

News and Views for Scouting in Gloucestershire April 2021







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Gloucestershire Scouting on the Water Website http://activities.gscouts.org.uk

Have you seen our new GScouts website yet? Go to www.gscouts.org.uk

If you want to print this magazine, it can be presented in A4 or as an A5 booklet.



Editorial

I am keen to enlighten readers about religions other than Christianity, as I know that we have at least a number of Moslems and a Buddhist amongst us. In the last edition, I asked if anyone would write an article about Ramadan. I'm afraid none has been forthcoming, so I have put together one of my own, based almost entirely on Wikipedia. I hope it does justice to the subject. The Buddhist festival of Asalha Puja roughly coincides with the

publication of the next edition of gscouts. Would anyone like to write a short article about it?

The County Training Team have laid on an extensive range of courses stretching from this month through to the autumn. See the County website.

My copy date for the next edition will be Monday, July 12th.





From the CC

April 21 Welcome to Spring!



Well, sort of, with temperatures fluctuating between -3 and 15 over the past few weeks, its been a changing start to the season. But with that change comes a set of changes which I know are very welcome to the adults and young people in Scouting across Gloucestershire.

It's been a weird few months for me personally, as I have not been able to do as much Scouting as I would normally like to. My work has been incredibly busy in recent months which has, as I have said many times, "got in the way of my Scouting". In fact so much so that I was late to send this article to our wonderful editor John.

How many of you ever experience that? A desire to do more, but life events, our work, our families and other activities can sometimes prevent us from doing all that we want with Scouting. For me I often try and remind those around me not to feel guilty about this; I have a genuine belief Family comes first and I love that my family is extended by Scouting. Then work and everything else that is important must also take a priority.

We already give so much to Scouting; any time we give is so valuable, and at this stage I want to say a heartfelt "thank you" to you. Whatever role you undertake, whether behind the scenes supporting adults in a

role you undertake, whether behind the scenes supporting adults in a Group, a Unit, a District or across the County, or if you are one of the

ones who are delivering programme in any format, digitally, via deliveries or face to face to our young people, the work and time you give is worth so much, so valuable and so important.

Remember:

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they (YOU) are priceless" – Sherry Anderson

Awards evening

Late last year, Gary Law, DC for the Forest of Dean asked if we could consider running a celebration evening in recognition of the many dedicated and wonderful adults that we have that have achieved any of the Good and Outstanding service awards since April 2019. I must say that I was sceptical that we could pull off an event that could feel special and appreciated. It turns out I was wrong.

I am very thankful to the team that helped pull this together and especially to our guests, Tim Kidd and Jake Meyer, who both spoke so eloquently and passionately about the difference that volunteers make to young people and their lives.

You can read more about this in the article written by Liz Hodge later in this edition.

Training 2.0, a programme for the future

Over the past few months, its been great to continue to hear of all the great work that so many have been doing to keep Scouting going. Not just for our young people, but for our adults too.

I have had the great privilege of helping to deliver some of the training that we have been offering remotely. Whenever I deliver a course, I am always fascinated about how engaged those that are taking part are throughout the whole course. We are getting some great feedback and are slowly building a portfolio of courses that will mean that you can undertake your Module training for almost all of the modules, as well as the Management Training courses for Managers and Supporters.

Because the courses are delivered directly to the comfort of your own home, there is much less of a challenge with capacity, so if you are interested in finding out about how we deliver these courses or want to refresh your knowledge, especially in relation to programme, do come and join us. Visit our website www.gscouts.org.uk/training to find out when courses are taking part.

We know that some readers are less comfortable with using technology to receive their training, so we plan to continue to deliver face-to-face training courses, when we are permitted to doing adult activities in groups. We hope that this blend of delivery methods will continue to help make training as accessible as we can for you and your teams.

If you are not sure what you should be doing, please do speak to your Training Advisor, Local Training Manager or Local Training Administrator.

We have also adopted the ability to deliver First Response Training (Part A) using Zoom and we are incredibly thankful to the team that have been supporting this, especially Evelyn Guyll, Dave Bunce, Shell Vaughan, Lewis Dangerfield and Carole O'Donnell.



We will run Part B, which will be the Face-to-Face element

as soon as restrictions are lifted and you will have six months from when we return to a "Green" readiness level in order to complete your First Response Training. Please do look to do Part A as soon as you can. Check out the training pages on our website.

