

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Lincs County Bulletin. This is issued on the first Friday of each month. The bulletin will be sent to all adults registered on the membership system and distributed widely. To submit material for the bulletin please email howard.nelson@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk.

In this issue:

From the County Lead Volunteer	2
The National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band	3
Makaton Videos	3
Duke of Edinburgh Award Celebration Event	4
Volunteer Development.....	5
 Free Cash – Claim Your Group's Gift Aid!	6
Programme Section support teams.....	6
Tomahawk throwing and Rifle Shooting	7
Visual supports	8
LCVYS Christmas Card Competition	9

From the County Lead Volunteer

As we move into the final quarter of 2025, I want to thank every leader, supporter, and young person across our county for the energy and commitment you've shown throughout the year. We've seen real momentum in our programmes, more volunteers stepping forward, and exciting progress in several areas of growth and support.

December gives us the chance to pause, celebrate, and prepare for the year ahead. Many sections will be marking the end of term with festive activities or community events, and I encourage everyone to take a moment to recognise the difference our volunteers make. It's also a good time to reflect on lessons learned, share ideas, and plan for 2026.

This autumn has also seen some fantastic new developments across the county, with nine new Explorer Units opening — including Bourne, Excalibur (Lincoln), Normans (Louth), Arctic, Spinnaker, Jollies, Smugglers (Skegness & Spilsby), Sea Dragon (Rutland), and Spalding (South Holland). It's brilliant to see so many young people gaining new opportunities for adventure and leadership. We've also welcomed new Squirrel Dreys, including an exciting new provision in Gainsborough, helping more young children take their first steps into Scouting.

The County Calendar has now been updated on the website — please take a look and note key training dates, county events, and opportunities for 2026.

I'm pleased to welcome Rosie Flint as the new District Lead Volunteer for Sleaford, taking up the role from 4 November 2025. Rosie brings great experience from her work with local sections and trustee teams, and she'll be an excellent addition to our county leadership. At the same time, I would like to thank Adam Jacklin, who is stepping down from the role after guiding the district through a period of real progress. Adam's contribution has been significant, and I am grateful for his leadership and ongoing support.

As we move towards the end of the year, let's continue to keep young people at the centre of all we do, celebrate what's been achieved, and look forward to another year of growth and adventure in 2026.

Howard Nelson
County Lead Volunteer, Lincolnshire Scouts

The National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band

We are pleased to announce that applications for the 2026 summer course of the NSGSO and NSGCB are now open. The residential course will again take place in Stourbridge at Old Swinford Hospital School and will culminate in two concerts in the Birmingham area.

The course runs from Sunday 26th July - Sunday 2nd August 2026 and the closing date for applications is 9am on Sunday 30th November 2025. To find out more about our course, visit our <http://nsgso-nsgcb.com/>

The course is hosted by Birmingham Scout County in conjunction with Girlguiding Birmingham but is open to applicants from across the UK who meet the selection criteria.

To apply for the 2026 NSGSO or NSGCB course and to find out more details, please click <https://forms.office.com/e/YzjXbfYrmp>

For anyone wishing to use this course for their DofE, KSA or QGA residential then this year must be the first time that they have attended.

You will hear by mid December 2025 if your application has been successful or not.

The closing date for all applications is 9am on Sunday 30th November 2025.

Makaton Videos

The Lincolnshire Scouts Inclusion Team is launching a new project to create a series of Makaton signing videos to help volunteers use simple signs with their young people. These short videos will be available on the county website and potentially on YouTube, providing a practical and inclusive resource for sections across the county.

The team is now looking for volunteers to feature in the videos — from young people across Lincolnshire to members of the County Team. Filming will begin soon, with some clips being recorded at upcoming county meetings and events.

Anyone interested in taking part or finding out more is encouraged to get in touch with Tracey Everatt from the Inclusion Team. Contact: tracey.everatt@sleaforddistrictscouts.org.uk

Duke of Edinburgh Award Celebration Event

Hello DofE Supporter / Leader

The Lincolnshire County Duke of Edinburgh Team would like to invite you to join us for a celebration of the last 12 months.

The event will be taking place on the 16th November 10am – 3pm at 3rd Sleaford HQ (4 Reform Place, Sleaford, NG34 7QR), we will be providing light refreshments, but please bring your own lunch.

