

## **Jack Maxton – UK International Commissioner**

### **New role, new Wood Badge**

I've been the proud holder of my Wood Badge since 2011, which was when I finished my training as an Assistant Scout Leader, just before taking a brilliant group of thirty six young people to the Jamboree in Sweden.

When I took on the role of UK International Commissioner, I was keen to get stuck in and complete my new Wood Badge for the role. I was allocated a brilliant and supportive Training Adviser in Helen Woolsey, the Deputy UK Commissioner for Adult Support. We began by talking about the new requirements of my role and my previous experience, so that my personal learning plan was genuinely relevant to the training that I needed to help me in my role and the topics that I wanted to learn.

It had been a while since I'd completed the training on Delivering a Quality Programme (12A) and The Fundamentals of Scouting (05) and so I started with them. I sometimes find e-learning packages a bit tough, as I tend to learn with pictures and by experience, rather than reading lots of text, but I have to say I really enjoyed them. They were relevant, supportive and discussed some situations which I'd come across myself in a friendly and engaging way.

I hadn't done a lot of the leadership and management training at Scouts before but had done a lot of professional training in this area. I was really surprised just how much of the knowledge from work I was using in a Scout context. Being able to discuss examples of these with Helen really helped me to put these into context. I can see just how valuable these courses will be for anyone looking to gain skills that they can transfer to their job or put on their CV.

Above all I found that it was really easy to fit the training and validation around my everyday life. Helen and I would talk on Skype and by email, which meant we could validate my learning in bite size chunks and not have to spend hours at a time going through evidence. It was such a motivating and positive experience that as a result, I've now signed up to be a Training Adviser myself!