

District Newsletter

Issue 3: April 2019



We help young people develop active listening skills

“There’s one thing I think that is common to all great volunteers – and that’s being an active listener.”

*Tim Kidd, UK Chief Commissioner
(Lead Volunteer)*

LISTENING is about understanding, responding to and remembering what has been said.

That's a common skill for life we're teaching every young person in Portsmouth who engage with activities all year round.

From camping to climbing, listening and understanding what is being spoken to you is incredibly important to ensure everyone is safe and having fun.

Listening is powerful. The Scouts enable adult volunteers and young people to listen to people's concerns, ideas and achievements.

But for those who may not feel as if listening is their strongest suit, the skill of listening can be learnt. This is exactly why Portsmouth Scouts is excited to teach young people listening skills, and to provide them with the opportunity to put these taught skills to practice.

Tim Kidd, UK lead volunteer for the Scouts, says everyone can be involved with listening.

He said: 'Let's just be clear on one thing. Listening is not just about hearing. I'm so proud that we have amazing volunteers who also have full or partial hearing loss.

'Often these volunteers are the best listeners – it's about being attentive, watching for visual as well as verbal signs and giving people the time and space to express themselves.'



Young people will be able to enjoy archery, as well as participate in the District Archery Competition, on the day.



Here's to another fun-filled edition!

Hello there,

Firstly, **thank you** to our city politicians and headteachers who are reading this newsletter. Greetings to the Scouts too!

We are now in our third month since re-launching Portsmouth Scouts District Newsletter and the feedback from those outside of the organisation has been encouraging.

Stephen Morgan, the MP for Portsmouth South, said: 'A very well presented and informative newsletter.'

'As ever do get in touch if I can help with promoting volunteering opportunities or recognising the fantastic contribution Scouting makes to our great city.'

And of course, we all know Penny Mordaunt, MP for Portsmouth North, does a great job at encouraging the Scouts too.

Elsewhere in this edition, our main story is inspired by the lead volunteer for UK Scouting, Tim Kidd, based on his recent blog about teaching active listening skills.

You can find his blog under the news section of the national scouts website.

Finally, there's not long until our St George's Day Activity Afternoon, so please pay close attention to that article and sign up before the closing date.

Keep sending stories and enjoy the read!

Sam Poole | @SamPooleScouts
Media and Communications Manager
communications@portsmouthscouts.org.uk

There will be non-stop action at Portsmouth Scout's St George's Day celebrations. Get your group involved on Sunday 28th April

HERE'S to an afternoon of climbing, shooting, inflatables, archery, tomahawks, an orienteering quiz and more at the St George's activity afternoon taking place later this month.

The event, from 1330 until 1630, on Sunday April 28, will be held at Fort Purbrook Activity Centre, PO6 1BJ.

Hundreds of young people from Portsmouth Scouts are expected to participate in the afternoon.

Adam Turner, one of the district youth commissioners for the city, says it's going to be an action-packed afternoon for all.

He said: 'I'm really excited to see crowds of young people enjoying much of what Scouting is all about at this activity afternoon. There's so much happening

across the site it's definitely going to be an afternoon to remember.'

The cost for the afternoon will be £5 per young person (cheques made payable to City of Portsmouth Scout Council-Activities).

Please ensure all the relevant forms and payment are returned no later than Saturday April 12, 2019.

These can be posted through 143 Gladys Avenue, Portsmouth, PO2 9BD.

Unfortunately due to age limitations, Beavers won't be able to participate in the air rifle shooting but we do have other activities just for them.

Uniform will be required for the renewal of promises but other than that it will just be active wear for the young people to enjoy themselves.

For more information on the event, and for activity forms, go to: portsmouthscouts.org.uk/calendar

There's more online!

 facebook.com/PortsmouthScouts

 twitter.com/PortsmouthScout

 instagram.com/PortsmouthScouts

Share your story with the city!

This is your District Newsletter designed to offer an additional platform for you to shout-out about what fun and adventurous things your section has been up to.

The copy deadline for the May edition is Sunday 28th April so please do share your pictures and stories to:

communications@portsmouthscouts.org.uk

Snow sports centre is a hit for Portsmouth Scouts!



