

# County Review 2019/2020



**Scouts**  
Hertfordshire



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County Review 2019/20: 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

Wow what a year!

It's a huge privilege to be County Commissioner for Hertfordshire and to be part of this amazing adventure of ours. I always enjoy sitting down to write the piece for the Review as it is an opportunity to look back at some of the incredible things that have happened across the County during the previous calendar year. It's a challenging one this time, as I'm locked down at home wishing I could be out and about Scouting, and no doubt it's the same for you as you read our Review. However, to sit here and remember the great things that took place last year and to think of the awesome people who made them happen makes me truly happy, has produced a huge grin and has given me a real boost. Hertfordshire Scouts did Scouting proud! We had fun, we had adventure and we made things happen. Enjoy reflecting on these extraordinary things and may they make you smile too!

As always, at the heart of what we do are our young people. They continue to enjoy all Scouting has to offer, and throw themselves into activities, adventure and challenges. I look back and remember conversations with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, finding out what they love about Scouting and what it means to them. I was particularly struck whilst talking to one young Beaver who, when asked what they liked most about Scouting, answered "It's fun and it makes me happy". That is, dear readers, exactly what Scouting is and should be. It's fun and it makes us happy – we need that in our world and I thank everyone involved for their part in making Scouting fun and making people happy. Long may that continue as a beacon of light in challenging times.

I was privileged to be able to share some of the World Scout Jamboree with our Units from Hertfordshire in my role on the Jamboree Contingent Management & Support Team last summer. The experience continued to shape who I am but, wow, the impact on our young people was huge. They not only gained experience and had a massive adventure, but grew as people shaped by what they did and the people they met from around the world. I only hope that our world as we know it today continues to offer young people these life-changing experiences going forward.

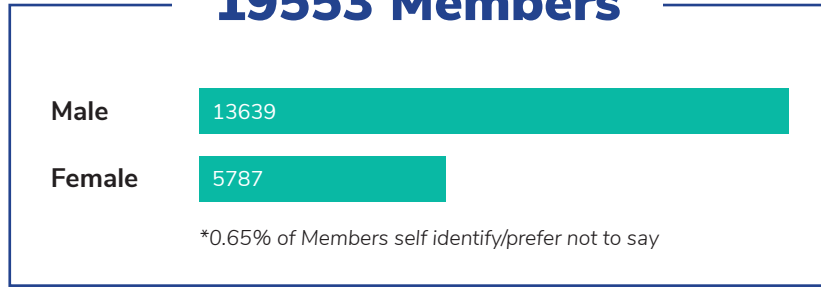
I am also reflecting on our Scouting values of Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation, and why these make us unique. We make a positive difference and you can see how this came to life during last year throughout this Review. Our values are more important than ever.

For me, it's Scouting that gives our young people the ability to grow and to be more resilient. They need us more than ever, and I am truly thankful to those of you who are already involved, and I commend Scouting to those who are curious as to what we do and urge you to get involved. We need more adults to give our young people the ability to be themselves, have safe adventure and to grow in our uncertain world.

I know for certain that there will be one thing on my mind as I sit and write next year's Review (if I'm lucky enough to still be CC of course!) but, whoever does, it will have a lot to look back on as well as how we adapted and still made Scouting happen throughout these difficult times.

Stay safe  
Yours in Scouting...

## 19553 Members



### Young People

	2019	2020	Growth	Boys	Girls
Beavers	3834	3793	-1.1%	3018	726
Cubs	4824	4787	-0.7%	3698	1050
Scouts	4009	4087	1.9%	2976	1080
Explorers	1408	1575	11.8%	1021	550
Network	383	469	1.75%	285	182
<b>Total</b>	<b>14458</b>	<b>14711</b>	<b>1.75%</b>	<b>10998</b>	<b>3588</b>

### Adults

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



4842 inspiring adults teaching #SkillsForLife

■ 2199 - Female ■ 2641 - Male ■ 2 - Prefer not to say

### Youth Awards

	Chief Scout's Award Bronze	830
	Chief Scout's Award Silver	827
	Chief Scout's Award Gold	291
	Chief Scout's Award Platinum	81
	Chief Scout's Award Diamond	14
	Queen's Scout Award	11
	Young Leader's Scheme	7
	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze	32
	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver	24
	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold	12

### Adult Awards

	Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service	74
	Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct	1
	Award for Merit	38
	Bar to Award for Merit	12
	Silver Acorn	6
	Silver Wolf	1





## Beavers

### Stuart Leacy, ACC Beavers

The first, was Beavers in Tents (BiTs), at Well End Activity Centre. This had the Beavers sleeping outside in tents and taking part in a variety of activities including fire lighting, cooking on open fires, knot tying, rope making, mini-pioneering, archery, caving, boulder walling and plastic crossbows. In the evening there was a widegame in the woods and a campfire with hot chocolate, before going back to tents for a “sleep”.

Secondly, there was the annual trip to Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne. As always, the Beavers had an amazing time looking at the animals, listening to conservation talks and learning how they can help animals.

Finally, there was a new event for the Beavers at Phasels Wood. This started off as a small idea at an ADCs’ meeting, and grew rapidly into 150 Beavers taking part in a Beaver Builder Badge Day. Whilst there, the Beavers built a real brick wall, a life-size cardboard box maze, a Lego town, a ball and rod structure, a very large craft pizza and a marble-run out of recycled materials. At the end, all the Beavers were presented their Builder Badge.

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

### Richard Haynes, ACC Cubs

Our focus this year has been:

- To create more opportunities for young people
- To support leaders to develop the outdoor elements of the Cub programme

Our new event was the County Cub Activity Day at Phasels Wood in September. The team at Phasels Wood put on over 20 activities for 360 Cubs. The event was a great success. It will be back and even bigger next year.

The Bushcraft Event at Lees Wood proved very popular once again. We used this event to develop teamwork and team leadership as well as helping young people develop their Scouting skills. Cubs enjoyed shelter building, fire-lighting, cooking on open fires, nature challenges, rope making and pioneering.



The Cub Water Activities Day in Essex was an opportunity for 180 Cubs to develop their personal skills. Our thanks to Colin and the Water Activities team for making this event happen.

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

## Scouts

### Mick Edwards, ACC Scouts

The premier event of the year for the Scout section is the Green Beret Challenge (named after the days when Scouts wore headgear!). It was held at Lees Wood, and 126 teams competed in a diverse range of challenges, run by Explorers and volunteers throughout the day and night, along with orienteering and assault course competitions. Resilience showed as a key member of the organisational team was taken ill, the rest of the team rallying around and delivering a first class event. Congratulations to 7th Royston (Barkway) - Barley Bootleggers on winning.

The County Cooking Competition took place in February, with this year's theme 'All Fresh'. As always there was a very high standard from all, the top County chefs being 4th Radlett.

