

YOU

L N D O N

NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

FUTURE LEADERS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The 2024 YOU London Future Leaders Development Conference was superbly hosted by Harrow School over the weekend of 19-20 October. And what a weekend it was!

Almost 100 young people, aged 14-18, from the Army Cadet Force, Combined Cadet Force, Fire Cadets, Girlguiding, RAF Air Cadets, Scouts, St. John Ambulance Cadets and Volunteer Police Cadets heard from some inspirational speakers and participated in a variety of thought-provoking challenges. They learnt about character, determination and resilience, and took away lots of ideas, lessons and experiences of different leadership styles which they can put into practice in their organisations, in school and in all other aspects of their lives.



CONFERENCE CONT...

A huge thank you to our guest speakers: Air Vice-Marshal Randal Munro CB CBE TD VR DL, Commandant General Royal Auxiliary Air Force; Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London; Lady Vivien Rose of Colmworth, Justice of the Supreme Court and Brigadier Gerald Salzano RM, Head of Talent and Development, Barclays who spoke to the young people about their personal journeys, what leadership means to them and what they wish they'd known when they were younger.



Activity stands were provided by the Army Regional Engagement Team, Harrow Rifle Corps CCF, LFB Fire Cadets, London Region Scouts, MPS Volunteer Police Cadets, RAF Careers, Royal Navy Attract Team and St John Ambulance. The young people conducted a police premises search, played 'Floor is Lava', constructed 'Angry Birds' catapults, performed First Aid and learnt about the technical competencies needed to scramble a Typhoon fighter jet.

Thanks must go too to the many adult volunteers who gave up their weekend to ensure the young people could participate in this fantastic opportunity and to the VIP visitors who came along to support London's young people.

A huge thank you to Harrow School - and particularly to the officers and cadets from the Harrow Rifle Corps - for delivering this superb weekend for YOU London. For more images of the weekend, visit [our Flickr album](#).



"It was an amazing experience working with other youth groups and seeing the many different types of leadership styles and how everyone operates."

"I gained valuable leadership and team-working skills, and it was an incredible opportunity to learn about other organisations."

"I gained valuable insight on how to be a good leader and what to avoid so I won't be a bad leader."

"It was a great experience which everyone can benefit from. I had so much fun and got to meet so many new people. I would love to do it again."

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

The theme of YOU London's float in the Lord Mayor's Show this year was 'The British Family of Nations.' The young people from the different uniformed groups carried handheld flags of the 15 Realms where His Majesty King Charles III is king, to raise awareness of our mutual heritage, common language and shared monarch.

The Realms are: Antigua and Barbuda; Australia; The Bahamas; Belize; Canada; Grenada; Jamaica; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; St Kitts and Nevis; St Lucia; St Vincent and the Grenadines; The Solomon Islands; Tuvalu and the United Kingdom.

Thank you once again to the Boys' Brigade for providing a minibuss and to the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for Greater London for covering the costs of the flags and bunting. Here are some pictures of us taking part in the show. You can view more images of the show at [Lord Mayor's Show images](#).





30 NEW SCOUT UNITS IN LONDON

The Scouts are opening 30 new Scout Troops (10-14-year-olds) and Explorer Scout Units (14-18-year-olds) to create an additional 720 spaces for young people across London by the end of 2024. They'll be preparing more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing volunteers that deliver an inspiring programme.



There are over 50,000 Scouts across London and there is substantial demand with over 10,000 young people waiting to join in the fun and take part in adventure. With funding support from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Uniformed Youth Fund, the Scouts are growing in areas already thriving and within communities new to Scouting across the capital.

Local Growth Officers are collaborating with community leaders and local volunteers to identify venues, promote opportunities, run open events, recruit adult volunteers, agree plans for launch nights and build the confidence and capability of new adult volunteers to deliver highly engaging programmes.

If you would like to put your skills to good use, learn new ones and be part of something amazing, [volunteering opportunities with the Scouts can be found here.](#)



On Tuesday 19th November, two brand new Explorer units of the 30th Purley Masjid Scout Group formally opened with an Investiture held at Royal Russell School, by kind permission of the Headmaster, Chris Hutchinson.

