperately needed if we are to achieve any significant reductions in those numbers waiting to join. The key solution to this challenge is the recruitment of additional adult volunteers.

In May 2018, The Scouts launched its 2018 to 2023 Strategy, which placed the focus on providing our young people with 'skills for life'. In reality, this is something that has always been one of our core objectives but putting greater emphasis on 'skills for life' seems to have resonated positively both within our organisation and in non-Scouting communities. There is now a far greater awareness that, through Scouting, young people accumulate skills for life, as well as desirable employability skills that they will carry into adulthood and thus helping them to succeed. It has been a great success – but acquiring new transferable skills applies just as equally to adult volunteers.

Encouraging our young people to get their first taste of leadership, through the Young Leaders' Scheme, is very important and will assist in their continuous development. We also need to look outside the organisation and convince more people that investing their valuable spare time in Hertfordshire Scouts is worthwhile. Working alongside our existing volunteers, and possibly undertaking some of our training modules, will benefit them just as much as our youth membership. If we can encourage more people to join as adult volunteers, then they will undoubtedly be rewarded with new skills, new friends, new experiences and an amazing sense of achievement. We will also be able to make positive inroads into our overly long waiting lists and deliver the Scouting experience to even more young people.

Please try to and persuade your friends and acquaintances to give us some of their precious spare time. Clearly everyone wins!

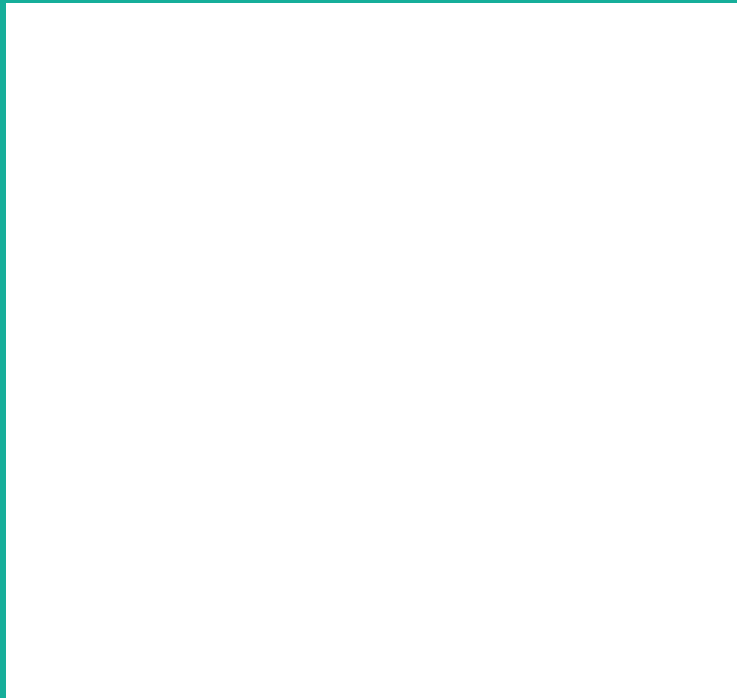




Scouts

Hertfordshire

**Thank you to
every one of our
volunteers in
Hertfordshire**



#skillsforlife