

2020

April - Onward

Coronavirus can't stop Scouts remembering fight for freedom

Seventy five years on from Victory in Europe, and the Scouts of Luton were supposed to be celebrating with the rest of the town by parading and enjoying a good old-fashioned tea party in St George's Square.

The event would remember the people of Luton who suffered from 24 air raids, a V2 Rocket falling on Biscot Road, and the loss of 107 lives with over 500 injured.

It would also commemorate the Luton Scouts who actually gave their lives during the Second World War, including RAF Flight Sergeant Stanley Ainsworth, aged 21, who was killed in action over Leipzig on December 3, 1943, from the 21st Luton Group. Also RAF Pilot Officer Donald B T Adams, at the age 20, who was killed in action over Germany on February 24, 1945, from the 3rd Bedfordshire (1st Luton) Group.

But Covid-19 put an end to those particular plans and, with Scouting also in lockdown, Leagrave Scout Group in conjunction with the Mad



A tea-time toast to remember those who gave their lives

Hatter Scout Network put together a 'VE Day Stay at Home Party' for Luton Scouts.

With a lot of hard work, effort and support, banners, flags, bunting designs, party food and cake recipes, along with posters inviting neighbours and members of the Scouting community to join them for a day of celebration, were sent out online.

Scout groups and young people across the town were

soon joining in with the plans, and as the day drew nearer the efforts of the Scouts throughout the town was shown in pictures and memories online.

On Friday at 11am Scouts and Scout leaders stood with flags lowered for the two-minute silence; later family and neighbours joined their Scouting friends for a tea party in their front gardens (bearing social distancing in

mind) and enjoyed the music and food whilst remembering those who made it possible.

One Scout, when asked what the day meant to him, said: "It means a lot to me because it is the 75th year after the end of WW2, and we should respect the people who fought in the war.

"They fought and gave their lives for our freedom and with the current global pandemic, this makes it even more meaningful, and we should learn from our veterans to live in a better and safer world."

A Luton Scout spokesperson said: "Scouts in Luton were very much involved in WW2 at home and abroad, some paying the ultimate price, so we should remember those who served then for us and in true Scouting style.

"Leagrave Scout Group and the Luton 'Mad Hatters' Network Unit worked very hard with the build-up to the final day over many days which made it such a success.

"We thank them most heartily for a job well done."

A celebration of St George with a difference...

by News Reporter
editorial@lutonnews.co.uk

Hundreds of Scouts aged from six to adult across Luton renewed their promises and were reminded of the Scout laws together during their annual celebration of Scouting's patron saint, St George.

With the current social distancing requirements, the normal gathering, which includes parades and many Scouting activities could not take place this year.

But Luton Scouts were determined to mark the occasion, one of the most important in the Scouting calendar, and so they took to Facebook and YouTube.

The St George's Day event was kicked off on Thursday by a livestream of Griffin Explorer Unit renewing their promise and inviting all members to take part in the weekly "Clap for our Carers" either in uniform or with their Scout scarves hung in the window.

Other leaders and groups did the same on both Friday and Saturday, with Sunday morning seeing more group

promise renewals and activity photos.

The ceremony on Sunday, April 26, was hosted by Trevor Sharp. District Commissioner Mark Webb explained that, during the lockdown, Scouting was continuing in the virtual world of social media, with online section meetings, activities and presentations, sharing what they are doing together whilst physically apart.

The promises for each section were led by younger members of Luton Scouts, who invited all members, young and old, to join them in making the promise appropriate to them.

Scouting is open to people of all faiths and of none; different versions of the Scout Promise accommodate the various ages and religious obligations of its members while upholding its essential spirit.

The promise renewal was followed by a video illustrating some of the many activities that Luton Scouts have taken part in. These included a trek to Everest Base Camp, the annual Peace Light Service, flying rockets, meeting Bear



Scout Promises with flags

Grylls, completing community service, visiting places of interest, camping, and Luton Explorer Scouts at the World Scout Jamboree in the USA, to name but a few.

The annual renewal of the Scout promise and reminder of the Scout law is important as it reflects that Scouting is not a youth club. Scouts wear uniform. They are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers.

