

May 2026



GLMW
GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST



This Month:

County Community
New term, new Drey
Ski Italia
King Scout Awards
Harrow Scouts SpoGoMi Competition 2026
London Marathon
Triple Birthday celebrations
Climbing Permit course
GLMW Top Awards Day

Jamboree Updates
Poland
Harlaam
UK

Team movements/ requests
County Team updates
Search for a co-DLV

HQ Updates
Place to Belong
Regulatory Advice for Trustees

Updates/ information
First Aid Kits - Safety Update
Network : 26 in 26
Duke of Edinburgh updates!
Visits Abroad
Paddlesports Development Weekend
Activity Centres in our County
New Partner: Quality Coach Travel

COUNTY COMMUNITY

GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST

Hello to some of our newest members!

Its time for squirrels...they've arrived at 2nd Ickenham!

With support from Vania and Karen from County, the group now has 18 Young People, 2 leaders, 2 occasional helpers plus lots of parent support.

Lots of adventures are planned this term, including a nature hunt, fruit testing and Mega SUP's !

We can't wait to hear more about your adventures!



9th Kenton Ski Italia

At the start of this Month, a group of Scouts and Explorers went to Florgada, Italy for a ski trip, supported by a team of Network and Leaders. For many it was their first time skiing and other was a chance to build on skills from previous trips.



Across six full days on the mountain, young people took part in two daily ski lessons with qualified instructors, progressing from cautious first turns to confident parallel skiing on the stunning slopes of the Dolomites. The scouts showed brilliant determination, teamwork, and resilience especially when tackling the more challenging red runs later in the week.

The Evenings were just as memorable, with activities from high-ropes Adventure Park, outdoor games, Paint balling, a visit to Madonna di Campiglio, and a classic Italian pizza night. These sessions gave everyone time to relax, bond, and enjoy the Italian culture.

Ski Italia 26, was a huge success, offering Adventure, personal growth and stories to stay with the young people. A massive thank-you to the Leaders and Network team who made the week possible.



KING SCOUT AWARDS

Huge congratulations to Jon Goss, (REN) Luke Bennett (REN) and Matt Lee (Ealing and Hanwell) for achieving their King Scout Award - they were invited to the main Day of Celebration at Windsor to mark the special day.

Adult Service Awards

Congratulations to Martin Elliott of 1st Ealing North for receiving his Bar to the Silver Acorn at Ealing and Hanwell's St George's Day celebrations!

Thank you Martin for all you do!

We'd love to hear from around the County about your celebrations - get in touch with us media@glmwscouts.org.uk



Harrow Scouts SpoGoMi Competition 2026

What is it?



SpoGomi (a blend of "sport" and *gomi*, Japanese for "trash") is a competitive team-based litter-picking sport that originated in Japan in 2008 to promote environmental sustainability. Teams compete to collect the most litter/rubbish by weight and type within a designated area and time limit. There are UK and

World Championships held annually for teams of 3 adults.

Harrow Litter Pickers put a team of 3 into the UK finals in 2025 and they came 3rd so we were delighted to partner with them to set up this Scout SpoGoMi event.

Teams from 3 Harrow Scout Groups came along to be involved – 3rd Kenton, 9th Kenton and 1st Roxeth and we focused on Kenton Recreation Ground where we know there is often litter and fly tipping in the bushes. Each team of 3 set out with litter grabbers, bags and an adult to keep an eye on them, with 45 minutes to collect as much litter (by weight) as possible.

We were amazed at the results! Almost 160kg of litter was collected – as much weight as 2 adults! Items found included an old office chair, a dismantled bike, a pallet, a broken fence and a toy monkey! As well as plenty of bottles (glass and plastic), cans, tissues and sweet wrappers. The Scouts got hugely competitive ... and very inventive in working out how we could attach the items they had collected to the hook on our weighing scales!

We hope to hold the event again later in 2026 and make an even bigger difference to the environment!



LONDON MARATHON 2026

A HUGE congratulations if you were one of the many thousands of people to complete the 56th London Marathon - what an epic achievement and what a beautiful day it was too!

Venera, Chair of the Trustee Board at 11th Willesden Scout Group ran to raise fund for the group – and was supported by Beavers and Cubs who came along to cheer on the day for their young and growing group! Venera says it was a memorable day for everyone - she finished in 6hours and 30 mins!

Well done Venera – hope you have recovered and raised lots of money so your young people can continue to have fantastic and memorable experiences!

If you would like to contribute, the link is here: <https://bit.ly/11thWillesdenScouts>



MiniJAM

Hundreds of Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs came together at PACCAR for MiniJAM last month!

Were you there? Let us know your highlights! Did you use it as an opportunity to celebrate our Triple Birthdays!

