



GREATER LONDON  
**LIEUTENANCY**



# *Presentation Evening*

## The Award of Deputy Lieutenant's Certificates

*Presented by*

**David Easton JP DL**

**Representative Deputy Lieutenant  
for the London Borough of Bexley**

*Kindly arranged and hosted by*

**Councillor Ahmet Dourmough**

**The Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley  
2023/24**

**Wednesday 17 January 2024**

**6.30pm**

**The Civic Offices**

**London Borough of Bexley, 2 Watling Street  
Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7AT**



*Welcome to the Civic Offices,  
Bexleyheath by  
Councillor Ahmet Dourmouh  
The Mayor of the  
London Borough of Bexley  
2023/2024*

First, may I welcome you all here this evening to the London Borough of Bexley's Civic Offices, here in Bexleyheath. As Mayor and First Citizen of this wonderful Borough, it is truly an honour for me to host the award of Deputy Lieutenant's Certificates to our finest representatives of this nation's youth organisations.

When our Representative Deputy Lieutenant (Rep DL), Dave Easton, asked me if I would host this event, I immediately agreed, without hesitation. During each year, the uniformed organisations support Bexley's Mayoralty in so many ways, the Civic Parade being one of the major examples. Last summer, I witnessed many of you and your fellow Cadets, Scouts and St John Ambulance, proudly march with me through Bexleyheath. I cannot begin to tell you how proud you all made me feel.

Our young people are a credit to this Borough and those attending here this evening represent the best of everything about Bexley. Dave has spoken with me about the awards being presented today and that they are the last that are issued in the name of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen herself set immeasurably high standards throughout her life and she never failed to live up to or, follow them. Her Majesty was a remarkable person and you all follow in her footsteps today.

I am proud of you all and it is a real privilege for me to be here with you, hosting this evening, which I hope you enjoy and remember.

**Ahmet**  
Councillor Ahmet Dourmouh  
Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley, 2023/2024

*Congratulations to all recipients of the  
Deputy Lieutenant's Award 2023*

Hello everyone and may I also welcome you to the Civic Offices. Although retired from everyday work now, I spent many happy years here in this building and it's predecessor over the road and to be back here, presenting these awards is such a joyous privilege.

When I first heard about this scheme, it was clear to me that an evening, such as this was both needed and important. Your families, friends and leaders are all proud of you and I am delighted that so many have chosen to be here this evening with you.



I have to admit that, being a former Cub, Scout and Leader in that organisation, I was certainly pleased when Scouting was added to the list of possible recipients back in 2018, with the first awards in that category awarded in 2019. Then came Covid and a very difficult hiatus in the chance to present the certificates. Indeed, many I spoke with had never heard of these prestigious awards until 18 months ago. I am now proud to report that a number of Scouting members feature in this year's ceremony. My next goal is to ensure that Guiding is also represented, along with more youngsters from each of our youth organisations.

So it is with the utmost pleasure that I say to you all – Congratulations. On behalf of Her Majesty, The Late Queen Elizabeth II and His Majesty The King Charles III, thank you all for being such worthy representatives of your organisations.

**David Easton JP DL**  
Representative Deputy Lieutenant - London Borough of Bexley

## *London Awards - Deputy Lieutenants' Certificates*

Presented at a separate event within each of the London Boroughs, one of the key awards for London's cadets is the Deputy Lieutenant's Certificate, which has the aim to give suitable recognition to the achievements of cadets and young people of the Greater London Uniformed Youth Organisations and to create an awareness of their contribution within the community. With all organisations, it is limited to cadets who are based at units within Greater London. This award recognises the best in each organisation in each Borough.

## *Rules and Selection Procedure*

### Background

In 1984 it was proposed by the Association Pre-Services Sub-Committee and agreed by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London that a scheme to award Deputy Lieutenants' (DL) Certificates to outstanding cadets of the Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps (now RAF Air Cadets) should be introduced for each borough.

Previously only awarded to cadets from the military-based community cadet organisations, it was extended in 2015 to include cadets from the Combined Cadet Force within Greater London. In 2017, it was further extended to include cadets from the Fire Cadets, Volunteer Police Cadets and St John Ambulance, all of whom are members of Youth Organisations in Uniform (London or YOU London).

