

WELCOME TO 2024!



Is it too late to say Happy New Year? Here we are in another year of exciting Scouting activity. All those new little faces joining Squirrels and Beavers full of excitement about the adventure ahead. Lots of thrilling camps, trips and other adventures being planned by and for the older sections... Do share your great ideas so we can add the stories into this newsletter or on social media. Sharing of ideas and opportunities is also welcomed at our Section Leaders meetings each term.

In our newsletter this time, we have write-ups of events from the District and some Groups from the winter period. The calendar of dates for 2024 is published on page 2 – please add the relevant ones into your diaries. We also have updates about the District minibus and a number of exciting District events, including the 2025 Ski Trip.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION



The Senior Leadership Team would like to invite all our District Members (Leaders, Assistant leaders, Trustee members and Supporters) for an informal BBQ to celebrate Founder's Day on Thursday 22nd Feb 24, from 7pm-9pm.

We appreciate for some this is your regular meeting night and so please feel free to cancel or reschedule your meeting if you wish to attend. It would be awesome to have as many of you there as possible.

Please confirm your attendance (and dietary requirements) at <https://forms.office.com/e/5QutmXrPx9>

Venue: Harrow District Activity Centre (DAC)
1a Walton Road, HA1 4UX

RSVP: reshma.patel@harrowscouts.org.uk



Please let us know if you can make it and share your dietary requirements using this form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/5QutmXrPx9>

Deadline 20th February

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

CALENDARS FOR 2024

Section Leaders Meetings

Month	Date	Event	Section	Venue
FEB	27th Feb	Beaver Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
MAY	8th May	Beaver Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
SEP	19th Sept	Beaver Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
FEB	7th Feb	Cub Leaders meeting	Leaders	DAC
MAY	15th May	Cub Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
SEP	26th Sept	Cub Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
FEB	20th Feb	Scout Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
MAY	22nd May	Scout Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
SEP	24th Sept	Scout Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
FEB	6th Feb	Explorer Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
MAY	7th May	Explorer Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC
SEP	17th Sept	Explorer Leaders Meeting	Leaders	DAC

District and External Events and Camps

Month	Date	Event	Section	Venue
FEB	9th-11th Feb	PACCAR Feb Freezer Weekend	Scouts/Explorers	PACCAR
FEB	10th Feb	Southern 50	Scouts/Explorers	External
FEB	15th Feb	Explorer Pancake Competition	Explorers	DAC
FEB	22nd Feb	Founders Day	Leaders	DAC
FEB	24th-25th	Scouts/ Explorers shooting comp	Scouts/Explorers	DAC
MAR	2nd-3rd Mar	Scouts/ Explorers shooting comp	Scouts/Explorers	DAC
MAR	8th Mar	Beavers Quiz Night	Beavers	TBC
APR	5th-12th Apr	Harrow Ski Trip	Scouts/Explorers	France
APR	19-21st Apr	Scouts Gold Expedition challenge	Scouts	PACCAR
APR	21st April	St Georges Day	ALL	Pinner
APR	28th April	Cubs Fun Day	Cubs	Brigade Hall
MAY	19th May	Beavers Hike	Beavers	Ruislip
JUN	9th Jun	Cubs Water Day - Bury Lake	Cubs	Bury Lake
JUN	16th Jun	Scouts Water Day - Bury Lake	Scouts	Bury Lake
JULY	5th-7th	District Camp - PACCAR	ALL	PACCAR
OCT	6th Oct	Scouts/ Explorers Cooking Competition	Scouts/Explorers	DAC
NOV	10th Nov	Remembrance Sunday	ALL	Pinner & Harrow
NOV	2nd-3rd Nov	Cubs Bunkdown at the Bunker - Sleepover	Cubs	Hillingdon

