

District Newsletter

Issue 4: May 2019

Celebrating our Skills for Life strategy one year on



Portsmouth Scouts has played a part in reaching key milestones

IT HAS been a busy 12 months for Portsmouth Scouts since groups across the city embraced the national message of teaching young people Skills For Life.

There has been significant progress nationally with the early years pilots well underway. Digital tools are being launched to support leaders with their programme planning too.

Locally, groups have been doing an excellent job at promoting the UK-wide strategy across social media platforms.

Vibrant, fun-filled and adventurous photos have all played a part in encouraging people to get involved with the Scouts across Portsmouth.

Tim Kidd, UK Chief Commissioner (the lead volunteer for UK Scouts), praised the number of people who are members of the Scouts.

He said: "It's worth reflecting on the journey we've come on together. Our total membership has grown by 155,000 (over 32%) over the last ten years while youth membership (6-25) is up by 84,000 (over 21%) over the same period.

"This year alone, an incredible 4.4 million badges were sent out by Scout Store – think of the incredible achievement that represents.

"So let's keep up this brilliant momentum. We're inspiring brighter futures, building a more cohesive society and most of all, helping young people find their place in the world."

**Do more.
Learn more.
Be more.**



Special thanks to Darren Somerville for capturing this aerial shot of Fort Purbrook from his drone on the day. Other pics: Tom Orsbourne



Here's to a summer of scouting!

HALF term is over and many groups across the city will head back to regular meetings in the lead up to the summer - that's if they chose to have a break!

And whilst the weather is set to improve over the coming weeks, with the summer comes exciting scout adventure outdoors.

From camping to hiking, bushcraft to sports, the summer will provide ample opportunity for young people to enjoy the good weather.

If you are leading a camp or outdoor activity this summer I'd love to hear from you and share your stories.

Pictures, video, and more can be shared on the Portsmouth Scouts social media platforms too.

Encapsulating all that young people are doing can play a key role in encouraging more people - young and experienced - to get involved in the Scouts.

In other news, the dates for Portsmouth Scouts District camp have been released.

We'll have more information on the event in the June edition of your district newsletter, but for now save September 27 to 29 in your calendar.

Information may also be found at the Portsmouth Scouts website.

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St George's Activity Afternoon is a hit for hundreds of young people at Fort Purbrook



THANK YOU to all the adult volunteers who played a part in the St George's Activity Afternoon last month.

The time given allowed more than 400 young people to participate in activities across Fort Purbrook which included archery, tomahawks, shooting, inflatables, climbing and more.

Clare Webb, the lead volunteer for the event, was delighted to hear of peoples' enjoyment and looks forward to the next citywide event.

The day also welcomed the success of the first joint archery and tomahawk competition with medals being awarded by a member of the county team on the day.



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 June edition is Sunday June 16, 2019, so please do share your pictures and stories to:

communications@portsmouthscouts.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE - District Camp - 27th to 29th Sep



Learning new gardening skills at Paulsgrove scouts

SCOUTS from the 53rd, in Paulsgrove, have been putting their gardening skills to use as they've started their vegetable growing.

At their activity centre they held an evening of sowing and planting vegetables. They planted into raised beds that they built over the winter.

Later in the year the Scouts will have a camp where they will cook everything they have grown.



THE Endeavour Explorer Scout Unit, which regularly meets in Baffins, has been taking part in numerous fun team building activities recently. Thanks to Kieron Bland for sharing what they're up to on Twitter.

Info on explores can be found at <https://www.portsmouthscouts.org.uk/join>

Join us! Portsmouth Scouts will be attending Pride

SCOUTING is open to all young people and adults regardless of their sexuality or gender identity. That's why we're attending Portsmouth Pride's main event in June - to demonstrate our commitment to equality.

We openly welcome LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) members, have volunteers specialising in diversity (including our national team of Specialist Advisers) and even a national unit supporting LGBT adults in Scouting FLAGS.

If you are a Scout and would like to march with us, please register your interest at the below email address. We're also looking for people to spare an hour or two to support with manning our stall. communications@portsmouthscouts.org.uk | scouts.org.uk/pride

COMMENT: Isle of Wight Revolution was amazing



Isle of Wight Revolution, which took place last month, was amazing, says Adam Turner, NYC.

Meeting loads of new people, yet feeling like a family. There were plenty of activities to keep us entertained throughout the day, including hovercraft rides, quad biking, skateboarding and headhunters.

I don't think we stopped laughing the entire time we were there! That was probably the best part because it felt like we were in a different world, forgetting about normal life. It is clearly a good sign when you are returning home, people are struggling to stay awake, can't speak due to all the singing and shouting we did all weekend and everyone really doesn't want to go home.

Getting creative and enjoying new games at Portsmouth's Warhammer workshop

SCOUTS took home 2 Warhammer figures, a book, learning guide, a role play mat to play a game. The section leader was given paint to decorate the figures on a different night.

There was 2hrs of fun provided. The group were split into two. One group was taught how to play a couple of games (capture the flag & tug of war) while the other group is then taught to cut and make 2 different figures. Lee, the manager, and Nic were very helpful to the groups and everyone had a brilliant evening. The 23rd Portsmouth were the first scout group from the city to take part in this new partnership with scouts at their store earlier this month.





A Beaver Scout from the group participates in one of the outdoor activities at the event.



Achievements at county level - well done!

AFTER the District Cub Chess competition Portsmouth was represented at the county finals by Seth and Dylan covering both applicable age groups of under nine and half and over nine and half.

The event, which took place at Basingstoke in March, saw our two intrepid players along with another 26 players around the county put their skills of chess to the test and achieved comfortable mid table positions in their age group for their set of games.

An enjoyable day was had by all the participants, and they all achieved glowing thanks from the organiser and umpires for well played games and sportsmanlike attitude.

Well done to Seth and Dylan for representing City of Portsmouth and doing their best!



Building teamwork and leadership skills at Patrol Leader's camp

Patrol leaders and their assistants from across the District came together earlier this month to learn new leadership skills.

The weekend-long event, which took place at Lyons Copse in Shedfield, on May 18 to 19, saw young people participate in an array of activities such as the picture above.

Thank you to Bob Miles for sharing pictures captured at the weekend on social media.

Celebrating 50 years of Scouting in style at the 5th Portsmouth Scout Group in Milton

A SCOUT group celebrated 50 years of preparing young people with skills for life at their celebration afternoon in earlier this month.

The 5th Portsmouth Scout Group, which meets weekly at St James' Church, in Milton, held a tea party and outdoor activities afternoon.

People who have previously had some form of involvement with the group were invited to attend and share their memories.

David Holloway, adult volunteer, says it's an exciting time to be a part of a group which has had a positive impact on the local community for many years.

He said: "Hitting 50 years of the 5th Portsmouth is a huge achievement and I'm proud to lead an excellent team of volunteers who deliver a fun programme shaped by the young people.

"It's always interesting to meet former members and leaders to understand how their involvement in the Scouts taught them valuable skills.

The group was formed in 1969 from the merger of the 15th and the 50th Portsmouth, which were both in the local area.

Today, the group is thriving with around 90 youth members.

An 11-year-old scout said the weekly meetings are the highlight of her week.

She said: "I love coming to the Scouts. I have a really fun time with my friends and we do lots of activities throughout the year.

"In the Scouts, we have learned how to cook, camp, and play archery. I'm always inviting my other friends along."

portsmouthscouts.org.uk/join

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 June 16, 2019. We cannot guarantee all stories will be published, but will aim to include everything we can! Thank you.