The patrol camping skills competition, known as B2B (Born to be challenged) was held at Lees Wood. Five teams entered, 1st Wilstone and Long Marston emerging victorious.

My thanks to the Scout section team for all the hard work providing these and other great opportunities for our young people.



## Explorers

### James Sanderson, County Explorer Leader

Starting off with Peak Assault in October, based in the beautiful Lake District, 56 Explorer teams battled the mud (and, at times, the sun!) to ultimately triumph on the challenging course. Despite arriving at the venue very late at night due to appalling traffic, the Explorers soldiered on and a fantastic time was had by all. Thank you to all involved in the organisation.

November saw the Monopoly Challenge based in London once again, following popular demand. This year's theme was 'Pirates' and the costumes were just as you would expect! We were very surprised at the number of pirate-themed venues in London, some of which were more obscure than others. This year, we had use of a Monopoly Run app, developed specifically for the event, allowing streamlined marking and scoring. The organisers were able to deliver the final scores very shortly after the last team checked in. With 6640 points, the team from the Snooks Unit in Hemel Hempstead were the runaway winners of the competition.

## Network

### Matt Palacio, County Network Leader

The County Network program provides some fantastic opportunities. The walking trip to Shropshire proved a big success, despite some amazingly blowy conditions. It also revealed Network to be a dab hand at jigsaws. Network Afloat took place on a canal boat along the Grand Union. Life in the slow lane certainly agreed with all those who jumped aboard for the weekend. A big thank you to South West Herts Narrowboat Project for setting us up with our craft.

Our Christmas party was held at the Doctors Tonic Green Room in Welwyn Garden City. We trotted out the Christmas music, party games and a raffle. A big thank you to Nicola Coleman for her help to make the night a big success.

We have been developing social media recently, with a new Network public Facebook page and Instagram. Both these are generating a good following, spreading the good vibes of Herts Network across the wider world.

Network members have been busy completing the top awards this year, including a Network Explorer Belt to Norway, reported elsewhere in this Review. This stunning country provided some brilliant memories for those who participated. Congratulations to everyone involved.





## Paddlesports

### Colin Skuse, Paddlesports Advisor

The Herts Paddlesports Team has been slowly ramping up again. Since around 2017, we have been delivering more fun activities for our young members and Leaders. As with any part of Scouting, we are always looking to improve what we deliver, and grow with support from leaders who have an interest in paddling.

2019 saw us offer:

- Two evenings at the White-water Centre (run by our Scouting friends in Kent)
- Cub Water Activity Day, delivering taster sessions for 180 Cubs
- Local river trips
- Winter paddling sessions
- Supporting the Poland Jamboree group for an activity session on the water.

Keeping equipment up to date can be a challenge. Late in 2019, we upgraded four of our older, heavy, open (Canadian) canoes for two newer, lighter ones that matched the other six we have. Whilst this reduced the total number of open canoes, having eight canoes of the same type (and better) was a good choice.

In February 2020, we ordered a new, smaller (8-kayak) unbraked trailer, in order to provide an option for newer drivers and expect to have it up and running for the new season.

Our 2018 to 2019 winter paddling sessions saw 18 young members and Leaders come along. This was changed in winter 2019 from “drop in” sessions to a course, where the same members would attend once a month.

## Sailing

### Richard Watson, Water Activities Advisor

During the winter period, courses were run that supported those who lead sailing activities. These were specialist courses on first aid and gaining a VHF radio operator’s licence.

The year starts off with beginner courses at the Sailing Centres around the County: Fairlands Valley, Stevenage; Stanborough Lakes, Welwyn Garden City; Herts Young Mariners Base, Cheshunt; Bury Lake, Rickmansworth and ESSA in Nazeing.



During the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, Royal Yachting Association (RYA) powerboating courses were run at Brightlingsea, where Scouts learnt how to drive powerboats, and those with more experience learnt safety and rescue techniques. Scouts from the age of 8 can achieve the Level 1 certificate and those over 12 can attain the Level 2 certificate, which is the boating equivalent of the car driving licence.

The main sailing activity of the year run by the County is the Sailing Week held at East Mersea during the bank holiday week at the end of May. In 2019, 94 Scouts and Leaders took part in the various courses, ranging from beginner to those wishing to gain an Instructor qualification. For once, the weather was brilliant and everyone had an excellent week, with many gaining at least 2 RYA certificates.

All the Districts that use Lochearnhead Scout Station have sailing available to them as an activity. Over the summer holiday period, often in excess of 300 Scouts manage to have some experience of sailing dinghies and, often, this introduction leads on to more sailing activity when they return. This year, a group of Explorer Scouts from West Herts decided that they would like to undertake their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold expedition using sailing dinghies on Loch Lomond, having already had a practise weekend sailing from East Mersea at the end of the Sailing Week.

Explorer Scouts undertaking their D of E award sailing on Loch Lomond During September, we held a coaching and development weekend for Scouts and Leaders who could sail but wanted some additional individual time with some of our experienced Coaches and Instructors. This was held at Grafham Water and, although the weather was sunny, there was not any wind on the Saturday; however on the Sunday, conditions were perfect for the Explorer Scouts and also the leaders, who rarely get any sailing time to themselves to practise some of the finer points of making a dinghy sail well.

At the end of the sailing season, a regatta was held at Bury Lake, Rickmansworth. This year the Scout Section event was won by Benjamin Roy from Batchworth Sea Scouts, the Leader Section by Chloe Harding from Hertford and the Explorers Section by Alex Savidge from Hertford Explorers, who also won overall. To round the year off, six Explorer Scouts and Leaders from Batchworth undertook a Powerboat Instructors' course and all passed.

There is a great deal that can be done on the water by all sections if they are interested; just ask for information as to how to get going. Hertfordshire is probably one of the foremost Counties for the sailing and powerboating it can offer.

## Mountaineering

### Andrew Rice, Mountaineering Advisor

The Mountaineering Section runs two training courses over the year at Lochearnhead Scout Station, suitable for novices through to those with significant experience of hillwalking. The Advanced Mountaineering Course (AMC) runs over the New Year holiday period and is for those over 16 years, and the Intermediate Training Course (IMC) runs over the Easter School holidays for those over 13 years.

The AMC is designed to take those hillwalking and mountaineering skills learned and practised under summer conditions and develop them further under the more demanding conditions of winter in Scotland. To fulfil the objectives of the course in terms of route planning, hill safety, navigation, route finding, wild country camping and avalanche awareness, the trainees have to overcome challenges including limited hours of daylight, high winds, cold, rain and snow, although over the last few years there hasn't been very much of the latter! AMC 2019 consisted of a contingent of 13 trainees, 10 IMC Instructors/would-be Instructors (doing further training) and a staff team of 23. It was another mild year with limited snow but there were some days with 'real weather'! Everyone got a lot out of the week, having new experiences and access to a high level of technical instruction. Many made some new friends and everybody had a lot of fun – another successful course.

