



# NEWS

December 16th 2022 Newsletter

## From: the County Commissioner

I have in the last couple of editions of the county newsletter mentioned various county appointments which we have needed to fill. I am very pleased to let you know that I have made a number of appointments very successfully, but we are still short in two specific areas: we need a Youth County Commissioner, and we also need an ACC (Transition); both of these roles are important so do please step forward if you are interested. I call upon our 18 – 25 -year-olds in particular to respond – there must be someone out there who would wish to represent scouting in Suffolk from the youth perspective!

I was asked to open officially the 13th Ipswich's Annual Art Display held recently at their HQ in Rushmere. It was a great honour to do so and it was also a real pleasure to see such a thriving scout group in action. Very many thanks and congratulations to Max Raffe and his team of outstanding volunteers for all that they do to promote scouting in that part of Ipswich.

Last time I wrote I mentioned the new County Strategic Plan, which I have drawn up in liaison with the county's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). I am pleased to let you know that over the past couple of months a new Inclusion and Diversity Strategic plan has also been produced by Anne Humphrys (ACC Inclusion and Diversity). Anne's plan is very well constructed and is indicative of her enthusiasm for and commitment to inclusion and diversity – I do hope you will support her in her endeavours. Both the County Strategic plan and the Inclusion and Diversity plan will be supported by District Strategic Plans, which DCs will be drawing up before Christmas. I hope that some of you have had the opportunity to contribute to your own district strategic plan.

I appreciate that strategic plans can be somewhat turgid documents which is why I have insisted that they are all brief (no more than 2 sides of A4) and to the point. When they are published in full, I do hope that they will be readily available wherever you are in the county and that you will find the time to read them!

I wish you all a very happy Christmas break and a prosperous New Year when it comes.

Howard Blackett

County Commissioner

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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



## Community Grants

The document in the link below is from Ipswich Borough Council and highlights grants available through the council. Many of the funds however are potentially available throughout the County. [Find out more here](#)

## World Scout Jamboree "Suffolk Saxons"

Hello from the Suffolk Saxons. Over the last two months we have been busy preparing for our journey to the World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) in Korea.

Did you know South Korean's celebrate their first birthday at birth?

Firstly, we met up as a unit in Southwold for our day event where we explored the town – building our navigation skills with a quiz around the town. We then went on to the sandy beach and competed in team building Task Master challenges: resulting in digging a big hole, travelling the furthest in 5minutes and gaining a new broom.



Next was our camp. We kept to the north east of the County and travelled to the wonderful Her-ringfleet, near Lowestoft.

This was another fantastic camp where we explored our mental health and created, on paper, a mental health first aid kit to support us while on our journey – a great way to reflect how to support our mental health. The camp also gave us a chance to bond over cooking, football and the film Cars 2. In the last few weeks we have had a number of participants present and promote, to their local Scout Groups, the WSJ. This has given them the chance to inspire the next generation of budding travellers. If you would like a member of Suffolk Saxons to present a Korean / WSJ themed session, please get in touch.

Finally, we have launched our Suffolk Saxon Badge. If you would like to purchase one and support our journey, please get in [contact](#).

*Steven Young. Marcus Burch.* Unit and Deputy Unit Leaders Suffolk Contingent WSJ 2023

## New Appointments

Heather Bridges has been appointed as the new ACC (International). Heather has been involved in Scouting for over 20 years. Heather has had a wide range of experience in organising international events and is available to advise groups who are planning an international event. Heather can be contacted on

[heather.bridges@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:heather.bridges@suffolkscouts.org.uk)

Andrew Shoesmith has been appointed as the DCC for Programme. This role has been supported over the last few months by Jo Cracknell since the departure of Ollie Smith. We are grateful for the support and input by Jo, and welcome Andrew into this role from 1st January. Andrew can be contacted on

[andrew.shoesmith@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:andrew.shoesmith@suffolkscouts.org.uk)

## Squirrels gain pace in Suffolk

Squirrel Dreys are starting up all over the County.

5th Woodbridge start officially on the 10th January but have already been out and about no doubt squirreling away Winter supplies ready for the new year. With a healthy waiting list it won't be long until we see



increasing numbers of squirrels being a core part of Scouting in the County.

In Long Melford the Squirrel section opened back in April and had a busy summer working towards badges and a whole range of exciting outdoor activities.



## Brian Harvey ACC Squirrels

Hello Suffolk Scouters,

You may already know me from my main roles I already hold within Suffolk Scouts.

People have thought I was *nuts* to take on this role, but I have been involved in Scouting since I was six years old and have progressed through the sections- and like a stick of rock- if you cut my arm off you would see Scouting running through me.

I enjoy sharing my experiences with people at any training opportunities as a presenter and a facilitator. My proudest achievement with Suffolk Scouts was whilst as ACC Beavers when I took two thousand Beaver Scouts to BeWILDerwood to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I have been active in representing Suffolk Scouts within the Wild at Art sculpture trails in Ipswich and just recently enjoyed making a hoot with Grand Owl. I enjoy singing and dancing and treading the boards in my jazz shoes as I perform with Scouters and Guiders in the Ipswich Gang Show.

Going forward, I am delighted to take on this role in supporting Suffolk's Squirrels Scouts grow, and as we travel on the way I can find solutions in my backpack full of knowledge.

Growing this section will be a tough *nut* to crack, but I am confident we can do this, and I look forward to working with all the current dreys across Suffolk and *nutworking* with everyone.

Brian Harvey

[brian.harvey@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:brian.harvey@suffolkscouts.org.uk)



## Lowestoft Beavers

Beavers from across Lowestoft met during November to take part in a craft event to learn and demonstrate



a wide range of skills. This was a well attended

event that was much enjoyed by the Beavers (and leaders).



## Waveney Valley Beavers

Waveney Valley Beavers were out and about



during the summer undertaking Beaver activities including making lanterns and meeting the animals at Earsham Wetland Centre. They have plans for a fun day in February that hopefully will include a visit from the emergency services.



## County Mountain Activities Team (CMAT)

The CMAT team are pleased to announce that the **hill walking weekend in North Yorkshire** based at the Thornthwaite Scout Campsite for the weekend 24th-26th Feb 2023 is **now open for bookings**.

For Leaders, approved Adults, Scout Network and Explorer Scouts. It is recommended that any Leaders planning to attend the CMAT Training & Assessment weekend in March may also wish to attend this event for advice and guidance

You can access the booking form [here](#).

## CMAT Mountain Biking Event

Book now to take part in this exciting event to be held in Thetford Forest on the 8th January

[Book Here](#)