For more information, please contact reshma.patel@harrowscouts.org.uk

CALENDARS FOR 2024

DofE and Explorer Expeditions & Training

Month	Date	Event	Section	Venue
JAN	14th Jan	DofE - Expedition Training Day	DofE	DAC
JAN	30th Jan	DofE - Online Meeting for all Members	DofE	Online
FEB	25th Feb	DofE Navigation & Teamwork Day	DofE	
MAR	9th-10th Mar	DofE Bronze/ Platinum Practice	DofE/ Explorers	Away
MAR	28th -1st Apr	DofE Gold/ Kings Practice	DofE/ Explorers	Wales
APR	19th-21st Apr	DofE Silver/ Diamond Practice	DofE / Explorers	Away
JUN	8th-9th Jun	DofE Bronze/ Platinum Assessed	DofE/ Explorers	Away
JUN	28th-30th Jun	DofE Silver/ Diamond Assessed	DofE/ Explorers	Away
JULY	19th - 23rd July	DofE Gold/ King Assessed	DofE/ Explorers	Derbyshire

Please contact the DofE team or [Reshma Patel](#) for more information

County Leaders Events – open to all Adult Volunteers

Month	Date	Event	Section	Venue
JAN	20th-21st Jan	NRSA YPS Air Rifle Tutor Course	Leaders	PACCAR
JAN	26th-28th Jan	County Hillwalking Weekend	Leaders	Snowdonia
APR	13th-14th April	New Leader Skills Weekend	Leaders	PACCAR
APR	28th April	Map Skills Day	Leaders	Gerrards Cross
MAY	4th-5th May	Paddlesports Training	Leaders	Bury Lake
MAY	11th-12th May	County Hillwalking Weekend	Leaders	Yorkshire
May	14th May	Jack Petchey Awards Evening - Greenford	Awards winners	Greenford Town Hall
JUN	22nd Jun	County Map Skills Day	Leaders	Surrey Hills
JUN	23rd June	Pioneering Skills Training	Leaders	PACCAR
JUN	22nd-23rd Jun	Residential Skills Training	Leaders	PACCAR
SEP	21st-22nd Sept	County Hillwalking Weekend	Leaders	Peak District
NOV	16th-17th Nov	County Hillwalking Weekend	Leaders	Brecon Beacons

Please see <https://www.glmwscouts.org.uk/events> for more information

Nov – Jan Events

Remembrance Sunday – November 2023

Despite the clash with the Diwali festival, we had a good turnout for the Remembrance Parades in both Harrow and Pinner, and I hope groups who joined more local events did too. For Harrow we had more than 250 members for the final event at the old Harrow Civic Centre. By November 2024 the War Memorial will be moved to a new location and we will have a new route to march. Well done to everyone who took part in a Remembrance Event on a rainy Sunday.



Meeting the Mayor



Marching through Harrow



The Pinner ceremony



Flag bearers at ease

Some beautiful home-made wreaths



2023 AGM

Our District AGM was held on 15th November at the District Activities Centre. We were delighted to welcome the Deputy Lord Lieutenant (DLL), Simon Ovens, the Mayor of Harrow, Ramji Chauhan and our County Commissioner, Cathy Muxlow, as well as many adult members of Scouting from Harrow District. As well as the official business of the AGM, we were privileged to present a number of awards to our members – long service, commendations and higher awards.

During the course of the evening contingent members of the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in S. Korea reported back on their experiences, which was fascinating to hear and see.



Alex Stanisci-Brown from Rayners Lane ESU receiving the DLL Award

Nov – Jan Events

Festival Campfire - Sunday 26 November 2023

Thank you to 4th Headstone Scout Group for organizing our District Festival Campfire which was attended by over 150 members from all sections - Squirrels to Explorers. When they arrived, the young people completed various arts and crafts projects within their sections, followed by hot chocolate and hot dogs before making their way to the campfire itself.

