

i.SHARE

Greater London South East Scouts Newsletter
Issue 17 - October 2020



Scouts

Greater London
South East

Scouting in LOCKDOWN

Including
Scouting from home
#tgiweekender
and much more...



GLSE_Scouts



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Your Autumn edition of i.SHARE

“Overthinking! I find myself doing that a lot.”



I read subtext into requests that are made of me, I find myself thinking what is the desired response? I catastrophise and more.

Who can relate to this?

You are not alone in this. We all do it. We could think about things from being from the heart or the head.

The head, often, will cause us to over think! I'll share some examples with you: just being asked to pen something for this post - what am I going to say? How will it be received? What do I want to say?

I want to say loads to you because you are all amazing but that doesn't quieten my over thinking brain. How can I work around that? What does my heart say?

The other example was being asked for a colleague for 5 words that described them so that they could update their CV.

My overthinking brain kicked in! What would they like me to say? What if I say the wrong things? Sometimes we need to just scale everything back. Don't over think, go with what our hearts say. It's almost an automatic response. The first things that come into your mind.

I'm sure over the last 7 months or so we've all been guilty of overthinking things: you know what? That's normal. How will this

Zoom meeting be received? Will my young people like it? What if I do it wrong? How can I support my members to get the most out of it? What happens if...? We try to prepare for scenarios that we cannot even know about. That is exhausting.

When we overthink things it stops us from being our authentic self. This is who we are, our very being. Why we do what we do. When someone asks you why you do Scouting, is your automatic response "because I love to see young people grow and develop and gain skills for life?" Or is it "because I enjoy it"? Head says one thing, heart the other. What is truly authentic?

Authentic is being brave enough to go off script. Be passionate about what you do. Your enthusiasm will shine through. It's infectious. Overthinking sucks. My message to you is be you!! Be who you are. Turn up and be authentic (virtually or physically). You. You will make a difference. For that, I thank you. From the bottom of my heart I thank you for everything that you have been doing over the last 7 months. There are no more words.

Take care & stay safe.



Gwyn Muckelt
GLSE County Commissioner

You can reach me via email:
countycommissioner@glsecouts.org.uk

 @GwynGwynnie  @GwynMuckelt

We are delighted to see Hannah Kentish recognised with the award of a British Empire Medal for her inspirational leadership as Scouting's first UK Youth Commissioner and spearheading youth shaped Scouting.

Well done Hannah.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT, AS YOUNG PEOPLE, WE GET THE CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO US.

#YouShape





Scouts from across the County joined celebrity-led digital Scout summer camp

Over the weekend of the 11th–12th July, young people from across the County joined 250,000 others from around the world to take part in the #TGIWeekender festival, breaking the world record for the largest number of people camping at the same time.

The Scouts slept somewhere other than their own bed. Ideas included sleeping under the kitchen table, in the garden, on the sofa or even in the bath.

As lockdown eases and young people start to return to school, life is still far from normal in the County and social distancing restrictions will apply for some time to come. Young people will still be unable to experience the excitement of taking part in sleepovers with their friends, going on school trips or going to Scout camp.

Young people are feeling increasingly isolated and this is having a negative impact on their mental well-being. In recent YouGov research, commissioned by the Scout Association, 62% of British teenagers aged 14-18, said the Covid19 crisis has had a bad effect on their mental health. This effect is more likely to be felt by girls than boys, with 69% of girls aged 14-18 saying they have felt this negative impact compared to 57% of boys.

This summer thousands of local, national and international Scout camps have been cancelled and the opportunities to learn new skills, meet young people from other communities and learn about new cultures have been lost. #TGIWeekender has been designed to play a small part in filling that gap.





The weekend included the opportunity for young people to take part in celebrity led online sessions and the world's biggest virtual campfire. Speaking about the event Chief Scout Bear Grylls said:

"Life is about supporting each other and this is now more important than ever. The #TGIWeekender is about helping Scouts stay connected with their existing friends and make new ones from across the UK and from around the world. It's an amazing opportunity for young people to reconnect with friends, have fun, and learn skills for life" He added "We are putting on a programme for all ages with a number of online sessions designed for everyone so they can dip into and out of it. We hope that Scouts and non-Scouts will join us in this adventure, feel more connected with each other and learn some new skills."

