



### WELCOME TO OUR FIRST SQUIRRELS!!

How exciting to be able to welcome our first Squirrels into Harrow District! These 8 youngsters made their promises in February at 4<sup>th</sup> Headstone and we hope they continue to enjoy their scouting adventure.

This edition of the newsletter includes other highlights from 4th Headstone as well as recent District events, upcoming adult training and useful updates on Nights Away and DoE.

## CALENDAR FOR 2023

Month	Date	Event	Section
APR	21st-23rd Apr	Silver DoE Practice	Explorers
APR	23rd Apr	St Georges Day	All
MAY	3rd May	Beavers Leaders Meeting	Beavers Leaders
MAY	10th May	Cubs Leaders Meeting	Cub Leaders
MAY	23rd May	Explorer Leaders Meeting	Explorer Leaders
MAY	17th May	Scout Leaders Meeting	Scout Leaders
JUN	10th June	Beaver Fun Sports Day	Beavers
JUN	25th June	Cubs Orienteering Day	Cubs
JUL	1st-3rd July	Scouts Patrol Camp Competition	Scouts
JUL	14th-17th July	Bronze and Silver DoE Assessed	Explorers
SEP	7th Sept	Beaver Leaders meeting	Beaver Leaders
SEP	14th Sept	Cubs Leaders Meeting	Cub Leaders
SEP	21st Sept	Scouts Leaders Meeting	Scout Leaders
OCT	1st Oct	Camp Cooking Competition	Scouts
OCT	1st Oct	Sedan chair rally	Explorers
NOV	12th Nov	Remembrance Day	All
NOV	15th Nov	HARROW AGM	All
NOV	TBC	Beavers Quiz Evening	Beavers

For more information, please contact [reshma.patel@harrowscouts.org.uk](mailto:reshma.patel@harrowscouts.org.uk)

Please don't forget to share your successes and your pictures for next month's newsletter!

# JANUARY - MARCH DISTRICT EVENTS

## Founders Day February 2023

This event for adult Leaders was well-attended and a very enjoyable and social evening. A number of Awards were presented following speeches from Harrow Alderman Roman, our County Commissioner Richard Williams and our District Commissioner, Tyler Skerton. Thanks to Reshma and Tyler for organising the food and drink



## Purim Party March 2023

What fabulous costumes everybody found to join the Purim Party at the DAC in March!! Even some of the Leaders raided their wardrobes!. Attendees learnt about many Jewish festivals, practised the Hebrew script and made some hamantaschen (traditional Jewish sweet treats). Thanks to Leaders from 16<sup>th</sup> Edgware, 9<sup>th</sup> Pinner and Phoenix ESU for hosting.





# JANUARY - MARCH DISTRICT EVENTS

## Beavers Bunkdown at the Bunker February 2023

Harrow Scouts held their first District Sleepover for Beavers at the Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge in February. 90 beavers came out to spend a fantastic fun filled weekend at this amazing museum, with their leaders and took part in all sorts of activities. After check-in and waving their adults good-bye, we met with a couple of pilots from the RAF and US Navy. They shared lots of stories and cool facts and as always, our Beavers were just a little too bright to get any of their questions wrong. Beavers were even more excited to find that both pilots had been Scouts as young people, and this inspired many of the Beavers to wish to follow their steps...

Inspired by all the fighter planes we saw in the pilots' presentations, the Beavers completed a couple of challenges. They designed some really interesting noses for planes (the artistic flair was just awesome – watch out British Airways, we might have your next wing designs coming from Harrow Beavers!!) and used their building skills to put together some Mars rovers. Such an amazing activity that very quickly they decided to think bigger and built even meaner and tougher machines for Mars.



After this we went outside to use our navigational and astronomical skills to find various objects in the sky. We were lucky to see Jupiter and our moon - some even saw a cow jumping over it...but then, anything's possible really at a Beaver sleepover!!! Next was a dinner break – everyone had brought their own food to eat.

Next was the trip (down way too many steps to count at this time of the night -okay so it was 76 steps to be exact), to the Bunker itself!. No trip is complete without experiencing some time underground and imagining how that room was used for communications in the '40's during the war. It was now almost 11.30pm and no sign of any of the Beavers wanting to call it a day (the Leaders felt a little different mind you!!), so we had some snacks and got into our PJs and went to the theatre to watch Grandpa's Great Escape... Finally at 12.30am, the Beavers were ready to get to bed and they and their leaders had the most amazing opportunity to sleep under 2 beautiful fighter planes suspended over them for the night – Now that's awesome by any standards!!!!

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Hillingdon Bunker for allowing us to spend the night there and we would recommend any other group to use this fantastic facility for your own sections. Thank you so much to our amazing and awesome leaders and adults who came out to support their young people at this event

Reshma Patel, DDC – Harrow Scouts



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## 4<sup>th</sup> HEADSTONE HIGHLIGHTS

This Group have had a busy term! Here a few highlights shared by GSL, Sammy Halliday-Jackson

### Squirrels



We were thrilled to start the first Squirrels Drey in Harrow District in January. 8 children have signed up and were able to make their promise at the end of February. Officials from County and District came along to support them as well as our President/ and the current Mayor of Harrow, Councillor Janet Mote. They all did really well and enjoyed some cake to celebrate afterwards, along with their parents.



