

Scouts



Harrow



Well you can't have missed the fireworks over recent days where Indian and Sikh families have been celebrating the 5 day Diwali festival. This is the most important festival in the year, all about casting out the darkness of sorrow and moving into the light with the story of Rama and Sita vanquishing the evil one. For Gujarat families it is also the start of the New Year. Harrow Scouts members have attended two Diwali events – one for adults and one for our young people which you can see more about in the newsletter.

Our Jewish families have also been through a time of religious observance - the High Holy Days - which start with Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and end 10 days later with Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). This is a time of reflection and prayer, with a focus on the family and the synagogue.

Coming up we have Halloween and Guy Fawkes night, which are popular times for families from all backgrounds to celebrate together. Many Scout Groups will be recognising these too with parties or events. An alternative to consider for your weekly programme is the Dia de los Muertes which is celebrated in Mexico on 1st and 2nd November – you could make colourful masks, try some Mexican food and even have a Mexican piñata!

Please share your successes and your pictures for next month's newsletter!

This newsletter will be issued monthly. Please provide any content (pictures, stories, events) to Gillan.Barnard@harrowscouts.org.uk by 22nd

Development in the District



The District team are delighted to share with you the opening of a new Cub section in the District – 1st Alexandra, who are based at the Alexandra School in Rayners Lane. Meetings started in September 2022 for this special needs group and we look forward to seeing them at future District events. Congratulations to all !

We really want to continue to grow Scouting in the District, reaching communities who are not currently provided for, and we want to support Groups who are struggling with lack of Leaders, lack of numbers or missing sections. This kind of activity is supported by the (paid) County Development team but would ideally be led by an **ADC Development in Harrow – currently a vacant post. Are you or someone you know looking for a new volunteering opportunity?** You can read more about what is involved here: [Assistant District Commissioner \(Development\).docx](#). Please speak to our District Administrator, [Charlotte Clark](#) if you can't access the file.

UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS, TRAININGS

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE: Sunday 13th November - large parades at Harrow and Pinner – and many Groups/Units supporting their own local church or memorial event. Please speak to [Reshma Patel](#) for Pinner and [Gillan Barnard](#) for Harrow if you wish to know more

DISTRICT CHRISTMAS EVENTS: Monday 5th December in Stanmore and Thursday 8th December in Rayners Lane Please see details within the newsletter for more – everyone welcome.

FIRST AID COURSES: Sunday 20th November at Harrow District Activity Centre; Sunday 11th December at Greenford & District HQ; Sunday 8th January at Harrow District Activity Centre. Contact [Charlotte Clarke](#) to book

TRAINING COURSES FOR 2023: Check out the GLMW Calendar : [training-calendar](#)

SKILLS WEEKEND FOR LEADERS: 25th-26th March 2023. Paccar Scout Campsite. Book early for this great weekend for newer leaders who want to gain traditional Scouting [Booking Form](#)

OPERATION FEATHER

DOING MY DUTY TO THE QUEEN: Liam Rafferty, RL ESU

When news of the Queen's death broke it felt like the atmosphere everywhere had changed. A strange mood settled over everyone. On the day after Her Majesty passed away, I was in central London and decided to detour down towards Buckingham Palace to see the crowds and pay my respects. On the walk down the Mall I received a call from Harrow's DC, Tyler, asking me to be involved with Operation Feather - the Scouts' role to assist with the Lying in State. Shortly after that call I saw the new King and Queen pull into the Palace and the royal standard being raised once more

Although not initially chosen for the operation, I was put on the reserve list and was soon called up at near midnight on Thursday the week after. I promptly made my way to Gilwell Scout HQ in northeast London on Friday morning and within two hours I was on the coach to Westminster to begin my first shift in managing what soon became known as "The Queue". Scout leaders aged 18 to 25 from all across the UK, as far as Northern Ireland and Scotland, had been drafted in to aid with this landmark in history. As such I had never met any of the small team I was placed in, who I then worked with for the next three chilly evenings from 3:00 PM to 11:30 PM.

On the first evening my team of new recruits were assigned to the accessibility queue, where those who weren't able to queue for hours on end could receive a time slot to come back later. The next two evenings were focused on the tail end of that main zig zag in Victoria Tower Gardens where we were the last few Scouts that people would see before going through Security. Our main job was smiling and chatting and keeping people's spirits up.



I finally had a chance to pay my respects personally at the end of our last night of duty. A large group of us made our way through to see Her Majesty Lying-in State in person after having spent days ferrying the hundreds of thousands of people doing the same - arguably we had queued the longest!

