



Moving forward

From County Commissioner James Palin. "How good it is to see District and County events taking place. I know there has been lots of tentative planning but now we are coming to realisation that these events will happen. Endurance, The Big O and the Beaveree are three of the County events that will be taking place over the next few months. It's been great to see our Young People and the adult volunteers meeting up as they start to prepare for the World Scout Jamboree and the Grand Tour 23. It's been amazing to see Beaver Scouts back in Haddenham for the first time in six years. I'm really excited to see the setting up of Squirrel Dreys in Hedgerley and RAF Halton. These children (and the adult volunteers) are going to have so much fun. The High Wycombe Gang Show team have also arranged a Festival weekend instead of a gang show. I'm so proud to lead so many awesome and dedicated volunteers across the whole County. You provide so many opportunities to children and young people. Thank you to everyone for the time and commitment you give to helping children and young people have so many opportunities. You are all amazing."

The Big O

This year's Big O will take place on Saturday 12 March at Wendover Woods. More information on the event and location can be found at <http://www.bucksbig.org.uk/>. There are some changes to this year's event, the main one being that there will be no string course for Beavers this year. Instead, it is hoped to run this at the Beaveree in June.

Other changes are as follows:

- All entrants must be pre-registered on the website <http://www.bucksbig.org.uk/>. One representative from each Group/Unit will be able to report in on the day and make any last minute changes to the pre-registered entries.
- Each Group/Unit is being asked to set up their own group base within the field and keep their members in this area before and after the competition.
- Groups/Units are asked to provide their own catering this year. Whether this be dealt with by Leaders or the entrants asked to bring their own food and drink is for Groups/Units to decide. The only on-site catering is for event staff this year.
- There will still be the usual safety briefing but otherwise the crunch points where crowds gather will avoided.

Census

Thanks to everyone involved in submitting census information. An initial look at the figures shows incredible recovery when compared to last year's figures. We have nearly 800 more young people this year than we did last year. If you relate this in percentage terms this equates to an increase of over 11%. Not surprisingly, Beavers are up by over 22%.

One of the areas Ed Ryan and Katharine Paton-King will be looking at shortly is in areas where we can try and help recovery. This might be in Groups where numbers in sections may have fallen to single figures or where a section has closed and, for example there is no longer a Scout Troop so the Cubs have no section to move to when they get to 10 ½. If this is an area where you might want some help, for example delivering school assemblies, please feel free to contact any member of the County team.

Awards

At the All-Members' meeting, the subject of "Good Service Awards" was talked about. UK Chief Commissioner Carl Hankinson was of the view that people often missed out on awards. If you feel someone should be nominated for an award, please complete the relevant documentation. There are people in Districts and the County who can help with the citation for an award. The attached hyperlink details the criteria for an award and a nomination form. Please give some thoughts to people involved in Scouts and think about whether they should be nominated for a good service award. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/learning-development-and-awards/awards-and-recognition/good-service-awards/>

Mandatory Training

In the All Members' webinar held on 21 February, Carl Hankinson, UK Chief Commissioner, detailed there were approximately 9,000 volunteers in Scouting who needed to complete their First Aid training. He added that people who had not completed their Safety or Safeguarding training would be receiving calls from CCs or DCs to chivvy them along to complete the relevant training. He added that they were doing all they can before any "mutually agreed restrictions" were used. If your First Aid, Safety or Safeguarding training has expired, please complete the training (it is available online). If it has expired you would have received an email, providing your email address on Compass is correct.

First Aid - Two module 10B sessions have been organised for volunteers who need to complete the practical part of their First Aid training. The sessions are on 19 and 20 March and will be held at the Quarries camp site.

Before attending a Module 10B session, you MUST have completed your Module 10A. This involves completion of the online self-study at this link (<https://hampshire-scouts.thinkific.com/courses/firstresponse>) followed by a Zoom session arranged by County (although members are able to attend other sessions organised by other Scout Counties). We are currently putting together some evening Zoom sessions prior to the face to face training and details of these will be circulated once they are arranged.

Squirrels

The Scouts had aimed for 300 Squirrel dreys to be set up by 31 January 2022. The number of dreys approved is 530. RAF Halton and Hedgerley have been approved and there are several other Groups who have been in touch with Bev Delaney asking for further information. If you are interested in opening a drey please contact Bev at Beverley.delaney@bucks-scouts.org.uk

Beaveriee and Space Centre

The Beaveriee is being held on 11 June 2022 at Paccar Activity Centre. Details have gone out to adult volunteers connected with the section. If you require any further information please contact Tessa at Tessa.ingram@bucks-scouts.org.uk

Sleepovers at the National Space Centre are scheduled for 5 and 6 November 2022 for Colonies in the South of the County and 12 and 13 November 2022 for those in the North of the County.

Annual Awards Dinner

This year's Annual Awards Dinner will be held on 9 April at Horwood House at 6.30 pm. We have some tickets available to purchase at £25 each. Please contact the County Office for more details.

You Shape Award

The You Shape Award will enable young people to get involved and shape their own Scouting experiences and what's more is that the young people get to decide whether they feel they've achieved the badge requirements! Further details can be found at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/youth-shaped/youshape-award> The County Youth Team will be more than happy to support groups in implementing the award so feel free to contact them or invite them to visit your Group or section. The award is here all year round.

