



Introduction

Welcome to the fourth edition of Explorer Scout eNews. The UK Adviser and his working group continue to work on four main areas which we know present specific challenges for the Explorer Scout section, and we will use each edition of eNews to keep you up to speed with progress on these projects.

We also ask for your help, support and feedback throughout this newsletter – please contact Gemma Veitch at the Explorer Scout office on explorer.scout@scout.org.uk or 0845 3001818.

Factsheets

There are a large number of factsheets available to support leaders in all sections, available to download from www.scoutbase.org.uk and from the Information Centre.

The UK Explorer Scout Working Group has undertaken to review all the fact sheets which are relevant specifically to Explorer Scout leaders, and Rob Youd (District Explorer Scout Commissioner for Epping Forest) has already proof read and edited a large number, and “retired” a number of others, which are no longer relevant.

The edited versions of all the factsheets are available to download from www.scoutbase.org.uk. Meantime, remember that there are also three brand new and important factsheets available:

- Building My Success
- Meetings and Forums in the Explorer Section
- E-mails and text messaging guidance for Leaders

Please take time to encourage all Explorer Scout Leaders and DESCs to read them and use them to promote the use of the Explorer Scout Record Book and to develop Unit and District Forums.

Moving in Moving on Project

We know that the move between sections can be hard for a young person, and may be a reason why they leave the movement. Chas Hawkins and Heather Hale are leading on this project - the ultimate aim is to develop ideas and tools which will better support young people as they make the transition between sections. The project has two main strands:

- A 12 month study of the experiences of a group of young people as they move into and out of Explorer Scouts.
- We want to gather together the tools and examples of good practice which we know already exist around the country – so that we can share them widely.

If you have or know of examples where the transition into and beyond Explorer Scouting is effective, please consider sharing them with the Explorer Scout office at Gilwell Park. We would be particularly interested in:

- Effective linking activities and ideas.
- Promotional material used to persuade Scouts to become Explorer Scouts, and Explorer Scouts to join the Scout Network.
- Strategies you have used/seen to promote transition

Anything else you think is useful in this area.

Please contact the Explorer Scout Office at Gilwell Park if you can help. explorer.scout@scout.org.uk

Explorer Scout Supplement

From the April/May edition, the Scouting Magazine Sectional Supplement for the Explorer Scout section has a new sub-editor, Mel Kesteven. Mel has been the sub-editor before, and has returned to the role after time away.

We try hard to make the content of the supplement relevant to all leaders in Explorer Scouting, focussing on articles and features which provide practical support and solutions to those responsible for Explorer Scouting in Units and Districts (including the Young Leaders' Scheme).

If you have comments or feedback on the content of the supplement – including suggestions for future editions – please contact Mel via the Explorer Scout office at explorer.scout@scout.org.uk.

New Resources

Hopefully by now most of you will have had the chance to look at the new resources which became available to Explorer Scout Leaders and Explorer Scouts in February:

- Unit Essentials
- The Unit Programme

- The Unit Programme Plus
- Explorer Scout Membership Pack

So far virtually all of the feedback has been very positive – in particular the Explorer Scout Record Book has been well-received. It would be great to see the Record Book being used by every Explorer Scout in the UK, as it is a fantastic tool to help them get the most out of their time in Explorer Scouts. Please encourage all leaders in Districts and units to read and use the new resources.

If you have any comments about any of the resources – positive as well as negative – please pass them on to Gemma Veitch in the Explorer Scout office. explorer.scout@scout.org.uk

Programmes Online

Programmes Online is a valuable resource used in a growing number of Leaders' planning stages. Unknown to a lot of people, is that this resource is also accessible to Young Leaders. To do this the District Explorer Scout Administrator can use the My Backpack database to add a new Youth Member. Once all the correct details are entered this will automatically produce a Membership number. The Young Leader will then be able to access the Programmes Online resource. It is important that they are also explained the function of Programmes Online and that the main idea behind it is to have activities and games on hand and also upload any activities and games which they have designed and tested so we can build on the resource's success. www.scouts.org.uk/pol

What support is available to you?

