

OCTOBER 2022



This Month:

An update from our County Commissioner

The County Community

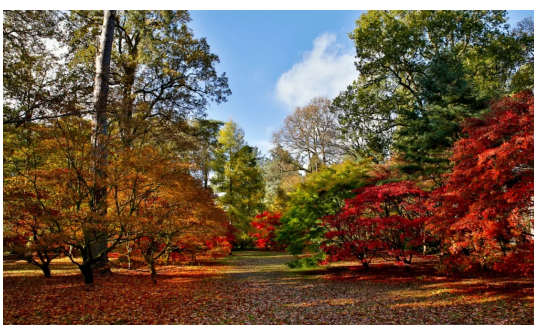
- GLMW leaders Diwali event
- Safety in Cold Winter

The County Calendar

- New Leader Skills weekend
- GLMW Hillwalking Weekend (November)
- D of E Silver & Gold Expeditions 2023

GLMW Training Calendar

- Adult training dates in October
- County Safeguarding & Online Safety



How things change

The world around us changes all of the time. Occasionally, it can feel quite unsettling when things we have taken for granted are suddenly not there anymore. In other parts of our lives, things adapt and change so gradually that we don't really notice it happening. And then, one

morning perhaps, we look back on places or a group of people we spend time with to see that they are all a little different or maybe not there anymore.

This week, I had quite a few reminders of this inexorable evolution of our world. Two, in particular, struck a resonant chord.

Following our Diwali event last month, I was invited to visit a potential new venue for Scouting at a development area in Southall. The development is truly vast and over the next 25 years will bring a new, large and diverse population in to an area that has remained derelict for many years. The transformation in the fabric of the area and the local population will be remarkable. The potential for a lot more Scouting in the area was clear to see.

At the same time, I was reminded about a young person who was a member of the Explorer Unit where I was a leader a while back. They moved away to university some time ago. I was happy to hear that they have now achieved their, at the time still, Queen's Scout Award and were now leading at a Scout Group. It was really cheering to see the completion of the Scouting journey for a young person translating in to their own personal success and continuity of the movement for the future.

Change is What we do well

The programme we work on together with our young people in Scouting is designed to help them to develop in to capable, resilient and contributing adults in our society today and long in to the future. A central element of that capability is the ability to cope with change and to adapt to the circumstances in which we all find ourselves.

Over the coming year, Scouting itself will be experiencing change as we make the journey for our volunteers more welcoming and supported. With some new ways of working and some systems that will give much more positive support in completing those tasks that we need to do, we will all be experiencing change.

Here in GLMW, we will be at the forefront of those changes. By getting involved early, we will have an opportunity to help shape the future of Scouting. The GLMW and DC teams will be seeking your feedback throughout this journey and feeding it directly in to the work with the national team. To see the latest information on the National strategy for People you can take a look [here](#). Look out for briefings and roadshow events near you in the coming months.

In the meantime, thank you for continuing to support the young people and adults in GLMW, delivering an awesome Scouting experience and building great resilience in an ever changing world.

Richard Williams



GLMW Diwali Celebration



In October, GLMW celebrated Diwali in true style! Harrow District hosted an excellent evening, that one of 2nd Rayners Lane Scouts Alex de Cruz wrote up to share with you all.

The annual Diwali events that are held in the Harrow District are just a reminder of the culturally enriching impact of diversity that is so prominent in our movement.

Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is a major celebration for Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists, usually observed over five days, but different religions choose to mark the occasion differently. The story of Diwali is told in the poem *The Ramayana*, which describes Lord Ram's return to the kingdom of Ayodhya, along with his wife Sita and his younger brother Lakshman after being exiled for 14 years.

This year, it seems that Harrow outdid themselves by pulling off one of the most dazzling scouting events of the year!

Ben from 2nd Rayners Lane Scouts said,

"The Diwali festival began with an enthusiastic performance from 8th & 19th Harrow Cubs reciting the story of Diwali [...] and presentations, regarding the history and importance of scouting."

Traditionally, Diwali is celebrated with the lighting of *divas*, candles or lanterns, along with fireworks, *rangoli* artwork and sharing mithai, which are sweets from the Indian subcontinent, such as Gulab jamun and Gujiya.

Tony, the GSL of 2nd Rayners Lane said;

"There was a lot of really good entertainment, the Cubs did a mime, there were excellent drummers, fireworks and everyone was incredibly friendly and hospitable."

There was singing, dancing and drums throughout the night that *"filled the hall with joy,"* said Ben, 2nd Rayners Lane, and he also said the young leaders judged a selection of mandala drawings and the evening ended with a *"spectacular show"* of fireworks. Overall, the entire event was a success with Tony calling it a *"really fantastic evening"* where people were *"mixing in with each other"* to create a *"friendly and welcoming"* atmosphere.

The County Community

Safety in Winter



As I am writing this month's safety, I am in the unusually warm country of Switzerland. But the winter will come one day, and we must start to plan for activities in cold weather. I have included a link below which may be of some help.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/keeping-safe-at-camp/cold-weather-and-winter-advice/>

With the clocks changing on the 30th of October, it may be a good time to change any battery powered alarms you may have in your premises, you may also want to check your lighting works around your premises with attention to car parking areas and entrances and exits .

