



this issue...

New Zealand 2016

INCLUDING...

**Bexley Youth Commissioner
Youshaped, Farm to Fork
and more...**

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Got an article for the next issue of i.SHARE?

If you have any articles and information for the next edition of i.SHARE please submit to newsletter@glsecouts.org.uk





#YouShape

YouShape Week is a platform to empower young people to shape their Scouting at a national and local level.

During the national event we discussed whether young people should be given the opportunity - with the help of leaders - to be able to lead both small groups or a whole section. We discussed how you can plan the programme to include everyone in the section by playing parachute games or swap to have a snowball fight – writing activity ideas on paper, screwing them up and then throw them at each other -building meetings on the most popular ideas.

During the Community Impact session we discussed the importance of members deciding which charity to help or how to do to raise money for the chosen charity. The A Million Hands Project is one way that members can partake to help the community and choose what to do for the charity.

In the Inclusivity session we discussed that if you have a diverse group of young people with a diverse programme, the members get to understand the different peoples' cultures, backgrounds and lifestyles.

In the final session about Growth of the Movement we discussed how we are likely to keep more young people in the Movement if they have a say in what they get to do.

The YouShape 2016 helped me to make new connections around the UK and a new insight into how other county's run youth forums and YouShape events.

Charlie Freeman-Grantham,
27th Bromley -
Wilberforce (Hornets) Explorers





New Zealand Explorer Belt

by Jade Donaldson, 8th West Wickham

On the 3rd January 2016, the GLSE New Zealand expedition group landed back in England after 17 days having completed our Explorer Belt expedition. Throughout our time in the North Island we met some amazing people, did some extraordinary things and saw some of the remarkable sights that New Zealand has to offer whilst travelling between 8 magnificent locations: Auckland, Matamata, Tauranga, Rotorua, Taupo, Tongariro, Waitomo and Hamilton.

Whilst in this beautiful country, we experienced an entirely different culture of the native people of New Zealand – the Maori. We heard some traditional Maori stories from our guide Matthew whilst completing the Tongariro Crossing – a challenging 19.4km walk across a mountain, stayed overnight in a Maori thermal village in Rotorua and saw some Maori rock carvings from a boat on Lake Taupo – a lake the size of the area inside the M25. We met some Kiwi Scouts at a barbecue in Taupo and some Australian Scouts in Auckland as well as the New Zealand National Commissioner when we visited the Sky Tower.





Our Christmas Day was spent in Rotorua at a community meal with 500 people, speaking to as many as we could about our expedition and hearing from different families about their experiences at Christmas, whilst eating Christmas dinner - It was a definitely different a Christmas experience but one that all of us will never forget.



On our expedition we also saw the iconic Hobbiton set from the Lord of the Rings, we helped at a Soup Kitchen with the charity LoveSoup, black water rafted through glow-worm caves, painted a mural on the side of a Scout hut, learnt the haka and saw some of New Zealand's geothermal activity at Hells Gate spa. We then welcomed the New Year by watching the fireworks in Auckland from our hotel balcony and reflected on what a wonderful trip it had been.



This is a trip that I will never forget and I now have some great friends from this experience. If anyone is thinking of doing an Explorer Belt, go for it because you definitely won't regret it.





Introducing Bexley's District Youth Commissioner: Ella Fox

As we all know, Scouting is a youth organisation run by adult volunteers. The adults choose the programme and run the nights as well as any camps.

The Scout Association would like to slightly alter how this is run and continue to improve the partnership between youth and leaders. To help with this change of structure I have been enrolled as the very first Bexley District Youth Commissioner. It is my role to engage with the younger members of Scouting and promote their ideas and opinions and shape their future within Scouting. Many of you may have seen me around but have no idea who I am so without further ado....

My name is Ella, I'm 23 and as well as being Bexley District Youth Commissioner I am also take an active part in Bexley Network and the Bexley District Executive. When I am not doing something Scouting related, I also work at a veterinary hospital, so definitely very used to having new challenges given to me every day!

As part of my new role I hope to start forums where every voice can be heard, from Beavers up to Network and brainstorm new and exciting ideas, learn new skills and help to bring all members of the District together.

Before 2018 there are many ideas on how to improve Scouting all over the country with the GLSE County team and Bexley District working together to achieve these aims, whether they be via international trips, camps, community work or just a regular weekly meeting.

You can reach me via email: dyc@bexleyscouts.org.uk or via twitter: [@DycBexleyscouts](https://twitter.com/DycBexleyscouts)



Have you signed up to the County mailing list?

Sign up here: <http://goo.gl/dZA5SZ> to get your next copy of i.SHARE and much more news!





Tesco Farm to Fork Trail

by Louise Holdridge, 18th Erith

Beavers and Cubs from 18th Erith Scout Group visited Tesco in Welling to take part in the Farm to Fork Trail recently.

