



Introduction

Welcome to Issue 5 of Explorer Scout eNews. It is now a year since the first issue, and we hope you find this newsletter helpful in keeping you up to speed with the work of the UK Programme Team, and in passing on news and information. If you have any comments about the content, or suggestions for information you'd like us to include, please let us know.

We are now half way through 2008, so it seems like a long time since the Centenary, but the great news is that Explorer Scouting grew again in 2007 by an impressive 6%. Thank you to all Leaders, Commissioners and supporters for making Explorer Scouting such a great success.

Here's to a great summer outdoors!

Factsheets

All the factsheets directly relevant to Explorer Scouting have now been reviewed, edited and uploaded onto Scoutbase. Some have been retired because they are no longer relevant. This has been a major piece of work, mainly due to the efforts of Rob Youd, District Explorer Scout Commissioner for Epping Forest South (apologies to Rob, we got his District wrong last time!). It is worth making sure you access the most up-to-date editions of the factsheets. Log on to

www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/#sec_225.

Moving in Moving on Project

In the last issue we mentioned a 12 month study following a number of young people in a number of Districts as they move into and move out of the Explorer Scout Section. We want to look in more detail at those factors which make the transition easy (or not so easy) and develop tools to support the Moving In Moving On process.

This study is now underway, and if any of the Districts involved are in your neck of the woods, we would ask you to support it. Heather Hale and Chas Hawkins are the lead volunteers for this project.

In addition, we would encourage you to send in any tools, methods, ideas and examples of good practice from your own local experience which help ease transition from Scouts to Explorer Scouts and onwards into the Scout Network. Please send them in to Gemma at explorer.scout@scout.org.uk.

Programmes Online

In issue 4 we told you how to provide access to Programmes Online for Young Leaders. To do this the Young Leader has to be registered as a Youth Member by accessing My Backpack – they will then be allocated a membership number which they can use to register on Programmes Online.

It might be helpful to know which people in a District have the facility to register new Youth members on My Backpack – this facility should be available to anyone who has a full appointment as DESC, DESA, ESL, AESL and ESL(YL) (along with a number of others). If you have any problems with this please contact the Information Centre at Gilwell Park, 0845 3001818.

Appendices from Unit Essentials

Recently added to the Explorer Scout pages on Scoutbase are the forms that are found in the appendix of Unit Essentials. Please go to:

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/explorer/resources/>

The forms are available as PDFs and as Word versions.

Explorer Scout Forums

We all know that Explorer Scouts often express strong opinions about their section. A greater involvement by young people in the planning and review of their balanced programme should be encouraged, and it would be great if every Explorer Scout Unit operated a regular Unit Forum, and every District operated a District Forum. For guidance and advice on Explorer Scout Meetings and Forums, please see fact sheet FS452037 by logging on to www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs452037.pdf.

Youth Participation

In the last editions of eNews we introduced the updated factsheet 'Meetings and Forums in the Explorer Scout Section' and the importances of having Unit Planning Forums to ensure the Explorer Scouts are given the opportunities to develop their programme.

The Participation Works website has a variety of resources on it giving very valuable suggestions and creative methods for increasing participation including 'How to involve children and young people in recruitment and selection'.

www.participationworks.org.uk

Local support

If you plan to run your own local support event for leaders, to promote the development of Explorer Scouting in your patch, and would like advice or support, please feel free to ask by contacting Gemma in the Programme Team office at Gilwell Park. Information about the sort of support we are able to offer can be found at www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/explorer/supportdaysinformation.pdf.

Census

Time to celebrate again as the number of Explorer Scouts in the UK topped 30,000 in 2007/8; an increase of 6.4% on the preceding year. Our section has grown year on year since its inception, and this is entirely due to the hard work and enthusiasm of all the Leaders, Commissioners and supporters who offer a great Balanced Programme to so many young people. Thanks and congratulations go to all of you.

Young Leaders

There has also been an impressive growth in the number of Young Leaders – up by 11% on the preceding year.

This is a testament to the popularity of the Young Leaders' Scheme, and also the willingness of so many young people to volunteer in leadership roles.

We are aware, however, that the Young Leaders' Scheme presents unique challenges, and sometimes it is easy to forget that Young Leaders are Explorer Scouts first, with personal development needs just like any other young person. Over the next few months you will hear about

some work which the UK Adviser and his team have been doing to better support the Scheme:

Development of an Ongoing Learning Module about the Young Leaders Scheme for leaders in the younger sections

A series of support events in the Spring of 2009 aimed at all those wanting to learn more about the Scheme

Tools aimed at supporting the key role of ESL(YL).

Watch this space!

Facebook

Some of you will know that there is a Facebook Group aimed at the Young Leaders themselves – this continues to grow and now has around 200 members. Please encourage all Young Leaders to register as members of this group – it is a useful medium for gathering feedback and ideas from the Young Leaders themselves.

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

D of E Expedition Assessors

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has recently launched a new accreditation scheme for expedition assessors. We are currently working with the Award to map out our transitional process. Once this is done we will start transferring existing Assessors onto the new scheme and making courses available to new assessors.

For now the message is carry on as usual. If you have previously been assessing this section of the Award, please continue to do so.

Regional Workshops

Starting in October 2008 and running until the Spring of 2009, the UK Programme Team will be running a series of **Regional Development, Advice and Support Workshops** for adults supporting Sections. You will be contacted directly with further details such as date and venue.

All participants will be consulted about the programme of the workshop, which will be devised in consultation with your Regional Commissioner. For more information on the workshops see:

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/explorer/news/rdaas.htm>

Reunion '08

Reunion is an annual event held at Gilwell Park for all Adults in Scouting. This year it will take place over the weekend of 5th/6th/7th September at Gilwell Park. The weekend is an opportunity for all adult Members of the Movement to come together for a weekend of fun. Throughout the weekend you will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, meet old friends, make new ones and share experiences with fellow Adults in Scouting. There is always the opportunity to say "hello", and tell us what's happening in your County/Area.

To book your place at Reunion '08 go to www.scouts.org.uk/reunion

Look forward to seeing you in September.

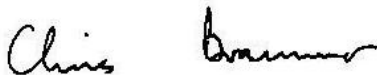
Activities eNews

For the latest information from the Activities team at UKHQ, please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/enews/jun08.pdf to view their latest eNews.

Finally...



Andrew Wellbeloved **UK Commissioner for Programme**



Chris Brammer **UK Adviser (Explorer Scouts)**



Gemma Veitch **Programme and Development Adviser**