

# SCOUTS' OWN

## Be the change you want to see

Gilwell Reunion 2015

### Opening welcome

Welcome to this year's Gilwell Reunion Scouts' Own. This year we wanted to reflect of the hundreds of thousands of positive moments that happen in Scouting every single day.

Scouting itself began with a handful of small actions as Baden Powell invited a small group of boys to a camp on Brownsea Island. From this tiny event, Scouting, and the global Movement we know today has grown.

Gradually. Bit by bit as more and more people wanted to share in the adventure and contribute to making a difference.

### A reading: *The Starfish Story*, taken from 'The Unexpected Universe' by Loren Eiseley

Scouting is a Movement. Scouting works because lots of people contribute a little bit every week to making a big impact on each and every young person who joins Scouting.

Each individual act of kindness, encouragement, inclusion and friendship ripples out and makes a big impact on the individuals it touches. These small actions collectively are what makes Scouting the powerful Movement for positive change it is today.

On this theme, we wanted to remind you of the importance of the contribution you make and the difference your actions make to those around you. And say thank you for all that you do in Scouting.

### Personal reflections from Deputy Youth Commissioner, Jay Thompson on the theme of small actions having a big impact on individuals

#### A moment of quiet reflection

We would now invite you to join in a moment of quiet reflection. As the music plays, please pause for silent reflection on the words you have heard. You will have also found a pebble on your seat. If you wish, we'd invite you to hold on to that pebble. Hold in your hand as you reflect.

#### Musical interlude [live acoustic guitar music]

#### A reading

'The most worthwhile thing is to try and put happiness into the lives of others'.  
-Robert Baden-Powell

#### Promise renewal

We will now renew our Promise. Our Promise is what brings us together as Scouts and reminds of the promise we made to embody the values of Scouting, in the things we say and the things we do.

Today we will all renew our Promise in our own language using our own version so that the words we say we may say with meaning and belief in what it is we promise.

Please use the wording which is most meaningful to you as we renew our Promise in unison.

# SCOUTS' OWN

## **For Hindus,**

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to my Dharma and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

## **For Muslims,**

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficial and the Most Merciful, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to Allah and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

## **For Humanists, atheists and those with no defined faith;**

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

## **For Christian, Jews and Sikhs,**

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

## **For subjects of independent Commonwealth countries, foreign nationals and individuals who are stateless the following wording can replace 'duty to the Queen';**

...to do my duty to the country in which I am now living.

To close this Scouts' Own and Gilwell Reunion 2015, we would like to leave you with some inspiring words, from a speech Robert F Kennedy delivered to students of the University of Cape Town in June 1966. This speech rallied a generation of young people to challenge the injustice of Apartheid. It would be 20 years before they would see a positive change, but...

## **A reading**

*'Few will have the greatness to bend history; but each of us can work to change a small portion of the events, and in the total of all these acts will be written the history of this generation...It is from numberless diverse acts of courage ...[and]...belief that human history is shaped. Each person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, they send forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centre of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance'.*

## **Closing thoughts**

Thank you for joining us for this Gilwell Reunion Scouts' Own. Please take away this message and actively contribute to Scouting creating positive change. However small your action may be, it is important. It will make a difference.

## **Join in a song: What a wonderful world, Louis Armstrong**

As you leave today, please take your pebble with you. You may wish to keep it as a reminder of this weekend, and the messages we have reflected on today. Or you may wish to drop your pebble into our buckets, watch the ripples in recognition of the positive impact Scouting makes on young people every single day, as a result of the small, individual actions each and every one of you make every day.