The IMC is run twice over the two weeks of the Easter holidays and generally the weather is much kinder, and the daylight hours are much longer, than at New Year, making the course suitable for all abilities and ages, including adults from any role in Scouting. Whilst there is a standard syllabus for the course, the scale of the days out and depth of training are tailored to the trainees' age and experience. The younger and less-experienced trainees have less ambitious days out, with an emphasis on learning basic skills and enjoying the novel experience of being out in the Scottish hills and staying at the Station. The older and more experienced trainees go further and have bigger days out, with in-depth instruction to prepare them to be able to look after themselves in the hills and to progress onto the AMC.

The IMC is an ideal starting place for Leaders looking to prepare for taking young people out into the hills and/or for their District expeditions to the Station, whatever their level of experience. Those looking to gain logbook experience and to work towards a hillwalking permit should be looking to get on the IMC 2-3 years in advance of their District expedition.



## Visits Abroad 2019

### Peter Makewell, ACC International

During 2019 Scouts and Leaders from Hertfordshire travelled to more than six different countries on a variety of international trips. The year was dominated by the World Jamboree in the USA, at which Hertfordshire had a total of 140 participants and Leaders, including nine Guides and a Guide Leader. In addition, our County provided 24 members of the International Service Team and four members of the Contingent Management Team, who support the Units before, during and after the event.

Group	Destination	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	Network/ ASU etc (incl. Guides)	Leaders & Helpers	Total
12th Harpenden	Netherlands	0	0	24	0	0	7	<b>31</b>
Hertford Nomad ESU	Belgium	0	0	0	8	0	4	<b>12</b>
Hemel Hempstead Network	Norway	0	0	0	0	7	0	<b>7</b>
Oak Eagle ESU and Balin Network	Switzerland	0	0	0	16	7	6	<b>29</b>
Hemel District Scouts	Netherlands	1	0	25	15	0	10	<b>51</b>
Potters Bar and District Scouts	Germany	0	0	3	17	0	10	<b>30</b>
Antares Jamboree Unit	USA	0	0	0	27	9	4	<b>40</b>
Wapiti Jamboree Unit	USA	0	0	0	36	0	4	<b>40</b>
Busby Bears Joint Jamboree Unit	USA	0	0	0	9	0	1	<b>10</b>
Swans and Stags Joint Jamboree Unit	USA	0	0	0	9	0	1	<b>10</b>
Psychedelic Squirrels Jamboree Unit	USA	0	0	0	36	0	4	<b>40</b>
International Service Team	USA	0	0	0	0	0	24	<b>24</b>
Contingent Support and Management	USA	0	0	0	0	0	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>328</b>

Please Note: Joint Jamboree Units comprise 36 participants and 4 leaders and only Hertfordshire participants and leaders are included in the figures shown. Figures correct as of May 2020.



There was also a significant number of Hertfordshire Scouts who took part in the Haarlem Jamborette held just outside Amsterdam in the Netherlands, which runs as an alternative to the World Jamboree. It offers a Jamboree-style programme and atmosphere, for Scout-age participants and has been very popular with Hertfordshire Scouts in the past as well as this year.

It was also a good year for our international projects, including our Scouts Against Malaria campaign, known as SAM, which is particularly special because all sections in Scouting can participate in the activities. It is good to see Beavers having fun and raising funds using the SAM activities in the same way that Explorers and Leaders can do.

This year also saw one Beaver from Hemel Hempstead go abroad to the Haarlem Jamborette, a first for us in Hertfordshire, and so now that one Beaver has travelled abroad, I am hopeful that a whole Colony could go abroad.

Our project in the Maldives to partner with local Scouts to help with the regeneration of a coral reef has also seen some success in 2019, with the first transfer of funds raised in Hertfordshire to the local Scouts to begin training them to scuba dive, so that they can participate fully in the project.

As always, the successful delivery of the Global and International aspects of our programme is due entirely to the hard work of Leaders throughout the County, who deliver inspiring activities locally every week. We are grateful for all their help in broadening the horizons of Hertfordshire Scouts, and helping to give our young people a positive view of the places, people and cultures of our World.

## Kandersteg

### Clair Calve, Oak Eagle ESU

On Saturday 18th August, 16 Explorers, six Network and six Leaders jetted off to Switzerland for a week of fun.

Kandersteg International Scout Centre is a magical place in the most beautiful of surroundings. There is always an excitement in the air and people from around the world come to stay. During our week there were Portuguese, African, Japanese, French, Dutch, American, Irish, Swedish and many more. We even came across Sam, who is the DC from Malibeni in Swaziland, who was part of our trip last year.

The activities were varied and all very well run. Our first day was climbing but, due to heavy rain, we could not climb on the mountain, which was great shame.

Instead, we set off to the indoor climbing centre in the village, which turned out to be great fun. We did easy and then more challenging climbs plus some very funny games.

Tuesday was still very wet when we set off for our two-day hike. It was a long and very challenging day but we made it to the mountain hut to enjoy the log fire and warm blankets that awaited us. The hut was 'rustic' with a strong smell of cattle from the barn below. Wednesday dawned warm and sunny: another long walk with lots of height gain and fantastic views of three valleys.

Thursday was a rest day, with swimming and sight-seeing in the historic town of Brig. Friday was all action, with white water rafting in the morning. The river was fast and bouncy with plenty of big rapids. The high ropes course in the afternoon was fab. Routes went from easy to very challenging. We also took to the trees with style: clambering, jumping, swinging and zip-wiring. That evening was the very international campfire, with songs and sketches from around the world.

On our last day, we took one of the cable cars for some tobogganing fun. As we finished, a local band of alpine horns played a short concert right at the top of the mountain. A magical sound in spectacular surroundings. When biking in the afternoon, we found the ski jump and watched a junior competition. The youngsters flying through the air were amazing. During the evening, we went to for pizza and played crazy golf.

As we left on Sunday morning, a team from Balin Network set off for four days' hiking in the mountains. A great example of Scouting at its best.

This was a great international trip. Many skills were learnt: airport and train navigation, teamwork and supporting others, resilience in challenging situations, making friends without a common language. #Skills for life

Thank you so much to all the Leader Team involved for their hard work. A great team and so many laughs.







## Town Twinning

### Potters Bar and District

Over the past few years, Potters Bar & District has been forging strong ties with Scouts from our twin towns in Viernheim, Germany and Franconville, France. Having received excellent hospitality whilst visiting our Viernheim Scouting friends in the summer of 2017, this special relationship culminated in 2019 when we were delighted to welcome a large number of Scouts and leaders from both twin towns to a ten-day mini jamboree based in Potters Bar and the Isle of Wight. This was followed by an invitation from the German Scouts to attend their Christmas celebrations in 2019.

