

<p>Scouting news from Tameside and Glossop and Greater Manchester East</p> <p><b>Scouts</b> </p>	<h1>TAMESIDER</h1> <h2>January 2024</h2>	
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## Contents January 2024

Page 2	Happy New Year
Page 3	News from Tame Valley Scout District
Page 4	News from 12 <sup>th</sup> Ashton Scout Group
Page 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ashton and 12 <sup>th</sup> Ashton Scout Winter Camp
Page 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ashton Scout Group Christmas Party
Page 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ashton Scout Group visit Kings Park Nursing Home
Page 7	News from 7 <sup>th</sup> Stalybridge Scout Group
Page 7	News from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stalybridge Scout Group
Page 8	Events and Training provided by the County Activity Team
Page 9	Census 2024
Page 10 - 12	News from Headquarters – PLEASE READ
Page 13	WANTED
Page 14 - 15	Adults Training
Page 16	Road and Rail – 2024
Page 17	CHEERS
Page 17 - 18	Scout's Night Before Christmas



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL INVOLVED IN SCOUTING IN GREATER  
MANCHESTER EAST SCOUT COUNTY.

I hope you all enjoy the challenges and triumphs of  
2024. As every year we will remember our old friends  
and look forward to making new ones.

Here's to all the fun we will have in 2024.

## News from Tame Valley Scout District.

A wonderful Christmas Carol service in Tame Valley this evening. Members of 1st Millbrook hosted a wonderful event, their final of the year before passing the baton on to the next group. Definitely in the Christmas spirit now!

We took the opportunity to present service awards, for those volunteers who have supported scouting for up 5/10/15 years! Well done to all those who have given up many evenings and weekends.



Also, I felt it important to recognise those within our district who go above and beyond (though I feel everyone deserves this) with a commissioners commendation, an award we haven't given out in a long time. Firstly to Les Crowther who has been instrumental in 1st Millbrooks move to the Scout Association. Secondly to Tom Lowther, a great friend and mentor, who relentlessly fundraises for both adults and young people. To Nick Ledger and Deena Ledger who work tirelessly in growing their group, as well as District events.

After the Carol service, I met up with Joanne Shaw who was busy fundraising on the "Santa Run" to award her commendation for resilience and positivity in supporting those on the Korea jamboree.



Finally, our highest and rarest award, The Silver Wolf, was awarded to Robert Taylor. When asking those within the district for citations to support his nomination, I was blown away by the response, highlighting that during his 50+ year service, just



how many people he has supported within scouting. A proud moment for the district, who responded with a standing ovation and cheers.  
A huge well done to all. Feeling proud to be part of a district that supports each other with a common goal of delivering quality scouting in Tame Valley. Can't wait to see what next year brings!

Shell Mayoh, District Commissioner, Tame Valley Scout District.

## News from 12th Ashton Scout Group.

Tonight, 13th December 2023, I visited Daisynook Nursing Home to give out Christmas cards the beavers, cubs and scouts from 12th Ashton Scout Group, had made. Lindsay of the home met me and then we went round the lounges giving out Christmas cards.

Unfortunately, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, who were due to go to Daisynook for carol singing and giving out the cards, were not able to go because of illness in the Home.



The residents were really thankful as was Lindsay on behalf of the home. The photos show Lindsay receiving a card for the staff and residents of Daisynook Nursing Home. Also, photo of myself with resident Barbara and the Christmas card she was given.

I wished the residents a very happy Christmas on behalf of 12th Ashton Scouts Group.

Jane Rogers leader at 12th Ashton Scout Group.

## 3rd Ashton and 12th Ashton Scout Winter Camp

Over the weekend of 15th December 2023 both Scout Troops joined together for a winter camp at Giant Seats Campsite

With a chill theme planned we hoped to complete a freeze camp (but wasn't to be who would have thought 7 degrees at night on the weekend before Xmas)

On Saturday we all went for a hike down to Clifton Country Park to complete the orienteering course there as mini teams. The scouts all saw some deer whilst on the hike there. When we completed the course all the scouts enjoyed some time on the park and the cafe there.



Upon our return we enjoyed some reindeer burgers, campfire, songs and socialising then had some games in the hut

This weekend was enjoyed by all the scouts and leaders alike.

James  
Asst leader



## 3rd Ashton Scout Group Christmas Party

On Monday 18th December all sections of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ashton Scout Group, including the Explorers, came together to celebrate Christmas.



