

April 2026



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I hope you are all enjoying a well deserved
Easter break!

A few reminders from me this month.

Remember that when adults join, they
have 30 days to do DBS, Safety &



Safeguarding.

A DBS cannot be requested until they have logged in and completed their profile/accepted the declaration...

Sadly, I have over 250 people to suspend THIS WEEK for non-compliance, so please do pass on this message as it is being missed.

Young Leaders (under 18) need to be added on the system as Young Leaders, not as future members of the adult team, else they too get a 30 day limit and

suspended.

There are changes to the training team, and they will be producing a training newsletter going forward

A massive thank you to Phil (moving to a Regional role) and Terry (picking up other projects) and Chip (moved to another area and taking up a busy role there)

Welcome to Georgia Milgrave as DLV of Hillingdon West, thank you so much for taking on this role!

I'm away from Thursday 2nd to Thursday 9th, for urgent problems you can contact Richard Williams.

Cathy

County Lead Volunteer

COUNTY COMMUNITY

GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST

REN District: King Scout Awards

Congratulations are in order for Jonathan Goss (District Programme Team and 6th Eastcote Scout Leader) and Luke Bennett (Network Member and 1st Northwood Beaver Team member).

They were recently presented with their King Scout Awards in front of a very busy Poindextor ESU meeting by Claire Muxlow and Geoff Vanderplank.

Well done!



'Human beavers meet real beavers'

In David Attenborough's latest documentary 'Wild London' - the Paradise Fields rewilding project in Greenford was featured. It highlighted the Ealing Beaver Project, which reintroduced Eurasian beavers to this West London site in October 2023 to improve biodiversity and manage flood risks.

Since then – we've had lots of Beaver Drey's go to the fields, so that they can meet real beavers! Here are some pictures from 9th Ealing's recent visit – their guide Seniz showed them all the lodges, dams and they enjoyed a beaver workshop where they made some rubbings from metal wildlife plaques.



POLAND JAMBOREE

Sehej Kaur Virdee - unit member writes:

Last weekend from the 13th to the 15th of march, myself and the rest of unit 28 went on their first camp where everyone got to know each other even better. We started off with setting up which was quite a challenge as it was completely dark by the time we got there.

After settling down everyone came together in the tent where we played games and ate snacks then eventually went to bed. The next morning we got put in patrols and started making breakfast. The food throughout camp was very

inclusive and tasty such as the chicken and rice burritos. We then got the chance to make some videos for the instagram account where we got to show off our new neckerchiefs!!

The weather was cold but everyone persevered, even through the slight rain on Sunday. Adding to that, the next day we cooked in new patrols and started taking down our tents and event shelters but that was only after we got to play the new laser tag games. They were super enjoyable and were a nice way to end the camp. I know that everyone is really looking forward to the next camp!

UK Jamboree : PACCAR



There was a real buzz of energy and excitement in the air when everyone arrived. Ideas flowed as we brainstormed creative fundraising plans, with everyone contributing something unique and imaginative. We then got stuck into designing our own badges—each one reflecting the personality of the unit. The action didn't stop there. We headed into an intense (and very competitive!) game of laser tag. The challenge continued with a fast-paced "Ready Steady Cook" session, pushing everyone to think on their feet and get creative under pressure. To top it all off, we tackled an outdoor escape room, testing our problem-solving skills, communication, and resilience as a team.



What stood out was how the unit came together—supporting each other and beginning to form strong bonds.

If this first meet-up is anything to go by, we are in for an incredible journey. Roll on camp in June—we can't wait to see what we achieve next!

Andrew - UK Jamboree Unit Leader

Testing new laser Tags at Paccar: Do they pass the explorer test?

Artemis Explorer group recently had the exciting opportunity to trial a brand-new set of laser tag equipment, bringing a fresh and energetic twist to a regular activity that takes place at PACCAR scout activity centre.

After a quick briefing and getting familiar with the gear, we jumped straight into a variety of target based games, each designed with different aims and objectives. With strategic team challenges and fast-paced rounds, everyone had a chance to test their skills, teamwork, and tactics in a fun and



active environment.

Some game modes proved more popular than others, with Domination and Tug of War standing out as clear favourites. These games kept everyone constantly moving, thinking, and adapting as we ran around the field, dodging opponents and trying not to get eliminated.

While not every round went to plan, the mix of competition, laughter, and teamwork made the day a great success. Overall, it was a fantastic experience, and the group had a brilliant time trying something new together.