We said in our emails that this activity would be a showstopper and it really was! The festive lanterns made by the younger sections trailed the way to the campfire which made the whole area really magical. The campfire itself was led brilliantly by David Salkeld (5th Pinner Cubs) and Sammy Holliday (GSL 4th Headstone). Each section also got the opportunity to present their own skits or songs. Afterwards all the attendees enjoyed toasting (and eating) marshmallows over the various Swedish fires set up in the area and were given their event badge on their way home.

Many thanks to Sammy and Anne for their hard work organizing, coordinating and delivering this event. It really wouldn't have been possible to do this without you all at 4th Headstone.

A big thank you also to 5th Pinner Scout Group for allowing us to run the activity at their hut after it was moved from Paccar.

A small amount of money (£26) left over after the event was donated to Harrow Food Bank on behalf of the District.



6th Harrow Scout Group at the New Years Day Parade

What an amazing opportunity for 6th Harrow Group who joined the Harrow Litter Pickers (check them out on Facebook) and other Harrow environmental groups for the London New Years Day Parade on the Harrow Borough float. I wonder if they filled up any bags with litter whilst walking through London!



Update on District Minibuses

After thorough review, we are making some changes regarding the District minibuses, affecting the following areas.

Minibus Booking: The process remains very similar to the current one, but there is a new email address for booking enquiries and requests. This is: minibus@harrowscouts.org.uk. Thank you to those who have stepped forward to take this on following our advert in the last newsletter

Where the Minibuses are located: The minibuses have been moved from the 9th Kenton compound to the DAC compound (1A Walton Road, Harrow, HA1 4UX). The District trailers are also located at the DAC, so all the District vehicles are now in one place.

Suggested Donation Rates

The minibuses have been making a loss and costing the District money to run them. In order to cover running costs, there is a need to increase the charge to £80 per day. The new suggested donation rates will apply from 1st February 2024. When making a booking 20% of the minibus suggested donation rate will be requested as a deposit. The remaining 80% will be due 30 days before the booking commences.

The suggested donation rates will be reviewed every year taking into account the financial performance of the minibuses in the previous year as well as the general increase in costs due to inflation.

These rates still compare very favourably with other suppliers. They are around half the price of a commercial hire company and 20-25% cheaper than Harrow Community Transport charge.

Minibus User Group: A Minibus User Group will be set up to meet twice per year (or as otherwise agreed by the user group). This group will comprise of the minibus team, plus some representative users of the minibuses. Anyone interested in joining the Minibus User Group, please contact Alan Sims.

More Information

A more detailed briefing on these changes has been sent to all GSLs and ESLs, so if you have not seen this, please ask them in the first instance. For all matters relating to the minibuses, please visit the Minibus Folder on the District SharePoint site at: [Minibus Info](#)

Or contact [Alan Sims](#)

Other Minibus Options

If you find the Harrow buses are booked for your dates, there are a few other local options you can try. All these groups/districts have minibuses that can be hired upon request. Some are more modern than others and fees vary accordingly. You will need a clean D1 drivers' licence to hire them.

- 9th Kenton – Katy or Kate on the9thkentongroup@outlook.com
- 9th Roxeth – Darrell Courten darrellcourten25@aol.com
- Greenford District (2 minibuses): Ian Chick
minibus@greenfordscouts.org.uk
- 1st/3rd Ruislip – Neil Lattimer at Neil.Lattimer@renscouts.org.uk
- 1st Northwood – Christine Bennett at Christine.bennett@renscouts.org.uk

If you know anywhere else to hire vehicles or equipment locally, please let us know



Harrow Scouts Activities Club

To date this Harrow SASU has focused on running ski trips but our plan is to expand into additional activity areas. The purpose of the Unit is to provide opportunities within Harrow Scouts for activities beyond the reach of a typical Unit or Group – because they require specialist skills, experience or funding. The Ski Trips have been hugely successful and popular – and will continue – but we do wish to take forward our vision for the Unit and deliver some other activities. – ideas include scuba diving, safari, kayaking expedition, tall ships project. **We are open to ideas – and really need volunteers who are enthusiastic about taking them forward!**



Job Opportunities

To support the management of the Harrow Scouts Activities Club we are looking for the following volunteers specifically:

A Treasurer – someone with great financial and accounting skills to help lead the financial aspects, budgeting, project costing, bookkeeping, and financial governance.