In 2018 it was agreed to extend the award to include all 10 uniformed youth organisations of YOU London with the addition of the Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Scouts and Girlguiding. YOU London was established in 2009 as a partnership of ten uniformed youth organisations, formed to promote positive activities to all young people in Greater London and to provide opportunities for volunteers.

The aim is to include all those who have a positive interest in the wellbeing of young people – improving positive opportunities for young people through resource and information sharing.

### Aim

The aim of these awards is to give suitable recognition to the achievements of cadets of the Greater London Cadet Organisations and to create an awareness of their contribution within the community.

## Details of the award

The framed Deputy Lieutenant Certificates will be presented within each Borough, by the Representative Deputy Lieutenant at an event during the year. The events vary widely ranging from visits to units, or a joint presentation with the Borough's Mayor, as it is this evening. It is preferred that the Certificates are awarded in year and the Association will liaise with the Representative Deputy Lieutenants and suggest alternative options if required.

There has been an exception in that the years 2020 and 2021 were marked by the Covid 19 Pandemic and event presentations, such as the one today, were not possible. This makes tonight's event even more special for everyone attending here.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for an award, a cadet must belong to a unit situated within the boundary of a London borough. It may however be possible to make special arrangements for an award where it involves one of the few units which are outside the London boroughs but within the Association area, ie: the Metropolitan Police boundary.

A cadet may not be recommended to the Association for an award more than once.

### Qualifications and standards

The differences between the cadet organisations make it impracticable to stipulate the qualifications required by candidates for an award. Nevertheless, a high standard must be maintained and it is expected that candidates will be worthy representatives of their organisation: they should be assessed not only on professional performance but on personal qualities, social responsibility and success in other fields such as the Duke of Edinburgh's and other awards, and education or sporting achievements.

It is expected that all candidates should have reached the age of 15 years on 31 January (or the date by which recommendations are due to reach the Association) and have held a position of responsibility in their units. For example, within the military cadets they should be 3 star, or equivalent and are assisting and instructing the junior members of the unit.

## Number of awards

The number of Deputy Lieutenants' Certificates awarded will clearly depend on the number of candidates reaching the required standard, but a degree of consistency is important both for the cadets themselves and for the scheme to achieve valuable public recognition.

As a guide, it is hoped there will be one or two awards for each service/organisation in each borough within which it is represented; this may be exceeded in a borough containing a large number of units from the same organisation.

In some years it is appreciated that not all boroughs will have a candidate of sufficiently high standard, but this must not be accepted as an excuse for a failure to submit any nominations at all.

## Recommendations and selection

Because of the differences between the cadet organisations, the recommendation and selection must therefore be left to the judgement of unit leaders/commanders and supervisors/ superior reporting officers within that organisation. However it is anticipated that the form would be initiated by unit leaders, who will complete the first page in as much detail as possible. This does not require a detailed breakdown of their qualifications, but should highlight their skill sets and in particular, why that cadet/young person merits this award; in effect, why are they special!

Unit recommendations should be submitted to the next level up in the organisation, where one or more cadets/young people from each borough would be selected and the recommendation completed on the form. Representative Deputy Lieutenants may, if they wish, be brought into the selection procedure at this stage. Finally, the forms should be submitted to the Regional organisation for final comment and to ensure consistency across the organisation.

The Association will send recommendations and Certificates to the appropriate Representative Deputy Lieutenant for final approval and they will then arrange a suitable occasion for the presentation of the framed Certificates, which are provided by the Association.



The following pages contain the names and details of all of the cadets, from across the London Borough of Bexley and its range of youth units, who have been successfully nominated for and agreement made for the award of the Deputy Lieutenant's Certificate during the year 2023.

All of these successful recipients have been invited to join the Mayor and the Deputy Lieutenant at the Borough's Civic and ceremonial events throughout the coming year.

