

i.SHARE

Greater London South East Scouts Newsletter
Issue 16 - November 2019



Scouts

Greater London
South East



World Scout Jamboree

Including
A Million Hands
#ScoutsGetActive
and much more...



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Your Autumn edition of i.SHARE

“When life throws you a curve ball how do you react?”

This was my thought recently when my car broke down and had to be taken to hospital. My car is my lifeline for work: without it I can't work.

More often than not we'll be thrown into a state of panic. We don't know what to do. We are taken out of our comfort zone into areas in which we are not confident. Things are out of our control, we don't know what the outcomes will be and that makes uneasy.

What helps us cope with this is resilience. The definition of resilience is “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness”. How do we become resilient? We develop resilience by moving towards our goals; by seeing the opportunities in situations; by growing as individuals and by being prepared (amongst other things).

If you, as adults find resilience being a struggle, imagine how it must be for a young person. How can we help them?

The good news is that out of a recent report stated that “Scouts and Guides have better mental health in later life, a new study has shown. Children who participate in the organisations which aim to develop qualities such as self-reliance, resolve and a desire for self-learning are likely to build up resilience and skills which helps them through tough times”.

How good is that? How great to be such a formative part of a Young Person's life? To be an example to them? Chances are you are the first adult outside of their family and school life with whom they have interacted.

Today, at Remembrance Parade in Petts Wood, I was chatting with a young man about his memories of CampDowne 2013 (and the evening entertainments and shows) and also of his WSJ experience. These memories will stay with him forever. (And no. Before you ask, CampDowne is not currently returning. Don't get me wrong, I loved it too). If you were in Scouting or Guiding as a Young Person, I'm sure you'll have happy memories that will stay with you forever - I know I have.

Week in, week out you are all shaping the lives of the young people with whom you work. They won't thank you at the time but you can rest assured that they will silently thank you later on in life.

As you know, I wasn't in Scouting as a young person, but as an adult it has also taught me some great skills. See every opportunity as a learning experience. Seek to constantly move, learn and grow as an individual. It is widely recognised that volunteering helps support our mental health and self esteem. In turn it also helps us build resilience.

So, back to my car. As I write this, it's destined to be in the garage for a couple of weeks but I shall overcome the obstacle thanks to teamwork and Stu's car.

Whatever your role in Scouting, you truly are making a difference to over 5,000 young people in Bexley & Bromley and that is something to be proud of. As I said earlier, they might not thank you; but I do. I really do.

As we move towards the festive period, as always, take the time to be with your loved ones and cherish their company. You don't know what the future holds but being resilient will help and support you.

As always, THANK YOU for everything that you do.



Gwyn Muckelt
GLSE County Commissioner

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Independent Examiner for the County's accounts

We need to appoint an Independent Examiner for the County's accounts.

The Independent Examiner's role is to review the published accounts and to confirm that the figures in them tie up with the supporting documentation. An independent examination is not an audit and there is no need for the Examiner to have an accountancy or audit qualification.

He/she should however have the ability and experience to carry out a competent examination of the accounts – i.e. someone familiar with business and financial matters.

The job is not onerous. In general, it should be able to be completed in about five hours work, although familiarisation in the first year may take a little longer. The work can be done at home – the Treasurer will deliver the books and vouchers. The work will be needed in early March.

If you know anyone who could take on this task please let me know. If you would like further information, please contact me, Tim Birse (Treasurer) 07867 784660 or timbirse@btinternet.com



24th WSJ 2019: No words



Over a month has passed since my return from the World Scout Jamboree and still I cannot really put it into words. I get asked "What was it like?" and strangely enough so many thoughts fill my head but the words escape me. Words cannot describe! So many memories and "pinch me" moments were made in those 20 days, from the sea of red and blue UK bags that welcomed me at 5am as I arrived at Heathrow for departure, to the breath taking moment when standing on a mountain peak in Whistler, Canada. So many snap shots taken through my eyes saved to my memory. Goosebumps form as I remember standing at Bechtel Summit as the sun set over 45,000 Scouts at the opening ceremony, a world globe bounced above our heads and 150 flags, from every visiting country, fluttered in the distance. Words cannot describe! So many nationalities, spoken languages and cultures came together as one movement, the differences between us all proved no barrier. Saying hello to everyone I walked past became normal. What an adventure!!

