



Greater London Middlesex West Scouts - August 2018

Information Overload



Our senses are bombarded every moment of the day with information that, in some cases, can be really important for us. They can tell us about dangers and risks and alert us to actions we should take. Scouting teaches us to use all of our senses to plan and run many great activities throughout the year mindful of all of the risks and issues that may occur. Those same senses can also tempt us to

do something different. The smell of freshly brewing coffee from that chain of stores on the high street can lure us through the door. The heat on our skin tells us that it might be time to add some more sunscreen. Seeing the tagline on an email suggests an interesting adventure that we might take.

With the advent of the vast array of electronic devices now at our disposal, this data bombardment for most of us has become a flow of information that is beyond our ability to register, process and then act upon all of the different items that we see, hear, smell, taste and touch every minute of the day. We simply don't feel that we have enough TIME to be wasted on all the things we are shown. We have to prioritise. As a result, we have developed a rapid filtering capability that sees a headline, or perhaps just a single word or picture attached to an incoming INFORMATION BOMB and we choose immediately to either READ or IGNORE.

The creators of much of what we see on our screens know that often we really don't want to see news about their product or service but they are adept at finding ever more persuasive methods of just getting us to click. All of which serves to increase the speed at which we choose to IGNORE. How often have you seen a headline that said something like "Everything was going fine until the moment that this happened..." next to a picture of a cute animal or maybe a plane heading for a mountain and you just had to click it to see what came next. The inevitable disappointment of arriving at an advert for something that you didn't want then adding to your determination not to do that again.

A consequence of this is that increasingly we find ourselves IGNORING messages that actually contain information we do want or need to see simply because they had the wrong flag attached at the top. In an organisation where events and opportunities to develop our Scouting Skills and Programme are not developed by marketing professionals but people just like you and me (unless you are a marketing professional of course) this can feel frustrating. We miss that application form for an Expedition Programme or an adventure weekend or a new role that we would really have liked to take up. We tell ourselves that “it wasn’t our fault, someone should have made the information more obvious...”

TAKE A MOMENT...

It’s HOT, it’s the summer, take a little time to relax and give yourself a break. In this issue of MX News, there are many items that may be of interest to you. They may be things that some of your colleagues in your Group or Unit might want or need to do. Let them know, just in case they have had a bad day of extreme information filtering.

And, as you enjoy that moment, reflect on all of the amazing things that you have done in Scouting this year already. You deserve that break. After reading MX News, shut your eyes for another moment and imagine the next ADVENTURE. Thank you for all that you have done in GLMW so far in 2018. Have a great summer.

Richard Williams
County Commissioner

Managers Course

On the weekend of 1st December, GLMW will be holding at Managers Course at PACCAR Scout Camp.

If you hold a manager role and have not yet completed this training, please contact your LTM or [Alison Oakley](#) to book a space on the course.

District Commissioners' support day

New and existing District Commissioners are invited to attend a support day on Saturday 3 November at Baden-Powell House which will offer the chance to discuss and share experiences with other volunteers in the same role.

Please [follow the link to register](#) .

Online Scout Manager

If you haven’t yet taken advantage of the County OSM provision, please contact [Karen](#) to receive your code.

RAF100



Hayes & Harlington and Uxbridge & District Scouts spent the summer term working towards their Air Researcher badge. In recognition of their efforts, the Scouts were invited to the RAF's centenary exhibition at Horse Guards parade as special guests to view some of the aircraft, talk to RAF personnel and have the chance to climb aboard a Spitfire, chinook and Dakota.



After their guided tour, the Scouts were awarded with the Air Researcher badges by an RAF Captain.

To complete their celebration, the Scouts then took over Pizza Express in The Strand for Pizza and ice cream which had been paid for using their Jack Petchey Awards.



Expeditions Achieved



Last weekend saw the completion of the Qualifying Expeditions for this year's GLMW Expedition Programme. Bronze, Silver and Gold teams successfully reached their objectives in the Chiltern Hills or in Snowdonia. Observing the Silver and Gold groups out in

Snowdonia it was great to see Explorers coping with both the usual rigours of rainy weather in that region with the added bonus of some unusually hot weather in the mountains. A weekend of great scenery, wild camps and fun saw them visiting some spectacular locations at their best in the sunshine. All of the



teams, Bronze in the Chilterns and those in North Wales enjoyed the weekend and



were pleased to have completed their respective challenges. All that remains is to piece together the photos, notes and video blogs to round out the report back presentations in the autumn. If you get a chance to come along, you will see a fantastic group of young people all proud of their achievement. Thanks too

must go to Ben Pearson and his dedicated team of supervisors & trainers together with the assessor team for the long hours that they have given to the programme over the last several months.

