



OXFORDSHIRE SCOUTING

**YOUR SCOUTING NEWS
FROM ACROSS THE COUNTY**

CC CHAT

Wow! There has been so much happening across the whole County since the last issue of The Ox! Recently we saw Winter Wonderland for the Beavers and Cubs plus RaidOx taking place for Explorers. Thank you to everyone who helped make both events happen. Of course the Jamboree took place over the summer and our contingent had a fantastic time away – thanks to Becky, Joff, Rob and Graham for all their hard work in the lead up and across the event. Thanks also to everyone that helped make the many other international trips happen as there were a number of Explorer Belts and other international trips taking place too. We've also had CESAW and CPCW take place for the Explorers and Scouts, so plenty for all Sections to get involved with!

I've spent the last few months looking at the future of the County and working with the rest of the County team on what we want to achieve. Some news will be coming out soon together with some new roles for you all to consider. We are looking at how we can improve communications, increase our presence particularly in our local communities and what additional support could be offered, plus all the normal support including training with the dates for next year now available.

In this issue of we have lots of information about forthcoming events from BosnaJam to fundraising activities for the Gangshow plus some handy information and tips. In future issues we would really like to include more stories about what you are all up to and share ideas... we are always looking for more content and would love to see more of what everyone is up to across the County. So please do send in your stories and pictures of activities you are running.

I hope you enjoy the lead up to Christmas and dare I say it 'Happy Christmas' to everyone! I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Wendy Tatham
County Commissioner
cc@oxonscouting.org.uk

SING-A-LONG

Oxfordshire Gang show Christmas Extravaganza!

Join us for a fun filled evening Saturday 7th December 5pm-9pm Edward Field School, Bicester Road Kidlington Performances from the cast.... Stalls including Clare the Candle Lady, Body Shop @ Home and many more.... Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies

[Download the leaflet here](#)





GANG SHOW

18-22 FEB 2020
RADLEY COLLEGE THEATRE

OXFORDSHIREGANGSHOW.ORG.UK
FIND US ON    @OXFORDGANGSHOW

GANG SHOW

Ask anyone, "What is Gang Show" and you will get a different answer every time! It means something different to everyone who has or is involved in it. But there are many people who have never even heard of it.

In a nutshell, Gang Show is a theatre production. A variety show of sorts. The cast are all members of either Scouting or Girlguiding and they come together to rehearse for almost 5 months to put on a show of song, dance and acting. Different items offer comedy, drama, colour, movement - they will make you laugh, they will make you cry (happy tears) and you will come out at the end of it feeling uplifted, inspired and proud. It is a great night out, in a fantastic venue and with fabulous company. It showcases everything that is good about the young people in this County. They would love to see you there so you can show your appreciation for all their hard work, skill, commitment and enthusiasm.

And by the end of it, you will have your own definition of what Gang Show is!

[Tickets to the 2020 show can be booked online here.](#)

[Alternatively the group booking form can be downloaded here.](#)

BOSNIA INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE 2020

Applications are invited for a place in the Oxfordshire Unit for Scouts and Explorer Scouts to attend an International Jamboree in Bosnia & Herzegovina next July.

Saturday 18th July 2020 until Saturday 25th July 2020

This is the first time an International Jamboree has been organised by the Bosnian Federation of Scouts. We have been invited to send a Unit of Scouts to represent Oxfordshire and the UK.

Other countries confirmed to be attending so far: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia

Location: Blidinje Jezero near Jablanica. Cost: We estimate costs to be £525 for the trip.

A deposit to accept a place when offered is £150. Payment then would be 6x monthly payments of £61.83 via GoCardless or a lump sum payment £371. Fundraising will be available to reduce costs for the individual.

There will be an Information Day in January 2020 which applicants will need to attend before being offered a space in the Unit. Closing Date: Sunday 5th January 2020 @ 23:59

[Complete the application form here.](#)

For more information please contact [Alex Lyczkowski here.](#)

WHERE IS MY AWARD?

Wondering where your wood badge / length of service award is?

These are sent out on a quarterly basis to your DC or CC (depending whether it's a district or county role). It is done on a quarterly basis to manage the number of awards been sent out and help with postage and other costs/resources. You can see when you can expect awards on this table - A link to the timing of awards (including length of service & wood beads) [can be found here](#).

[Log a missing award here](#).