A Fundraiser – A hands on organised individual that can lead on organising fundraising events and investigate new ideas as well as managing existing fundraising activities.

A Secretary – An organised individual with reasonable office skills to help administer, note-taking and support the work of the club and committee meetings.

We are delighted to launch our next Harrow Scouts Ski Trip taking place in April 2025.

Please contact
Pureski2024@harrowscouts.org.uk for more information

or register for a place here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/rXEtApY2Yw>





Harrow Scouts Activities Club
invites you to join our next
Skiing Trip



**6 full days of
Pure Skiing**

Pure Ski 2025
6th – 13th April 2025
Sestriere, Italy

Open to Scouts, Explorers and Young Leaders
Cost £1650 (£200 deposit and 10 x £145) includes travel by air, full board in a hotel and all activities. Financial assistance may be available – please email or call for a confidential conversation about this
Limited number of places for Adult Volunteers at discounted fee

To find out more about the trip, join us on 3 March 2024 at 7pm at the Harrow Scouts District Activities Centre, 1A Walton Road, Harrow HA1 4UX

Or contact: Gillan Barnard (07720 412519)
Ian Parkinson (07757 257644)

Email: Pureski2024@harrowscouts.org.uk


**FLY-SKI-HAVE FUN**

To register for a place, please complete this sign-up form:
<https://forms.office.com/e/rXEtApY2Yw> or QR Code:
and pay the deposit of £200



Future Events & Opportunities 2024





Scouts Expedition Challenge

20th – 21st April
PACCAR

Do your scouts need to complete their expedition for their Gold CSA?


We are inviting section leaders to bring their older scouts (12yr+) who want to complete their expeditions. Your young people will plan, hike, camp and cook for themselves over the weekend with help from our district team.

This would be a great opportunity for leaders who have not had much practice or experience in running expeditions or have limited resources available to help their young people achieve this award.

Leaders will need to attend with their troops and be able to help the district team monitor checkpoints during their hike. Participants will need to attend a Route Planning and Prep session on Friday 19th April at St Peters Church, Harrow or alternatively run your own session for your young people to produce their route cards (Route details will be provided).

Costs: £25 - includes camp fees, on-site activity, training resources and badge

Groups will need to provide their own OS Explorer Map 172 (Chiltern Hills East), tentage, light weight stoves and food for their scouts. The expectation is that scouts will cook at least 1 hot meal for themselves as required in the challenge. More information will be shared in the leaders' packs upon registration. Email alan.sims@harrowscouts.org.uk by 1st March to book your spaces.





Space Camp at Paccar

We have room for additional sections to attend or for sections attending to increase their numbers. Deadline 20 March. Please provide updates to Reshma.Patel@harrowscouts.org.uk



Don't forget to share this opportunity to your Young People. Details from your Group Lead Volunteer – deadline 15th March



Cubs Water Activities Afternoon

Sunday 9th June, 1pm-4pm, Bury Lake, Rickmansworth

Cubs will have a go on Canoes, SUP's & Katakans

Participants will qualify for "Time on water" and part of the Nautical Skills Badge.

Sections will need to have a minimum ratio of 1:6 to support their young people.

Spaces are limited to 48 only. If you would like to bring your Cub to the event, please let me know at Reshma.patel@harrowscouts.org.uk, so that I can share the OSM details with you.

Costs: £25 per young person payable in full by 15th March to confirm spaces.

Cubs attending don't necessarily need to be able to swim well, they need to be water confident (not panic when in water) and able to swim/paddle 50m whilst wearing a buoyancy aid. (Scout Rule 9.13.1.2).



St George's Day Parade Renewal of Promise



Sunday 21st April 24

11.40am- 12.45pm
Pinner High Street