Chief Scout's unsung heroes

Do you know someone who might be one of the Chief Scout's 20 unsung heroes for 2022? If they are aged between 4 and 24, why not submit a nomination for them? The closing date for nominations is 31 March. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/news/2022/february/help-us-find-the-chief-scout-s-unsung-heroes-2022/>

Funding support

Groups and units may be entitled to some financial help via the recovery fund. There may also be financial support available from local authorities. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/search?term=recovery%20fund>

Development

Via the Scouts website there is access to online workshops, a recruitment toolkit with 15 ideas to try and “Good for Two” which is about bringing a friend to support adult volunteers. The Scouts are currently looking at Trustee recruitment. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/>

We have recently provided an advert to go in a magazine for Stoke Mandeville Hospital that goes to all of the staff and volunteers there. Hopefully we will be able to recruit some volunteers via this.

If you want some help, support or advice regarding recruiting new volunteers please contact Ed Ryan ed.ryan@bucks-scouts.org.uk

Paid jobs at The Scouts

There are some great paid jobs working for The Scouts. Many of them are home based. Details of jobs that you, or people you know, might be interested in are at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/jobs/> Alternatively, if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, details of these can be found at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer/join-our-national-volunteer-team/>

Inclusion

The County Inclusion team are planning to run some workshops around the County instead of holding a conference. If there is a topic you would be particularly interested in please contact Rex Stevens at rex.stevens@bucks-scouts.org.uk or inclusion.bucks-scouts@gmail.com

You should all have received an email on 21 February regarding “Race equality consultation.” There are programme resources available regarding race equality. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/?name=inclusion>

Bucks Scouts is a Member Organisation of Bucks Uniformed Youth [BUY] - an ‘umbrella’ charity for all uniformed youth organisations operating in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. BUY has recently entered a partnership with one of its Supporters, Bucks Mind, which covers Buckinghamshire. It has links with its counterpart Mind BLMK, which (along with other places) covers Milton Keynes. We are all aware of the effect that Covid19 has had on young people and as those involved in Scouting return to face-to-face activity and the need that Leaders may have for support & guidance which Bucks Mind are kindly willing to offer as part of the BUY partnership. The person co-ordinating this partnership initiative is Isobel Shea - isobel.shea@bucksmind.org.uk - to whom any requests for help should be directly be made and she will then take it from there.

Jubilee Badge

The Jubilee badge will be launched on 1 March 2022.

GT23

What is GT23?

In Summer 2023, a group of 50 Scouts, Guides and Explorers and 6 leaders from across Buckinghamshire are traveling around Central and Northern Europe on a Grand Tour. Hence the name- GT23! During 3 weeks on the continent, we are aiming to travel to 11 countries, covering 8000km, starting from Slovakia and winding our way via planes, trains, automobiles (and one ferry!) to the Arctic Circle in Northern Norway. Along the way, we will participate in lots of activities, encounter different cultures, languages and food as well as meeting and building links with Scout groups across the countries we visit. We met the whole group for the first time in early January on a very cold and quite wet weekend at Jubilee Hall in Amersham. It was a lot of fun, with icebreakers, a hike and of course, a campfire! Many thanks to 2nd Amersham on the Hill for the use of their fantastic Hall and Field!

We cannot wait for our next team meet up, which is in early April. We’ll be sure to post follow ups as our build up and training progresses over the next 18 months! To follow our GT23 journey, find us on our social media pages – Instagram - @bucksgt23 - <https://www.instagram.com/bucksgt23/> , Facebook - Bucks Scouts Grand Tour 2023 - <https://www.facebook.com/BucksUnitGT23>

Bucks Scout Radio

Bucks Scout Radio recently attended February Freezer Camp at Paccar Scout Campsite and had an amazing time, meeting the scouts and guides that braved the cold to have an adventure. Weather stayed dry until Sunday and in traditional Freezer style it all turned a bit muddy.

They will also be supporting Endurance on the 5th March for the 10k and 40k walk broadcasting live so listen in for all the latest news as it happens from the event. BSR will also be supporting other events this year including the Beaveree.

Stay tuned to BSR for all the latest Scouting news here in Bucks.

High Wycombe Gang Show Festival

The team behind the High Wycombe Gang Show have come up with a brilliant idea. Due to uncertainty about restrictions etc they made the decision not to have a gang show this year. However, they are going to have a Gang Show Festival. This will be a weekend where they learn the songs, the jokes and the dance moves from Friday evening until Sunday morning. Then on Sunday afternoon there is going to be a "one-off" performance. It's great to know how flexible the team have been to give children and young people an amazing opportunity.

Media opportunities

I'm currently updating my list of local magazines, newspapers and community newsletters. These include HiyaBucks, Your Amersham, Bucks Herald and the Beaconsfield Community Magazine. If you know of any local magazines or newsletters, please let me have their details. I can then use some generic stories, for example Grand Tour, World Scout Jamboree and top awards to try and get them to include a story. I can then see if there are specific stories and pictures, we could pitch at them.

If you see an article about Scouts in your local paper or community magazine please send a picture of it to me.

Uniform

We are all aware of the shortage of Beaver and Cub uniform. The reason for this was a "Global supply crisis" resulting in a container arriving with uniform five months late. Scout Store have detailed that some items have arrived and more are on their way. They have also confirmed that bigger size jumpers are available for Squirrels.

Nigel Taylor
Assistant County Commissioner – Communications.
01525-633134
07963-304426
nigel.taylor@bucks-scouts.org.uk
www.facebook.com/BuckinghamshireScouts

www.bucks-scouts.org.uk