Get in touch with us to let us know media@glmwscouts.org.uk





went to PACCAR to try out MiniJAM .

There were a wide variety of activities available across the site including the 3G swing, zip wires, bouncy castles, archery, caving, climbing and abseiling along with crafts, fire lighting and some visiting farm animals. The whole group had a great time, with highlights being the caving and

zip wire activities. We're looking forward to going again next year!

CLIMBING PERMIT COURSE

If you are interested in getting a climbing permit, then sign up for the next course.

It's on the 30th and 31st May at Brunel University and Southall Activity Centre.

Suitable for the following:

- Adults with personal climbing experience who are keen to work towards gaining a Scout permit
- Expired permit holders who want to renew a permit
- Permit holders who want a refresher
- Permit holders who would like to upgrade their permit, e.g. adding abseiling or changing from leader to supervisor



<https://www.glmwscouts.org.uk/events/climbing-course-artificial-top-rope-leader-course-with-options-2>

GLMW Top Awards Day 2026

GLMW is hosting a Top Awards Day on Sunday 5th July 2026 at Paccar Scout Campsite to celebrate any young people who achieved one of the following awards in 2025:

- Chief Scout Acorn, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond
- King's Scout Award
- Young Leader Belt
- Explorer Leader Belt
- SOWA
- Gold DofE



They might no longer be in the section they earned the award in, but please pass on the details to the relevant leader so that they are invited. OSM has a badge reporting system which could help you identify the young people to invite.

Please refer to the email sent on April 2nd to GLVs, 14-24 Leads and DLVs for more information and parent signup links. Parent sign up deadline date is 31/05/26

Leaders are invited to attend the event regardless of whether you have any young people attending. It will be great to see lots of you there. The sign-up link for Leaders: [Leaders - GLMW Scouts Top Awards Day 2026 – Fill in form](#)

JAMBOREE UPDATES

POLAND JAMBOREE

The weekend of 18/19 April saw WSJ Unit 28 hit the chaotic consumer hub of the Tesco Extra Osterley for a fundraising drive; 4 sessions of 4 hours of welcoming people and packing their bags, in return for a small but (hopefully!) generous donation.

As we started to arrive for the first session, a daunting feeling crept upon the group when we realised what lay ahead. But, with the help of parent-donated doughnuts and supportive cashiers, the group warmed up to the challenge!

With bold singers at the door and efficient duos of bag packers, the fundraising weekend flashed by. With help from the leaders, who kindly gave their time to organise these sessions, fun started to sell itself to the shoppers as comedic events popped up here and there throughout the weekend, like someone falling into the fire escape door, setting off the alarm, a former jamboree leader doing his weekly shop generously supporting us, and the girls on the door creating a jamboree remix of "Where is my husband!" (baby, why don't you come on over and donate...), bringing in more donations to encourage them to continue singing (or maybe to make them stop!)

After this successful fundraising weekend, raising an extraordinary £3,509, I can't wait until the next time we meet up and keep building on the energy of our WSJ camaraderie

Matt Lee



treated.

Harlaam Jamborette update

On the weekend of 25th and 26th April, the Haarlem Jamborette contingent held two Unit days at PACCAR Scout camp.

There was a great atmosphere on both days as we all got to meet face to face and started to get to know each other, collaborating on what we want our Units to be like and how we all want to be

The creativity continued with unit members starting the design process for their unit identity, designing badges and beginning the search for a unit name.



We had sessions of laser tag and team building along with a Ready Steady Cook challenge which got the units to think on their feet.

Both units took the time to get to know each other and it was great watching the units support and encourage each other, establishing new bonds from the beginning.

We're looking forward to our first contingent camp in July.

David Hurley, Deputy Blue Unit Lead.



UK Jamboree

Our fundraising kicked off in earnest at Ealing and Hanwell's St George's Day celebrations. A number of attendees entertained the the Scouts and parents - even the dignitaries had a go at the penguin song! We managed to raise in the region of £500, a great effort by all!

TEAM MOVEMENTS

Team Updates

The training team has changed and is now led by Trevor Golder and Jane Sanguy. All courses are still found on the county website and a separate Training Newsletter will be coming out to keep you up to date.



Don't forget that everyone youth facing (Team Members, Team Leaders and Group Lead Volunteers) all need in date First Responses- check on the membership system to see when yours is due.

If you're not sure how, use the online guide: My learning:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/volunteer-experience/digital-tool-guides/my-learning/>

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.

HQ UPDATES

'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 – A Place To Belong – the link is [here](#)



Regulatory Advice note for all Trustees

Thank you to all Trustee Boards across the County for ensuring the Regulatory Advice and Guidance was followed as requested. HQ will dip test across the country so please do keep minutes in a safe place.

First Aid Kits - Safety Update

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



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!

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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