

### HM Queen's Birthday beacon in Hounslow

Members of YOU groups in Hounslow attended the Council's Beacon lighting ceremony on 21 April.

Recently appointed HM Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet, Sergeant Major Khalil Ahmad of Heston Detachment, was honoured to light the Hounslow Beacon celebrating the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen at Lampton Park among civic dignitaries, guests and a contingent of Irish Guards from Hounslow Barracks.







## £1.2m investment in Tottenham Cadets

With guests from Sea Cadets, St John Ambulance, Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade, Army and Air Cadets in Tottenham celebrated the formal opening of their shiny new home as the Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London opened The Ken Stokley Joint Cadet Centre on 19 April. The result of years of planning, and £1.2m in funding, the specially designed two-story building uses Low and Zero Carbon technology alongside innovative protective materials to ensure its efficient and safe. It includes classrooms, offices, a kitchen, hall and parade ground. The centre is home to 216 Tottenham Detachment, Army Cadet Force (Blues & Royals) and 268 (Tottenham) Squadron, Air Training Corps. The building was named in honour of Ken Stokley, a former Chairman of 268 Squadron who served it and the wider local community for more than 30 years before his untimely death in 2014. The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Stokley's son Robert and daughters Susan Watts and Karen Goodman. Army and Air Force Cadets currently at the detachments will now have a shared, permanent, purpose built facility, as will the thousands of young people who will join the detachments in future.







## Islington YOU launch borough 'youth map' at HAC Open evening

Air Cadets, Volunteer Police Cadets, and cadets from City of London Academy CCF all played their part in the HAC Open evening on 10th May in Islington. The Honourable Artillery Company (HAC), the oldest regiment of the British Army, once again opened its magnificent Grade II listed City Headquarters to the general public for its annual Open Evening. Almost three thousand visitors enjoyed the free, action-packed family-friendly experience. Cadets were involved in bag searching, hosting and directing as well as talking to people about Islington's Youth Organisations in Uniform. Their new map gives details and directions to the YOU groups in the borough.

## Councillors come on board in support of local Scouts

Saturday 10th October saw Councillors from across Bromley and Bexley join local Scouts to experience everyday adventures.

At Downe Activity Centre, near Biggin Hill, the Councillors completed challenges including abseiling, Zipwire, backwoods cooking and 'high all aboard' – where up to 4 people climb to the top of one post and stand on the same platform.

The event was hosted by a group of Bromley and Bexley Scouts aged 13 to 18 and was aimed at introducing local Councillors to all the fantastic things Scouting has to offer.

There are currently over 5,200 young people aged 6 to 25 involved in Scouting in Bromley and Bexley and over 1,300 adult volunteers enabling those young people to have fun, challenge themselves and fulfil their potential.

Adult volunteers in Bromley and Bexley Scouting contribute 327,000 voluntary hours per year which, at minimum wage, would equate to £2.1million of paid youth social work. Bromley and Bexley Scouts are calling on local



Councillors to champion Scouting in their area, by supporting the groups to:

- recruit more volunteers
- build new relationships, with schools and businesses across the community
- find new places to meet and enjoy Scouting

If you are interested in volunteering or want more information on local Scout groups in Bromley and Bexley, please contact their office on 08444 142 769 email [office@glscouts.org.uk](mailto:office@glscouts.org.uk) or visit [www.glscouts.org.uk](http://www.glscouts.org.uk).

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## Young Dragons Wales - Dreigiau Ifanc Cymru



***YOU London's Co-ordinator keeps in touch with other regional YOU organisations and recently asked Gerry Frobisher to let us have news of its Welsh counterpart. Here's his report.***

Young Dragons Wales/Dreigiau Ifanc Cymru is an initiative of HRH Prince Charles and launched by him in June 2009. It is one of his Patronages in Wales. It takes the idea from "YOU London" and "Youth United" in England working with, supporting and developing all the uniformed youth groups. Its aim is to encourage more adult volunteers and thus more youth membership and to promote citizenship to all the young people of Wales through fun and adventure. Hence the strap-line "FIRE THE ADVENTURE".