"This summer I had planned to be part of Eurojam, a camp in Poland. As I can no longer go, I thought it would be really fun to set up a tent in my garden and sleep there. All my friends from my Scout Group are doing it too and we are sharing pictures of our home campsites with each other.



Scouting helps its members develop skills for life, including those required to adapt to new and sometimes difficult situations. The Scouts want to prove that just because they cannot meet 'face to face' right now, they can still come together and learn new skills.



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!





Bexley Beavers reporting here

"The airwaves have been buzzing since our world was thrown into lockdown!

Whatever were we going to do without our weekly dose of Scouting?

Well we didn't have to wait long; so who knew what Zoom was before the 23rd March?

Now Zoom meetings are taking place all over the world, it has kept us together and brought joy to our lives even though we might still not have mastered its many intricacies!

As well as games and crafts, groups have had invited guests to join their meetings - Cllr James Hunt, the Mayor of Bexley; Joes Bows and his beautiful birds of prey; Forensic Science; Shepreth wildlife park to name but a few. Some have hooked up with Scout groups from around the world bringing a glimpse of international Scouting to their members.

Did I mention camping at home and Zoom Camp Fire Sessions? Oh, and AGMs!

Although meetings on line have proved very successful for some groups this is not always going to be the answer. Those groups have responded by keeping in contact with their young people via WhatsApp, Facebook and email - running activities, badge work and games.

Everyone has done their best to ensure Beaver Scouting has continued throughout Bexley during difficult times. Well done to everyone including the Beavers who always approach everything with a cheeky smile and tons of enthusiasm.

Bexley Beavers took part in a 'design a Lockdown Badge competition', the winning design was by Reehan Rana from 2nd East Wickham. His Idea has been used to create a badge that will be soon worn by Beavers throughout Bexley District.

So many Scouters from round the country have used their vivid imaginations to produce exciting and original Scouting activities for all of us to take part in.

1st Virtual Scouts now has over 15,500 members from across all sections. All sharing their ideas for fun things to do with for young people. I really think we will take more away from this situation than we have lost.

Comments from Bexley Beavers

"It was fun getting all the badges"

'I had tons of fun, I loved seeing my friends and doing all the activities. My favourite was the virtual camping. I was very excited to get my badges even though we didn't have our usual meetings'.

"I loved all of the activities and the best one was the space planets. It was my favourite video and I know all the planets."

Finally, you know you've got it right when a parent send messages like this:

"wow u and the team are amazing! the time and effort you all put in is so appreciated. Over the weeks of lockdown, you have all kept the kids entertained and us (you have thought of some really fun things that we have really enjoyed too!).

'A MASSIVE THANK YOU to ALL the fabulous leaders and volunteers who continued to deliver Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers throughout lockdown with a wide range of activities and creativity - keeping our treasures indoors and entertained was a mission - your weekly distraction and tasks filled a massive gap more than you'll actually know. It was a lifeline in most houses... for both parents and kids'

Maura Garrod,
Deputy District
Commissioner Beavers, Bexley



Congratulations to the winner of the Bromley Beaver Design a Lockdown Badge



Congratulations to Jarvis Cunningham who won the competition for the Bromley Scout Beaver Lockdown badge.

Each colony submitted their designs to the leaders and a winner was selected by them, each winner was then submitted to the District and the overall winner was chosen by the County Commissioner

The Beavers were asked to think about this period of time. Thinking about what they have been doing. Clapping for the NHS. Staying at home. Still doing lots of activities. Staying safe but still having fun.

Jarvis said "I was really happy to have my badge design chosen as the winner. It was also really exciting to have the UK Chief Commissioner, Tim Kidd, join our Zoom meeting and to get the chance to speak with him direct, I feel very lucky". Scarlett Cunningham, his sister who is a cub said "Yeah, it was pretty cool".

Max another Beaver and his brother Monty a Cub said "It was great that he could join the call and make us feel like our Beaver and Cub groups were special".

Beaver Scout, Thomas Howard said - "It was amazing to have the UK Scout Commissioner at our AGM when we have only been going as a group for 3 years".

