

Above and Beyond

A Year of Inspiration



What others have said about our inspiring members



Jude – Chief Scouts Personal Award

‘Jude’s mother fell from the top to bottom head first down their stairs at home at 4am on the morning of 5th January 2020, sustaining serious facial injuries, a broken nose and a very battered and bruised body.

Jude sat with her trying to keep her conscious, he assisted his father by giving him his phone, getting towels for her injuries and staying with her whilst his called for an ambulance and waited outside for its arrival.

During that time Jude dealt with a seizure his mother had as she tried to move. He kept her calm and took total control of the situation, asked relevant questions just to keep her from going unconscious again.

Afterwards, when all was a little calmer Jude told his very proud parents, that he knew what action to take regarding an accident, because he had learnt it from being a Beaver Scout’

Bethan – County Commissions Commendation for Services to the Community

‘After working towards rebuilding the 1st Parkstone Beaver Colony, Bethan was the first girl to join our large all boy Colony. From the day she joined there was no fear but so much determination. Since lockdown started, Bethan has stood out amongst the rest of our Colony for hard work and commitment. She has joined every zoom meeting with enthusiasm, checking how everyone is and telling us what she has been up to. She has also earned a number of badges, some of which had a number of elements to them.

The stand out thing that Bethan has done that makes her an ideal candidate for these awards was fundraising whilst also supporting her local community. For the Alzheimer’s Society Cupcake Day fundraiser. Bethan, baked cakes for her neighbours and left them on their doorsteps with a note Bethan raised £125 for the charity but also started an important conversation with her neighbours around this horrible illness. Finally, she showed a vital act of kindness to others during a difficult and unusual time’

The most inspirational online leader - we are looking for someone that has shown an innovative use of technology to provide a fun and fulfilling programme.

Canford Heath Scouts – County Commissioners Commendation

‘Terry Clapp (and his team) at Canford Heath Scouts in Poole.

Terry and his team have created a fantastic online program for his troop. Canford Heath is getting about 40 scouts continually meeting once a week as an entire Troop. and holding 3 other meetings a week for individual patrols away from the main troop.

As such Terry and His Team are scouting 4 nights a week still over Microsoft Teams. I have been lucky in my role as ADC to be invited to their meetings online, and see the badge work they are still completing. The fact that they nearly have a 100% of their troop still attending is unbelievable.’

Kirsty Taylor-Gallop – County Commissioners Commendation



'After the initial shock of not being able to do any face-2-face Scouting Kirsty was soon in communications with me about running Zoom meetings for both of our Blandford colonies. The first session in April went really well, she asked Beavers what kind of activities and badges they would like to do and practically by the end of the week she had a program up together for the rest of the term! They have covered topics like Pets at home, History of Scouting, Gardening, Coding, Health & Fitness and they made the infamous chocolate mug cakes! Kirsty communicates so well with the other Beaver Leaders too which enthuses/inspires them to take part in some or all of the sessions too.

Kirsty has also helped me out, technology wise, running my first cub zoom meeting and didn't miss the Hogwarts Virtual Escape Scout session too!

We are looking forward to our Group camp this weekend where Kirsty has created many promotional short videos to encourage Scouts to take part. She has also added lots of things to our website page for this event and will be my technology sidekick helping me through the weekend.... and I know everyone is waiting eagerly for our campfire Friday night just for Kirsty to do the Mango song!!

She is an inspiration and very passionate about Scouting and promoting #SkillsForLife, even mores through this pandemic!'

Sue Old – County Commissioners Commendation

'Sue is the long-term Akela of the 20th Christchurch (Somerford) Scout Group. Whilst shielding as well as doing a virtual cub meeting each week and a virtual bank holiday camp, she has been making face masks for both adults and young people.

Sue started by giving these away to key workers. However, as word got around, she started making them for others latterly many tailored to people's requests for say a company logo. For the non key workers Sue requested that a donation be made for them. This donation she has gifted to the scout group.

As of 9th July, she has produced 1160 masks and donated £1000 to the group funds.

Just to keep you on the picture Sue has now donated a further £1000 making the current total £2000'

Roseanne Blaze and Joanna James – County Commissioners Commendation

'I would like to put forward Roseanne Blaze and Joanne James, our Beaver Colony leaders for the for mentioned award.

At the start of the lockdown, they quickly put together a revised program which our young Beavers could participate at home, such was the quality of this program virtually every week during this lock down all members have attended online.

Given where the colony was 14 months ago with one leader and two beavers, to are current position of 3 leaders and 21 beavers this shows the impact both these ladies have given the 1st Parkstone Beaver Group and the wider community, note during lock down we have had three new beavers start, they also have also participated every week since joining even though we are officially to see them.

The program has been such a varied program including Camp at Home, VE Day and Planes, Drumming Lessons, it should be noted since lock down there have been 67 badges awarded and 4 beavers have also achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze awards.

