December 2023

GLMW
GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST

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Dear all,

Happy Hanukkah, Happy Bodhi Day, Merry Christmas and Merry Kwanzaa! We are so privileged to share so many different cultures, faiths and celebrations in GLMW- do make sure you share the news of your activities so that we can all grow together in Peace. If any of the above celebrations are new to you, please look into them- they are easy ways to teach our Young People about our shared community and so often involve good food- an easy way to tick off those badges and gain Top Awards!

We've all worked so hard this year, now it is time for rest and recuperation ready for the new year ahead. We know there are changes coming but have already established the 'Warmer Welcome' in many Districts and have improved our compliance for DBS checks and mandatory training, I'm confident that together we will continue improving and transition the other changes easily too.

Welcome to Chip Nicholas and Andrew Laszcz who have taken on the roles of joint Assistant County Commissioners - Scout Network, they hope to reach out to the District Units to connect in the new year.

Our Roverway Contingent from REN & Harrow Districts have had their badges approved and started attending national meetings to prepare for the adventure ahead. Please support them in any fundraising events going forward.

I supported the G&D Explorer Belt - (Amsterdam) Christmas Quiz which was lots of fun! They raised a reasonable amount of funds and we're looking forward to their next event.

Thank you to those who have shared pictures of Remembrance Parades/Events across the County. It's always good to remember who came before us.

I was lucky enough to be involved with awarding more adult awards at Harrow District's AGM including the Deputy Lieutenant Award to Alex Stanisci-Brown- a rare and prestigious achievement! (Image above)

I had a wonderful night at 16th Edgware seeing the cubs make picture frames out of bamboo and the Scouts completed their Creative Challenge Badge, awarding 2 Chief Scout Gold Awards, with some filming advertising the upcoming Group Camp!

Over at 8th Ealing, I was lucky enough to visit for Christmas games and crafts and to present some Chief Scout Gold Awards to their Scouts.

Hillingdon West invited me to their Adults Thanks Evening where they reflected, and we awarded many more awards including 50 years long service award to Jennipher Marshall-Jenkinson the District Chair- Well done and thank you!

Happy New Year from me- stay safe and see you all soon!

Cathy Muxlow

County Commissioner - GLMW

COUNTY COMMUNITY

GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST

New Appointments

It's always great to hear about new appointments and movement within the County – get in touch with the team to share what's going on in your District with the rest of the County

Chip Nicholas

Assistant County Commissioner - Scout Network

Andrew Laszcz

Assistant County Commissioner - Scout Network

Lauren Mills

Jasmine Varsani

DYC Team for Brent

Around the Districts

Its been a busy few months for Ealing and Hanwell's Georgina Horwich – She was selected to help at the Remembrance Day Parade in Central London (along with 2 others from GLMW) , and at the beginning of December was selected as one of Bear's 'Unsung Heroes'.

Remembrance Day

Georgie says: I was lucky enough to be selected by the County Commissioner on behalf of The Scout Association to be part of the group of Scouts volunteering to help with checking the tickets of the veterans who were involved in the parade. I had to leave my house at 6am to get to Trafalgar Square for 7:30am. With all of the police cordons in place, and the nearest accessible station being Westminster, I got the chance to wheel down the middle of Whitehall before the parade from Westminster to Trafalgar Square. We saw the whole parade form up in Horse Guards, the guns going off to mark 11am and clapping and cheering the whole parade back in. It was an amazing experience and was lovely to see so many people supporting the parade. It was 1pm by the time the whole parade had returned. It was an amazing day, and something I am never going to forget.

Here are some photos of remembrance parades around the district:

Bear's Unsung Heroes

On Friday 8 December, 20 Scouts from the age of 5 to 23 got together at the Bear Grylls Adventure at Birmingham NEC. They were recognised personally by Chief Scout Bear Grylls for their achievements, ranging from fundraising, using their emergency aid skills, or showing incredible resilience. They received a £500 prize, funded by Bear himself, along with a certificate, Never Give Up badge, neckerchief and copy of Bear's new book – Do Your Best: How to be a Scout. As well as being

honoured by Bear on the day, they got to take part in activities from climbing and archery to snorkelling and indoor freefall at the centre.

Georgie is a Cub leader in Ealing and Hanwell – but lives mostly in Southampton. The nomination read: Georgie has volunteered with Cubs since coming to Southampton for university. She's also been part of the Scouts Rifle Club and has led rifle shooting with a number of our sections. If that wasn't enough, she's also been a first aid trainer and training advisor for adults, volunteered at the World Scout Jamboree and continued to volunteer at her group in her home town. She did all this while studying for a degree and dealing with several personal challenges.

