

County Review 2021/2022

This was prepared for the AGM which was before the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, but due to logistical problems is only just being distributed.



Scouts
Hertfordshire



Contents

County Commissioner	2-3
Member Statistics	4-5
YouShape	6-7
4-14 Years	8-9
14-25 Years	10
International Matters	11-14
Jamboree	15
Unit 22	16-18
Unit 23	19
Unit 24	20-22
The Queen's Jubilee and Queen's Scout Awards	23
Activity Centres	24
County Chairman	25

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

Telephone: 0208 236 0040

Email: info@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

Registered Charity in England and Wales: 302606, Scotland 039650

www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

County Review 2021/22: 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 Liz Walker

I said at the end of my piece in last year's Review that, when the time came to write this one, we will have had a lot to look back on as well as how we adapted and still made Scouting happen.

How true that turned out to be. Nobody could have thought that we'd still be juggling challenges and overcoming hurdles that are strewn across our various paths; however, the amazing thing is that we have continued to grow and continued to be resilient. That is a testament to the amazing people throughout Hertfordshire Scouts and beyond who continue to deliver amazing things for our young people. It's testament too to the things Scouting gives us, as adults, to keep going. It's certainly been the one constant for which I'm grateful and our values which I hold close.

The great thing is, we are coming back strongly with more and more young people wanting to experience Skills for Life and the great adventure that is Scouting. This means that they can, with the support of amazing adults, do more, learn more and be more.

It's brilliant to see, right across Hertfordshire, that our young people have been out and about. Almost nothing stopped them having fun, having adventure and making things happen. It's been a joy to hear young people enjoying themselves at our Activity Centres, at meeting places and out and about in the community.

There is much to report, with every District across the County doing amazing things for young people. There have been camps and hikes, games and cooking, quizzes and pioneering and so much more in between. Every week – whether in lockdown or now we're back together – fantastic activities are happening and it's brilliant to see.

All the things that have been done have not happened without challenges and I'm in debt to our tireless County Executive, our staff at activity centres and every single volunteer in countless capacities all over the Hertfordshire. The teams have proven dynamic and flexible and dealt with whatever has been thrown at us. Whatever we've done we've tackled it and focused on our North Star, our young people. It's for them that we are here, and we have that in our sights always.

If you are already a volunteer with Scouts, thank you. Thank you for what you do and how you do it. You make a massive difference in the lives of young people.

If you are not already a volunteer with us, I commend you to give it a go. Volunteering is not just about giving back, it improves wellbeing, gives skills for the future and helps you make new friends and memories. Whether you can help week-after-week or whenever you can, we provide training, learning opportunities and countless cups of coffee and tea! You too will make a massive difference in the lives of young people – and right now they need whatever we can do together to enable them to keep developing and enjoying Skills for Life.

17,508 Members



*1.19% of Members self identify/prefer not to say

Young People

	2021	2022	Growth	Boys	Girls	Not Stated
Squirrels		17		12	5	
Beavers	2704	3402	+20.5%	2593	729	80
Cubs	4004	4351	+8%	3393	912	46
Scouts	3708	3893	+5%	2829	1032	32
Explorers	1278	1350	+6%	872	466	12
Network	318	348	+9%	217	131	
Total	12,012	13,361	+11.2%	9916	3275	170

Adults

Young people are amazing. It's our role to help them realise this.




4,495 inspiring adults teaching #SkillsForLife

■ 1,958 - Female ■ 2,498 - Male ■ 39 - Prefer not to say

Youth Awards

	Chief Scout's Award Bronze	572
	Chief Scout's Award Silver	498
	Chief Scout's Award Gold	313
	Chief Scout's Award Platinum	37
	Chief Scout's Award Diamond	1
	Queen's Scout Award	7
	Young Leaders' Belt Buckle	14
	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze	59
	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver	7
	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold	6
	Scout of the World Award	1

Adult Awards

	Bar to Silver Acorn	7
	Silver Acorn	8
	Bar to Award for Merit	14
	Award for Merit	36
	Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service	99
	Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct	7

#YOUSHAPE REPORT



YouShape Scouting in Hertfordshire!