Edith, Artemis Explorer Group, Harrow.

Cubs in Disneyland!

On Saturday 21st March the 1st Ickenham Cubs awoke from a sleepover. It was very very early but they were extremely excited. The night before they had been told, what had been a closely guarded secret, they were celebrating 110 years of Cubs with a daytrip to Disneyland Paris!

At 04:30am, the Cubs took a coach to St Pancras Station and boarded the Eurostar Train to Paris. After a couple of train changes, the Cubs reached Disneyland just in time to see the morning parade. A quick lunch in a restaurant followed and then off to the rides.

Late in the afternoon, after several rides and a trip to the souvenir shops, the Cubs made the journey back to Paris, catching the last Eurostar train back to London. Finally at about 11.00pm the Cubs were reunited back with parents at the Scout HQ.

Everyone had a brilliant day. Thanks go to the leaders and parents who looked after the Cubs and particular thanks to Akela John who organised the day.

Geoff Vanderplank

Joint GLV 1st Ickenham



London Marathon

Thousands of people will soon be embarking on Central London to run the London marathon! The streets will be lined with supporters cheering on the runners, all raising money for great causes!

David O'Leary from Greenford Scouts will be running the marathon for the Marie Curie



Cancer Charity. As we all know this is a great cause some of us may have also used the amazing people at Marie Curie.

If you are able to donate : Dave's fundraising page is: [Click Here to Donate](#)

If you – or any Scouts of any age you know are running the Marathon – please get in touch with media@glmwscouts.org.uk

St George's Day!

Good luck to all those parading this month - and to those attending Windsor - have a fabulous day!

Please do take pictures - and send them to us at media@glmwscouts.org.uk so we can showcase what the County has been up to!



London Adventure Conference

The London Adventure Conference was a great success in March - lots of fantastic sessions throughout the day - Many GLMW people engaged in the conversations.

'Place to Belong'

This generation has so much promise. But so much pressure too. Many feel isolated and lonely . Nearly half don't have a trusted adult they can talk to . Nearly 40% don't have the chance to make new friends . More than 7 in 10 spend most of their free time on screens .



That's why young people need a third place – somewhere that isn't school or home where they can find themselves and be themselves. Where they can be seen, heard and accepted for who they are. It's a safe place with trusted adults.

Scouts is that place: a community of kindness, where fun and friendship run through everything . A local community that also connects you internationally, to a movement of more than 60 million Scouts . Scouts is a place to do your best.

If you want to read more about our new Strategy – Place To Belong – the link is [here](#)

The Charity Commission has issued a Regulatory Advice and Guidance note to all Scout Trustees, setting out the steps Trustee Boards must take to implement the safety and safeguarding commitments

arising from the April 2024 Prevention of Future Deaths Report and to ensure full compliance with Scouts' policies to keep everyone safe.

Scout Trustees across the UK are required to read the note carefully, [review the linked guidance and undertake some important actions.](#)

Actions

1. Read the Charity Commission Regulatory Advice and Guidance note in full.
2. Read and understand the guidance on trustee duties, decision making, safeguarding and serious incident reporting.
3. Add the Regulatory Advice note as a specific agenda item at your next Trustee Board meeting.
4. At that meeting, discuss your responsibilities as Trustees and how your Group or District is complying with required controls, procedures and structures to keep everyone safe.
5. Minute the discussion and decisions and retain a copy of the Regulatory Advice note with your charity's records.
6. Ensure your Trustee Board has read, discussed and minuted the note by 30 April.

More info here: [Trustee Boards | Scouts](#)



Hear our Chief Scout on Desert Island Discs

Find out more about our inspirational Chief Scout Dwayne Fields on BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs!

Listen [here](#):



Team Updates

Jane Sanguy - Leading/Supporting Volunteer Development Leads (previously LTMs) is Jane Sanguy, holding termly meetings.

Trevor Golder – Paccar training course organiser

Jane Sanguy – admin/ joining instructions

Louise O'Leary and Paul Button - New Monthly Training and First Aid newsletter

Phil Power – updating courses on the website /

Monthly updates of compliance state for DLV's/GLV's

Terry Kingham – Mentoring, presenting/ validating training, Complaints support team

Vacancy: Greater London Regional Team Member (Volunteer Development)

An exciting opportunity has been created to work across the Region, supporting the development of our Leaders. As a Greater London Regional Team Member

(Volunteer Development), you will act as

the lead for learning in the Region,

supporting and coordinating the delivery of Manager and Supporter learning opportunities for volunteers across London.