Bexley Lockdown Badge



During lockdown Bexley District Cubs were invited to design a district lockdown badge for Cub Scouts resulting in an amazing response with some excellent designs. The final difficult decision was made by Lee (Mole), the District Commissioner – the winner being Stan Kamande from the 3rd Welling Cub Pack – well done Stan!! The badges have now been ordered - ready for the end of September.



5th Beckenham South Scout Group supports living well

The past 20 weeks, have seen the 5th Beckenham South Scout Group offering the use of their Scout hut to collect for Living Well Bromley - a local charity based at Holy Trinity Church, Lennard Road. The charity supports people with varied needs, including social isolation, addiction, mental health issues, homelessness whilst offering debt advice together with a foodbank whilst also supporting Christ Church Anerley food bank.

Adam Young, Group Scout Leader said "We are very privileged to have our own Scout hut and wanted to use it for something worthwhile during the lockdown and of course the current climate of extra need and food shortages. Our thoughts were for the many people who have lost employment, families who normally receive free school meals and essentially those who have never considered needing the assistance of a food bank before. Our local food bank was in dire need for food donations, with supermarkets limiting purchases with empty shelves, they were and still are struggling to provide their normal service, with the increased demand they are experiencing. As with Scouting, the Living Well food bank is run by volunteers and with the need for social distancing, it can only accept donations once a week during a two hour window every Tuesday and this doesn't help their cause. So, our aim was to collect as many donations as we could by providing our Scout hut as a drop off point. We have opened our hut up for the past two Saturdays between 10am and 3pm to give people the opportunity to donate and we then gather it all together on a Tuesday and deliver in bulk.



Our Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout families responded with amazing generosity and kindness, many of them taking the opportunity of the fine weather to come out on their bicycles` or have a family walk with a purpose and, as you can see from the photos, the results have been fantastic on both weeks.

We intend to continue every Saturday at least until the donations wane but hopefully both enthusiasm and generosity will continue.

We have run it with just two leaders present to maintain social distancing, myself and Deborah Cavalli, both of us Assistant Explorer Scout Leaders and a couple of our older Explorers Scouts who have assisted with the sorting, packing and loading for delivery."





Eoin McLaughlin and James Hayes, from the 5th Beckenham South Network Scouts, both aged 18 Said "As soon as we read the emails from our Explorer leaders asking for food bank donations we both volunteered straight away to help out if we were needed. Of course, we must stay two metres apart but that is easy enough with only four people in the Scout hut. All the food donations that come in are sorted into categories - tinned meat, tinned vegetables, pasta, rice, cereals, that sort of thing. At the same time, we check the use by date as anything out of date cannot be distributed by the food bank and then we pack it all up and help load it for delivery. We have never seen anything

like this before in our lifetime and are very worried about people and especially young families who are struggling to get enough food. As Scouts our promise is to help other people and we are really proud to be helping collect food for the food bank. Being in Year 13 we have time on our hands that we wanted to use to help our community and we will continue to help for as long as the current pandemic continues and beyond, since even when the lockdown goes away, we must remember that the needs of vulnerable people will still remain."

If you are interested in donating please contact the Group Scout Leader, Adam Young via email on adam@thefifth.org.uk



Scouting from home



I'm a young leader at the 22nd Bromley Scout Troop and we have done a lot of fun activities from home during the lockdown. Every week, when we would normally be at a meeting, we held a Zoom meeting for our Scouts to attend - normally we would have around 15 Scouts. Each week we would do a couple of quizzes on a website called Kahoot which they all enjoyed. These were on a variety of different topics such as Scouting knowledge, memory, general knowledge, observation and many more. Another favourite activity was the scavenger hunt. They enjoyed racing round the house trying to be the first back with the item we asked them to get so I decided to expand this game. I gave them a list of 16 things to find around Bromley over a week so they could get out and get fresh air. On the next meeting we showed our pictures and I was thrilled to see most Scouts took part and enjoyed themselves. Another activity we ran was 'Escape from Alcatraz' where we set them a week to answer questions and use Google Earth street and satellite view to help them escape the island and finish at Brownsea Island.

