



# Surrey Scouts

## Spring Communication

[surrey-scouts.org.uk/events/operation-last-post](https://surrey-scouts.org.uk/events/operation-last-post)  
[#SkillsForLife](https://twitter.com/SurreyScouts)



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# Foreword

Sidney Lewis, enlisted with the East Surrey Regiment in August 1915, five months after his 12th birthday! After his basic training in the UK, he served in the 106th Machine Gun Company. By the age of 13 he had fought in the battle of Delville Wood, part of the overall battle of the Somme in 1916.

It wasn't long before he was ordered home to his mother, in South London, after she told officials he was too young to fight and should be sent back home.

A telegram, sent from the officer in charge of records at the Machine Gun Corps on 24th of August 1916, where Private Sidney Lewis had been transferred read: "Madam, your application on behalf of your son, and birth certificate, have been forwarded here by the War Office and I have to inform you that action has been taken and the lad will be discharged with all possible speed."

Sidney Lewis's mature appearance may have fooled the recruiting Sergeant when he enlisted, the lad was tall and heavily built for his age, or perhaps the recruiters just turned a convenient 'blind eye'.

Sidney Lewis re-enlisted in 1918 and served with the British forces in the occupation of Austria-Hungary. After the end of the First World War, he joined the Metropolitan Police in Kingston-Upon-Thames, and later served in a bomb disposal unit during the Second World War. He died in 1969.

Private Sidney Lewis would be the youngest ever British soldier to fight in the First World War.



# Spring Communication

## Hello!

We hope you are all well, keeping safe and looking forward to joining us for Operation Last Post.

Since we embarked upon planning this County Camp there have been many world challenges. Some have had an impact on the trip. This Spring 2022 update highlights the key changes that you need to be aware of as well as providing more specific information that we now have. We are all confident that this will be a fully packed memorable experience!

Please read the enclosed details carefully there are actions we need you to complete for your unit:

- Return your Unit's clothing form request by 10th June 2022 – see the 'OLP branded apparel section
- Advertise your Operation Last Post briefing evening to your unit (Either Dorking or Woking)
- Return your Unit Home Contact details by 31st July 2022 – see the 'In-Touch' section
- Issue 'Information sheet for Home Contacts'
- Ensure they have a list of your Units participants and their contact details
- Issue 'Information sheet for Parents/Guardians' to your participants parents/guardians
- Advertise the Last Post at Brookwood Military Cemetery
- Check you have lightweight tents and your unit flag for the trip (you will need flag bearers)

Yours in Scouting

Andy Dolan  
OLP Leader

## Briefing evening

The purpose of the briefing evenings is to give every Scout, Leader, and parent / guardian an insight into why the First World War started, and why in particular we are making this expedition to Ypres. We will also be joined by the Chairperson of the Brookwood Last Post Association who will give background on the deep link between Ypres and Surrey and how we still to this day remember the fallen.

We have arranged two briefing evenings, the first in Dorking and the second in Woking. Our deepest thanks to 5th Dorking and 1st Knaphill for allowing us to use their venues. We've assumed that units will take advantage of the briefing evening closest to their unit's venue. But if you would like to use the alternative date, please let us know. The core team will be on hand to recap on transport, accommodation, activities, and kit required as well as answer any of your questions. The official UK Scout Scarf for the trip will be handed out to participants along with their UK Uniform badge.

## Dorking

- Venue: The Follett Hall at Dorking URC - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZHuoYSAqQk6XNbXm7>, the building is on the right as you enter church driveway
- Parking: West Street car park - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/2vbKAXBmM5wE64DD6>, please note, the Church car park is for blue badge holders only
- Date: 5th July 2022
- Time: 20:00

## Woking

- Venue: 1st Knaphill - <https://goo.gl/maps/J52fdbMZjViXpa9G6>
- Parking: on site
- Date: 22nd July 2022
- Time: 19:30

## Itinerary & Programme

Following recent problems with Channel Crossings our Coach company is currently unable to book a crossing with Euro Tunnel. As a fallback position, this week we secured a crossing with Irish Ferries, between Dover and Calais. Using a Ferry crossing takes a little more time and has a slightly longer drive to Dover, therefore we have a new estimated departure time on **Sunday 28th August 2022 at 05:30** and a new estimated return on **Tuesday 30th August 2022 at 20:30**. We are working hard to minimise the impact of these changes on the program.

