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WHEATHAMPSTEAD**

**75<sup>th</sup>**

**2025 GANG  
SHOW**

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# **WELCOME** *from our Committee Chair*



It's always amazing how quickly Gang Show comes round each year - and even more amazing that we are celebrating our 75th Show. What an incredible achievement - and we have to say a huge thank you to every Gang member and every helper who has been involved in those 75 years.

Someone who has been involved a little longer than most is our Show Director, Ewan Murray. After an incredible 53 years of being either in the Gang or working with the Gang, Ewan has decided to pass on his baton and hand over production to his successors. We are incredibly grateful to Ewan for his unwavering commitment and dedication to Gang Show.



He has brought the sunshine to many hundreds of young people and allowed them to make friends and memories to last a lifetime. On behalf of all the Gang members and parents who have worked with Ewan, I would like to say an enormous thank you. You'll be missed by many - but I know you already have Christmas plans for 2025!

Thank you for giving so many 'the best years of our lives'.

**Colette Eagles**

*The Gang Show is based on an original idea by the late Ralph Reader CBE.*





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# 75<sup>th</sup> Gang Show

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# INTRODUCTION

## *from our District Lead Volunteer*



As you sit here today watching another wonderful Show, I hope that you think for a moment about all the other opportunities that Scouting offers the young people of Harpenden, Wheathampstead and Kimpton. Please take a look at some of the photographs in the District Review in the second half of the programme - these show just a small proportion of what is going on every day of every week across the District.

You may see some of today's performers cooking, navigating through the hills, or building a raft - developing skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. None of this could happen without all of our wonderful volunteers. But, we are always looking for people to join our teams ... if you want to be a part of it, get in touch. If you are not sure, take the four-week challenge and try it out. Interested? Email us at [dlv@harpendscouts.org.uk](mailto:dlv@harpendscouts.org.uk).

**Russ Brooks**





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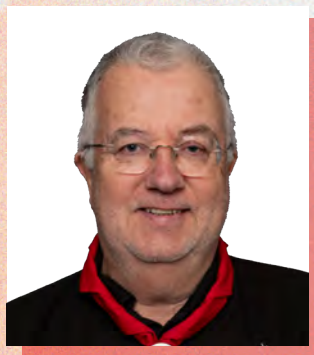


# WELCOME AND FAREWELL

## *from our Show Director*

We're celebrating our 75th Gang Show. In our 23rd Show a Cub took to the stage dressed as a pirate. This week he makes his final curtain call after 37 years as Musical Director and 32 years as Show Director.

It has been a wonderful journey crammed with memories, but especially crammed with amazing people – not only those in backstage support, but also the reason why we do it: the Gang on stage! I have either shared the stage with or waved a stick at 2,751 different young people since Gang Show 23 in 1972.



I am delighted that Becca and Graham are taking over as Show Director and Musical Director for our 'annual miracle'. I inherited a great Show from Marilyn Hudson back in 1993 and, while we've changed many things, the spirit and feel are just the same and I know Becca is also inheriting a great Show. Thank you to everyone who makes this Show what it is.

To quote the late, great Ralph Reader CBE, the founder of Gang Show: "These are the times we shall dream about and we'll call them the good old days."

**Ewan Murray**







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# REHEARSALS

















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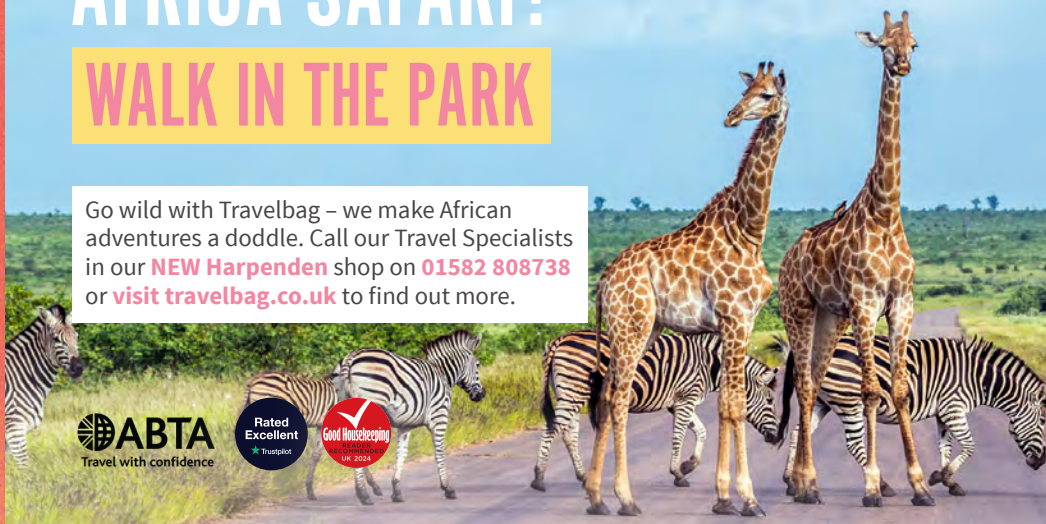
## AFRICA SAFARI?