I believe Roseanne and Joanne deserve a special mention for their outstanding work with regards the 1st Parkstone Beaver Colony.'

'My reason for writing is to nominate Anthony Brown for the County Award for Inspirational Online Leader.'

Anthony's leadership of the Explorer Unit during this time has been outstanding and has shown an exemplary level of dedication to the young people and Scouting. Prior to the announcement of the lockdown, Anthony, supported by the other Leaders at Woodcutts, identified that there was a high likelihood that face to face Scouting was to be suspended. At this early stage all agreed that they would commit to delivering a programme and would find innovative ways to deliver it, even if they did not know what these ways were yet!

The Explorers had already outlined their plan for the term prior to lockdown, so the first challenge was to deliver these elements remotely. This saw the Explorers trying Pilates one week and then yoga the next whilst an instructor led the sessions over zoom. This was met with great fun and a general consensus that both disciplines are considerably harder than they look.

These activities ran for the first couple of weeks and the Leaders and Explorers furthered their confidence in using the weekly zoom meeting. Quickly the Explorers unit found new ways of using the technology, writing weekly quizzes using Kahoot and posting challenges for one another.

Once further exercise was allowed away from home, Anthony set a trail using 'what three words' for the Explorers and they posted photographs of their trail on Watts App. Another great way of using technology to deliver great scouting skill of navigation and problem solving. Anthony was also a leading contributor to the Woodcutts Virtual Group Camp which was held during the May Bank Holiday. The camp saw over 100 members of the group join in many activities. Anthony posted videos on youtube and the group website for the young people to try and hosted the camp on whatsapp and zoom for the 72 hours. During the camp the Explorers regularly checked in with one another, updating on challenges they had set and new skills learnt. A highlight of the camp was a group quiz with over 30 families taking part and the virtual campfire.

During lockdown, Anthony has hosted a group zoom every week and has committed to doing so over the Summer Holidays and until such time face to face Scouting can fully resume. Whilst other Units have chosen not to meet, Anthony has injected more energy into Woodcutts Unit and actually resulted in the Explorer Unit growing in size. I write this nomination not just a leader who has been impressed with Anthony's enthusiastic adoption of technology and commitment to the young people, but also as a parent of an Explorer who has benefited from the weekly meetings and the much needed contact it has brought him with his friends during this strange time. Further, there are Explorers within the unit with pre-existing medical conditions, meaning they have had to shield for the duration of the pandemic. I know the parents of these young people have been even more grateful for the support and virtual companionship given by the Explorers at this time.

I cannot speak highly enough of what Anthony has achieved and believe his dedication, kindness and creativity is worthy of recognition.'

Louise Bradley – County Commissioners Commendation

'One person that stands out for me in Bournemouth is Louise Bradley, Not only has she been supporting groups as the restart nominee I have seen her be one of the most proactive GSL's with trying to give the best opportunities possible during lockdown with a very wide range of activities across all her sections.'

Mark Arnold – County Commissioners Commendation

'I would recommend Mark Arnold. He has been amazing during the past 10 months – he had all three Scout troops meeting together, virtually by the end of the first week of lockdown. Furthermore, he has supported other units within the group to get going with on-line Scouting. He was also instrumental in organising our Big Group Camp at Home in May. More recently, he has supported the Explorers with getting virtual Scouting up and running.

Mark was also the inspiration behind our amazing Remembrance Day Virtual Commemoration. He had the ideas, organised and obtained the content, liaising with other leaders where necessary, and then spent many hours putting the whole thing together. We have spread that link out to the whole community of Broadstone through the RBL and the local churches and have received a huge amount of praise – which is all down to Mark's continued enthusiasm and commitment.

Whilst all our leaders have been amazing at keeping Scouting going during the past difficult 9 months, I would say that Broadstone wouldn't have sustained Scouting to the same level without Mark's technical support, ideas and enthusiasm.'

Our Nominators

Jenny Merefield – ACC Beavers – Nominated Jude

Roseanne Blaze – Beaver Leader – Nominated Bethan

James Winchester – ACC Cubs & ACC Network – Nominated Terry Clapp and His Team from Canford Heath Scout Troop.

Sam Elliott – Group Scout Leader – Nominated Kirsty Taylor Gallop from Blandford Beaver Colony

Keith Latham – Group Chairman – Nominated Sue Old from 20th Christchurch Group

Stefan Griffith – Group Scout Leader – Nominated Roseanne Blaze & Joanne James from 1st Parkstone Beaver Colony

Rob Easton – Scout Leader – Nominated Anthony Brown from Woodcutts Explorer Scout Leader

Michael Miller – District Commissioner – Nominated Louise Bradley from 24th Bournemouth

Gill McDonald – Group Scout Leader – Nominated Mark Arnold from Broadstone Group & County Pride Advisor