

November 2023



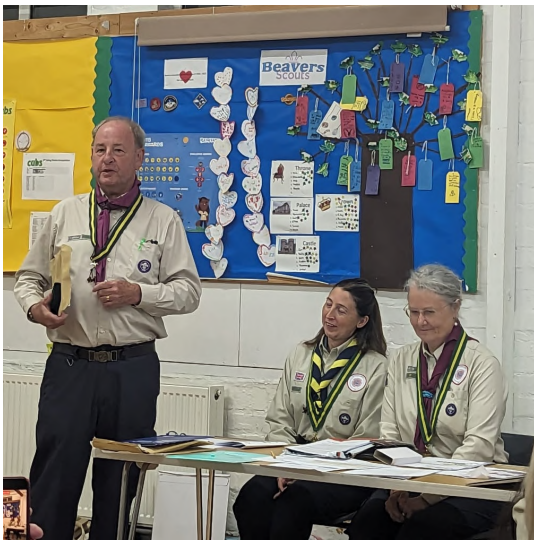
GLMW
GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST



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County Commissioner's Update

Hi all,

We are into November – but I have to say that October is one of my favourite times of year. Not only because it's my birthday month, but also because it's time to start winding down, realising those things on this year's to-do list are either getting done soon or will be on next year's list, and enjoying those cold, crisp evenings around an early evening campfire, watching fireworks displays, enjoying making rangoli patterns outside my door

and starting to plan my new year's resolutions.

So much of that is also true in our scouting mindset- not just the fire, but the priority lists and planning, celebrating with our nearest and dearest and looking to the year ahead.

If you want any advice/support with safety aspects of your events, don't forget we have a team with great experience and hands-on advice, and make sure you have that extra insurance for any fireworks going on- even if you don't invite non-members to the event!

We are already getting prepared for the annual census in January and Compass is almost fully up to date, ready for our digital move over to the new Scouts.org.uk system.

A few people have recently missed those reminders about renewing your DBS or mandatory training- if you're not sure when yours is due, ask the people around you who can check (at worst case, email me and I'll let you know!)

I've enjoyed a few events and visits around the County as CC already - thanks for the first invites from:

1st Stanmore, who I shared dinner with on The Lord Amory (Dockland Scout Project).

New Group: 14th Southall Beavers had their first session at Paccar where we made s'mores.

4th Greenford Cubs shared a Halloween party and archery session at Southall Activity Centre.

And of course 1st Greenford (where I am Scout Leader each week) as well as the Paccar All Sections weekend!

Last but definitely not least....I was lucky enough to be present at Ealing and Hanwell's AGM - and present John Foxwell (pictured above) his Silver Wolf Award.

As ever- a huge thank you to all of you for all you do- without you, we would only have empty premises and bored (and possibly unruly) young people not knowing they are part of their community!

Yours,
Cathy

COUNTY COMMUNITY

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Squirrels Out and About

In September 2021, Squirrels were introduced to Scouting in England. Two years on, our volunteers have opened over 1,000 Squirrel Dreys! So, for their birthday we decided to team up with Paccar Scout Camp to host GLMW's first-ever county Squirrels event!

Squirrels from 1st Hedgerly, 12th Northolt, 13th Southall and 35th Willesden joined us for the Saturday at Paccar's All Sections weekend. With a range of activities for the young people to enjoy, stories to dive into and a teddy bear's picnic at lunchtime to share with their friends, it made for an incredible day. Aside from exploring the site and the new caving system, the Squirrels also earned a couple of their badges and ticked off sections of their Chief Scout Acorn Award.

Overall, it was a great success and we got feedback like "It was very good, the activities were great ... I was very pleased for the Squirrels" and the young people are already looking forward to their next adventure! I would like to say a massive thank you to all the Squirrels who attended, the Leaders who helped on the day and the Paccar team for all their support.

Here's to more exciting events in the future!

Claire Muxlow,
County Youth Commissioner



New Appointments

Its 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



Viya Shah

DYC of Greenford and District



Lewis Fitch

DYC for TGU



Gangaveer Hunjan

The new DC of Greenford

Greenford & District Beaver Hike

The weather is a bit gloomy now, so its great to look back at the clear blue skies that these beavers enjoyed during their District Hike in September!

Up to 50 Beavers took part in the hike, at Ruislip Lido, Middlesex.

They followed the planet trail, had fun on the assault course, and identified some leaves and animals.

Everyone renewed our promise after having a short break and snack.

The action-packed hike took just over two hours, and everyone had a lot of fun!

Jayne ADCB / Beaver assistant 3rd Perivale

Greenford & District



More on the All Sections Camp

The All Sections Sections Camp at PACCAR feels like a very long time ago – but we can't miss the opportunity to celebrate some of the great things that happened!

Great to see Richard Williams having fun at the campfire – and officially handing over the County Commissioner baton to Cathy Muxlow!

Huge congratulations to Jocelyn Brennan on being awarded her King Scout Award, and Chip Nicholas for getting his Wood Badge.

FUN FACT: Jocelyn has refreshed the branding for this Newsletter – and both Chip & Jocelyn are part of our new Media Team at GLMW, along with Claire Muxlow! They will be working with Nisha to help strengthen GLMW's Comms offering! Exciting times ahead!



If you need a reason to feel warm and fuzzy inside about what we do, and the impact we can have on YP – then this video fits the bill.



BBC One's The One Show gave Scout volunteer Sharmine 'One Big Thank You', with the help of Chief Scout Bear Grylls.

Bear went undercover in disguise as sound engineer 'Pete' to surprise Sharmine and to thank her for her amazing work with young people.

Sharmine is a GSL at 20th Willesden Scout Group.