**DID YOU
KNOW...**

LOOKING FOR AN INSTRUCTOR OR ASSESSOR?

You can use the search function on Compass to locate them – go to find members and then choose either 'Permit holder search' or 'Assessor search' both will show everyone that has requested that their permits are visible. If you hold a permit and are happy to be contacted by others then please check your visibility settings in Compass.

NEW BIG YELLOW CARD

Have you requested your free big yellow card to display in your meeting place? It's not only a reminder for volunteers about the safe guarding policy but also ensures young people and parents are aware of what they can expect and will help to make Scouting safer. If you haven't already ordered yours [Order it here](#).

NSGSO & NSGCB

Applications are now open! For the National Scout & Guide Symphony and Concert Band. [Download the information here](#).

GOOD SERVICE

They are the first to help, they go over and beyond....

They put the Scout Group before themselves. We couldn't have done it without them...

Do these phases remind you of someone in scouting? Why not nominate them for a good service award?

[Nominate someone here](#)

YOUNG LEADERS LEAD THE WAY!

Young Leaders are a valuable resource for any section - able to bridge the gap between the young people of the section and the Leaders. They are also the potential Leaders of the future! We should be all nurturing and supporting them in the start of their Leadership journey (and it counts as Service towards their Top Awards and DofE!)

A Young Leader is anyone aged 14-17 who works with a younger section in Scouting. They could also attend an Explorer Scout Unit or they could be undertaking Service as part of DofE through school or another youth organisation. Some Young Leaders don't fall into any of the above categories, in this case they are classed as Explorer Scouts but only members of the District Young Leader Unit (membership fees do still need to be paid for them in this case!)

Regardless of how the Young Leader got involved in Scouting, the Young Leader Scheme can be summarised in six easy steps— [download the six steps here](#).

IN THE SPOT LIGHT...

Cameron Ogilvie tells us of his experience at West Oxfordshire's PL & APL Day, as part of his writers badge

The PL (Patrol Leader)/APL (Assistant Patrol Leader) Day was a training event run by West Oxfordshire District Scouts in July with various activities that highlight several vital skills that will be very useful for CPCW (County Patrol Camping Weekend). It was held in a really great Scout site in the woodland at North Leigh. CPCW is a scouting event where a patrol of Scouts set up camp, cook their own food over an altar fire and do various activities. It is a competition that is judged on how well the groups work as a team and on the themed, two course, meal that they make for their group of supervising adults. The scouts also have to collect their own wood and cut it up with the axes and saws provided by the organisers.

[Read the rest of Cameron's article here](#)

VISIT TO THE NMA

Val and Bill Butcher have kindly offered to run a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. Val has outlined details here.

To register your interest, please [complete the online form here.](#)



VISON LOSS AWARENESS

Nathan from Oxfordshire Association for the blind is offering interactive and informative workshops for Scout Groups.

[Download his letter here.](#) [Email him here.](#)

DEPUTY YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Ever wanted a role that allows you to shape Scouting? We are looking for Deputy Youth Commissioners! Check out the role or recommend a friend! [Download it here.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

The latest from PACCAR

SunStock24; A 24 hour All Action Festival for Explorers



What better way to celebrate the summer solstice than to pack it full of activities and make the most of every minute? From 10am Saturday right through until 10am Sunday, PACCAR will have 24 hours of non-stop activity....challenge your friends to a midnight archery session, fly down the zip wires at 3am or make your way through the treetop High Ropes course as the sun rises.

[Get more information here.](#) [Download the leaflet here.](#)

Blow Your Socks Off at Paccar . Summer Camp 2020

Blow Your Socks Off (BYSO) is a week long summer camp with organised instructor led activities every day. The camp is aimed primarily at Scouts and Explorers (and their equivalent Guide Sections) but Cubs are welcome and would be able to take part in almost all activities. Running from Saturday 8th to Saturday 15th August the program includes five days of instructor led, organised activities (which includes Water Activities, transport included) plus a Challenge day (can be completed on site, locally or in Central London), and there's an option to join a Day Trip to the brilliant Harry Potter World (at an additional cost).

[Get more information here.](#) [Download the leaflet here.](#)

WHY DO I NEED TRAINING?

Firstly, it is important to remember the training scheme is designed to ensure we deliver safe scouting to our members, at the same time keeping ourselves safe and up to date, ensuring the best possible experience for our members.