Whilst the summer event was based in Potters Bar, our continental friends were treated to an opening ceremony (complete with a campfire, hog roast and live band), a ride on the London Eye, a sightseeing boat trip along the Thames, swimming and a visit to the Harry Potter Studio. Once the group had re-located to the Isle of Wight, we had exclusive use of a primary school in Ryde, overlooking the Solent, within 10 minutes' walk of the sandy beach. Island activities included a boat trip to the Needles, surfing, paddle boarding, hiking and go-karting. We also held an international cooking competition.. Dhruv, one of our Explorers from the Phoenix Unit, masterminded the winning dish from the UK contingent – curry, dahl and chapatis. It really was top-notch!

The Scouts and Explorers who attended the summer event practically begged the leaders to accept the invitation from the German Scouts to attend their Christmas celebrations – despite quite a short timescale in which to organise it. And so, ten days before Christmas, 30 of us boarded a flight to Frankfurt for a whistle-stop weekend tour of a traditional German Christmas.

Based at the comfortable Viernheim Scout headquarters, the group first visited the City of Heidelberg and explored the sprawling Christmas markets under the

guidance of the local Scouts. On Saturday evening we were invited to Viernheim's very own celebration, with live music and traditional German fare including, of course, excellent sausages and glühwein. On Sunday, we were taken as guests in uniform to an important event in the German Scouting calendar: the ceremony of the collection of the international peace light, in historic Mainz. It was a particularly poignant moment for all of us, as the peace light from Bethlehem was marched into the magnificent Cathedral, with candles gradually being lit across the congregation and carols being sung in German. We rounded off the weekend by exploring the markets in Mainz and then said emotional goodbyes to our German Scouting friends.

Sasha Annegarn, another of Potters Bar's Explorers said "The town twinning events were real highlights of the past year. The leaders really went all out for us during both the summer and Christmas events and we all have great memories of the time spent with our new friends. We look forward to more international experiences and staying involved with these events as part of Network."

We will almost certainly hold similar, future events and thoroughly recommend reaching out to the Scouts based in your twin towns. The scope for collaboration is limitless!

## Scouts Against Malaria

### Richard Bird

A big thank you to our Beaver Colonies, Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Explorer Units and Districts right across the County for their continuing support with the Scouts Against Malaria programme in Burkina Faso. The money raised 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. 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.

Programme materials are available in the International section of the County website, here:

<https://www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/international/scouts-against-malaria>

The programme is designed for Scouts in all sections to work towards their International and Global awards.

SAM badges are available upon completion of activities from the programme and for a suggested donation of £10 per Scout, 100% of which will go towards supporting the drive to combat Malaria in Burkina Faso. So far, Hertfordshire Scouts have raised £6,500 from all across the County. Thank you!

## Belgium

### Kate Wilkerson, Nomad ESU

In July 2019, eight Explorers and four Leaders from Nomad (Hertford) ESU set out to south Belgium on their first self-run international camp. The Explorers, with two of their leaders, made their way by Eurostar and local trains to the town of Bertrix. The other two leaders took a van full of kit via ferry and road, with a brief stop at Brussels Airport to pick up the other vehicle. The careful logistical planning meant only a 30-minute wait at Bertrix Station before the whole party was together.

Home for the week was Ardennen Camping Bertrix, a large, busy campsite with lots of on-site facilities. Our recce had allowed us to pick two sites in a fairly flat, secluded corner, with no awkwardly placed trees and, as we finished squashing the tents into place, we had our only rain of the week.

We made good use of the local activity centre, where we were challenged with high ropes courses, the “Death Ride” zip wire, a climbing wall, mountain biking, and a team-based obstacle course. There was an old mine working on site, which we took a tour of.

The rivers were too low for us to do any canoeing in Belgium, so we popped across the border to France. The water was still very low, but the heat of the day meant it was nice to get out and push every now and then.

In an attempt at some culture, we spent the day in Bouillon. Paddle boating during the morning reminded us all what our thigh muscles are for. The leaders spent the afternoon walking up a very steep hill to enjoy the view from the castle, while the Explorers ate their way through the local supermarket, and then everyone stocked up on Belgium chocolates to take home.

The last evening was celebrated at the local pizza restaurant, where GCSE French was put to the test as there wasn't an English menu.

We headed back to Brussels on the local trains, where there were several hours to kill due to overly cautious Eurostar bookings. On arriving back in Hertford, the careful logistics meant that the van was waiting, and parents could collect child and dirty washing in one go.

We were very pleased at how well our first international camp went and look forward to venturing further afield next time.



## Haarlem Jamborette

### Jan Maddern, Hemel Hempstead

In July, 25 Scouts, 15 Explorers, 10 Leaders and a Beaver, from Hemel Hempstead, headed for the Haarlem Jamborette. This was our second time at this fantastic camp and it certainly lived up to memories of the first.

This is definitely a party camp, with 4,000 Scouts from across the world coming together to have fun, try new skills, challenge themselves, compete in challenges and make new friends. With every activity planned by a central team and food brought in centrally, this is an easy camp for Leaders, once you have made the journey.

Every day is something new. Activities are divided into themes: Trail, Sport, Arts and Crafts, Aqua and more. With the Jamborette divided into 4 subcamps, each one takes on a different theme each day, along with a day at Walibi theme park and a day off to explore the local towns. The camp theme was Steampunk, and we thoroughly enjoyed painting and decorating the cogs and wheels we'd taken to decorate the gateway.

Haarlem Jamborette is definitely a camp suitable for all age groups, and for Leaders with younger children (our Beaver had the best time!) activities are laid on for them too. The young people have plenty of freedom, but are in a really safe environment. We have already registered for 2023!



## Norway Explorer Belt

### Jethro Blackband, Hemel Hempstead Network

Seven members of Hemel Hempstead Network completed a self-arranged Explorer Belt Expedition last July to southern Norway. This was the biggest expedition most of us had ever done.

We began our time in Norway by meeting up with a local so that we could find out a bit more about Norwegian culture. In return, we cooked a British meal for him. Next day we headed to the Hardangerville National Park, where the main part of the expedition was to take place. On advice from our mentor, we performed dynamic risk assessments every day and changed part of our route accordingly; making sure we completed the requirements for the award. To this end, we only hiked for two days at a time, as the mountains were tall and the terrain was rough. Between the intense hiking, we did project work. This included building a snowman, sending a postcard home, re-enacting part of Star Wars (as the battle of Hoth was filmed in Norway near to where we were [the HardangerJokilen Glacier]), swimming/paddling in a fjord at the top of the mountain and investigating how people live in these remote locations.