Some twenty Explorers made their Scout promise in the presence of Colonel Ray Wilkinson QVRM TD DL VR, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Croydon, who presented them with their neckerchiefs and membership badges.

Families attended to support them along with invited guests including Colonel Hugh Purcell OBE DL, Chair of YOU London. Representing the Scout Association, Jemma Shaw, Head of Inclusive Growth was delighted to read out a letter from HM The King wishing the group success for the future.

YOU LONDON IS A CHARITY!



YOU London became a registered charity on 8 August 2024, with registered charity number 1209504.

This will enable us to seek charitable funding to be able to offer even more opportunities to young people in London, over and above what they are already doing with their respective organisations. Each year, YOU London organises dedicated youth enclosures to watch Trooping the Colour, a leadership development weekend in partnership with a London school, a float in the Lord Mayor's Show and various competitions and showcase events at borough level.

Costs and administration are kept to a minimum. A part-time central co-ordinator liaises between the partner organisations, signposting opportunities, lobbying stakeholders, facilitating collaboration and raising awareness of the continual need for enthusiastic adult volunteers. YOU London volunteers co-ordinate activities and the sharing of information and resources at borough level. More funding will enable us to become even more effective.

If you know of an organisation or business that would like to support uniformed youth groups in London, please get in touch with Debbie Wilkinson at youlondon1@gmail.com or 07801 720 288.



TROOPING THE COLOUR YOUTH ENCLOSURE

YOU London will again be organising a dedicated uniformed youth enclosure for the King's Birthday Parade on Saturday 15 June and for the Colonel's Review, the full scale dress rehearsal the Saturday before (8th). If your group would like to watch this impressive display of British pomp and ceremony - HM The King's third Birthday Parade - please contact the YOU London representative for your organisation. Details are on the last page.



JACK PETCHEY FOUNDATION SHOWCASE

On Sunday 1st December, a mixed YOU London band made up of musicians from the Sea Cadets, RAF Air Cadets and Volunteer Police Cadets, ably assisted by a saxophonist from the Croydon Youth Orchestra opened the second half of the Jack Petchey Foundation's tribute to Sir Jack Petchey CBE.

'Celebrate: A Life, A Vision, A Legacy!' took place at His Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, which normally hosts Phantom of the Opera. All credit must go to Lt Cdr Ian Turner and PO Joseph Yu from London Area Sea Cadet Band who, with just one day's rehearsal, took a group of talented young people from different organisations and turned them into a polished musical unit that played The Great Escape and Heart of Oak in a slick performance on a West End stage.

Huge thanks to the amazing young people who volunteered to be part of this band, who worked so hard to deliver an impressive performance that sounded fabulous.



The [Jack Petchey Foundation](#) funds a range of programmes to support young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex. The Achievement Award Scheme provides grants for young people and adult volunteers to support their activities. What sets this award scheme apart from others, is that young people get to nominate their peers and thank a leader that has inspired them.

LORD MAYOR'S MUSIC COMPETITION

The Lord Mayor's Music Competition took place at the Guildhall Yard in the City of London on Sunday 13th October. This annual competition brings together uniformed youth bands from the Greater London area and provides them with an opportunity to showcase their musical prowess.

Although they didn't compete, Kingston and Malden Scout and Guide Band took part for the first time and gave a superb interval performance whilst the judges deliberated over the winners.



Congratulations go to London Area Sea Cadet Band for the best overall performance. They took home the Best Band trophy. The Best Corps of Drums trophy went to the Mill Hill School CCF Corps of Drums. The Best Overall Bugler trophy went to Cadet Corporal Alexander Hill from the Mill Hill School CCF Corps of Drums, whilst the Best Drum Major trophy went to WO2 (CCF RN) Marco Ong from the St Dunstan's College CCF Corps of Drums.



DEPUTY LIEUTENANT CERTIFICATES

The nomination process is currently open for Deputy Lieutenant Certificate submissions, the deadline being 31 January 2025. This scheme is open to all YOU London organisations.

