

County Commissioner's Message - Chris Ward

We are all part of an unprecedented period in our lifetimes, and one that just a few months ago we would never have imagined. Together we all have a part to play in ensuring that we support each other and our local communities, whilst protecting ourselves and those around us as best we can by following the Government guidance.

Many of you are key workers or volunteers in a range of roles and we are very proud of each of you for the contribution you are making during these challenging times - a true example of "do your best" in action every day.

For some the challenge of looking after themselves and their loved ones, adjusting to working from home, being furloughed (or perhaps losing work) and home schooling are rightly the sole focus. Scouting is therefore understandably "on hold" until the time we can re-open our scout building doors once again. Adjusting takes true scouting spirit and is something that each of you is showing throughout.

Some have chosen to embrace a different way of scouting and in the process many new digital skills are being learned so make sure you record it as on-going learning! Look at the brilliant examples further on in this newsletter.

Please do remember that it is ok to not be ok all the time. Sharing how you are feeling, and seeking support as required, are signs of great strength and something we would encourage people to do. Do touch base with your own teams in the coming weeks if you haven't had the opportunity to do so already, if nothing else to consider how local scouting might celebrate once we are able to meet in person once again.

We know that the weeks and months ahead will lead us to the time when we can re-start face to face scouting again, and until then please do check your scouting e-mails for hints, tips and advice that may of use both now and for when that time comes. I look forward to working with you all to bring back scouting even stronger than before.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves and those around you - stay safe.

Business as Usual

Whilst face to face scouting is on hold the [County Team](#) continues to do as much as possible through virtual and remote working, so please feel free to contact us all as normal.

Team Updates

- The training team are pleased to welcome Dave Musson to the role of County Training Administrator.
- Simon Wilson has stood down as Cambridge District Commissioner (DC), Thank you to Simon for his contribution to the success in Cambridge in recent years, in respect of District events such as th 2018 All Sections camp. Going forward William Holliday, District Commissioner, will lead Cambridge District.

Could it be you?

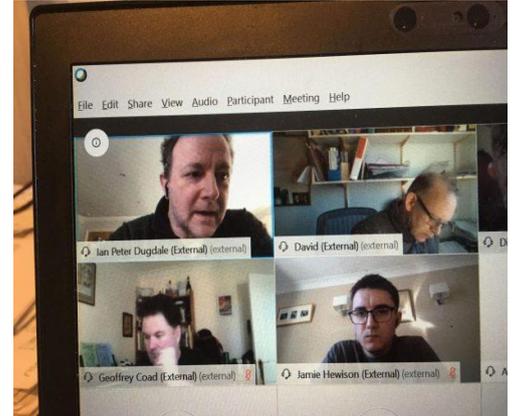
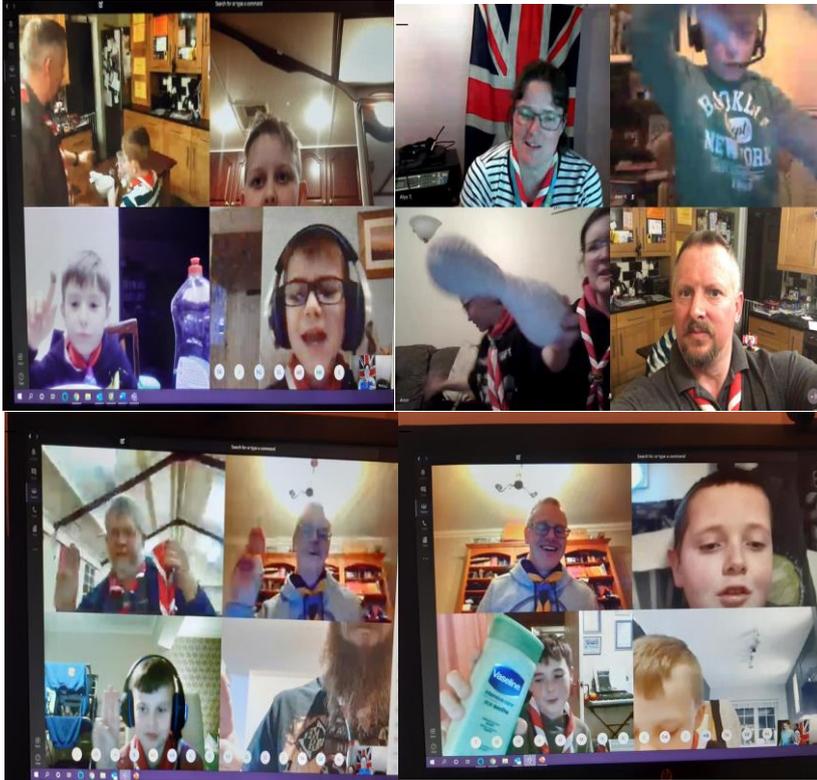
The search a Cromwell District Commissioner to replace John Nicoll when he steps down at the end of this year. Please start thinking about whether you, or someone you know, might be suitable for [this role](#). Watch out for further details on the application / nomination process in due course or contact me for an informal chat in the meantime.

