THE QUEST

19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) Scout Group Newsletter



Section Spotlight

On a recent "beastly cold" Friday, some of our dedicated Explorer and Leaders Scouts proudly stepped forward to support a Investiture prestigious Royal ceremony, carried out at His Majesty The King's direct command. Their outstanding conduct has since received glowing commendation from none other than Martin Russell MBE DL, our esteemed Group Patron and the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet.

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Introducing Our First Newsletter: The 19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) Scout Group Update

By Bosun

The 19th Hendon Scout Group is delighted to announce the launch of its first newsletter to all members, past and present, parents, guardians, and supporters, providing an update on the group's latest news, remarkable growth, and ongoing activities.

The group is currently doing remarkably well, boasting an impressive and thriving membership of over 140 young people! This incredible growth is a testament to the vibrant programmes and engaging experiences offered. Behind this success is a solid and dedicated team of adult volunteers, who diligently cover both the direct leadership of our weekly meetings and the essential behind-the-scenes operations that keep the group running smoothly.

A Legacy of Community and Growth

The 19th Hendon Scout Group proudly traces its roots back to 13th January 1947. Born in the spirit of post-war rebuilding and renewal that swept across the United Kingdom, the group began its journey as the 19th Hendon (6th Mill Hill) St. Michael's Mill Hill. Initially serving the parish of St Michael and All Angels, Mill Hill, it was established to offer local youngsters the chance for adventure, personal development, and service to the community, embodying the very best of British values.

From its earliest days, the group demonstrated a spirit of camaraderie, resilience, and dedication to the principles of Scouting, duty, loyalty, and community service, that resonated deeply within Mill Hill. As it grew, it extended far beyond its parish roots, becoming a cherished part of the wider community. For decades, the 19th Hendon Scout Group has been a cornerstone of Mill Hill life, shaping the character of countless young people with a sense of pride, honour, and duty.

A significant chapter unfolded in 2024 when the 21st Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) joined the 19th Hendon family, marking a pivotal moment of unity and shared purpose. The 21st Hendon, founded in 1940, had long stood as another esteemed pillar of Scouting within Mill Hill. Indeed, while the 1950s famously saw a fierce, yet ultimately respectful, rivalry between the two groups, the solid foundations laid by the 21st Hendon's founders and earlier members were truly remarkable. They notably championed the building of their own hall, a premise which was later redeveloped into the fantastic facility we know today as The Quest Centre. This modern scouting hub was a vision of future scouting championed by Bill Taylor, our current Group President. With the 21st Hendon's establishment in 1940 and the 19th Hendon's own long-standing history, we are now confident that the unified 19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) is the longest-standing Scout Group to proudly serve Mill Hill. To honour the legacy and proud history of the 21st Hendon, the group's name was respectfully amended to 19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill), symbolising a commitment to tradition, unity, and continued service.

As part of its ongoing growth and commitment to community leadership, the 19th Hendon now also holds the responsibility of running The Quest Centre at Apex Corner, a vital resource for local Scouting and wider community activities. Today, as it has for generations, the 'New' 19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) Scout Group continues to stand as a beacon of community spirit and pride, upholding the values that define the very best of Mill Hill and Britain.

Get Involved!

This remarkable growth and continued success, particularly the incredible experiences we offer to over 140 young people, are truly only possible with the unwavering support of our entire community, and that includes our parents! We believe that Scouting thrives when families engage, and there are countless ways your support, however big or small, can make a profound difference to your child's Scouting journey and the group as a whole.

We are always keen to welcome new adult volunteers to our fantastic team. You don't need prior Scouting experience; just enthusiasm and a willingness to help! Whether you're interested in shaping the future as a trustee, helping to maintain our valuable facilities like The Quest Centre through occasional hall maintenance, directly inspiring our young people by joining our leadership team, assisting with administrative tasks, helping at events, sharing a particular skill or hobby, or even just offering an extra pair of hands for an hour here and there – your contribution would be absolutely invaluable. Every bit of help enhances the experience for our young people and strengthens our group.