For information: Whilst we are in a period of restrictions due to the pandemic, in order to complete your Wood Badge, you are only required to do Part A of the First Response Training





Celebrating our Adults in Scouting

On Thursday 25th March we held our first on–line Adults' Award evening. 150 adults were invited to join the Zoom event to celebrate their achievement of awards. For those who attended, they were greeted by Mark Spiller, our County Commissioner, who led the evening with some special guests:

Tim Kidd, the UK Chief Commissioner, spoke of his thanks and gratitude to everyone who, especially this past year, has enabled Scouting to continue to make a difference to young people's lives.

Jake Meyer, British Mountaineer and Adventurer, told us of his Cub Scouting days in Tetbury, when he learned knots, which of course helped him in his climbing skills. Many challenges from his first climbs, the times when he felt he had not achieved but, through the value of others, seeing that he had not failed and that he could go on and try again, led him to go from strength to strength of challenge and success.

Mark followed these uplifting guests with his own experiences of learning that, when he thought he could not do something, the words "You can do it" have given him the strength to have a go and succeed.

Words we are sure that resonate with so many of us, perhaps more so this past year than ever, as some have endured the symptoms and effects of Covid, adapted to learn how to master technology and provide programmes in a virtual format, as parents have become overnight teachers, juggling home-schooling with home-working too.

The evening was nothing short of a truly inspirational and uplifting event.

We ended the evening with some video messages of feedback from young people and words that sum up the gratitude and thoughts of young people about those adults that were acknowledged.

Congratulations to all those who were recipients of well-deserved awards and thank you to Tim, Jake, Mark and Louise who enabled us to run this event.

Liz Hodge

DCC Projects



Activities SASU Manager

We are looking for a manager for the **County Activities SASU** – could this be you or someone you know?

We would like someone who has the capacity to focus on establishing the SASU. Applications are open to anyone over the age of 18.

The Manager is responsible for the management, leadership and day-to-day running of the SASU. They will work under the Leadership of the ACC - Activities, alongside the County MAPS to support the provision of permit assessments and provide Line Management of the Skills Instructors. The Manager will ensure the SASU agreement is reviewed annually to ensure that the targets set are being accomplished.

Should you wish to apply for the role or to gain further details, please contact Adam acc.activities@gscouts.org.uk

WE NEED YOU

The County programme team is looking for people to help with the support of inspiring programmes across the County.

We currently have vacancies for an **ACC Explorers** and an **ACC Scout Network** however we are open to discussion around these programme roles, so please get in touch and have a chat about the role.

We are also looking for Leaders to support small items

You could be:

- a Beaver Leader who is keen to inspire Scout Network Members to achieve their Explorer
 Belt
- an Explorer Leader who thinks that a County-wide dam-building completion is on the cards for Beavers.



GET READY FOR THE HAARLEM JAMBORETTE 2023!

Experience the Haarlem Jamborette with over 3000 international scouts in the recreational area of Spaarnwoude, close to Amsterdam, Haarlem and the North Sea. Ten days full of great Scouting activities, meeting new friends from more than 25 different countries, and of course fun festivities in between to remember forever. You can't miss this camp for scouts aged 10 - 17 years old in the summer of 2023! You can block **5 August 2023** – **16 August 2023** in your calendar, because on these 10 days the 14th edition of Haarlem Jamborette 2023 will take place! It's 2023 before you know it!



2023 International Opportunities

2023 will be an amazing year for young people in Gloucestershire with two large international events taking place. We hope to have a unit attending the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea and a contingent attending the 14th Haarlem Jamborette in the Netherlands, but we need you to make it happen.

We are now in Stage 2 of our leadership selection and we are now looking to build the leadership teams to support the journey of Gloucestershire towards these events in 2023.

Details and application forms are on the County website:

https://gcouts.org.uk/second-chance-to-take-on-the-experience-of-a-lifetime

We would encourage everyone to apply and submit your form without delay.

Supporting Young Leaders

Young Leaders are a valuable resource and they often can be a key member of the leadership team. If you support them and empower them, they can not only complete their Young Leader belt but they can have a significant impact in supporting you to deliver a quality programme.

On the 28 March we are offering a Young Leader drop-in clinic and Q&A session for all Leaders across the County to join and hear more about the Young Leader scheme and how to support Young Leaders.