Deputy Lieutenant Certificates are awarded to young people (aged 15 or over on 31 January 2025) to give recognition to their achievements within their organisation and to create an awareness of their contribution within the community. Nominations should be completed initially by unit commanders, then sent to the next level up to put forward ideally one or two candidates from each organisation per borough. Final submissions should be submitted by regional headquarters, to ensure consistency across the region. Candidates should be assessed not only on their professional performance but on personal qualities, social responsibility and success in other fields such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and other awards and education or sporting achievements.

To be eligible for a certificate, a young person must belong to a unit situated within the boundary of a London borough. Framed Deputy Lieutenant Certificates will be presented by the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for that borough during the course of 2025. Presentation events vary widely from visits to units, to a joint presentation with the Mayor. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the [YOU London website](#).



CVC WESTMINSTER AWARD OPEN

Nominations for the Cadet Vocational College (CVC) 2025 Westminster Award close on 31st December.

The Westminster Award is an annual competition designed to recognise and reward the most deserving CVC learners. Nominees must have completed at least one unit of the CVC-led BTEC Level 2 qualification in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community (free for 16-19 year olds). The award recognises young people that have truly made a difference to the lives of those around them, by demonstrating selflessness, community spirit or altruism.



With a selection event in Somerset, a thrilling final expedition and lunch at the House of Lords on offer, the Westminster Award is a truly life-changing experience not to be missed!

Nominate a young person [here](#).

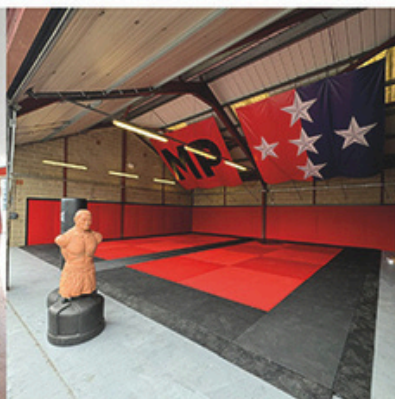
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MILITARY VENUES

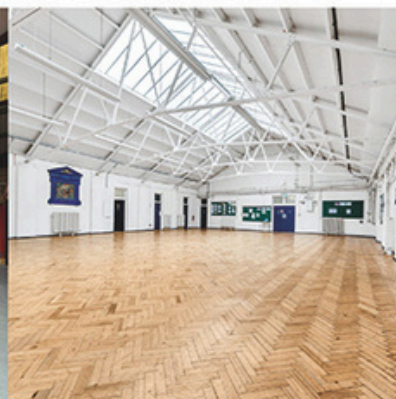
SUPPORT OUR RESERVISTS & CADETS, HIRE OUR VENUES



MEETINGS



TRAINING



CONFERENCES



VIRTUAL TOUR AVAILABLE



Alternative Venues London (AVL) is the dedicated venue hire department within the Greater London RFCA. We are a non-profit organisation which generates additional funding by hiring out Military Venues in London. With 38 Reserve and 75 Cadet sites spread across London available for commercial hire, the money generated by AVL is put directly back into supporting Reservists and Cadets in London.

Did you know?

If your business has signed the **Armed Forces Covenant** and has been recognised by the **Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS)**, your company may be eligible for a discount when hiring spaces with AVL. Contact us now!



www.alternativevenues.co.uk

london@alternativevenues.co.uk

0207 062 6664



YOU LONDON

It's all about YOU...

The aim of YOU London is to work together to support young people by maximising the benefits of the existing youth organisations.

