



Introduction

In July, Gemma Veitch started work in the Programme Team as a Programme and Development Adviser, with special responsibility for supporting the Explorer Scout Section. Gemma has a wealth of experience in Scouting, is a recent Queen's Scout and is looking forward to getting out and about to support UK Adviser Chris Brammer in developing the Explorer Scout Section.

Gemma has taken over this role from Aston Wood, who has moved on to further his career in Youth Work. Gemma can be contacted through the Programme Team Office – details below.

Energise YL

Believe it or not, the Young Leaders' Scheme was launched in 2002, only a few months after Explorer Scouting itself was "born". Nationally it has been a great success. Two YLS workshops, called *Energise YL*, took place in June this year. You can access all the session plans and material from these workshops on the *Energise* web site - www.scouts.org.uk/energise.

Workshop participants were also asked to contribute new ways of delivering the YLS modules, and the programme ideas generated will soon be available by accessing *Programmes Online*. If you are involved in delivering the YLS, and have novel ways of delivering the modules, please let us see them – either by sending them to the Explorer Scout office, or by submitting them on the *Programmes Online* pages. www.scouts.org.uk/pol

Young Leaders support

Some of you will be aware that over the next three years, Sainsbury's has committed £150,000 to The Scout Association, which will be directly matched by **V** (the new youth volunteering charity), with the aim of recruiting over 1,000 volunteers aged 16-25 into Scouting. As well as marketing volunteering opportunities to Sainsbury's employees and customers, we want to ensure that all of our current Explorer Scouts are aware of the Young Leaders' Scheme.

If you've got a bright idea that you think could help us to develop the Young Leaders Scheme, why not let us know?

Top 10 Challenges

At the Energise Conference in April, over 70 adults involved in supporting Explorer Scouting around the UK came together to celebrate the fifth birthday of the Section, and to talk about the challenges that the Explorer Scout Section faces over the next 5 years.

Participants agreed a set of 10 challenges that we all need to try and address. They were:

1. Adult recruitment and retention.
2. Training of Leaders in the Section.
3. Recruiting Scouts ("Moving In").
4. Understanding the Balanced Programme.
5. Access to the YL Scheme, and taking part in the District Balanced Programme.
6. Access to adventurous activities for ES.
7. Support for the ES Section from the District Executive committee.
8. Understanding the Award schemes.
9. Participation of young people in planning and decision-making in the District.
10. Publicising Explorer Scouting to the wider public.

Adult Recruitment and Retention was voted overwhelmingly as the greatest challenge facing the Section. This list is not exhaustive – these are just the headlines – and right now you may be facing other challenges. Feel free to let us know your views on the challenges faced, and indeed share your solutions and examples of good practice with us.

Chris Brammer (UK Adviser for Explorer Scouts) is concentrating on developing a Workplan to address these issues – but he will need your help to do so! He is recruiting a small team of people to tackle specific projects. You may be asked for your views and ideas to support the work of these project groups, so watch out for further information over the next few months. In particular, please take a regular look on the *Energise* web site - www.scouts.org.uk/energise.

Gilwell 24

Gilwell 24 has become a classic Explorer Scout event, and approximately 1500 Explorer Scouts filled Gilwell Park for this year's event in July. The pace was fast and furious, but many young people kept going for the full 24 hours. In addition to a programme packed with activities and challenges, participants had the opportunity to complete modules of the Young Leaders' Scheme and to learn more about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. The Leaders also got the chance to quiz Chris Brammer about the latest work going on at HQ. Thanks to Dave Gillard and all his vast team of adults who worked so hard to make *Gilwell 24 2007* a success. Put it in your diaries for next year – **12 July 2008**.

Queen's Scout Reception

Queen's Scouts who are eligible for the 2007 Reception will have received information stating that this year's Queen's Scout Receptions will be taking place at the **Tate Modern, London on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 October**. Over the course of the weekend we will be hosting five receptions as well as giving all guests and Queen's Scouts the chance to take part in 'The Art of Scouting' experience.