## OLP branded apparel

All participants of the Operation Last Post trip will be given (to bring and wear on the trip) a t-shirt, UK scout scarf as well as a Union Jack Uniform badge, to sew on to their uniform. Originally, we had intended to provide a baseball cap style hat to each participant as well however due to cost increases generally in the last few months we have taken the decision to not provide hats for the time being. We hope you are understanding.

## T-Shirts

To order the T-Shirts please complete and email the form at the end of this document. Please check your form carefully. T shirts will be ordered and posted directly to the unit contact on the form from the warehouse. We intend to have the t-shirts with you before the end of the Summer Term for ease of distribution. To achieve this, we must have completed forms back by Friday 10th June to [bookings@operationlastpost.org.uk](mailto:bookings@operationlastpost.org.uk). When you receive your order, please ensure that Operation Last Post T-Shirts are labelled with name and unit as a minimum.

## Scarves and badges

Scarves and badges will be handed out at the information evening latter this term.

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**Scout uniform should be worn on our outbound and return journeys as well as the Last Post Ceremony under the Menin Gate on the Monday night**

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## Kit List

Participant's luggage is restricted to:

- Holdall or rucksack (e.g., 50 - 70 litres) - this will be loaded into the coach hold for the duration of the journey
- Daypack (e.g., 25 litres) to hold items for the journey and for the daily excursions

The coach hold space is limited, and each coach is at passenger capacity. Bags that exceed this allowance may be left behind. All bags will be tagged with OLP identity labels which will be provided at the departure point. As we are camping, light weight good basic camping and suitable walking equipment is key.

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## Please label all bags, clothing, OLP T-shirts, scarves, and medication

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### On person / packed in Day Bag

Passport  
 EHIC/GHIC  
 Proof of Covid vaccination / test certificate  
 Named refillable drinks bottle  
 Pocket money (Euros and GBP)  
 Head torch, with charged batteries  
 Watch  
 Antibacterial hand gel  
 Medication (e.g., for travel sickness etc)  
 Personal First Aid kit (e.g., bug spray, sun cream)

### Footwear

Clean dark trainers or school shoes  
 Spare, clean dark trainers or school shoes

### Outerwear

Scout Uniform  
 OLP Scarf with woggle (or a friendship knot)  
 Poppy (pack second Poppy as spare)  
 Sun hat  
 Sunglasses (optional)  
 Waterproof coat  
 Waterproof trousers  
 Face covering

### Miscellaneous

Camera (optional), with charged power bank  
 Book or quiet game  
 Pen/pencil and notepad

### Packed In Kit Bag/Holdall

#### Personal kit

Personal wash kit (toothbrush and paste, shower gel/soap, sanitary products as applicable)  
 Hankies/tissues  
 Micro-fibre towel  
 Plastic bags or sacks for dirty washing/boots X 2

#### Clothes

T-shirts  
 Shorts  
 Trousers  
 Underwear  
 Socks, including hiking socks  
 Warm jumper or fleece  
 Coat hanger

#### Sleepwear

Tent  
 Roll mat  
 Sleeping bag (e.g., 2 season)  
 Lightweight pillow (optional)  
 Nightwear

## Preparing for hot weather

- Sun safe – Remember the rules of sun safety: **slip** on a top, **slop** on some sun cream and **slap** on a hat.
- Hydrate, to prevent against dehydration, make sure you bring a water bottle and drink water regularly.
- Insects - Use insect repellent to stop bites from mosquitos and midges.

## Tips and tricks

- Surrey Scouts / The Scout Association cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to any personal effects and the Scout Association does not provide automatic insurance for such items.
- All clothing must be clearly marked with the participant's name, before packing
- Do not attach anything on to the outside of your holdall/rucksack or day pack, as it will get snagged on something and fall off.
- It is an innovative idea to put a bin bag in your rucksack first and then put all your kit in that to keep it dry.