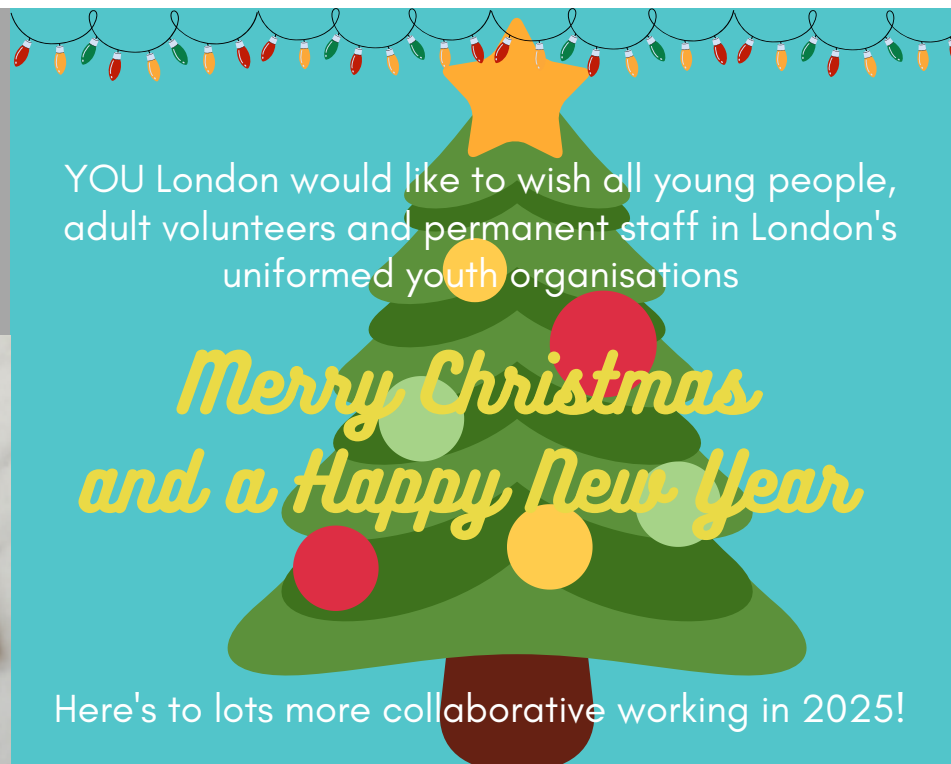
Working together takes many forms including inter-group competitions, sharing premises, sharing information, exhibiting together at recruitment events or simply being aware of who's who within each borough.

Working together often produces for the groups much more than the sum of the individual parts.

Organisation	Contact Name	Email Address
Army Cadet Force	Debbie Goodall	gl-se-ao2@rfca.org.uk
Boys' Brigade	Stephen Taylor-Hunt	4thlondon.bb@gmail.com
Fire Cadets	Johnny McDonald Millie Celeste	Jonathan.McDonald@london-fire.gov.uk Millie.Celeste@london-fire.gov.uk
Combined Cadet Force	Carl Crane	Carl.Crane934@mod.gov.uk
Girls' Brigade	Carol Lowries	Carol.Lowries@gb-ministries.org
Girlguiding LaSER	Rosie Austin	RosieA@girlguidinglaser.org.uk
Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade	Anthony Moran	Anthony.Moran@jlgb.org
RAF Air Cadets	Squadron Leader Taz Bhachoo	Tarandeep.bhachoo100@rafac.mod.gov.uk
Scout Association	Steve French	you.londonscouts@gmail.com
Sea Cadet Corps	Lt Cdr Cliff Lewis RNR	clewis@ms-sc.org
St John Ambulance	Rosemary Herbage (West London) Hazel Shirley (South London)	Rosemary.herbage1@sja.org.uk Hazel.shirley@sja.org.uk
Volunteer Police Cadets	Carol Young PC Paula Cooper PC Liam Masterson	Carol.Young@met.police.uk paula.cooper@met.police.uk Liam.Masterson@cityoflondon.police.uk
YOU London Co-ordinator	Debbie Wilkinson	youlondon1@gmail.com
YOU London Admin	Donna O'Halloran	gl-offcadets@rfca.mod.uk

Z-CARDS

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



If you would like to contribute to the next edition of YOU London News, please send articles and images to youlondon1@gmail.com by 30 April 2025. We're particularly after stories of collaboration between 2 or 3 organisations of no more than 200 words with a good digital image of at least 500KB in size.