Details can be found on the County website https://gscouts.org.uk/
event/young-leader-clinic-and-qa-session-for-leaders

Scouts and schools imparting skills for life

SIR – I was heartened to see Robert Baden-Powell's "Plea for Cooperation" between schools and Scouts published 100 years ago in The Daily Telegraph (February 8).

I'm proud to say that this work continues today. We help over 460,000 young people across the country gain skills for life and find their place in the world. Indeed, many Scout groups actually operate within schools.

A 2016 study by Demos of Scouts in schools in deprived areas pointed to the "positive impact on attendance, behaviour for learning and attainment" of those pupils who were Scouts.

The study also highlighted

improved confidence and selfesteem.

Baden-Powell identified character education as key to this success. Scouts are still one of world's most remarkable character factories: our study of Scouts aged 13-17 showed they have 7 per cent stronger leadership skills, are 11 per cent more likely to try new things and are 14 per cent more independent.

Today, our volunteers and teachers are working together to support a generation of young people who need our help more than ever.

Bear Grylls Chief Scout Chingford, Essex Fowler house MasterChef taking place over two or three nights to fit everything in. Annie made a yummy Shakshuka for dinner last night with flatbreads and also made mocktails. Gus is doing a gorgeous smelling stir fry tonight. There may be more, we'll see.



1st Cirencester
Scouts
Chef Badge, Jan/Feb
2021

Another MasterChef update from us....Annie made funky silver sprayed strawberry tarts and Gus made Tiger bread baguettes and carrot and ginger soup to have with them So, Annie's two courses were main and dessert and Gus did starter and main. Hope this completes their challenge but we're loving this!



Charlie completing his Chefs badge: 3/2/2021

2 course dinner for 2 = pasta and homemade sauce followed by homemade brownies made into sundaes with the addition of cream, bananas and Angel Delight!







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Eliza has continued on her culinary journey and made gnocchi with a tomato & spinach sauce tonight. Yum! 2nd course, Eliza's home baked chocolate brownies. Lush!







Kerslake Kitchen is in progress.....











Mackenzie's Sri Lankan curry & pudding





ASL Daniel: This week the 1st Clearwell and Sling Cubs made 'origami' Cub jumpers, and Kidgeralso neckers for our pets.A great time was had by all :-)



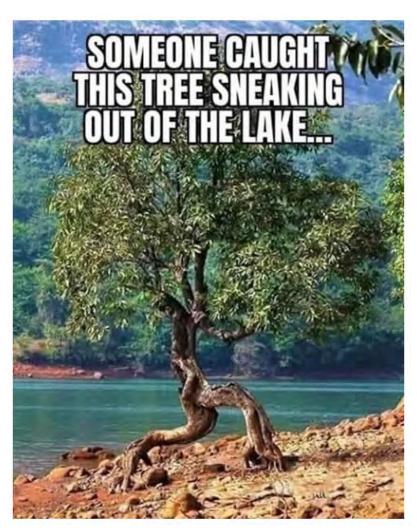


1st Cam Cubs

This week at Cubs we'll being doing some experiments to earn our Scientist badges. The Cubs will need to do a little preparation, by getting together some common household items (you shouldn't need to buy anything in specially). Please check your emails for the list of items and let me know if you have any questions.

John Tunnicliffe ACSL





Scouting in Spain

The Spanish Scout Movement was founded in 1912. Operations ceased in 1938 according to Ministerial Decree and although some Scout groups continued to operate, Scouting in Spain was clandestine until the 1970s, when Scouts gradually began to appear in uniform.



In 1934, a priest, Jesús Martinez, created Scouts Hispanos but this became defunct in 1940, largely as a result of the Spanish Civil War.



There are now three main Scout Associations in Spain: Scouts de Espana (ASDE), Movimento Scout Catalico (MSC) and Federación Catalana d'Escoultisme i Guiatage (FCEG). In November 1974 the three Associations formally established the Federación de Escultismo en Espana (The Federation of Scouting in Spain).

There are also some 27 smaller associations, mostly active on a regional level. In total there are more than 58,000 members.



Until recently there were British Scouts Abroad in Spain.

This is their badge depicting Don Quixote and his loyal Valencia servant Sancho Panza from Miguel de Cervantes' book, published in 1604.

John Morton



Korean Scout Association in anticipation of Centenary celebrations in 2022!

