



Through the eyes of youth to the future

On 1 September, GL RFCA and the Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC) held a commemorative event to honour the involvement of the London units' last 100 days of the First World War.

The day began with a parade along the famous King's Road where the Chelsea Pensioners exercised their Freedom of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. They were joined by representatives of London's Maritime Reserves, The Royal Yeomanry, The London Regiment, 600 Squadron RAuxAF and the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. Members of the public lined the route along the King's Road to show their support.

Following the parade and Drumhead ceremony, invited guests joined members of the public in Burton Court where young people from YOU London organisations showed off their skills with exciting and educational displays. They were joined by charity partners including The Royal British Legion, There But Not There and Never Such Innocence. **See pages 4 and 5 for more photographs of the Burton Court event.**

Cheshire Youth United takes over Golden Square for successful recruitment drive

Young people from across the region show their skills to hundreds of shoppers



Warrington's Golden Square played host to a hugely successful day of free fun and activities, when youth organisations from across the region came together for a volunteer recruitment festival organised by Cheshire Youth United.

Representatives from seven different uniformed youth organisations took over the centre's Old Market Square in a bid to recruit new adult leaders to serve as leaders, committee members and instructors.

"We had a terrific day," said Jeremy Kent of Cheshire Youth United. "We brought a number of interactive exhibits for members of the public to see and take part in, including Cheshire Fire's popular rainbow fire engine, a jet plane cockpit, ambulance and practical first aid demonstrations.

"The response from shoppers was brilliant. We have secured interest from 20 adults and more than 30 young people, which is a fantastic result, and there may be more that have come to the groups since the event," he said.

"Just as importantly and immeasurable was the interaction between all the young people on the day. It was delightful to see the young people interacting with each other - socialising, supporting each other's performances, seeing what the other groups do and generally having fun.

Golden Square Centre Director, Ian Cox, said he was thrilled to be able to host the youth organisations at the centre. "The demonstrations were fantastic," said Ian. "You could see just how much our shoppers enjoyed watching them and how proud those performing were.

"We were expecting a great turnout and the people of Warrington did not disappoint. I'm proud that we've been able to support the groups in this way and we're looking forward to having them back in the future."

Cheshire Youth United supports over 1000 units across Cheshire acting as a catalyst in order for the uniformed organisations at all levels to work together for mutual benefit, to help the uniformed youth organisations in Cheshire to develop and expand the capacity and reach of their provision and establish an employability programme for members of uniformed youth organisations that will connect prospective young employees with businesses.

Jeremy Kent

Youth Group Support Officer
Development Manager – Cheshire Youth United

The Summer of 2018 with Croydon Scouting

Again a very busy time summer term with many of our uniformed Sections participating in various exciting programme ideas and themes including a trip to the Bluebell Railway to celebrate those Beaver Scouts who gained their Bronze Chief Scout Award and two Cub Packs from Croydon driving soapbox carts around Goodwood Race track to highlight just a couple. Our nights away activities have continued with Cubs camping at Legoland in Windsor, Cubs sleeping at the Science Museum in London and on board a War Ship at Chatham Dockyard and other Cubs sleeping out in cardboard boxes to understand the plight of the homeless. Many other young people camping in Switzerland, Spain, Alderney, Tolmers, Sussex and Dorset as well as many of our local and regular camping sites. In general the reports back all show a very positive and successful season camping despite the best efforts of the ferry company for getting to transport a van and trailer over to Alderney leaving our party of Scouts to dig deep and be very resourceful for the first 24 hours of camp until their equipment arrived the next day.



Our regular water activities at the Pinewood Scout Centre and at Norwood Lake prior to our freak spell of warm weather was very busy including holding a very successful cardboard canoe challenge. And to answer your question - yes these were cardboard canoes and if built correctly with thought and care a cardboard canoe does float !

Our programme of DofE support to young people in Croydon is still strong and proactive and we are looking at ways to encourage more non Scouting



engagement in DofE. A special note must be made of Will Graham a Croydon Explorer who participated in the Explorer Belt Expedition this year to Galicia, in Spain. He successfully completed the expedition and will hopefully complete the presentation to gain his Explorer Belt. For those who have not heard of the Explorer Belt it's like DoE gold on steroids. Teams are "dumped" for 10 days in foreign country to travel for 50 hours by any non-mechanical means, they need to embed themselves in the local culture whilst completing a series of tasks set by the organising Leaders, it's a tough challenge with few completing it, thankfully we have County team who enable participation and a very well done to Will for participating.

Our Climbing Wall has again been very busy over the summer period representing Croydon Scouting at various School Fete's and local Community Events. This year over 40 events attended, with nearly 6500 climbs attempted and 600 instructor hours utilised. At the recent Thornton Heath Festival our experienced climbing instructors were even able to assist and encouraged a 'blind' person to climb the wall. What a fantastic effort by all !

My tenure as District Commissioner ceases at the end of the year and Greg Cook my successor takes over the reigns in January 2019. I am sure that Croydon Scouting will continue to be a very vocal and major participant member of YOU London and we look forward to the continued success of the collective uniformed youth organisations in Croydon.