If I can help you in anyway, please let me know at:

roger.rixon@glmwscouts.org.uk

Roger Rixon, County Safety Advisor



**The County
Calendar**



Events & Opportunities



NEW LEADER SKILLS WEEKEND

**£15 (INC
FOOD)**

A weekend crash course
in Scouting skills

25-26 MARCH 2023
PACCAR Scout
Camp, Chalfont

www.glmwscouts.org.uk

GLMW Hillwalking

The next trip will be in November, staying in a bunkhouse in the Peak District. If you are interested in attending, gaining training and experience towards a future permit assessment or just to get out in the hills with other leaders, then details can be found at:

[Hillwalking Peak District Weekend, for Adult Scout Members - Greater London MW \(\[glmwscouts.org.uk\]\(http://glmwscouts.org.uk\)\)](#)

Geoff Vanderplank

geoff.vanderplank@glmwscouts.org.uk

Deputy County Commissioner (Activities)



EXPLORERS* Greater London Middlesex West Explorer & Network Scout Expeditions Programme 2023 **network***

A fantastic opportunity for Explorer and Network Scouts to take part in and complete expedition awards. A fully organised and facilitative course, taking you from the basics of expedition skills to an adventurous journey of your own. Available to existing groups or individuals that will be able to link up with participants from other Units and form teams to take part in all levels of expedition.

The programme includes:

- Basic training.
- Skills Refresher training.
- Practice expeditions.
- Qualified and facilitative supervision.
- Skilled and experienced instruction.
- Assessed Scout and DofE expedition.

And is suitable for:

- Diamond Award & DofE Silver
- Queen Scout Award & DofE Gold
- Explorer Belt training

Dates & Details:

- Training 1: 28th-30th January 2023
- First Aid training 5th March 2023
- Practice weekend: 31st March (evening) – 3rd April 2023
- Assessed Expeditions 01 (evening) – 10th July 2023

Route planning evenings to be organised locally

All teams will have an evening pre-assessment kit check session in the week or two leading up to the assessed expedition.

The cost for the full programme of three residential weekends, first aid, day, six planning and preparation evenings plus report back:

The Small Print – You need to Read it
Participants will be expected to attend the training sessions & first aid sessions plus a report back evening with their teams on the dates shown. If you are not able to do this, then the programme may not be ideal for you.

We are Gaining awards
Scouts working for DofE Awards must be registered for DofE. refunds available.

If participants only wish to attend part of the programme for a specific reason then please contact the course leader for advice. To reserve a place on the course, send an application form and a deposit of £20 (cheques payable to "GLMW Scouts") via your Explorer Unit Leader to the DofE Programme Registrar c/o PACCAR Scout Camp, Denham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 0QJ by 15th December 2022. Network Members apply direct to the Programme Administrator. All course levels are subject to minimum numbers. Electronic payment details available on request.

For Further Information on the programme please contact: Graham Drabble – Expedition Training Course Leader – graham.drabble@glmwscouts.org.uk Registration, Unit Leaders please see application form for details

GLMW Duke of Edinburgh Silver & Gold Expedition Programme

We are pleased to announce that the County DofE programme returns for 2023, catering for Silver and Gold hillwalking expeditions.

Details are in the [attached flyer](#) and [application form](#). Please forward these to any members of your unit who may be interested.

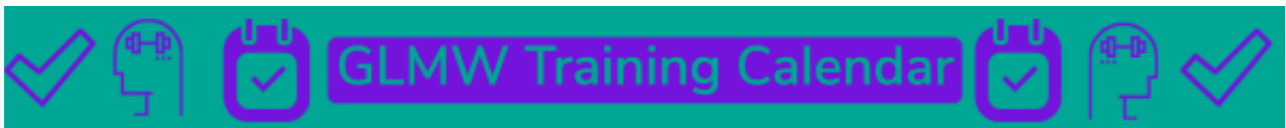
We have had a lot of feedback over the years that participants find attending central route planning meetings difficult, particularly as they involve another night out, often with considerable travel, in the lead up to exams. To help with this, route planning is to be done locally within the

unit. We will provide the route card templates and the rough outline of the route along with dates that they need to be finished by. Unit Leaders can then work to find time with participants either as part of their Explorer Programme, or outside unit time.

If anyone has any questions, do please get in touch.

Graham Drabble graham.drabble@glmwscouts.org.uk

DofE Expedition Lead



Adult Training Dates : November 2022

Be sure to check the [GLMW Training Calendar](#) and sign up early.

This November

Managers & Supporters Training - 4th-6th Nov - South London Scout Centre.

Module 10A (First Aid Learning) - 15th November - Remote via Zoom.

Module 12B, 18 & 19 - 19th November - Paccar

Module 16 & 17 - 20th November - Paccar

We have an exciting opportunity to gain some skills to support our young people online and to get some valuable safeguarding advice.

The day will take place on Saturday November 26th from 9:30 until 4:30 at Greenford District Head Quarters. (Between 111 & 113 Hill Rise, Greenford, Middlesex. UB6 8PE)

Teas and coffees will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

There will be the chance to take part in workshops run by charities helping young people online and updates from within Scouting.

One of the sessions will be run by Young Gamblers and will look at specifically supporting some of the communities in which we are scouting.

I am sure we all have some questions around good online practice and how we can help our young people there. If you would like to book a place, please complete the form here:

<https://forms.gle/p7AZeRBHLcN4ufkN9>

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

[Georgia](#) & [Nisha](#)

GLMW Scouts

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