Would you like to support the work of the County Training team?

We are looking to appoint a Catering Manager..

The role involves:

Organising teams to cover the courses run by the Training Team

Making sure that course leaders and caterers are in communication and are aware of any dietary or other menu requirements

Informing course leaders and training administrators when caterers are signed up

Liaising between course leaders and caterers in the run up to courses

Maintaining the cupboard of equipment (usually stored at PACCAR)

Visiting caterers (if necessary) when they are on courses

Growing the team and finding additional caterers to support courses.

You will be using and developing your team leading skills and if your experience in this is limited we can give you support.

Cooking experience not required although it would be a bonus.

If you are interested please contact [Alison Oakley](#) for more details.

GLMW County AGM

You are invited to attend the County AGM on Sunday, 23rd September 2018 from 3pm at 1st Greenford Scout HQ.

Light refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Buddy on Tour

Buddy spent some time with Ruislip, Eastcote, Northwood recently at their District camp and met Parker.



At the moment, Buddy is on Brownsea Island (again) with 6th Northwood enjoying the sunshine and kayaking. Buddy will soon be looking for his next big adventure, If you have room for him, please [get in touch.](#)



Jamboree Supporters Badges

Unit 20 have named themselves the Sherlock Homies to reflect the fact that Baker Street is in the County.

Supporters badges are available to purchase for £3 plus p+p with all proceeds helping to fund unit activities.

If you would like to purchase a badge, please contact the [County office.](#)



Be Tick Aware



When out and about, be aware of ticks.

Ticks are small, spider-like creatures that feed on the blood of animals and people and their bites can cause very serious conditions if left untreated, including Lyme disease.

Visit [here](#) for information on safe tick removal, symptoms to look out for and treatment.

GLMW Camping Challenge

Encourage outdoor adventure by taking on [GLMW's Camping Challenge!](#)

Our Bronze, Silver and Gold camping challenges encourage Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to improve their nights away skills and progressively strengthen their experience, ability and knowledge as they look for new and different ways to enjoy the outdoors.

Young Leader Training Weekend

5th – 7th October 2018



Following on from our successful collaboration with Berkshire Scouts in 2017, we will be running another Young Leader module training weekend this October at PACCAR Scout Camp. The residential weekend will enable Young Leaders to complete training on all of the modules in the Young Leader programme. In addition, the weekend will offer an opportunity to meet Young Leaders from a very different background to anyone active in our metropolitan county plus there will be time to enjoy some of the activities at our County campsite.

Places are limited so applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis. So if you have a young leader who would like to participate, please help them to send completed application and health [forms](#) plus a cheque for £45 to Karen Tempest at our County Office (address is on the forms).

Badge of the month



Prepare for the autumn by planning an adventure to space for your scouts. The UK space agency have developed fantastic materials to support the astronautics badge for the Scout section. Details are available [here](#).

Executive Support Day – Saturday 3rd November

With a need to embrace recommendations from The Scout Association, Charity Commission and GDPR there is a lot for Group and District Executives to implement so with this in mind an Executive Support Day would be beneficial. A date has been set – Saturday 3rd November when all Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries can work together and create a culture of even better governance. During the day sessions for all the main functions of executives will be covered, The duties of being a trustee and a guest speaker from the financial world to enthuse us about 21st century governance.

Details of the programme, venue and how to registrar will be sent to you soon, so in the mean time please reserve the date – Saturday 3rd November.

Million Hands Colour Run—2nd Rayners Lane



2nd Rayners Lane Scout Group made their day extra colourful by organising and taking part in the Colour Run in West Harrow Park and by raising over £1000 with the profits going jointly towards Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK.

They also raised awareness of dementia and took part in Dementia Friends Sessions learning more about dementia and what they can do within their communities. Reshma Patel who organised the activities said: "As part of the Million Hands Project, changing people's perceptions of dementia, is one of the biggest ever initiatives undertaken by our Scouts. At 2nd Rayners Lane, all our beavers, cubs and scouts have become a 'Dementia Friend' to learn more about what it's like to live with dementia. Our aim is to now work with our local community to turn this understanding into action so that we can make our local area a Dementia Friendly town. This colour run event is just one in a series of events that will allow our scouts to connect with our community to raise awareness about this disease and raise some funds towards research. All our scouts, families, friends and our local community have really enjoyed this colourful afternoon, and everyone has gone away with something new that they have learnt about this disease. I would like to thank our Dementia Champion Mercia for coming to our group and working with us and also Alzheimer's Society for helping us with our project."



Any items that you would like to include in MX news should be sent to [Karen Tempest](#) by 25th of each month