

County Commissioner

What a whirlwind few weeks it has been. High Wycombe Gang Show, presentation of a Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct, DC meeting, County Dinner, St George's Day event and presentation of top awards for 90 young people to name but a few.

I am thankful for all the positive messages, telephone calls and conversations I have had with people over the last few weeks. I'm really looking forward to getting around the County visiting sections, Group events, and meeting brilliant volunteers who provide amazing experiences for children and young people. I have appointed Clare Clarke and Paul Cleaver as Deputy County Commissioners and they will work alongside Paul Rawlins my other Deputy County Commissioner. I am grateful to Mark Rutland for the work he did as Deputy and I'm glad to say he will be staying on the team as ACC Activities (Land).

Cycling activity update

There has recently been a review of cycling as a Scout activity including a complete update to POR. If you are looking at cycling as an activity with your young people, please make sure you are aware of the new rules and updates. All the information you need can be found at:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/general-activity-guidance/off-road-cycling/cycling/>



Scouts - Cycling

Cycling is one of the most easily accessible activities (aside from walking) and can be done virtually anywhere.

www.scouts.org.uk

In order to help Leaders in understanding the changes and to offer advice on any questions, the County have three Cycling Advisers available to help. Josh Bright, Peter Harrison and Duncan Scattergood have all agreed to offer any help and advice they can. Should anyone have any questions or need help, please email Claire at County Office who will then pass the email on to one of our advisers for them to answer. At this stage we are not looking to offer training on the new permit scheme as that is something which can be done externally.

Squirrels

Two more Groups had "taster" sessions in April and these attracted many young people and several potential volunteers. Bev Delaney is continuing to work with Groups about opening a Squirrels Drey. If you want to know more about what Squirrels do, or how they are run, please contact bev.delaney@bucks-scouts.org.uk She is willing to come to Leaders' and/or Executive meetings to talk about what a Group needs to do get a Drey approved and then how to get it up and running. If you want to visit a Drey, I'm sure Bev can arrange that for you.

Beavers

This year's sleepovers are being held at Gulliver's Land, Milton Keynes. The dates are 13 and 14 October for those in the north of the County and 14 and 15 for those in the south of the County.

The Beaveree is booked for 2024. Tessa is looking for a theme for the event. If you have any suggestions, please contact Tessa.ingram@bucks-scouts.org.uk If you would like Tessa to come along to a sleepover, camp, activity day or meeting, please invite her.

Cubs

The first Conkers sleepover is just round the corner and over 200 young people and lots of volunteers are looking forward to this. Emma has been out and around the County presenting certificates for the Endurance event. Emma wants to meet lots of volunteers so please invite her to meetings, activity days etc. emma.kings@bucks-scouts.org.uk

Scouts

Lucy Parker has been getting around the County presenting certificates for Endurance 40. She is scheduling the numerous invitations she received to visit a Troop into her diary. If you have any thoughts or ideas about activities you would like to see run this year, please contact lucy.parker@bucks-scouts.org.uk

Explorers

If you have any thoughts or ideas about what you would like to see Explorers doing this year, please contact paul.rawlins@bucks-scouts.org.uk

Jamboree Units and Grand Tour

The departure dates for our volunteers and young people are just around the corner. They are keen to share what they have been up to and what they are looking forward to. I'm sure when they return they will want to share more information which will hopefully inspire young people to attend the 2027 Jamboree in Poland. Please invite them along to talk to Scouts and Cubs.

Website

We are adding information to the website on a gradual basis. Details of events such as County sleepovers and the AGM are on the site as is training. We will add further information and pictures from events on a regular basis. If you have any thoughts or comments about the website, please contact one of the County Team.

DC Vacancies

There are currently vacancies for District Commissioners in Aylesbury, Chiltern Vale, Milton Keynes and the Vale of Aylesbury. If you know of someone who would be a good fit for any of the roles, please nominate them. Likewise, if you think you are the person who could lead one of these Districts, please nominate yourself. Please contact Claire for one of the packs. This will provide you with further information about the role along with a nomination form.

