

**2024**

# Ross Park Stockwood Illuminations Visit

For Ross Park Beavers (along with Strathmore and Saxon), the last session of 2024 was a



fantastic trip to Stockwood Illuminated.

Having not been before, Cat, the leader didn't know what was in store, however the young leader and Beavers who had been before were quick to advise its fantastic, and they were not wrong.

The trail was wonderfully set up with many different scenes and settings including many things like: Mirror balls, Fox, Fire, Tractor, Stars, A giant, fairy jars, and love.

Everyone was having such a great time that they didn't even notice it had started to rain.

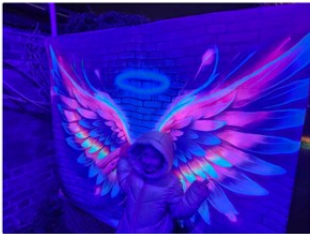
Highlight of the night was the UV glow section, where the artwork shone with such beauty and the Beavers loved to see their teeth or anything white glow up.



It was a sad evening at the end as we had to wish a very big thank you and farewell to Leader Graham, who after 44 years of Scouting had decided it was time to hang up his woggle. Graham will be sorely missed and we will be forever grateful for all he has done for us.



A big thank you also goes to Falkes District, for the suggestion of attending Stockwood Illuminated and the financial contribution, and of course a huge thank you to all the Leaders, Young Leaders and Parent helpers that we able to support the event and make it a great success.



Here's looking forward to 2025.

# Dwayne Fields: UK's New Chief Scout

We're excited to announce that Dwayne Fields, adventurer and TV presenter, is the UK's new Chief Scout

Dwayne's been appointed as our 11th Chief Scout to lead our half a million young people and adult volunteers for his values, commitment to help young people, and outstanding leadership qualities. During his time as Chief Scout, Dwayne aims to inspire even more young people and adult volunteers to join from all backgrounds.

Carl Hankinson, UK Chief Volunteer, says: 'Dwayne already has the respect of thousands of young people and volunteers in Scouts. He's shown real commitment and kindness to Scouts in communities across the UK. As well as being an inspirational adventurer and TV presenter, he's able to reach across generations and support Scouts serving more local communities.'

Born in Jamaica, Dwayne came to the UK when he was 6 years old. Growing up in North East London in Stoke Newington, with little access to nature, Scouts offered Dwayne access to the outdoors, new friendships, and opened new horizons.



1st New Cross, Dwayne Fields, Squirrels

When he joined as a Cub Scout, Scouts gave him skills, belief in himself and place to belong. Through his determination and support from his Scout volunteer leaders and friends, he set himself on a path to become the first Black Briton to reach the North Pole. He's passionate about encouraging people from all backgrounds to explore nature, support their communities and be the best they can be.

Dwayne says: 'I hope my story will encourage others to join our movement. My volunteer leaders believed in me as a young person and taught me to believe in myself.'

They showed me I could do anything I put my mind to, and others would help me along the way. Now I want a new generation to learn the skills, friendship and belonging I felt when I needed them most. I want to show that the outdoors is a place for all of us to be at our best, that Scouts is truly open to all.'

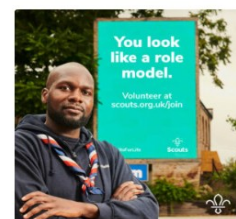
Fun facts about Dwayne that you may or may not know

- He co-founded the #WeTwo Foundation – aimed at helping young people from underprivileged backgrounds to expand their horizons and find their place in the world.
- He's a seasoned TV host who's appeared on BBC's Countryfile, the Disney Channel and many others.
- His Channel 5 TV series Endurance: Race to the Pole with Ben Fogle was nominated in the 2024 BAFTA awards.

HRH The Duke of Kent, Joint President, says: 'It gives me great pleasure to pass on my deep-felt congratulations to Dwayne Fields on his appointment as the 11th Chief Scout. As an explorer, a TV presenter, and someone who has already shown a clear commitment to young people and Scouts, I'm quite sure he will relish his new role. I wish Dwayne, and all Scouts, every success in the future.'

Dwayne says: 'I'm calling for more volunteers to step up and make a difference to young people's lives across the country.'

Dwayne's determined to help recruit new volunteers in every community in the UK. If you're inspired to support young people and join the adventure find out more.





# Chief Scout, Bear Grylls Stepping Down

After 15 years as Chief Scout, Bear announces September will mark the end of his time in the role.

This September will mark the end of my time as Chief Scout after three 5 year terms as Chief and a total of 15 years in the role. Being Chief Scout has been the greatest honour of my life. The kindness and commitment of our young people and volunteers is incredible.



And I'm so proud that since 2009 when I joined, over 2 million people have been through Scouts in the UK. Together, we accomplished everything we set out to do – grow our movement and help millions of young people gain skills for life and access to adventure and the outdoors, but like every volunteer in our movement, our roles evolve and nothing stays the same forever.

I will of course continue as Chief Ambassador of World Scouting, helping support the global movement of some 65 million international Scouts.

Bear Grylls

Chief Scout

# HM King Charles III became Scouts' Patron

The King continues a long tradition of the monarch giving their Patronage, dating back to 1912. This was when Scouts was granted its Royal Charter and HM George V became our first Patron.

Before His Majesty King Charles III, the post was previously held by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for the duration of her 70-year reign.

A champion for young people

Patronages typically reflect the interests of the member of the Royal Family involved.

Over many years, HM King Charles III has consistently championed young people across a range of charities, including Scouts and The Prince's Trust.