We met Jackie from the store who gave us an activity booklet to complete in groups on different types of food and where it comes from and showed us behind the scenes at the store.

First the young people tried prunes, then tzatziki with pitta bread and carrot batons; Jackie's motto was - if you don't like it - lick it! Even some of our fussier eaters tried the new foods with some encouragement.

We then went through to the staff café and learnt about the running of the store and how they take care of their staff. After that we went down to the bakery which was closed for the day but still smelt amazing; the Beavers and Cubs tried different types of bread and the leaders helped to finish off the yummy fruit loaf. We saw an oven that can bake 100 doughnuts at a time and tried to calculate how many Beavers we could fit in one of the huge bread ovens.

Then we went to the fish counter and all the Beavers and Cubs were given a glove and risked their fingers to discover that trout have teeth on their tongues! It was then on to the cheese counter to guess which cheese we were given to try - all the while filling in the activity booklet.

The next step of the tour was into the fridge which was a little bit chilly but not as cold as the freezer where we went next. One of the cubs said that the freezer was his favourite bit and he thought it was funny when Tree's glasses misted up! It was then on to the fruit and veg section where the young people picked some different produce and found out where and how it was grown. Jackie tested our knowledge of turnips and swede which look almost alike; it was a 50/50 split on which was the swede but most of the young people knew the difference between an orange and a satsuma.

Finally we went back upstairs where the Beavers and Cubs were given a homework sheet, a gift bag and the Farm to Fork badge and there our evening ended.

We can't thank Tesco and especially Jackie enough for an enjoyable informative evening; the young people all had a really great time which was certainly a little bit different to our usual weekly meetings. I would highly recommend this to other groups and Jackie was so adaptable to our needs.



Scouting joins forces with The Bexley Business Academy Primary opening new sections for 6-10 year olds

Boys and girls from Thamesmead will have a new opportunity to taste adventure with the 1st Thamesmead Beaver Scout Colony and Cub Scout Pack which opened on 1st March; a taster session took place the previous week when the young people sampled the many and varied activities that Scouting offers.

Prospective Cub Scout, Stephanie, aged 8, said "I can't wait to join the new pack because it sounds fun and I like building things" another hopeful Cub Scout, Luke, aged 9, said "I want to be part of the pack because my dad was a Scout and I wanted to be a Cub as my cousin was Beaver Scout and he loved it, but now I can be a Cub."

Scouting in Bexley seeks to transform the lives of young people by providing an inspiring programme of everyday adventure. Over 200 activities, including adventure glider flights, skiing, rock climbing and water zorbing, are on offer.





Headteacher Roberta Michalski at The Business Academy Bexley Primary said, "This is an exciting opportunity for young people on Thamesmead to use their positive energy having fun on the Scouting Adventure. We are very happy to provide space in our school for the Scout Association to develop the Scouting adventure on Thamesmead."



Chief Scout Bear Grylls commented, "I am super proud to see so many young people and adults learning new life skills, achieving personal rewards through Scouting in Bexley. I am excited to see Scout numbers continue to rise across the UK and the big reasons for this are that more and more young people are realising that Scouting can give them so much – whether it's the opportunity to be involved with some incredible adventures, learn practical life, outdoor and teamwork skills, or helping to improve their local communities. People don't want to miss out and Scouting brings them all together, empowers them and allows them to make a positive impact."



Bromley Events Report

District DIY Badge

Feb 7th Congratulations to all 239 Cubs from across Bromley who gained the DIY badge at the District DIY badge day!

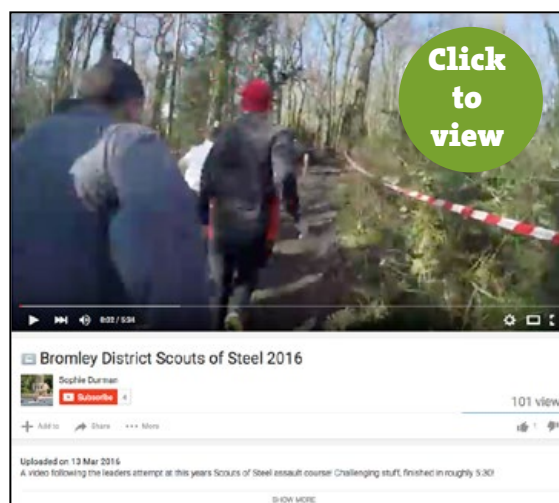


Scouts of Steel

March 15th Congratulations to all 260+ Scouts and Explorers from 25 different groups who took part in the Districts 'Scouts of Steel' assault course on Sunday! And a huge congratulations to the winners!