## Medication

If the participant has a requirement to take any medicines, the bottle(s), tube(s), or other items should be clearly labelled with their name and the exact dosages / instructions in a named sealed bag. The Core Team should be informed beforehand via the Participant Information, Permission & Health Form.

## Pocket money

There will be opportunities to use spending money on the Channel crossing/ passenger terminal and in the centre of Bruges and Ypres, we suggest €10 - €20 spending money will be sufficient. It will be the responsibility of the Scout to look after this money, the Scout Association take no responsibility if it is lost. We will not be able to provide a camp bank, so you will need to obtain your currency in the UK. The monetary unit for both Belgium and France, is the Euro and the current exchange rate is in the region of €1.15 to the GBP. Credit / debit cards are accepted, but it is suggested to take a mixture of Euro and GBP with you.

## Mobile phones

At their own risk, participants can bring mobile phones, so that they can be used to record the expedition activities through photos or video. However, they must not be a distraction around monuments, places of interest and during ceremonies. We will be following the Scout Associations In-Touch system through which communication has been defined between the expedition and those in the UK.

Although charge points will be available in the Fourage at Merkenveld, they will be limited in number so we will not be able to charge everyone's phone and camera batteries. Equipment being charged at the Fourage are left at the owner's risk,

There will not be any available Wi-Fi in the areas we are visiting or at Merkenveld. However, if the mobile will have a data connection, if these apps are downloaded in advance, you might find these useful over the weekend:

- Last Post Association
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- I-leper

## Alcohol and Smoking

The Scout Association has a key policy which requires Scouting to be provided in a safe manner without risk to health, as far as is reasonably practicable. As such we will follow the policy set out in the Green Card -

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safe-scouting-cards/scouting-and-alcohol>.

While it is understood that adult participants have the right to smoke, Scouting is about developing young people, including their health and welfare, therefore smoking, or vaping in front of Scouts of any age should be avoided whenever possible. Smoking on board coaches is not permitted, nor is within the buildings or forest at Merkenveld.

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**Any items required during the coach journey must be in your hand luggage, which includes Passport, snacks, drinks. The main luggage compartments will remain closed until we arrive in Merkenveld.**

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## Remembrance

### The Last Post

The Last Post ceremony takes place every evening at 20:00h under the Menin Gate, one of the four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. The ceremony is a homage for the eleven million military personnel that lost their lives. This tradition started on 1st July 1928 and has continued uninterrupted until during the Second World War, when Ypres fell into German hands, on 20th May 1940. At this point, the ceremony was transferred to Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey until 6th December 1944 when Polish forces liberated Ypres.

To this day, The Brookwood Last Post Association (<https://brookwoodlastpost.org>) continue the ceremony on the first Sunday of each month at 15:00h at the RAF memorial within Brookwood Military Cemetery. The ceremonies leading up to OLP are 5th June, 3rd July and 7th August 2022.

### Unit dates

We would encourage all units attending OLP to attend at least one of the monthly 15:00h Last Post before we depart. We recommend forming at the RAF memorial at 14:45, to be ready for the ceremony that starts at 15:00.

There are also two pre-bookable activities that units can take advantage of. The first is a guided tour of Brookwood Military Cemetery, which can be arranged through Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Many units have done so, and it comes highly recommended. The second is the use of the Trench Experience campsite that is located immediately behind the RAF memorial within the Cemetery itself.

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**For booking the campsite, please contact [John.pain@OperationLastPost.org.uk](mailto:John.pain@OperationLastPost.org.uk)**

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### County dates

Next year is the 82nd anniversary of The Brookwood Last Post. To commemorate this, we would like to invite all OLP Participants, to join Surrey Scouts in attending the 15:00h Last Post Ceremony at Brookwood Military Cemetery on Sunday 6th November 2022.

All Scouts are required to wear their smartest uniform and OLP scarf, Scout or smart trousers, and poppy.