YouShape Scouting has been a major part of Scouting since day one! The way it has looked has changed over the years but the principle is still the same - ensuring that your people can shape and lead their Scouting experience!

With the introduction of Youth Commissioners over the last few years the uptake has varied, with 6 out of 18 Districts having a district Youth Commissioner (DYC) in place. In December 2021 the Hertfordshire Scouts appointed the first County Youth Commissioner.

Changes are coming in the next few years the role of the Youth Commissioner to champion and embed change will be vital to make sure that young people are supported and reassured throughout this, resulting in the recruitment of the district Youth Commissioner being one of my priorities going forward.

The launch of the YouShape award in 2021 was an extremely exciting time for the movement, to support adult volunteers the Youth Commissioners across Hertfordshire are in the middle of creating extra resources, presentations, and workshops that will be hosted on our webpage which is coming soon.

**You Shape Scouting
Hertfordshire**

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Celebrations**

Trooping of the Colours

Young people vote with their feet - so we want to hear what they have to say! So we will be hosting a youth forum for Scouts and Explorers in the coming months. While tagging onto events that already happening for the younger Sections! As Network is slightly different I am supporting ADC Network to run some online feedback sessions.

Having met with young people across the county over the last few months, it is clear that the YouShape award is a big part of many programmes across the county.

To keep the momentum going we are looking for YouShape Champions for young people & adult volunteers to share their experience while doing/ supporting someone undertaking the award.

We also want to make sure that everyone who has completed the award gets their certificate, so please share the form below and we will do our best to get it out to the young person!
<https://forms.office.com/r/JA1Qb7FVU9>



Hertfordshire's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Evensong Celebration!

It was a very exciting time with the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. We were given the opportunity to have two young people be part of the colour party which was made up of young from different youth organisations around the County.

Harrison Law, a member of Mid Herts Hive and Jonathon Keevash from Cereberus Network who both also volunteer with 3rd Hatfield Air Scouts were amazing, being extremely professional doing their Section, Group, and County extremely proud! Even managing to get a photo with our President, the Lord Left Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.

Trooping of the Colours!

14 Cubs and 2 Network members from all across the County represented Hertfordshire at the Colonel Review 2022 in London! They had an amazing time watching the soldiers and horses on parade. While patiently waiting they played Scouts Top Trumps while making friends with Cubs they had never met before! There was great excitement when they spotted Prince William on the way out, coming away with memories of being part of the celebrations, photos to remember, and a program to learn more about Trooping of the Colours!



4-14 Years

Squirrels

2021 saw the opening of the first Dreys in Hertfordshire. At the time of the census (30th January 2022) 1 Drey was active, more have now opened and next year we will be reporting on their activities.

Beavers

Beavers have been active over the last year, but online. We had a fantastic weekend "Beavers in Space" with nearly 1500 participants. We were lucky to be joined by a variety of experts who helped to make the whole event happen with so much enjoyment. The activities included building Lego models of aliens and spaceships; drawing cartoon aliens; having a space talk from the Leicester Space Centre; Hertfordshire Astronomical Society with live telescopes and star maps; cooking their evening meal with a chef; having a live link to a campfire from a campsite; Born to Move from Les Mills; "The Boy who Sneezed to Space" book read to them by the author and a selection of Family Challenges on the Sunday morning. The day was live on Zoom, with parents commenting on the Facebook page. The day was fantastic success and thank you to all Leaders who helped on the core team to make it go so smoothly.

As we moved towards the end of the month we had three chances for Beavers to sleep outside for a night in Tents, at "Beavers in Tents". Two of these happened at Well End Campsite and the other at Wymondley Wood Campsite. We had numbers coming in thick and fast with one weekend having only three spaces left. Thank you very much to the County Beaver Team and all those who have helped spread the news of the events that are happening across the County.

Cubs

Last year Cyclocross and Bushcraft Day returned as face to face events. There are many plans ahead and so we need volunteers for the County Cub Team and the planning team for the Ccounty Cub Camp in 2024.