Overall it was a truly momentous yet also solemn occasion. I met people I will never forget. And I have fulfilled my Scout promise to do my duty to the Queen.



The other Harrow District members who were part of Operation Feather were: Angela Baird – 17th Harrow; Om Mehta – 3rd Kenton, Anand Tailor – 8th/19th Harrow. A huge well done to each of them.

DIWALI IN HARROW

Two awesome events took place in October showcasing the vibrancy of this Indian Festival

COUNTY EVENT FOR ADULTS : 9th OCTOBER

Organised by Sanjay Chandarana and Nisha Patel, this event hit the UK Scouts social media and attracted over 150 Leaders from across the County. It was great to see 8/19th Cubs performing the Diwali story and watch the amazing dhol drummers and bhangra dancers – all with connections to Scouting. As a free event, all of us present appreciated the recognition of what we do and we know a number of potential adult volunteers who also attended were inspired too. The full report can be found here: [GLMW Diwali Event](#)



DISTRICT EVENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE : 16th OCTOBER

Organised by Reshma Patel and supported by a large team of amazing helpers



Feedback: “Thanks for a wonderful afternoon of Diwali fun” “Thank you for organising such an enriching experience for the Cubs” “Adam & Zak had so much fun!” “Such brilliant activities – thoroughly enjoyed the arts & crafts” “100% a hit!” “Totally awesome”

THANK YOU RESHMA ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR TIME AND DEDICATION!!

OTHER DISTRICT EVENTS

HARROW DISTRICT AGM



Our first AGM as the new District took place on 6th October and was very well attended. We were honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Harrow, Councillor Janet Mote and the Deputy Lieutenant, Simon Ovens. The evening started with a presentation by some of the Jamboree contingent on how they had been selected to take part and their journey so far. After the formalities had finished, we were privileged to witness several awards being presented – the highlight of which was a 70 YEARS SERVICE Award to Charlie King. During his long engagement in Scouting, Charlie has been District Commissioner, Assistant County Commissioner and District Chairman as well as having extensive engagements as Venture Scout Leader and Scout Leader in Harrow. We are truly impressed by such dedication!



David Archer: 30 years



Sanjay Chandarana: 15 years



Reshma Patel: Commendation

1st HATCH END – 100 YEARS



100 Years of Scouting in Hatch End
4th October 2022 – 15th January 2023

Our centenary group are sharing their history with us all through an Exhibition about Scouting in Hatch End in the Moat Café at Headstone Manor Park in Harrow. Why not enjoy it over coffee and cake!

If YOU want to see your Group or Unit featured here, please send some photos and a short report in to the Editor: [Gillan Barnard](#)

It would be great to hear from some different Groups or Units

NEWS & UPDATES (1)

Hardship Fund, Grants and other Support

Given the current levels of inflation and price rises it is very timely to highlight the availability of financial support from a variety of sources... here are just a few !

- Harrow District Hardship Fund – speak to your DDC:
- Scout Grants & Awards: [Grants-and-funds-for-your-local-group](#)
- Young Harrow Foundation and Voluntary Action Harrow have gathered together a list of funders that support youth activities locally and will also help you complete your application form : <https://www.voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk/funding/>
- National Lottery <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/>
- Supermarket Community Grants – tokens, community schemes, etc from Tesco, Coop, Asda and more are available

Scouts UK - our HQ - have been running a series of webinars on supporting Groups and Units through the cost of living crisis. Check out some of their resources here

If anyone has any other good sources of support and funding, please let your DDC know so we can share more widely.

Improving the Volunteer Journey: Welcome Conversations



Many of you will remember when you first signed up as An Adult Volunteer, and you weren't sure what you were letting yourself in for, that amongst the many requirements

was an interview with the Appointments Committee - usually a mature group of individuals who had clearly been Scouting forever and who might ask you some very tricky questions. Or maybe you had to wait for a long while to even see them and get your role confirmed officially. Does this ring any bells?

This scenario is one of the areas of concern highlighted in the UK Scouts review of the Volunteer Journey, and so it is being changed, to hopefully improve the experience for new volunteers. In Harrow District we are in the process of moving from interviews with the Appointments Committee for new roles or changes in role to holding a Welcome Conversation instead. This meeting/conversation will focus on welcoming the new adults into Scouting or existing volunteers into a new role; and will cover off checking that they understand what is involved and their responsibilities, explaining the need for training and how to access it and answering any questions. The meeting will be attended by their GSL or equivalent and a member of the new Welcome Team, who in Harrow will initially comprise the former Appointments Committee members.