The views from the mountains were spectacular. Looking down into the fjords and seeing the glaciers over the tops of the surrounding peaks was fantastic. We saw what we think was a volcano plug called Harteigen. We saw an arctic fox. It was an amazing place and I would recommend it to others if they want a challenging but beautiful place to walk.

To finish the expedition, we came off the mountains to the picturesque town of Voss, where we spent our final nights before heading to Bergen for the journey home. Voss is a small town with pretty buildings, good people and, on this occasion, brilliant weather. Some of us swam in the fjord at the bottom of the mountain and we enjoyed the culture.

This, certainly for me, was one of the hardest expeditions I've done. It's the only one, so far, where I've packed for hot weather, cold weather, rain and snow and used items for all of them. This expedition reinforced the need to have good preparation, back-up plans and some kit in the "have it just in case" category as you never know what situation you will come across. As a medic, I packed certain things for emergencies and thankfully none of them was needed.

All of us gained a lot of experience and enjoyment from the expedition and I look forward to the opportunity to try something like it again.



## Muraka Kudhin

### Peter Makewell, ACC International

Remember the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004? It was triggered by an undersea earthquake that was the third largest ever recorded. It caused untold damage across the entire region and prompted a worldwide humanitarian response with donations totalling more than US\$14 billion. Many Scout Groups across the County held fundraising events to support this effort.

The Maldives was one of the countries affected and, as this chain of atolls has an average elevation of 1.5m, it was feared that the country might be submerged entirely. The majority of the islands faced serious damage to critical infrastructure; 14 islands had to be totally evacuated, and six islands were destroyed.

Fifteen years on, life is starting to return to normal. The Scouts of the Maldives are at the forefront of assessing the environmental impact on the coral reefs in this part of the Indian Ocean. Coral reefs are under threat, not only from natural disasters such as the 2004 tsunami, but also global warming and greenhouse gas emissions and, in another fifteen years, over half of the world's coral reefs may be destroyed.

Hertfordshire Scouts are supporting an exciting environmental project in association with the 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 with Scout Groups in Hertfordshire as a great opportunity for sections wishing to work towards their Environmental Conservation Activity Badges and World Challenge Awards.





## Unit 14, Antares

### Edward Fearn

Hello there! I am Edward from Unit 14, Antares. On 20th July 2019, after years of preparation and fundraising, it was finally time. I, along with 4,000 other Scouts from the UK, set off to North America. We landed later that day in New York, where we went sightseeing, shopping and got a taste of America through its food. We slept the night in the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

We went the next day to James Madison University in Virginia where we stayed the night before heading off to the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia for the 24th World Scout Jamboree. We camped there for 11 days along with 40,000 other Scouts aged 14-18 from around the world. There, we tried new foods, learnt about cultures from around the world, made new friends and tried lots of activities like scuba diving, mountain biking, rock climbing and lots more. My favourite part of the Jamboree was being crowd-surfed at a basecamp bash (a live performance from either a band or a DJ on stages scattered across the site in the evenings). This moment is special to me because it proved that a group of people from across the globe can come together, put global problems behind them and have a great time.

Next, we headed to the lovely city of Washington D.C. There we also went sightseeing, shopping and had a fantastic time. The next day the 4,000 Scouts of the UK contingent went to Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles, where we watched them play against the Toronto Blue Jays. We formed the International Anthony Santander Fan Club and made it into the Washington Post after cheering on outfielder Santander from the Orioles. The Orioles won 6-4 so it was a good game for us!

Then we headed to the last part of our trip... Canada! We were hosted by some Canadian Scouts in a campsite in Ontario. On our first day in Canada, we visited the beautiful Niagara Falls, where we went on a boat trip and had lunch at iHop. In the afternoon, we went to Fort George (a 19th century British outpost), where we explored the historical grounds and spoke to re-enactors.

After an eventful adventure, it was time for the exhausted Unit 14 to fly home. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and an experience never to be forgotten.



# Unit 15, Psychedelic Squirrels

## Daniel Baverstock

In reviewing the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, I realise that the three weeks abroad was just a tiny part of the whole experience.

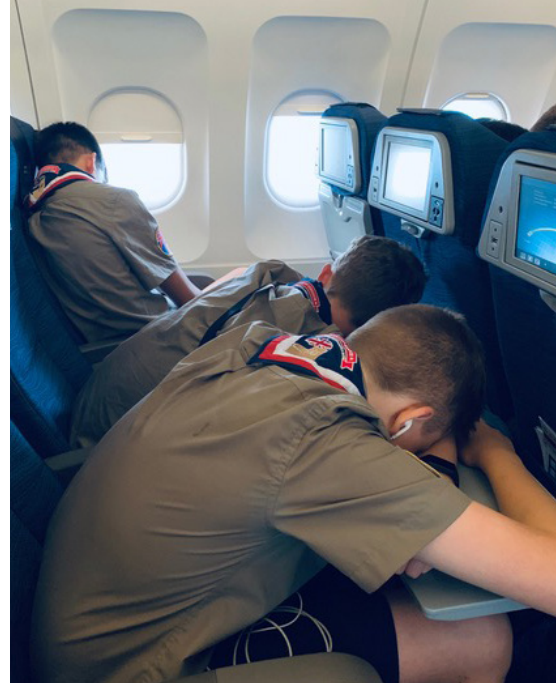
We flew to New York and spent a brief time exploring some of the amazing sights, before driving by bus to West Virginia to spend 12 nights on site at the Jamboree with 45,000 other Scouts from around the world. After the most incredible camping experience, we left with the rest of the 4000 UK Scouts to descend on Washington DC for two days. The final adventure was the journey to Canada, where we stayed with a Canadian troop for three nights before returning to New York for our flight home.

On site I made some of the best memories, such as eating with 600 people from around the globe at a street party, attending the crazy basecamp parties, climbing on the biggest outdoor climbing wall in North America and the downhill mountain biking. The enormous mix of culture around the site will stay with me forever. Each day was different and I would do anything to go back and relive those three amazing weeks.

As well as the time at the Jamboree, there was the build-up, which consisted of at least 18 monthly get-togethers. At each one, our Unit became closer and closer. We did fantastic activities and made the youth-led decisions about our Unit and how we wanted to present ourselves to the rest of the world. Alongside getting to know each other, we also had to fundraise individually. I'm now in my third year of a job I started when raising money for the Jamboree and have found that the experience of fundraising has really helped me understand the importance of finances.

The Jamboree experience has not ended for me. Since returning from the USA, my Unit has continued to meet up and I have made friends for life. I have shared my experience with Scouts across Hitchin by doing presentations and I'm still in contact with Scouts I met from Australia.