THE 46th Portsmouth Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, a Young Leader, and a couple of parents have been to Alpine Snowsports Centre, Southampton, to enjoy a taster session in skiing. The group booked the session as a fun extra for any one who wanted to try which lead to another session needing to be booked book due to popularity. The instructors were excellent with the groups and after the safety briefing had the skiers start with a short walk wearing the skis and then crab like movements to get up the hill and ski down. Everyone managed the short ski so they moved higher up the slope and had to do head shoulders knees and toes as they were skiing down the slope and some even managed a jump too. For more information on the Snowsport Centre, go to: activenation.org.uk

Hampshire Scouts News: Have you got what it takes to be the next county chair?

THE search is on for suitable candidates to put themselves forward to become the new Chairperson for Hampshire Scouts.

This new appointment is planned to be in place for the County AGM later this year. Please spread the word that the post is vacant. The Chair will lead the Executive Committee, ensuring that it fulfils its responsibilities within the County. The Chair will work closely with the County Commissioner to achieve the purpose of the Scouts through the development of local Scouting, in accordance with POR.

If you are personally interested or you would like to nominate a candidate then notify county office at county.office@hampshirescouts.org.uk.



Thanks to those who helped out at Lyons Copse!



THANKS goes to the young people and adult volunteers for their hard work at the Lyons Copse working weekend last month.

There were 125 people in attendance which included 32 people from Portsmouth Scouts.

Many groups across various Districts have already expressed their apologies for being unable to attend the weekend, which was at the beginning of March, and have agreed a date to go on-site to do their bit.

If it wasn't for the ongoing generosity of people giving up their time to maintain the site, none of what happens throughout the year would be possible. www.lyonscopse.org.uk

50 years of teaching Skills for Life at Milton Group

THE 5th Portsmouth Scout Group is celebrating its 50th year of teaching young people Skills For Life!

Their troop talked about how they can promote all the fun things they've been up to as Scouts in the lead up to their anniversary celebration next month.

Anyone who has been associated with the groups, or the groups before the merge 50 years ago, are encouraged to get in touch.

Have you been a member of the 5th Portsmouth, at St James' Church in Milton? Message us as we'd love to hear your story!



Hundreds of volunteers attend Hampshire Scouts Leader's Rally

ADULT volunteers from across Hampshire Scouts gathered for a day of workshops and information stalls towards the end of last month.

The Leader's Rally, held at Eastleigh on March 30th, saw at least 100 adult members participate in the variety of sessions with at least 100 more engaging with the stands.

From generating ideas for a section meeting, to learning about the Scouts Skills for Life strategy, there was something for everyone.

Information on any adult events for those in Hampshire may be found at hampshirescouts.org.uk



Young participants in the Portsmouth Air Gun Competition



Here's to the new Scout Scientist Activity Badge!

THE Scouts is over the moon at the recent launch of the Scout Scientist Activity Badge, sponsored by Rolls-Royce.

The badge paves the way for more young people to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities; to learn more; and to stretch past the limits of their intellectual curiosity.

From problem-solving to creativity, STEM activities develop skills which help young people to thrive.

To coincide with British Science Week recently, Astronaut and Scout Ambassador Tim Peake helped the first set of Scouts to earn the badge by leading them through various exciting experiments.

Tim is passionate about using British Science Week to get more young people involved in STEM activities.

He said: 'I'm proud to support the Scout Scientist Activity Badge. It will help young people try new things and learn some valuable science-based skills.

'I think it's fantastic that a young person can join the Scouts and learn a range of different STEM skills that are recognised through their badges.

'It can spark an interest in science that can last a lifetime. British Science Week is a great chance for more young people to have fun with science.'

Four Scouts from across England were lucky enough to have a go at getting their badge with Tim, but thousands more young people across the UK will get to learn a range of new skills and have loads of fun with science by working toward the badge.

It's a curiosity-building and creatively driven way of getting young people to try new things.

The requirements range from creating elephant's toothpaste from a yeast-based solution to seeing the reaction between a flame and steel wool, with sparky results.