Young Dragons in North Wales has been co-ordinated since September 2009 by Gerry Frobisher MBE, who's background from 2000 has been within the Third Sector and since 2007 the Denbighshire GwirVol Youth Volunteering Advisor (YFA), and prior to that as a Police Constable in North Wales Police for twenty one years. Since September 2015, Gerry has been the all Wales co-ordinator/project manager and Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council lead Young Dragons in Wales, working closely with the eight Lord Lieutenants in the Preserved Counties.

In North Wales, Young Dragons have evolved into a "Team" of young volunteers from the uniformed youth groups. As a Team since September 2010, they have helped out at 233 community events. Seventy-five of which have been fundraising events during which the Young Dragons have helped to raise over £55,000 for other organisation. Every January the various groups meet up at a North Wales Young Dragon 1st Aid Competition, and every July there is a North Wales Young Dragon Cadet Challenge.





# Honour Guard for Mercers Company

On 17 March 2016 Army Cadets, Sea Cadets and Air Cadets from 344 (Fulham) Squadron attended the annual Mercers Company livery dinner at the Mercers Hall on Ironmonger Lane.



The cadets from all three services were invited to provide a joint carpet guard for the dinner and had a tour of the dining hall. A brief history of the Mercers Company was provided by 344's Squadron President Wing Commander Mike Dudgeon.

344 (Fulham) Squadron has an existing affiliation with the Mercers which has also recently formed links with Army Cadet and Sea Cadet units.

The cadets welcomed and met the Master Mercer, Wardens and guests that attended the dinner in what is likely to be the first of many joint service carpets guards at the Mercers Hall.

**William Dooley**  
Plt Off RAFVR(T)  
**OC 344 (Fulham) Sqn ATC**

## 2016 CVQO Duke of Westminster National Finalists announced

These five young Londoners were among the 27 who attended a selection event for the CVQO Duke of Westminster Award in Somerset in April. They included candidates from Army, Air, Sea, CCF and LFB Fire Cadets.



London was well represented in the selection of finalists with Morgan Hina of Sunbury and Walton Sea Cadets (25) and Kelly Miller of Haberdashers Askes Federation School CCF (26) being selected. The judging was hugely difficult. There were disagreements, debates, score comparisons, number crunching and algorithms NASA would be proud of, but a decision was made.

Congratulations to all ten CVQO Duke of Westminster 2016 finalists. They have won a trip to South Africa in July and a place at the House of Lords luncheon in June, where the award winner will be presented.

CVQO Chief Executive Guy Horridge said: "It sounds like a cliché to say, but every year we are privileged to spend time with a fantastic group of young people in Somerset and 2016 proved no different. The margins were extraordinarily small and we would dearly have loved to send an even larger group to South Africa if we could. Our ten finalists are deserving winners, but all 27 are worthy of recognition for being outstanding young people and great contributors to their communities."

The 17 who sadly did not make the list above have been entered into the CVQO Regional Ambassador public vote, details of which we have now been posted. The winner of this will receive an invitation to join them at the House of Lords luncheon in June.



**Sixteen year old Fire Cadet Olivia Olarewaju delivered this moving poem, which she herself had written, at the Fire Cadet Awards in City Hall in front of a huge crowd of LFB family and guests.**

## **Olivia's spoken Word**

I don't want to go to school today.

Her alarm rings despite the fact it knows she can't face getting up. Rubbing her eyes and shaking the elusive dreams off her pillow, the ambition she had already forgotten.

Make-up captures the unforeseen face of miseries and drapes them in contentment, it knows no better. Bitterness fills her mind, walking through the neglected blocks while they chain up their door locks because those boys walked past.

She was stuck in a gaze as one of their heads raised, eyes pierced straight through hers. It was time to count her blessings.

