Scouts
High Peak

Squirrels

Programme Newsletter November 2026



Hello!

Spooky season has come to an end and the sound of sleighbells is drawing ever nearer, but before then, the Autumn events continue with Bonfire Night, Remembrance, and Diwali.

Last month we joined the District JOTA event, with five of our Squirrels learning all about different countries, cultures, and how we can communicate.

Happy reading!

Activity Badge Focus

Let's Celebrate



Let's Celebrate lets Squirrels find out about exciting festivals and traditions from different cultures. The badge requirements are:

1) Sing a song, do a dance, or play a game from a different culture.
2) Find out about some new festivals or celebrations by reading or listening to a story together.
3) Take part in a festival or celebration from a different culture.

To complete requirement 1, you could have a go at aboriginal Bangarra dancing, learn another country's national anthem, or get competitive with a game of Scandinavian Kubb.

Have a chat about any festivals or traditions people in your Drey celebrate, before discovering the Hindu Festival of Light, Diwali, with the story Lighting a Lamp by Jonny Zucker. Alternatively, you could make your own Menorah candles followed by a relay to find out about the Jewish festival, Hanukkah. You can find a link to the session on the Scouts website here.

Finally, get creative by designing your own Rangoli art, or making Diya lamps with air-drying clay.

Challenge Award Focus

All Around Us



All Around Us looks at how we can learn about, and make a difference in, our local communities and wider global community.

Requirement four focuses on international Scouting and learning about different countries which can easily be tied into your festival celebrations. With Diwali on November 8th, you could discover what Hindus do to celebrate while finding out about Nepal, which has a thriving Scout movement!

Staged Activity Badge Focus

Community Impact

This badge looks at how we can help other people; whether that be locally, nationally, or internationally. The requirements are:

1) Investigate what issues and challenges exist in your chosen community.
2) Decide what issues your Drey should take action on and what you want to change.
3) Take action over three months.
4) Discuss what you've learned and how you've helped people
5) Tell others.

Start off with a brainstorm, and see what you'd like to do with your Drey. You might choose to support a charity or become kindness champions.

You can take your action in small chunks over the three months with various different sessions. If you were helping the environment, for example, you could make simple bird boxes in one sessions followed by toilet roll bird feeders a couple of weeks later.

To wrap it up, find your creative flair and design some posters for your hut to spread the news of what you've done!

District Squirrel Meeting

Just a reminder that our District Squirrel Meeting will be on Thursday 5th November at 7:30 online. This will give us the chance to catch up with all the "goings on" in your Drey and share news about upcoming events. Links have been emailed out – if you can't find it, send an email to squirrels@highpeakscouting.org.uk.





JOTA 2026

Event Reflection

We had a great day joining in with the JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) celebrations earlier in October with callsign GB6JOTA!

In the session, the Squirrels got stuck in with various international and communication themed activities. From flags to morse code, and amateur radio to international foods, there were many opportunities to discover the worlds of culture and conversation.

This was the first time we've ever run an event for JOTA, and it was incredibly successful so will definitely be run again in future years!

A massive thank you goes to all the leaders and young leaders who helped deliver the sessions, with a special mention going to Tom and Adrian who kindly volunteered to run the radio side of things.



^ Click here for the event video ^





1st Hayfield Drey: Apple Day 2026

News

What a day! On 10th October, 1st Hayfield Scouts joined forces with the Sett Valley Explorers for a brilliant day of fun and fundraising at Apple Day.

Despite the great British weather throwing everything at us—including heavy rain, broken tents, and winds so strong that a lot of the other vendors had to move inside—we braved the elements! We saved our fire with sheer determination and kept the outdoor spirit alive.

A massive thank you to everyone who stopped by and supported us and to Sustainable Hayfield for organising . Whether you toasted a marshmallow, made a gooey s'more, had a go on the tombola, battled it out in the apple peeling competition, or successfully pinned the grub on the giant apple—we are incredibly grateful! We all had absolutely loads of fun, and we really hope you did too.

We are already looking forward to doing it all over again.









The Princess And The Frog

Local Event



Buxton Opera House's Christmas family show is the Princess and the Frog this year. It runs from Saturday 12th December through to Wednesday 23rd December. While it's not something we attend as a District, it's a fantastic show that's perfect for Squirrels.

A link for dates and ticket information is here: https://buxtonoperahouse.org.uk/events/the-princess-and-the-frog-2026/

Please Note:

The show is being toured round various local schools so some young people may have already seen it. These are the schools they are visiting, though it's not known which year groups will be watching it. These are the local schools being visited:

- Harpur Hill Primary School
- New Mills Primary School
- Whaley Bridge
- Fairfield Infants
- Burbage Primary
- Furness Vale primary
- Buxton Junior School

Buxton Opera House Pantomime

Upcoming Event

Scouts
High Peak

BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
& PAVILION ARTS CENTRE

Friday 4th December 2026
Starts 6pm

Buxton Opera House presents Sleeping Beauty - a magical pantomime adventure! For all local Scout & Guide Association members, including parents and family.

Cost - £16.50 each (whether child, leader or parent), and one free place for every 10 places booked.

Organisers can book either as a whole group or individual sections.

To book phone box office on 01298 72190 and quote *"Scout 26"* from the 1st of June. All tickets must be booked through a Scout or Guide group. No deposit required.

Seats can be reserved but must be paid in full by the 1st of November. All groups to complete their own risk assessments for the evening.

Note this year all attendees must enter the Opera House with their own printed ticket, so organisers are advised to obtain these from box office well before the event for distribution.

For more information phone Andrew Howe on 07974 012 774.



Celebration and Awareness Days

November and December

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						November 1
2	3 National Sandwich Day	4	5 Bonfire Night	6	7	8 Remembrance Sunday Diwali
9	10	11	12	13 BBC Children In Need	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 St Andrew's Day	**December** 1	2	3	4 Hanukkah Starts Wildlife Conservation Day	5	6
7	8	9	10 Christmas Jumper Day	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Winter Walk Week	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31			

National Sandwich Day (3rd November)

Wash your hands, roll up your sleeves and make your favourite sandwich!

Bonfire Night (5th November)

Speak to your group and see if they're doing anything to celebrate. If not, you could visit a local bonfire as a Drey! Get creative in your session and create a scratch art firework display.

Remembrance Sunday (8th November)

Join the rest of your group at your local Remebrance Service. In the week prior, learn about what Remembrance is and why it's important.

Diwali (8th November)

There'll be more information about Diwali in next month's newsletter when we focus on the 'Let's Celebrate' badge, but to give you some ideas, you could try Rangoli art or create your own diya lamps.

BBC Children In Need (8th November)

Colour in your very own Pudsey (sheets here) and play 'Pudsey Says'. (Instructions here, action cards here)

St Andrew's Day (30th November)

Join the celebrations by drawing your own Scottish flag, listen to traditional Scottish music, and have a go at ceilidh dancing.

Hanukkah (4th – 12th December)

Discover the Jewish festival and work toward the Let's Celbrate activity badge.

Wildlife Conservation Day (4th December)

Find out about various endanegred animals around the world and how we can look after them. You could create animal masks, build a shoebox habitat, and decide what your Drey could do to help.

Christmas Jumper Day (10th December)

Don your favourite festive jumper and spread the Christmas spirit!

Winter Walk Week (21st – 27th December)

Take a local walk to see the Christmas decorations in your area.

Christmas Day (25th November)

Discover the Christmas story then bake some Winter goodies. You could try preparing mince pies, gingerbread biscuits, or reindeer cakes!



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