With a mini disco, party games, such as pass the parcel, musical chairs, a quiz, sweets cones for the children and hot chocolate cones for the leaders, donated by a parent and a special visit from Santa himself  
All the children even the explorers got stuck in enjoying themselves and dancing to all the songs and all thoroughly enjoyed a rare night of all sections together.

## 3rd Ashton Scout Group visit to King's Park Nursing Home

On 13th December Beavers, Cubs and Scouts came together to wish the residents of Kings Park Nursing Home a Merry Christmas by singing carols and giving cards to all the residents. We went bigger and better than last year with a massive thanks to a Beaver's parent, we had a pianist playing all the carols.



The group had a good chat with some of the residents and staff. The smiles and joy from the residents were clear to see and everyone were touched by how grateful the residents and staff were to see them and spend some time with them

James Assistant Leader

## News from 7th Stalybridge Scout Group

Beavers party. Very competitive this evening. Huge thank you to mums who helped us out this evening. Much appreciated. This is our final one this year. We wish all beavers and their families a merry Christmas and happy new year. See you next year Panther, Shanti, Skip, Taz, Butterfly and Poppy xx

## News from 2<sup>nd</sup> Stalybridge Scout Group

What a Christmas eve, this year things have been a little different and alot calmer. We started Christmas eve with a trip to the cinema to watch polar express with treats and a few cards given out on the way home. Then a bit of baking mince pies and Gingerbread and a movie at home. Buffet tea, topped of with midnight Mass at St John's with the Stafford's.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, I HOPE THE NEW YEAR BRINGS HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO ALL . . .

Heather Danby.



## Events and Training provided by the County Activity Team

The following events are planned for the coming months.

### *Climbing*

#### **Beginners introduction to indoor climbing**

No dates currently set.

#### **Climbing leader training (Artificial walls)**

Thursday 9th May - [Awesome Walls](#)

Monday 13th May - Online Session

Thursday 16th May - Linnet Clough

Thursday 23rd May - Linnet Clough

### Hill Walking

#### **Winter skills**

10th - 14th February 2024 - Kincaig, Scotland - [Booking Form](#)

#### **Hill walking leader training** (terrain 1)

Thursday 14th March 2024 - Online Session

Wednesday 21st March 2024 - [Classroom Session](#)

Sunday 24th March 2024 - Hill Day

Thursday 28th March 2024 - Night Navigation

#### **Security on steep ground workshop** (terrain 2)

Sunday 15th June 2023 - Hill Day.

Contact us if you are interested in T2 Training.

#### **Beginners introduction to hill walking** (terrain zero)

Thursday 25th April 2024 - Online Session

Thursday 2nd May - Classroom Session

Sunday 12th May - Practical outdoor session

### Archery

#### **Archery leader training**

16th - 17th March 2024 - [Details](#)

Booking website - <https://www.gmescouts.org.uk/gain-experience>

Thanks

Keith Hampson

MAPS, Climbing Assessor, Hill walking Assessor

Night away adviser

**Scouts** 

GME Activity Team

Please reply to; [activities@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:activities@gmescouts.org.uk)

[www.gmescouts.org.uk/activities-1](http://www.gmescouts.org.uk/activities-1)

## Census 2024.



At the start of each year, we hold our annual Census. Our Census gives us key information about our membership figures and the frameworks that support them.

This year, we're bringing the timeline forward. We're going to send your passwords in early December to help you prioritise the Census before you focus on adopting the new volunteer experience changes in the new year. Please start collecting your youth membership figures (and particularly your diversity data) now, so we can get a better picture of how well we represent our local communities.

For 2024, we'd like you to complete your Census based on the day in January you complete your return, rather than 31 January. As we prepare to move to our new digital system, any adult data needed to support the Census should be taken from Compass before the 1 February. [In our update](#), you'll see the updated timelines and learn why some of the data we ask for is so important.

The updated national timeline will look as follows:

- Between 6 and 13 December - Census passwords sent out
- 20 December – The Census site opens
- Census accurate as per the date in January you complete your return.
- 14 January – Census approvals open
- 1 February – Deadline for data needed from compass for Census
- 14 February – Census closes nationally all returns must be complete and approved

Your local Commissioner will set the deadline for when you need to have complete and approved your section, group and district returns locally.

## **News from Headquarters – please read.**

### **Reporting safeguarding concerns.**

The safety of young people remains our number one priority. We regularly ask independent experts in child safety to review our training and safeguarding policy. This is an important step to make sure our processes are kept up-to-date and we're all doing everything we can to keep all young people safe.

