

December 2022 Newsletter

Dear Volunteer



Season's greetings

On behalf of the County Team, we wanted to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Over the last 12 months, there have been many things we should celebrate, including the opening of four Squirrel Dreys and several other new sections; increases in numbers; two epic Beaver sleepovers, and a brilliant Beaveree. We've also had Endurance, the County Dinner, top awards presentations, Big O, one of our young people being a Bear Grylls' unsung hero, and supporting the Lying in State of our late Queen.

Cub Scouts – Conkers

All Cub Section Leaders should be aware of one of the highlights of next year. Emails were recently sent out so if you are involved with the Cub Section and haven't received details, please contact Claire at the County Office. County Cub Sleepover at Conkers – 20 and 21 May for those in the South of the County and 10 and 11 June for those in the North of the County. More details will be available early in 2023.

County Dinner

The next Scouting Awards Dinner will be taking place on 15 April 2023 at De Vere Latimer Estate. Once RSVPs are received from invited Queen's Scouts and Guides and Awardees, additional tickets will be available to purchase from County Office. For more details, please email Claire.heasman@bucks-scouts.org.uk.

Endurance

The Endurance weekend is on 4 and 5 March 2023. The Endurance website is up and running. <https://enduranceevents.org.uk/> Please register your teams as soon as possible.

Animal Friends activity badge

For Beaver and Cub leaders – the partnership between Scouts and Pets at Home has been re-launched. Learn how to care for all sorts of wonderful animals by clicking: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/supporters/pets-at-home/>

Mandatory training

HQ are tightening up on outstanding mandatory training. They are currently issuing lists to Counties with details of volunteers who have not completed their mandatory training within the stipulated time scale. This includes new volunteers who have not completed their safety and safeguarding within five months of starting in the role.

Can you please ensure your safety, safeguarding and first aid are all up to date? Safety and safeguarding can be completed on line. If training is out of date District Commissioners are being advised they must either suspend, cancel or retire the person concerned.

Adult recruitment workshops

Ed Ryan and Tony McCawley have arranged two adult recruitment workshops for January and February. These are great opportunities to pick up some tips about recruiting volunteers and also to get a few hours' ongoing learning under your belt.

Saturday 28 January at Lent Rise for adults from Misbourne Valley and Woodlands Districts

Saturday 25 February at Great Missenden for volunteers from Chiltern North and Chiltern Vale Districts.

More details about the workshops will be sent in direct emails.

Young people singing

It's been great to see on social media, children and young people from across the County going into care homes and singing carols with the residents in the homes. I'm sure this brought a warm glow to the staff and the residents in the homes. Thank you to those of you who have sung in the community and for sharing the posts on social media.

Development

There are lots of resources on The Scouts website about recruiting new volunteers. Some are online courses, but they are also running some face-to-face events. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/ready-to-recruit/volunteer-recruitment-workshops/> There is also the four week challenge <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/ready-to-recruit/four-week-challenge/> For help and support in trying to recruit adult volunteers please contact Ed.Ryan@bucks-scouts.org.uk

Tony McCawley has joined us in his role as County Development Officer. He will be working on various projects pertaining to increasing the number of volunteers we have so we can provide more opportunities for children and young people.

Inclusion.

If you want any help, support, or advice about inclusion matters, please contact rex.stevens@bucks-scouts.org.uk In addition to the ongoing County Inclusion Team's Workshops being held around the Scout County please look out for the regular Zoom Inclusion Drop-In sessions which are always open to everyone.

Training calendar

The training calendar for 2023 has been issued. An application form was also enclosed in the email from Claire. Please complete and submit the form sooner rather than later as we always want to ensure we have sufficient volunteers to make these weekends viable.

Jamboree Units and Grand Tour

Have you thought about inviting members of either the Jamboree Units or Grand Tour members to visit any of your sections? I'm sure they will be willing to come along and talk about what they have been doing and maybe cook some Korean food or teach the members of the Group some Korean words. I know they will have badges for sale as part of their fund raising.

Volunteer roles with Scouts

There are several volunteer roles advertised on the Scouts website every month. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer/join-our-national-volunteer-team/>

Paid Jobs at The Scouts

There are often paid jobs on The Scouts website. Please visit <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/jobs/> to find out more. I'm aware there is lots of flexibility about where you work from.

Squirrels

If you are interested in opening a Squirrels Drey (for children aged 4 and 5) please contact beverley.delaney@bucks-scouts.org.uk Beverley is Assistant County Commissioner for Squirrels and can answer questions about setting up, programme ideas, trying to recruit volunteers and spaces in Beavers for the children to move to. Maybe the first step is to identify children on your waiting list who could join and invite their parents/carers to a meeting. Bev can go through the process of starting up a new drey and hopefully, one, two, or more of the parents/carers may step forward and be willing to get involved.

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