

CC Chat

Hi all,

As we head into Easter, we have seen a huge increase in the number of volunteers joining or changing role. It's brilliant news to have so many new people joining us!

Unfortunately, we are short of appointment advisory committee (AAC) members to help get them appointed and into their role quickly, which I know is causing frustrations. To help you understand the issues that are arising, across five Districts we have over 100 volunteers waiting for an AAC panel meeting, but those Districts only have around 20 members that can help and three are needed for a meeting. If everyone could all meet on the same evening it would be a different story, but invariably diaries do not coincide, and it means that over a course of a month between 5 and 10 evenings can be held for appointments. Sadly, this means of those 100 only 15-30 volunteers can be seen. And this is before we consider that each month we are seeing around 30 new appointments added to this. This is clearly causing delays where we really don't want them and frustrating new volunteers joining us.

So the Districts need your help - it would be amazing if you could help with our appointments process. If you can, get in touch on info@oxonscouting.org.uk and we can tell you more about what is involved and how to get you started. We will be looking for a person from each Group to help, so please have a think and tell us who in your Group this could be. The more members the Districts have the quicker we can help get volunteers into role!

There's lots of detail on support available throughout this issue, including inclusion workshops and autism training. And don't forget if you have training modules ready to be validated, you can book a session on BookWhen!

Nationally, HQ have opened their annual Scouts Experience Survey to gain insight into the impact we have and learn about everyone's thoughts and experiences. Details of the survey can be found on page 8 - don't forget to share this far and wide, they are looking for young people and parents to complete the survey, as well as adult volunteers.

An occasional badge for the Platinum Jubilee has also been launched and can be found on Scouts Shop - please feel free to wear this on your uniforms as an occasional badge this year.

Wendy

County Commissioner

cc@oxonscouting.org.uk

Inclusion surgeries

Our Inclusion surgeries are reaching out and supporting groups across Oxfordshire. If you would like our help on anything Inclusion; why not make an appointment at one of our online surgeries and speak with a member of our inclusion team?

Email inclusion@oxonscouting.org.uk for an appointment.



International opportunities

We have space on the following Scout trips happening this summer:

Trip to **Bosnia** 17th to 29th August 2022.

£525.00 Visiting Sarajevo, Visoko and Jajce. Camping by Lake Pliva, Sight Seeing and Hiking - cost £525

For Scouts or Explorer Scouts includes Insurance, Flights, & Transfers.



Trip to **Sweden** 8th August to 18th August 2022 Vis-

iting Vassero Campsite located on a traffic free island off the coast of Eastern Sweden. Trip includes 2 days visiting Stockholm cost £700

For Scouts or Explorer Scouts includes Insurance, Flights, & Transfers.

Trip to **Kandersteg, Switzerland** 5th to 13th August 2022. Camping and Activities at the International Scout Centre in Switzerland. Cost £900

For Scouts or Explorer Scouts. This trip has been organised by members of North Oxfordshire Scout District but is open to all

Please contact Alex Lyczkowski (acc-international@oxonscouting.org.uk) for more information as spaces are limited.

A gory Beaver or Cub Scout Activity

As the weather improves and our lives become more normal, the County Programme team want to provide ideas for your Cub Packs and Beaver colonies. If you have ideas you want to share, let us know we'd love to have them and share with the wider community.

This month our activity is gruesome and unforgettable. We guarantee your Cubs or Beavers will be talking about this to their children! We have developed this activity to lead into the Beavers Health and Fitness Activity badge or the Cubs Our Skills Challenge Award, which can be done easily in the summer months.

This activity focusses on what goes on inside our bodies, using organs obtained from your local butcher or abattoir. For some young people this may be too gruesome for others this will be a riot. Keep checking your young people as you go through this activity to evaluate how they feel (and how green they look) and work within the limits of the individual. This is most definitely an activity for outside!

[You can download the activity sheet here.](#)



Are you a Scout?

Then you won't want to miss out on this!

For more info & to register your Patrol **NOW**, visit

www.cpcw-oxon.events

before it's too late.

Autism Training

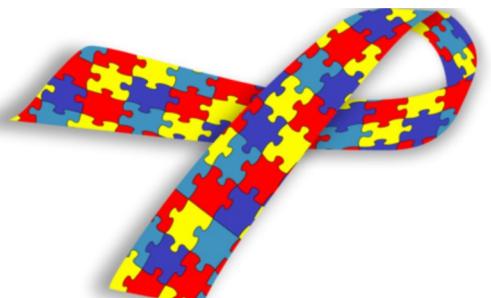
Oxfordshire Inclusion Team are please to announce Autism training is now available to all adults in Oxfordshire Scouting. An interactive session to support Leaders.

Saturday 21st May 2022.