The Certificates are awarded to our amazing and talented young people from the following organisations within our Borough:

***Cadet Detachments Army Cadet Force***

***Royal Air Force Air Cadets***

***St John Ambulance Cadets***

***Metropolitan Police Volunteer Police Cadets***

***London Fire Cadets***

***The Scout Association***

## 2023 Awards

### *Cadet Detachments Army Cadet Force*

#### Savannah Senior - LCpl

On joining cadets, Savannah was very quiet and shy and found making friends very difficult to the point that she wanted to leave. After having a talk with her and ensuring she had a 'buddy' at cadets she started to come out of her shell and started to really enjoy cadets and make friends. She threw herself into every subject at cadets and really began to shine. She became a lot more confident and has now made lots of friends and now encourages new cadets. She has amazing patience with the new cadets and although still shy can now project her voice.

Outside of cadets she has been instrumental in helping out her elderly grandmother and another elderly relative who is 88 years old and suffers from ill-health. Savannah ensures that she does their shopping for them and goes to both of their homes to help out with the housework. Savannah also prepares her grandmother's meals for her, ensuring that she is kept healthy and eats regularly. She also stimulates both elderly relatives with daily telephone conversations.

In 2022, Savannah had major surgery first on her leg, which was followed just before last Christmas with further surgery, so has not been able to visit her relatives as much as she wanted. But, it is expected she will soon be back to helping her relatives as soon as she is mobile again. Savannah is also on the local NHS youth board and she will also return to this volunteering following her recovery from surgery. Savannah also teaches martial arts to 4 to 11 year olds, as well as keeping up to date with all of her school work.

Savannah is a very polite and intelligent young lady, who will go far in life.

#### Amber Leetham-Halling - Cadet

On joining the detachment Amber was a very quiet young lady. Her progression in the Army Cadet Force at the detachment is going very well. She is eager to learn and willing to get involved and has made friends with the other cadets. Amber is a young carer and has taken care of her Mum from a very early age by herself. She has had to grow up very quickly.

As well as attending school and doing her homework, Amber does all the housework at home for her Mum. She does all the weekly food shopping, pays the household bills and cooks meals when her Mum isn't so well. She is also, on top of everything else, studying for her GCSE's and keeping on top of her homework. She enrolled earlier last year on the DofE Award and is now well on her way to completing her Bronze Award. Having also completed her Basic Star award Amber is now progressing well towards her One Star Award.

Due to her dedication and impressive efforts under difficult social and domestic conditions, Amber has proved to be a very resilient young lady and is very deserving of this Award.

### *Royal Air Force Cadets*

#### Marnie James - Cadet Flight Sergeant

CFS Marnie James is a diligent and dedicated Non-Commissioned Officer, who is wholly relied upon within the unit. She has the makings of a fine SNCO within the RAF Air Cadets and has been asked to apply for promotion to Cadet Warrant Officer. Her notable achievements include Master Cadet, Blue awards in First Aid and Leadership skills, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, ILM Level 2 Award in Leadership and Team Skills, The Boyce Trophy for Determination and Effort 2019, the East Wickham and Welling War Memorial Trust 'Somme Trophy' for services to Welling, 2022, the Senior NCO trophy, 2022 and the Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Award 2021.

The Covid Pandemic had a profound detrimental effect on the unit. However, Marnie was a constant figure in the life of the unit during these dark times. She regularly attended online parade nights and when face to face activities resumed, she threw herself wholeheartedly into the revival of the unit. Marnie supports the Cadets of the Unit to achieve as much as they are able, encouraging them and enhancing their Cadet experience via her perpetual enthusiasm. Her sustained contribution to the organisation has helped ensure the rapid revival of the unit to a vibrant unit with over 40 Cadets.

Marnie volunteers regularly at fundraising, social and ceremonial events for the Royal Air Forces Association (fundraising), the East Wickham & Welling War Memorial Trust (at their Remembrance Festival), The Welling Round Table (event

marshal), The Rotary Club of Bexley (assisting with their Santa Sleigh) and civic events in the London Borough of Bexley. She is the team leader of the ceremonial banner team and regularly performs each year at the Festival of Remembrance.

Away from Cadets, she is a volunteer at the Welling Youth Centre, giving up more of her free time for the benefit of the youth of the London Borough of Bexley, demonstrating a sincere concern about the community in which she lives, and for the young people who live in it. She has shown unstinting loyalty to the RAFAC and 358 Welling Squadron and is a Cadet worthy of recognition by GLRFCA for her Cadet service in the Borough.