We will be trialling the new approach over the next month and welcome any feedback from those who are involved so that we can review and improve for the future.

GSLs and Section Leaders should continue to add any new members to Compass as Occasional Helpers, obtain their DBS and send the Adult Information Form to [Peter Harrison](#). Peter will then coordinate the welcome conversation as well as taking all the usual steps he takes as Appointments Administrator.

NEWS & UPDATES (2)

Use of District OS Maps Subscription

I'm pleased to let you all know that the District has renewed the OS maps online subscription for the next 12 months, which allows you to plot hiking or cycling routes for your Sections, and print them out for free.

Please see below the updated website and login information and for Harrow District Scouts:

Website: <https://explore.osmaps.com/>

Username: maps@harrowscouts.org.uk

Password: HarrowdistrictOSMAPS22

Please can Groups who have used this previously, rename their saved routes / tracks with their Group/Unit names and a date and do the same when creating new routes so we can manage the storage effectively. Questions or issues to

steven.jenkins@harrowscouts.org.uk.

Help Needed in the Communications Team!!

- Do you spend time on social media – could you create and share a few posts for Harrow Scouts alongside this?
- Do you have any experience with websites?
- Have you got some fresh ideas for the newsletter?

Please contact Gillan.Barnard@harrowscouts.org.uk

AUTUMN CHALLENGE – from Reshma Patel, DDC Programme & Events

Here's an awesome activity for all the sections - thanks to Rosie Biddle from 5th Pinner for this! At their camp, Scouts worked in patrols and used their pioneering skills, to build huge letters spelling out SCOUTS. (These were big letters- about 2m plus each!!!). In the evening Rosie organised a game where she hid 6 sets of 28 glow sticks (different colours) in the woods. The patrols had to compete to find their colour and once found, they had to attach them to their assigned letter.. Look at this amazing effect... what a fab activity now that the skies are getting darker earlier!

My challenge to you is to try this activity (or feel free to add your own spin) and post your pics on the District Members Facebook page. Or If you don't have or use Facebook, send your photo to me, [Reshma](#) and I can upload it for you.

Remember we don't need pics of your young people, just the completed effect, unless you have parent consent to share their photo on the closed district page. You have until the end of this year and there will be a prize for the winners.



UPCOMING EVENTS

For additional information about any of these, or if you are able to give us a hand in organising them or on the day, please speak to one of the DDCs (Gillan, Alan, Reshma, Paul)

SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2022
PARADES AT HARROW AND PINNER



The image features a red poppy with a black center and a white banner that reads "LEST WE FORGET". To the right is a silhouette of a soldier standing on a hill, holding a rifle, against a cloudy sky.

Scouts Harrow Harrow District Camp



SAVE THE DATE

5th-7th July 2024

The illustration shows a yellow tent pitched on a green field with a campfire, surrounded by trees and mountains under a blue sky with a sun and clouds.

Christmas Celebrations

We would like to invite all our Groups to celebrate the upcoming Christmas Festivities.

The venues and dates are:

- St Anselms Church, Stanmore - Monday 5th Dec - 6.45pm-8.15pm
- St Albans Church, Rayners Lane - Thursday 8th Dec - 6.30pm-9pm


Please let us know at reshma.patel@harrowscouts which of the venues you would like to go to and your estimated numbers please to allow us to cater for the logistics of the event.

We would like to encourage each Group/ section to perform a carol, poem, reading or a short play. This is optional ofcourse, but please let us know by 1st November. We would ask you keep this to a maximum of 5 minutes max to allow everyone to allow everyone to have the oppurtunity to share something and finish on time. Once we know exact numbers, we can allocate more time.

A programme of evening will be shared with you nearer the time.


Please feel free to add in this evening into your programmes or swap a date - whichever works best for your group/section's needs.

Thank you,
Reshma



Scouts Harrow

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION



The Senior Leadership Team would like to invite all our District members (leaders, assistant leaders, exec members and supporters) on Thursday 23rd February from 7pm-9pm for some food & drink around a campfire to celebrate Founders Day.

We appreciate some of you will have a section meeting on this day. We hope with this advance notice, you are able to plan this into your programme and come and celebrate this day with us.

Please confirm your attendance (and dietary requirements) on your email invitations by 9th February 2023. Please wear your uniform for this event.

Venue: Harrow District Activity Centre (DAC),
1a Walton Road, HA1 4UX
Reshma.patel@harrowscouts.org.uk

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