#untilwemeetagain

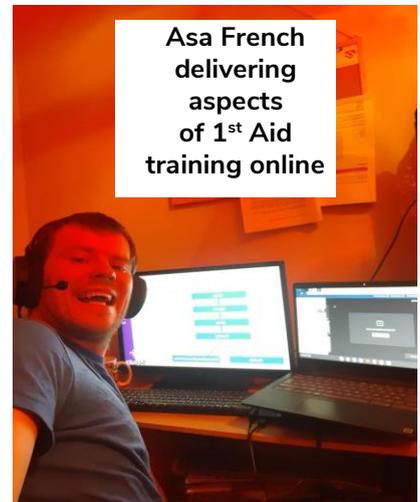
Cambridgeshire Scouts in Action

Have you submitted items on one of the Facebook groups or direct to the website yet (either by the [news form](#) or e-mail to communications@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk? Please consider doing so – and encourage your young people to be involved in writing them. Here are a few items showing “virtual scouting” in action! (more on [website](#) /

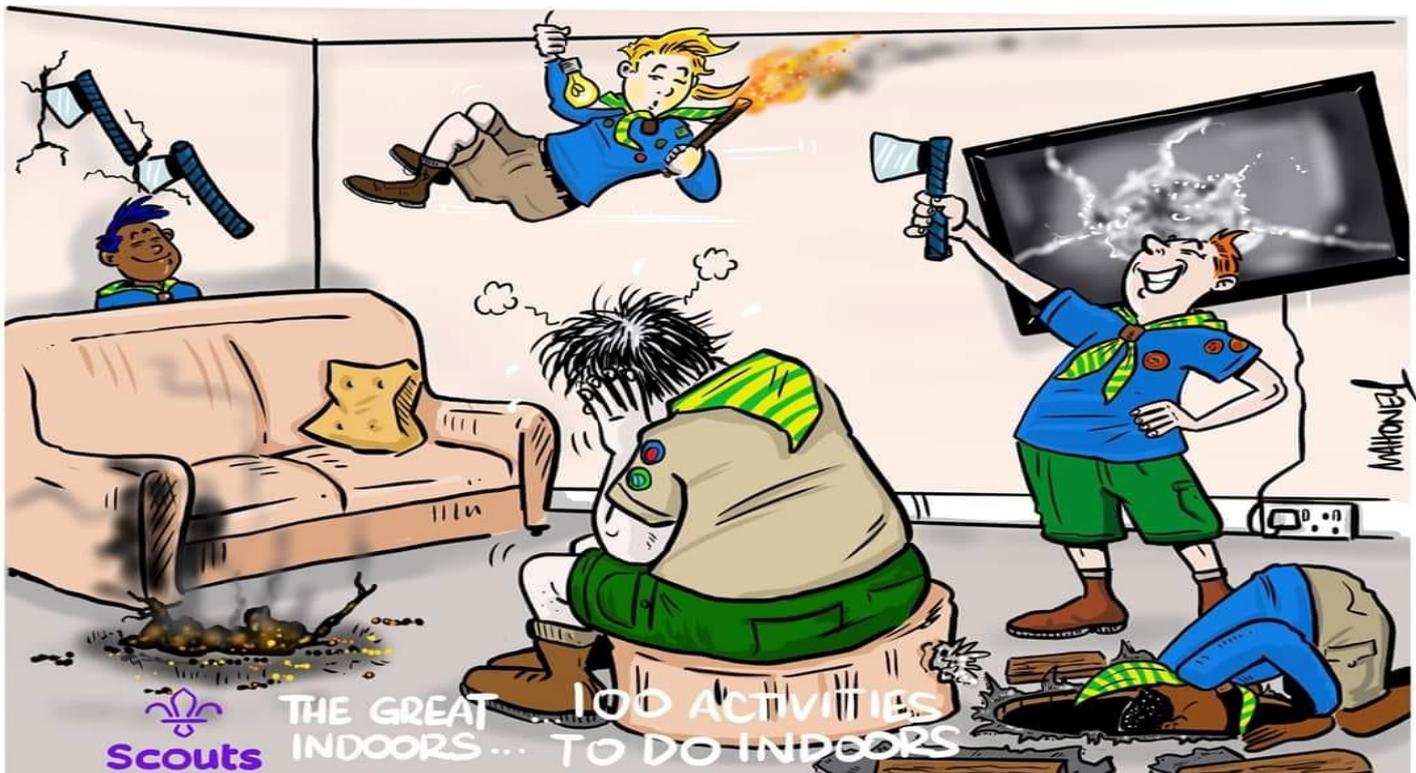
1st Doddington in action – [find out more](#)