Princess of Wales Carol Concert

Christmas came early for Vrush - ABSL at 1st Greenford.

He was invited to attend the recording of the Princess of Wales' annual Carol Concert at Westminister Abbey.

Vrush said "It was the best experience of my life. The concert was perfectly orchestrated and Westminster Abbey is a stunning venue! Singing Silent Night was also a real highlight- it was beautiful and emotional."

"Princess Kate came over to where we were sitting and spoke to the Beavers. She was so good at putting everyone at ease! She was very polite and knowledgeable about Scouts."

"It's an experience I will never forget - I've framed my invite and haven't stopped telling my friends and family about it! It was a real honour to be there representing Scouts!"

The concert will be broadcast on ITV on Christmas Eve.

Ealing Xmas Dinner

The Christmas Dinners is an annual event created by care leaver Lemn Sissay OBE. Its purpose is to ensure that no care leaver is alone on Christmas Day.

For the second year, 25th Ealing Scouts threw open the doors to their Hut to help wrap presents and hampers that will be given to Care Leavers at their event on Christmas Day. It was a really lovely atmosphere with everyone - from Beavers to adults doing their bit!

Local MP's Rupa Huq and James Murray popped by too!

It was a great community effort ahead of a time that can be really tough for some!

GLMW's Roverway Patrol

We wanted to share an exciting opportunity that lies ahead for us and over 5,000 Scouts and Guides from across Europe – Roverway an expedition set to take place in the summer of 2024 in Norway.

We will be exploring Southern Norway, engaging in an international camp that delves into understanding our world, its changes, and our role in its protection. As a bonus, we will immerse ourselves in Scandinavian culture through an exploration of Copenhagen.

However, before we embark on this exciting adventure, we're reaching out for your support in overcoming our first challenge – raising funds for essential group resources such as tents and cooking equipment. To kickstart our fundraising efforts, we have organized a sponsored sleepout over the Christmas break, where we will spend the night in cardboard boxes. You can support the patrol by donating on our JustGiving page.

Thank you in advance, and we look forward to sharing our experiences with you upon our return!

The GLMW Geezers

Donate here to the GLMW Geezers

County Hillwalking Weekend November 2023

In this newsletter, we often tell you about the opportunities available for leaders.

Hazel Paterson attended a recent GLMW Hillwalking Weekend in November, and here, she shares her experience.

A group of eight intrepid leaders from across the county braved the winter chill to experience hill-walking in the Lake District over the last weekend of November. All were well-prepared for a potentially cold and possibly snowy experience given the forecasts. The accommodation in Patterdale was spacious and comfortable (even if you did need a

harness to access the 3rd tier top bunk!) and after a warming Friday night pub meal to ease away the drive we were ready for the walk the next day.

The initial plan was to undertake the 3rd highest peak in the Lake District: Helvellyn, via the Hole in the Wall, before returning down the valley to Patterdale. However, all were aware that poor conditions would render this a challenge, if not dangerous, so we had several 'Plan B' options. Our doom and gloom were unfounded, though, and we were blessed with a very rare day in the Lakes. Saturday dawned cold but with bright sunshine, offering staggeringly beautiful views all around which expanded as we gained height. There was also virtually no wind which meant we were able to walk along the dragon's scale top of the ridge that is Striding Edge (without the fear of being blown away!) for much of the route. The more sheltered slightly lower path was used more often to circumvent traffic jams of walkers all out for the same reason: to enjoy a rare day of ideal winter walking conditions.

As we sat at the top having lunch and enjoying the views out to Morecambe Bay, it was surprisingly noisy with the happy chatter of those also enjoying the perfect day.

After lunch we changed our plans – but not for our 'doom and gloom' reasons! The superb conditions meant we were able to complete a classic route back, returning via Swirral Edge. This required more care as this ridge was more shaded, so early frosts did not melt away, rendering some surfaces slippery- but the stunning views remained. The group split as some chose to include Catstye Cam on the return route, before linking back with those who had gone to look at Red Tarn – and yes, we did see some wild swimmers in the Tarn despite the freezing cold! It was a very happy group who made their way back to the bunkhouse in the fading light for tea and cake followed by a tasty meal and good company.

These weekends serve many purposes. They are certainly training weekends to develop (and/or brush up) navigational skills and group management in the hills, but this need not be viewed as a pressure but more an opportunity to learn and discuss. Our party had a range of maps for the area which were of various editions and ages; it was interesting to compare some of the differences between them, whilst looking at the terrain.