The next World Scout Jamboree is in South Korea, 2023. Would I recommend anyone to apply for a place? Absolutely definitely.



# Unit 16, Wapiti

## Alice Armstrong

Last summer's trip to America and Canada was an experience that none of us will ever forget.

Arriving in New York City, we stayed in Hofstra University for the first night in America. We went to New York City in the morning, straight to an American Diner called Stardust Diner, where there were live performances from aspiring Broadway performers who were the waiters and waitresses. After that we went to Times Square and to the Rockefeller Centre, where the view from the highest point, including the Empire State Building and Central Park, was absolutely astonishing. We caught a ferry across the river to New Jersey, where there was a coach waiting to take us to the University of West Virginia, which would be our last stop before the Jamboree.

In the morning we set out for the Jamboree for 12 unforgettable days. On arrival, we met two Scouts from a South Carolina Unit who helped us put up our tents; we were making friends and trading already! We all had the chance to experience the opening ceremony of the Jamboree with each country being introduced, along with a speech from our Chief Scout Bear Grylls, a drone show, live music performances and fireworks. It was such an unforgettable moment for all of us; the joy we experienced was incredible.

During the Jamboree, we engaged in many activities such as zip lining, rock climbing, bouldering, stand-up team paddle boarding, the barrels, the leap of faith and many more. While doing these activities, some of us conquered our fears and pushed ourselves to try new things. We met lots of new people from all over the world while, at the activities and walking around the gigantic site, high fiving as many people as we could and trading our badges, neckers, bags, hats; anything could be traded with someone new and using our novus to collect each-others' information and keep in touch.

While at the Jamboree, we came into contact with people from various cultures and countries with different traditions, dresses, foods and drinks. Our favourite day was culture day, where all activities stopped for the day and each Unit did activities and displays and put out food and drinks from their cultures and countries for others to try. In the evening, we had a unity show in the main stadium and it was spectacular. Broadway does Disney performed for us as well as many other acts. They also managed to light all the novuses up at the same time, causing an illumination around the stadium; it looked incredible and surreal. While on site, we cooked all our own meals. We did a rotation of the patrol for who would do the cooking and then clean up afterwards and it was a real team effort and helped many of us gain the confidence in cooking and working as a

team. We spent a fun evening with our American Buddy Unit and they cooked dinner for us. We also did a dinner swap with our American neighbours, each cooking a special meal to represent their country.

Some of us took the opportunity to climb Mount Jack and do the activities up there, which was a brilliant experience. We took part in races, axe throwing and even spotted a bear!

The closing ceremony was an amazing experience. We had so many performances, including a fireworks display that lasted 15 minutes, along with lots of cool lasers; this was a great way to end an amazing experience. Just before we left the next day, one of our friends from the South Carolina Unit came to say goodbye. As the Jamboree was about meeting people and making new friends, this seemed like the perfect end.

The next stop was Washington DC and we stayed at the University of Maryland. After 12 days at the Jamboree, it was so nice to have a warm shower. We went to the Washington Monument, visited the reflection pools and Lincoln's Memorial and the Capitol Building. To end, we had dinner in Hard Rock Café, which was very nice and a great time for us to hang out as well as buy some souvenirs. On our evening walk, we spotted the White House and ended with fun at the UK Contingent party, featuring a fantastic disco.

The next part of our trip was to Canada, and after a long journey we were greeted by 1st Winona Scouts, who were looking after us for our last couple of days. We arrived late at night, set up our tents and had dinner with our hosts. The next day they arranged for us to go to Niagara Falls, which was amazing but incredibly wet, as it was raining very heavily. We explored to town of Niagara in small groups and then met up at the Central Mall late at night to watch a fireworks display that lit up Niagara Falls. After this, we spent a day relaxing back at the campsite, having lots of fun in the pool and signing each-others' shirts. We also had a birds of prey show planned for us, which was very impressive. In the evening we had a farewell campfire with the hosts; we taught them some campfire songs and made exchanges, then they taught us some songs and gave us a leaving and thank you gift. The time we had in Canada was amazing. After an early start the next morning, we made our way back to JFK Airport for our flight back to the UK, with just enough time to stop for a slap-up breakfast in Cracker Barrel. It was a trip of a lifetime and all of us came back better than we were before. We were very lucky to have this opportunity and will remember it always!



# Unit 17, Busby Bears

## Larry Eeles

The Jamboree build up was two years in the making and, on the morning that we all met to leave for New York, we could not have been more excited. Our first surprise was the signage across Heathrow airport welcoming Scouts and wishing us well. The first step of our flight was to Canada. As we stood waiting to be admitted, the (very large) security guard came over and asked to trade 'patches', ripping the security badge from his sleeve! We happily traded our badge for his: the first of many. We landed in New York quite late, but hopped on our coach and, being Scouts, guided the driver to the University for our overnight accommodation. In the morning, we were treated to a yellow-bus ride into the city centre. We had a total of six hours to explore. Some headed for tourist points, some headed for parks, a lot headed for shops. 40-degree heat didn't help, but every shop, restaurant, and even church, had air conditioning.

It was over too quickly and we headed over the water to our next location to take a coach to West Virginia, and the 24th World Scout Jamboree. We arrived in the pouring rain, but this didn't dishearten us at all. We found our sites, and one of our neighbours had set up our marquees so we could stay dry. We pitched our tents and set up our home for the next two weeks.

### Food

This was something that was a big change for us. Everything was pre-made, and just needed warming. Lunch consisted of a tin of chicken salad, and crackers, and dinner was whatever you could make from the supplies. In the food village, almost every country in the world was represented in some form, and we worked our way along the line, trying everything we could get our hands on, even some chocolate covered grubs.

### Activities

There was so much to do, and even walking about the site was a trek. To reach the shooting activity took just over two hours. Top of the list of activities were the zip lines; queuing for this started at 6am. Water rafting was another activity that everyone wanted to attend, and didn't disappoint with the views. In fact, the water was hotter than the showers on site, so most people took the opportunity to take a dip.

### Technology

When we arrived, we were all issued a Nova wrist band. This was a device that, when clicked, you could connect with the people you met, transferring contact details for use after the Jamboree. These also were used on site to vote in flash

polls, collect points for activities, and even became part of the shows to make us feel part of the whole event.

### Opening and Closing Ceremonies

The opening of the Jamboree was a sight to behold. Seeing 50,000 people all in one place enjoying each other's company, and what was happening on stage, was like nothing I have ever witnessed. During the opening ceremony, there was a small drone which flew up to join thousands of its friends to display the fun we could have, and even a world map which, when your continent flashed, your nova also flashed, showing a live interactive map. The closing ceremony also did not disappoint. After some music and a few fun shows, we were part of a \$5 million fireworks display. Please look this up on Youtube, it was truly something to remember for the rest of our lives.