To express your interest and explore how you might best contribute, please don't hesitate to speak to Bosun or email us directly at contact@19thhendonscouts.co.uk. We'd love to chat about the many flexible options available!

Keep an eye on your inboxes for all future newsletters, which will provide further details on recent events, future plans, and how you can play an even greater part in the success of the 19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) Scout Group!



Remembrance Sunday Parade

By Shere Khan

Thanks and warm congratulations to all the members of the group who took part in Remembrance parade in November. We had 36 members of the group attend, to represent the group, and their presence, smart appearance, and respectful conduct was greatly appreciated. You have upheld the finest traditions of Scouting and honoured the memory of those who gave their lives in service. Well done to you all.













Four New King's Scouts

By Merlin

Huge congratulations to Karun, Joshua, Hannah and Sophie who have earned the King's Scout completed Award! They expedition part over the summer and approval of the award was confirmed by Gilwell in November. They will be presented with the award on 16th January. This is the highest award that you can get in Scouting and is equivalent to the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award (which our new King's Scouts have also earned). Our group now has 24 people who have earned this award.



First Camp of the Year

By Shere Khan

The Beavers and Cubs had their first camp of the academic year the weekend of 10-12 October, as they slept over at Northern Heights campsite. They learned fire safety, building mini fires and exploring the forest. The group made their own pizzas, and enjoyed s'mores around their campfire in the evening. Everyone had a fantastic time!













Visit to the Fire Station

By Shere Khan

In October, as part of their Local Knowledge and Fire Safety badges, the Scout Troop visited our local fire station on Hartley Avenue in Mill Hill. They met some of the firefighters, tested out their equipment, and learned what it means and takes to be a firefighter. Thank you to Mill Hill Fire Station for allowing us to come and talk with you for the evening.



Bronze DofE Expedtition

By Shere Khan

Over the weekend of 11–12th October, five of our Explorers completed the expedition element of their Bronze DofE award and we couldn't be prouder. Over the past few months, they've worked hard to build their skills, teamwork, and confidence — often without even realising how much they were learning along the way. From navigation and campcraft to resilience and friendship, they've truly embodied the Scouts' Skills for Life ethos.

Through this experience, our Explorers are becoming confident, capable members of our local community, London, and Britain — ready to take on new challenges and make a positive difference wherever they go.

Well done to all our Explorers — you've shown what determination, teamwork, and a positive attitude can achieve.

The Tankards

By Bosun



To the uninitiated, the very name 'THE TANKARDS' might, perchance, conjure up images of unrestrained revelry and thoroughly un-Scout-like carousing! But fear not, for while a convivial spirit certainly flows, the name holds a far deeper, more storied significance within the venerable 19th Hendon Scouting family.

The Tankards stands as the proud Association, a fellowship forged from the ranks of current adult members and every soul who has played a part in our 19th Hendon or 21st Hendon scouting journey. It extends its welcome equally to any past member of either the 19th Hendon or 21st Hendon, or indeed any steadfast supporter of the Group, ensuring that the threads of connection remain unbroken, long after the call of youth involvement has gently receded. This very title, with its hearty ring, perfectly encapsulates the grand procession of hundreds – nay, thousands – of bright young minds, aged from 4 to 18+, who have graced the 19th Hendon or 21st Hendon since its founding in the steadfast 1940s. Many, we daresay, have indeed raised a modest (and strictly non-alcoholic, in their formative years!) toast to days well spent and adventures shared.

Fancy a slice of this enduring camaraderie? We warmly invite you to join our distinguished ranks! A simple missive to contact@19thhendonscouts.co.uk will ensure you're added to our valued mailing list.

Keep track of The Tankards' activities by following us on the Group's Facebook page.

Or, for a more contemplative read, delve into The Tankards' via the bi-monthly group newsletter.

