

# Leader profile for Operation Kandersteg 2014



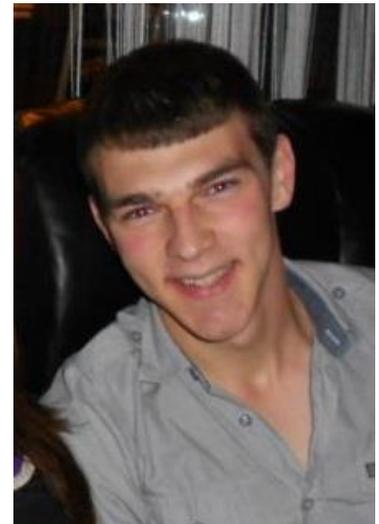
## Alec Stanworth

My name's Alec, I'm currently a Deputy County Commissioner for Oxfordshire Scouts, and I have been on expeditions to Iceland, Switzerland, Croatia, Finland, Malta, France and Italy during my time in Scouting.

Last year I finished my degree in Oxford, and I am currently training to be a maths teacher in Buckingham. (Let's hope I got the budget right for Operation Kandersteg!)

I have been to Kandersteg three times before, most recently in 2010, when I travelled with over 600 Scouts from London. I jumped at the opportunity to go back with Oxford Spires!

My claim to fame: I once presented a TV show on the community channel about Scouting in the UK.



## Alex Yudin

Hi I'm Alex. No, not Alec, Alex.

I was born and grew up in North London where I was a Beaver and a Cub. Sadly my group closed down and I never made it to Scouts. I found my way back though, whilst studying in Oxford I became a Cub Scout Leader. By day I'm a research scientist for an electronics company, but the moment 5pm comes I transform into my alter ego: Baloo at the 22nd Oxford Sea Scouts!

I love the outdoors. Hiking, climbing, camping, skiing, canoeing, kayaking, powerboating, dinghy sailing, offshore yacht racing...if it involves water or mountains you will find me first in the queue!

The irresistible call of the world's wild places has taken me up 5000m volcanoes in South America and had me battling storms in the Bay of Biscay. I love visiting different countries, meeting people, learning about their culture and trying to pick up new languages!

I also love to sing. I don't have a good singing voice, but I try my best and anything you say that reminds me of the lyrics of a song... expect a rendition! Some of you will already have fallen foul of this habit!



## Becky Alexander

Hi, my name's Becky!

I have been involved in Scouting since I was 6 – back when Beavers still had hideous grey tracksuits for their uniform. I grew up in Essex, where I gained my Queen's Scout Award, and was an Assistant Cub Scout Leader.

In 2011 I started a Geography degree at the University of Oxford, and am now in my final year. Once I graduate I am hoping to become a secondary school teacher, remaining in Oxfordshire so that I can continue Scouting here.

Outside of work (and Scouting), I enjoy keeping active, and trampolining three times a week (however this is a result of enthusiasm far more than talent!). I also love music, and play both the clarinet and tenor saxophone, as well as singing whenever the opportunity arises!

My favourite Scouting experience is hard to pin down – Scouting has given me so many happy memories! However some of the best opportunities I have had included spending a weekend with Bear Grylls on his private Welsh island, attending the 2007 and 2011 World Scout Jamborees, and attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace with Prince Charles and Boris Johnson! I have visited Kandersteg once before - in 2010 - and cannot wait to be back in such an incredible place!



## Duncan Bowler

“Which Leader am I?”

- I am married with two daughters
- I have been a leader in scouting for 30 years
- I have been a cub leader, a scout leader, a venture scout leader (before they created explorer scouts) and am currently a Group Scout Leader and running a scout troop.
- I have 2 jobs; one in a bank and the other driving a taxi.
- I met my wife through scouting when she.....now that's another story which I dare not tell!
- My claim to fame is that I have served a member of the royal family.
- I have been skiing in three different countries all in the same day
- I have flown a plane, however won't be flying with you all to Switzerland as I will be driving the equipment across Europe.
- I led a team of leaders on a Three Peaks Challenge which saw the summit of Ben Nevis Covered in Snow (even in June) and visibility at less than 10m - just as well, as I don't like heights!
- I have invested 6 scouts with our own sign language version of the promise whilst scuba diving.

So “Who am I ?”

The answer - Duncan!!



## Jamie O'Conner

Hi I'm Jamie, although I have had many odd nicknames throughout my time in Scouting.

I joined Beavers just as the nice blue uniforms were coming in, so unlike Becky, I never had to wear the yucky grey jumper. That means the first time I put on a necker was nearly 14 years ago at the 35th Scout hut in Blackbird Leys. I lived just a few houses down from the hut, but the first time mum allowed me to walk home by myself, one of the leaders said they'd give me a lift and drove me 25 meters to my house! I think it might have been Duncan.

I can't remember life before scouting. I sometimes wonder who I would be if I'd never joined. I'd probably be more sensible and more mature... But I wouldn't know how to escape from a capsized kayak or survive in the wild with the bear necessities.

I hate missing out on opportunities and like to get to know lots and lots of people. I moved to the 22nd Sea Scouts on a bonfire night (Do not call me a puddle scout) and I worked with every section as a young leader, so I know how to think like a Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer. Beavers and Explorers are very similar.. Especially when Angelmead are concerned...