10am – 3pm

Venue – 33rd Oxford (Kidlington)

Please book via Bookwhen



Update on Gilwell Park events in 2022

As we look ahead to our first undisrupted summer of Scouting activities, we know lots of you are interested to know which events will be taking place at Gilwell Park. This year, the Scout Adventures Team are focusing on delivering core activities that get young people back into the great outdoors so they can enjoy new adventures. It's for this reason that they're having to regretfully cancel a number of events in 2022/23 – [you can view the full list here](#). However, Gilwell Reunion will return face-to-face this year on 2–4 September and we'll share details on this soon.

Validation sessions

Looking to get a few more training modules completed? Need a validation session? We have various slots available at our next online validation evening. On the 18th April and 24th May 2022. [You can book your slot\(s\) here](#).

Validation sheets

Validation sheets for you to use with the Group Section Leaders. Here is the full validation criteria for all the modules. These would be used for all new Section/Assistant Section Leaders. [Download your validation sheet here](#).

County events

We're so excited to be able to deliver county events again and are really looking to seeing all the young people getting involved in the forthcoming events. However, we do need more help to expand our events teams with volunteers. We're looking for people to help during the days, with the infrastructure teams as fairies, or just for a few hours pre and post event in setting up and closing the event. If you'd like to help with admin, delivering activities, crowd control, food preparation or anything else that you can think of please do get in touch. It might be the ideal opportunity to invite some parents to come and help and see how they might like to get more involved in Scouting. Or, as leaders or trustees, if you've time to spare and would like to do something different then please email events@oxonscouting.org.uk for more information about how you can get involved.

Thames Source to Sea Community Challenge

Join an amazing community of people in September 2022 to take on one of thirty sections that make up the entire length of the famous and scenic Thames Path and help raise funds and awareness of Muscular Dystrophy.

The event is the brainchild of MDUK supporter, Andy Davies, who has limb girdle muscular dystrophy. His original plan was to walk the whole route himself, but as the COVID pandemic and lockdown put a pause on his plans, his condition has deteriorated and he's calling on you to help him bring this community challenge to life.

The Thames Path is an 184-mile footpath that follows the River Thames from its source in the Cotswolds, all the way to the Thames Barrier in southeast London. For one weekend in September 2022, they're planning to gather a community of walkers, runners, cyclists and even paddleboarders to cover the whole distance.

Andy is looking for support from Scouts throughout Oxfordshire for the section of the Thames that comes through our county. This could be helping with refreshments or participating in the walk and can link to awards and challenge badges for all Sections.

Fancy the challenge, [read how to get involved here](#).

Circus skills

Shooting Stars has been the leading circus skills teaching company in the UK for over 25 years.

Our circus workshops consist of a circus instructor and a full range of equipment from juggling scarves, balls, spinning plates, diabolos, and flower sticks to larger equipment such as unicycles, tightropes, stilts and crazy bikes.

With a large team of instructors we can take small groups of up to 30 at one time or much larger groups for bigger events of up to 500 people at one time! [Checkout their website here](#)

County Snowsports Trip 2022

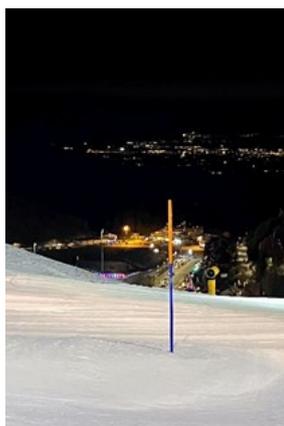
Over the February half-term holiday 27 young people and 12 Leaders from across the County spent an amazing week skiing the Mondolé ski area of northern Italy. Our trip had been due to take place 12 months earlier, to a different country and with almost twice as many young people but Covid-19 and the global pandemic had meant significant changes to our plans. With the ever-changing travel restrictions there were times in the run up to the trip that it wasn't certain that we would be able to travel at all, but finally on the 20th February we boarded the plane and were on our way!

Nearly half the young people on the trip had never skied before and were experiencing sliding around on skis for the first time. We took them from their very first steps on the nursery slopes, to learning to stop, turn and control their speed. We then slowly progressed with them higher up the mountain where they completed their first "proper" runs and even managed a red run by the end of the week.

The more experienced skiers spent the week honing their skills and making the most of the skiing available in the two villages of Artesina and Prato Nevoso. Each of these groups spent at least one day with a local ski instructor who was able to show them to the best runs and help them improve their technique. The rest of the week they were led round the resort by our own leadership team.

At the end of the week, we spent an amazing evening night skiing under flood lights and being able to look out at all of the lights from the towns and villages in the valley floor! Whilst it was much colder than we were used to during the day everyone had a fantastic time to end the trip on a high.