THE TANKARDS, as an organised body, took formal shape many years ago, born of a desire to preserve and nurture the unbreakable bonds forged in the crucible of Scouting. Its foremost aim was, and remains, to provide opportunities for our members to remain firmly in contact, to lend invaluable support to the Group, and to gather socially. And here's a charming nugget of history for you: back in the robust 50s and 60s, The Tankards were, in essence, the spirited Rover Scout Crew, and one could invariably find a solid core of their number holding court and regaling tales in The Rising Sun! At the very heart of our identity, weaving through generations, is this cherished custom: Tankards, it must be said, are an absolute requisite for any of our gatherings! As part of a tradition that stretches back through the years, upon reaching the age of 18, each member is ceremonially presented with their very own, finely crafted tankard. This moment marks not merely an important milestone—the honourable completion of their Scouting journey as a young person—but a hearty celebration of their transition into the crucial role of an adult volunteer, or indeed, a supporter for life – of the group. It stands as a resonant symbol of their achievements, their unyielding dedication, and their continued, unwavering commitment to the timeless values and indomitable spirit of Scouting.

For many of us, the very mention of 'Scouting' conjures a vivid kaleidoscope of indelible moments: the bracing chill of a frosty morning camp, the sheer exhilaration of a midnight hike navigated by compass and starlight, the camaraderie forged during a particularly muddy pioneering project, or the quiet triumph of a newly earned badge. These are the threads of shared experience that weave through our collective memory—the laughter echoing through The Den, the lessons learned around crackling campfires, and the lifelong friendships that blossomed amidst adventure. It's these very tales, both grand and aloriously mundane, that form the rich tapestry of our past.

The Tankards are fundamentally about the continuation of fellowship and the pursuit of adventure, albeit perhaps at a slightly more sedate pace! All members of The Tankards are, of course, accorded the privilege of attending any of the Group's cornerstone events, such as our vibrant Activity Days or the poignant Group Youth Award Presentations. But quite distinct from these grand occasions, we also convene once a term for a thoroughly convivial gathering, a chance to enjoy each other's company, share a good natter, and catch up as old friends. Many of these genial assemblies find their natural home at the welcoming environs of Mill Hill Rugby Club.

These gatherings, you see, are more than just fleeting opportunities to cast a fond eye back upon the challenges faced and the friendships forged in the annals of Scouting. They are vital moments to cement new connections, to impart wisdom gleaned over years, and to ensure the enduring vitality of the 19th Hendon Scouting family. Together, we not only honour our rich and shared past but steadfastly contribute to our present, forging an even brighter future for our beloved 19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill).



The Best of the 19th, doing their Duty at the Tower!

By Bosun

On a recent "beastly cold" Friday, some of our dedicated Explorer Scouts and Leaders proudly stepped forward to support a prestigious Royal Investiture ceremony, carried out at His Majesty The King's direct command at the Tower of London. Their outstanding conduct has since received glowing commendation from none other than Martin Russell MBE DL, our esteemed Group Patron and the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet.

Our Explorer Scouts and Leaders were tasked with the crucial role of greeting Recipients of the British Empire Medal and their guests, setting a magnificent tone for the entire event. Martin praised their performance profusely, remarking that he had "utter trust" in our Group to fulfil this "critical duty" to the "highest standard." He was able to confidently assure Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London who presented the medals on the King's behalf, that the duty would be covered by "people who were both utterly reliable, and well turned out."

The positive feedback wasn't limited to Martin. An email from Whitehall, circulated amongst relevant parties, confirmed "most positive" comments from both Recipients and their guests. Specific mentions highlighted both "the standard of the group's dress and turnout" and "the considerate and caring way in which our Explorer Scouts and Leaders greeted and conducted the guests, making them feel both important and welcomed."

Martin emphasised that this exemplary conduct has done "great service to Scouting and to its reputation in London," a testament to the collective bearing and dedication of every Explorer Scout and Leader involved. Our Patron concluded his heartfelt message by asking us to extend his "most grateful thanks again to all, our Leaders and Explorer Scouts, who gave their time and served so competently" on that challenging morning. He proudly declared, "They demonstrated the best in Scouting on a very public stage, and I was proud of them throughout."

Well done to all who supported!