### **Lily-May Lillington - Cadet Flight Sergeant**

CFS Lily-May Lillington is a dedicated and excellent Non-Commissioned Officer. She is diligent and conscientious, with a mature outlook on life. Respected and trusted by the Cadets and staff, her notable achievements as a Cadet include Examination Shield, 2022, Sporting Shield, 2022, Bandsman of the Year, 2022, Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Award, 2022, Master Cadet, Initial NCO Course, Cadet training Awards, Blue: Aviation Wings, Pre-D of E, Musician, First Aid, Bronze and Leadership Silver, Road Marching, and the IDEA Bronze & Silver.

Lily-May is an accomplished equestrian and has completed twice in the inter-service Cadet Forces Equitation Competition, being placed 3rd in 2022. An enthusiastic NCO, Lily-May fully engages as a role model, mentoring and looking after the junior Cadets.

As NCO in charge of C Flight, Lily-May is directly responsible for training the recruits in Welling Squadron. The Covid pandemic decimated cadet membership, with the loss of experienced Cadets, but the steady retention of new Cadets is due to her perseverance in training junior Cadets. Lily-May realises her social responsibility, by attending numerous fundraising, social and ceremonial events for the Royal Air Forces Association (fundraising), the East Wickham & Welling War Memorial Trust (at their Remembrance Festival), The Welling Round Table (event Marshal), The Rotary Club of Bexley (assisting with their Father Christmas Sleigh) and civic events in the London Borough of Bexley.

Away from Air Cadets, she is active in her local church and a Scout. She is a patrol leader in the 1st East Wickham Scout Group (joined in 2013) and a volunteer young leader for the Cub group camps. In 2019, she was the patrol leader for the Super-Patrol Challenge where her group came 3rd in Scouting skills. In 2022, Lily-May was

awarded the Chief Scout Personal Award, for tending to a first aid casualty who had collapsed in the street. At school she is a keen sports person and a mental health ambassador, helping the younger students.

Lily-May is a founder of the gender equality society that has raised over £6,000 for Bexley Women's Aid. Lily-May has shown unstinting loyalty to the RAFAC and 358 Welling Squadron, in particular. Lily-May is a Cadet worthy of recognition by GLRFCA for her Cadet service in the Borough.

### **Aidan Whiston - Cadet Flight Sergeant**

CFS Aidan Whiston is a dependable and reliable Non-Commissioned Officer within the unit, gregarious and well-liked by his peers. He has proven himself to be diligent, making steady progress through the Cadet NCO ranks. His notable achievements include Leading Cadet, Blue awards in aviation, First Aid and Leadership skills and The Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Award, 2021.

The Covid Pandemic had a profound detrimental effect on the unit. It saw half of the Cadets and a third of the adult volunteers leave the Welling Unit. However, Aidan was a constant figure in the life of the unit during these dark times. He regularly attended online parade nights and when face to face activity resumed, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the revival of the unit. Not one to seek the limelight, he has steadily maintained a sustained and positive contribution to the organisation.

Despite losing two years of his own quality cadet time, he supports the Cadets to achieve as much as they are able, encouraging them and enhancing their cadet experience. Aidan volunteers regularly at fundraising, social and ceremonial events for The Royal Air Forces Association (fundraising), The East Wickham & Welling Memorial Trust, the Welling Round Table (event Marshal), The Rotary Club of Bexley (assisting with their Father Christmas Sleigh) and civic events in the London Borough of Bexley.

He is a member of the squadron's Ceremonial Banner Team and regularly performs each year at the Welling Festival of Remembrance. Away from cadets, he and his boyfriend are active in promoting awareness of LGBTQ+ issues, representing and highlighting the diversity of the community living within the London Borough of Bexley. He has shown unstinting loyalty to the RAFAC, and 358 Welling Squadron and he is a Cadet worthy of recognition by GLRFCA for his cadet service in the Borough.



## *St John Ambulance Cadets*

### **Deano Lands - Leading Cadet**

Deano Lands is a reliable member of the team, who is completely able to work independently. He turns up early every week to set up the Cadet activities early and takes the lead over the running of the evening. Starting the session with a parade, making sure all the Cadets know how the evening is going to run and what is expected of them. He has a good sense of discipline making sure he sets a good example to all members of our unit. Every week he has a part to play in the training and is able to adapt his style and presentation of information to meet the needs of Cadets of all ages and abilities.

