



# NEWS

September 17th 2022 Newsletter

## From: the County Commissioner

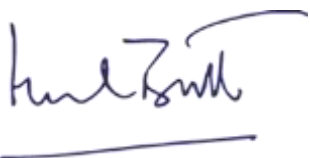
I write to you as the nation mourns the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our longest serving and greatest monarch. Tributes to The Queen have come not just from all corners of the UK and Commonwealth but from all corners of the World. The Queen was held in the highest regard for her selfless service, her unstinting commitment to the role of monarch, and her undiminished faith. The passing of Her Majesty The Queen is a momentous event of historic importance for the country and, like so many people here in the UK and across the Commonwealth and the rest of the world, I am deeply saddened by her loss.

The Suffolk Scouts website records the passing of The Queen with the following words:

*As Scouts we are united in sorrow for the loss of our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. She leaves a bright legacy of hope and promise for future generations. We will remember her, and give thanks for her kindness, her service, and the unwavering support she showed our movement over many decades. She was truly a friend to Scouts everywhere. For seventy years, Her Majesty The Queen has stood at our side, encouraging our volunteers and inspiring our young people to learn new skills, help others and shine brightly. Her sense of duty was an outstanding example to every single Scout.*

The highlight of the past couple of months for Suffolk Scouts was *Suffolk Punch*, which took place at Hallowtree in mid-August. I was able to visit the event on three of the four days of action and I was enormously impressed with the variety of activities on offer and the very obvious enthusiasm of all involved. I would like to congratulate Will Dowe and his organising committee for staging such a fantastic event – bravo him and his team – and the large number of scouts of all ages who participated.

During the past couple of months, in liaison with the County's Senior Leadership Team (SLT), I have drawn up a new County Strategic Plan, which should be with you in the not-too-distant future. The plan is deliberately brief, and I hope you will appreciate its simplicity. It will be supported by District Strategic Plans, which DCs will be drawing up in the next couple of months. Enjoy the term ahead.



Howard Blackett County Commissioner

## In this Issue

- The County Commissioner
- Waveney Valley
- Ipswich Explorers
- Moot
- Little Hoot
- Gone Home
- Woodbridge Sea Scouts
- Training News
- County AGM

If you have news or events you would like to share with the County please send news items to [colin.winter@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:colin.winter@suffolkscouts.org.uk)

## Suffolk Scouts

### Website

[www.suffolkscouts.org.uk](http://www.suffolkscouts.org.uk)

Produced by Colin Winter on behalf of the Suffolk Leadership Team





John Mabb passed away peacefully on 27th August after a short illness, in Hampshire where he moved to in his retirement. He continued to be very active in Scouting and took up various roles in the Eastleigh and District area after his move with Liz to the south coast.

John was the County Commissioner for Suffolk from 2000 to 2009 and active in the Stowmarket District since 1982. He gained the Silver Wolf Award in 2017. Our sincere condolences to Liz and family from the Suffolk Scouting fraternity.

His funeral is to be held on 30th September at 1pm at Wessex Vale Crematorium, Bibb Lane, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 2HL. Family flowers only but donations can be made to Winchester Hospice.

### Waveney Valley District

Waveney Valley have a new District Commissioner—Steve Denton. Steve we all wish you well in your new role.

Robin Farrar was recently presented with the Silver Wolf for distinguished service over



many years. This was presented at the recent Waveney Valley AGM

Andy Baloo Garner from 1st Bungay led the 17th (and for the last time) Cubs District Camp at Herringfleet Camp Site.

Waveney Valley Beavers enjoyed a sleepover at Earsham Wetland Centre. We are sure a good time was had by all.

### Water Activities

There will be an opportunity for leaders to extend their qualifications and experience in Canoeing and Kayaking as the County team are planning to offer the British Canoeing Sheltered Water Canoe/Kayak Award training potentially in April 2023. If you are interested in this please email [Leigh Foster-Green](mailto:Leigh.Foster-Green@scouts-suffolk.org) ACC Water Activities to register your interest by the end of September. You can view the requirements [here](#) You will also need to book yourself onto the Core Coach



Training which is a pre-requisite, details [here](#).

### Ipswich Alpha Explorers

After three years of planning and two postponements, Ipswich Alpha Explorers finally got to fly to Cyprus for their long awaited Summer Camp in July. Hosted by the 53<sup>rd</sup> St Barnabas Scout Group, we spent a fun filled 11 days split between their Scout base in Limassol and the Platannia Campsite in the Troodos Mountains. Firm friendships were made between the two groups of Explorers whilst they Kayaked to the sea caves, had a boat trip to the Blue Lagoon, hiked in the mountains and relaxed on the beach. We visited the Kourion Roman Amphitheatre, Aphrodites rock and Limassol Castle. The camp ended with a day at the Waterpark followed by a Cypriot Souvla cooked for us by the wonderful parents from the group. Gifts were exchanged later and Skip surprised us by investing our five leaders into the 53<sup>rd</sup>. Amazing memories made with amazing hosts Richard, Tracey and everyone else from the group. Thanks to the Alpha leaders Rob, Heather, Annie, Morgan and Kieran.