Agenda for the Day

What has been achieved in the last 12 months?

Update from across the county

National Update

eDofE session (please bring a laptop or similar which you will be able to access your account)

What's to come in the next 12months

Training

As part of the day, we will be launching some new training for leaders including a 16hr Outdoor First Aid course, giving you the training needed for you to be able to effectively deal with any situation you may be faced with during an expedition.

Register to attend - Event Registration - [Google Forms](#)

We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Volunteer Development

Vacancies

Last month County signed up to the Royal Voluntary Service charity recruiting service where we can upload our vacancies for exposure across Lincolnshire and wider. All you need to do is send me details of your vacancies showing role, postcode of meeting place, contact name and email. This works for Trustees, supporters and Leaders. We have only 11 vacancies uploaded at present.

In addition, there is the volunteering section of your membership login which shows at the bottom left-hand side. These vacancies are visible to anyone visiting the Scout website. Please use this facility to advertise your current vacancies. When I see volunteer applications, I then duplicate the notification process to make sure that both the section Lead and GLV are aware and that someone responds to the volunteer. There is a progress section which needs updating by you as you complete the contact through to completion of the volunteering process.

County Learning Team

In preparation for the next stage of the Learning transformation we need to add experienced and skilled volunteers to join our learning team. The latest Scout strategy envisages mixed delivery of online and face to face learning opportunities to give volunteers flexibility to choose what suits them best. There are also skill-based learning opportunities that need to be delivered in person.

We work very much as a team led by our County Learning Manager Lucy, and we need to be organised for when Branching Out learning is launched so that volunteers can achieve their Wood Badge in a way that suits their learning styles.

For our learning team volunteers there will be additional learning and skill recognition which currently includes presenting, facilitating and learning team leadership opportunities. We will start this process early next year and if you feel that you would like to be involved, please let me know.

Volunteering development team

Finding volunteers for our Groups and Districts is the number one task identified by Leaders as the biggest challenge for those volunteers in Lead positions. I want to develop a team of volunteers who are prepared to support the county in this important role. It is likely you already have a role in Scouting, but that is not essential, so if you know someone who might be interested in such a role, let me know. We plan to run recruitment workshops across the County and also use social media to advertise available positions in a positive way to encourage responses. We will also use paid advertising focused on particular postcodes where need is identified.

Please let me know if you are interested in knowing more about joining my team and the way we plan to work. The role can fit around existing commitments. My contact details: Malc Moore - 07402 504818

Free Cash – Claim Your Group's Gift Aid!

Every Scout Group in Lincolnshire could be missing out on free cash from HMRC — and it's easier to claim than you might think!

All Scout Groups are either registered charities or classed as “excepted charities”, which means they don't need to register separately with the Charity Commission to claim Gift Aid. As long as your Group has a bank account in its own name, keeps proper financial records, and is recognised as part of The Scout Association, you can make a claim directly to HMRC.

Gift Aid allows your Group to reclaim an extra 25p for every £1 of member subscriptions or donations paid by eligible UK taxpayers — turning ordinary subs into a valuable source of extra income. Even small Groups can boost their finances by hundreds of pounds each year, while larger Groups often see four-figure sums returned to support local Scouting.

To get started, your Group Treasurer or Trustee Board can register with HMRC Charities Online, gather records of payments and Gift Aid declarations from parents or supporters, and submit a simple online claim. Once set up, future claims are quick and straightforward.

Your Scout Group does not need a charity number, but you will need to be recognised as a charity by HMRC. 'Excepted' Scout Groups: you can't use or cite the District, County or The Scout Association's charity numbers as your own. HMRC will provide you with a unique Gift Aid registration number which you can use for fundraising platforms too.

👉 Find out more: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/support-scouts/gift-aid/>

Don't leave free money on the table — every Scout Group can benefit. Claim what you're entitled to and make every pound of support go further for young people in your community!

