

2025

Jake Nosko from Luton at Windsor Parade.

On the 27th of April, Chief Scout Dwayne Fields had the honour of Jake Nosko from Luton at a special event held at Windsor Castle. The Duke of Kent, Joint President of The Scouts, joined Dwayne in congratulating the young awardees for achieving the King's Scout Award – the highest recognition in Scouting for adventure and skill development. This year marked Dwayne's first time attending the annual event in his role as Chief Scout, and also commemorated The Duke of Kent's 50th anniversary of involvement with the organisation.

Scout Ambassadors, including Astronaut Tim Peake and Olympian Helen Glover, were also there to join in the celebration and cheer on these outstanding young people for their amazing achievement.



The Award is presented for outstanding personal achievement and is achieved by Scouts aged between 16 and 25 years old. To earn the award, the young people must complete a range of challenges, including service to their community, an expedition in wild country, a five-day residential project in a new environment, developing an existing talent, or learning some new skills to build on what they have already learnt in the Scouts. This award also allows the young people to undertake projects which make an incredible impact and lasting impression within their local communities.



Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields said "Congratulations to each and every one of you on receiving your King's Scout Award. This is an incredible achievement, and it reflects all the hard work, dedication, and passion you've put into your Scout journey. You've shown great leadership, made a real difference, and embraced the true spirit of Scouts. This award is not only a recognition of all you've done, but also a reminder of the amazing things you're capable of in the future. I can't wait to see what's next for you. Keep looking ahead and leading the way!"

Jake said, "I went canoeing in Bedford with a group I didn't know, but I learned a lot from them and made great connections. I also enjoy painting Warhammer models, bringing them to life with detail. I worked at a local charity, helping with admin, and it was a great experience. I wanted to do something that would get me out there, and it's been brilliant for opening up future job opportunities."

This annual event at Windsor Castle, has been held since 1934 on the Sunday closest to St. George's Day (23rd April) to celebrate young people's growth. The day is all about positivity, fun, and celebration, with young people and their families enjoying the moment together. It's a chance for loved ones to proudly watch as the awardees receive their well-earned recognition, and for everyone to share in the excitement. For these young Scouts, it's not only about the recognition but also about celebrating their journey alongside their peers, creating lasting memories and a sense of pride that will stay with them for years to come.



By Nigel Taylor

Luton Scouts complete Challenge hikes (Southern 50)

Scouts and volunteers from Luton have been praised by Chief Scout Dwayne Fields for completing the Southern 50. They had a team in the 30KM event and another team in the 50KM challenge hike event.

This year's event celebrates 45 years since the first Southern 50, with Scouts taking on routes passing through the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. The annual Southern 50 Event is a prestigious challenge hike, one of the longest running events of its type in the UK. The event is a test of good orienteering skills as well as teamwork. The route is not disclosed until the day of the event so all teams entering have the same chance of winning a trophy.

Chief Scout Dwayne Fields praised the team's unwavering determination and teamwork, as they tackled the impressive distance.

"The team from Luton showed real determination to finish the courses, I was delighted to meet them at the finish to hear about the skills they had learnt and challenges they had overcome. All the young people and volunteers involved in the event are a great example of what's brilliant about Scouts. They worked as a team, had fun and learnt new skills along the way," he said.

Taking part in the event Logan Faraday said: "This is a really great event to get out into the countryside and to use the skills I've learnt in Scouts. I'm tired but loving every minute of it."

The team that participated in the 30KM event finished in ninth place out of forty-five teams. The team that participated in the 50KM event finished in tenth place out of fifty-six teams.



Luton News By Nigel Taylor 17th February 2025

Harpenden Gang Show 2025 Highlights



On a Friday evening in January our Scouts from across the District, came together to enjoy the spectacular Harpenden Gang Show! This annual showcase of energy, talent, and laughter left us inspired and filled with admiration for the performers and their dedication. In total, 51 of us attended, making it a memorable evening for everyone involved.

From the moment the curtains opened, the show transported us into a world of creativity and excitement. The vibrant costumes, impressive choreography, and brilliant musical numbers kept the audience captivated throughout. It was incredible to see the level of effort and teamwork that went into each performance. The Harpenden Gang Show truly showcased the best of Scouting and Guiding spirit, reminding us of the power of coming together to create something extraordinary.

For many of our Scouts, it was their first time attending the Gang Show, and they were thoroughly impressed. One of them shared, "I'd like to propose it's an annual Scout event!" This sentiment was echoed by many others, and we couldn't agree more. The evening served as a perfect opportunity for our Scouts to see what can be achieved through determination, creativity, and a little bit of stage magic.



Inspired by the incredible performances, we're already looking forward to incorporating some of the show's energy into our own activities. The idea of adding new songs to our next campfire sing-along has been a hot topic of discussion since the curtain call.



We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved in the Harpenden Gang Show—from the performers to the backstage crew and organizers—for putting on such an unforgettable evening. Your hard work and passion truly shone through and left a lasting impression on

all of us.

If you've never attended a Gang Show before, we highly recommend it! It's a fantastic way to support local Scouting and Guiding while enjoying an evening of laughter and inspiration.

For more information, you can visit the Harpenden Gang Show's Facebook page.

We can't wait for next year's show and hope to see even more of our Scouting family there. Until then, we'll keep the spirit of the Gang Show alive in our hearts and at our campfires.

Author David Faraday