Scouting History: The story of the King's Scout Award

By Merlin

The King's Scout Award is the highest award that you can get in Scouting in this country, and has been since a couple of years after the Scouts started. When Robert Baden-Powell ran his camp on Brownsea Island and wrote Scouting for Boys, Edward VII was on the throne. The King was one of Scouting's earliest supporters – he knighted B-P in 1909 for founding the Scouts, and shortly afterwards he readily agreed to the newly-dubbed Sir Robert's request that the highest-ranked Scouts could be called King's Scouts, and that they could have a special badge depicting the Crown to show this.



Back then, the requirements were that a Scout who had already achieved the 'First Class' rank (roughly equivalent to the Chief Scout's Gold Award today – no easy task!) had to earn four Scout badges from a specified list – the Guide badge, plus any three of the following: Ambulance, Bugler, Cyclist, Marksman, Seaman, Signaller. Today, the King's Scout Award is the highest of the three awards available to Explorers and adults aged 18–25, with the requirements being the same as those for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award (which is why Explorers are encouraged to sign up to the D of E Awards scheme so they can work towards that as well).

As well as the badge with the Crown, which they are allowed to wear on their uniform for as long as they remain in Scouting, King's Scouts also get a special certificate depicting the Royal coat-of-arms and the monarch's signature. The British monarch, who is mentioned in the Scout Promise, is not just our Head of State but also the Patron of the Scout Association.

Believe it or not, our four new King's Scouts are actually the 19th Hendon's first King's Scouts! The name of the award changes depending on whether the reigning monarch is a man or a woman, and the 20 previous holders of the award from our group (whose names are sewn onto the group flag) all earned it during the reign of Elizabeth II. They, therefore, are Queen's Scouts – the name of the award you earned does not change when the monarch does.

Newly-awarded King's Scouts are invited to attend the St George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle, a prestigious event at which they attend a service in St George's Chapel and are inspected by a member of the Royal Family and the Chief Scout. This very high-level Scouting tradition dates right back to the days of Edward VII – when he agreed to B-P's request for there to be King's Scouts, he told B-P to bring them to Windsor so that he could review them!

King's Scouts from the London area are also invited to form the King's Scout Honour Guard at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday - they line up outside the entrance to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office from which the King, the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and various other dignitaries emerge for the service and wreath-laying. The Honour Guard tradition dates back to the early 1920s when the National Service of Remembrance became an annual event following the First World War, and recognises the contribution of the Scouts on the Home Front.

The design of the badge itself has changed several times over the years (the most recent version, which is shown at the top of this page, was introduced when Charles III became King). You always wear the badge that was issued to you. This is why Bosun, who got his in 2000, has the brown Queen's Scout Award badge which was used from the late 1960s until the early 2000s.









<u>Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme - A Beacon of Achievement at Our Scout Group and Beyond!</u>

By Bosun

We're bursting with pride to share some truly inspiring news from our Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award programme! As a cornerstone of our youth development, DofE continues to empower our young people, and their recent achievements are nothing short of spectacular.

Four Gold DofE Stars Emerge!

A massive round of applause is due for four of our dedicated Scout members who have just completed their prestigious Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards! This is an incredible feat, representing months, and often years, of unwavering commitment, resilience, and personal growth.

Each of these young people has dedicated significant time to:

- Volunteering: Making a tangible difference in their local communities.
- Physical: Pushing their physical boundaries and embracing new challenges.
- · Skills: Developing new talents and honing existing ones, from coding to cooking.
- Expedition: Braving challenging outdoor journeys, showcasing exceptional teamwork, navigation, and camperaft skills.

Their success is a shining example of determination and we can't wait to formally celebrate their incredible journey!

A Thriving Community of Achievers: 15 More on Their DofE Journey!

The good news doesn't stop there - our DofE programme is buzzing with activity, with 15 more young people currently active across all levels of the Award - Bronze, Silver, and Gold. They're all on their own unique adventures, developing crucial life skills and discovering new passions.

From community service projects and mastering new sports to learning vital skills and training for ambitious expeditions, their enthusiasm is truly infectious. We're committed to supporting each one of them as they progress through this transformative scheme.