County Dinner

Thanks to Claire for organising this year's County Dinner. We were fortunate to have HM Lord Lieutenant Countess Howe and High Sheriff Dame Anne Limb DL at the dinner. It was wonderful to see many long service and good service awards presented to some of our volunteers. It was also wonderful to see presentations made for Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards, Queen's Scouts, and also our first King's Scout.

Fundays and takeover of Gilwell Park

Fundays are back at Gilwell Park. The first ones are scheduled for 10 and 11 June and are for Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs. Further details can be found at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/national-events/fundays/>

There are also "takeover Gilwell" events for Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. Bookings for these have been closed as there are fewer booked on than they expected. The events are still going ahead for those who have booked.

The Big O

We are pleased to confirm that this year's Big O will take place on Saturday 7 October at its usual location of Wendover Woods. A link to the website with further information and the online booking form will be sent to all Leaders when it is open. In the meantime please do make a note in your calendars. For those of you who have not been involved with this before, these are great orienteering events where the children navigate their way around the woods.

First Aid training

First aid training has been planned for the year with at least one course every month, apart from August and December. The next one is on 20 May at Braid Wood. Details of other courses are on the website. If you sign up for a course and then are unable to attend, please contact your Training Adviser, organiser of the module or stuart.black@bucks-scouts.org.uk

Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

POR is being regularly updated. Please do not think that what was in place last year is the same this year; there have been many changes, especially around activities. www.scouts.org.uk/por

Inclusion.

The County Inclusion Team cover a very wide range of matters that are now encompassed under Equity, Diversity & Inclusion. If you require any help, support, advice or guidance about Inclusion, please contact rex.stevens@bucks-scouts.org.uk If you would like some advice on any area, please contact Rex and he will arrange for someone to contact you. If you would like a member of the team to come to your leaders' meeting, please ask and I'm sure someone will attend.

AGM

The County Annual General Meeting will be held on 22 September at 7.30 pm via Zoom. Anyone wishing to attend the online meeting should let Claire at County Office know. An email with the link and agenda will then be circulated nearer the time.

Roverway.

Are you interested in going to Norway between 22 July and 5 August? How about applying to be a member of the IST? <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/international-scouts-and-events/international-events/roverway/ist-hub/>

Young Leader training

There will be a Young Leaders' training weekend at Braid Wood from 29 September to 1 October.

Wycombe Gang Show

This was a wonderful event and many of the young people got the opportunity to perform on stage in front of a large audience for the first time. On the closing night a cheque for over £1,000 was presented to Enrych who were the charity the show was supporting this year. We understand that James is interested in being in next year's gang show.

Moot 2025– UK Contingent Core team

If you would like to be a member of the UK Contingent Core Team going to Portugal in 2025, please read the attached hyperlink? <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer/join-our-national-volunteer-team/uk-contingent-core-team/>

Bucks Scout Radio

Would any of your young people like to get some experience of presenting a show or helping with the production of a show on the radio? Would you like to record a podcast? Would you like Bucks Scout Radio to come to your Group/event to show you what they do? The team were at Endurance and will be at County and other activities this year. gary@bucksscouteradio.co.uk

They are also looking at the possibility of doing some podcasts for each of the sections. If you have any thoughts on what podcasts you might like, please contact Gary. If you have any children, young people or adults who would like to make some comments about what they like about being in any of the sections or what, as a volunteer, they get out of being involved in Scouts, please contact Gary

Big Help Out

The King's Coronation is a wonderful opportunity to get some people interested in volunteering with Scouts. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/national-events/coronation/the-big-help-out/>

Gilwell reunion

This year's Gilwell reunion is being held between 1 and 3 September. This event always has different activities that you can try or observe, workshops and an opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/national-events/gilwell-reunion/>

Volunteer roles, jobs and much more

www.scouts.org.uk will give you details of jobs with the Scouts, voluntary roles and links to much more.

Parents Guide to ...

Parents Guide to Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers can be downloaded. If anybody wants some hard copies please let me know as I have some for all of the sections bar Squirrels.

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