For more information and ideas on the badge, see: <https://bit.ly/2T3F3Ux>

Are you a Scout or Explorer interested in air rifle shooting? Contact Lorna for a session

-- By Lorna Knights --

THE third annual Portsmouth Air Gun Competition ran in February with success for three of the shooters from Portsmouth Rifles ESU. There were four categories this year: Scouts, Explorers, over 18s and Open (own rifle). Below pictured from left to right: Harry Barnard bronze over 18s, Ella Fletcher Gold in both the Explorers and open, Will Slade bronze in Explorers and silver in the open. Connor Smith leader at 73rd received a silver in the over 18s and James Baxter, Leviathan ESU, won bronze in the open.

Ella is our only original member of the Club and with her dedication and hard work over the last 4 years she was selected for the National Scout Shooting Squad in 2017 and last year became the English Sporter Shooting Union (ESSU) Champion.

James Baxter left our small club last year after being selected for the National Squad and being invited to represent his country at Target Sprint. He is set to take part in the World Cup next year in Germany. We are always on the lookout for Scouts and Explorers who want to try target shooting and with the blessing of the District set up Portsmouth Rifles ESU specialist shooting unit last year. We would like to hear from Scouts about to move on and Explorers who want to join the Unit so that we can send a strong team to the National Scout Rifle Championship in October 2019 and get Portsmouth Rifles ESU firmly on the map as an excellent specialist unit.

Contact Lorna on PSSC@portsmouthscouts.org.uk or call 07876123654 for information on joining or booking a taster session.

Sharing your story is simple!

- Email your story to communications@portsmouthscouts.org.uk
- Attach a good quality picture, or more!
- Include a summary of what you wish to include in the newsletter
- Don't forget your group name and contact info...

Please note - any information to be included in May's newsletter must be sent to the above email address by Sunday April 28, 2019. We cannot guarantee all stories will be published, but will aim to include everything we can! Thank you.

Some of Your District Team

With a focus growing the District thus positively impacting the lives of more young people, we've been introducing you to the volunteers who oversee Portsmouth Scouts. In this month's newsletter, meet the people who oversee particular sections / areas...



DAVE COLE

Dave is the District's assistant lead volunteer for the Beaver colonies in the city, known as our Assistant District Commissioner Beavers. He oversees how the Beavers operate across the city. Contact Dave at

adc.beavers@portsmouthscouts.org.uk



KEN SERTIN

Ken holds a similar role to Dave, albeit his focus is on the Cub Packs across Portsmouth. Ken often takes the lead, along with other volunteers, on Cub events happening in Portsmouth.

adc.cubs@portsmouthscouts.org.uk



BOB MILES

Bob assists with the Scout section of Portsmouth Scouts. He is frequently seen at District events and does a brilliant job with the citywide archery and awards events too.

adc.scouts@portsmouthscouts.org.uk



KIERON BLAND

Kieron is the Network Commissioner for Portsmouth, meaning he is the lead volunteer for the unit which is open to young adults aged 18 to 25-year-olds. His role is to support the programme overseen by those in Network.

network@portsmouth.scouts.org.uk



GAIL ADAMS

Our Scout Active Support team is overseen by Gail. Adult volunteers belonging to our District's Scout Active Support group are on-hand to provide resources to the city scouts, at events such as District camp, and do so brilliantly.

activesupport@portsmouthscouts.org.uk



MARTIN JENNINGS

It's all adventure with Martin and his team. The Trident Bushcraft, Survival and Outdoor Skills Unit provide a varied programme of Scouting Bushcraft and Survival skills. Contact Martin for information about events, or to have Trident lead an activity for you.

martin@trident-bso.org.uk

We have two joint District Youth Commissioners who would love to hear from you about all you are doing with your section in the city. Whether you'd like to invite them to an event, discuss how your programme can be more youth lead, or have any ideas or suggestions, please do email Adam and Megan anytime!

dyc.adam@portsmouthscouts.org.uk | dyc.megan@portsmouthscouts.org.uk

Is your Compass profile up-to-date?

PLEASE may every adult volunteer within Portsmouth Scouts ensure their contact information on Compass, the Scouts primary database, is accurate
Log onto your account at:
compass.scouts.org.uk

Get involved with Archery Competition

INFORMATION has been released about the District's Archery and Tomahawk competition which will run in conjunction with our St George's Day Activity Afternoon.

Details of the event, which is on Sunday 28th April, have been emailed to adult members.

For more informations and forms, contact Bob (for archery on) bob@psarchery.co.uk

Or Martin (for tomahawk throwing) on martin@trident-bso.org.uk.