Participants form into their units on the Cemetery side of Brookwood Station for 14:30, where they will be briefed how to parade / walk, and the flag-bearers will be coached by members of the Royal British Legion. The Scouts will parade down to the RAF memorial at 14:45 and the ceremony will start at 15:00.

### Useful Information

Free Parking is available in several small car parks within the cemetery and on the wider road, please do not drive off the roads onto adjoining areas and keep to the 10mph speed limit. There is also ample (chargeable) parking at Brookwood railway station.

After you park up, walk into the main entrance of the station, down the steps to the underpass and up the other side, through the exit and then you will be in the cemetery. On the conclusion of the ceremonies (around 15:30) everyone is invited to join us for refreshments at the Trench Experience situated behind the RAF memorial.



## Paperwork

### Entry requirements

Under the readiness level as set out by The Scout Association, visits aboard may resume, but must follow Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) travel advice and manage the transmission of COVID and ensuring that the trips are safe and accessible.

As part of entering both France and Belgium, and returning, participants will need to comply with Passport, Visa and Covid entry requirements. These requirements can be found below, which is updated frequently. Please sign up to get email alerts or subscribe to the feed, to ensure your participants in your unit comply with the entry requirements.

- France: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france/entry-requirements>
- Belgium: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/belgium/entry-requirements>

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### In addition, participants will need to comply with the entry requirements of the CWGC Experience visitor centre, where face masks are currently required

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### DBS

We will be validating that all adult participants DBS status – please ensure that your DBS has not expired.

### Insurance

Travel Insurance for the expedition will be arranged through Scout Insurance Services (Unity). A policy summary is available online at <https://www.unityinsuranceservices.co.uk/scout-insurance/travel>. If you need to understand specific policy details, then please contact Unity on 0345 040 7702 or [info@unityins.co.uk](mailto:info@unityins.co.uk), quoting policy STRV000004814.

### In touch

We will be appointing a County Home Contact for OLP, which the Core who will act at the bridge for communications whilst we are abroad between the Core Team and those in the UK. The Home Contact will only be utilised in the event of the core team needing to contact home or visa-versa.

Each unit will also need to appoint a primary and secondary Home Contact, who will form part of the bridge between the County Home Contact and participants parent's/guardians. Please note the contact must not be related or emotionally involved with any member of the unit on OLP, and available for the duration of OLP (Sunday 27th August – Tuesday 30th August 2022).

For the system to run smoothly we need your help:

- Please complete the Unit Home Contact details and return to [bookings@operationlastpost.org.uk](mailto:bookings@operationlastpost.org.uk) by 31st July 2022 at the latest
- Provide the 'Information sheet for Home Contacts' to your Unit Home Contacts and ensure they have a list of your Units participants and their contact details
- Provide the 'Information sheet for Parents/Guardians' to your participants parents/guardians

### Follow us

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### Follow our Facebook and Twitter feeds for activity and status updates

 [www.facebook.com/surreyscouts](https://www.facebook.com/surreyscouts)

 [www.twitter.com/surreyscouts](https://www.twitter.com/surreyscouts)

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# Unit Home Contact Details

Please return to: [bookings@operationlastpost.org.uk](mailto:bookings@operationlastpost.org.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.,

## Unit

<b>Name of Unit</b>	<input type="text"/>
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## Unit Primary Home Contact

<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Primary Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Backup Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Email (if available)</b>	<input type="text"/>

## Unit Secondary Home Contact

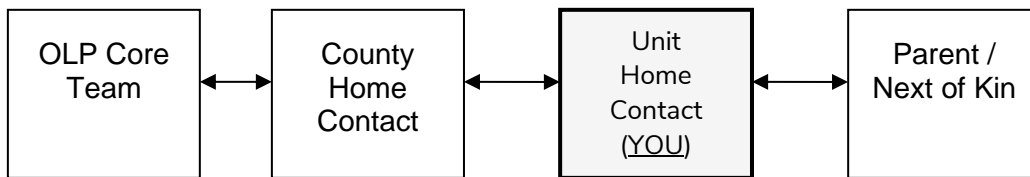
<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Primary Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Backup Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Email (if available)</b>	<input type="text"/>