Know your County

Fairford, in the extreme east of the county, is a small town on the River Coln, The parish church of Saint Mary, built in the early 1490s, is renowned for its complete set of medieval stained glass, stone carvings and misericords. It is of national historical and architectural importance. The churchyard includes a stone memorial to Tiddles, the church cat who fell off the church roof. There is also a stone grotesque to commemorate a young boy who climbed up the walls of the church and jumped, falling to his death.



To the south and south-east are parts of the Photo by Saffron Blaze - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, Cotswold Water Park, with facilities for sailing,

kayaking and rowing. It also offers excellent opportunities for birdwatching.

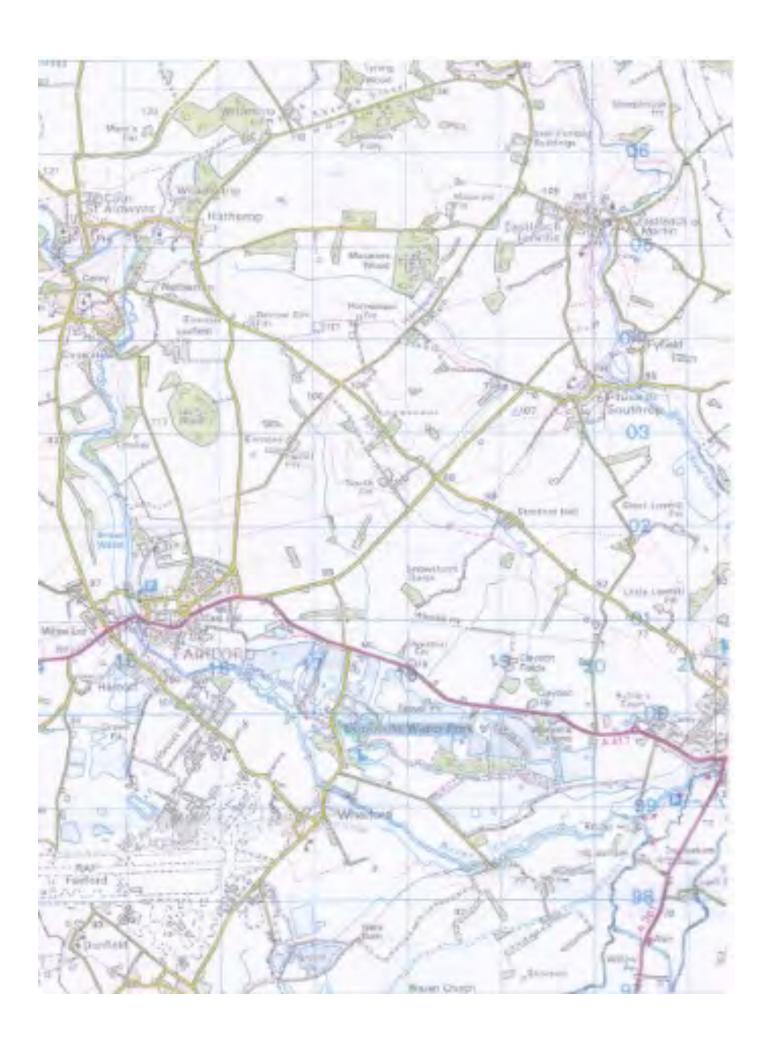
Further to the south-east are the well-preserved remains of the abandoned medieval village of Inglesham.

The Salt Way, to the north-east, may have formed part of a major trade route network from Droitwich (where salt appears naturally as brine, bubbling up from the ground at a concentration twenty times stronger than sea water). Salt routes were used for transporting salt from the Iron Age and throughout the Roman and medieval period. Salt was valuable for preserving food and the Romans paid their soldiers in it.

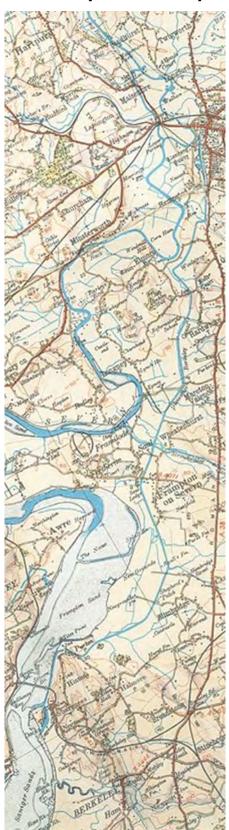
From the map:

- 1. What does the faint blue cross at top centre of the map indicate?
- 2. What feature is at MR 207057?
- 3. What prickly plant is in the middle of a blizzard?
- 4. How high above sea level is the triangulation pillar west of Southrop?
- 5. What group of trees might be tasty with cheese?
- 6. Where could you keep a flock indoors?
- 7. What low ground might alternatively be called "anvil"?
- 8. Where could you keep 220 yards of ale?
- 9. What tip is given to a building half a mile west of Southrop Manor House?
- 10. Bill went on a journey. Where did he leave his car?