The training scheme takes account of prior experience and knowledge. The requirement to attend courses, do online learning etc is only required if the learner is not confident with the criteria and validation for the module.

Where training is considered necessary there are a range of options available to provide flexible options. There are online courses which allow leaders to fit the training around their own schedule and courses for those who prefer face-to-face training and giving specific time to it. Attending courses also allows volunteers to meet others in similar roles and share ideas and best practice.

When volunteers, whether section leaders, their assistants, executive members or event leads, agree to take on an appointment, it comes with a responsibility to demonstrate a level of competency when working with and/or supporting young people.

Validating the training should not be seen as a hinderance to a role, more it should complement the work which the volunteers are doing whilst ensuring that they are up to date and aware of all their responsibilities.

Where volunteers are active in their role they will be collecting evidence and experience that they can use to demonstrate the validation criteria to a Training Adviser. This should be a natural extension of actively undertaking the role as the training is not about asking individuals to do more than the role requires.

Where volunteers feel strongly that the validation of the modules is too much, they should speak to their line manager and may wish to review their appointment; it may be that a different role that would suit them

ADULT TRAINING DATES 2019/2020

Getting started for Section Leaders

Module 1

10th December 2019 - PE Room, Henry Box School

11th February 2020 - County HQ & Training Centre

Module 2

12th December 2019 - PE Room, Henry Box School

16th December 2019 - Wallingford Sports Park

Module 3

17th February 2020 - County HQ & Training Centre

17th March 2020 - King Alfred DHQ

You can attend any course around the County.

Getting Started for Managers and supporters are held at the County HQ & Training Centre

Module 2 - 13th January 2020

Module 4 - 20th January 2020

Check out our full list of training dates:

[Course date 2020 by date](#)

[Course date 2020 by module](#)

[Course date 2020 Executive and Adult Appointment advisory roles](#)

[Course dates 2020 First Aid](#)

[Course dates 2020 Getting started Managers and Supporters](#)

[Course dates 2020 Getting started Sectional leaders](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

18th Jan - GSL & Chairs Conference - GSL's, DESC's & Chairs

18th - 22nd Feb - Oxfordshire Gang Show - Open to all

22nd Feb - Founders Day

7th March - Winter Challenge - Open to all

27th - 29th March - CESA W - Explorer Scouts

9th May - Awards Day - Open to all

19th - 21st June - Aqua Camp - Scouts

20th June - County AGM - Open to all

4th - 6th Sept - Gilwell Reunion - Over 18's

2nd - 4th Oct - CPCW - Scouts

16th - 18th Oct - JOTA/JOTI - Open to all

20th - 22nd Nov - RaidOx - Network and Explorer Scouts

More dates will be added to the diary very soon!

WINTER WALKING

Dear Walkers,

In 2020 we are going to Ingleton for our annual Thames Ridge District Mountaineering Weekend.

We will need the money as soon as possible.

Arriving Friday night, walking Saturday and Sunday morning, heading home after lunch. It will cost £50 for the weekend, which includes breakfast. It is self-catered, bring your own lunches for Saturday and Sunday, breakfast will be cooked by volunteers. Evening meal at local pub or cook your own!

YHA Ingleton

Direct access from the Youth Hostel to Ingleborough and Wharfedale. Pubs and cafés are a short walk from the most popular choice.

Yours in Scouting

Dave Stretton-Smith and Phil Giddings.

Want to attend? [Email the team here.](#)

EXPLORER CLIMBING COURSE

Once again we are offering a Beginners' climbing course for Oxfordshire Explorer Scouts. The course is based at the climbing wall at Oxford Brookes Centre for Sport and will run every other Tuesday from 1900 - 2100, beginning on 14th January. We aim to offer two trips to other walls later in the spring, dates to be advised.

The course cost of £85 includes centre fees and use of all climbing equipment except climbing shoes which are a requirement for the course. These may be hired from Brookes directly (cost £1.50 per session), though we recommend buying your own in the long term - locally, Go Outdoors and Decathlon stock them and the course instructors can provide buying advice.

All applications must be received by December 14th and successful applicants will be notified by December 14th. Places are limited and if the course is oversubscribed we will operate a reserve list, so you will need to confirm your place promptly with your payment.

[Please ask your Explorers to apply here.](#)

For any questions, [please email here.](#)



STAY IN
THE LOOP
WITH ALL
THE LATEST
NEWS!



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SCOUTS IN
OXFORDSHIRE



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