



### **Census**

This year's County census figures are excellent! We showed increases in all the sections and we have more adult volunteers than this time last year. Our total number of children and young people aged 4 to 17 is 8062. We have 81 Network members and 2260 adult volunteers. The total membership is 10403. We don't know what the national figures looked like, they are not normally available until late April. One of the excellent pieces of news is the 8.2% increase in adult volunteers. This will hopefully lead to more children and young people being able to join Scouts in our County.

### **Cubs**

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. Lots of places have already been booked. If you haven't booked places for children and volunteers in your pack, please book them as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

### **Adult recruitment workshops**

Tony McCawley has organised and led two adult recruitment workshops. The third one is arranged for 25 March and is for volunteers in High Wycombe and Marlow. These are great opportunities to pick up some tips about recruiting volunteers and also to get a few hours' ongoing learning under your belt. Tony has some great resources which are shared with attendees. One of the items that came out of one of these is a "family experience" event. All of the children and their parents/carers are invited along. Children on the waiting list are also invited along with their parents/carers. I understand the outcome is that they normally recruit at least two volunteers at each of these events.

### **Fundays and takeover of Gilwell Park**

Fundays are back at Gilwell Park. There are also section "takeover" days that are being introduced. Details of these can be found at: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/national-events>

### **Good Service**

Is there someone in your District who deserves a Good Service award? These can range from Chief Scout's commendation for Good Service to Silver Wolf. Anybody can nominate someone for an award. The hyperlink will take you directly to the criteria for good service awards and also to the nomination form. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/learning-development-and-awards/awards-and-recognition/good-service-awards/>

### **Nights Away notification**

There is a new Nights Away notification (NAN) form. Please ensure the new version is used for all Nights Away events. This includes sleepovers in the Scout HQ. The hyperlink will take you to the new form and also other resources about Nights Away. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/nights-away-and-camping/nights-away-resources/>

### **Mandatory training**

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.

First aid training has been planned for the year with at least one course every month, apart from August and December. Two weekends have been set up for many of the other modules. If there is some training you need to do or want to do, please contact your Training Adviser, Local Training Manager or [stuart.black@bucks-scouts.org.uk](mailto:stuart.black@bucks-scouts.org.uk)

## **Explorer/Young Leaders**

There will be a Young Leaders' training weekend from 29 September to 1 October. 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](mailto:paul.rawlins@bucks-scouts.org.uk)

## **Scouts**

Lucy Parker is in the process of planning some ADC meetings. She is also keen to attend events/meetings that you are having. 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](mailto:lucy.parker@bucks-scouts.org.uk)

## **Recruitment of volunteers**

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](mailto:Ed.Ryan@bucks-scouts.org.uk)

## **Beavers**

Details about the Beaver sleepover at Gulliver's Land have been circulated. 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.

## **Inclusion.**

The County Inclusion Team cover a very wide range of matters that are now encompassed under Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. If you require any help, support, advice or guidance about Inclusion, please contact [rex.stevens@bucks-scouts.org.uk](mailto: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.

An inclusion workshop is being held on 18 March at 1<sup>st</sup> Chesham HQ. If you would like to attend or would like more information, please contact [bob.stiff@bucks-scouts.org.uk](mailto:bob.stiff@bucks-scouts.org.uk)

## **Coronation Champions and Big Help Out**

Do you know someone whom you would like to nominate as a Coronation Champion? Are you participating in the Big Help Out? The hyperlink may help you come up with some ideas. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/national-events/coronation/the-big-help-out/>

## **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.

## **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 staff work from.

## **Unsung Heroes**

Do you have an unsung hero in your District, Group or Unit? The Scouts are looking for 20 people aged between 4 and 24 who stand out for something they have done. The hyperlink takes you straight to the nomination form. <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c714099ba9ec4711b9d444dc3500543d>

## **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/>

## **Squirrels**

If you are interested in opening a Squirrels Drey (for children aged 4 and 5) please contact [beverley.delaney@bucks-scouts.org.uk](mailto:beverley.delaney@bucks-scouts.org.uk) Beverley is currently working with some Groups across the County, looking at the possibility of opening some dreys in each District. There is a County facebook page for Squirrel leaders. If you are involved in Squirrels but have not joined the Facebook group, please contact Bev.

## **Wycombe gang show**

Tickets for the High Wycombe Scouts are now available. It is running from 30 March to 1 April. This year they are supporting the charity "Enrich" – looking beyond disability. <https://highwycombegangshow.co.uk/events/>

## **Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)**

There is a new edition of POR containing several changes; these include adventurous activities, cycling, nights away and reporting of incidents. The hyperlink will take you to the latest version. There is a summary of the changes that have been made. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por>

## **All member's meeting**

The All members' meeting on 21 February included programme support, recruitment workshops and funding opportunities, resources for programme on the Scout website, mandatory ongoing learning, risk assessment, public liability, youth investment fund and Coronation badge. A recording will be available on the Scout website in the next few days.

## **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 will be at Endurance and several sleepovers this year. [gary@bucksscoutradio.co.uk](mailto:gary@bucksscoutradio.co.uk)

## **Make a difference**

Do you know someone who has made a difference? If so, why not nominate them for a BBC Make a Difference award. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3M4QTQxVtH3z7nbyZiDDS4p/make-a-difference-awards>

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