Answers on page 27.



Know your County — Gloucester and Sharpness Canal



A map of the canal from 1933

The **Gloucester and Sharpness Canal**, which is 16½ miles long, runs for much of its length close to the tidal River Severn, but cuts off a significant loop in the river at a once-dangerous bend near Arlingham. It was, when fist constructed, the broadest and deepest canal in the world.

18th century conception

Conceived in the Canal Mania period of the late 18th century, the Gloucester and Berkeley Ship Canal scheme (as it was originally named) was started by architect and civil engineer Robert Mylne. In 1793, an Act of Parliament was obtained authorising the raising of a total of £200,000. The project rapidly encountered financial difficulties - to such an extent that Mylne left the project in 1798. By half way through 1799 costs had reached £112,000 but only 5½ miles of the canal had been completed. Robert Mylne's role was taken over by James Dadford, who had originally been engaged as resident engineer on the project in 1795. Lack of funds resulted in the company ceasing to employ Dadford in 1800.

Decade of capital raising

Between 1800 and 1810 various attempts were made to raise money to allow further building but they came to nothing. Moneys from tolls and rents allowed for some improvements to be made to the basin at Gloucester in 1813.

Eventual completion

From 1817 onwards, the Poor Employment Act meant it was possible for the company to borrow money from the Exchequer Bill Loan Commission. This, along with further share issues, provided enough money to bring the scheme to completion. After these significant delays, the canal opened in April 1827. In the course of its construction the canal had cost £440,000. As opened, the canal was 86½ feet wide, 18 feet deep and could take craft of up to 600 tons. The longer of the two locks on the canal was 115 feet between gates.

Eventual dividends

By the middle of the nineteenth century it proved possible to

pay a small dividend, the debt to the Exchequer Bill Loan Commission having been repaid with the help of a loan of £60,000 from the Pelican Life Assurance Company. In 1871, the last of the debts incurred in the course of funding the canal, including the Pelican Life Assurance Company loan, were paid off. Where the Severn Railway Bridge (completed in 1879) passed over the canal a swing section was constructed to avoid restricting headroom.

Early 20th century

In 1905, traffic exceeded 1 million tons for the first time. Oil was added to the list of cargoes carried by the canal, with bulk oil carriers taking fuel to storage tanks sited to the south of Gloucester. In 1937 the canal was navigated by the submarines HMS H33 and HMS H49.

The canal was nationalized in 1948. At the same time the Sharpness Dock Police, who had policed the dock since 1874, were absorbed into the British Transport Police. In 1955 the Board of Survey of Canals and Inland Waterways released a report that, among other things, described the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal as carrying substantial traffic and offering scope for commercial development.



The Sea Cadet training ship T.S. John Jerwood passes through Patch Bridge on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, on its way to the River Severn

The Purton Hulks

In 1909, following a collapse in the bank of the river, the canal company's chief engineer, Mr A. J. Cullis, called for old vessels to be run aground along the bank of the Severn near Purton, to create a makeshift tidal erosion barrier to reinforce the narrow strip of land between the river and the canal. Barges, trows and schooners were "hulked" at high tide, and have since filled with silt. More boats have been added, including the schooner "Katherine Ellen" which was impounded in 1921 for running guns to the IRA, the Kennet Canal barge "Harriett", and ferro-cement barges built in World War II. 1999 saw Paul Barnett commence a privately-funded research project which saw the site's 81 vessels

recorded and recognized as the largest ships' graveyard in mainland Britain. In 2010 British Waterways took control of the site in an attempt to protect it.

