



# A HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES

by

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*As Originally Written and Performed by Scottish Scout Leader Simon Lamb during the 35<sup>th</sup> Scottish International Patrol Jamborette held in Blair Atholl, Scotland, Summer 2016*

***Blair Atholl - Bringing the world together since 1946***

It's 1 camp  
Held every 2 years  
Over 10 days  
With 19 international countries  
Represented by 35 contingents  
This year, there were 43 activities  
78 fish caught  
144 ice-creams purchased from the House of Bruar  
191 staff tents  
232 postcards posted  
261 patrol tents  
515 leaders  
520 sprigs of heather (laminated)  
550kg of laundry laundered  
691 Satelliters  
922 participants  
3552L of Irn-Bru  
3710L of milk  
5220 wooden tent pegs  
11,685 activity places  
14,390 bread rolls  
18,000m of climbing wall climbed  
22,000 teabags  
and a Hundred Thousand Welcomes.

Class of 2016,  
That was your Blair Atholl  
  
... which is all well and good  
But – as we all know  
There's much more to Blair Atholl  
Than mere numbers can show

It's those special little moments  
So very hard to explain  
That deep in our memories  
Will forever remain

I hope you will join me  
In reflecting just now  
On those magical moments  
That make you gasp and go, “Wow”

First, it's the anticipation  
Of arriving onsite  
Pitching the tents  
And the very first night

Then, it's making new friends  
And trusting each other  
Just as you would  
A sister or brother

It's hearing a language  
You've never before heard  
And learning a bit of it  
Even a word

It's the moment after mealtimes  
When we all share our lives  
Whilst washing up plates,  
Bowls, spoons, forks and knives

It's throwing a frisbee  
And watching it fly  
Skimming the Blair Atholl  
Sun in the sky

It's playing a game  
And scoring a belter  
It's tying the final knot  
On your dining shelter

Well, tying it twice,  
Three times, maybe four,  
Five, six or seven times  
And, in some cases, more

It's the passing of rain  
And the breath of fresh sun  
It's the moment of satisfaction  
When the job is done

It's finally reaching  
The peak of a hill  
It's staring up at the sky  
When the evening is still

Seeing shooting stars sweeping  
The canvas of night  
And feeling so small  
Yet shining so bright

It's hugging complete strangers  
Whilst covered in mud  
It's the beat of deep music  
Pumping your blood

It's listening to a band  
And knowing the song  
And grabbing an instrument  
And playing along

It's seizing the moment  
And taking the chance  
To lose inhibitions  
And join in the dance

It's saluting the flags  
And being so proud  
To be part of a Movement  
When you can sing it out loud

It's wearing a badge  
That's blue, white and yellow  
It's joyously saying  
To everyone, "Hello"

It's path-finding with friends  
And staying on track  
It's a Hundred Thousand Welcomes  
And an honest Haste Ye Back

It's the feeling of Home  
A place in which you can thrive  
It's giving thanks for the privilege  
Of being alive

It's knowing this truth  
Of which there's no doubt  
The strength of the Scout is the camp  
And the strength of the camp is the Scout

But – above all else  
The most special moment at Blair Atholl  
Is watching the world working together  
Watching the world playing together  
Watching the world eating together  
Running together  
Dancing together  
Learning together  
*Always* together

Just look at this Field  
And then, look at the world  
At the warring, the fighting,  
And the abuse that is hurled

The gunshots, the slaughter,  
The anger, the hate,  
The death, the destruction,  
And the fear, but – wait

There is so much the world  
Can learn from this Field  
And if only it listened  
Perhaps the world would be healed

We've camped here together  
All countries connected  
All were seen equal  
Not one not respected

If we, here, can do it  
Then so can the planet  
Joining together  
All the nations that span it

A tapestry of colour,  
Religion and race,  
Sexuality, gender  
Not one out of place

Just imagine the difference  
To life on Earth  
If we just learnt to value  
Each other's self-worth

Imagine the love,  
The joy and the peace  
Warring would end  
And fighting would cease

The human race living  
United as One  
Fearless and free  
As our globe spins on

If you can hear these words  
I am speaking to you:  
*Act now. Change the world.*  
*Don't wait. Just do.*

Take home that message  
And spread it around  
For I truly believe  
That's how freedom will be found

Let's get it Blairing out  
Across all lands  
And the world, like this Field,  
Will one day hold hands

Thank you for *being*  
This Jamborette  
Haste Ye All Back  
And don't ever forget

**Creating a Better World**  
Is what we do  
We are Scouts  
And the world needs you.

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