Our Yellow Card is an important resource. Every volunteer must always follow the Yellow Card and you're expected to share the card with parents, guardians and young people so that everyone is aware of our safeguarding arrangements.

#### **Changes to the Yellow Card from 1 January 2024**

In June this year, we explained how we would be updating the Yellow Card based on what we've learned from past safeguarding cases. The changes will be:

- The requirement to report any concern directly to the UK HQ Safeguarding Team.
- Anyone reporting a concern who has a personal relationship or family connection with those involved needs to step back from the situation and inform the UK HQ Safeguarding Team.

#### **Reporting directly to the UK HQ Safeguarding team**

Currently the Yellow Card asks volunteers (you) to report concerns to your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner. We're changing the process to everyone reporting directly to the UK HQ Safeguarding team. This makes sure that we're aware of concerns as soon as possible and can put measures in place to minimise risks to children, young people and adults at risk.

The UK HQ Safeguarding team will be on hand to provide you with advice, support and guidance from the moment you report a concern. If you inform another member about the concern, then both individuals must then report direct to the UK HQ Safeguarding team.

The UK HQ Safeguarding team will continue to work with local lead volunteers for the vast majority of cases as part of our joint approach to handling concerns. On some occasions, volunteers leading in Groups and Districts may not always be aware of a low-level concerns in their area, such as a welfare issue for a young person or a safeguarding query from a volunteer, but this is no different from the current process the UK HQ Safeguarding team follow.

## **Updating resources**

Due to these changes to the process, we will be updating our:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Yellow card
- Yellow card poster
- Grey Card (safeguarding procedures for Commissioners)

The NSPCC have also designed a new poster which signposts Childline for the younger sections to contact for support, and we've updated the Yellow Card poster, specifically for the older sections and adult volunteers, introducing a QR code making it easier for you to report a concern directly. You will be required to display both the Yellow card poster and the new Childline poster in your meeting place for young people and parents/carers to see.

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we would strongly recommend recycling old versions of the Yellow Card. Please note, that if you are recycling a large quantity of Yellow Cards please make sure they're not stuck together.



## Timings

We know it takes a little time to transition to new procedures and to access the new resources. We will be back in touch with information on how you can view the new resources. Leadership roles at Group, District, County/Area/Region levels will be able to pre-order bulk packs of the cards and posters to distribute to their teams. At this time no one needs to make an order, and we'll share the pre-order link when it's available. The resources will be available for free, and there will be a digital alternative available too.

**Everyone is expected to follow the new procedures from 1 January 2024.**

We know it may take some getting used to, but these changes are crucial to help us act quickly and continue our commitment to keeping almost half a million young people safe in UK Scouts.

Best wishes

<b>Carl Hankinson</b> <b>UK Chief Commissioner</b> <b>Scouts</b>	<b>Tina Wilson</b> <b>Chief Safeguarding Officer</b> <b>Scouts</b>
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**The new YELLOW CARD will be available from Scout Shops and are FREE.** Each Group is responsible to get them and give them to the adults in their Group. There is also an A3 size poster available for the walls of the Groups meeting place.

# WANTED



Crushed Aluminium Cans

For the Jamboree Fund

Contact Tom Lowther

[tom.lowther@tamevalleyscouts.org.uk](mailto:tom.lowther@tamevalleyscouts.org.uk)

or Tina Howarth [tina.howarth@ntscouts.org.uk](mailto:tina.howarth@ntscouts.org.uk)

to donate crushed Aluminium Cans



# Adult Training



Greater Manchester East Training team have been busy updating not just the way they deliver training, now offering all courses through Nearpod and Zoom, but also by updating the training website. We now have a more interactive and streamlined training area that can be found at [www.gmescouts.org.uk/training1](http://www.gmescouts.org.uk/training1)

By following the links relevant to your role, you will be able to access an overview of all the specific training required, links to access the e-learning and also the training delivered by GME. Mandatory Ongoing Learning can also be accessed in this way. An online 'Check Your Knowledge' system has also been embedded for leaders to complete and these will be sent to your TA.

[Shell.rowlinson@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:Shell.rowlinson@gmescouts.org.uk)

[ctm@gmescouts.org.uk](mailto:ctm@gmescouts.org.uk)

To book onto the course highlight the course, then Ctrl + Click, then complete the application form.



## GETTING STARTED - Training

This is available on-line via the County Website for all roles in Scouting. They take between 45 and 90 minutes to complete each module.