The UK Explorer Scout Working Group are always keen to come out and assist with events relating to the development of the Section. Whether it is a one day workshop or a whole weekend, the team will try their best to help out wherever possible. Chris Brammer, UK Advisers (Explorer Scouts) has put together some guidance on what we can offer, which can be downloaded from:

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

The Baby Borrowers

We all know that the Values and Relationships Programme Zone can sometimes seem like a tricky area of the programme to cover. So we are delighted to be able to offer an exciting new resource developed by the BBC that we think will really help Units to deliver Programme ideas in this area. This resource is available from the Information Centre info.centre@scout.org.uk or

0845 300 1818. It has been produced following the success of the popular BBC TV documentary 'The Baby Borrowers'. The resource contains practical programme ideas and activities which we believe are able to be adapted to fit very well into the Values and Relationships Zone.

Activities eNews

If you want the latest information from the Activities team at UKHQ, please visit

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/enews/apr08.pdf and view their latest e-Newsletter.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Do you have an interest in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award? Would you like to help motivate and educate other adults within Scouting?

We are looking for a Project Leader to work within the National Activities Team to help drive the Award forward for the next two years. The appointment is a volunteer position working with the UK Adviser Activities to help achieve our D of E Development Plan. The focus of the next two year plan will be training and support for Leaders. For more information and an application form, go to:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/jobs/volunteer.htm

Your Programme, Your Voice

The first pilot survey of this online direct survey to Leaders has been very successful, with over 370 respondents answering questions relating to Cub Pack management, the Programme and Moving-on. This has provided the Cub Scout Working Group with a great deal of information which will inform and support their work over the coming months and years. The second pilot survey in the Cub Scout Section will ask some more focussed and detailed questions, to further enhance the picture of real life scouting. This survey will take place in May, with a view to rolling the scheme out to other Sections later in the year.

Using your Scout Fellowship

Are you thinking about organising an event in your District or County, introducing new skills to your young people, or looking for something different to help Section Leaders run a meeting? If so, why not get in touch with your local Scout Fellowship to see how they may be able to help you.

Fellowships around the country do a variety of different things to help local Scouting including providing activities, teaching Scouting skills, helping with catering or service teams for events, and assisting with admin and paperwork. Often, members have specific skills and would be happy to spare some time to help you, but you need to ask them!

You may have local Fellowships at District or County level, and there are also National Fellowships who are active around the UK. If you would like to find out more about Scout Fellowship please go to www.scout.org.uk/fellowship or chat to your local Fellowship contact.

Green Footprint Award

Following on from the success of Challenge 100 in the Scout Section, the Green Footprint Award has been launched as a new, web-based resource for all Sections to use to prove their green credentials. The award, which has three stages (Bronze, Silver and Green!), allows Groups, Sections or small groups of Explorer Scouts to follow a progressive programme of activities and challenges designed to promote awareness of climate change issues and make a difference in local communities. The award has been made possible through funding from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and you can register online at www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange

Roverway '09



Following the success of previous Roverways in Italy in 2006 and Portugal in 2003, we are pleased to confirm that Roverway '09 is being held in Iceland from the 20th-28th July 2009.

This international Event is an amazing opportunity for Members of Girlguiding UK and The Scout Association between the ages of 16 and 22. Members over the age of 22 are able to participate as members of the International Support Team.

Heidi McConnell has been successfully appointed as UK Contingent Leader for The Scout Association.

More information can be obtained by contacting explorer.scout@scout.org.uk and checking the Roverway '09 website at <http://www.skatar.is/roverway2009/> Online Registration opens in late September '08 so now is the chance to pass on this information to appropriate people so they can start planning and fundraising NOW!!

Finally...

Thank you for reading this 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Wellbeloved'.

Andrew Wellbeloved **UK Commissioner for Programme**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Brammer'.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gemma'.

Gemma Veitch **Programme and Development Adviser**