



NEWS

April 6th 2022 Newsletter No. 32

Scouting News

Headquarters are on the lookout for 20 young people who've really gone above and beyond. They'll be UK Scouts aged 4-24 who've shown Scout values, courage, kindness and our 'never give up' spirit. They'll each receive £500 to spend how they like.

If you'd like to nominate a young person (not related to you) who you believe deserves this award, please complete the form below by midnight on Thursday 14 April 2022. The Scouts will notify the winners by the end of June 2022 and winners' names will be published on the Scouts' website in September 2022

[Nominate Here](#)

Welcome

Welcome to our new County Commissioner, Howard Blackett. Howard commenced his role with Suffolk Scouts on April 2nd. Read more about him [here](#).



In this Issue

- [World Scout Jamboree](#)
- [Beaver Log](#)
- [Cubs' Capers](#)
- [Census Update](#)
- [Growth and Development](#)
- [Mountain Activities](#)
- [Water Activities](#)
- [Trustees Corner](#)
- [Inclusion](#)
- [Little Hoot Trail](#)

If you have news or events you would like to share with the County please send news items to colin.winter@suffolkscouts.org.uk

Suffolk Scouts

Website

www.suffolkscouts.org.uk

Produced by Colin Winter on behalf of the Suffolk Leadership Team



Census Update

As an active Cub leader, I know how difficult the past two years have been for both our young people and our Leaders and Supporters. This year's Census results show that we are now well on the way to the numbers we had pre-pandemic and it's heartening to see the numbers growing again.

	2022		2021	2020
	Total	Diff	Total	Total
Beaver Scouts	1,340	384	956	1,558
% change		40.2%		
Cub Scouts	1,715	296	1,419	1,919
% change		20.9%		
Scouts	1,592	289	1,303	1,687
% change		22.2%		
Explorer Scouts	518	72	446	583
% change		16.1%		
Scout Network	60	-101	161	239
% change		62.7%		
Total YP	5,225	940	4,285	5,986
% change		21.9%		

	2022		2021	2020
	Total	Diff	Total	Total
Adult Leaders #	1,105	97	1,008	1,067
% change		9%		
Young Leaders	213	59	154	234
% change		25%		
Total Leaders	1,318	156	1,162	1,301
% change		12%		
Adults *	2,089	40	2,049	2,259
% change		2.0%		

	2022		2021	2020
	Total	Diff	Total	Total
TOTAL	7,314	980	6,334	8,245
% change		15.5%		

As you can see, all sections (Squirrels were not recorded in this year's Census) are getting close to their 2020 figures. The figures for Network are misleading as this year they were recorded on a different basis in 2021 and 2020.

As for the number of Leaders, which includes Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders and Section Assistants, this is actually higher than they were in 2020!

Waiting Lists Summary			
	2022	2021	2020
Beavers	405	401	336
%	1%		
Cubs	171	141	119
%	21%		
Scouts	100	128	90
%	-22%		
Overall Total	676	670	545
%	0.9%		

The news on Waiting Lists isn't quite so good, although the Lists for Scouts has gone down by around a fifth

With a total of 91 Beaver Colonies, 97 Cub Packs and 96 Scout Troops if everyone just took on two extra, there would be no Waiting Lists for Scouts and Cubs and the Beavers Lists would have nearly halved.

Overall, things are looking much improved compared with last year and, as we look forward to summer and camping again, it can only get better.

Well done to everyone for all your hard work over the past two years - give yourselves a pat on the back!

Keith Gleen, Deputy County Commissioner (Growth and Inclusion)



Growth and Development

In various guises, I have been the County lead on growth and development for over 10 years. Over that time I have assisted in various “projects”, including a brand new Scout Group, Growing your Group across three Districts and, more recently, supporting the work of HQ’s Growth & Development Officer in the County. I have seen things that work well and things that work less well. However, recent events have meant that I need to do more than assist and support!

In my own Group (I’m Akela and Assistant Group Scout Leader) we faced a bit of a crisis when, last summer, both Beaver Leaders needed to give up due to changed circumstances and the “old” Scout Leader who had been covering for the new SL whilst he couldn’t run the troop, came to the end of his term. Like everyone else faced with same issue, we appealed to existing parents and, for the Beavers, all those on our Waiting List/Register of Interest. We wrote emails and organised meetings but received no firm offers to be a Leader and hence, the Colony and Troop closed in July.

We obviously needed a new **Plan** and decided we needed two different approaches.

Scout Troop

For Scouts we already had two parents who, as Occasional Helpers, had helped at camps and events for some years. Over that time, we had been **Patiently** “grooming” them to take on a more involved role so we asked them directly. Both said no to being a Leader but would consider supporting as a Section Assistant. We also had someone with no ties to the Group but previous Scouting experience, who came along to one of our public meetings, say the same. Without that vital commitment to be a Leader, we still couldn’t restart.