A familiar face appeared before her eyes. Trying to conceal her uniform, he took her hand and scanned her attire.

“School? No way, you'll waste your day, so with us you'll stay, ok”

She nodded her head in fear that they'd call her, most all because of her reputation, she had lost her voice. Day after day she arrived only once, one time in a week, four times in a month. Pressure from her parents intensified, because failing school wasn't something she could hide. Underneath her pillow so she lied, when the tears she cried fell from her drug stained eyes, she tried.

She tried so hard to focus, just so they could notice. She was broken. All her effort went unnoticed.

One morning she went to school, running her pen along the walls, she stopped..... 'Fire Cadets'.

The smallest A5 poster had caught her undivided attention. Although being a firefighter was her longest intention, it was always something she had never got to mention.

Pouring her heart and soul into the tiniest of boxes, making sure her application showed her truest form. Someone no one had seen.

As this is this the girl she had always been, but just seen through eyes that weren't clean, so all they saw was a lost teen.

Her application was her. Every word, every letter acknowledged, for they didn't see the image of the girl behind the application. They saw the spirit and perseverance, and that's not something you only see in appearance.

“You're in”

The call that changed her life, and her mind-set as a whole. She no longer cared about anything else but herself, in this role she was in control. Her existence.

Her first day, unexpectedly arrived earlier than thought, but she had always been prepared. Standing outside the vivid red door she had no hesitation.

She knocked. And that knock had changed her life.

Being able to show her true colours. To people who were just the same, she proclaimed that this was her happy place.

Months on and she had learned it all so she could stand tall and promise she would never fall again. Hoses, ladders, stand pipe and key branches, BA and PPE.

There's so much more they could bring, and we had learned everything and how they would save lives as soon as that bell would ring.

That's the thing. She knew the boys would still be there. They all stared but she didn't care, because she could swear they wouldn't tear her down.

She had reached the point in life where the things that mattered, she gave her all. Her parents had seen her commitment and her good behaviour was consistent.

She never felt worthless again. I want to go to Cadets today.



## Featuring Royal Air Force Air Cadets

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps with many of the 78 Air Cadet Squadrons from the London area involved in events to mark the anniversary. It started with a Service of Commemoration at the RAF Church, St Clement Danes attended by the new Patron of the RAF Air Cadets, HRH The Duchess of Cambridge. Cadets have already participated in a regional aerospace camp which focused on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), and a forthcoming national aerospace camp, a torch relay which will pass many London landmarks, cross channel swim, a drill and ceremonial camp, a large parade at the Royal International Air Tattoo and a celebratory concert at RAF Cranwell. Many talented cadet musicians took part. Plans are also well under way for a float in the Lord Mayor's Show. There is particular pride in achievements of air cadets in the region in the choice of the best male cadet, Cadet Warrant Officer Jordy Black of 1454 (Harrow) Squadron, who received the Dacre Sword. All this takes place along with a whole range of activities available to air cadets which includes air experience flying, DofE expeditions, overseas camps.







## YOU Out and About

More London boroughs have re-energised their YOU groups in the past few months. Pictured above is YOU in Merton at a meeting hosted at Wimbledon Police Station by PC Tim Mann VPC leader in the borough. Special guest was Representative Deputy Lieutenant Clare Whelan OBE who explained the role of the Lieutenancy. In September, a brand new unit of London Fire Brigade Cadets opens at Mitcham Fire Station. Following the meeting ATC Sgt Darren Constable invited two VPC representatives as guests to the Squadron Awards night. Tim said "This was a brilliant event and the Air Cadets were outstanding. For us, seeing how you ran things and a different style of Cadet operation was really useful, and some great ideas we took away."

Similarly the Representative Deputy Lieutenant in Enfield Ann Cable MBE hosted a meeting at the SJA Headquarters - pictured below. Plans were discussed for a joint summer event in June coinciding with the celebrations of HM Queen's official birthday. Both meetings served to reconnect group leaders with one another and to explore avenues where collaborative working would be useful.