However, the best activity we ran was the virtual camp. We delivered a Swedish candle, a fire lighter,



some kindling, juggling balls and a rope to each Scout who wanted to take part. That night we sat outside on Zoom and the Scouts were toasting marshmallows and sausages with their family. It was great to see the parents getting involved and enjoying themselves as well as the Scouts. We had juggling lessons and did some knotting and we slept in our gardens overnight. The next morning, we got up and joined a Zoom meeting and made fried breakfast together before the camp was over. It was a strange experience to say the least, but it was a very rewarding one, as we saw how much everyone was enjoying it.

**Edward Hasling,
22nd Bromley Scouts**



Earning your Photography Badge during Lockdown

I became a Scout Section Leader for 7th Sidcup, Bexley just before lockdown after being a Sectional Assistant for nearly 5 years. Like many others I took to Zoom for virtual Scouting. I joined 1st Virtual Scout Facebook group to help get some ideas on how to keep Scouting going. This group inspired me to reach out to other groups in Bexley, Bromley and all up and down the country to deliver a photography session. I had young people from 4th Barnehurst, 1st Foot Cray and 7th Sidcup to name a few local groups, reaching outwards to 7th Walthamstow, across to 10th Torbay Sea Scouts in Devon, up to 16th Lancaster Scouts, 5th Shipley in West Yorkshire and finally reaching 121 Scout Group in Clyde region, Glasgow, with many other groups in between.

As I own a small photography business with my wife Lauren, I decided to put together a virtual photography session that I could share with young people. For me, photography helps to keep my spirits up and I thought it could do the same for young people. Giving them a chance to learn about photography and giving them a safe, enjoyable activity they could do outside whilst distancing. As our business was temporarily closed, this was a perfect time to give a little extra during these difficult times.

When I originally came up with the idea, I created a PowerPoint presentation covering the Scout activity badge requirements. As I started to advertise this

session, I got interest from Cub, Scout and Explorer leaders. I tailored the presentation to meet as many requirements as possible. Towards the end, I was even covering the Guides badge requirements too. This allowed all the young people to learn more than was required to earn their badge.

"I once again want to personally thank you for running such an interesting session for the young people. My son really enjoyed it and it was full of amazing facts at just the right level and content to suit the various groups/ages." - Dolina Andrew from the 2nd Crowthorne

I had multiple groups come together with my busiest session having 120 members. With no written speech for the presentations, each session had its own little spin on it. The young people learned about different camera equipment and accessories, how to use aperture and shutter speed settings, zoom, focus points and flash. To help improve their skills I explained the rule of third and eventually the Golden Triangle technique in later sessions.

Scouting in this way has been a new challenge for us all. I think Leaders and the young people have embraced it very well and I am pleased I know I have managed to help many young people to earn their photography badge during lockdown..

**Richard Short,
Section Leader,
7th Sidcup, Bexley**



Bexley Cub creates colourful pictures for Local Care Home

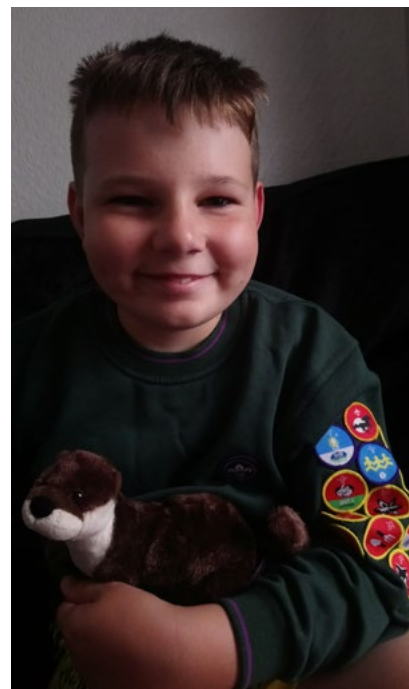


Nine-year-old Charlie Barnes is a Cub Scout at the 1st Crayford Cubs pack who suffers with autism. Becoming a Cub has helped Charlie gain confidence and social skills and, during lockdown, Charlie has been using his creative skills providing lots of artwork.