### WALK IN THE PARK

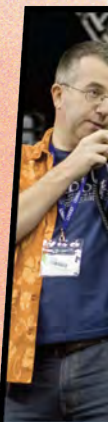


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# THE BIG INTERVIEW

*Russell Husbands and Robin Hilton*

- VOCAL COACHES AND SKETCH DIRECTORS

## What do you do in Gang Show?

---

**Russell:** We are in the Creative Team (see page 19) so from February we help the team to put the Show together. From September until the Show, we rehearse soloists and sketch performers.

**Robin:** We concentrate on polishing the performances of the soloists and actors and on giving them confidence. We are endlessly positive and boost confidence with helpful feedback.



## What is your stage experience?

---

**Robin:** I was in church choirs from a young age, then at university I sang in Gilbert & Sullivan shows and was in a very active barber shop choir.

**Russell:** I've always loved singing and played in a school brass ensemble, so I got a feel for making music and was in Gang Show from 1982 until 1991. I played guitar in the Gang Show orchestra and still play in a band performing at parties and pubs (with Jeremy, our Technical Director, on drums).

## Why did you get involved in Gang Show?

---

**Russell:** I was invited to sing in the 70th Gang Show which reignited my interest so I came in as vocal coach and sketch director for the 73rd Gang Show. It's a buzz to be part of it again because I loved being in it.

**Robin:** I've been involved as a vocal coach since the 68th Show. I just like being involved even though my children are no longer on stage.





## What are the challenges?

---

**Robin:** Sketches can be challenging because it's only when the performers are in front of an audience that the jokes make sense and get a real reaction. We tell the young people what is going to be funny during rehearsals, but it really only comes together on the first night.

**Russell:** We try to help them turn their raw enthusiasm into fantastic performances, which is great fun! Often a performer is nervous, so we try to teach them to take that energy and "surf the nerves". Nerves are useful and keep performances energetic.

**Robin:** We don't have official understudies, so if someone falls ill during Show week, we have to know who will be able to step in quickly!

## Do people get nervous?

---

**Russell:** Some do. Being on stage is so different to rehearsing – it's very different singing with a live band, the acoustics alter, some of the musical cues sound different and you can feel the warmth of the audience. The singer has to manage all of that. And some of the songs are technically hard!



## What's the best bit about being involved?

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**Russell:** We try to give performers a feel for what they look like to the audience – to attempt to see themselves as others do. This self-awareness is good for making someone feel more confident on stage.

**Robin:** Performing in Gang Shows gives you life skills – many people have to give presentations at work, and performing helps to give you confidence to be brave despite having nerves.

## And finally, what is your preferred biscuit for rehearsals?

---

**Russell:** I don't eat biscuits at rehearsals – crumbs are the singer's enemy.



# FINALE SONGS

## *On the Crest of a Wave*

We're riding along on the crest of a wave  
And the sun is in the sky  
All our eyes on the distant horizon;  
Look out for passers-by.  
We'll do the hailing,  
When other ships are round us sailing  
We're riding along on the crest of a wave  
And the world is ours.



## *Together*

Together, when we're all together  
We know how lucky we are.  
The world around us is everything  
The sound of music, the songs we sing  
And even from the coldest winter  
The warmest summer arrives.  
We share together, when we're together  
The best years of our lives.



Thank you to the Scout Association for permission to reproduce  
the words to Ralph Reader's famous songs.