All our training could not prepare us for the sights, sounds and experiences of World Scout Jamboree - sightseeing in New York, Times Square, skyscrapers and the viewing platform over Manhattan. Yellow American school buses were our transport and vast university campuses provided our overnight accommodation. Arrival at Bechtel Summit, West Virginia gave us the realisation of the sheer scale of Jamboree. This wasn't just a campsite, this was a vast city - it was insane and was going to be our home for 12 days. The opportunities were endless. Adventure activities ranged from extreme sports, shooting sports, aerial sports, climbing and aquatics. Hiking was an everyday occurrence in camp but also up to Mount Jack, the highest point on the Summit Bechtel reserve. Base camp bashes formed festival type evening parties along with stadium shows. Cultural Celebration day gave participants the opportunity to exhibit their country's culture and cuisine and to experience that of other countries which included music, dance, national costumes, games and food.





The English tradition of Afternoon Tea found us making mountains of cucumber sandwiches to offer our fellow participants! The Jamboree theme was “Unlock a New World” with so many opportunities to become active in discovery, exploration and change projects. Raising awareness of global issues and creating a better world. Participants were able to explore science programmes, communicate with astronauts on the International Space Station and become delegates of a model United Nations. There were so many opportunities to build knowledge and gain life skills. We traded badges, hats, scarves and all forms of memorabilia to create our everlasting WSJ memories.

A high tech Jamboree brought us Novus in the form of a wristband for each participant, which unlocked new friendships and enabled us to explore the

hundreds of activities and experiences. Touching wristbands with another participant allowed us to share our set profiles so that we could stay connected whilst at Jamboree and for years to come. The WSJ App brought us daily news feeds, maps, information points, activity schedules and advisory warnings for heat, hydration and weather.

The closing ceremony brought an end to our Bechtel adventure, time to gather one last time. A combination of music, lasers and fireworks filled the air. Novus wristbands also provided us with a surprise lightshow in the closing ceremony when every participant’s wrist lit up to provide a blanket





of coloured and then white spot lights, filling the stadium. What a send-off! Luckily for the UK Contingent this was not the end, our journey was still to continue.

Washington was the next stop - Capitol Hill, the home of US congress and then taking in the true American game of baseball, watching the Toronto Blue Jays take on the Baltimore Orioles. Onwards to Canada for HoHo, our hosted hospitality in Vancouver. Our hosts, 4th Squamish Scouts, welcomed us with open arms. Tobogganing, visiting the 2010 Winter Olympics site, swimming in chilly

melted glacier lakes and hiking to summit views that were out of this world.

As we boarded the plane bound for Heathrow our journey was soon to come to a close but the friendships I had made and the experiences of the last 20 days will stay with me for the rest of my life. We landed exhausted but with an everlasting broad grin that represented the most amazing experience.

And so as I finish with the above only touching the surface; words like insane, amazing, infectious, unreal, friendship, adventure, culture and journey of a lifetime fill my mind. I know for a fact that in years to come I will be telling my grandchildren about when I attended the World Scout Jamboree at 14 years old and had the time of my life. If you have the opportunity, take it, with both hands. Jamboree was, is and will continue to be, the best thing you will ever do - a truly life changing experience that will shape you as a person and give the skills, for life.

**Megan Ward,
GLSE Unit 25,
24th WSJ UK Contingent,
23rd Bromley Scouts**



Jonny Zapple, aged 17 from 5th Petts Wood Scout Group said,

"I've thoroughly enjoyed spending my time with people from Zambia, Peru and Bhutan to name just a few of the 150 countries that attended the 24th World Scout Jamboree! I took the opportunity to spend time at the Global Development Village, to learn about how Scouting can offer solutions to some of the key global issues. At the site I also discovered what a 60 mph zip wire feels like. I've been asked how I feel about the Jamboree ending by my family and friends and, if I'm honest, I haven't had that overwhelming feeling of 'it's all over'. To me and to the handful of previous participants that I've spoken to, the relentless Jamboree stories we tell are only proof that it never really finishes."

Robert McHugh, aged 15, from 8th West Wickham said,

"It was an amazing experience. The best part was meeting Scouts from all over the world, sharing our cultures and getting to know them. One thing we all enjoyed were the cultural dinners where we put our tables together and shared food with people who were camped near us."

Michael Cumberbatch, aged 16, from Trident Explorers, Bexley said,

"I have enjoyed downhill mountain biking and the water sports. I am looking forward to the big zip and trying out the shooting ranges. The cultural day was great as we got to mix with other cultures and try different foods."

