



Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of Explorer Scout eNews of 2008.

A very happy New Year to you all! We have much to do to match the excitement and success of the Centenary year. The volunteers and staff at UK Headquarters are working hard to support you and help continue the year on year growth Explorer Scouting has enjoyed since 2002. Please feel free to contact Gemma Veitch at Gilwell Park if you have any specific questions at explorer.scout@scout.org.uk.

Explorer Scout Working Group

We have recruited a small team of adults with experience of Explorer Scouting 'at the coal face' to advise us and help promote and support the development of the Section across the UK. They are:

- Chris Brammer (UK Adviser, Explorer Scouts)
- Sharon Jones (ACC-ES, Kent)
- Chris Brewster (ex Deputy County Commissioner, Gloucestershire)
- Chas Hawkins (ACC-ES, Merseyside)
- Heather Hale (ESL, Kent)
- Chrissy Monksummers (ESL-YL, Dorset)
- Martin Peake (ESL-YL, Gloucester)
- Rob Youd (DESC, GLNE)

Along with two staff members, Tom Ovenstone and Gemma Veitch, they form the Explorer Scout Programme Support Working Group.

As well as advising about the challenges facing Explorer Scouting in general, members of the Working Group have agreed to work on four specific project areas, which we know you and other Leaders have identified as specific challenges. They are:

- Training and support of adults working in the Explorer Scout Section (Sharon and Chris Brewster)
- Moving in and moving on - transition into and out of the Section (Chas and Heather)
- Development and support of the Young Leaders' Scheme (Chrissie and Martin)
- Resources to support Leaders in Explorer Scouts (Rob and Chris Brammer)

All four projects are underway, and we plan to let you know what we are doing in more detail in the near future. Meantime, members of the Working Group may contact some of you with specific questions/requests for views over the course of the next few months.

Young Leaders Facebook Group

The Explorer Scout Office has set up a Young Leaders' Facebook Group at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6418958162>

The group is designed to be a space for Explorer Scout Young Leaders to ask questions and share good practice. It is a secure group and we have limited the number of adults accepted onto the group, as administrators, in order to keep the majority in favour of the Young People. It has been set up as a six month trial and will be reviewed by the Explorer Scout Working Group after this period. Please encourage your Young Leaders to sign up!

Building My Success

One of the most important new resources for the Explorer Scout Section is the Explorer Scout Membership Pack. Within this new resource is the Record Book. It has been designed to be user friendly so it is possible for the Explorer Scouts to keep track of *their own* achievements and also write down what *they* want to gain from being an Explorer Scout. This process is called *Building My Success* and replaces the more formal mentoring system.

To support all Explorer Scout Leaders in implementing this change, a new factsheet has been produced. It will be available from the Scout Information Centre and online from the end of January 2008.

Explorer Scout Forums

With the changes to the Programme announced in December, to be implemented from February 2008, comes a renewed emphasis on involving Explorer Scouts in planning and reviewing their own Balanced Programme. To make this process more attractive to the young people themselves, the District Explorer Scout Committee is being replaced by the District Explorer Scout Forum. This Forum will be less formal, and attended by Explorer Scouts representing each of the Explorer Scout Units (including the Young Leaders' Unit) as well as the Explorer Scout Leaders. The District Explorer Scout Commissioner is responsible for convening it, and its sole purpose is to plan, operate and review the District Balanced Programme.

In addition, it will now be necessary for every Explorer Scout Unit to set up a Unit Forum – to perform the same Programme planning function for the Unit.

To explain the changes in more detail, a new factsheet has been produced, available from the end of January

2008. If you know of Explorer Scout Forums which work well, or if you have ideas about how to encourage young people to participate in their own programme planning, we'd like to hear from you at explorer.scout@scout.org.uk.

More TAs in Explorer Scouts?

We know that one of the concerns ACC/AACs(ES) have is that most Leaders in the Section have completed no training specific to the Section at all. Highlighted time and again is the lack of Training Advisers with enough knowledge of Explorer Scouting to support Leaders through the modular training scheme.

In an attempt to promote the role of TA amongst ACC/AACs(ES) and DESCs, the Explorer Scout Working Group is producing a tool to help show that the role is not anywhere near as daunting as many would believe. If you are already a TA, we'd like to hear your views on the role (please use the contact details below) – and the Working Group may well contact you for your ideas. Meantime, we would encourage all of you to consider taking on the role, particularly to support DESCs through their training in your County/Area.

Explorer Scout Support Days

The Explorer Scout and Scout Network teams are joining together and going out and about in Autumn 2008. The dates are yet to be confirmed but watch this space for updates. We shall be covering topics that are highlighted by you at a local level as well as nationally.

What support is available to you?

The Explorer Scout team is willing and able to support any local development events you have organised - be this through running the day or weekend programme, delivering specific sessions as required or visiting to answer any questions that are raised. As our diary is already filling up for 2008 we generally need six months notice to organise for members of the team to be present. Please get in touch – if you are not sure what help/support we can offer, we are very happy to discuss your needs.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Workshops:

Duke of Edinburgh's award Support Days will be held in the spring of 2008. Please see the following link for more details and the booking form.

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/dofe/news/index.htm>

The workshop will give participants the chance to get more familiar with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award criteria, while exploring how we ensure that we offer both Scout and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards at the same time.

Your Programme, Your Voice:

The UK Programme Team are in the process of introducing a regular online survey to act as a sounding board for specific areas of the Programme. Randomly selected members of the Movement will be invited to take part in 'Your Programme, Your Voice' surveys about every three months. The Cub Scout Section has been chosen to pilot the scheme, and we will be rolling it out to other Sections as soon as possible. We are encouraging Leaders to share the questions with others in their teams, and be as honest as possible with their responses. Summary feedback will be given to all of those taking part and shared where appropriate. The information gathered will be used to develop Programme support in the future.

Activity eNews

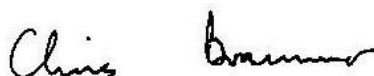
If you want the latest information from the Activities team at UKHQ, please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/enews/jan08.pdf and view their latest eNewsletter.

Finally...

Thank you for reading the third 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 us know.



Andrew Wellbeloved
UK Commissioner for Programme



Chris Brammer
UK Adviser (Explorer Scouts)



Gemma Veitch
Programme and Development Adviser