Steve French
District Commissioner
CROYDON SCOUTING





Recently YOU London visited NishkamSWAT in West London. Here's some information about what they do.

We are a charitable organisation based in West London, our primary function is to unite and transform financially disadvantaged communities by focusing on projects which make a difference to people's lives in the short term and improve their prospects in the long term.



Founded in 2008, our first project being a youth club offering regular workshops on substance awareness, informal talks on the Sikh and other faiths and encouraging the children to engage in group discussions and debates on current issues they are facing today such as gang culture, drug addiction, and alcohol abuse.

In 2009 we discovered over 200 men sleeping rough on the streets of Southall which then established our Homeless Project where we go out to different areas of the UK to feed the less fortunate. In between this we have established many more projects.

Our Vision

We have a vision where every person we meet knows they are loved and valued, lives safely, with respect, faith, hope and care for themselves and others, achieving their full potential and positively contributing to and transforming their communities”.

Our Current Projects

Homeless Project - we currently serve over 14 locations (and growing), 20 times a week. With a task force of 800 plus volunteers we serve around 2800-3000 homeless and displaced service users a week.

Elderly Care Project - bi monthly volunteers visit care homes and hospices to spend time to support the elderly within the community. We take time to listen to them and participate in activities.

Nishkam Healthcare - in addition to provided food and clothing, we also provide healthcare to our displaced friends. Most recently we have provided flu vaccination and partnered with pharmacists to provide basic medical advice and administer basic medicine.

Project Recovery - our newest project. Raising awareness of alcohol and substance misuse. Soon to launch a helpline to support those that are suffering from addiction, but also support the families of those that need help. Future aspirations include setting up a treatment centre.

We are a 100% voluntary organisation, and no one person is paid or paid any expenses. We feel it is our duty to serve those that need help or are less fortunate than us.

We also hold regular events throughout the year, most recently we had our 2nd Snowdonia Challenge. 80 climbers took on the challenge of Mount Snowdon and the day was a resounding success.

We are hoping that with the cadets, from all the various units and departments can come on board and support us over all our projects and events. In return, we can offer a fulfilling experience where we can teach and explain further about volunteering, our values and virtues. We can also attend YOU related events to speak to various departments about volunteering and NishkamSWAT.

More info at : Facebook: [@NishkamSWAT](https://www.facebook.com/NishkamSWAT) Instagram: [nishkamswat](https://www.instagram.com/nishkamswat) Twitter: [@nishkamswat](https://twitter.com/nishkamswat) Youtube: Nishkam SWAT. Website: www.nishkamswat.com
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TLCxuqbXSk> this video in particular shares the meaning of Nishkam.

Ways to Remember Together from

BIG IDEAS

YOU London groups are invited to join First World War commemoration programmes and discover diverse stories from the period through engaging and creative activities. Big Ideas can offer free resources for each project and two tiers of funding: up to £200 for individual groups, or up to £1,000 to create a community 'hub' which engages 10 or more groups.

The Unremembered: World War One's Army of Workers

Take part in this nationwide project to remember the Labour Corps from around the world – you can discover unknown local heritage and plan your own commemorative events, including making wreaths. Email theunremembered@big-ideas.org

Tull100 – Football Remembers

Discover and commemorate Walter Tull, the first black heritage officer in the British Army and a professional footballer, with activities such as football matches, letter writing and discussing what it means to have No Barriers. Email tull100@big-ideas.org.

Trailblazers: World War One's Inspirational Women

Celebrate the lives of inspirational women from the First World War and identify Trailblazing women in your community today. Email trailblazers@big-ideas.org.

Remember RAF100

Mark the formation of the RAF by commemorating air service personnel who lost their lives in World War One with creative activities and discovering local heritage. Email RAF100@big-ideas.org.



Team London Award for Merton VPC Cadet

On Monday 15th October at the City Hall Team London Awards Merton's Head VPC Cadet Isaac Skrzypczyk won the Mayor of London's "Social Integration" Award for his VPC volunteering, leadership and community work as an LGBT advocate & founder member of Met VPC LGBT group. The award was presented by Deputy Mayor Matthew Ryder and GLA member Jeanette Arnold.

Merton VPC Coordinator Staff Kate said

"Isaac has been an incredible Cadet bringing so much energy and enthusiasm to the team and all he does. He's had many tough times and the journey continues. We're really proud of Isaac, a really inspirational and positive caring leader, who thoroughly deserves this award."

Isaac says:

"My journey began in secondary school where I suffered quite a bit of directly homophobic bullying, which of course made my life miserable. I started attending the Volunteer Police Cadets to get help and it had a massive impact on my life. I felt safe enough to come out to my cadet group around a year ago, and since then have received tons of support and acceptance.

"I strive to help other cadets learn and understand more about me and the LGBT+ Community to keep the community as safe as I found it.

"I am proud to be a part of early days of an official LGBT VPC Network which is currently going from strength to strength offering support and a safe place to talk, discuss and get support from the friends I have made in Merton's VPC.