We continued to **Publicise** the lack of a Leader and involved the Cub **Parents** who clearly had a vested interest. One of our Cub parents mentioned it to a work colleague who, it turned out had previously been an Assistant Scout Leader back home in Norfolk, and he offered to take on the role. During this time we had **Persevered** with the three potential Section Assistants, keeping them informed of what we were doing and they agreed to take on the Section Assistant role.

In January we restarted the Scout Troop with 10 Scouts led by our new Scout Leader and with the three new Section Assistants joining our existing Section Assistant.

Beaver Colony

I have seen that HQ’s recruitment method, the Four Week Challenge, has worked for both new sections/Groups and to re-start closed/declining sections, so that was the first place to start.

The Four Week challenge is

- Come and see what we do
- Help out
- Get a little more involved
- Decide if volunteering with Scouts is for you

(see <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/ready-to-recruit/four-week-challenge/>)

So we wrote to parents of both those who had been Beavers when the Colony closed, and all those of age on the Waiting List/Register of Interest asking them to accompany their child to every meeting throughout the four weeks using the steps above. We made plain that we were looking for a team of Leaders/Assistants (a minimum of 3) and that, if none or not enough volunteered, at the end of the four weeks the Colony would close again.

The Challenge started in January and was due to last 5 weeks as that fitted neatly with half-term. I asked a friend who is an experienced Beaver Leader if she would help run the sessions and we agreed that the intention was to earn the Beaver Creative badge over the sessions.

On the first night 5 parents with the children turned up. Over the next 4 weeks more arrived each week as one of the mum’s was using her “school gate” contacts to let them know about the re-start. I gave the initial talk about becoming a volunteer on the first meeting and was open and honest about what it entailed. For the last week 4 talk I left it to the experienced Beaver Leader to **Persuade** them to take on a role. All five of the initial parents agreed to do so, and we now have a 19 strong Beaver Colony with a Beaver Scout Leader, an Assistant Beaver Scout leader and 3 Colony Assistants.



The Seven Ps of Growth

Plan – have a plan and make sure everyone is clear about it. Use the resources on scouts.org.uk.

Patience – don't rush, make sure you have your plan in place. It's OK to close a Section and then re-open later if that makes more sense

Perseverance – don't take "no" for answer the first time, keep on asking, people and circumstances change

Parents – are key. We get most of our Leaders from parents and other relatives of our young people. They are crucial in getting the news out.

Publicity – broadcast what you are doing. It's not just posters and adverts it's word of mouth at the school gate, school parent mail etc

Persuasion – sell the benefits to being a volunteer but be truthful and tell them it's more than an hour a week but it's OK not to have to turn up every week.

And the final P? That's

Pleasure – The glow (with a hint of **Pride**) at seeing a thriving Beaver Colony and Scout Troop with even more young people learning #SkillsForLife.

Keith Gleen, Deputy County Commissioner (Growth and Inclusion)

Trustees Corner

Here is another Q & A for Trustees

Q. "Should the reserves be equivalent to one year's expenditure?"

A. "The Executive Committee should set a policy of maintaining unrestricted reserves

Intended to protect against a cash-flow problem; or unexpected drop in income or rise in expenditure or take advantage of an opportunity

Level of reserves agreed by trustees

Reserves policy should be included in the Annual Trustees Report and Accounts

The Charity Commission recommend at least 3 months expenditure and no more than 12 months"

Cubs Capers



Little Hoot Trail

.Calling OWL Scouters



Suffolk Scouts' very own **LITTLE HOOT** has **FLOWN** back and joined the mini **PARLIAMENT** of **LITTLE HOOTS** at the St Elizabeth Hospice. We checked the **FEATHER** forecast and made sure he wasn't going to be **OWL** by himself. Our **LITTLE HOOT** was joined by some Cubs from 31st/9th Ipswich, who **FLOCKED** together and helped launch the joint Scouts and Guides Suffolk County badge available for the trail. These badges cost £1, get yours from Brian [here](#).

Our thanks go to those who joined us. These Cubs now know the identity but they won't be **TALON HOO** it looks like!

Now that he has joined his mini **PARLIAMENT** we still need to raise money for him. But It is as easy as A,B,C. In fact as easy as the whole **OWL**phabet!

Did you know that a smartie tube holds £12 in 20 pence pieces? How many can you fill? Go on a sponsored hike and end with a hot chocolate. Have a **HOOTASTIC** Harry Potter evening with lots of **OWLS**. Decorate **OWLTASTIC** biscuits and buns to sell.



After all the **OWLEGBRA** we hope we can raise more than £800 for the hospice. We have supported this amazing charity from their first trail, with Pigs Gone Wild and Elmer's Big Art Parade. St. Elizabeth Hospice does wonderful work. improving life for those people living with progressive and life-limiting illnesses in Suffolk.

Please support this amazing opportunity to help this good cause and support the trail when it goes live.