Programme Section support teams

We are proud to announce that we now have new leaders in place to support sections with some ideas to assist you with programmes. These individuals will soon have access to shared mailboxes for each section to keep your eyes peeled and if you think that you could share your expertise with new leaders, get in touch with programme@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk

Tomahawk throwing and Rifle Shooting

Tomahawk throwing trained leaders

Please could any leaders who have undertaken the range master course either with Barrie Jenkinson, Bush Scout or elsewhere take 5 minutes to complete the attached form so that we can keep a register of those able to assist with Tomahawk throwing across the county as this is not currently covered by the Adventurous activity permit scheme.

Register of Trained Tomahawk Range leaders – [Fill out form](#)

Air rifle trained leaders.

Thank you to the 5 people who have already submitted the form showing that they hold air rifle qualifications. If there are any other leaders across the county who have a certificate to run air rifles, please could you fill in this attached form so that we have a complete list for the county.

Register of Leaders with Rifle shooting qualification – [Fill out form](#)

If you know anyone who does not regularly read the bulletin, please could you share these forms across your groups so that there is a complete list moving forward.

Thank you so much.

Carolyn Greig
County Programme and Adventure Team Lead

Visual supports

Use our visual stories and resources to support young people and adults.

Scouts UK have created some fantastic visual resources for Squirrels to Explorers. These include visual timetables and social stories. If groups need anything that's not available, please look at the websites listed or speak to the County Inclusion Team who have access to some resources.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

Home >
Volunteers >
Equity Diversity and Inclusion >
Equity Diversity and Inclusion Volunteer Resources >
Visual Supports

Visual supports

Use our visual stories and resources to support young people and adults.

Quick links

[Planning individual support](#)

Visual supports can help you communicate with young people and adults, support their understanding and reduce their uncertainty about what to expect. They're particularly useful for people who are neurodivergent, have hearing impairments, or don't speak English as a first language.

Everyone is different, and what works for one person may not work best for another. Speak to the person and/or their parents or carers to find out what may work best for them. Use our guidance on [planning individual support](#) to help you.

Visual timetable or schedule

Visual timetables use symbols, words and pictures to break down the steps of a task or routine. They can be helpful for our youngest members, Squirrels, who may still be developing their concept of time. You could use visual timetables or schedules to show the programme for the term, steps in a specific activity or for a section meeting. You can display these in your usual meeting place for your whole section to use.

Download our resources: Visual schedule templates and symbol packs

Our symbol packs are sets of [Widgit Symbols](#) including symbols for common Scout routines and activities. You can use these on their own, or with our visual schedule templates. There are six different styles of template, so you can pick what works best for your group or young person.

Expand all

Visual support resources

Squirrels resources

[Going to Squirrels visual story](#)

[Making the Promise visual story](#)

[Going on a Night Away visual story](#)

[Visual schedule templates](#)

[Symbol pack](#)

You can also download a low-link version of [Going to Squirrels](#), [Making the Promise](#), [Going on a Night Away](#) and the [Visual schedule templates](#).

Beavers resources

[Going to Beavers visual story](#)

[Making the Promise visual story](#)

[Going on a camp visual story](#)

[Visual schedule templates](#)

LCVYS Christmas Card Competition

It is that time of the year again! LCVYS is pleased to announce our annual Christmas card contest! The Winning entry will be printed and used as LCVYS official Christmas card, and the winning design will be awarded £20 voucher plus £50 for the member group they are part of! This is open to all scout members in Lincolnshire.

We ask that entries that are on paper are scanned individually so that each entry is separate, and digital images can be emailed directly but NO AI! It must be the young person's own work 😊 Also please drawing's only as we cannot use anything but a flat image- no sticking things on unfortunately.

Please get your entries in quickly as if it is like last year, we had a really tough time trying to choose a winner because they were all so amazing!

If you have any questions, please get in touch at admin@lcvys.co.uk!

Please feel free to share this email among members, we want to see all the groups amazing creativity!

Good Luck!
LCVYS Team

Card Competition
Winner will receive £20 + £50 for their club

Design LCVYS Christmas card for 2025

CLOSING DATE 23RD NOVEMBER

Entry Submissions and Rules and guidance available from Membership@lcvys.co.uk

Rules and Guidance

- Open to all LCVYS Members
- Must be own work!
- Must be hand drawn or digital
- Entries to be scanned as individual files but do not need to be emailed separately
- Entries to be emailed to membership@lcvys.co.uk with name and age of Young person and group they are representing.
- Closing date: 23rd November 2025