Deano is respected by all his peers and they feel able to approach him, if they have a problem. He is very dependable and always does his very best, whenever he is taking part in activities to make everyone happy and be able to learn in a comfortable and welcoming environment. Deano is a first class well-presented Cadet that deserves this important and formal recognition.

## *Metropolitan Police Volunteer Police Cadets*

### **Katie Hicks - Head Cadet**

Katie is Head Cadet of the unit. She has been in the Volunteer Police Cadets for four years. During that time, the leaders have been honoured to watch Katie grow into a decisive leader and wonderful young lady.

Katie leads by example and is often seen assisting others in her spare time. She gives everything she can to the unit and is dedicated to the other cadets.

Not only is her uniform as pristine as her attitude but her drive and determination to succeed and confidently compete with other units has sparked an eagerness amongst the rest of the cadets.

To say the team are proud of Katie is an understatement and they wish her all the best for the future.

## *London Fire Cadets*

### **Sally Tilley - Sub Officer Cadet**

Sally has been a Fire Cadet for a few years now and has worked hard to achieve the rank she holds. She leads by example to the younger cadets and has given up a huge amount of her time since she's been with the LFB, to complete social action projects within the local community.

Just before last Christmas, Sally sadly lost her father quite suddenly. Sally was at home with him at the time and was able to give CPR, which she learnt from Fire Cadets, to keep her father alive until paramedics arrived. Sally's bravery and quick thinking meant that her father was able to survive long enough for the rest of her family to attend the hospital and say their goodbyes.

Sally barely missed any time at cadets and continues to support the younger cadets and engage with the rest of the unit despite finding it difficult at times. She continues to take part in everything with a positive attitude.

Part of the goal in Fire Cadets is to provide the young people with life skills that will benefit them and society in the future.

Sally has embraced the skills she has learned and although it was an extremely tough situation to be in which, many adults would struggle with never mind young people, through her training Sally stepped up and performed life lengthening medical treatment to her father. Showing strength and poise beyond her years. That strength and poise has continued on and she has continued honouring her commitment to Bexley Fire Cadet Unit by attending even when it is tough, by being a positive role model to the junior cadets and continuing to be positive even in the face of such an awful time.

The team look forward to witnessing Sally's development in herself and the way she helps develop others, which is a joy to see.

## *The Scout Association*

### **Charlotte Born - Assistant Scout Leader**

Charlotte has been a Scout, Explorer Scout, Young Leader and now Assistant Scout Leader at the 13<sup>th</sup> Erith (Christ Church) Scout Group and has gained in confidence with every activity in which she has taken part. She is always cheerful and polite and helps with fund raising and supporting the other Sections of the Scout Group. For example, when the Beaver Leader broke her ankle badly and was hospitalised for weeks, Charlotte immediately volunteered to act as an Assistant Beaver Leader for however long was needed. She has a wonderful connection with all the young people as well as the adults in the Group. Her volunteering to help out at the last Queen's funeral was no surprise, and just another example of her wish to help people.

Charlotte has recently achieved a BA(Hons) degree in Interior Architecture and Design. She has also been using her artistic face painting skills and fundraising ideas in her work at McDonalds for the Ronald McDonalds charity in her store in Crayford. This has recently been recognised and she was selected to attend an event at a Ronald McDonald charity house in Denmark Hill. Here, she used her face painting skills and her positive personality to try to bring a moment of happiness for the current children staying in the house, whilst their siblings were in hospital.

Charlotte is honest, reliable, loyal and always looking for ways to serve others. A really valued and excellent Scout.

### **Luke Cashin**

#### **District Trustees Vice Chair, District Scout Network Commissioner, Explorer Scout Leader, Assistant Scout Leader, County Trustee, National Award Advisory Board Member**

Luke has been involved in Scouting since becoming a Beaver at the age of six years old. He has since progressed and currently has 12 active volunteer roles in Scouting. Luke is an Explorer Scout leader, leading and creating an active programme of activities for 14-18 year olds. He has increased his group by over 100%, with the Explorers becoming the largest group in the area at the last census despite having to adapt many of his programmes during the Covid period.