Please email either myself or Brian with your pictures and we shall add them in a future issue of County News.

Like the **VERMINATOR**.....**OWL** we'll back with any updates.

Yours in Scouting

[Brian Harvey](#) [Jo Cracknell](#)

World Scout Jamboree

There is now less than 500 days before the start of the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. Not only will the Jamboree bring together Scouts from nations across the globe but it will also highlight, and hopefully empower, over 50,000 Scouts to be more sustainable and protect our planet. Being in nature has always been at the heart of Scouting, so I am really excited to gain new insight and encouragement from our International Scouting family of



how we can all do more to protect it. With this in mind, we held our first Unit camp at Hallowtree at the beginning of April. The aim of the camp was to help form friendships,

build teams, choose a Unit name, and design a badge. We want to start the big conversation of how we, as a Unit, could live, fundraise and Scout in a more sustainable way.

We are very grateful for the amazing support from our IST team who have all been very generous in offering their time and experience to support us on our adventure.

Members of our Unit have been making a fantastic start to their fundraising and there have been car washes, craft stalls, bacon rolls, runs, walks and balloon races happening



across the County. Please support however you can. You can join our facebook page, "WSJ Suffolk – Unit 27" to find out more about the Jamboree and see what events are happening in your area.

Lucy Seary - Assistant Unit Leader



Focus on Inclusion 2

Starting in the near future will be a series of virtual drop-ins which any volunteer can attend. These will focus on a specific topic, for example autism, and will provide an opportunity to learn more about the subject from practitioners, parent carers and young people, with an option to ask questions. If there are any topics you would like us to cover then please get in touch. Details of these will be on the inclusion page of the county website [Suffolk Scouts - Inclusion](#)

We have a range of resources on mental health available for groups, as well as a lending library on topics such as sensory processing disorder, selective mutism, dyslexia.

A useful resource for finding out about mental health is [MindEd Hub](#). MindEd is a free educational resource on children, young people, adults and older people's mental health.

Resources for young people include [The Source for young people in Suffolk](#) and [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)

To share your ideas, or to contact us regarding any aspect of inclusion that you may need advice or assistance with please email inclusion@suffolkscouts.org.uk

Water Safety Equipment and Kayaks

Deben District and 5th Woodbridge have bought a range of Safety Equipment, Kayaks, Canoes and Rafting Kits.

They are happy to make this equipment available to other groups that have the appropriate permits. You can find out more about this offer on the water activities section of the County Website together with the County Water Activities Programme. Access the page [here](#).



Gone Home

Mark Wade 1939—2022

Mark started out as a leader in 1st Kesgrave Scout Group on 28th October 1957, as soon as he turned 18 and only 30 years after the group was formed. He had been a member of the Scout Movement ever since. In those early days he was the Cub Leader and held meetings in the original hall which was a Nissan Hut. He ran the Cub Pack until 1975 and during that time also played his part in the original 'Kesgrave Kapers' (Gang Shows) that were held in the old KWMCC hall, before the arrival of Grange Farm.

Mark then became the Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs within the Woodbridge area, and in 1984 became the Assistant County Commissioner for Beavers at the time when Beavers were first formed as a section within Scouting.

In 2000, Mark returned to his roots and came back to our Kesgrave Group as a Beaver Leader, where he worked with Irene and the team until 2016 and at the same time helped with the Cub sections. And even in the last few years, as his health was not so good, he still caught the bus to help at the Cub meetings on a regular basis. In total he has given over 60 years' service to Scouting and was awarded many awards over the years culminating in the Silver Wolf in 2008. He also has a road (Wades Grove) named after him on Grange Farm in the Scouting and Guiding area

CMAT Leaders Wanted

The CMAT team (mountain activities) are keen to recruit more leaders to help run off—road biking events. If this is something that interests you the team would welcome your input and can guide you through the appropriate training. Please contact [Malcom Bell](#)



Beaver Log

The Great Beaver Bake Off 2022

Lots of excited Beavers from 31st/9th Ipswich put on their aprons and entered the tent to compete in The Great Beaver Bake Off 2022.

Competition was tough as each team had to follow the written instructions and recipe to make cookies with 2 different ingredients which they picked out of a hat! The teams were judged on working together, following the instructions, appearance of the finished cookies, texture, taste and clearing up of the equipment and work surface.

The judges from the local 'Pop up food shop' had a very difficult job as standards were so high!!



Eventually they came to the conclusion that Team White were the overall winners and presented them with special 'Star Baker' decorated wooden spoons!

A great night was had by all, made even better by

the fantastic donation of over 70 Easter treats for the Pop Up Food Shop.

Well done Beavers - you are amazing!!

Karen Butcher - ACC Beavers

Mountain Activities



The CMAT team have organised a weekend of activities in the Peak District based at the Glenbrook Outdoor Activity Centre. This will be between the 6th and 8th of May. You can find the Booking Form and

details on the CMAT [Webpage](#)