Throughout the course of our pre-meets before the trip and then also during the trip all of the young people learnt about the hazards of the mountain environment, coping with the cold and planning for a day in the mountains. The culmination of this and their skiing experience was the awarding of Level 2, 3 and 4 Snowsports badges at the end of the week depending on the individuals skiing ability.



Supporting the Jamboree Unit

Unit 67 is Oxfordshire's Jamboree Unit who will be attending the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea in August 2023

36 Scouts and 4 leaders camped last weekend (12/13th March) at Jubilee House near Beckley. Their first camp as a Unit. Their fund-raising target is £160,000 and fund-raising has begun in earnest.



The Unit have set an Easyfundraising page and you can support them by adding them as your cause. Simply search for "Oxfordshire Scouts Jamboree Unit South Korea 2023" and follow these three easy steps:

Join Choose a cause to support and join for free - it takes 2 minutes.

Shop Shop as normal with over 4,200 retailers, just start your shopping journey first at easyfundraising.org.uk, or get our App or browser extension Donation Reminder which reminds you when a donation is available.

Raise Once you make a purchase, our retailer partners will make a small donation to your chosen cause to say 'thank you'.

Look out for future opportunities to support the Unit including the chance to become a Jamboree Mate and the opportunity to support their Wonderful.org fund raising page.



Celebrating The Queen's Jubilee

This June, the whole of the UK will gather together and celebrate 70 years of HM The Queen's reign. While the celebrations will take place in June, we can celebrate all year round by taking part in the Platinum Challenge, which involves eight different ways to get involved. You can also mark the celebration by wearing our new occasional badge on your uniform throughout the year. It's been designed in collaboration with Girlguiding to recognise her position as Patron of both organisations.

Managing members on Compass.

Please remember to keep Compass updated, making sure the contact details of members (phone, numbers, email and postal addresses) are populated, current and accurate, and that any inactive roles are closed. It's also helpful for Group Scout Leaders to note on Compass which night each section meets. Everyone will need a personal unique email address listed (an email not shared with anyone else like scoutgroup@... or thesmithfamily@...) to log into the new digital experience on the website when those changes come – please take a moment to check your compass details

1st Hanborough Freeland had an amazing day

1st Hanborough Freeland had an amazing day and would recommend other Scouts group visit Wytham Woods if they can!

The badge requirements are as follows:

SCOUTS FORESTER ACTIVITY BADGE

Discover how to manage and identify trees – and help preserve our woodland.

- Identify at least eight common types of tree that grow in your area, including both deciduous and coniferous.
- Find out how to identify trees using identification keys.
- Prepare the soil and successfully transplant a young tree.
- Find out how both natural woodland and commercial forests are managed.
- Show how to select, use and care for forestry equipment, and know the safety issues involved.

Show how to fell and trim out a tree or lay a hedge.

SCOUTS NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE

Become a great Naturalist and play your part in preserving the natural world as a whole.

- With appropriate permission, spend at least one day at one of these locations and investigate the wildlife and plants found there. We are covering woodland and hedgerow
- Tell a knowledgeable adult what you discovered. Show them your field notes, sketches, photographs or maps.
- Find out more about a plant, animal or particular wildlife from your chosen location.
- Discuss what you found out, giving sources for information from places like museums, field guides or the internet.

Discuss how human activities or land management can affect wildlife.

Kim Polgreen, the resident Youth Educator at Wytham Woods who worked with our group on Saturday 26th March, summed up the day on The Oxford Earth Academy [blog](#)

"Our experts for the day were Nigel Fisher, Conservator of Wytham Woods; outdoor educator, Charles Montier; and ecologist Julia Haynes. We tested out our activities on Freeland Scouts. 19 of them came to Wytham Woods with their leaders on a beautiful March day. Our base was Bean Wood, by the old cottage in the Woods that used to be used by scouts and guides in the 1920s.

The group was divided into two and each did one activity before lunch and one after. With Nigel, they played tree games, learned about trees, learned how to use saws and loppers safely, and did some fantastic coppicing work, ably helped by their scout leaders.

With Charles and Julia they hunted for signs of nature (including emerging bluebells, fox poo, blossom, hawthorn leaves, celendine, primroses, chiffchaffs and great tits), made crayon rubbings to record their tree leaf ID, and got some handy outdoor survival tips from Charles. Then everyone came together to plant a tree.

We think we managed to tick off all the requirements for the two badges in one day, but we also hope that they will come back and see the Woods at other times of the year. Everybody had a fantastic time, and we are hoping that other groups of scouts to follow these Freeland scout pioneers."