Anyway, back to me. I was in the Gang Show for 5 years and love singing and acting. I'm going to be Jesus in the spring! In Jesus Christ Superstar that is. I like Doctor Who. Harry Potter. Reading. Juggling. What more do you want to know? Oh, I'm hopefully going to uni in September to study adventure education. Basically it's a scouting degree! How cool is that?! (I'm allowed to say cool because I'm not old).



## Julie Bowler

Hi I'm Julie

I was born and raised in Oxford. I was a Brownie and then a Guide before joining the Venture Scouts and becoming a Leader.

I was the first and at present still the only person to gain the Queen Scout Award in the 35th Oxford Scout Group.

I am married to Duncan and have 2 daughters Beth & Hannah who managed to be born on the same date, just three years apart.

I am a Cub Scout and Beaver Scout Leader and have been a leader for 25 years.

I enjoy sailing but got sea sick on a very windy and choppy Lake Windermere on Scout Camp last summer.

I enjoy arts and crafts, being creative and also the outdoors.

I work in a school as a teaching assistant.



## Karen Holliday

Hi, I'm Karen! I am 45 years old, have three (sorry 4 Children including husband!) and work for Keble College. I am the 43rd Cub scout leader, and I took this over having previously been sectary and then treasurer of the group. I love helping the Cubs achieve and do things they would not usually do. I also help at St Andrews school and I am the treasurer for the SASA parent group. My kids all swim for Oxford City and I have been helping with new memberships and am now just taking over the role of treasurer for the group.

In my spare time I run marathons and half marathons for Against Breast Cancer (my picture is me after the Brighton marathon this year - relaxing on the beach!)



## Linda Phillips

Hi, I'm Linda, I'm currently the Scout Leader at 43rd Oxford. I've been in Scouts for about 5 years, at the 43rd the whole time. I went to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden as part of the International Service Team (and hopefully will be doing the same in Japan). I've also visited Scout troops in Uganda when I was visiting with school (I'm a maths and PE teacher at a small private secondary school near Banbury).

Outside of Scouts I do a lot of sport - in particular I play hockey for Oxford Hawks, and do karate and cycling. Plus I do any other sports I can fit in between everything else.

I also like hiking and geocaching, and combine them both with running DofE in my school and assessing expeditions for local Explorers.

I also love travelling and have combined this with work by living in New Zealand for almost 3 years and then moving to Japan for 3 and a half years. But I haven't been to Switzerland yet!



## Lucy Webster

Hey guys!

My name's Lucy and I've been in Scouting since I was 10. I've lived in Oxford all my life, and been involved in the 28th Oxford Scout Group and Angelmead Explorer Scout Unit, both as a member and now as an adult leader.

Out of scouts I like socialising and going on holidays and weekends away!

I'm looking forward to this trip as I've never done an expedition like it before - I'll be as excited as the kids!!



<p><b>Mark Kemp</b></p> <p>Hi, I'm Mark!</p> <p>I'm an Explorer Scout Leader in Kidlington and have been involved in Scouting since I started as a Beaver fifteen years ago. And I still enjoy it as much as I did then!</p> <p>I work full time as an Officer in an Immigration Removal Centre, as well as being a Fire Fighter for Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. My hobbies include anything sporty or Scouting - and as you know that can mean anything so long as it's fun!</p> <p>Switzerland will be one hell of a trip and a fantastic opportunity so when asked why I wanted to go?... well why wouldn't you?</p>	
<p><b>Shane Clark</b></p> <p>From a very early age growing up in the outback of Australia I have loved adventure and the great outdoors. I have led numerous adventurous expeditions (Himalayas, Africa and Europe) picking up qualifications, experience and excellent stories that have allowed me to contribute to making Scouting fun, challenging and rewarding for our young people.</p> <p>Perhaps it was my early freedoms in the outback, as a Wolf Cub, and later as a Scout and Venture Scout in the UK that led, after university, to a commission in the army. From early beginnings at Sandhurst to serving with the Royal Marines, Airborne forces and United Nations, I maintained my passion for adventure with several diverse and challenging home and overseas expeditions, as well as active service in conflict zones – I've been lucky enough to run the gamut from the Arctic to the desert!</p> <p>At the end of my military service, I completed a PGCE and MSc through Oxford University and started a second career as a secondary science teacher, which has led to some high adventure in very challenging schools! My current role is one of School Improvement Adviser – working with headteachers and struggling schools to become good and outstanding.</p> <p>My involvement with Oxfordshire Scouting began as a Venture Scout leader in 1995 and, as my own children have progressed through Scouting, I have had numerous other adult volunteer roles at county, district and group level. My favourite role so far is my current position as District Explorer Scout Commissioner, which I view as a chance to promote challenge and adventure and, most importantly, to support young people in planning their own adventures and creating their own future stories!</p> <p>It has always been my aim to provide and support great opportunities, which include our expedition to Kandersteg, for our Scouting young people, giving them the skills for independence and the chance to achieve the Queen's Scout Award. As such, I maintain up-to-date qualifications in several outdoor pursuits/activities and also provide training and support for other adult Scouting volunteers to ensure that we can continue to maintain appropriate support, supervision and opportunities for our young people in Scouting.</p>	