## YOU meets German Navy

On Saturday April 16th, London's Haringey Sea Cadets toured a German Minesweeper squadron berthed in London, in a ground breaking friendship exchange and fact finding mission.

Inspired by the vision of their countries' navies working together Commander Steffen Handrick, Naval Attaché at Germany's London Embassy and Captain Peter Baker Representative Deputy Lieutenant in the London Borough of Haringey and Senior Chair of YOU London in Haringey (Youth Organisations in Uniform), jointly sponsored the historic meeting and talks aimed at widening the opportunities for London's YOU cadet units and German navy Squadrons to explore further such future joint learning and training projects.

T S Wizard Commanding officer sub-lieutenant Stuart Jackson's 19-strong group included Dave Burns of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers, affiliated to the Training Ship.



*Phot: Dave Burns*

The eleven cadets and seven staff arrived at the designated start-time 2pm. They formed up at the gangway – the vast ship dwarfing its narrow berthing quay - and gave an impeccable navy salute to the German top brass lining the deck rail, glittering in gold braid and including the 3-ship squadron Commodore, ships' Captains and Lieutenants and German Embassy Naval Attaché, Commander Steffen Handrick. They all saluted us as we stepped off the gangway onto the ship's steel deck plates.



*Phot: Jane Havergal*

Following short welcome speeches by the attaché and by YOU committee member John Havergal, the cadets had ample chance to lay hands on controls, answer questions and converse generally with the ships' highly proficient, friendly, and informative officers who showed us all aspects of the squadron's running.

As to how the meeting came about, thanks to lawyer wife Jane, member of Thomas Eggar's law team servicing the embassy, John was invited to the embassy's German Unity celebration. Moved to promote YOU's goals, John mentioned them to Ambassador Dr Peter Amon and the embassy's four military attachés. Lunch talks resulted between Wing Commander David Hale, Air Attaché Colonel Andreas Pfeiffer and John, and between Captain Peter Baker, Sub-lieutenant Stuart Jackson, Naval Attaché Commander Steffen Handrick and John. Putative contacts between London's Fire Cadets and German opposite numbers are in place pending development. Exams coinciding, a Wilhelmshaven townsfolk and Commonwealth War Graves Commission invitation for five Sea Cadets to join German and Russian navy teams in tending graves prior to Battle of Jutland commemorations this year was regrettably declined.

Commander Handrick, Sub-lieutenant Jackson, Captain Peter Baker and John aim to meet this summer to discuss extending to other YOU cadet units chances to tour German warships docking in London and to entertain German ships' companies to training displays and social and ceremonial events.

**John Havergal**

## Three Peaks Challenge Success for Enfield VPC

On Tuesday 5th April, 19 Enfield Volunteer Police Cadets attempted the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge.

The event takes on the peaks of Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough, usually in this order, in under 12 hours. These peaks form part of the Pennine range, and encircle the head of the valley of the River Ribble, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.



Setting off for Yorkshire on Monday 4th the Cadets and a team of seven staff made the trip to Horton in Ribblesdale which was to be the base-camp for the challenge.

A bright and early start on Tuesday saw two teams set off at 07:00 in order to complete the challenge in daylight. The weather tried it's best to spoil the efforts of the Cadets but a team of nine lead by PC Pell-Coggins (Enfield Police Cadet Coordinator) completed the Challenge in 11 hours and 15 minutes. Unfortunately the remainder of the cadets had to abandon their attempt of the second mountain due to the failing light conditions. When asked if they were disappointed about not completing the challenge the resounding reply was, "A little bit, but we'll come back and do it next year! Won't we Staff?"

The Cadets were undertaking the challenge as a sponsored event to raise unit funds and so far they have managed a very respectable £2,000.