'Exchange of ideas'

Those planning to gain permits prepared the route for the next day. As you might expect, spending time with other adults who are also aiming to give scouts a quality, positive outdoor experience, leads to exchanges of ideas, stories, and potential for joint working. Just hearing others' experiences is always fascinating, such as experiences from the Jamboree.

The weather on Sunday was a real contrast with low clouds and rain in the forecast. As we made our way up to Boredale Hause we looked back over the valley towards Helvellyn which was now shrouded in mist. By the time we had navigated to the trig point on Place Fell, it was clearly raining where we had been the day before. We remained fortunate with no rain as we made our way off the fellside via the Knight and Hare Shaw.

As you might expect, there were fewer people out and about - instead two roe deer stags appeared on the skyline before galloping in majestic fashion into the valley below. Just like 'Winterwatch'!

Thanks to Andrew and Aaron who give up their time to organize these weekends. Don't forget to sign up!

(Photograph shows the group at the Hole in the Wall with Striding Edge, Helvellyn Summit and Swirral Edge in the background)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST

Squirrels can sleepover!

A group in Darlington took part in their first Squirrels Nights Away. If you are thinking about holding your first Squirrels sleepover, there are lots of tips here:

8 top tips for Squirrel Dreys to have their first Night Away experience

Here is a short video from Scouts HQ about Nights Away Experiences for Squirrels

Community impact and political campaigning at Scouts.

At Scouts, helping other people is a huge part of what we do. We've always been committed to serving our communities and making a difference. This benefits both the Scouts taking part by helping them gain new skills and develop a greater understanding of the world around them, as well as the people they're helping. However – we have to make sure we operate in line with the rules set out for all UK charities on campaigning.

There's new guidance on conducting community impact activity and political campaigning while representing Scouts. This looks at how Scouts can help other people and make a difference, in line with the rules set out for all UK charities. You can read that here :

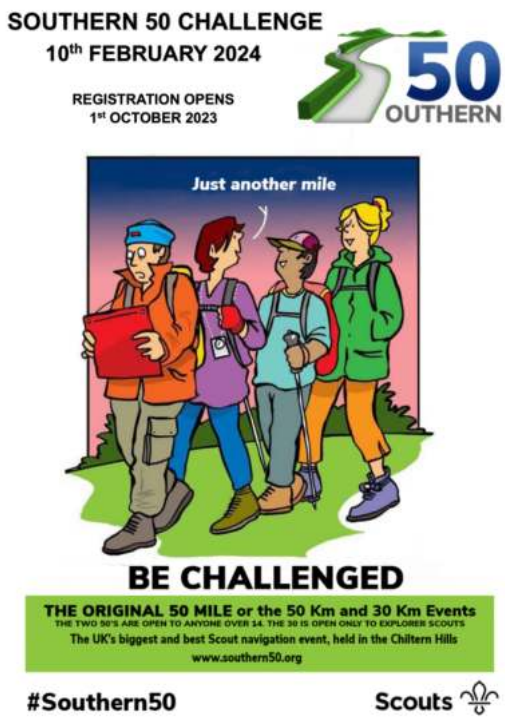
You can read more here

Scout Manifesto

‘The Public Affairs and Policy Team at Scouts is currently working on building a Scout Manifesto in the lead up to the next General Election.

To ensure Scouts reflect the priorities of our membership, over the next couple of weeks a feedback form will be sent to members with a Scout Network, or Youth Commissioner role via email, which we’d love your input on.

In the form, you’ll be able to identify what your top policy asks are, as well as giving us ideas for the manifesto we may have missed. There will be a chance for young people to sign up to be involved in work we do after launching the manifesto – this is a brilliant opportunity to feed your voice into this piece of work, so please check your emails for any updates.



Hike across the Chiltern Hills

The annual Southern 50 Challenge Hike is celebrating its 45th anniversary on 10th February 2024. This famous challenge hike is designed for Explorer Scouts and adults in Scouting across the UK.

This event is also suitable as a linked activity for older Scouts.

It’s a navigation hike across a different area of The Chiltern Hills each year.

There are three routes: a 50-mile hike or a 50 km hike open to all, plus a 30 km route exclusively for older Scouts and Explorer Scouts. Teams are between 3-5 participants.

The event is organised by a team from Greater London North and is a test of navigation skills, physical ability, and teamwork. The actual route is not disclosed until just before teams depart. Teams have to navigate their way to each checkpoint in order which is shown as an eight-figure map reference.