Scouts

Troops across the County have now largely returned to Face to Face Scouting and we have seen a slow improvement in membership numbers, something we can only hope will continue. Later in 2022 we hope to see the return of Green Beret, a day and night competition for teams of 6 Scouts. Next year we should have more to report!

14-25

Explorers

There was a gradual return post pandemic, with Unit meetings restarting face to face but no major events. As more 'normal' conditions return, Units are widening their outlook and plans are underway for events to return in 2022.

Network

We thought it a good idea to kick start our Networks after the pandemic with some in-house training for the District Scout Network Commissioner (DSNCs). It was given the catchy title of the 'Network MOT' and with the support of Geoff Angell a series of sessions were delivered over the course of the winter. We have never delivered such a wealth of knowledge to DSNCs before, and I know those who attended came away with great advice for their Networks.

Building on the success of lockdown's Virtual Network Winter Walking Week we ran the week-long event again in the spring, asking Network members to go for a walk every day for one week and document their travels. Of course we threw in some 'Scouty' and not so 'Scouty' tasks for them to complete on their walk to keep things interesting. The week rounded off with a joint group walk, something we were not previously able to do, getting everyone together from across the County. A fantastic week of walking was had by everyone and some brilliant photos and stories were shared.

Lastly, Alex Hawkins became the first Scout in Hertfordshire to complete and be awarded the Scouts of the World Award (SOWA). The SOWA is a badge only available to Network members. The badge was awarded at a presentation in Knebworth Park where we planted a tree to mark the occasion, which fitted in nicely with Alex's theme for the award which was sustainable development. In attendance were family and Scouting friends from across the County. A huge well done to Alex, and we hope this is the start of many more SOWAs to come.

Now the Networks are all back doing what they do best: meeting up together, gaining top awards and shaping their own Scouting future as only they know best!

International Matters



International

Peter Makewell, ACC International

International Scouting has been very much on hold throughout the last two years and now when organising trips for the future we must include allowances for Covid in all our plans. Going forward there should be four trips abroad that went ahead in Summer 2022 and looking forward, with the next Jamboree taking place in 2023 we should have a bumper summer of trips abroad in 2023.

Scouts Against Malaria

One of the consequences of putting vast resources into the fight against Covid 19 has been a dramatic increase in the number of cases of malaria throughout the World. By diverting the medical staff to fight the Coronavirus, many prevention campaigns have not taken place and it is reflected in the case numbers. Below is some input from 1st St Albans who have been supporting the campaign.

The journey so far...

During COVID 1st St Albans connected with a Group in Tamale (N Ghana) for an online session; they taught each other games, and asked each other questions. To continue the theme we cooked Jollof Rice on our campfire (a Ghanaian staple) – they had suggested a type of large rat they normally hunt and cook on camp!

Following an email from Scouts Against Malaria asking for donations we set each Cub a target of raising £10 each over the holidays. They actually raised £1600 in 2 weeks which meant we could buy 350 nets.

Via Scouts Against Malaira (SAM) and the Chief Commissioner of Ghana Scouts we got the money directly to those who could buy and distribute the nets. Before distribution, the Tamale Scouts received training from a nurse about malaria and they chose four communities who don't have close access to any health care facilities. Prior to this the Tamale Scouts had had no contact or support from the Ghana Scout Association, and so this was a major change and as a direct result of the net distribution they have invested 17 new Cubs to their Pack from remote villages (where literacy rates and opportunities are very low).

1st St Albans had a visit from the Scouts Against Malaria Commissioner who gave us a talk on malaria, and presented each of the Cubs with a certificate and SAM badge for their efforts.

Many of our Cubs are now penpals with Cubs from Tamale and are sharing letters, experiences and gifts.