PC Pell-Coggins said "This is just another classic example of Enfield Cadets trying to do something positive with their time. Many of them had little or

no hill walking experience but embraced the challenge head on. With the help of so many wonderful dedicated staff we have managed to raise some money to ensure that our more financially challenged members can enjoy the same chances as everyone else, to take part in the many activities we run throughout the year including all 3 levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award".

Enfield VPC will be doing the 'National 3 Peaks Challenge' for the third time this June to try and raise £2500 for a local disabled woman who needs her home adapting to increase her mobility. Keep an eye out for @EnfieldVPC on social media for further details.

*PC Pell-Coggins*

## Kingston VPC appeal

Kingston Volunteer Police Cadets have been helping the Mayor of Kingston-upon-Thames to raise funds for a Dementia Appeal.

They ran a stall at the Kingston Crown Court open day and raised £263.72 for this great cause.





# Follow a WW1 Soldier on Facebook



WW1 Soldier's Tale tells the fascinating story of Walter Carter, a young Territorial Force soldier from Battersea who goes to war in March 1915.

The story also includes his girlfriend, Lily, plus his family and friends back in England. Whilst the characters are fictitious, everything that happens is based entirely on fact.

What makes this tale unique is that it is not being told through diaries or letters...but through Facebook, Twitter and a Blog. It's all done in real time, 100 years to the day from the events really happened. Walter and friends share not only their thoughts but also news articles, pictures, links, even pieces of footage from the time.

Join over 20,000 people in Liking the Facebook page and Walter's posts will appear in your Newsfeed, giving you a true sense of what it was like to be a young person at the time of the First World War.

You can easily pick up the story if you start following the project now, but if you want to catch up with all the action so far, March 1914 to June 1915 is available as a paperback and Kindle book on Amazon – just search 'WW1 Soldier's Tale'. To follow the story of Walter, his friends and family, visit

[www.facebook.com/WW1SoldiersTale](http://www.facebook.com/WW1SoldiersTale)

[www.twitter.com/WW1SoldiersTale](http://www.twitter.com/WW1SoldiersTale)

[www.ww1soldierstale.co.uk/blog](http://www.ww1soldierstale.co.uk/blog)

## YOU London contact

[www.youlondon.org.uk](http://www.youlondon.org.uk) Twitter @YOULondon1  
[www.facebook.com/YOULondon1](http://www.facebook.com/YOULondon1) YouTube - <http://tinyurl.com/pjd5766>  
E: [YOULondon1@gmail.com](mailto:YOULondon1@gmail.com)

Organisation	Contact Name	Email Address
Air Training Corps	TBA	TBA
Army Cadet Force	Michael Nolan	michael@nolan75.freemove.co.uk
Boys' Brigade	Vic Russell	admin@london-districtbb.co.uk
Fire Cadets	Sara Perez	sara.perez@london-fire.gov.uk
Girls' Brigade	Hannah Field	Hannah.Field@gb-ministries.org
Girlguiding LaSER	Alison Bruce	Alibaba@care4free.net
Scout Association	Debbie Evans	debbie.evans@scouts.org.uk
Sea Cadet Corps	Maria McEvoy	mmcevoy@ms-sc.org
St John Ambulance	Jane Fonteyn	Jane.Fonteyn@sja.org.uk
Volunteer Police Cadets	Lucy O'Mahony	Lucy.O'Mahony@met.police.uk
YOU London DW	Michael Nolan	michael@nolan75.freemove.co.uk
YOU London Admin	Donna O'Halloran	gl-offcadets@rfca.mod.uk

## It's all about



The aim of YOU London is to work together

to support young people by maximising the benefits of the existing youth organisations. Working together takes many forms including inter-group competitions, sharing premises, exhibiting together at recruitment events in borough, or simply being aware of who is who in the boroughs' youth groups. Working together often produces for the groups much more than the sum of the individual parts can do.

## Z cards

Fold out business cards sized which advertise all of the YOU London groups are available from  
Donna  
gl-offcadets@rfca.mod.uk