### Scouts Sleepover

The Scout section enjoyed an awesome sleepover on HMS Cavalier at Historic Dockyard Chatham. The team there did a brilliant job of giving the Scouts an insight into the role that HMS Cavalier played and what life would have been like serving on board. The Scouts also had a tour inside HMS Ocelet (a Cold War era submarine) and saw how rope was made. A brilliant weekend away.

**Editor:** *highly recommend this venue for a Scout visit – we went last summer and had a great day out! Especially making rope using child labour!*



### Cub Camp



Not to be outdone, the Cubs also headed off to Camp, staying indoors at Phasel's Wood Campsite in King's Langley. During the camp they enjoyed activities such as the vertical wall, strapline and aeroball as well as completing the fun cereal box and Pringles challenges (google it! )

They also made afternoon tea for their mums to complete the collection of badges earned whilst on Camp.





# FUNDRAISING IDEAS

## Corporate Sponsorship at 6<sup>th</sup> Harrow

6th Harrow has been very active with their fundraising over the years by building partnerships with local organisations like Friends of Headstone Manor Recreation Ground, Pinner Park School, and West Harrow Park as well as with a host of local businesses. This not only helps with fundraising, but also raises the profile of 6th Harrow locally. In addition, it can provide opportunities for 6th Harrow young people to volunteer locally – helping them earn badges and complete DofE requirements.

Recently we received a donation from L&Q Group, who are the developers' building homes across the road from us on the old Kodak site. Last year, L&Q reached out to various local charities and volunteer groups and selected 6th Harrow Scout Group as one of the few organisations they wish to support for the next 7-8 years whilst they are in Harrow, building the local housing development. Their sponsorship over this period will come in the form of cash donations, hamper gifts for fundraising raffle prizes and works days where their staff volunteer their time and skills to carry out various repair and maintenance works to our Scout Hut. We are very fortunate to have secured such a wonderful sponsorship opportunity that will benefit our Scout Group for years to come.



Yesterday's donation was accepted on behalf of 6th Harrow by our Cub Leader Devarsh Davda, Assistant GSL Tim Wilkinson and Assistant Leader Helen Wharton.

6th Harrow is very happy to discuss and share fundraising ideas and opportunities with other Groups in the District should any groups want to find out more. This is a fantastic example of how this can work and was led by the Group Treasurer and Exec Committee at 6<sup>th</sup> Harrow

Please contact Jitin Dixit [jitin.dixit@gmail.com](mailto:jitin.dixit@gmail.com) if you want to know more.

## Upcoming Fundraising Opportunities (shared by 6th Harrow)

We (6<sup>th</sup> Harrow Group) are taking part in two events in May that are both good for fundraising and to raise the profile of your Group – and there is space for more Scout Groups or ESUs to join in.

The first of these is a street party to commemorate the King's Coronation on 7th May. It is a family event running from 11.00 till 19.00 in West Harrow, where you can hire a stall to sell food, drinks or other goods or to run games. You don't have to attend for whole event and there is no charge by the organiser to attend providing you don't clash with other stalls. We would recommend stalls such as face painting, popcorn and/or candy floss.

On 8th May there is the regular Headstone Manor May Day event. There tends to be a very large footfall at this event so a great opportunity. There is a pitch fee here, but we have negotiated a 50% discount. It's possible the deadline for this has passed, but we can try to use our influence to get additional groups included if you are interested.

Please contact Paul Workman on [paulworkman617@btinternet.com](mailto:paulworkman617@btinternet.com) for more information

# NIGHTS AWAY CHANGES

As some of you may have already seen in messages from The Scouts, the Nights Away process and NAN form have both changed since the start of 2023. Please read the whole of this article to ensure you are fully aware of the changes, even if you are an experienced Nights Away Permit holder, as you will need to take them into account next time you plan a residential event.

The **Nights Away Notification (NAN)** has been updated – details of the changes are below. Please start using the new form immediately - the correct form to use is Form NAN Jan 2023 Edition No 10 and it can be found at: [form-nan-jan-2023.doc \(live.com\)](https://www.live.com/form-nan-jan-2023.doc)

The major changes to the form are as follows:

1. **Squirrel Scouts** – if you have a Squirrel Scout section in your Group, you can take your Squirrels on Nights Away events, so the form includes a box to record the number of Squirrels attending the event
2. **Adults Attending** – the new form makes it clearer that this section must contain the names and membership numbers of all adults attending the event, including adult members, parents and guardians
3. **Activities** – the form has been updated to include 2 new additional requirements around activities:
  - You must also document in this section any planned contingency activities that require permits or qualifications.
  - You must document in this section any individuals or businesses / organisations providing activities that require permits or qualifications.
4. **Risk Assessments** – the form is made clearer, that a Risk Assessment must be provided to the Approver with the NAN form
5. **Contingency Plans** – this is a new section to the form, and asks you to confirm that if the planned activities cannot take place during the Nights Away event, then you have considered alternatives and they will be carried out as per the local approval process. Any contingency activities that require permits or qualifications must be documented in the Activities section of this form.
6. **Approval** – this is a new section to the form. You must have received the form back with the Approval section completed by the District Commissioner or their Nominee, before the event can take place. In Harrow, Alan Sims, Deputy District Commissioner (Operations) will be approving the NAN forms on behalf of the District Commissioner.