# Information sheet for Home Contacts

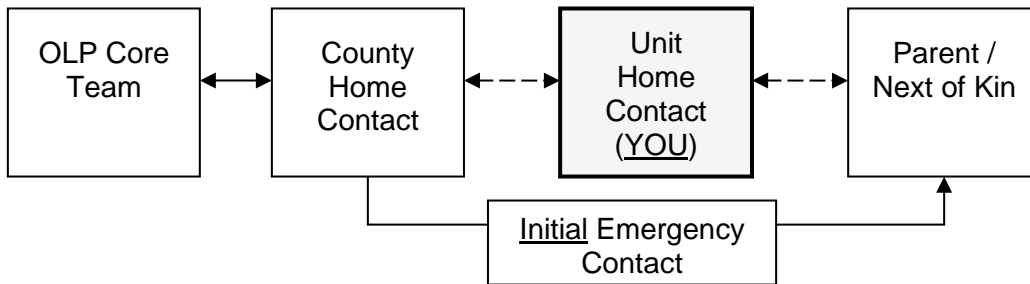
Thank you for agreeing to be a home contact for Operation Last Post 2022. The Operation Last Post 2022 Core Team have appointed two County Home Contacts who will act at the bridge for communications between the Core Team and those in the UK. This is the usual practice when members of the Scout Association are away from their home area. The County Home Contact will only be utilised in the event of a serious incident.

As a Unit Home Contact, you form an important link between those attending the OLP and their family back home. Before departure, the Unit Leader will provide you with a list of names and adult contacts for those members attending OLP from your Unit. Each of the members of the Unit have been given your contact details only. This diagram shows the communication routes for OLP.

## Non-Emergency Communications



## Emergency Communication



## County Home Primary Contact

<b>Name</b>	Liz Pocknell
<b>Address</b>	13 Wyndham Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 3DS
<b>Primary Contact Number</b>	07747 607071
<b>Backup Contact Number</b>	01483 770923
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:trainingmanager@wokingscouts.org.uk">trainingmanager@wokingscouts.org.uk</a>

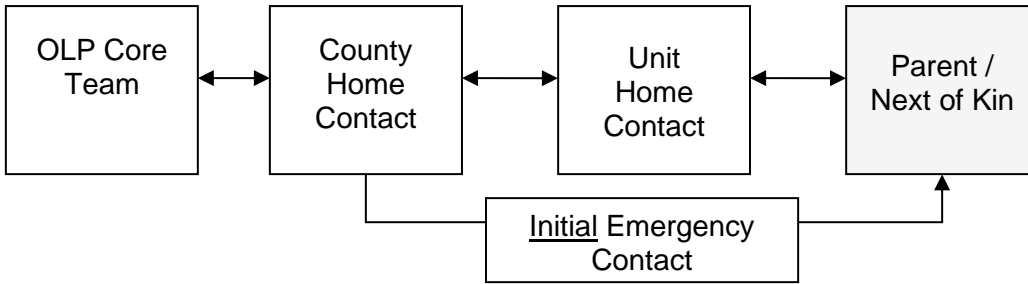
## County Home Secondary Contact

<b>Name</b>	Rik Stevens
<b>Address</b>	18 Studland Road, Byfleet, KT147RE
<b>Primary Contact Number</b>	07948153103
<b>Backup Contact Number</b>	01932 343940
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Rik.stevens.scouts@gmail.com">Rik.stevens.scouts@gmail.com</a>

# Information sheet for parents/Guardians

The Operation Last Post 2022 Core Team have appointed two County Home Contacts who will act at the bridge for communications between the Core Team and those in the UK. This is the usual practice when members of the Scout Association are away from their home area. The County Home Contact will only be utilised in the event of a serious incident.

Our Unit has also appointed a primary and secondary Home Contact, who will form part of the bridge between the County Home Contact and yourselves. This diagram shows the communication routes for the OLP 2022.



## Unit Home Primary Contact Details

<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Primary Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Backup Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>

## Unit Home Secondary Contact Details

<b>Name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Primary Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Backup Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>