Building Bridges: Supporting 3rd Mill Hill Ranger Guides

Our commitment to youth achievement extends beyond our own group. We are incredibly proud to continue our strong partnership with our friends at the 3rd Mill Hill Ranger Guides, providing comprehensive support for their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

This collaboration involves:

- Sharing Expertise: Our experienced DofE leaders and volunteers mentor their participants.
- · Resource Sharing: We facilitate access to essential equipment and training materials.
- Joint Training Sessions: We regularly collaborate on vital expedition planning, navigation, and camperaft workshops, fostering a fantastic sense of camaraderie and shared learning.
- Logistical Assistance: Offering support for their expedition planning and supervision wherever possible.

This cooperative spirit helps strengthen the wider youth community in Mill Hill, ensuring more young people have the opportunity to earn their DofE Award.

DofE: A Key Pillar of Our 14 to 25 Programme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme is a vital component of our 14 to 25 programme. It stands proudly alongside the top-tier Scouting awards - the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards and the prestigious King's Scout Award. Together, these programmes offer unparalleled opportunities for personal development, adventure, and leadership.

We truly believe in fostering an environment where our young people can challenge themselves, learn new skills, contribute to their communities, and develop into confident, capable, and responsible citizens.

Inspired? Join the Adventure!

If you're aged between 14 and 25 and looking for a challenge that will build your skills, boost your confidence, and create unforgettable memories, we encourage you to consider embarking on your own Duke of Edinburgh's Award journey with us. Speak to one of our leaders to find out more!





<u>Squirrels' 2nd Birthday</u>

By Bosun

Two Years of Squirrels: A Roaring Success!

Get ready to celebrate! This coming January marks the second anniversary of our amazing Squirrels section – and what an incredible journey it's been!

It all began in January 2024 with young leaders Imogen Tomlinson and Maisy Kettle, who bravely launched the section with the group's full support. Farah Hussain joined the Squirrel Leadership team in September 2024, adding even more sparkle!

A huge cheer for Imogen, Maisy, and Farah, who all became adult leaders in 2025! They're doing a fantastic job, bringing immense dedication and enthusiasm to our youngest Scouts.

In less than two years, our Squirrels section has exploded to 25 members! They've earned tons of badges, tackled new challenges, and filled the hall with laughter and boundless energy. We're especially proud to see so many move up to Beavers (you will here more about our fabulous Beavers in the next Issue of 'The Quest'), continuing their fabulous Scouting journey within our group.

This fast growth and all their achievements are a huge credit to our incredible adult leaders: Imogen, Maisy, and Farah. Their passion, creativity, and commitment have given our Squirrels nearly two unforgettable years of discovery, growth, and fun.

The future is incredibly bright! With such dedicated leaders and enthusiastic young adventurers, our Squirrels section will only continue to go from strength to strength. Here's to many more fantastic years of fun, friendship, and adventure!





The Quest Centre Clearing

By Shere Khan







Since bringing the 21st Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) Scout Group into the 19th family in 2024, the group now holds the responsibility of running the Quest Centre at Apex Corner, a venue we have utilised on many occasions over the last year.

A large project has been to update the building, which we have done with a new paint job, and brand new signage inside the building, and further plans for improvements are underway.

The biggest challenge has been the organisational and cleaning jobs required at the Quest.

Over the course of the last 18 months, many of the leadership team have helped with the task of cleaning, emptying and organising the garage, which had become over crammed with old items of camping kit and tentage. In the Summer, we made use of a number of new patrol tents and dining shelters, which are now carefully labelled, grouped and stored together at the Quest.

The work is still ongoing, so if you are interested and are able to assist with removals, dump runs or repurposing of old equipment, let one of the leadership team know.

<u>A Pillar of Support: Meet Our Esteemed Group Patron, President, and Vice President!</u>

By Bosun

The 19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) Scout Group is incredibly privileged to be supported by an outstanding team of dedicated individuals who bring a wealth of experience, passion, and commitment to our community. They are also key support for our Group Scout Leader, Bosun, whose leadership is greatly enhanced by their collective wisdom and counsel, meaning Bosun always has a robust sounding board and invaluable expertise to draw upon when facing challenges. In this article, we shine a spotlight on our Group Patron, President, and Vice President, whose contributions are invaluable to our continued success and vibrant future.