Muraka Kudhin – Coral reef restoration project in the Maldives

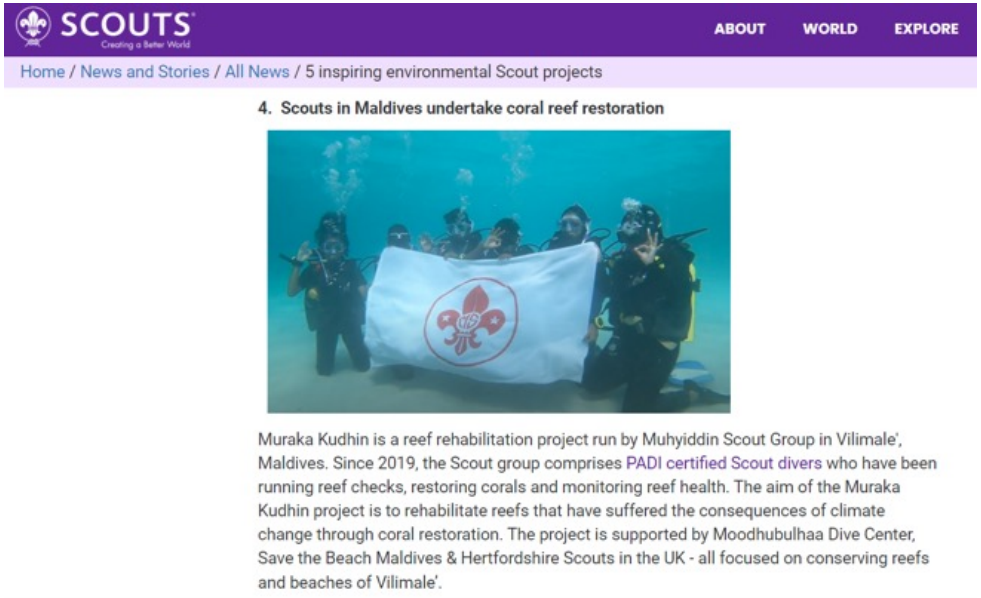
By Michael Worthy

Hertfordshire Scouts' are continuing to support this exciting environmental project in association with 18th Malé Scout Group to assist in reef rehabilitation and restoration in the region. The project is entitled "Muraka Kudhin" (meaning coral and youth in the local language) and will allow Scouts to learn about coral propagation and set up reef monitoring and maintenance of a new coral nursery. It is aligned with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) – Life Below Water, and can be shared back to Scout Groups in Hertfordshire as a great opportunity for sections wishing to work towards their Environmental Conservation activity badges and World Challenge Awards. The coastal environment management and conservation of Maldives is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal 14 Life Below Water. With the support from our partners, 18th Malé Scout Group Scouts wish to promote the role of reef health and resilient islands to mitigate impacts from natural as well as man-made disasters.

So far Scouts have learnt the basics of scuba diving and constructed frames for propagating fragments of corals. The project will carry out monitoring of the corals and collect data such as growth rate as well as identifying the sealife that inhabits the corals. Coral reefs are projected to decline by 70-90% at global temperature rises of 1.5°C with larger losses greater than 90% projected at 2°C. Hertfordshire Scouts have provided equipment to help with the monitoring progress.



Excitingly, the project has been identified by WOSM as one of five inspiring environmental Scout projects - <https://www.scout.org/5-environmental-scout-projects>.



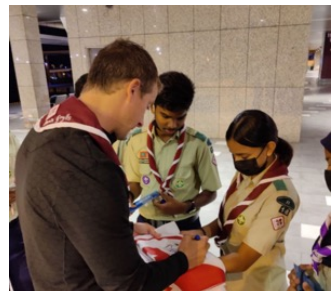
The screenshot shows a purple header with the Scouts logo and the tagline 'Creating a Better World'. Navigation links for 'ABOUT', 'WORLD', and 'EXPLORE' are visible. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home / News and Stories / All News / 5 inspiring environmental Scout projects'. The main heading is '4. Scouts in Maldives undertake coral reef restoration'. Below this is an underwater photograph of several divers holding a white flag with the Scouts logo. A text block below the photo describes the 'Muraka Kudhin' reef rehabilitation project in Vilimale, Maldives, run by the Muhyiddin Scout Group. It mentions that since 2019, the group consists of PADI certified Scout divers who perform reef checks, restore corals, and monitor reef health. The project aims to rehabilitate reefs affected by climate change and is supported by the Moodhubulhaa Dive Center, Save the Beach Maldives, and Hertfordshire Scouts in the UK.