Heather Bridges



## Cubs and Beavers at Suffolk Punch in Pictures





## Big Hoot



In the words of our founder, Lord Baden Powell

***"The real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to others"*** and by painting Grand 'Owl as part of the BIG HOOT art trail, I feel I have made this happen.



Taking part in the art trail for St Elizabeth Hospice once again has put Suffolk

Scouts firmly in people's minds and by supporting this good cause we are helping bring the community back together and even more so following the pandemic.

Standing proud among the Buttermarket Beaks- Grand 'Owl has been spotted by many Scouters as near as Sudbury, Stowmarket, Chelmsford, Colchester and as far Nottingham, Peterborough, Cornwall and Swindon. The design of the HOOT could not



have been more fitting, and I relished in all the feedback from spotters. Oliver, one young Beaver from 1<sup>st</sup> Combs walked 10 miles to tick off all the large HOOTS and found most of the mini hoots.

The Enderbys, travelled from Swindon and it was noted that the Jubilee badge was exceptionally accurate with the number of dots.

Putting Grand 'Owl out there among the parliament of Mini-HOOTS has been another inspirational moment and people know that we are still around providing young people with #skillsforlife.

My thanks to all those who purchased the HOOT badges, which flew out really quickly and are another lasting memory of the trail. Linda, a Guider from Cornwall was pleased to receive a HOOT badge and was grateful for my help with this along with my painting talents.

Soon the trail closes for another year and the HOOTS fly off to their new nests Grand 'Owl will settle at Hallowtree to continue providing smiles and positivity to all those involved in the movement.

I look forward to the next trail and hope it will be just another HOOTtastic success!

Brian Harvey

## County AGM

The County AGM will be held at Hallowtree on Thursday 22nd September with refreshments from 19.00, and the meeting starting at 19.45. It would be appreciated if you could let the [County Administrator](#) know if you are planning to attend as it helps us to plan the catering requirements

## Training News

I would like to thank Leigh Foster-Green for all his work as Deputy County Training Manager and MAPS. He will however remain a valuable member of the training team.

[Steve Cridland](#) will now take on the MAPS role.

There will be a Module 37 via Zoom on 7th October. Booking via Bookwhen on the County Website

From 1st September the recording of First Responder training will only show as complete if leaders have completed both 10a and 10b. Please get in contact with your LTM if you need to complete this

There will be national changes to the training scheme within scouting next year. Watch this space!

[Jenny Roe](#) County Training Manager

## Community Action Suffolk

This important Suffolk Charity is offering places on their Youth Focus Conference on the 30th September for only £20. Details [here](#).

There is also a 2 part course in Practical Youth Work Skills early in November. This is free to attend.

[Click here to find out more and book your place](#)

## 18 year old Suffolk Scout named as one of the last Scouts to receive the Queens Scout Award

Helena Read-Luxton was a member of the last cohort to receive this award. Read more about this [here](#).

## New Explorer Unit in Stowmarket District

Leviathans Explorers have restarted a new Unit in the Stowmarket District. They held their first meeting on Monday 12th September at Haughley Park in the dark!



## 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts on TV

At the end of August, 5<sup>th</sup> Woodbridge Sea Scouts spent a morning filming a forthcoming episode of Great British Coastal Journeys with Michael Portillo.

Due to the tide, the day started early and initially with Michael Portillo talking with Caroline Pantling, Gilwell Park's

Head of Heritage Services, on the terrace of Woodbridge Tide Mill. Caroline told Michael that Robert Baden-Powell had included seamanship in the first edition of *Scouting for*

*Boys*, where B-

P mentioned that "A Scout should be able to manage a boat, to bring it properly alongside a ship or pier....". And a camp for Scouts was held at Bucklers Hard, Hampshire in August 1909 at which boating activities were a focus.

Michael also asked Caroline about girls in Scouting and she told him that in 1909 there were over 6,000 Girl Scouts registered. However, negative social and media pressure (nothing is new!) meant that a separate scheme was developed for Girl Scouts. with a launch for the following year being announced in August 1909.

After a change of clothes, the main filming involved Mi-

chael helping a team of five 5<sup>th</sup> Woodbridge Scouts building an oil drum and spar raft, launching it down the slipway and then racing it across the River Deben against

another raft being built by a second team from the 5<sup>th</sup>. To his credit Michael spent twenty to thirty minutes helping to build the raft, constantly talking to the Scouts and being shown by them how to lash the spars and drums and, most importantly, tie the knots. Michael let slip that he had been a Scout at school so should really know his knots but that was some time ago!



Launching was straightforward, once some quick repairs had been undertaken (Michael's knots letting go?), and then Michael took his place on the star-board bow oil drum.

Once the starting whistle was blown both teams paddled hard towards a buoy, watched carefully by the safety boat and the camera boat. Whether he knew or not that the winning team traditionally jump in to the river, in any event the other team came first and Michael stayed dry!

After returning to shore Michael spoke with the Scouts again and posed for pictures, and he then left (by car, not train) for the next part of the day's filming.



This was a great piece of publicity for Scouting, both locally and nationally, thanks to the hard work of Barrie Hayter, 5WSS Group Scout Leader and his team of Scout Leaders (including the entire Tooke family) and the Scouts who took part. It was also supported throughout by the Media Team from HQ, who liaised with the production company.

If you want to see the result, it is currently scheduled for broadcast some time in spring 2023.