Our Distinguished Group Patron: Martin Russell MBE

We are honoured to have Martin Russell MBE serving as our Group Patron. Martin's distinguished career and dedication to public service are evident in his role as the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet.

His connection to our group runs deep, bringing a genuine, personal engagement to his role as patron and making him a true member of our Scouting family. A sentiment rooted in personal experience, as he was a member of 19th Hendon himself as a child. This first-hand understanding of the Scouting journey makes his patronage all the more meaningful, and we are incredibly grateful for his continued guidance and support



Our Dedicated Group President: Bill Taylor

Leading with experience and a profound love for Scouting, we are delighted to have Bill Taylor as our Group President. Bill's lifelong dedication to the movement is truly inspiring. His journey with Scouting began many years ago, having been a member of 21st Hendon since he was a child. What's more, Bill has dedicated over 50 years as an adult to Scouting, a testament to his unwavering commitment and passion for shaping young lives. This deep-rooted history speaks volumes about his commitment. Bill is also a highly respected figure within the Scouting community, proudly holding the prestigious Bar to the Silver Acorn, an award recognising sustained, distinguished service to Scouting. His wisdom and steadfast support are a cornerstone for our group.



Our Inspirational Group Vice President: Helen Wilson

We are thrilled to celebrate Helen Wilson, affectionately known as Akela, as our Group Vice President, a personification of long-standing dedication and enthusiastic leadership. Helen's impact on Scouting is both extensive and profound.

Helen is a true pillar of the 19th Hendon community, having served as a Cub Scout Leader at 19th Hendon for an incredible 37 years! Her passion for nurturing young people shines through this remarkable tenure. Notably, she was Akela to both Bosun and Provo. Furthermore, Helen's commitment to personal development and service is highlighted by her impressive achievements: as a youth member, she proudly earned the prestigious Queen's Guide Award, showcasing an early dedication to guiding principles and a drive for excellence. Later, as an adult, her contributions were further recognised with the Bar to the Award for Merit. Her extensive experience and passion are invaluable assets to our group.

The 19th Hendon (3rd Mill Hill) Scout Group extends its deepest gratitude to Martin Russell MBE, Bill Taylor, and Helen Wilson. Their unwavering support, invaluable wisdom, and inspiring dedication are a true testament to the spirit of Scouting. We are incredibly fortunate to have such remarkable individuals contributing to the success and bright future of our young people and our entire group!



Festive Fun Alert! Christmas Parties are Coming!

Get ready to end the year with a proper bang! Mark your diaries for Wednesday, 18th December!

Squirrels, Beavers & Cubs: Prepare to bounce off the walls at Inflatanation!

Scouts: Get ready for some serious airtime at Flip Out!

Explorers: It's lights out, lasers on for an epic battle at Laser Tag!

Details have be sent to all members

Cub Camp 2026: Adventure Awaits!

Calling all Cubs! Get ready for an unforgettable camp experience next May! Dates and location details are TBC, but start getting excited – this is always a cracking highlight!

Scouts & Explorers: Are You Ready to Survive?

May 2026 will see our Scouts and Explorers heading into the wild for our legendary Survival Camp! Dates and specific challenges will be announced shortly. Prepare to test your skills and push your limits!

Get Wild in 2026: London Zoo Trip!

Trip to London Zoo is on the cards for 2026! Get ready to discover incredible animals and amazing conservation stories. Specific dates will be announced early next year. Don't miss this roarsome day out!

THE SCOUTING HIGHLIGHT OF 2026! Summer Camp at Gilwell Park!

This is IT! Join Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers for an unforgettable week of adventure at Gilwell Park from 1st to 8th August 2026. Think campfires, outdoor activities, new mates, and memories that'll last a lifetime!

PLACES ARE LIMITED AND FILLING UP FAST! BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW to avoid disappointment. This is the event you won't want to miss!