The project has been featured on ABC News and has had interest from local embassies and consulates. The Scouts were also able to tell Bear Grylls all about the project when he was visiting the islands.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE ACC INTERNATIONAL

I am very grateful to all the Leaders who continue to organise international expeditions even though things are much more difficult at present. It has long been my belief that international scouting is one of our best recruitment and retention tools, as well as promoting understanding of different cultures and ways of life and making our members better World Citizens. I look forward to expedition numbers bouncing back to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

Peter Makewell



Jamboree 2023

Following selection weekends held across the County Hertfordshire Scouts successfully filled 3 Units with both Leader and Young People.

Unit 22, The Quackers, are holding regular meetings and camps, getting to know each other and making inroads into their fund raising targets. They are busy formulating plans for both events pre Jamboree and for their time in Korea.

Unit 23, The Rocketmen, are also holding get togethers, took part in the Scout's London Monopoly run and have completed a hike from Gilwell to Korea (well, the Embassy but it counts!) as a fundraiser.

Unit 24, Altair, have followed a similar pattern, get to know each other meets, have tried some Korean food and worked hard to come up with a Unit name. They have also been hiking, the leaders making the participants aware that 10,000 steps per day is nothing when at Jamboree.

IST – 33 adults, Leaders and Network from across the County have been successful in gaining places in the International Service Team and will be part of the International team supporting the whole event. Pre event they will support the Units in their preparations

UNIT 22 - Journey Review

So far on our Jamboree Journey we have met every month since January. Our first two meetings focussed heavily on ice breaking, team building and rather a lot of name learning! At our first meeting (despite some curveballs thrown to us by Covid!) we all managed to spend at least one minute talking to every other member of Unit 22, as part of our 'speed meeting' session, as well as having plenty more time through the day to settle in around some problem-solving tasks and team challenges. We rounded off the day with a quiz, with Dave snagging the win via Zoom with only one point between him and the team in second place! We continued building on our team working skills, as well as trying some exciting activities in our February meeting where Unit 22 enjoyed both some axe throwing and orienteering at 2nd/7th Welwyn Garden City's HQ and nearby Stanborough Lakes.

As a Unit we were keen to start working on our identity and branding early on in our journey. Our Unit members had several sessions across our first 2 meetings to come up with proposed Unit names, badges and hoodie designs. Following two rounds of voting they managed to whittle down from a whole host of options to their final choice, which was revealed to the Unit members at our March camp. Having been assigned number 22 there was one standout direction to take our Unit identity in, so we are Unit 22 – The Quackers!

March saw us complete our first Unit camp together. We started off at 1st Redbourn for our first night and hiked over to relatively nearby 1st Kings Langley for our second night. At Redbourn we enjoyed quite a few memorable moments together; namely, our first campfire, receiving our UK Contingent neckers around the fire, our first group cooked meal (a full English breakfast no less!) and our first night away together! We set off in the morning with each Quacker carrying all their own kit for the roughly 8-mile journey down to Kings Langley. Despite some cold weather and patchy rain we all made it, and arrived only an hour or so after expected. We'll blame the delay on an extended lunch break!



After some time to chill out and a short spontaneous dance session after our hike, the Quackers split off into Patrols to cook our evening meal, in a format similar to that of a Jamboree site. We enjoyed a quick spaghetti refuel and then settled in for the evening, deciding via a quick show of hands that we'd prefer to sleep indoors than re-pitch our tents! The evening consisted of a few big reveals to our Unit members, following their final round of voting; our Unit name, The Quackers, our badge design, and our 'big city' visit location, Seoul. On Sunday morning we had sessions on getting the word out about the Jamboree and how to describe it to people who we might come across during our fundraising, who know nothing about Scouts. We also discussed how we plan to support each other on our journey to Korea, as well as some dreams, goals and expectations for when we're out there.