Full information can be found on http://www.southern50.org/ and any questions to secretary@southern50.org

The new Yellow Card

Currently, volunteers report concerns to their Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner. From 1 January 2024, the new requirement is for everyone to report any concern directly to the UK HQ Safeguarding Team. This makes sure HQ are aware of concerns as soon as possible and can put measures in place to minimise risks to children, young people and adults at risk. Another change is that anyone reporting a concern who has a personal relationship or family connection with those involved needs to step back from the situation and inform the UK HQ Safeguarding Team.

Download the new Yellow Card as a PDF here

What we wear

Core uniform and informal practical clothes for outdoor and indoor meetings and activities for young people aged 10½ upwards and for adult volunteers is being reviewed.

Research results from over 26,000 young people and adults in and out of Scouts 2019- 2020 and in 2022 stated that Scout Uniform needs to change. There are no imminent changes. If you want to read more and are interested in joining the Community of Practise, which will mean you can stay up to date with how its progressing.

Sign up here to stay up-to-date

14-24 Review

Over the next five years, a review is taking place to explore what Scouting should achieve for future generations of 14-24-year-olds.

This will happen in four phases: Discovery, co-design, piloting and rollout.

Click here to find out more

COUNTY CALENDAR

GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST

Practical Skills Development for GLMW Leaders – 2024

Are you looking to run adventurous programmes for your sections? Do you need to learn or brush up on some practical scouting skills? We've arranged some Countywide events to help you develop these practical skills.

Click on the links below for more information or to register for any of the events running in 2024.

Residential Skills Weekend : Paccar Scout Camp

22nd – 23rd June 2024

This weekend is for Leaders who may organise or support residential experiences for young people as part of their role in Scouting. It introduces to the skills related to running residential experiences and linked to the skills needed to gain a Nights Away Permit.

Please complete the form below to reserve a place.

Register here

Map Skills Day : Gerrards Cross Station

Sunday 28th April 2024

Ever wanted to take your Young People on an adventure in the countryside but didn't feel confident about finding your way? Do you need to brush up on your navigation skills? Well, this is the day for you.

With other leaders from GLMW county, we will spend the day walking through the Chilterns, learning about map reading, using a compass and looking after your group.

Please complete the form below to reserve a place on the course.

Register here

New Leaders Skills Weekend: Paccar Scout Camp

13th – 14th April 2024

If you are a leader who is fairly new to Scouting or just want to brush up on some practical Scouting skills then this residential weekend is for you.

Pioneering Skills Day : Paccar Scout Camp

23rd June 2024

This one day event is open to all Leaders in Scouting whether you have little or no experience or if you wish to upgrade your

The fee for the weekend (including food) is £15.

Over the weekend you will practice skills such as:

Lighting wood fires - Map reading
- Running a campfire - Pitching tents
- Using axes, knives and saws safely
- And much, much more.

This is a great opportunity to meet fellow leaders and pick up new skills at our County campsite - PACCAR.

Places are limited so please register as soon as you can:

Register here

Pioneering skills. The day is suitable for leaders from all Sections.

You will learn how to build stable structures using knots, lashings, pulleys and poles.

Please complete the form below to reserve a place.

Register here

TRAINING CALENDAR

GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST

Air Rifle Course

We are holding a weekend National Smallbore Rifle Association (NSRA) Course for Adult Leaders at PACCAR Scout camp. The course will run over two days: 20th and 21st January 2024.

Successful candidates will receive the NSRA YPS Tutor Award. Holders of this NSRA qualification are eligible to run Scout Air Rifle sessions.

The cost of the course is £75. To reserve a place and for payment details, please send an email to geoff.vanderplank@glmwscouts.org.uk

Geoff Vanderplank,
Deputy County Commissioner (Activities)

Managers and Supporters training opportunities

Everyone who holds a Manager or Supporter appointment is required to complete the Manager and Supporter training scheme in order to gain their Wood Badge. There are three skills courses which form part of this scheme, which are running in the spring of 2024:

- Achieving Growth: 3rd February 2024 at PACCAR
- Skills for Management: 2nd and 3rd March 2024 at PACCAR
- Meeting the Challenges: 14th April 2024 at Greenford District HQ

Book your place online via: https://www.glmwscouts.org.uk/adult-support/training-calendar

Contact with the GLMW Community

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

District Commissioners Local Training managers
County Team page

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

media@glmwscouts.org.uk

Yours in Scouting,
Chip, Claire, Jocelyn & Nisha

GLMW Scouts

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