Under 12 1/2 - 22nd Bromley
Over 12 1/2 - 15th Bromley
Explorers - 23rd Bromley

Missed the action? Check out some of the leaders giving it a go - <https://youtu.be/VVlkn-fhqWU>



Cub Scouts Challenge

March 19th 2016 Cub Scout Challenge



District Easter Egg Hunt

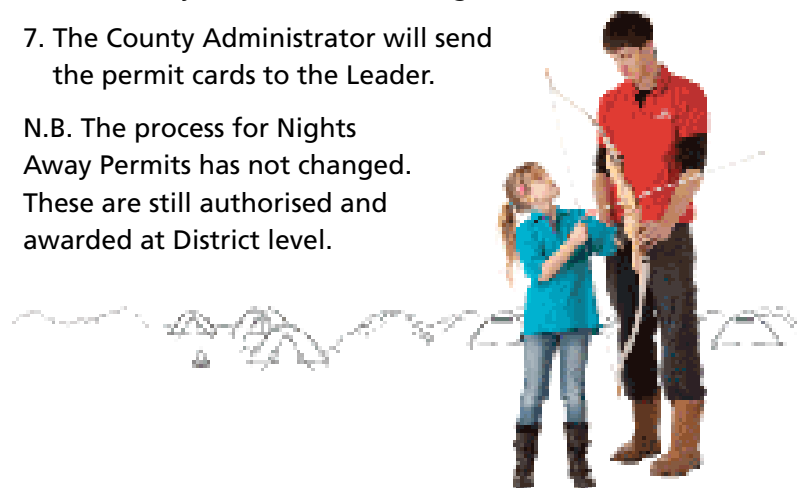


March 19th Over 100 Beavers helped the Easter Bunny keep his Eggs safe at the District Easter Egg Hunt!

Activity Permits

In order to relieve some of the burden on the DCs, ensure consistency across the county and fully understand what activity advisors/assessors we have in the County, please follow the following process when applying for and awarding Activity Permits.

1. The Applicant must undertake the appropriate training and gain any necessary experience before applying for a permit.
 2. The Assessor/Advisor will complete their recommendation on an applicant (the assessor will not award the adventurous activity permit or update Compass).
 3. All recommendations for Adventurous Activity permits must be forwarded to the ACC Activities.
 4. The ACC Activities will ensure the following (which should be included in the recommendation from the assessor).
 - that the applicant is a member of the Association,
 - that their safeguarding and first aid are up to date
 - that they have received the appropriate level of training/nationally recognised qualification.
 5. On receipt of the authorisation from the ACC Activities, the County Administrator will ensure that Compass is updated and raise the permits.
 6. The County Commissioner will sign them.
 7. The County Administrator will send the permit cards to the Leader.
- N.B. The process for Nights Away Permits has not changed. These are still authorised and awarded at District level.



International Opportunities



Firstly, I'd like to introduce myself as the new Assistant County Commissioner International (ACCI) for the County. The role has three main duties:

- Being a key contact for the Visits Abroad Process
- Supporting the Global Programme
- Aiding leaders to organise international trips

If you are thinking of going abroad with your section/group, then please get in touch so that I can help guide you through the Visits Abroad Process. Likewise if you would like some ideas on how you can add a Global element to your programme then I can provide some useful resources.

There are a number of exciting international opportunities coming up in summer 2017 for Scouts, Explorers, Network and Leaders to get involved in, such as:



CANADA - An expedition travelling the width of Canada between July 27th and August 12th which is open to any Explorer in Bromley or Bexley Districts. Participants can attend as individuals rather than as a unit. For more details please email canada2017expedition@gmail.com.



PORTUGAL - An action packed international summer camp between August 5th and August 13th for any Scout or Explorer in Bromley District. Participants can either go as a unit or as an individual. For more details please email tom.norris@bromleyscouts.org



ICELAND MOOT - The 15th World Scout Moot will be in Iceland from July 25th – August 2nd 2017 and will bring together up to 5000 young adults between the ages of 18 to 25 from all over the world.

More details can be found at:
<http://ukcontingent.co.uk/moot-2017-2/>

If you were born on or between the dates of August 2nd 1991 and July 25th 1999 you are eligible to be a participant with the UK Contingent.

If you were born on or before August 1st 1991 you are eligible to join the Moot's International Service Team (IST). Applications should be made directly to the UK Contingent at the following links:

Participants link: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2554958/55bcc547d3f8>

David Goodwin
international@glscouts.org.uk





Young Leader Training report 12th-13th March 2016



Scouting has always been such a big part of my life - from making new friends to helping out in the community; everyone in the Movement has always been so giving to me so I decided to give something back by becoming a Young Leader.

On the Young Leaders' course they made it very easy and quite a lot of fun to learn all the techniques of leadership, but also the importance of listening skills. It was an informal weekend with no serious exam at the end; instead, it was split into modules which made it much more enjoyable for everyone.