Over the Easter weekend in April, we ran an Easter Egg Hunt fundraiser to start the ball rolling with our Unit fundraising. We ran the 2-day event alongside 1st Redbourn who were also fundraising, for a defibrillator for the village. We ran long and short egg hunt courses, a BBQ, a raffle, hook a duck, soak a Scout, beat the goalie, a colouring competition, and cooked s'mores. We all enjoyed the sunny weather and raised around £800 towards our Unit fundraising that will go towards our training events, Unit merchandise and our Unit's adventures out in Korea!

Our May meet was our second Unit camp, this time at Rickmansworth and Chorleywood District Campsite. We spent the Saturday building shelters for the night and enjoying a BBQ dinner, before enjoying some downtime to catch up with each other. In the evening we headed off to a fundraiser for one of our Ducks, to watch a band play and dance the night away! Sunday saw us walking down to Batchworth Sea Scouts HQ and heading out on the canal in kayaks, canoes and a dragon boat. We all got a bit of a soaking, either from the rain or from an accidental yet refreshing dip in the water!

We have discussed our goals, hopes and dreams for our Jamboree Journey and for out in Korea too. Our Unit members are looking forward to continuing to get to know each other and travelling the furthest they ever have from home after a few years of being unable to be in large groups, go to camp or travel abroad. On-site they are hoping to try lots of new foods from across the globe, looking forward to meeting the challenge of communicating with people while speaking no common language, and swapping badges and scarves with new-found friends. They also hope to be able to make the most of their time in Seoul, visiting plenty of attractions and cultural sites throughout their time in the capital.

We are currently looking forward to the Herts Jamboree Bonanza, a summer fete style event that all 3 Hertfordshire Units are co-hosting on the 17th July up at Tolmers Activity Centre. We will be running a range of fun stalls and adventurous activities to continue to support our fundraising efforts. The event will be open to all Groups within the County and we hope to be able to showcase what each Unit has been up to so far, meet Young People from all sections of Hertfordshire Scouting and help them to understand and get excited about international Scouting. We hope this will be a great way to help others get a feel for the Jamboree atmosphere and engage Young People, Parents and Leaders alike in County events and our journey to Korea – we hope to see you there!



We are Unit 23 – the ROCKETMEN. Can you believe that our journey to the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea is already a third of the way through and what a journey it is turning out to be. Please read what the unit has done so far, with comments from the young people themselves.

UNIT 23



25th January: The Beginning

It was scary to be meeting so many new people that I would be sharing this journey with, but they ended up being incredibly friendly. We spent the day doing some team building exercises,

liberated (recycled) a discarded Frisbee from a tree and had a fantastic lunch around a lake!

I can't wait to see what the next 18 months will be like!



26th February: Boardgame Camp

Camp was crazy. We had a table of cakes, and treats that kept us going till 2am and then a mountain of pancakes for breakfast! All this energy really helped us bond. We found out that Irish

snap gets really competitive, that you can kind of join two monopoly boards together, but above all there is a huge rivalry between people who fry and oven cook chips!



5th March: Monopoly Run

After playing normal monopoly last camp, we now had a chance to play it in real life! Seeing 5,000 other scouts there was great, and the last-minute dash to buy the Tate modern could be made

into a movie.

OK, I might have to admit that someone may have got lost somewhere in Hamleys but I swear it didn't take that long to find them.



UNIT 24 - Part 1

Welcome to Unit 24, otherwise known as ALTAIR...

As one of three units in the Hertfordshire Contingent heading to South Korea for the 25th World Scout Jamboree, Altair Unit has been taking its first steps towards to the experience of a lifetime.

The majority of the Unit along with our leader team, met for the first time at a Scout hut in North Watford in Jan 2022.... fortunately a significant number of the Unit were able to attend considering that we were still in uncertain times with the pandemic, however at the last minute unfortunately one of the young people and one of leaders tested positive with Covid so it was a case of bringing in the technology to try to keep everyone involved.... The contingency plan kicked in as we expected this may be the case for the longer term and we wanted to ensure we could find a way to involve everyone regardless of the situation.