Recent history

Today the canal can be used by boats up to 210 feet in length, 31 feet in beam and 105 feet in height. The maximum draft is 11 feet 6 inches. By the mid-1980s, commercial traffic had largely come to a halt with the canal being given over to pleasure cruisers, with the exception of a few passages by grain barges. The oil trade ceased in 1985 with the closure of the petroleum depot at Quedgeley. In order to allow the A430 Gloucester south-west bypass to be built, the canal had to be diverted. The new section of channel was opened on 6 May 2006. In January 2009 a project began to replace the Patch Bridge swing bridge with a motor-powered design, instead of the current hand-cranked system. The canal links directly to the Stroudwater Navigation at Saul Junction.

South of the village of Saul, the canal passes the churchyard of Frampton-on-Severn and shortly afterwards Shepherd's Patch and the site of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge. Next is Purton, a village on the east bank of the River Severn, three miles north of Berkeley. It lies opposite another Purton, a hamlet on the *west* bank. The name Purton derives from the Old English *pirige tun*, meaning "pear orchard". There was a ford across the river here. A ferry crossed the river between the Purtons by 1282. The ferry, known as Purton Passage, continued in use until 1879, when it was replaced by the Severn Railway Bridge.

This bridge was built by the Severn Bridge Railway Company in the 1870s to facilitate the transport of coal from the Forest of Dean on the Severn and Wye Railway. Work began in 1875 and was completed in 1879. It was constructed of wrought iron, was 4,162 feet long

and 70 feet above high water, had 22 spans and had stone abutments made from local limestone. The span across the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal operated as a swing bridge. The bridge predated the construction of the Severn Tunnel, a dozen miles or so downstream, by seven years. It carried a single track and it was used to take approximately 30 miles off the journey from Bristol via Gloucester to Cardiff,



when the Severn Tunnel was later closed for engineering work.



A 1946 Ordnance Survey map showing the bridge and branch line.

In 1943 a flight of three Spitfires was being delivered by ATA pilots, including one woman, Ann Wood, from their Castle Bromwich factory to Whitchurch, Bristol. As it was low tide, the lead pilot, Johnnie Jordan, flew under the bridge. Sometime later, Ann Wood repeated this underflight - without realising that this time it was high tide and there was 30 ft less headroom! This was not the only instance of pilots buzzing the bridge; it was seemingly so common at one time that a local policeman was tasked with recording serial numbers.

On 25 October 1960, in thick fog and a strong tide, two barges, the Arkendale H and Wastdale H, - which had overshot Sharpness Dock - collided with one of the

columns of the bridge after being carried upstream. Two spans of the 22-span steel and cast-iron bridge collapsed into the river. Parts of the structure hit the barges, causing the fuel oil and petroleum they were carrying to catch fire. Five people died in the incident.

The Western Region of British Railways planned to reconstruct the bridge but after further damage in February 1961, when another span collapsed, it was deemed to be beyond economic repair. Demolition began in 1967 and took until 1970, although evidence of several

of the piers remains. Some piers are mere foundations and only visible at low tide, as are the wrecks of the petrol barges. Most notable is, between the canal and river, a large circular pier that formed the base of the swinging section. The canal joins the River Severn at Sharpness.

I heard a story that one day Sharpness Docks were expecting one ship — and three turned up. It transpired that the other two were supposed to be going to Sheemess, about 575 miles away by sea! I guess there was a subsequent loss of seniority!



Remaining tower of the swing section over the canal

John Morton

Ramadan

In the January edition I included an article about Hanukkah, which occurred close to Christmas. The Islamic month of Ramadan occurs close to the copy date for this edition, so I asked if a Moslem among us would write an article about it. Sadly, I have not received one, so I have produced an edited version of what is written in Wikipedia.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (*sawm*), prayer, reflection and community. A commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation, the annual observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next.

Fasting from sunrise to sunset is *fard* (obligatory) for all adult Muslims who are not acutely or chronically ill, travelling, elderly, breastfeeding, diabetic or menstruating. Although *fatwas* have been issued declaring that Muslims who live in regions with a midnight sun or polar night should follow the timetable of Mecca, it is common practice to follow the timetable of the closest country in which night can be distinguished from day.

The spiritual rewards (*thawab*) of fasting are believed to be multiplied during Ramadan. Accordingly, Muslims refrain not only from food and drink, but also tobacco products, sexual relations, and sinful behaviour, devoting themselves instead to *salat* (prayer) and recitation of the Quran.