## THE CREATIVE TEAM



*Ewan*



*Becca*



*Jemma*



*Fiona*



*Jeremy*



*Charlie*



*Emma*



*Kat*



*Robin*



*Wendy*



*Russell*

## THE WARDROBE TEAM



*Kathy*



*Jane*



# BEHIND THE SCENES

<b>Show and Musical Director</b>	Ewan Murray
<b>Creative Director</b>	Becca Urwin
<b>Deputy Director</b>	Fiona McCarthy
<b>Technical Director</b>	Jeremy Finch
<b>Production Manager</b>	Jemma Finch
<b>Choreography</b>	Charlie Morgan, Wendy Bideau, Emma Rose
<b>Head of Wardrobe</b>	Kathy Hilton
<b>Production Assistants</b>	Matt Hubbard, Thomas Dadswell
<b>‘Heads or tails’ (Mini Gang) Written and directed by</b>	Kat Foster-Jenkins
<b>Assisted by</b>	Carol Arnsby, Felicity Cripps, Sarah Cripps, Charlie Morgan, Gabby Upton
<b>Wardrobe</b>	Jane Todd
<b>Vocal Coaches and Sketch Directors</b>	Russell Husbands, Robin Hilton
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Georgina Eagles
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	James McCarthy
<b>Set Design</b>	David Keen, Siân Denton
<b>Stage Hands and Scenery Crew</b>	Lydia Denny, Nicola Denny, Siân Denton, Pete Desborough, David Keen, Rebecca Keen, Sam Keen, Thomas Lewis, Sue Mann, Trevor Miller, Nick Urwin, Marianne Wheeler, Kit Yardley
<b>Set Dressing and Properties</b>	Richard Aldridge, Mike Dent, Stuart Jack, Liz Jack, Steve McCarthy
<b>Show Assistants</b>	Jackie Agg, Mark Denton, Andrew Dadswell, Alan Grace, Yvette Husbands, Rachel Keen, Nicky Lewis, Steve McCarthy, Richard Horne, Chris Tickler, Jan Yardley
<b>Call Boy</b>	Andy Barford
<b>Lighting</b>	Eric Morecambe Centre staff
<b>Follow Spot Operators</b>	Mike Desborough, Jon Greenwood, Ross Wilcox
<b>Audio Visual</b>	Jeremy Finch, Mark Hubbard
<b>Radio Mics</b>	Thomas Dadswell, Matt Hubbard, Jemima Martin



<b>Wardrobe</b>	Mylene Fourie, Jane Todd Rania Aidley, Ruth Akehurst, Liz Barringer, Elaine Brind, Katie Coxon, Sophie Crompton, Liz Davie, Lucy Eldridge, Cath Evans, Helen Frost, Alice Hilton, Beryl Jeffs, Debbie Lyon, Nicola Martin, Margaret Melville, Jen McGrandle, Karen Renren, Jos Sharp, Marta Serra Catasus, Ele Stevens, Jane Walter, Pamela Whitehead, Tania York
<b>Music Arranger</b>	Chris Pettitt
<b>Rehearsal Accompanist</b>	Graham Thomson
<b>The Band</b>	Reeds – Sue Pettitt, Chris Pettitt Trumpet – Simon Router Trombone – Adrian Jarvis Keyboard – Graham Thomson Guitar – Kester Tunstall Bass – Gareth Covey-Crump Drums – Les Arnold Guest Vocals – Freya Barker
<b>Make Up</b>	Emmanuelle Bentley-Sanders and parents
<b>Front of House</b>	Peter Wheeler assisted by Scouts and leaders from Harpenden and Wheathampstead District
<b>Website and Media</b>	Chris Tickler
<b>Box Office</b>	Peter Wheeler
<b>Programme Editors</b>	Siân Denton, Julie Brooks, Claire Petevinos
<b>District Review Editor</b>	Alison Totty
<b>Programme Design</b>	Han Print Designs <a href="http://www.hanprint.myportfolio.com">www.hanprint.myportfolio.com</a>
<b>Programme Printing</b>	Platinum Press Ltd <i>Richard Langeveld</i> <a href="mailto:rjl@platinumpresslimited.co.uk">rjl@platinumpresslimited.co.uk</a>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	Neil Liles
<b>Business Committee</b>	Chair and Duty Manager – Colette Eagles Secretary – Lesley Wallace Treasurer – Catherine Birkett
<b>Photography</b>	Richard Washbrooke Photography <a href="http://www.richardwashbrooke.com">www.richardwashbrooke.com</a>
<b>Filming of the Show</b>	Galaxy Video (see page 46 for ordering details)
<b>Special Thanks</b>	Entertainment Effects, Hertfordshire Music Service, PK Roberts