To reiterate the changes listed above take effect immediately, and you should start using the new NAN form from now on. Any NAN forms received using the previous versions will be returned to be transferred on to the latest version of the form.

All NAN forms and Risk Assessments must be submitted to Alan Sims at [alan.sims@harrowscouts.org.uk](mailto:alan.sims@harrowscouts.org.uk) at least 7 days before the event is due to take place. And Alan is also happy to answer any queries around the form or the process.

# ADULT TRAINING EVENTS

## Map Skills Day : Sunday 30th April 2023. Gerrards Cross Station

Ever wanted to take your Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers on an adventure in the countryside but didn't feel confident about finding your way? Do you need to brush up on your navigation skills? Well, this is the day for you. With other leaders from GLMW county, we will spend the day walking through the Chilterns, learning about map reading, using a compass and looking after your group. Please complete this form to reserve a place. [Map Skills Day](#)



## Paddlesports Training : 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Longridge Activity Centre, Marlow

This course will include the British Canoeing Paddlesport Safety and Rescue Skills award which is a pre-requisite to gaining a Scouts Permit for paddle sports. Attendees will spend most of their time either on, or in the water, paddling in a variety of craft (kayak, canoe and SUP) and practicing rescue techniques. As such you must have experience in a canoe or kayak, although no formal qualification is required. Please come prepared to get wet and have loads of fun! The cost of the course is £140 per person. Please contact Geoff Vanderplank for more information on [geoff.vanderplank@glmwscouts.org.uk](mailto:geoff.vanderplank@glmwscouts.org.uk)



## Pioneering Skills Day : 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Paccar Scout Camp

This event is open to all Leaders in Scouting whether you have little or no experience or if you wish to upgrade your Pioneering skills. The day is suitable for leaders from all Sections. You will learn how to build stable structures using knots, lashings, pulleys and poles. Please complete this form to reserve a place. [Pioneering Skills](#)



## Residential Skills Weekend : 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Paccar Scout Camp

This weekend is for Leaders who may organise or support residential experiences for young people as part of their role in Scouting. It introduces to the skills related to running residential experiences and linked to the skills needed to gain a Nights Away Permit. Please complete this form to reserve a place. [GLMW Residentials](#)



## Bushcraft Skills Day : Saturday 16th September 2023. Paccar Scout Camp

This is a practical, hands-on day delivered entirely outdoors in the woodlands at Paccar Scout Camp. You will learn bushcraft skills in a safe and supportive environment which will increase your general confidence in the outdoors. The day includes all participants learning to use knives and axes safely, building shelters and cooking meals over open fires. Please complete this form to reserve a place. [Bushcraft Day](#)





# 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)

## St George's Day Parade

Sunday 23rd April  
11.50am

To renew our promise, Harrow District would like to invite you to the St Georges Day Parade at Pinner High Street on Sunday 23rd April at 11.50am. Promises at 12.30pm.

Meeting point is in the green at the bottom of the High Street in Pinner.

Please come in the correct uniform (Hoodie, Necker and Polo).

The main road will be closed off, and access to parking may be restricted so please encourage your young people to arrive early to get ready in line for the parade in their designated places on time.

There will be lots of activities for the family at the event.

Each section to bring their own flags/ Group/ ESU flag for the event.



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## Scouts Patrol Camp Competition



1st-2nd July, 2023  
**PACCAR**

**CAMPING -- COOKING -- TEAM CHALLENGES -- NEW FRIENDS--2 ONSITE ACTIVITIES--& MORE**

Keep the dates free...get your patrols ready...  
Atleast 1-2 leaders per group will be required to join for the event.

Event Pack Out Soon



## SCOUTS COOKING COMPETITION

SUNDAY 1ST OCT, 23

PACCAR, CHALFONT

10.15AM - 1.45PM

**THEME: 'FIT FOR A KING'**

TEAMS OF 2-4 (MAX)

GROUPS CAN ENTER AS MANY TEAMS AS THEY LIKE

**EXPLORERS ARE WELCOME TO PUT FORWARD THEIR TEAMS. SAME CRITERIA APPLIES HOWEVER THEY WILL BE JUDGED AS PART OF EXPLORERS!**



### Harrow District 2023 DofE Expedition Dates

Note: Some expeditions leave 6pm Friday eve.

\*July 17th will require Authorised absence from school.

15th January 2023 - All Day Training DAC

25-26 February 2023 - Direct Silver/Gold and Bronze Nav Training Weekend

11-12th March 2023 - Bronze Practise

21-23rd April 2023 - Silver Practise

14-17th July - Silver and Bronze Assess - Derbyshire White Peaks

Contact: [linda.brown@harrowscouts.org.uk](mailto:linda.brown@harrowscouts.org.uk)