County Team Meetings go virtual



And a cartoon just for fun 😊



Focus on... Growth & Development

David Briston, Deputy County Commissioner – Growth & Development

David is a recently retired UK Civil Service Change & Implementation Manager. He lives in Littleport with his wife Yvette. They have three adult sons - Shaun lives in Bucharest whilst Matthew and Adam (who is a leader with 1st Ely Beaver Colony) both live in Ely.

David became a leader on leaving Venture Scouts, and other former roles include Group Scout Leader (GSL), County Cub Scout Leader (CSL) and District Commissioner (DC). He is currently also a County Safeguarding Trainer.



What does the County Growth & Development (G&D) team cover?

The team works closely with the Regional Services team and supports the sustainable delivery of the County's Growth plans. This includes induction of new DCs and support to Districts and Groups with the recruitment of adult volunteers to start new sections / Groups or increase the number of sections. It is also available to support adult recruitment at larger community events and provides countywide training for "Grow Your Team" and to District and Executive Committee members, so they are aware of their current responsibilities as Charity Trustees.

The team works with the District / Group to agree a co-ordinated approach to a project before things get under way, plan for an open evening of taster activities for adults and young people, the support needed and a realistic time-line. For new section or Group start-ups G&D will focus on recruiting a team of volunteers to work flexibly together around the tasks that need to be done, rather than filling specific roles.

What difference does all this actually make?

Over the past 18 months examples of successful growth projects include 2nd Ely (extra colony), 1st St Neots (3 extra Sections), new Groups at 2nd Cambridge and 1st Northstowe and as well as restarting 1st Brampton Beaver Colony.

Growth & Development tips

There are some simple basics to follow to help recruit new adult volunteers:

- Good preparation is key - ensure your website and any social media pages are on-brand and kept up to date as first impressions matter
- There are some good ideas available for [Recruiting and retaining volunteers](#)
- The [four week challenge](#) is a test drive of Scouting for adults to see if volunteering is right for them
- If you would like initial advice regarding a potential local growth initiative, then [get in touch](#) once you have discussed it in principle with your DC

Joining the team

A G&D Scout Active Support Unit is being created and we are looking for people to help us with new growth projects – which vary depending on the time you think you can make available. We also have an Analyst vacancy, a role for someone who has good analytical and reporting skills who could help inform future growth planning across the county. If you are interested in either please just [get in touch](#).

Census Results 2020

Here are a few more details from the great census results that show yet another year of growth, expanding on the high-level summary in the last newsletter. A reminder the total is 9,046, which is a 3% growth.

Numbers	Beavers		Cubs		Scouts		Explorers		Adults	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Members	1,840	1,864	2,288	2,202	1,908	1,862	538	522	2,472	2,291
Sections	114	110	122	120	107	102	38	34	-	-

There were overall increases for Hinchingsbrooke (9%), Cromwell (4%), Cambridge (3%), Crafts Hill (2%) and Fenland (1%), no change for Ely and slight decreases of 18 members for Newmarket (2%) and 23 for Peterborough (3%).