Leila Rivolta, aged 15, from 14th Bromley, said,

"I enjoyed visiting some of the tents at World Point - making new friends and visiting old ones. It's more interesting to learn about other cultures than to do adventurous activities. I've learned more tolerance of other cultures. We speak different languages, but once you remove that and start understanding each other, we're quite similar."



Milestones for Scout Groups in Bromley

Three Scout Groups in Bromley Celebrated Milestone Birthday



14th Bromley Scout Group –

Celebrated their Centenary in May. The group had a Family and Friends event at The Shaws, Cudham. Sam Jackman "I love Beavers. I hope that Beavers is just the start of my Scouting journey, as I move up to Cubs in September. I've made lots of friends at Beavers and I hope we'll have lots more adventures at Cubs. I am also looking forward to coming back to Beavers to help out when I am an Explorer."



3rd Orpington Scout Group –

Celebrated their 90th Anniversary. They had a party that current and old members came to. There was a display of old group memorabilia, some family games, a BBQ, and the unveiling of the restored push cart that has been in the group for years. "I've been at 3rd Orpington since a beaver and its been the best experience ever. Every year we go camping and that has taught me many life skills, and the lessons we learn each week in our meetings are brilliant. Being a young leader has also taught me responsibility and respect for the work our leaders put in every week. 3rd Orpington is a great scout group to be a part of."



3rd Petts Wood Scout Group –

Celebrated their 70th Anniversary in September with a family Activity Camp at Broadstone Warren. "I love being in Scouts at 3rd Petts Wood. I enjoy all the fun activities, earning badges and learning new skills. I never want to miss a meeting! Friday nights are the best evening for me because of Scouting." Jude, 3rd Petts Wood Scout.



My Jamboree Experience



In July over 45,000 scouts from 150 countries went to the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. I was very lucky to go on this fantastic experience and a journey I will never forget. At the actual Jamboree we all went to massive ceremonies as well as doing many activities such as paddle boarding, shooting, climbing and scuba diving. I made new friends from all around the world; learning their cultures by chatting with them and sharing dinners.

The whole of the British contingent also visited New York and Washington, which was amazing, especially when all 4,000 of us went to watch a baseball game! Our final destination was our unit's

HoHo where we stayed with Squamish Scouts in Vancouver. We visited Whistler, climbing the mountains and the local hills which both had the most incredible views - definitely a highlight for me on the trip.

This whole experience was something I've never done before; but if someone asked me if I wanted to go to another Jamboree, I would go in a heartbeat! Thank you to everyone who supported all of us getting there. I know I've made friends for life and memories I will hold on to forever..

Alice Jackman,
Unit 25 WSJ 2019





My IST Experience



I have been a part of the Scout Association for as long as I can remember. It's part of who I am and I owe Scouting so much. It has provided me with experiences I could not have dreamt of when I joined. I've taken part in the Remembrance Sunday parade in Whitehall, been to the Queen's Garden party and foreign countries with them including Australia, alongside making friends for life both national and international. I am even going to university this September to get a degree in Outdoor Leadership, so I can teach others all the outdoor activities which I experienced through Scouting. So, when I heard about the IST application process for the World Scout Jamboree I just had to apply. I wanted to give other teenagers the chance to experience an international camp and what better way to do so than at WSJ 2019.

By attending the Jamboree, I hoped to make a difference in others' lives, whether this was a simple gesture that made someone's day or taught them a new skill. But nothing could compare to what I experienced. I didn't just make one person's day, everyone who I met made my day and I made theirs. We were united with Scouting in common, it didn't matter where we were from, what profession we were, or our age. I don't have a single bad memory (well maybe when the sewage leaked into tents in the middle of the night!) as we were altogether and wanted the same outcome - Happiness. Despite

the long hours with some of my working days being over 10 hours and the jet lag we were all in the same position. Our humour never stopped nor did the support whether it was from a friend or someone we'd never met before, we could all really rely upon each other. It's difficult to explain how the Jamboree went; so, I hope the attached selection of photos will help. They are of new friends, scouts from different cultures like Saudi Arabia, myself with Baden Powell's grandson, and the closing ceremony. The feeling of comradeship was so intense that the emptiness felt once the experience was over was just as overwhelming. I miss walking the 20km a day and freezing cold showers as every single part is ingrained into my mind.