Duke of Edinburgh Support Days

Throughout the spring of 2008 we will be holding a series of D of E training days, with one taking place in each region. These days are aimed at Explorer Scout Leaders and those that help to deliver the Award within the Explorer Scout Section. More information about the training days will follow in the autumn. Look on the Scout *Duke of Edinburgh* web site - www.scout.org.uk/dofe and click on National Support.

Live '07

LIVE 07 is a real extravaganza to celebrate the best of Scouting in 2007 and what lies ahead in 2008 and beyond! Two epic shows will compress the year into one day and the world into one place. It will combine highlights of the Jamboree Ceremonies and the best of local Scouting events, together with some brilliant music and a few surprises.

Date: Saturday 24 November 2007

Location: The O2, Greenwich, London

For more information and bookings, look on the *live 07* web site - www.scouts.org.uk/live07

Explorer Scouts Support Days

In addition to the D of E support days in 2008, we will be running a series of joint support days with the Scout Network team in the spring. Look out for the dates coming soon.

Following on from the *Energise* conference in March, Chris Brammer and the Explorer Scout team are keen to be out and about supporting Explorer Scout development in your area. We've already been invited to help out at some support days in the autumn of this year. If you would like help with local support and development over the course of 2008, please get in touch as soon as possible – diaries fill up quickly.

DESC Support Pack

The District Explorer Scout Commissioner Support Pack has now been circulated. If you have not received your copy please check your membership details are up-to-date on:

www.scouts.org.uk/membership and contact Gemma to make her aware you have not received it, she will then dispatch the Support Pack.

Climate Change

Under a new initiative called 'be prepared for the future', The Scout Association is promoting awareness of climate change among all its members. All the *Scouting* Supplements in October / November will be running features encouraging young people to investigate energy waste. Over the coming months there will be a series of articles on the climate change theme and Programme Online already carries a number of related programmes and more are planned.

Why not visit our dedicated web pages for more information: www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange

Notice Board

- The annual Gilwell Reunion will run on the 8 and 9 of September. This year a variety of workshops will be included on Explorer Scout and Network Development as well as opportunities to find out how to 'Get the most out of your Young Leaders'.
 - Remember to keep up to date on the *Explorer Scout* web site - www.scouts.org.uk/explorer
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Adult Training news

A new webpage has been created to help new Leaders: www.scouts.org.uk/learnersresources. This page puts a diverse range of training methods - video, e learning and workbooks - right at the fingertips of the learner. From this page the learner can download, watch and interact with the training method of their choice.

One of the key principles of the Adult Training Scheme is flexibility and fundamental to this is giving the learner the opportunity to learn at a convenient time and place for them.

Appointment Cards

Later this year, The Scout Association will launch new Appointment Cards for all adults in Scouting. The information on this card will reflect what is recorded on the Membership Database. You can make sure that the information on your card is correct by checking your details online www.scouts.org.uk/membership. You will require your personal membership number and if you do not know this, please ring the information centre on 0845 300 1818.

If any of your information is incorrect, please inform your District/County/Area Secretary who will update your details. Records will need to be updated by the beginning of September in time for the production of the new Appointment Cards.

Updated promotional leaflets

The promotional leaflets for the Section have been updated and changed. They still include images appropriate for the age group but are less cluttered. To order the updated leaflets please contact the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818. They cost £3.50 per 100.

Global Awareness Material

If you are looking for material on Global Awareness for Explorer Scouts then please go to www.gapp.me.uk where you find lots of material suitable for the age group on many different aspects of Global Awareness.

Many of the issues involved in Global Awareness can be quite hard for Leaders to find activities that will get across the concepts to young people of Explorer Scout age. So using the ideas on the

GAPP website will help with this part of the programme.

Activities eNews

If you want the latest information from the Activities team at UKHQ, please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/enews/sep07.pdf and view their latest eNewsletter.

Finally...

Thank you for reading the second edition of Explorer Scout eNews. If you have any ideas that you feel would make future issues even more helpful, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Andrew

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