Adults should complete their Getting Started training and have it validated within 5 months of them being put on Compass in their role. It can be completed before they go to the appointment's panel.

All Courses are now on the county Calendar & bookable through EventBrite.

Greater Manchester East Scouts | Team up

<https://www.gmescouts.org.uk/training>

(Copy and paste into search engine to book onto course)



# RAIL ROAD 2024

A Model Railway & Transport Show  
AT

## New Venue

Longdendale High School  
Hollingworth Hyde Cheshire SK14 8LW  
On

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April 10am until 5 pm

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> April 10am. until 4.30 pm

Model Railways in all scales, Thomas the Tank Engine,  
All forms of Transport Displays in all scales,  
Vintage & Veteran Vehicles, Motor Cycles, Live Steam Engines  
Refreshments Available, Trade Stands.  
Ample Free Car Parking. Full Disabled Access

**LOTS TO SEE & DO FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

Adults £5. Concessions £4 Accompanied Children Under 14 Free  
Family {2 Adults & 2 Children} £9.50

For further information: Tom Lowther 12, Mostyn Street Dukinfield Cheshire SK16 5JS  
0161 338 5097. Mobile 07719259638 Email [superscout@sky.com](mailto:superscout@sky.com)

**IN AID OF SCOUTS FUNDS**

Charity Number 1128406



# Cheers for volunteers

Thank you for the scarves rolled,  
songs sung, and memories created.  
Most of all, thank you for the difference  
you're making to young people's lives.

## Scouter's night before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, and at the scout hut,  
Not a leader was stirring, the doors were locked shut;  
The wet tents were hung from the rafters with care,  
Camp was the wettest it had been since last year;  
Scouts, Beavers and Cubs nestled snug in their beds;  
While visions risk assessments plagued leaders' heads;  
And year plans and badges and GDPR,  
An hour a week? the biggest joke so far.  
When down by the scout hut there arose such a clatter,  
With blue lights and sirens, what on earth was the matter.  
To fone and to Facebook parents flew in a flash,  
And told all the leaders to the hut they must dash.  
Its locked and its empty are you sure we are needed?  
But its Scouts and the call must swiftly be heeded.  
In all states of undress, we arrived in our cars,  
Fluffy onesies and curlers, some even left bars!  
Key bunches in hand like a long line of jailers,  
Shouting instructions, no need for loud hailer.  
Doors flung open wide, and padlocks undone  
The search of the hut in earnest begun.  
The tents were all dry and were neatly repacked.



The washing up done, fridge and cupboards properly stacked.  
Was it you.? Wasnt me! Or the parents? we'll see,  
Who's got keys, only us, oh and the D.C. .  
Whoever it was it's done us a favour,  
But who called the police? that must be a neighbour.  
Then up on the roof there arose such a clatter,  
We ran outside to see what was the matter.  
It's the scouts, it's the D.C. no its vandals I fear,  
There's a sleigh on the storeroom and eight full grown reindeer!  
Akela shouted You get down off there quick,  
I'm not filing an accident form labelled St. Nick.  
He was dressed all in red like all the books said.  
With a hat trimmed with white sitting up on his head.  
A clap of his hands and his elves flocked around  
With more of them joining us down on the ground.  
More rapid than eagles our members they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called us name:  
"Now, Balloo, now Bagheera now Akela and all!  
Your members wrote and we thought we'd answer the call!  
We didn't bring presents or candy or stuff.  
But we've helped like they asked cos you've all done enough.  
You work and you plan, you give all your spare hours  
Being scout leaders doesn't mean you have superpowers.  
An hour a week that's what they say  
But you guys are Scouters by night and by day.  
You think you're forgotten, You think they don't care,  
but that's why tonight we have all gathered here.  
To show you - you matter and what you do counts  
You're loved and respected in massive amounts.  
And then, with a twinkling, he stood up in his sleigh  
We really should go it's a quite busy day  
With loud shout of mush and a flick of the reigns  
Sleigh and elves disappeared as fast as they came  
I'm not quite sure what happened that cold Christmas night  
Too much beer lack of sleep or a trick of the light  
But I'm sure when police asked us to explain  
What I saw in the sky wasn't any old plane  
It circled the scout hut before it went  
I'm sure all the youngsters knew what it meant  
And I heard as it flew into clouds out of sight  
"Happy Christmas Scout Leaders, and to members good night!"  
From 250<sup>th</sup> Facebook page – THANKS.