



## Keeping Up with the Changes

As we all know there is a lot of change happening at the moment. Our challenge in Scouting is to keep up to date with what is going on and in embracing it to get the most out of life.

It has been so heartening to hear of all the great things happening in Scouting across our District and I am delighted to provide a small snap shot of these in this newsletter.

My thanks to all Leaders and Young People for making the effort. Enjoy these short articles and please keep the stories of your adventures coming for others to share and get inspiration.

We all look forward to resuming face to face scouting this term. Good luck!

Graeme  
[dc@southberksscouts.uk](mailto:dc@southberksscouts.uk)

## “Changed” – My Experience of Virtual Explorers

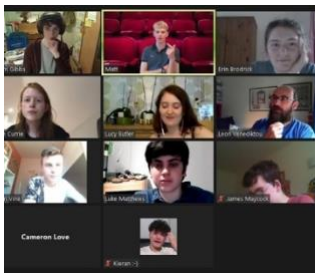
I'd probably say that single word can sum up most things that have happened in this peculiar time we've been living in. Those who were ready and willing shined through, Leaders and Explorers alike. All helping to organise what we would do in the upcoming sessions. What plan did they settle on? Virtual meetings.

I think this choice hit the sweet spot and really was the best option at the time. Keeping social interactions without having to be together face-to-face, while allowing for fun activities.

Of course, this did come at a cost. Our numbers did drop significantly, this was a real shame as the small community we have as a District was something special, so it was upsetting to see so many Explorers miss out on this.

Our virtual meetings were something I was so grateful to have available to me as it allowed me to truly connect with new people, and as a format to fall back on in times of worry, it worked perfectly. Without the dedication from the leaders and great comedy from the Explorers it wouldn't have worked nearly as well, but joining in with this really was magical.

Matthew Norton, Explorer



## Re-start Risk Assessments

If you need some help in doing your COVID-19 re-start risk assessments then watch this video for guidance:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/getting-everyone-back-together-safely/guidance-for-leaders-developing-your-risk-assessments-for-face-to-face-activity/>

When submitting your risk assessment for approval please use the following representatives at District:

Sandhurst/Owlsmoor Pam Pearce  
[adccubs@southberksscouts.uk](mailto:adccubs@southberksscouts.uk)

Crowthorne/St Sebs Howard de Silva  
[howard.desilva@ntlworld.com](mailto:howard.desilva@ntlworld.com)

Bracknell/Easthampstead Clive Pearce  
[adcactivities@southberksscouts.uk](mailto:adcactivities@southberksscouts.uk)

Explorers/Network Graeme Thompson  
[dc@southberksscouts.uk](mailto:dc@southberksscouts.uk)

Please ask if you have any questions or are just not sure! (And don't forget to still keep doing your normal activity risk assessments.)

## 2nd Sandhurst Scout Troop – Hike and Kayak

After a long break since face to face scouting and despite the many COVID restrictions, on Tuesday 18th August, 2nd Sandhurst Scout Troop managed to undertake an activity day, including, hiking, kayaking and paddle boarding.

14 people (9 Scouts, 2 Young Leaders and 3 Adults) met at the Sheppard's Meadow Car Park and after having their temperatures taken and receiving a COVID brief the group set out on the 4 Km hike to Horseshoe Lake Activity Centre.



The hike, along the Blackwater Valley path, was enjoyable and even Riley, one of the younger scouts, map read well throughout.

When the group arrived they conducted an hour of kayaking followed by a hour of paddle boarding, which was a new activity to most. Their enjoyment was enhanced by having an instructor, David, who belongs to the Scout Network.

Dennis Vincent, Scout Leader

## 2nd Crowthorne Cubs – The Great Indoors Weekend

Back in July, the Cubs of 2nd Crowthorne took part in the Great Indoors Weekender which included cooking (and eating), construction, craft and games. Well done to those Cubs who took part and for gaining another badge for the camp blanket!