The Jamboree was over, but our journey was not. We headed off on a coach to Washington DC. We were welcomed to our home for the next three days at the University of Maryland. The first stop was the food hall, where we had fresh salad for the first time in two weeks. The next day was in Washington, exploring the museums. The National Air and Space Museum was a firm favourite, but we could spend the whole day just going from one museum to the next. A lot of our Unit decided to hire an electric scooter to speed up the process of seeing the sights. The following day we attended a baseball game. It took a while to understand the rules, but we soon got into it. The UK Contingent fell in love with Anthony Santander, and decided to cheer him on, making quite an impression on him.

We then headed off on our own to meet our Canadian hosts. The 101st Ottawa Scouts hosted us at St Aidan's Anglican Church. We were welcomed with open arms, and treated like we were long lost friends. We swam in a lake, took a tour of the parliament building and even did a 'race around the world' tour of Ottawa. We finished by having a campfire with another set of Canadian hosts, and a Jamboree Unit. The four groups exchanged songs and skits.

It was then time to head home. On the aeroplane, we just tried to catch up on some of the sleep we had missed over the past three weeks. Leaving at the airport was very emotional; what we had experienced was so intense that it was hard not to shed a tear. We would meet again very soon at our reunion, but for now this was goodbye.

I was told early on that this would be life changing and, if I'm honest, I wasn't convinced. How wrong I was; I have never put a pause on my family and life to enjoy something like this. It truly will be something I remember for the rest of my life.

# Unit 51, Swans & Stags

## Caius Datt

Looking back at the photos as I am writing this, I realise that I will probably never again take part in an event as amazing as my Jamboree experience. It opened my eyes to a ridiculous array of cultures and skills, creating memories that (honestly, without any hint of cliché) will truly last a lifetime.

I was chosen, alongside various others, to represent the District of St Albans, and I was placed into the joint Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire Unit, just one of 100 Units the UK was sending halfway across the world. We were set the target of each fundraising a sum of £3000, which was achieved diligently by all of us.

Over the course of two years, all 36 members of Unit 51, known as the 'Swans and Stags' (due to the emblems of the areas we were from) participated in many different training days and weekends, where a huge range activities took place, from sailing in the icy British sunshine to a Christmas party with other Units from Hertfordshire.

We began by touring New York City: a jet-lagged and consequently zombified group of teenagers, steered around the sights fantastically by our four 'unique' but superb Leaders: April, Skip, Jonny and Abi, for whom I have so much respect and thanks to give, following a really smooth trip which was no doubt not easy to run.

We then departed for the Jamboree site, being greeted by a short but sweet heap of torrential rain (it was character-building to say the least). On the site itself were at least 45,000 people from all around the world. There were various activities such as scuba diving, skateboarding, high ropes and the longest zip lines I have ever seen! In the evening, entertainment was provided in the form of a 'Basecamp Bash' which took place in a different sub-camp each night. There were themed days like 'Cultural Day' where I vividly remember an intense bartering session involving myself, a French boy and a Chinese boy over a Sundanese national football shirt, eventually coming out on top trading 3 badges, a woggle and a scarf from Winter Camp 2015 for it. The adventure ended with a huge closing ceremony in which a favourite acapella group of mine, 'Pentatonix', gave us a huge send-off and, after a fantastic drone lights display, our Jamboree adventure was over.

We then departed for Washington DC, where the whole UK Contingent stayed for four days in Maryland University. It was here we got the true 'American' experience, with watching a baseball game and hunting down Trump Towers emerging as highlights. After this, we took part in our final leg of the trip 'Hoho'

(meaning Hosted Hospitality), staying with a local Unit just outside Montreal in Canada, where I attempted (and subsequently failed) to use my freshly-examined GCSE French on conversation. They were wonderful hosts, as we went on lovely walks, participated in various 'singalongs' in the city and had some down-time relaxing on pedalos in the middle of the lake they took us to.

Whilst I have left Explorers now, I am training to become a Beaver Leader to give something back to a Scouting movement which has provided so much to me. There is no doubt I will demand that they must participate in the Jamboree when the opportunity comes up in around a decade's time (wow!). From dreaming of going on the Jamboree when other members of my Scout Group returned from Japan when I was 13, to actually getting to go on the journey, I can safely say it was truly worth it, and couldn't recommend it more! Thank you to the whole UK Contingent and Jamboree team, who worked alongside my phenomenal Leaders to provide us with an immense 22-day trip.





## History & Heritage

### Frank Brittain, County Archivist

It has been a busy year for the History and Heritage Team who have again been actively occupied researching and recording the history of the Scout County.

Soon after the last AGM we were invited by Alan Noake, DC of Deal District, to a presentation by participants from Kent who are planning on following in the footsteps of Ernest Shackleton on his 1921 Expedition to Antarctica. Colin Walker, a member of the Heritage Team who had completed the trip previously, gave a presentation of his experience. Prior to the original expedition, Shackleton asked B-P if he could find him a Scout as Cabin Boy. An essay competition via The Scout Newspaper brought 1700 applicants. Of these 50 were short listed for final selection on the ship Quest that was moored on the Thames. One of these finalists, Frank Sears of the 3rd Boxmoor Scout Troop was from Hertfordshire. Regrettably he was not selected but two scouts from Scotland were part of the original expedition.

Whilst visiting the Isle of Wight, Frank Brittain met with Lady Sally Grylls and Imogen Baden-Powell. Lady Grylls was suitably impressed with a folder Frank was compiling about her son, Bear. As one of the regular contributors to the Promise Pathway, Frank was invited to Gilwell Park for a presentation and update on its progress. This pathway currently extends from B-Ps caravan to the Swan Centre, and is paved with slabs engraved to the memory of Scouts who have Gone Home, or about events or people that had been recorded from all over the World. There are quite a few from Hertfordshire and is well worth visiting either physically or online. It is a well-respected project and is a permanent memorial to the memory of past Leaders and young people and is growing all the time.

The AGM of the First Berkhamsted Group was also a celebration of their 110th anniversary; initially the Group had met at numerous locations, including under a lamppost, before moving to their current headquarters 100 years ago. This presented an opportunity to return their genuine WW1 bugle that had been on loan for some years and used as a visual aid during talks around the County on “What the Scouts of Hertfordshire did during WW1”

The County has been proudly represented at every World Scout Jamboree since 1919 and 2019, one hundred years since the very first Jamboree, was no exception. The team were represented at the departure of the Hertfordshire Units who were leaving for North America to join 45,000 Scouts from 165 countries. On their return Frank attended an excellent presentation by Unit 15 (one of our Hertfordshire Units) at the Priory School, Hitchin, to hear all about their experience and secure some souvenirs for the archive.

