

Have you Heard ?



Welcome to have you heard our district newsletter, both Alison and I are delighted to share with you this first edition of what is hoped to be a regular newsletter.

As we work towards transformation and adopting the changes in scouting, we thought about creating this newsletter, to help share the news and information from around the district.

With this newsletter we will be able to share information and inform you of some of the great new opportunities coming as part of the new transforming District.

Over the last 6 months we have had some great Scouting activities, including a great St Georges day parade.

We have a new District website <https://www.colescouts.org.uk> which is being updated all the time. We as a District are also going through and updating Compass records.

We want to say a huge thank you to you all, for the support you give Scouting in Cole District, each week. The District, supports all our Scout Groups and Explorer Units in Knowle, Dorridge, Balsall Common, Marston Green, Chelmsley Wood, Smiths Wood, Solihull and Olton. We enable 1200 children and young people ranging in age from 4 to 18 to engage in Scouting in Solihull and to learn skills for life!

Yours in Scouting
Liz Rashvand and Alison Lowe

Recognising Good Service

There are ways in which we can recommend good service by our brilliant volunteers. These include Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service, Medal for Merit, Silver Acorn and Silver Wolf. If you think someone in your Group deserves their service being recognised, please speak to Liz our DC, or see the information here: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/learning-development-and-awards/awards-and-recognition/good-service-awards/supporting-and-approving-good-service-awards/>

You can nominate someone here: [Award Nominations : Solihull Scouts](#)

There are also local community awards. These are often advertised across the local area at different times of the year.

These awards can be for section leaders, young leaders, managers and trustees. In other words, anybody connected with scouting.

Please speak to Liz our DC to nominate them for an award.



Keeping Children and young people safe

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As we all know safety is important. We need to have written risk assessments for all of our activities.

We need to ensure children, young people, volunteers and parents/carers are aware of any risks involved in activities. Whether it's cooking, playing a game or going out on a muddy walk there will always be risks.

There is a push from HQ on the subject. We shall be providing further information, especially if you have new volunteers.

Guidance on risk assessments can be found at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/risk-assessments/example-risk-assessments>

1st Solihull Scout Group First Aid

In May this year 1st Solihull leaders held a first aid course at Mill pool HQ which was delivered by Rich and Nick.

If you'd like Rich and Nick to come and deliver a course to your leaders, please do speak to them to book it in. District are covering the cost of these first aid courses, Nick.poole@solihullscouts.org.uk / rich.bower@solihullscouts.org.uk

Mandatory Ongoing Learning

Mandatory ongoing learning
Each month the District Commissioners receive a (non) compliance report.

This details people whose mandatory training modules, (First Aid, Safety and Safeguarding) needs renewing within the next month.

Volunteers on the list are given until the end of that month to complete the relevant training. If they do not complete the safety or safeguarding training by the end of the month their role will be ended.

HQ is tightening up on the training, so please ensure yours is up to date.

If your first aid is either out of date or is due for renewal within the next few months, please sign up for a first aid course as a matter of urgency. You can attend a course in another County if that is more convenient for you.

If volunteers do not have a first aid qualification, there is the distinct possibility that a mutually agreed restriction (MAR) will be put in place and this is likely to mean that the person cannot help at any event where people under the age of 18 are involved. If the first aid course is still not completed this could result in a suspension or closure of role.

The next issue of Have You Heard

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The District Newsletter will go out regularly, so if your group has any news to share, events coming up please send them in to the District Team, by 16th of Each Month.

Media & Digital Team



The Cole District Scout Media / Digital Team are responsible for supporting communications within the District, raising the profile of scouting locally – including in local groups - and for supporting our digital tools and resources.

Membership is ideal for those who already possess skills or experience – or who want to get involved with web design and management, social media, photography and videography, video editing, writing press releases and other copy writing (e.g. The ‘Have you heard’ newsletter).

You’ll occasionally be asked to work to some tight deadlines, but the result is well worth it.

If you like to get involved in the Cole District Media and Digital Team, please speak to Liz, Alison, or Nick.

Or take a look on the Media and Digital Team Page on the district website <https://www.colescouts.org.uk/AboutUs/Media-Digital-Team>

District AGM

We look forward to welcoming you to our District Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 9th July 2024, 7:00pm at County Headquarters on Hobs Meadow Road

Great Orme – Prevention of Future Deaths

Scout HQ have shared their response to the Coroner's “Prevention of Future Deaths” report following the inquest into the Great Orme incident; this can be found at

https://www.scouts.org.uk/news/2024/may/Scouts-responds-to-Prevention-of-Future-Death-report?utm_campaign=2476510_Sharing%20website%20response%20-%20CCs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scouts&dm_i=31ME,1H2VY,8ZDQX5,5V95N,1

Please take time to read the report and the response from The Scouts. One of the key pieces around the report and the response is the need to ensure our mandatory training, i.e. First Aid, Safety and Safeguarding are kept up to date. There will be some changes to the Safety training with some “top-up” training coming out later this year and some changes in the current module

Are your details correct on Compass

Cole District Scouts are currently checking that your Scout adult record is UpToDate in Compass Scout Database.

Your compass record can be viewed here <https://compass.scouts.org.uk> once you have checked your record, please fill in this form to confirm it is correct, and any changes required.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/ColeDistrictScouts/CompassUpdateModification>

If you require and support, please email compass@colescouts.org.uk