You will help identify learning needs, align delivery across the Region, and ensure volunteers have access to high-quality, engaging development opportunities.

See more details and about nominating someone here: [Greater London Regional Team Member \(Volunteer Development\) Vacancy | Volunteering Vacancies | Scouts](#)



Search for a co-CLV

We are seeking an enthusiastic and capable volunteer to work alongside Cathy Muxlow as 'Joint County Lead Volunteer', supporting Scouts in GLMW during the delivery of our new strategy.

We recognise the competing demands on people's time and have therefore evolved how volunteering operates within Scouting. By introducing more flexible, shared leadership roles at Group and District levels, we have made it easier for volunteers to collaborate effectively. We are now extending this approach at County level, recognising that shared leadership is equally important in successfully leading our County.

The County Lead Volunteer is a senior leadership role with responsibility for providing effective support and oversight to the County's eight Districts. The primary focus of the role is to ensure Scouting is accessible to every young person in the County, regardless of faith, background, or circumstance and to enable Scouting to continue changing lives.

The Scout Association website has a good [role description](#). If you are interested please use the form for [self-nomination](#) or if you know someone who you think would be suitable for this role please [nominate](#) them. If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact me. (details below)

Please return either form to chad.lake@glmwscouts.org.uk

Thank you for everything you do to support our young people.

Best wishes, Chad.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency are reminding the public not to use 4 specified non-sterile alcohol free products. Please check your kits and dispose of any of these products:

- ValueAid Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes
- Microsafe Moist Wipe Alcohol Free
- Steroplast Sterowipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes
- Reliwipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes

For details click [here](#)



Network 26 in 26

Looking for a new challenge for the year?

Take on 26 exciting challenges inspired by a letter of the alphabet...

You could try adventurous activities, learn new skills, get involved in your community, go camping, or just have fun! The choice is yours!

Find inspiration for your A-Z challenges here [26 in 26: a Network Challenge | Scouts](#)

Duke of Edinburgh updates

D of E Leaders

Thank you for all you do in supporting our Young People with their DofE. It is great to see so many of our Young People working towards their DofE awards.

We would like to ensure that awards are approved as quickly as possible and would ask for your help to ensure that the participants are clear on what is required to gain approval.

To avoid delays in approval due to queries, it is important that when our participants select someone to be their assessor, that they explain what the assessor is going to be asked to do at the end. The good news is that the information needed in an assessor report is not kept a secret! The easiest way for an assessor to complete a report is to use the online assessor report. A checklist of what to include and the report form is here: [Assessor's](#)

[Report - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#) Also as a reminder, Assessors must be over 18 and cannot be family members of the participant.

It also really helps, particularly as young people progress to Silver and then on to Gold, for a participant to add some comments or reflections of their own together with some photos - what did they achieve, what went well, or not so well, did they reach their goals?

Geoff Vanderplank County DofE Coordinator

PRICE INCREASE

Please note that with effect from April 2026 the price of DofE places is increasing:

Bronze - £33.00 Silver £33.00 Gold £40.00

Please ensure you apply the correct amount when paying for places after the increase.

Skills Activity

Listening Books is a UK charity supporting people whose illness, disability, learning difference or mental health condition impacts on their ability to access printed text. They are an approved activity provider for the Duke of Edinburgh skills section and offer a skill for both Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants.



Listening Books offers an audiobook-based Skills activity, allowing young people to complete their Skills section by developing listening, comprehension, focus and reflection through audiobooks. For bronze this consist of learning the skills to review an audiobook and for silver taking that review a step further by learning ways to present the review to an audience.

Young people:

- Access an online audiobook library of over 10,000 titles
- Commit to regular listening over the required DofE timescale
- Reflect on what they have listened to and follow guided instructions to put together a review (and for silver record that review)

The Skills option is designed to be inclusive, flexible and low-cost, and works particularly well for young people who may experience barriers with traditional reading-based activities, including those who are neurodivergent, have a disability or live with mental health conditions.

Membership is £25 per year, and we also offer free memberships for anyone who would find the cost a barrier to joining, ensuring the activity remains accessible to all.

More details about the Skills option can be found here:

<https://www.listening-books.org.uk/extra/the-duke-of-edinburgh-bronze-skills-award>

Planning a visit abroad?