Lord Mayors Cadet Music Trophy

The second of the Lord Mayor of London's annual Cadet Music competition took place under glorious warm sunshine in the Guildhall Yard on Saturday 29th September. Cadet bands from London's Royal Air Force Air Cadets and London's Army Cadets performed before a distinguished audience including a judging panel of the Rt. Hon. Alderman Charles Bowman (Lord Mayor of London), Sir Andrew Parmley (past Lord Mayor), Maj. Gen Ben Bathurst (General Officer Commanding LONDIST), Air Vice Marshall Dave Cooper (Air Officer Commanding 2 Group), and Lt. Col. Darren Wolfendale (Commanding Officer Household Division Bands).

The Army Cadet band led by Drum Major Izidoro marched on and were inspected by the judges. They then played "I vow to thee my country" and "Mud Cabin". Two individual bugle pieces (Last Post and Sun Set) were played by Cadet Sergeant Hutton and Cadet Sergeant Anciano.

The Royal Air Force Air cadet band led by Drum Major Cadet Kovac, then marched on and were also inspected by the judges. They played "I vow to thee my Country" and "The RAF March Past". Two individual bugle pieces, "Last Post" and "Reveille" were played by Cadet Sgt Connie Willis and Cadet Flight Sergeant Daniel Hill.

The Band of the Irish guards then gave a fine marching and standing performance of tunes which greatly entertained the audience of civic leaders, military personnel, cadets and families.

After a lunch reception in the Crypts of the Guildhall, the Lord Mayor Alderman Charles Bowman announced the winners. RAF Air Cadet Sergeant Connie Willis won the trophy in the bugle playing category for her piece "Last Post".

Overall winners of the competition were the London and South East Region RAF Air Cadets beating the Army Cadets by a narrow margin. Thanking all those who had made the competition possible the Lord Mayor said how impressed he was at the high standard of the teams, and hoped that more would be encouraged to participate in



Surbiton Air Cadets Scoop Prize Trophy

Cadets from 1034 (Surbiton) Squadron RAF Air Cadets have won the coveted Elworthy Trophy, the country's only tri-service cadet military skills competition. The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, who attended the competition and spent time with the cadets, presented the trophy to the winning team.

Twelve teams from the four Cadet services within Greater London (Sea Cadets Corps, including Royal Marine contingents, Army Cadet Force, RAF Air Cadets and Combined Cadet Force) battled it out on a sunny autumn day at the annual event on 13 October, held at RAF Northolt. The competition tests the basic skills of the teams of Cadets aged 12-18 years and combines these with general physical and mental agility. It is a challenging competition and is fiercely contested by all who enter. The Cadets were put through their paces during the event and took part in a series of fun and demanding team activities including archery, command tasks, rowing, first aid, a weight pull, communication and observation tests.

The Surbiton Air cadets demonstrated their expertise and teamwork by performing consistently well across the board. Colonel Ian Denison OBE, Colonel Cadets London, who was instrumental in the planning and organisation of the event, enjoyed watching the teams of Cadets as they strove to succeed at each task. "The contest this year was as competitive as ever with all the teams showing plenty enthusiasm and team spirit." Colonel Denison also thanked The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and the Royal British Legion for their support and sponsorship of the competition, The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps) for administering the event and the staff of RAF Northolt.

Throughout the competition, the Cadets were looked after by volunteer Officers and Adult Instructors who manage a broad programme of military and adventurous training activities designed to develop character and leadership.





Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for Greater London

Greater London Awards - Deputy Lieutenant's certificates

The GL RFCA is responsible for the administration of Lord-Lieutenants awards to outstanding individuals and units in the Reserves and Military Sponsored Cadet organisations across Greater London.

In addition Deputy Lieutenant's Certificates are presented at individual borough events recognising the achievements of cadets of the Greater London Cadet Organisations and creating awareness of their contribution within the community.

Until recently Deputy Lieutenant Certificates were only awarded to cadets from the military based community cadet organisations. In 2015 they were extended to include the Combined Cadet Force. Last year cadets from the Fire Cadets, St John Ambulance and Volunteer Police Cadets who are based at units within Greater London were also eligible should they have wished to participate. Last year the award has been extended to the remainder of the organisations within Youth Organisations in Uniform (London) or YOU London; Boys' and Girls' Brigades, Scouts and Girlguiding.

Citations must be submitted on the proforma provided by GLRFCA in a letter dated 9th October, and returned to the Youth Secretary at GL RFCA by 25 January 2019 at the latest. Reporting Officers must ensure that the citations submitted are well written, accurate and most importantly highlight why this cadet merits this award. You are particularly asked to check the accuracy of the ranks (if applicable), names and unit titles on each recommendation so that the certificate can be printed correctly. Please ensure that your unit/detachment commanders are encouraged to put forward suitable candidates.

The nomination form has been sent to groups but available. If there are any questions please contact the Youth Secretary, Donna O'Halloran via 020 7384 4662 or gl-offcadets@rfca.mod.uk

Have you got news for us ?
The stories we are looking for
are those where YOU part-
ners are working together.
Email yours to :

YOULondon1@gmail.com

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Reserve Forces' and Cadets'
Association for Greater London

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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