# THE SHOW



## *Act 1*

1. **Light the Fuse**
2. **Don't Stop Interrupting**
3. **Heads and Tails**
4. **Trivial Pursuit**
5. **Brain Power**
6. **Howzat!?**

## *Act 2*

7. **Green Fingers**
8. **Honey, I Shrunk the Scouts**
9. **Footloose**
10. **Tutors 'R' Us**
11. **Arriba con la Samba**
12. **Bugle Boy**
13. **Together**





# THE GANG'S ALL HERE!

## SENIOR GANG

Raf Baralt  
Sam Barber  
Tom Baudot  
Charlotte Black  
James Bonner  
Maxton Brewer  
Isobel Bright  
Adam Brooks  
Ella Burridge  
Mikaela de Klerk  
Jonah de Silva  
John Dent  
Lauren Dent  
Isla Dixon  
George Downes  
Charlotte Dytham  
James Evans  
Ellie Finch  
Jonah Giles  
Ollie Grace  
Bea Grant  
Anesu Harkema  
Charlotte Hesselink  
James Jewell  
Matilda Johnson  
Ralph Jones  
Sammy Lewis  
Nina Mahendra  
Max McCarthy  
Isabel Mellor  
Owen Mellor  
Daisy Musgrave  
Chloe Petevinos  
Zoe Robertson  
Immy Rule  
Bobby Shaughnessy  
Alex Shaw  
Beth Sims  
Margot Speirs  
Edward Strohm  
Alex Taylor-Rose  
Ben Taylor-Rose  
Bella Thorpe  
Noa Vicente Serra  
Sam Walker  
Eddie Watson  
Peggy Watson  
Charlie West  
Charlotte Westlake

Callum Whelan  
Elise Wilson  
Oscar York

## JUNIOR GANG

Abigail Ahmed  
Zoe Aidley  
Charlie Allen  
George Allen  
Robbie Andrews  
Alice Bright  
Lilia Brooker  
Sophie Bunbury  
Maya Clift  
Max Corley  
Arianna Costa  
James Crisford  
Rachel de Klerk  
Rose Dickens  
Charlie Elderton  
Sam Elderton  
Tyler Ellis  
Annie Finch  
Joe Finch  
Willow Grayson  
George Greening  
Heidi Griffith  
Stephanie Helps  
Ethan Hibbert  
Oliver Hibbert  
Heather Hilton  
Natalie Hope Robertson  
Amelia Jaggard  
Hugo Jones  
Zach Jones  
Benji Lewis  
Jay Lin  
Linus Mak  
Lucas Maxwell  
Kit McGrandle  
Isla Meakes  
Isla Monks  
Oliver Pacifico  
Eleanor Pagan  
Ella Potton  
Kirsty Poynter-Smith  
Rory Reynolds  
Lily Robson  
Adam Sims

Adam Smith  
Cecile Smith  
Emily Tang  
Annie Taylor  
Leo Trefusis  
Blanca Vicente Serra  
Luke Vos  
Electra Webb  
Will Westlake  
Owen Wren  
Eda York

## MINI GANG

Olivia Adejuwon  
Imogen Akehurst  
Emily Atkinson  
Zac Baralt  
Amber Bingham  
Thomas Blakeway  
Dillon Box  
Gus Burnett  
Harry Dona-Paz  
Sam Ellison  
Coco Findlay  
Saga Greenbank  
Barnaby Greening  
Charlie Guy  
George Guy  
Billy Harding  
Alex Helps  
Ben Hibbert  
Hugh Jenkins  
Anna Jones  
Finn Lewis  
Ralph Maddison  
Logan McWilliams  
Oswald Nicholson  
Ariadna Palau Berneaga  
George Porter  
Aria Grayson Pritchard  
James Shaughnessy  
Freya Simms  
Noah Tang  
Ned Vaughan  
Henryk Westgate  
Olivia Westlake  
Leo Wilson



