

The Haller

News, Help, Advice and Information for Scouters in Central Norfolk

District Contacts

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District Support Team

Simon Lonsdale
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Nights Away Advisor

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A Message from the County Chair—Tim Rowe

The County team are continuing in their desire to work alongside you all, whilst key positions remain vacant, to ensure that decisions can still be made and to allow scouting to continue to be run safely and effectively. As County Chair I have stepped into the role of pseudo-District Chair, until a new Chair comes forward.



Support is also being given by Paul Stewart, a newly appointed County Trustee, and Paul is working on social media sites and locally published periodicals to advertise for Trustees who will consider becoming District or Group Trustees. It is hoped that this will also attract a new Chair for the District. Paul has also created suggested advertisements for section based operational volunteers - please speak to

Simon if you want copies for your own Group's use. Over the next few weeks, I hope you will be taking some time out to spend with your family and friends. On behalf of the District Trustees, may we wish you all a fun-filled Christmas and when you return to scouting, we encourage you to remember what Baden Powell once said, 'The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others.' Tim.



Merry Christmas

A Message from David Human County Lead Volunteer and our Interim District Lead Volunteer

Dear Members of Central Norfolk Scouts. 2024 has been a difficult year for the District and I am sure that you don't need me to remind you of that. But on the positive side there is some excellent scouting going on at section level and we have



welcomed our first squirrel dray at Marham. Evidence that despite our challenges we are still a viable district and we must all strive to make sure that remains so.

The search for a District Lead Volunteer (DLV) will continue in the new year and in the mean time, Paul, Simon and myself will fulfil the role of a district team. the County Board of Trustees will continue to have oversight of the Central Norfolk Board of Trustees as we move to elect a new trustee board. But for now, we must enjoy Christmas as a family time to give back all those evenings and weekends we have not been able to do that. Scouting demands much of us and even more of our families and Christmas is the time we must give that back.

So, I wish you all and your and families a happy and healthy Christmas and a very happy 2025.

New Membership System

The District is going well with being setup on the new membership system. There is going to be a requirement for all adults supporting Scouting to log on. If you have not yet logged on you should have received an email inviting you, please check your junk mail if you have not yet seen it.

Don't worry if you can't find the email just get in touch and we will guide you through

how to log on.

The new system is the gateway to all of your Learning courses and it will guide you on what you need to do to complete it. The best thing with this new system is once you complete the course it will record it against your record, so no more sending photos to your Group Lead Volunteer asking them to update your course.

If you have logged on you might notice that the Safety course is showing due by July 2025. This is due to it being a totally revised course and HQ's are asking everyone to do it within the next 6 months. We do this on your mobile, tablet or computer and save your progress so you don't need to do it all at once.



WhatsApp Groups.

We have a number of WhatsApp groups running in the District for sections. So if you are a Beavers, Cub or Scout Leader and you are not on the WhatsApp channel contact us and we will try to get you on. We are going to setup a channel for the Trustees so there will be better communication within the District and again give us a shout and we will get you

on that if you hold a Trustee role within the District.

Nights Away through the new Membership system.

If you are going to be running a camp and need to send in a nights away form please only use the new Scout Membership system as this is now the approved way to submit them. If you have any further questions please just ask us.

Norfolk Scout Volunteer Recruitment Workshop 2025

The HQ Growth and Communities team will be running a Volunteer Recruitment Workshop for Norfolk Scouts on Saturday 18th January from 9am to 4pm at Eaton Vale Scout & Guide Activity Centre.

The workshop is open to all volunteers (leaders and trustees).

The aim of the workshop is to provide you with the ins and outs of finding and keeping new Scouting volunteers. There will be information and hands-on activities to get the conversations flowing and provide you with the tools and ideas to take back to your Districts, Groups and Sections to boost your volunteer numbers.

We will cover:

- The Recruitment Cycle
- Overcoming barriers
- Preparing for recruitment

- Getting people through the door
- Finding new volunteers their place
- Welcoming and supporting new volunteers
- Ongoing recruitment

Please book your place by Monday 6th January by emailing your name, membership number, and role (Section, Group and District) to John Howling – j.howling@norfolkscouts.org.uk

Leaders receiving their Woodbeads

I have recently had the pleasure of presenting Abi



Foulsham her Woodbeads. Abi has worked very hard in getting these in less than two years showing great focus and committing the time to pass so quickly. Well done Abi.

In November Shirley Sinclair kindly attended the 1st Mattishall Scout Expedition Camp to present Daniel Englar With his Woodbeads. It is great to see our Leaders completing their training to help them to deliver the high standard or programs our



young people enjoy

Squirrels are Go.

2nd Marham (RAF) Scout group are very excited to announce the first Drey in Central Norfolk District.



15 squirrels enjoyed their very first session on Monday playing games getting to know their new friends they are all very excited to see what the new year brings.

1st Swaffham Scout Group Retelling of The Christmas Story

On Thursday 5th December, 1st Swaffham Scout Group performed The Christmas Story for our families. The little village Church was packed! It was lovely to see everybody there.

Each section performed a part of the Nativity story. We didn't use costumes or props, but everyone had worked

hard to learn their lines and be on 'stage' at the right time – even the donkey!

Cubs started the story off with the visit by the Angel Gabriel to Mary. They told the story up to the point where Mary and Joseph reach the Inn keepers in Bethlehem. Cubs introduced the carols 'O, Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'Little Donkey'.