Members go camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling and canoeing. But they also get to hang out with friends every week – having fun, playing games, working in a team, taking on new challenges and earning badges.

> For more details about Scouting, see www.luton-scouts.org.uk or call the hotline on 0844 414 5687.



Behind the scenes



St George's Day Lego



Saxon Cub and Beaver Promises

Health > Coronavirus

Luton Scouts to mark St George's Day at home by hanging neckerchiefs in windows

The Scouts will also renew their age appropriate on Sunday

By Holly Patel

Thursday, 23rd April 2020, 7:17 am

Scouts across Luton are not going to let the current crisis prevent them from celebrating St George's day today (Thursday).

Traditionally Scouts across the UK renew their Promise on St George's day as St George is the patron saint of Scouting, a link that came from Baden Powell himself.

With the lockdown restrictions in place, the normal large gathering is not possible.



Therefore, Scouts will be marking the day in three different ways, with young people and adults doing just one or all three.

Luton Scouts are being asked to place a neckerchief, a scout scarf, in their window and clap for the NHS and other key workers, at 8pm tonight (Thursday) to thank them for what they are doing to try and keep everyone safe.

At around 7pm, on the [Luton Scout Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.lutonscouts.org.uk), www.facebook.com/groups/www.lutonscouts.org.uk, t Scouts are tasked with saying the Scout Promise and ev to watch.

In Luton, Scouts traditionally celebrate renewing their age appropriate promises on the Sunday nearest to St George's Day.



On Sunday, April 26, on the Luton Scout Facebook Page, at 3pm, Luton Scouts plan to start with a few words from one of the District Commissioners, a Baden-Powell quote and then the promises for Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and finally Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Network Scouts and all Adults.

Scouting is open to people of all faiths and of none, all members will be invited to say the promise, at the same time, appropriate to them.

Many Scout leaders are also front line workers, and their commitment is applauded every day of the week.



Luton Scouts Copyright: other

CORONA SNAPS

Bored? Scouts say explore the Great Indoors

YOU can always rely on the Scouts to be prepared – and now is no exception.

While they can no longer enjoy the outdoors, they have come up with an ingenious list of 150 activities to do at home – or The Great Indoors as they are now calling it.

The activities include dozens of craft projects, quizzes and science experiments, which take between 15 minutes and two hours to complete.

While some, like making lolly stick catapults, are clearly intended to be for fun, others such as ‘How to be kind to yourself: five ways to be kind to yourself with mindfulness and self-care’ are aimed at helping children cope with the challenges ahead.

The Scout Association said: ‘We know the coming days and weeks are going to be difficult for families across the UK. We want to do what we can to help.

‘While we normally love the great outdoors, we’ve pulled together some inspired indoor activity ideas. Keep your kids learning new skills and having fun, and avoid hearing “I’m bored” every 30 seconds – all in The Great Indoors.’

The full list can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/

15th April 2020 Luton News



Ideas are brewing to keep Scouts busy!



Luton Scouts brewed up an idea which has kept its members entertained during the coronavirus lockdown.

When its original Teapot Challenge was announced, themes included "camping", "water" and "air", with Scouts asked to take photographs of at least one person with a teapot drinking a mug of the tea as they performed an activity.

But, as the nation fights COVID-19 with lockdown and social distancing, the tasks were made more flexible.

The Virtual Teapot Chal-

lenge has seen pictures posted on the Luton Scouts Facebook page and judged by the "Luton Scout Challenge Committee", with virtual certificates awarded.

St Anne's Scout Group was the first to win the virtual "Gold Teapot" and "Luton Teapot" by completing the tasks set, thanks to Scouts Alex, Scarlett, Izzy and Mayank, together with leaders Brian Andrews and Elizabeth Fagan.

Elizabeth said: "The teapot challenge has been so much fun. The St Anne's Scout

Group leaders and younger members had a great time coming up with ideas on how to meet the challenges, especially Tanya (Akela) with her very resourceful 'in the air' and 'on the water' entries.

"Even the COVID-19 lockdown couldn't stop us with our 'The Meeting' entry, as we found a way to meet online instead of face-to-face".

Ross Park Scout Group, with support from Jen and Stephen Avis, has also gained "The Luton Teapot". See www.lutonscouts.org.uk