[Watch the video in full here](#)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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Progfest 23': Update for GLMW

4 County representatives attended 'Progfest' in Manchester in October. We had a chance to meet the Scout HQ teams who are working away, making changes in response to your feedback, sharing what's new, what's coming soon, and giving us the chance to ask lots of questions.

The introduction to the day included transformation, and as GLMW is directly involved as an early adopter, we have a head start compared to the rest of the UK.

Things you will want to know about:

- Did you know we have 1000 Squirrel drays across the country? A Starter Programme has been developed to help planning and running Squirrels. See: [Squirrels starter programme | Scouts](#)
- Stuck for programme ideas? Have a look at the Activity Finder [Activities | Scouts](#)
- The year ahead calendar ensures you don't miss events and occasions in your programme [Occasions and events | Scouts](#)
- To help ensure sections have great programmes, the quality programme checker is being updated to provide more useful outcomes (not just red/amber/green). A programme planning tool is being developed, and more details are expected soon. You Shaped Award was developed to help leaders embrace youth-led scouting. Whilst there are badges for Beavers Cubs Scouts and Explorers, there is nothing yet for Squirrels. Network sections run differently so won't have this badge. [YouShape Award | Scouts](#)
- A new fun badge is being introduced to encourage sections to take young people on adventures outside [Outdoor in 24 | Scouts](#) has been created with ideas and information to support leaders.
- Following a Community Impact review, a decision was taken to close the 'Million Hands' initiative. Young people have asked for more opportunities to address climate change and environmental issues, and so UK Scouting will be taking on the World Scouting initiative – the Earth Tribe [Environment and Sustainability | World Scouting](#)

- If anyone is interested in getting involved with a review of badges, do get in touch. HQ want to know which badges are working (or not!) and what could be added.
- UK Parliament Week 2023 was 6 – 12th November. This is an annual event spreading the word about what Parliament is, what it does, and how you can get involved. If you've missed it this year, consider getting involved in 2024. [About | UK Parliament Week](#)
- Work is in progress on the updating/refresh for 14-24 year olds sections (Explorers, Young Leaders, and Network). But in the meantime, you may want to find out more by signing up for the webinars on Top Awards:
 - 28 Nov: Explorers & Network - let's talk 14-25 Top Awards | Events
 - 30 Nov: Explorers & Network - let's make expeditions inclusive | Events | Scouts
 - 30 Nov: Explorers & Network - let's support Young Leaders with their Top Awards | Events | Scouts

As you can see there is a lot going on. If you have any questions, contact the GLMW Programme Team for more information.

Sanjay, Sandra and Sarah

The Programme Team are looking to review the badges! We plan to take the next couple years to gradually review all the badges and want you, the movement, to be involved. This form will register your interest in being involved.

Get involved in badge review!



SCAN FOR SIGN UP FORM

Remembrance Day Parades

Many of us will have attended Remembrance Day parades. Please do send us your stories, pictures, and what you got up to in sessions to include in next month's edition!



Diwali

It was also Diwali over the weekend – if you were celebrating, we hope you had a fabulous time!

TSA have lots of programme ideas if you want to mark the festival
<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/celebrate-the-festival-of-light/>

The pictures you see are behind-the-scenes shots of Viya and Claire from Greenford District filming a video for TSA about Diwali – look out for them across all the Socials! <https://fb.watch/olGzL8nr76/>



SAFETY

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The clocks have changed for winter, it is a good time to think of any battery alarms we have in our Premises, may it be carbon monoxide or fire / smoke alarms.

There is no better time to check the guidance below to ensure we are GAS SAFE.

Guidance on the safe use of gas appliances within Scouting.



Guidance on the safe use of gas appliances within Scouting.

Tree Safety

With the storm season ahead, we should be making sure our premisses as ready for the Autumn and Winter periods.

This may be checking our guttering, fencing, lighting and getting our trees checked.



Since Covid many councils and Schools have outsourced this tasked to sub-contractors and some funding has moved away from your local councils, so some Schools now have to budget for this.

If you rent from a School please ask if the work has been completed. If your premises are surrounded ask who owns them.

We are seeing more and more accidents from trees that are blown over because of climate change.

Get in touch if you have any questions.

Roger Rixon

County Safety Advisor

roger.rixon@glmwscouts.org.uk

Tree Safety Guidelines

COUNTY CALENDAR

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Leaders, 2024 is a year to sharpen up your practical Scouting skills and deliver even more fantastic programmes for our young people. Take a look at the Events calendar on

our County website for a variety of opportunities to develop your skills and experience with other leaders from around the County. <https://www.glmwscouts.org.uk/events>

The opportunities include:

- 20th - 21st January - [Air Rifles Permit Course](#)
- 26th - 28th January - [Hillwalking in Snowdonia](#)
- 13th - 14th April - [New Leaders Skills Weekend](#)
- 28th April - [Map Skills Day](#)
- 4th - 5th May - [Paddlesports Training Weekend](#)

Look out for even more learning events throughout the year.

TRAINING CALENDAR

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Practical Skills Development for GLMW Leaders

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.

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>

Skills for Residential Experiences weekend course - 22/23 June 2024

This weekend course is designed for those who work directly with young people who may organise or support residential experiences as part of their role in Scouting. It is intended to provide an introduction to the skills related to running residential experiences and linked to the skills needed to gain a Nights Away Permit.

This module is split into eight sessions which cover the core areas of the Nights Away Permit Assessment and will help participants to gain and consolidate skills. It includes lots of practical elements including camp cooking and sleeping in a tent.

This is a residential weekend course which takes place at PACCAR Scout Camp, Chalfont St. Peter. 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

media@glmwscouts.org.uk

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

GLMW Scouts

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