The year saw more [awards](#) earned – Chief Scout's (416 Bronze, 297 Silver, 113 Gold, 11 Platinum and 5 Diamond), Duke of Edinburgh (9 Bronze, 8 Silver and 5 Gold), Young Leader Belt Buckle (8) and Queen's Scout (4).

Across the county there are 18 Groups that don't have all 3 Sections, 86 sections that have less than 12 young people and 8 sections with less than 5 young people. Overall, there are 1,014 young people currently missing out on the adventure as they wait to be able to join – all of whom are old enough to do so. Given the current situation we will need to pull together to tackle the challenge that lies ahead for growth by the time of the 2021 census.

Snippets from

Support

Important Safeguarding update

Scout HQ included a really important update in the "all member" e-mail that came out on 7th April (so make sure everyone in your team has a current and valid e-mail on COMPASS), so please read it carefully.

In summary they have taken the decision to stop processing all disclosure applications and re-checks, as we are not engaging in Regulated Activity during the current pandemic period.

The e-mail will explain exactly what that means regarding new members and those who need to re-new. If you do not receive details by this time next week please contact your line manager for details.

County Office

The County Office is closed. Jo McGowan (County Secretary) is working from home. The office phone number will only be checked periodically so the best way to contact her is via jo.mcgowan@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk

Membership Fees 2021

We know there are lots of questions about the membership subscription that may be set for the January 2021 census. Please be assured that, given the impact of the current situation at all levels within scouting, the aim is to provide as much notice as possible regarding the level for next year.

People

Taking Responsibility

Throughout this lockdown period we would actively encourage all members to take the opportunity to look at their own, and their team's, record on COMPASS and take any action required:

- Is mandatory on-going learning for safeguarding / safety up to date?
- Have "Getting Started" modules been completed within 5 months of starting any relevant role?
- Could any of the on-line resources or workbooks help towards learning for any Woodbadge modules?
- Are reviews due for any role that each person holds?

Information and useful links regarding the above can be found on the [county website](#). As soon as face to face courses can re-start details will be added to the website too.

First Aid training

We don't know if the Dec 2020 date will be extended so are pleased to confirm we now have enough trainers and resources to run 2 courses at a time. Dates and details will go on the county website in due course. In the meantime Asa French (County First Aid Trainer) is covering some aspects via on-line virtual sessions, e-mail asa.french@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk for more details.

Perception

Branding

It is nearly 2 years since the launch of the latest branding, so are you all (individuals / sections / Groups / Units / Districts) using the material and support available?

The [Brand Centre site](#) is simple and free to use, as is the font. You can amend and download items for free, ready to print locally, or opt to pay for printing through the site. Here's a few examples of things to check / update:

- Websites and social media (do they have current content too?)
- Newsletters, fundraising posters, recruitment leaflets
- Clothing, signage, banners next time you place an order

Any queries please e-mail communications@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk

Programme

Virtual scouting

Needless to say many of you have decided to rise to the challenge of how to keep scouting going in various forms during the current lockdown.

Take a [look at the website](#) and / or [county facebook](#) groups for some great resources and ideas – including [The Great Indoors](#) initiative and the e-mail sent to everyone by Wendy Human last week.

St George's Day

As those on Facebook may have seen the plan is to celebrate countywide. An e-mail will come out in the next week to all those who hold a leadership role so watch for details!

International

- **Scout Active Support Unit**
Early stages of planning are taking place to create this new County Unit. If you are interested in finding out more get in touch
- **European Jamboree**
This event is being moved to 2021. Contingent leaders will be contacting everyone involved shortly.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Before the current lockdown 24 leaders were able to complete a range of relevant training for this scheme, which will help support young people across Cambridgeshire seeking to achieve it - thanks to Tony Best & James Hutchings for organising.

Queen's Scout Awards

With the cancellation of the annual Windsor celebration event we will share details of those who would have been attending, and their journey to achieve their [Award](#), on the website and in the next newsletter.