Whilst enjoying walks in the park with his family he frequently passed the balconies of a retirement home and soon the residents began to wave at him. Charlie had often spoken about isolation and being alone and he felt upset that during lockdown the residents were unable to have family and friends visit them.

Charlie regarded the residents as his friends and after his mum contacted the manager, he began to make posters and Easter cards for each resident – this was the beginning of an amazing friendship. During the following weeks there were frequent conversations with the manager – learning especially that one of the ladies would be celebrating her 100th birthday. Charlie immediately began to plan how he could make this day special for her; he bought banners and balloons for the manager to decorate her room and delivered flowers and a special card. Charlie was so proud to receive a lovely photo of the lady receiving her gifts.

Covid 19 restrictions had prevented Charlie from meeting any of the residents in person but he has been invited to be the guest of honour at a tea party when it is safe to visit.



Charlie says.
"I like making cards from craft materials. I make things all the time. I really like waving to the ladies in the garden. It made me happy. I made lots of posters to give to them as Easter presents because they were a bit lonely on their own with no family. I made a birthday

card for Helena she was 100. She liked her flowers. When I walked down the road I always looked in to wave to them if they are in the garden. I'm looking forward to seeing them for a tea party."





Congratulations also go to 5th Chislehurst Scouts who have been busy letter writing during lockdown to the residents of a local care home. That should have put a smile on their faces!

This year the Mayor of Bexley, wants to send a different kind of Christmas card - and to do it he needs the help of local children. This year, he wants them to be designed by Bexley children.

**Mayor's
Christmas Card
competition**

The 3 winners will win a £20 amazon voucher

How to enter:
Please send your design, on an A4 piece of paper (one side) to
The Mayor's Office, Civic Offices, 2 Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7AT
Please tell us your name, age and what school you go to along with a contact email, address and phone number.
Or send a scanned copy to mayors.office@bexley.gov.uk

The designs will be chosen on 6 November 2020
Cllr James Hunt
Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley

#BEXLEY HEROES



Nominate your Bexley heroes

The Mayor of Bexley is calling on residents to nominate local heroes for a special commendation award that recognises exceptional contributions and acts of kindness made during the pandemic.

The special commendation awards will celebrate the invaluable contribution that #Bexleyheroes have made to the community during the coronavirus outbreak.

If you know someone or a group/business who has gone out of their way or been a good neighbour this is your chance to make sure they get the recognition they deserve.

Mayor of Bexley, Cllr James Hunt said: "We are keen to hear your stories, whether it was someone buying your shopping, or maybe it was a business or group who have been there during the recent crisis – thanking those keyworkers, volunteers and groups

who went above and beyond is our goal – we owe them all for being there when we needed them most they all truly #doitforbexley"

Over the past 3 months hundreds of volunteers came forward via the council, BVSC, The Exchange and other groups such as Isolation Bexley. We will be working with these groups to deliver an award to those who registered also.

To nominate fill in the form or, to request a form, call 020 3045 3678.

Nominations can be submitted online

**or sent to the Mayor's Office,
2 Watling Street Bexleyheath, DA6 7AT.
The closing date for nominations is
31 October 2020.**





World Scout Jamboree in Korea in 2023

The 25th World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) will be held in the summer of 2023 in the Republic of Korea. The World Scout Jamboree will be held from 1 to 12 August in 2023 in Saemangeum, Jeollabuk-do Province.

“Draw Your Dream” expresses the desire of the members of the Scout Movement to transform the World Scout Jamboree into their own festival and to grow their dreams through it. Saemangeum, which will be shaped into a spacious recreational ground (10,000,000m²), will be a venue where young Scouts from around the world will pursue their dreams throughout the World Scout Jamboree.

The UK Contingent will be selecting the Contingent Management Team (CMT) and Contingent Support Team (CST) later this year, people can register their interest at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c687248d27b2430e8fc8ef236810df32>

GLSE will find out our Unit allocation early next year and our selection of **Unit Leader(s), Deputy Unit Leader(s) and Assistant Unit Leaders** will follow in the first half of 2021.

- IST selection is expected to take place in the first half of 2022.
- Further details can be found at: www.scouts.org.uk/wsji and www.2023wsjkorea.org/

If you have any specific questions, email international@glsecouts.org.uk

