

Air Adventure Skills



The first heavier-than-air powered flight was on December 17 1903, by the Wright brothers. This iconic flight was airborne for only 60 metres at an altitude of just two meters. Over the next 15 years, boosted by developments during the First World War, aviation developed so much that two brave aviators felt confident to attempt to fly across the Atlantic Ocean non-stop – a distance of over 3000km.

The pilots, Captain John Alcock and Lieutenant Arthur Whitten Brown, flew a Vickers “Vimy IV” aircraft (a modified WW1 bomber) from St. Johns in Newfoundland, Canada, to land in Clifden, Co Galway, in seventeen hours, battling snow, ice, fog and cloud. The pilots also carried one hundred and ninety seven letters, and so transatlantic airmail was born.



To mark the centenary of the flight, the Air Activities team is launching the “Alcock and Brown Challenge”, complete with a badge (left). The challenge is suitable for everyone from Beavers to Rovers, so here’s an opportunity to add a little “Air” to your programme.

What do you have to do?

1. Order badges for your colony, pack, six, patrol, troop or crew
2. Complete one of our suggested challenges (see below). Or create your own themed Alcock & Brown challenge.
3. Send pictures of your challenge being completed, for us to put on our Facebook page.
4. Award these one-off badges to your beavers/cubs/scouts/ventures/rovers/scouter to mark this aviation milestone!

It’s as simple as that!

When you receive your badges, the pack will also contain a challenge resource kit with everything you need to run this challenge as part of your programme.

Suggested challenges:

- Suitable for all programme sections:
 - Arrange to exchange letters via airmail with an overseas scout group. Share information on scouting in their country and maybe even send them an Alcock and Brown challenge badge as part of a badge swap! *Combine this with the Jota Joti event, or with the intercultural component of the Chief Scout Award.*
 - Visit the Alcock & Brown memorial atop the High Road in Errislannan, overlooking the Derrygimlagh Bog in Clifden.
- Suitable for Beavers/Cubs:
 - Colour in one of the Alcock & Brown pictures included in the resource pack
 - Draw a picture of the Vimy IV aircraft used by Alcock & Brown
- Suitable for Cubs/Scouts/Ventures/Rovers:
 - Organise a hike to the Alcock & Brown landing site in Clifden. *Combine this with your Hillwalking adventure skill.*
- Suitable for Scouts/Ventures/Rovers:
 - Research the flight and complete a project to share with your patrol or crew. *Combine this with the Terra Nova stage of the Crean Award (progression award) for scouts.*
 - Make a scale model of the Vimy IV aircraft used by Alcock & Brown. *Combine this with Stage 3 of the Air Adventure Skills award.*

Badge ordering:

Badges are €2.50 each, plus €2.50 p&p (regardless of order quantity), and can be ordered via this webpage:

<https://www.formget.com/app/form/share/dNKC-320185>

Payments can be made on the above webpage using credit card or paypal, or cheques can be posted to the address on the form. Badges should be shipped within 2-4 weeks.

Additional resources on Alcock & Browns flight:

- <http://www.aviation-history.com/airmen/alcock.htm>
- <https://www.historyireland.com/20th-century-contemporary-history/ditched-in-derrygimlagh-the-first-transatlantic-flight/>
- <https://www.galwaytourism.ie/event/Alcock-and-Brown-100-Festival-12th---16th-June-201-n180.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transatlantic_flight_of_Alcock_and_Brown
- <http://collection.sciencemuseum.org.uk/objects/co499537/alcock-and-browns-vickers-vimy-biplane-aircraft>