The 1st August was spent on a visit to Brownsea Island, meeting many other Scouts, including one of our ASLs from Rickmansworth, to celebrate the anniversary of the launch of Scouting.

The History and Heritage team were delighted to receive a substantial collection of Scout memorabilia bequeathed by Joan Slow, a former DC of Potters Bar, to the County Heritage Museum. We were also welcomed at the Gilwell Reunion where Colin Walker held a base/display on Scouting Collectables as well as being the official guide for the well-attended walks.

As a team we visited the Waltham Forest Museum who were holding an exhibition – Gilwell Park, then and now, and were invited to the 40th anniversary celebration of the St. Albans Gang Show where we were treated to spectacular presentations of the show’s history.







# Queen's Scout Award

## Sheena Burrus, Queen's Scout Award Coordinator

Eleven of our 16–25-year olds gained the top Scouting award, the Queen's Scout Award, several of them also achieving the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award alongside. They undertook some amazing activities, learning new skills, trying new physical challenges along with meeting new people during their residential experiences. Expeditions are the biggest challenges, with them travelling all over the UK into unknown territory, camping out in the wild. As always, the biggest highlight for me was attending their award presentations and hearing all about the adventures our young people had along their journey working towards this prestigious award.

Huge congratulations to you all and thank you for sharing your experiences with me.

Congratulations to our Queen's Scouts of 2019:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Freyja Buchanan Smith | Mid Herts              |
| Rory Baxter           | Mid Herts              |
| Ruby Doherty          | Letchworth & Baldock   |
| Kelvin Stott          | Stevenage              |
| Matthew Crowdy        | Potters Bar & District |
| Connor Hill           | Watford North          |
| Siobhan Griffiths     | Hemel Hempstead        |
| Euan Gilfillan        | Hitchin                |
| Chloe Harding         | Hertford               |
| James Matthews        | Ware                   |
| William Duke          | Watford South          |





## Capital Appeal

### Roger Sands, Appeal Director

The appeal has continued, quietly raising funds for our vital activity centres. It has been a busy time improving Well End, and some of the costs have been met from the appeal. In particular, the Graham Wallis building has been refurbished and decorated, new energy-efficient heating for the whole building has been installed and new slopes outside make it disability friendly. A new toilet block is being commissioned adjacent to the camping field.

It is also worth noting that £50,000 proceeds from the Lottery was spent at Harmergreen Wood, helping to rebuild and make safe Stag Cottage and other buildings, plus general refurbishments, making the site fit for purpose and putting it back into use.

If you would like to contribute to the appeal by making a donation or joining our Lottery, it's easy – just go to [hertfordshirescouts.org.uk](http://hertfordshirescouts.org.uk) and click on “donate”, then choose to make an on-line donation or join the Unity Lottery. The Lottery consistently makes around £200 a week for Hertfordshire Scouts, but could raise a lot more with your support! Please do your part and join, it costs only £1.00 a week, £52.00 a year. Your Group could also raise money from it. Each Group has a sales code number (available on line); quote this on the form and you could get a cheque once a year from proceeds. Leaflets and posters for your HQ are available from Roger Sands at [appeal@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:appeal@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk)

## Activity Centres

### Mark Jefferson, APMC Chairman

2019 was a year of continued transformation for Hertfordshire Scouts Activity Centres, as we worked hard to support Scouts to get outdoors more.

We moved the operational management of our two smaller in-County Centres, Well End and Harmergreen Wood, to Phasels Wood and Tolmers respectively, with the teams from these Centres driving significant improvements at both locations. We thank our members for supporting our new ways of working – adopting a more “self-service” approach to the use of these Centres.

As well as the usual event highlights in the form of Fire and Ice, Come to Tolmers, ASAP and Beavers in Tents, 2019 saw the first CAT - Cubs At Tolmers, and a very successful County Cub Activity Day at Phasels Wood.

Lochearnhead had another great year, with the Station Management Committee drawing up plans for the refurbishment of the Station, which will be funded by the bequest of Maurice Baker. They will now focus on moving this refurbishment forward and the broader development of the Station as the Lochearnhead Active Support Unit (ASU).

Volunteer support remains key to all we do at the Centres, and 2019 also marked the appointment of Ian Graeme as County Centres ASU Manager, leading this element. Ian has begun work to ensure that we truly harness the “Active Support” approach with our service crews and other volunteers.

Our role in supporting Scouting in Hertfordshire continues to grow, with ever more training opportunities offered, development days delivered and events such as Peak Assault supported. We see this as all part of being “Team Hertfordshire”.

## Our Centres



## County Chairman

### Mike Shurety

Getting back to normal?

About two weeks into the Covid-19 lockdown, I realised that we were never going to return to where we were before the global pandemic changed all our lives. A number of people told me that they couldn't wait to get back to normal; but the adjustments to our daily lives mean that the world looks very different already and it is unlikely that the 'old normal' will be anything like the 'new normal'. This will inevitably impact on Scouting as well as our private and working lives.

Social distancing and, in many cases, self-isolation have resulted in significant changes to our routines. Our approach to daily activities, such as shopping, preparing meals and even communicating with family, colleagues and friends have all been adjusted to meet a new and very different set of requirements. Even those previously reluctant to embrace IT have now become frequent users of Facebook, WhatsApp, Skype, Facetime and Zoom. We have found new ways to conduct business, hold meetings and stay in touch with each other. Changes in how we think, behave and relate to one another – some deliberate but many made subconsciously – are already beginning to define our 'new normal'.

Out of necessity we have also been forced to change our approach to Scouting. Following the suspension of face-to-face Scouting, TSA launched The Great Indoors with over 150 activities available for young people to do at home, including badge work. Other isolation initiatives such as Hike to the Moon and Camping Indoors, and a host of local schemes, have kept our members inspired, busy and continuing to take on new life skills. By living within closer proximity to each other, families have been forced to do more things together and to take a closer interest in each other's activities. So, could this present an opportunity to get more adults volunteering to help? In addition, Groups, Districts and the County have been forced to make numerous adjustments. Budgets have been revised, expenditure curtailed, building maintenance postponed and future plans altered in order to ensure that charities remain viable ongoing concerns. It has helped us all focus on what is essential and how we might prepare for the future, particularly for the re-start of face-to-face Scouting. One thing is certain, our experiences over the early months of 2020, and those of our young people, will change our approach to Scouting forever and result in us delivering it in a very different, smarter and possibly more innovative manner.

We've all had a bit more time to reflect on what does or doesn't matter, what is or is not important and what does or doesn't constitute a good use of our time. I've concluded that Scouting does matter, is important and is a very good use of my time. Personally, I'm looking forward to the 'new normal'.



**Scouts**  
Hertfordshire

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





**Scouts**  
**Hertfordshire**

**#skillsforlife**