Muslims hold that all scripture was revealed during Ramadan, the scrolls of Abraham, Torah, Psalms, Gospel, and Quran having been handed down on the first, sixth, twelfth, thirteenth (in some sources, eighteenth) and twenty-fourth Ramadans, respectively. Muhammed is said to have received his first quranic revelation on *Laylat al-Qadr*, considered the holiest night of the year, one of five odd-numbered nights that fall during the last ten days of Ramadan.

The first and last dates of Ramadan are determined by the lunar Islamic calendar.

The holiday of *Eid al-Fitr*, which marks the end of Ramadan and the beginning of *Shawwal*, the next lunar month, is declared after a crescent new moon has been sighted or after completion of thirty days of fasting, if no sighting of the Moon is possible. *Eid* celebrates the return to a more natural disposition (*fitra*) of eating, drinking, and marital intimacy.

The common practice is to fast from dawn to sunset.

Muslims devote more time to prayer and acts of charity.

Social gatherings, many times in buffet style, are frequent at *iftar*. Traditional dishes are often highlighted, including traditional desserts, particularly those made only during Ramadan. Water is usually the beverage of choice, but juice and milk are also often available, as are soft drinks and caffeinated beverages.

Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and heightened devotion and worship. Muslims are expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam. In addition to abstaining from eating and drinking during this time, Muslims abstain from sexual relations¹ and sinful speech and behaviour during Ramadan fasting or month. The act of fasting is said to redirect the heart away from worldly activities, its purpose being to cleanse the soul by freeing it from harmful impurities. Muslims believe that Ramadan teaches them to practise self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate, thus encouraging actions of generosity and compulsory charity (*zakat*).

Muslims also believe that, for the poor people who don't have enough food, they should fast so that the poor can get food to eat. This would also make them realise how the poor feel when they remain hungry. The aim of fasting now seems to be being compassionate towards the poor people.

Exemptions to fasting include travel, menstruation, severe illness, pregnancy, and breastfeeding. However, many Muslims with medical conditions insist on fasting to satisfy their spiritual Azim Azimzac needs, although it is not recommended by hadith the poor polytradition. Those unable to fast are obligated to make up the missed days later.



Azim Azimzade. Ramadan of the poor people. 1938



Iftar at Sultan Ahmed Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey

Each day, before dawn, Muslims observe a pre-fast meal called the *suhoor*. After stopping a short time before dawn, Muslims begin the first prayer of the day, *Fajr*.

At sunset, families break the fast with the *iftar*, traditionally opening the meal by eating dates to commemorate Muhammad's practice of breaking the fast with three dates. They then adjourn for *Maghrib*, the fourth of the five required daily prayers, after which the main meal is served.

In the Middle East, *iftar* consists of water, juices, dates, salads and appetizers, one or more main dishes and rich desserts, with dessert considered the most important aspect of the meal. Typical main dishes include lamb stewed with wheat berries, lamb kebabs with grilled vegetables, and roasted chicken served with chickpea-studded rice pilaf.



Over time, the practice of *iftar* has involved into banquets that may accommodate hundreds or even thousands of diners. The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, the largest mosque in the UAE, feeds up to thirty thousand people every night. Some twelve thousand people attend *iftar* at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad [Iran].



Iftar serving for fasting people in the Imam Reza shrine

Zakāt, often translated as "the poor-rate", is the fixed percentage of income a believer is required to give to the poor; the practice is obligatory as one of the pillars of Islam. Muslims believe that good deeds are rewarded more handsomely during Ramadan than at any other time of the year; consequently, many donate a larger portion — or even all — of their yearly zakāt during this month.

Tarawih are extra nightly prayers performed during the month of Ramadan. Contrary to popular belief, they are not compulsory.

Muslims are encouraged to read the entire Quran, which comprises thirty *juz'* (sections), over the thirty days of Ramadan. Some Muslims incorporate a recitation of one *juz'* into each of the thirty *tarawih* sessions observed during the month.

In some Islamic countries, lights are strung up in public squares and across city streets, a tradition believed to have originated during the Fatimid Caliphate, where the rule of Caliph al-Mu'izz li-Din Allah was acclaimed by people holding lanterns

In some Muslim countries, eating in public during daylight hours in Ramadan is a crime. The sale of alcohol becomes prohibited during Ramadan in Egypt. The penalty for publicly eating, drinking or smoking during Ramadan can result in fines and/or incarceration in the countries of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Malaysia. In the United Arab Emirates, the punishment is community service.