The theme for our first session was “ Meet the Unit” with the aim for everyone starting to get to know each other. Everyone had the chance to introduce themselves, talk about the expectations and some fun facts...we have so many musicians in the Group that we should not be struggling for some good camp fire songs. We ran a few team building games, alongside some bases to allow young people and leaders to get to know each other and for the Unit to let us leaders know what they wanted to do for future events. It was really impressive to see how quickly the Unit started to bond and work together during activities and cooking.....and for many of us, finally the chance to get round the camp fire to share stories with the inevitable smores before bed time..... marshmallows, choccie biscuits and campfire seems to be the three items that bonds all ages of Scouts together...here are a few pictures from our first event...



UNIT 24 - Part 2

February 2022 training saw us at a farm in Royston and with our next theme as "Identity builder"...could we define an identity with a Unit name and logo after this session. It was a great site in Royston that provided us some space to run bases inside whilst some plenty of outdoor space to continue to have those team events and to allow those who wanted to camp. Several activities over the weekend were designed to look at ideas for a Unit name, more team building and a chance to experience some Korean kimbap that is a Korean version of sushi.

Kimbap are Korean rice rolls that might look a lot like sushi but, in truth, are nothing like it. Japanese sushi is made out of rice seasoned with vinegar and customarily features raw fish, seafood, and vegetables, whereas Korean rolls use sesame oil in the rice and a variety of fillings, including meats, imitation crab, ham, eggs and cheese. While similar in some aspects, the rolls also aren't eaten with the same accompaniments; neither soy sauce nor wasabi appears on the kimbap plate. It's usually served with kimchi and pickled vegetables on the side.

Several interesting names and logos from the session that then led to several rounds of voting to start the process of defining our Unit name... lots of healthy discussions and debates.



March training sees our moving to Stevenage and a day hike to get our Unit used to walking.... One fact guaranteed at a Jamboree is achieving that daily step count...but forget the daily 10,000 steps as it will be a lot more. The Unit split into four teams and met at different locations before a short hike into Stevenage. Another good chance for the Unit to get to know each other and then the day ended with some games and snacks as well as being able to hand out our UK Contingent neckers to the Unit... very exciting

UNIT 24 - Part 3

April should have been our first camp at Phasels but the weather was not kind to us and due to the nature of the activities that we had planned, we decided to move to an indoor camp so with some quick logistical changes we headed back to a Watford location.

May and June are always challenges for our training events as we know exams are a priority so May saw us heading up to Hertford to another Scout hut for a day event with the theme of preparing our stalls for the Herts contingent summer fete in July at Tolmers. It was a chilled day as the Unit designed and painted boards for our stalls and made bunting to decorate the stalls....some very creative designs ...



Join us next time to see our final designs and give you the full story on the background to the name of Altair...

Quotes...

Sophie.. "I have really enjoyed meeting loads of new people and learning to work together as a team...I'm really looking to travelling to the other side of the world, meeting and having fun with lots of different people."

The Queen's Jubilee and Queen's Scout Awards

The award originated as the King's Scout Award in 1909; on the death of Queen Elizabeth's father in 1952 the Queen's Scout Award was introduced. The first Queen's Scout in Hertfordshire completed his award on the day of the King's death, hence he was one of the first in the country to gain the new award.

There was continued success from Scouts in achieving the award through the 1950s and into the 1960s.

In 1967 Ventures Scouts replaced the Rover Scout and Senior Scout programmes with the Queen's Scout Award as the highest award. In 1976, the Venture Scout programme was opened up to females, and from that time they have been gaining the Queen's Scout Award in increasing numbers.

Venture Scouting was at its strongest in the 1980s when it was quite fashionable to be in a 'Unit', however numbers declined in the 1990s as the target age-group were staying on at school longer and the educational demands on 16- to 18-year olds placed a limit on their free time.

In 2002 Explorer Scouts and Network were formally introduced, with Explorers being for 14 to 17 and Network for 18 to 24 year-olds.

The Queen's Scout Award has remained the highest achievement for both sections.

The Queen's Scout Award is linked closely to the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, with the Gold Award being allowed to count for the five challenges of the QSA.