If you are looking or planning your next adventure, you must complete a Visits Abroad form and submit to Gillan for review before you send it to your DLV/ CLV.

Gillan Barnard

gillan.barnard@glmwscouts.org.uk

Triple Birthday Celebrations:
Celebrate at PACCAR!

2026 is a big birthday year. In fact, it's a triple birthday year!

We're celebrating 5 years of Squirrels, 40 years of Beavers and 110 years of Cubs across the UK.

That's over 250,000 young people and volunteers all celebrating, making it one of the biggest birthdays ever.

Sections can celebrate at any point in the year -there are lots of programme ideas [here](#)

Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs can celebrate at PACCAR - on the weekend of 11th/12th April.

You can sign up for a day of activities by booking [here](#):

It's £30.00 per YP, free for leaders and YL's. There are only a limited number of spaces left!

If you are celebrating any of the birthdays - get in touch with media@glmwscouts.org.uk to let us know your plans and we can help with getting wider publicity!



Greater London Scout Region



London Challenge Award



Greater London is recognised as a global hub of world events, culture and history. It is one of the most diverse cities in the world, with over 300 languages spoken. A centre of European and world trade for over 2000 years, it remains one of the principal centres of international markets. It has the world's oldest underground railway system. With a population of around 10 million, it is the largest conurbation in the Country and yet hosts the geographically smallest centre. Greater London is home to the UK City in the Square Mile at the more than 170 museums and four UNESCO World Heritage Sites. London also holds the unique distinction of being the first City to host the Summer Olympics three times, and London defined and holds line from which all other places measure time. Get to know our great city by completing the London Challenge Award.



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So what is the London Challenge Award:- It is an exciting opportunity to find out about Greater London, to celebrate our heritage and explore the city in which we live. Completing the London Challenge Award will earn you a distinctive 63mm woven badge which has been approved by the Regional Lead for London as an Occasional Badge that can be worn on your uniform.

How do I complete the Award:- Your journey to completing the award will take you on a trip through five different zones: 1) London in the past, 2) London in the future, 3) A Celebration of London's Diverse Culture, 4) Where we live, and 5) Places to go and things to do. Many of the themes along the way will align with your own existing Scout programmes and help you to complete your Scout top awards in your section. You can pick from a vast array of different ways to complete each zone.

How do I register to participate:- To get started, ask a member of your Section team to email the Greater London Region Programme team. Tell us the name of your Group / Section and the approximate number of young people who will be taking part. We will send you an electronic copy of the award zones together with some suggested ways to complete each of the zones. When you have completed them, simply email back the record sheet to tell us what you did and how many badges you need.

To Register please email:- programme@scoutslondon.org.uk

What does this cost:- The cost of the badges are £1.00 each. Once the completion sheet is received and payment is made, the badges will be posted off and an electronic copy of the certificate which can be printed locally will also be emailed over for your use.

Paddlesports Development Weekend

Greater London Middlesex West, along with Hertfordshire County Scouts have a Paddlesports development weekend for adult leaders in May 2026. The course is being operated via The Canoe Sports Trust at Bury Lake, Rickmansworth.



The event will run over the weekend of 16th / 17th May 2026. The course will include the British Canoeing Paddlesport Safety and Rescue Skills award. Details can be found here:

[Paddlesports Development Weekend - Greater London MW](#)

Geoff Vanderplank

County Adventurous Activities Team Lead



Activity Centres in our County

Do you know that we have more than a dozen Scout campsites around our County? Or that London's largest indoor Bouldering Wall is in Harrow? Or that you can take your young people on a Narrowboat trip on the Grand Union canal.

We have compiled a list of campsites and

activity centres within easy reach of our County here:

<https://www.glmwscouts.org.uk/programme/campsites-and-activity-centres-around-glmw>

Take a look at the activities on offer - it may give you something new to add to your programme!

New Partner: Quality Coach Travel

Scouts have officially partnered with [Quality Coach Travel](#).

This new relationship aims to help groups that don't have qualified drivers or their own transport, access safe, good value, travel options in the UK and abroad.

You can find out more [here](#)



[Contact with the GLMW Community.](#)

Here are some handy shortcuts to contact people within the GLMW community.

[District Lead Volunteers](#)

[County Team](#)

Get in touch to share your news and events with the GLMW community! We'd love to hear from you at:

media@glmwscouts.org.uk

[Chip](#), [Claire](#) & [Nisha](#)

GLMW Scouts



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