Luke is also the District Scout Network Commissioner in Bexley. In this role he oversees growing Scouting and encouraging those aged 18-25 to get involved and develop skills for life within the Scouting programme. When Luke came into the role, there were no Networkers at all in the district. However, in two years, he has managed to create three network groups, which all now meet in different areas of the borough and have members from all backgrounds. He continues to plan area wide events for those in this age group.

For the last five years, Luke has been a member of the District Trustee Board and was recently named the Vice Chair aged in his early 20s. Luke has served for four years on the Trustee Board of the Greater London South East Scout County covering the Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley. He has been an active member of both these Boards and has had a special interest in being the voice of youth and ensuring that he gets the views of all ages in the movement present at these meetings.

One of Luke's most significant involvements in Scouting has been in recognising other volunteers for their hard work and celebrating youth and adult members for their achievements. Luke first became involved with awards locally. He has run the Jack Petchey Award Scheme in Bexley, which celebrates the achievements of young people aged 11-25 years. From this, he was asked to join the Bexley District Awards Group in 2019. He understands the importance of recognising those volunteers who have given so much to others in the organisation. As a result of this, in 2021, Luke was asked to join the UK National Scouting Awards Board. Made up of only six members nationally, this was a huge achievement and opportunity for Luke to help shape the way Scouting celebrates their young people and adults. He is not only involved in awarding the highest awards in Scouting but has also taken an active part in writing and supporting nominations for National Honours. Within this role, he was part of a subgroup which reviewed how the Scout Association recognises its volunteers. As a result of his work, nationwide changes have been implemented and are being rolled out across the association this year.

In September 2022, Luke was selected as one of only 120 Scouts nationwide to assist with the laying in state of HM Queen. This was a huge honour which involved a mixture of tasks during the mourning period leading up the funeral and him being asked was testament to all his Scouting achievements.

Although Luke has been heavily involved in Scouting, he has also actively volunteered in the community in other ways. First, is Luke's involvement with Holy Trinity Church Hall in Sidcup. After recognising the importance of this community



facility and recognising that it was falling into poor condition, he volunteered to be on the Hall Committee at the age of 21. He was especially concerned with the lack of disabled facilities and made the inclusion of this a key part of his project proposal. Luke took the lead, gained quotes, and discovered the works would cost in the region of £40,000. Over the course of a year, Luke organised fundraising activities and applied to grants and trusts singlehandedly to raise the funding needed. In January, he successfully completed the fundraising. As such, the toilet renovation has now been completed with the inclusion of a separate disabled and baby changing facility.

Luke is also an avid supporter of Dementia and Alzheimer's charities. He recently completed the London Marathon in October raising over £3,000. This is not the first of these events, having completed other running and fundraising events raising in excess of an additional £2,500 over the last two years.

Luke is a trustee of Age UK Bexley and has been for over three and a half years. Having experienced some of the concerns that elderly residents of Bexley had after caring for his own grandparent, he wanted to make a difference to those in Bexley in similar situations. Since being on the committee, Luke has undertaken a various amount of research and has been an active trustee to initiate funding opportunities and develop a sustainable 10-year plan for the charity to effectively help the residents of Bexley.

Luke is heavily involved with Scouting and in helping his local community in all aspects. Luke truly deserves this prestigious award.

### **Casey Martin Doney - Scout Leader**

Casey joined Scouting as a Beaver in 2000. He progressed through Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and fulfilled his ambition of becoming a leader in 2017. Initially he became an Assistant Cub Leader and when the pack unfortunately closed, he moved across to become an Assistant Scout Leader and has since taken over running the Scout troop.

He undertook all the necessary training without prompting, ensuring his skills are all kept up to date with the mandatory aspects. He frequently volunteers to help out with other sections when there is a leader shortage.

He is always looking at ways to make the Scouts training programme more interesting and encouraging the young members to gain their awards and move

on to the next stages. Casey is a role model with his experience and enthusiasm inspiring the young people under him. The group are proud of his achievements and to have him as a leader and the young people respond well under his direction. Casey takes an active part in all group events and also District activities, who has also assisted Crayford Rotary several times at their annual fundraising event, setting up and crewing the PA equipment. In 2018 he set up a PA system for the official unveiling by the Duke of Kent of the sculpture bench in Crayford commemorating 100 years since the first Atlantic flight.