Beavers took over the story from the Inn keepers and told

* HELP WANTED *

Situations Vacant

There are roles within the District that could do with some support. If you know someone who might be able to help please contact us.

District Chair. You would be responsible for Ensuring that all members of the Executive Committee have been briefed and inducted into their roles, receive appropriate training, and are aware of their status as charity trustees. Addressing and resolving conflicts that arise.

The **District Secretary** who's role is vacant but we would love to find someone to help out with the administration of the District. If you are interested in this role please contact the District Chair or the DC.

Newsletter/Social Media Editor—

Could you help create this newsletter,, keep the website up to date or post updates to our social media channels contact the DLV for further details.

us of the Shepherds and Three King's visit to baby Jesus. They introduced the carols 'Away in a manger' and 'whilst Shepherds watched their flocks by night'.

Scouts finished the



performance, introducing the carols 'We three kings' and 'We wish you a merry Christmas'. They closed our performance with a reflection: "Mary and Joseph could not know that their baby would change the world. He would be a king for all people – for the wealthy and the poor. Christians believe that Jesus was born on Earth to show people how they should treat one another. Every Christmas, we celebrate the birth of this very special baby and God's gift to us.

Our family members enjoyed joining in with the Carols which were accompanied by guitar. After the service, we received lots of comments from parents who had really enjoyed the performance and the chance to sing Christmas Carols together. 1st Swaffham would like to say a huge thank you to Cockley Cley PCC for welcoming us to the Church and arranging for the Christmas Trees to be ready for our performance.

The Job of the bear.



Many people have over the last few years (since Covid) met Woody Bear (or should that be encountered WB). He now lives with Badger and gets taken to many different places. The highlight of his week is the Tuesday evening visit to Beavers in Mattishall, where he meets his friends Max and Oakley.

Yes he is just a Teddy Bear but he has a job to do, he and the other bears sit and wait patiently until a Beaver has 'a wobble' then he jumps into action, often he is able to give the calming cuddle needed or just provide a bit of a naughty happening whilst Badger looks on disapprovingly. The naughty happenings usually involve food—of any type and help the Beavers cheer up fairly quickly.

Recently a new Beaver arrived who immediately recognised Woody. Last year at a Carol Service the child was bored and getting upset, so Woody went to him to have a play, afterwards the mum passed him back and thanked Badger—Woody did

some positive PR.

So please consider having a mascot in your Dray, Colony or Pack, they can be good PR and and great for the young peoples emotional wellbeing.



1st Dereham Scout Group Expedition Challenge

On 16th October 1st Dereham Scouts began planning their Expedition Badge. A map of Cambridge was provided and a list of Colleges with Grid References. First, they found all the colleges within Cambridge. They then planned their route and wrote out detailed instructions.

This was given to a leader to run through and read back to them and after a few laughs and questions of "Out of train station, go to Mill Street" Question:- Scouts - "Where's Mill Street?"

Leader – "I don't know, you planned the route and that's what you wrote, you've just arrived in Cambridge and you don't know where you are going" – Chorus of laughter. "up there" – "What? Up where?" – Even more laughter. After a few adjustments, the route was finalised with correct 'turn left, turn right' etc.

They then planned the

timings, meeting at HQ, bus timetable and which one to catch from Dereham to Norwich train station -train timetable, departure and arrival and return journey too. They went through what equipment they would need for the day and sleepover at the HQ, what food they would need for the day, where to have dinner and what they would be cooking for their breakfast,

They went through what would they do in an emergency, when travelling, throughout the route and at the HQ

The leaders added in a task which was to find Sir Isaac Newton's Tree – they were to individually go to a leader and quietly let them know when they found it. They first went for every large tree we went past before getting which tree it was. Some only found it as they spotted another visitor taking a picture next to the tree holding an apple.



On the day of the Event, we were aware of the incoming storm of Darragh and this was factored in to be able to reduce the walk and monitoring what was happening with transport.

We were very lucky as their train was only delayed by 9 minutes. We did reduce the hike and still managed to visit 18 colleges. The weather was very kind to us. We were not affected by the wind and only had a couple of heavy showers. With the weather being horrendous around Dereham we were glad we didn't stick to a hike around the local area but managed to get out and about including other forms of transport. After making our way back to the HQ, and after a few games of bingo, we settled to sleep.

On the Sunday morning, after packing away personal equipment each Scout prepared a cooked breakfast. Once everything was cleaned up and packed away, we sat down and had a feedback session on how the whole event went from start to finish, what could have been done differently, what would they change, what did they enjoy or didn't enjoy.

Some of the feedback was:

- We were lucky the weather didn't stop us, although it was wet.
- Too many other people around
- Being scared on doing the map reading in case they went wrong
- Feet that hurt
- Loved McDonalds
- The Colleges and buildings around

Cambridge were amazing – we spent some time explaining the history of the colleges

- Loved searching for the tree
- Really enjoyed the bus and train journey.

The Scouts all said they would not change anything and that all in all it went really well, and they really enjoyed planning it all and seeing it through to the end and having a great weekend.

Thank You

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and I aim to keep up the production of this but we are going to be very reliant on getting content from you. If you have anything you want to include in the next edition, or any feedback, please let us know as your stories help bring this newsletter to life. I am looking at getting the next edition to you in February 2025.

Regards

Simon Lonsdale

Editor

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