Over the course of the weekend I, for sure, built confidence in my leadership skills. For example, we had to bring along a skill we had, or a hobby and, on Sunday morning, we were given the opportunity to teach our skill to two other explorers on the course then, in exchange, they would teach us theirs. My skill was rugby so I taught some simple skills.



My friends however had some much more interesting ideas, one taught me calligraphy and the other was origami. Neither of them has played rugby and by the end they were pretty confident in passing. Similarly I had never done calligraphy but I have now and could confidently pass on my new talent.

Overall, the weekend was a terrific couple of days and I would recommend it to anybody who wishes to become a Young Leader. It was so informative but casual at the same time, it couldn't have been better.

Jonny Zapple,
5th Petts Wood





CC's Report

Our annual census this year has shown that the County grew by 53 youth members, however this does not reflect the amount of effort all of our volunteers are putting into delivering Scouting to our young people. Although we have closed a few sections which has contributed to big losses in the Beaver and Cub sections, conversely our Explorer Scout section is now the biggest it has ever been. The problem appears to be, as always, a lack of Leaders. The County Training Team is working hard to resolve this and is delivering two Young Leader Courses each year which are producing nearly 50 trained Young Leaders annually.

If you have a Young Leader volunteering in your section please do everything you can to support the YL to develop their skills and confidence as they are our future Leaders. Hopefully, if we make them feel valued many of them will stay on after 18 to become Adult Leaders.

Two members of the County Team stepped down from the Team at the beginning of April. Paul Cosgrave has served as an ACC, DCC also covering the role of County Treasurer over the last ten years. He has decided that he wants to try other types of volunteering work around London and will be reducing his commitment to Scouting to free up some time to commit to his new ventures. Paul has made a significant contribution to Scouting at all levels over the years and his commitment, input and humour will be sorely missed.

Lorna Dickens has been our Finance Manager over the last three years and has brought a significant order and calm to the financial management of events and the County in general. Lorna has an increasingly demanding professional workload and needs to take a step back to cope with it. Both are happy to remain available for advice when required. I am sure that I am speaking to everyone when I thank them for their commitment to Scouting in GLSE.

Over the past few months we have recruited three new ACCs to the team.

- Ann Hayes has taken on the role of ACC Activities from Jim Pitts;
- Fred Umney becomes ACC Programme with his primary focus on the 14-25 programme and Top Award, whilst
- David Goodwin becomes ACC International and brings his experience of participating and leading International expeditions to the role.

We are still looking for volunteers who are interested in taking up the roles of ACC Communications, ACC Development and ACC Adult Support - so if you are interested in any of these roles or being a member of the team please do not hesitate to contact me.

Over the coming year the County and District Team will be focussed on assisting our adult volunteers to complete the training and accreditation appropriate to their roles. This is important because we must ensure that all of our volunteers have been equipped with the skills and tools to keep our young people safe during their adventurous activities. If you have been a volunteer for some time and have not yet completed your training and accreditation please contact your GSL, DESC, DC etc or the Training Team for assistance.

Very few of our Explorer Scouts are achieving their Explorer Belt which is an important part of the programme. In order to ensure there are available opportunities for them to complete their Explorer Belt the County Team, in conjunction with the District Teams, will be providing opportunities from the summer of 2017. These will be based in Europe to keep the cost down and ensure that none of our young people are disadvantaged because their parents are unwilling to commit to the event.

Have a great Scouting summer

Nick Crowe
County Commissioner



Writers and Photographers needed



writers
wanted

What are you doing in your districts? We need your articles, photographs. We have a couple of budding writers and photographers helping us on our team. Any others wishing to join the team are more than welcome. Please email newsletter@glscouts.org.uk

GLSE Water Weekend

Saturday 2nd July – Sunday 3rd July
at Leybourne Lakes
nr Maidstone

DOWNLOAD FORM

Places are limited

Closing date 10th June

Cost of the weekend is £42

For more information contact:

Jeff Ross-Myring – jrossmyring@btinternet.com



SAVE THE DATE

M.E.S.H. 12

23rd - 25th September

This years MESH 12 will be themed on Scotland.

Date: 23rd Sept - 25th September 2016.

Join the Facebook Page for upto date information



Awards

Good Service Awards:

Silver Acorn:

James Allen - Bromley District
Brenda Petts - Bromley District
Trevor Ford - Bexley District
Roger Riddle - Bexley District
Lyn Beeson - Bexley District
Chris Allen - Bexley District

The Bar to the Silver Acorn:

Richard Willgoss - Bexley District
Mike Regan - Bexley District



SILVER ACORN

The Silver Acorn, worn on an orange ribbon around the neck, and emblems or pin badge with an orange knot is awarded for specially distinguished service for a period of not less than twenty years.



THE BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

may be awarded for at least a further 5 years of similarly distinguished service.

Photos from GLSE Award Night

