

SIMON COOK, CSL & ESL tells of his contribution to help save someone's life.

In September 2017, about 3 years after joining the Anthony Nolan register, I was contacted by them to inform me that I appeared to be a potential match for a person with blood cancer requiring a stem cell transplant. Following a series of blood tests, I was told I was a close match and had to go to London to have a full medical to make sure I was healthy enough to give my stem cells. Once I had the all clear from this, I was given a date to go to London to donate. I had to have injections daily for 4 days leading up to this date. These injections helped my body to generate more stem cells than normal.



I then travelled to London for the donation. This was done by a straightforward process called peripheral blood stem cell collection. It involved having a needle in both of my arms, with blood coming out of my left arm, through a machine which separated my blood so they could take my stem cells and then back into my right arm. This lasted for about four and a half hours and not long after I was discharged.



The whole process from start to finish was very well organised, almost painless and very easy. I would recommend any one that was able to; to sign up to be a donor.

MANOR COURT SCOUTS, CHARD, had a busy end to 2017, making, icing and delivering mini Christmas cakes for elderly residents at St Gilda's sheltered housing, with whom they visit regularly now, doing quizzes, beetle drives, afternoon tea's, BBQ's and very competitive skittles matches. The residents and the scouts really benefit from our termly visits, the residents love the company, fun and a time to talk to the scouts and the scouts who at first were shy, now happily chat to the residents and have learnt so much from them with knowledge and confidence with older people and happily sit in mixed teams for games etc. I would encourage other leaders to look at something like this, a way of our young people giving back to the community.

2018 started with a celebration of 3 Chief Scout's Gold Awards to Charlie Kellaway, William Butler and Thomas Hallett along with other badges to the rest of the Scouts including Communications, Crafts and Creative Challenge, after the cake making!



TANGIER PADDLESPORTS (CANOEING AND KAYAKING)

Richard Eastman, Email canoeing@eastman-electrical.co.uk Tel 07971 013826 writes:-

PADDLERS, Could you let me know if you are able to assist in any way this coming year or have an input into the below? We have some funds to carry out replacement/repair work to craft and kit and a sum of £500 to create a changing area/screens within the boat store. Any input into what we can allocate the funds to would be greatly appreciated. I have my own ideas/thoughts, but you are the ones on the water! Once I know who is in/out, I will try to arrange a meeting to discuss and sort out a plan!!!! Cheers for all your hard work last year.



Although sessions at Tangier stopped at the end of the summer, the winter can be time for the leaders /instructors to do their thing and hone their skills and knowledge (and get the occasional adrenalin rush)

2017 was a good year for the Tangier team, allowing nearly 500 young people to experience either Kayaking or Canoeing. Some of the leaders also ran progressive sessions for their Groups /Sections and hope to continue in 2018. There were also members trained and assessed to undertake their Queens Scout Award and Gold D of E in open canoe.

Last year was good but 2018 could be better! As with everything in Scouting, all is voluntary, and most paddle sport activities are run by leaders who already have their own Sections /Groups to “work” with. However they give what time they have spare to allow as many young people from other Groups as possible to at least have a go on the water and experience the fun. This can mean at times that we are unable to offer as many sessions as we would like. Tangier is well set up to allow those with the required permits to run their own sessions and is something we hope to encourage more in the future to allow the maximum number of young people to experience and learn to paddle.

If you, or any of the adults in your Group/Section (including parents /carers) have a passion for paddle sports and reasonable level of experience, please feel free to contact me for info on how you /they can become more involved. There is no requirement to run sessions for other groups, however this would be a bonus! My main aim is to make Canoeing and Kayaking accessible to as many young people within Scouting as possible.