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Last injured Scout leaves hospital

A British Scout injured in a head-on crash in Canada has been released from hospital, a spokesman for The Scout Association said.

The unnamed girl was one of a group of 10 teenagers who suffered minor injuries when their bus was hit by a lorry 150 miles north of Toronto at 6pm BST on Thursday.

She was the last of the 10 teenagers to be released from hospital after being treated for cuts and bruises, whiplash and shock.

The teenagers were members of a group of 102 Scouts and their leaders from West Lancashire travelling in two buses towards Toronto at the end of a two-week adventure trip.

Simon Carter, spokesman for The Scout Association, said: "All of the young people have been discharged from hospital and they are undertaking the normal programme..., which means a visit to the Toronto Marine Police depot followed by a barbecue. They will be travelling back on Sunday as planned and arrive in the UK on Monday."

Mr Carter said an articulated tractor crossed the central reservation and hit one of the buses. Local police said the bus partially flipped over and ended up in a ditch 200 metres from a community centre.

The Scout group had enjoyed outdoor activities including white water rafting at two camps in the country.

Staff Sergeant Mike Reynolds of Ontario Provincial Police said traffic police were continuing their investigation into the cause of the crash.

He said: "The investigation is continuing, we have to wait until all the evidence is gathered, witness statements, technical evidence, and then we'll look at the end picture and see whether any charges are going to be made or not. There was a storm going through the area at the time, there was some extreme weather. That will be part of the investigation."

He said he expected investigators to release their findings in around a week.

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TV chef Oliver receives Scout badge

Jamie Oliver has been honoured with a badge by the Scout Association for his healthy eating campaign in schools.

Oliver is one of several celebrities to receive a Scout badge to celebrate the movement's 101st birthday.

All have made significant achievements which reflect the skill and knowledge needed to attain a Scout badge.

Other recipients on the list include Ewan McGregor, Charley Boorman, The Stig, Ray Mears, Britain's Got Talent winner George Sampson and young diving prodigy Tom Daley.

On receiving his badge, Oliver said: "I'm honoured to get this from the Scouts but I'm also really pleased that thousands of young people are being encouraged to learn about food and cooking through the Scouting movement."

Boorman won the navigator award along with McGregor due to their Long Way Down and Long Way Round television shows.

Boorman said: "Ewan and I are delighted to receive this award from the Scout Association, as navigation is so important to the trips we take.

"I hope that our expeditions inspire young people to go out and experience different countries and cultures for themselves."

Survival expert Mears has won an outdoor adventure badge and three Scouts visited the Top Gear track to award The Stig with the Scout instructor badge for his work on the BBC Two programme.

Peter Duncan, chief Scout, said: "We are delighted to have awarded these individuals the appropriate badges to celebrate the birthday of Scouting. All badge winners should feel proud that they have inspired so many young people to challenge themselves and try new activities and adventures."

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Harry (70) is new top scout for Brigg area

NEW District Commissioner for East Glanford Scouts, Harry Mortinor is proving that life begins at 70.

The Septuagenarian is enthusiastic about taking over the reins of scouting in the Brigg and Barton area from Alan Hayward who is now an Assistant County Commissioner.

Originally from Ballyclare in Northern Ireland, Mr Mortinor was never a Scout as a boy. His love affair with the movement started 27 years ago.

"I got involved when my son was in the Scouts and have been involved with the 1st Broughton group ever since. I started 27 years ago and have been Group Scout Leader for 13 years."

When the post was up for grabs Mr Mortinor thought his age would be a barrier. "They did not seem too worried about me being 70. I am keen to see our camp site at Primrose Hill get 'Premier Status' and to make all leaders in East Glanford more 'district aware'."

Mr Hayward has no doubts that Harry will bring a fresh impetus to the role. "He has lots of new ideas and he will be good to take the District forward. Age is no barrier, enthusiasm and time to do the job are key factors," he declared.



Harry Mortinor who at 70 is taking on the role of District Commissioner for East Glanford Scouts.

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Scouts cash in with lamps

Published Date: 28 July 2008

By Stephen Stray

Wednesday, 3:30pm - BOSTON Scouts have double reason for celebration.

The 5th Boston (St Botolph's) Scout Troop has been given two gas lamps and almost £500 to improve security.

A total of £463 was presented to the group by social housing provider Boston Mayflower under its Community Champions award scheme – for work done in the local community.

The money was used to build a new fence at the scouts' Castle Street headquarters.

Beaver Scout leader Karen McGarry said: "We would like to thank Boston Mayflower for making our headquarters a safer place for everyone who uses it.

"It means the cubs and scouts can now camp in the grounds, the beavers can go outside, and we have to worry less about our overall privacy.

"It has already stopped a lot of rubbish from blowing onto the site, and has made the building much more secure."

The scouts' Castle Street base is also used by a dance group on Saturdays.

There was further light at the end of the tunnel for the scouts ... quite literally.

Norwich and Peterborough Building Society has donated two gas lamps for members to take on their trips.

Scout leader Simon Mitcham said: "We are extremely grateful for the support that N&P has given us. As a registered charity we have to work hard to raise the funds for all of our equipment, so when we receive a donation it means a great deal. The lamps are absolutely vital when we are camping, and the more we have the better."

For more information about Boston Mayflower's Community Champions awards scheme contact Paul Kenny on 01205 318553.

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