When the notice came out appealing for help to assist with the Queen's lying in state, Casey immediately volunteered, arranging with his employer the time off, allowing him to undertake the task ahead. He was able to spend a total of seven days, undertaking shifts at any one of the three sites, fulfilling his duties to the full. Casey certainly deserves to be receiving his award this evening.

### **George Metcalf - Assistant Beaver Scout Leader**

George started his Scout career back in 2006 as a Beaver in the 1st Baldwyn's Park Scout Group based in Joyden's Wood, Bexley. He loved Beavers and never wanted to miss a week and was always keen to go on every visit, trip and camp.

He earned many activity badges, but unfortunately, through no fault of his own, he missed out on achieving his Chief Scout Bronze Award. George continued with Beavers up until he was eight years old, when he 'swam' up to Cubs and he enjoyed them every bit as much as Beavers wanting to take part in everything they did. He took part in the annual hike competition held across the District for two years in succession, and he was part of the winning team in both those years.

When he turned ten and a half, he moved up to Scouts, which he enjoyed even and made sure he went on every camp, trip and activity they did because he just loved (and still does) the whole outdoor scouting life. As a Scout he completed his expedition challenge but never received his Chief Scout Gold award. He achieved what was required, but he never quite got the badge. He also took part in an international expedition to Canada where he undertook various activities including some voluntary work; he also took part in another trip to the Netherlands to meet up with some Dutch Scouts.

When he was 14 years old, he was one of the four founder members of the Hurricane Explorer Scout Unit based at 1st Baldwyn's Park in Bexley. During his

time as an Explorer, he became a Young Leader and successfully completed the four missions as part of his Young Leader training, receiving his Young Leader belt buckle. He visited the Netherlands again as an Explorer Scout to help look after a group of Scouts visiting a number of war grave cemeteries. He was the last of the four founder members to leave the unit, only moving on to go to university to study Architecture when he reached eighteen years of age.

He is now part of the District Typhoon Scout Network group, taking part in regular Network activities. Last year he volunteered to be part of the Scout task force helping with the Queen's lying in state. This work was based away from home and during that time he spent many hours looking after part of the enormous queue of people waiting pay their last respects to our late Queen. He also met a number of parents from our group who had been part of the queue. He was also lucky enough to get the opportunity to pay his own last respects to our late Queen at the end of the lying in state. Although a sombre occasion he enjoyed the work very much and made a number of new friends during his time there.

George is now passing on his knowledge and experience of Scouting to the younger members of the 1st Baldwyn's Park Scout Group, where he is currently Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, having also assisted with the Cub Scouts previously.

### **Lauren Tobin - Beaver Scout Leader**

Lauren has been actively involved in Scouting since she joined as a Beaver at the age of six and developed through all Scouting sections. She volunteered as a young leader when she turned 14 and used the Scouting skills she learnt over the years to help young people develop and build self-confidence.

When Lauren turned 18 years old, she immediately wanted to enrol as an Adult Volunteer and chose the Beaver section to do this in. She has been hardworking and dedicated to the Young People in our scout group and has helped them through challenging times and supported them to develop in their own confidence and life skills.

When Scouting closed down with face-to-face meetings in March 2020, Lauren refused to allow the Beavers to go without Scouting and set up Zoom weekly meetings to ensure the young people has something to look forward to and continue with Scouting. The meetings were so successful, that Lauren even increased the size of the colony with new joiners being invested via zoom.

Last year Lauren run her first Beaver sleepover, the first nights away event since Covid lockdown, and every Beaver attended and thoroughly enjoyed it. Lauren also helps out with other sections in the Scout Group when they are short of leaders and is received well by the Young People. We have a successful annual District Gang Show where Lauren is the Stage Director and leads a stage crew successfully.

All round, Lauren is a huge asset to Scouting and is growing as an adult leader continually. When the notice came out from The Scout Association appealing for help to assist with the Queen's lying in state, Lauren immediately volunteered and was duly selected. She was able to spend a total of seven days, undertaking shifts at any one of the three sites, fulfilling her duties to the full. A sombre but memorable occasion underlying the Scout's Promise of Duty to the Queen.



**GREATER LONDON**  
**LIEUTENANCY**