Kim can be contacted via Twitter here: <https://twitter.com/KimPolgreen> or via the website for group bookings: <https://oxfordearthacademy.org/>

Woodbadges



Congratulations to the following adult volunteers who achieved their Woodbadges in March (according to Compass):

Dennis Hammond - Section Leader	Mary Busby - Assistant Section Leader	
Sylvia Ward - Section Leader	Robert Spence - Assistant Section Leader	Elizabeth Wood - Assistant Section Leader
Tim Clarke - Assistant Section Leader	Ray Goodwin - Assistant Section Leader	Robert Green - Assistant Section Leader
Chris Harrison - Section Leader	Kath Thomas - Section Leader	Alison Catt - Assistant Section Leader
Andrew Innes - Deputy Group Scout Leader	Doron Jensen - Group Scout Leader	Craig Leslie - Section Leader
Shelagh Hutson - Group Scout Leader	Jack Slade - Assistant Section Leader	Dawn Pickford - Section Leader
Sandra Taylor - Section Leader	Sarah Thompson - Group Scout Leader	Sarah Walker - Assistant Section Leader
Tabitha Griffiths - Assistant Section Leader	Tracy Shayler - Section Leader	Richard Pollard - Assistant Section Leader
Kate MacLean - Section Leader	Karen Miller - Assistant Section Leader	Ed Peacock - Group Scout Leader
dusty Miller - Section Leader	Kerry Brown - Assistant Section Leader	Roel Verhoeven - Assistant Section Leader
David Adamson - Assistant Section Leader	Chloe Robson - Section Leader	Andy Peet - Assistant Section Leader
Kevin Fitzpatrick - Assistant Section Leader	Gillian Wilson - District Section Leader	Becki Brewis - District Deputy Commissioner
Tina Jackson - Assistant Section Leader	James English - Assistant Section Leader	Jack Davies - Section Leader
Rachel Hunter - Assistant Section Leader	Munro Watt - Assistant Section Leader	Jack Davies - Assistant Section Leader
Sarah Ayres - Section Leader	Timothy Kane - Assistant Section Leader	Tasha Rockliff - Assistant Section Leader
Dickon Brant - Section Leader	Ruth Sheppard - Assistant Section Leader	Sarah Nathanielsz - Assistant Section Leader
Alison Kennett - Section Leader	Simon Fisher - Assistant Section Leader	
	Fiona Sutherland - Assistant Section Leader	

Governance support webinars

Starting from this month, HQ will be restarting their monthly Governance support webinars. Their first support webinar of the year will focus on trustee recruitment and will take place on Wednesday 27 April. Other webinars in the series will look into POR and Local Constitution, Charity Commission Registration and Gift Aid. You can [register for this month's webinar online now](#). If you're unable to join live, or want to watch last year's sessions, we upload all recordings after the event onto our [Governance support videos webpage](#).

Scout Experience Survey

Each year, HQ send their Scout Experience Survey to all volunteers and young people. This gives HQ insight into their impact, and helps them learn about everyone's thoughts and experiences. The 2022 survey has now launch [can be completed here](#). You can [view the 2021 results](#) here

Welcome to Oxfordshire Scouts

We would like to welcome the following new adult volunteers who joined the Oxfordshire Scouting family or taken on a new role in March 22

Ashley Cooper

Timothy Titchener

Colin Whitlock

Anna Harris

Paul Thompson

Matthew Shepherd

Stephen Thompson

Peter Illman

Stuart Broad

Callum Godding

Ross Harrison

Alex Peatfield

Euan McKendrick

Jaco Mare

Matt Buckley

James Sutherland

Paul Fennell

Nicholas Richards

Katie Laing

John Ireland

Jonathan Hands

Anthony Allsopp

Sharon Pallett

Sam Sadler

Krissanne Zaldua

Mike Gipson

Conor Taylor

Jonathan Ayres

Richard Thompson

Becki Brewis

Mark Rasmussen

Jason Halls

Sarah Miles

Kate Wigfield

Sarah Evans

Kelly Whitehead

Claire Halle-Smith

Philip Gregory

Laura Cooper

Lizzie White

Fay Clarke

Lisa Brown

Chris Brummitt

Ellis Massingham

Jane Hall

Mark Davies

Paul Allen

Rachel Campling

Rachel Hossle

Bridget Ejoh

Tracey Cameron

Mason Cashman

Ryan Dugdale

Kimberly Cowan

James Bye

Matt Clark

Cede Goodhall

Erin Gordon

Alice Codrington

Fatma Abdulla

Barry Jones

Jaap Van Der Werf

Kate Waugh

Katrina Brunning

Roz Miles

Jackie Whittaker

Gian Thoresson

Lucia Bakova

Anna Milloy

James Charman

Celia Wighton

James Cane

Craig Miller

Emma Gowans Pouncett

Got a story?

We love to publish real scouting stories, do you have something you would love for us to publish? Get in touch by emailing us [here](#) with your story!

Scouts
Oxfordshire



Stay in the loop with all the latest news!