I don't want to sound big headed but without me and the thousands like me, the Jamboree could not have happened. We were IST and IST made it happen. I was amongst like-minded people and each of us had our skills. These skills were optimised by the Jamboree organisers who have "expressed their gratitude for the hard work that we put in; other visitors to the site commented on how amazing UK IST were in ensuring the smooth running of activities, medical services and safety on site". We each got the opportunity to choose roles either to complement current skills or develop new ones. I joined the Friendship Tartan Games team. This area consisted of a mix of Gaelic and Celtic cultural experiences alongside Highland sports. As a sports student I wished to experience an old sport and then pass this knowledge on to others. My activity was the caber toss. I became part of a team of 5 and between us we taught over 200 participants a day on how to throw a 12ft caber. Everyone has different abilities so for some people being able to hold the caber correctly was an achievement and for others it was the physically

tossing that meant they'd accomplished something at our base. I didn't only support young people from the UK, but across the world. Everyone went home with precious memories because of the Jamboree being a success.

Overall, I feel the amount I paid was good value for money as it covered all costs, e.g. flights, accommodation, food and transport. However, looking at a breakdown of fees for just the Jamboree I feel it was a bit expensive. The cost was the same for all IST with exchanging rates varying slightly. However, everyone's job role was different which meant some people had shorter working days than others. Because of this some were able to take part in some amazing activities whilst others were bound to the same place every day. This was an observation I made and I know some people felt a bit cheated which is understandable..

**Kimberley Stephens,
IST Member for WSJ 2019,
Assistant Cub Leader
with 7th Sidcup**





July saw 69 Explorers, Scouts and leaders from 5th Beckenham South Scouts embarking on a 10 day trip to Canada for and I can honestly say that is was the best Scout trip I've ever been on.

My favourite activity was the tree trekking and the zip wire over Heart Lake. I really liked this because the views were incredible from the zip wire and the tree trekking was challenging but really fun and like no tree trekking I've done before.



We also did a jet boat tour on Niagara River where we got soaked and rafted down the Grand River and swam.

The campsite at Blue Springs Scout Reserve was beautiful and it was just stunning to watch the sunset over the lake. Probably the best part of the trip was at night when we could just hang out with our friends because we all became really close. There

were so many different activities we did including climbing a real rock face at Rattlesnake point, going up the CN tower, canoeing round the islands in Toronto and walking behind and then sailing into the Niagara Falls.



They were activities you couldn't do anywhere else. As we were so far away from home we had to support and be there for each other when we felt homesick and my friends became friends I will keep for life. Overall the trip was amazing and everyone there had a time they will never forget.

**Kirsty, Explorer Scout,
Canada 2019,
5th Beckenham Scout Group**



A Million Hands



On 21st October, the Scout Association in the presence of MPs, celebrity Scouting ambassadors, including astronaut Tim Peake, launched its A Million Hands project. At the event, hosted at Speaker's House in London, the 6 themes with supporting partners were identified:

- Protecting our environment with WWF
- Ending homelessness with crisis and The Simon Community
- Supporting refugees and displaced children with Save the Children
- Better mental health for all with Mind, SAMH and Inspire
- Understanding disability with the National Autistic Society
- Kindness in every community with the British Red Cross

There were speeches from Baroness Diana Barren, Major Tim Peake and Emily from the Community Impact Team at the Scout Association.

Cubs from the 3rd Welling Scout group had the opportunity to take part in 'Identify the Need' activities celebrating our renewed commitment to leaving the world a little better than we found it.