In some countries, the observance of Ramadan has been restricted. In the USSR, the practice of Ramadan was suppressed by officials. In Albania, Ramadan festivities were banned during the communist period. However, many Albanians continued to fast secretly during this period. China is widely reported to have banned Ramadan fasting since 2012 in Xinjiang. Those caught fasting by the government could be sent to a "re-education camp".

Some countries impose modified work schedules. In the UAE, employees may work no more than six hours per day and thirty-six hours per week. Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait have similar laws.

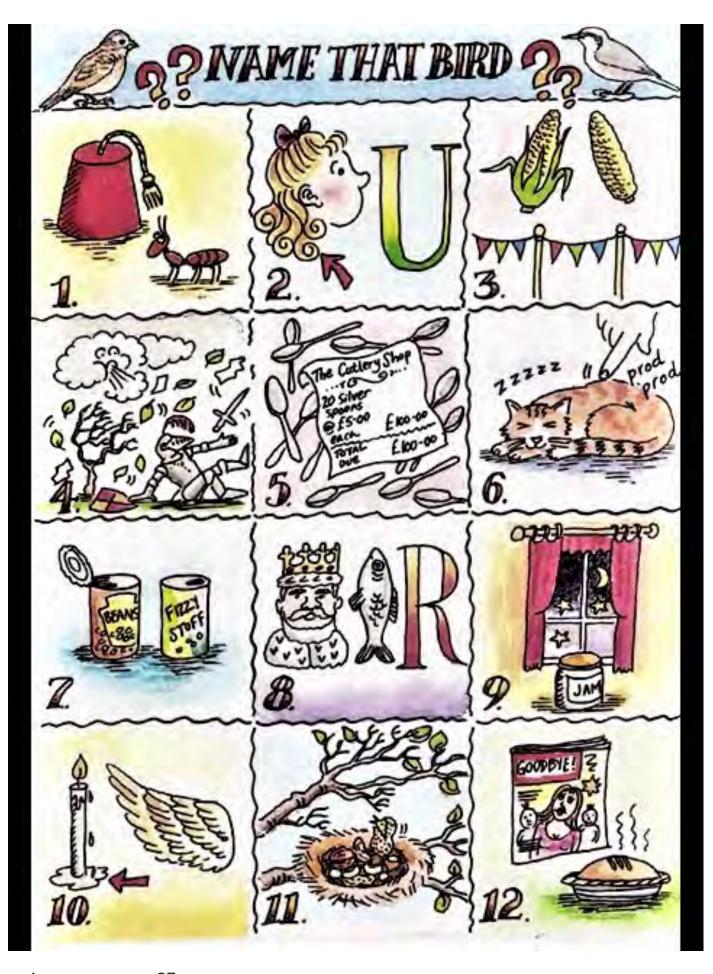
Ramadan fasting is safe for healthy people provided that overall food and water intake is adequate but those with medical conditions should seek medical advice if they encounter health problems before or during fasting.

The education departments of Berlin and the United Kingdom have tried to discourage students from fasting during Ramadan, as they claim that not eating or drinking can lead to concentration problems and bad grades.

Muslim astronauts in space schedule religious practices around the time zone of their last location on Earth. For example, this means an astronaut from Malaysia launching from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida would centre their fast according to sunrise and sunset in Eastern Standard Time. This includes times for daily prayers, as well as sunset and sunrise for Ramadan.



John Morton



Answers on page 27.

Mini Pioneering Kits

Scout Store are offering these kits—ideal training aids



Pyramid £15



Stilt tower £8



Road Bridge £14

Know your County (page 16) - Answers

- 1. Intersection of latitude and longitude lines.
- 2. Windpump.
- 3. Snowstorm Gorse.
- 4. 107 metres.
- 5. Macaroni Wood.
- 6. Sheephouse Farm.
- 7. Hammersmith Bottom.
- 8. Beer Furlong Buildings
- 9. Tiltup.
- 10. Williamstrip Park.

Name that Bird (p. 25) - Answers

- 1. Pheasant
- 2. Curlew
- 3. Corn bunting
- 4. Nightingale
- 5. Spoonbill
- 6. Kittiwake
- 7. Toucan
- 8. Kingfisher
- 9. Nightjar
- 10. Waxwing
- 11. Nuthatch
- 12. Magpie

gscouts

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