# THE GANG OF 2025









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# MEMORIES OF 2024













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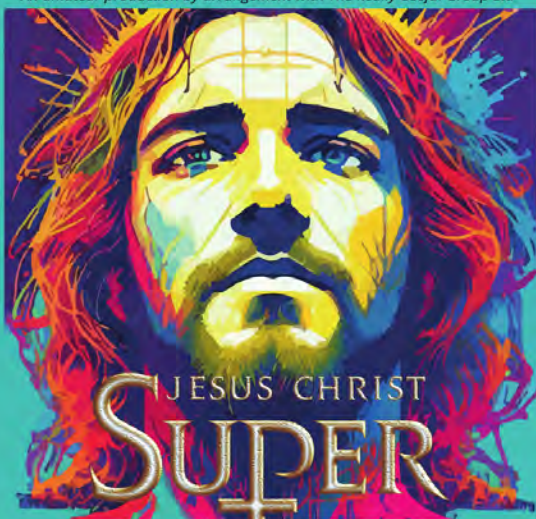
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A proportion of our Box Office receipts is donated to a charity close to the Gang's hearts. This year, Gang Show is proud to support Herts Young Homeless (hyh), a local charity that has been supporting young people at risk of homelessness across the county for 26 years.

These young people feel isolated, fearful and deeply worried about their futures before they access the support, but once they do, hyh is able to help many of them to a brighter future. The charity's vision is for every young person to have a more secure future – centred around a safe home from which they can grow and thrive.

hyh needs to raise £550,000 a year to continue to provide vital services to support families and young people, to break the cycle of youth homelessness. To find out more, go to ***hyh.org.uk***

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**Wishing cast and crew the best of luck  
with the 75th Harpenden Gang Show**





# District Review 2024



Harpenden and Wheathampstead District





## Fact Sheet

- Beavers are aged 6 - 8
- Beavers wear a turquoise sweater and their Group scarf
- Beaver Groups are called Colonies
- Around 280 Beavers in the District

## Highlights of our year across the District

Beavers have had a busy year participating in a number of activities from Urban Adventures at Elephant Springs, London to Star Wars sleepovers! They have completed lots of badges including experiments, hiking and nights away. Beavers have also enjoyed Gilwell Park fun days and District Beaver Skill Days as well as learning to light candles, tie knots and make woggles.











## Fact sheet

- Cubs are aged 8 - 10½
- Cubs wear a green sweatshirt with their Group scarf
- Cub Packs are organised into groups called Sixes with each named after a colour
- Around 330 Cubs in the District

## Highlights of our year across the District

Cubs spent time camping with themes such as the Olympics and Ancient Greece. They also attended the Activity Extravaganza at Phasels Wood. They have enjoyed fire lighting, scavenger hunts, shelter building, rafting, paddle boarding, pond dipping and cycle rides as well as trips to St Albans Cathedral and an observatory. They have cleared paths for St Nicholas' Church and attended water activity days at Luton Hoo. Cubs have visited Sainsbury's for their money badge, collected donations for local food banks, filled boxes for the Rotary shoebox scheme and helped at the 40th Christmas card delivery service.



## Fact sheet

- Scouts are aged 10½ - 14
- Scouts wear a teal green shirt, navy blue activity trousers, a Group scarf with a woggle, and a Scout belt
- A Scout Troop is usually organised into small groups called Patrols, each headed up by an older Scout called a Patrol Leader
- Around 370 Scouts in the District

## Highlights of our year across the District

Scouts have been very busy. They have had cycling and watersport camps, a Fire and Ice Camp at Tolmers and summer camps from Lymington to Chesterfield. They have completed the Challenge Expedition, taken part in Green Beret and attended the Essex International Jamboree. Scouts have taken part in the Monopoly Run, climbed the O2 and raised money for the King's Pantry Foodbank. They have also learnt lots of new skills including rafting, orienteering, cooking, climbing and axe work.











