
Going for Gold

Since the last eNews, we have been out and about around the UK supporting meetings and events, and are glad to see that the 'going for gold' message is being very well received. We value your support in this, and would ask you to continue encouraging Leaders and Scouts to strive towards achieving the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

Of particular interest have been various initiatives that are being delivered locally to promote use of the Balanced Programme. Some of these are the West Lancashire 'New Centenary Challenge'; Scotland's 'Super Trooper'; Kent's 'Invicta Challenge' and the All-Wales '8 for 08' programme.

Are you trialling a local award that we can promote as good practice? If so, do let us know by using the contact details below.

Going for Green

Following on from the success of Challenge 100, 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 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 and Rural Affairs (Defra) and you can register online at:

www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange

Ancient Tree Hunt

As well as the Green Footprint Award we are working with the Woodland Trust again this year following our successful partnership in 2007 to plant woods and trees.

The current project is the Ancient Tree Hunt and we are asking members of The Scout Association to track down and hug the biggest tree in your area. The age of trees can be worked out from the circumference of the trunk and counting the number of people it takes to hug the tree is an easy way to

work this out. If the locations of these ancient trees are known then steps can be taken to protect them.

There are programme ideas available on Programmes Online at www.scouts.org.uk/pol and lots more information on the project can be found at www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk

UK Scout Working Group

There have been two additions to the UK Scout Working Group since the last eNews. These are Dave Hopley, who is ACC Scouts in Cheshire and Trevor Polson, who holds the same role in South Yorkshire. Both will bring with them considerable experience with the Scout Section, and will be working on various projects to enhance the support we are able to give you in your Counties and Areas in supporting Section Leaders.

Projects we are currently working on include:

- Scouts ... Taking the Lead: improving the resource in light of the refinements to the programme.
- Factsheet Review: a comprehensive review of all the Scout Section factsheets.
- Youth Participation: making sure youth members' voices are heard in decisions affecting the life of the Section.
- Programmes Online: promoting the wider use of POL as a programme planning tool and source of ideas

If you would like more information on any of the above projects, please contact us.

UK Specialist Advisers

We have recently appointed David Sturdee and Chris Shaw to the team, to develop the support we give to Sea Scouting and Air Scouting in the UK.

David has many years experience with a large Sea Scout Group in Norwich, and many of you will know Chris who most recently served as an Adviser to the National Programme Team for Air Scouting.

Chris and David's role as UK Specialist Advisers is to provide a point of contact for the Air and Sea Scouting communities, both to represent their views to the UK Programme Advisory Team and to support local Scouting in delivering Sea and Air Scouting.

If you require support from either David or Chris, you can get in touch with them through the Scout Office at Gilwell Park.

Challenging Programme Zones

With a revised route to attaining the Chief Scout's Gold Award, we recognise that there are areas of the Programme that Leaders find challenging. With that in mind, we would like to develop programme material and strengthen support for Leaders in the Global and Beliefs and Attitudes Zones.

If you have been successful in these areas, and would like to help Leaders across the UK in delivering quality programmes, please get in touch.

The Scout Handbook

We are already hearing positive feedback about the new programme resources, both for adults and young people. As you hear comments, do encourage people to feed them back to us, as they help us to tailor future publications to the needs of the Section. Thanks to those of you that have already taken the time to give us your feedback.

Without doubt the major project of the Scout Section this year is the production of a new Scout Handbook.

This will be available by the end of the year, and will take the reader through the Chief Scout's Gold Award in its entirety. You will hear more about this as the year goes on!

Your Programme, Your Voice

The first pilot survey has been very successful, with over 370 respondents answering questions relating to 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 focused 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!

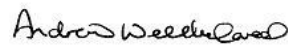
You may have local Fellowships at District or County level, and there are also National Fellowships who are active around the UK. If you would like to find out more about Scout Fellowship please go to www.scout.org.uk/fellowship or chat to your local Fellowship contact.

Activity eNews

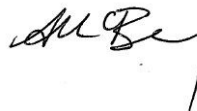
For the latest information from the Activities team at UKHQ, please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/enews/apr08.pdf to view their latest eNews.

Finally...

Thank you for reading the fourth edition of 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**



Alasdair McBay **UK Adviser (Scouts)**



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