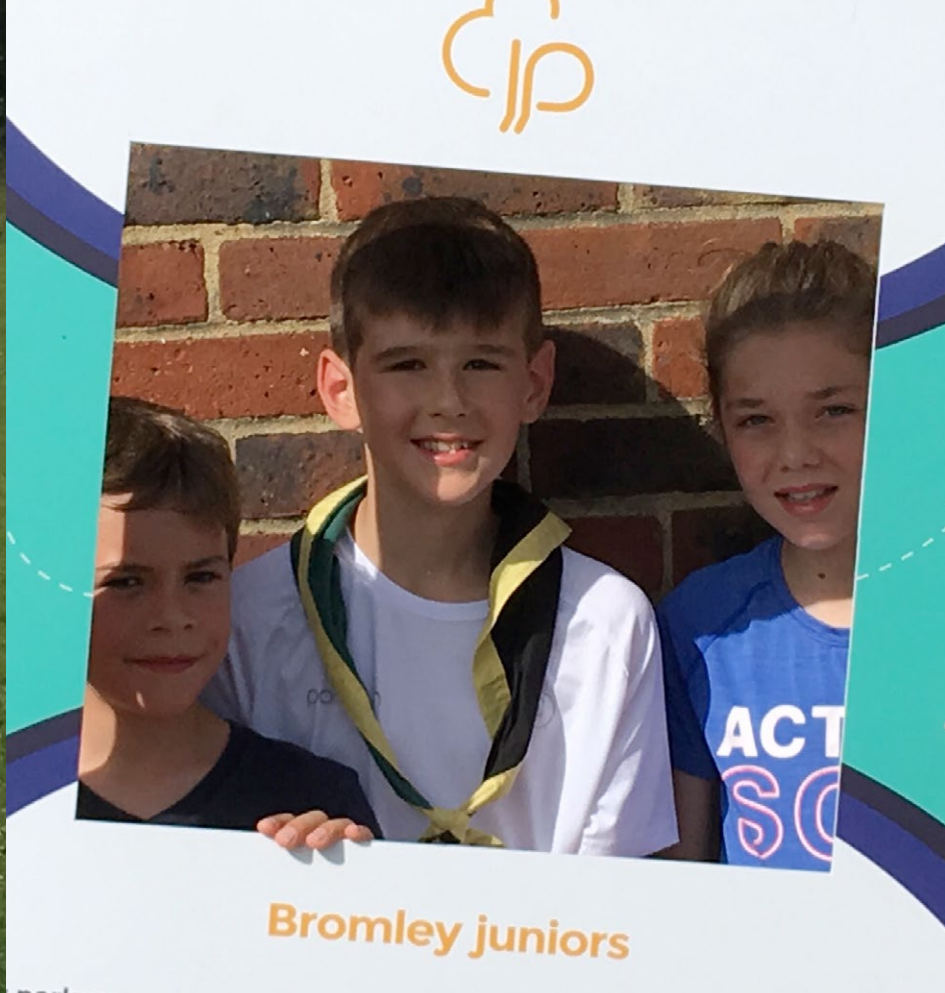
"It was really good and interesting I would like our group to take part in a million hands because it will help others who aren't as lucky as we are it would make it a better world" Elsie-May aged 10

"I liked it very much and I would like to learn how to make the world a better place" Brian aged 9

"It makes me happy that they are teaching other people about disabilities and I think it is good that we are thinking about people who don't have as much as we have" Emma aged 10

You can find out all the latest information about A Million Hands and access the resources and activities at: <https://scoutsorg.uk/what-scouts-do/help-others/community/>





#ScoutsGetActive

Getting active is good fun, it helps you to be healthy, make new friends and it can also count towards your own activity badge!!

I enjoy lots of sports and, as part of my Cub Leadership Challenge badge, I led a group from the 23rd Bromley Scouts at a local running event. I wanted to encourage our pack to be active and introduce them to an organized running event in our local park. On a sunny Sunday morning in July we headed to Junior Parkrun, a weekly free 2 kilometre timed event for children aged 4-14. Even though it is

called Parkrun, you don't have to run, you can walk, skip or jog if you like, you can go as fast or slow as you like and as little or often as you like. They also give wristbands and certificates as awards when you reach different distances. The cubs and scouts who came with me all did really well and we had a great time. Everyone ran at their own pace and we all met up at the end and compared how we did.

Why don't you give it a try?

Oliver Ward
23rd Bromley, (Kim Pack) Cubs



Who would have thought that you would see this on camp?



Who would thought that you would see this on camp?

Doner Kebab and Giant Frying pan.

Thanks to the 22nd Bromley Scout Group





ScoutFest

#afestivalofscouting

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th July 2020

VENUE:

Downe Scout Adventures Centre,
Bird House Lane, Downe,
Orpington, Kent, BR6 7LJ

OPEN TO:

All adult volunteers across both
counties & young leaders

AN EVENT BY COUNTIES OF:
Greater London South East &
Greater London South

A chance to learn, explorer and network

WEEKEND INCLUDES:

Saturday Day -
Onsite activities, activity bases,
3rd party companies,
Scouting skills, workshops,
coffee bar and a chance
to networking

Saturday Evening -
Hog roast, bar and music

COST (PER PERSON):

£10 / weekend
Young Leaders **FREE**



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