In Hertfordshire 124 QSAs have been achieved in the last 10 years, with 34 being female. In the last two years numbers have been down, as with all Scouting Covid has reduced and limited Scouting activities.

Despite these restrictions five Hertfordshire Explorer Scouts / Network members are to be congratulated on achieving their QSAs during 2021.

These are:

Name of Explorer/Scout / Network Member	Scout's District
Lauren Whittaker	Hemel Hempstead
Jack Jeffreys	Stevenage
Rob Coldrey	Letchworth and Baldock
George Muge	Letchworth and Baldock
Trey Tallon	South Watford

As with all face to face St George's Day Parades, the annual parade at Windsor, for those achieving the Queen's Scout Award, did not take place in April 2021 but award holders were invited to the 2022 Windsor parade.

Activity Centres

Mark Jefferson, APMC Chairman

We re-opened our Centres at Easter, with the initial focus being on supporting Groups with the return to Scouting. This was initially with evening and weekend visits, with residential activity starting back up in July.

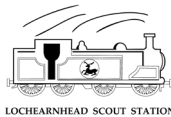
We supported this activity with a limited core team of staff and our volunteer service teams. Our focus has been on maintenance to support the re-opening of our indoor accommodation, with building capacities reduced to meet the Covid Guidance. From September onwards our accommodation was booked most weekends.

Visitor numbers were good, from April-September 2021 1,224 visited Harmergreen Wood, 14,240 Phasels Wood, 10,749 Well End and 7,301 Tolmers. Visit lengths varied, with some just being there for an evening, some for several days. Looking ahead numbers for 2022 are very positive and there are plans for the return of organised events.

In December the trustees met and approved the development work to be undertaken at Lochearnhead Scout Station, with builders scheduled to start work in January 2022. Once approved by the trustees, planning and Scottish building warrant applications were submitted – with planning approval received in January '22.

The trustees would like to recognise the significant efforts that have gone into re-opening our Centres, both from the limited staff team we retained and our Active Support Units and thank them all for their continued support.

Our Centres



TOLMERS



Looking to the future (and planning for it)

Mike Shurety, County Chairman

It might be difficult to believe, but one of the greatest challenges I have faced over the last two years has been what to write in the Annual County Review.

I have really struggled to find the most appropriate words to describe not only our successes – and there have been many – but also to articulate our imminent priorities and where we are going as an organisation. At times, especially during the periods of lockdown and restrictions on our personal lives, it has been almost impossible to predict what will happen too far beyond the end of the month, let alone the next one or the one after that. Predicting the future has always been difficult but during the last couple of years it has been nigh on impossible.

As County Chairman I have found this particularly frustrating. After all, a significant part of my role is to work with the County Commissioner in planning the future direction of Scouting within the County, setting the medium and long-term priorities and ensuring the appropriate resources are in place to deliver them. Instead, we have had to focus on the important but shorter-term priority of ensuring our future financial viability. This was a significant challenge given that, with our Activity Centres closed, we were starved of our traditional source of income. We have also had to find alternative ways to deliver Scouting in our Groups and Districts. Fortunately, teamwork has always been our strength and it has helped us to navigate through this difficult period successfully. I am forever indebted to all who have worked so hard, and in such an innovative way, to keep Scouting going throughout Hertfordshire during the last couple of years. You are remarkable people.

I am confident that have now emerged a stronger organisation, capable of delivering Scouting with invigorated enthusiasm and that it is now time to start looking to the future and planning our priorities for the next few years. For the County these will include: recovering our youth membership to early 2020 levels; recruiting new adult volunteers to help us achieve sustainable growth; reducing our waiting lists to enable more young people to participate in the Scouting adventure; to become more inclusive and make a positive impact on our communities; but, above all, to deliver an inspiring Scouting programme to our youth membership and help equip them with skills that will prepare them for the years ahead.

Of course, setting out priorities is one thing – delivering them is another. We all want a brighter future for Scouting and our young people, so let's start planning for it NOW.



Scouts

Hertfordshire

**Thank you to
every one of our
volunteers at
Hertfordshire
Scouts**



Scouts
Hertfordshire

#SkillsForLife