## Fact sheet

- Explorers are aged 14 - 18
- Explorers wear a light brown shirt, navy activity trousers and a Unit scarf
- Explorers continue to enjoy being outdoors, and developing their life skills through new activities, but are involved much more in planning their own evening activities
- Around 160 Explorers in the District

## Highlights from our year across the District

The Explorer groups in the District all took part in a Summer Camp at Lochearnhead, Scotland. Over 80 Explorers enjoyed hill walking, paddle boarding, canyoning and showed excellent kitchen and customer service skills when each group became the "duty team" for 24 hours. The groups have also walked Snowdonia, taken part in (and won!) Peak Assault, Southern 50 and Dragnet Cumbria. They have performed at the Old Time Music Hall, cooked, tried their hand at water sports and honed their bushcraft skills.

# Cubs Delivering Christmas Cards for 40 Years!



Harpenden Town Mayor Fiona Gaskell, Councillors Eileen Washington and Gill Haynes, MP Bim Afolami, Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, now our MP, Victoria Collins, church leaders and our District and County Lead Volunteers joined Cubs from every Harpenden Pack for their 40th free Christmas card delivery service for the town's older citizens. 3,993 cards collected from post-boxes in churches and care homes, or collected direct by the Cubs, were sorted at the Crabtree Fields HQ on Saturday 16th December 2023 and delivered on the Sunday. A magnificent anniversary cake was cut by senior citizen Dorothea Elliott.





A special badge was awarded to the participants, and the designers of the badge, Linus Mak (2nd Harpenden) and Olivia Westlake (12th Harpenden) were presented with a framed certificate incorporating the badge. Over its 40 years, the service has saved users more than £100,000 at today's prices. More importantly though, our older residents appreciate the younger ones doing something useful for them – and the Cubs love being posties for the day.





You don't need to be Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields, to become a volunteer. Our door is open to people of all ages, genders, races and backgrounds and we're only able to change lives because people like you lend a hand.

We're talking about tea makers, tidy-uppers, skill sharers, minibus drivers and first aiders. We're talking students who want to boost their CVs, and parents who volunteer so they can spend more time together as a family.

Whatever your skillset, lend a hand for as little or as much time as you can spare, and we promise you'll get more out than you put in. The difference you make is always great. We provide the training. You show up, get stuck in, and make memories for life.

As long as you're over 18, you can help out as an adult volunteer in Scouting. There is no upper age limit for adult volunteers. If you are aged between 14 and 18, there is the option of becoming a Young Leader, and if you are aged between 18 and 25 you can be part of Network.

Please contact our District Chairman to find out more.  
Jonathan Finch: [district.chair@harpendscouts.org.uk](mailto:district.chair@harpendscouts.org.uk)



# Adult Awards

A huge thank you to our leaders and adult support who have enabled our young people to have wonderful experiences and develop skills for life. Congratulations to leaders who have been awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service and Award for Merit. Congratulations to those who have been presented with special awards:

## **Chief Scout's 50 years Service Award**

Trevor Miller  
Colin Wells

## **Chief Scout's 30 years Service Award**

Su Brooker  
Andrew Falconer

## **Chief Scout's 25 years Service Award**

Ian MacDougall  
Anne MacDougall

## **Chief Scout's 20 years Service Award**

Sarah Cripps  
Owain Taylor

## **Bar to the Award for Merit**

Carol Arnsby	Jemma Finch	Neil Liles
Helen Brind	Jeremy Finch	Katy Turberville

## **King's Scout Award**

Ben Whiting - Ben is the District's first KSA in 70 years!

## With Thanks

After nearly 10 years of being District Commissioner, Russ Brooks is stepping down. On behalf of everyone in the Harpenden and Wheathampstead District we say a heartfelt thanks to him for everything he has done in that time. He will not be putting his feet up as he is continuing as a leader at HESU Explorers!

# GANG SHOW SHOP

## *Photos, Videos and Merchandise*

Performance images can be viewed on [www.harpenden.gs](http://www.harpenden.gs) (click “about us”, “show photo archive” and scroll down to Show 75 2025). To purchase a USB stick of these images (from which you can print photos at home) and/or the video, visit “Gang Show Shop” on the website and order by 1 March 2025.

Individual portraits can be viewed on [www.richardwashbrooke.com](http://www.richardwashbrooke.com) (click “archive”, “all galleries” and scroll down to Scouting).

If you are a Gang member and loved your individual portrait image, email Richard on [richardwashb@gmail.com](mailto:richardwashb@gmail.com) to get a copy.

Gang Show hoodies and T-shirts can also be ordered on the main website.





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# 75TH GANG SHOW



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