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Circulation to County/Area Commissioners, County/Area/Regional Training Managers, Assistant County/Area Commissioners (Adult Training), Assistant County/Area Commissioners and County/Area Advisers (Scout Fellowship), and Headquarters 100 list

Overview

Hello and welcome to the final edition of *Adult Support News*.

Why the final edition, I hear you ask?

With *Scouting* now going free to all Members of the Association over the age of 18, the information that you need to hear will be distributed in that way and not through *Adult Support News*. It means that we can keep in touch with everybody much more frequently!

However, I am keen to take this opportunity to keep you up to date with what the Adult Support Team has been up to since I last had the opportunity to write to you. I am sure you are aware of how busy we have been.

Age limits and Adult Appointments

The summer started with the Committee of the Council agreeing to a change in the rules regarding age limits and adult appointments. They agreed that the only age limit on holding an appointment in Scouting is a minimum age of 18 years old. This rationalised the many minimum age limits for appointments and removed 65 as the maximum age limit on appointments within the Association.

This is a great step forward for Scouting. It means that we can keep the right people in the right roles irrespective of their age. It reinforces the idea that the only criteria for appointments within the Association are an individual's skills, ability and suitability to carry out the role.

More information on the changes can be found in *A New Age for Scouting* available free from the Scout Information Centre. Ten copies are enclosed for you to circulate amongst your teams.

The changes to age limits and adult appointments also gave the team the opportunity to strengthen the review process, with the introduction of Form AR.

Effective review is essential whatever age somebody is and a chance to ensure that adults are willing and able to continue in their present role, or take on a new role, which they might be better suited. Review is also an opportunity to consider whether somebody should carry on in an active role with Scouting. Retirement,

at any age, is an option for all adults in Scouting. Retirement from a active role can be an opportunity for individuals to give their time in a different way.

Gilwell Reunion

Over the first weekend in September, the Adult Support Team was actively involved in Gilwell Reunion 2004. The Adult Support marquee contained information about the Adult Training Scheme, details about the support available to the Scout Fellowship and all adults in Scouting. There was a chance try out some of our online resources and even work your way through the "under-construction" version of the newest e-learning module.

We were delighted with the number of people who came to see us. Many people took the opportunity to ask questions and raise points on areas of personal interest. The points raised will be discussed at the various Adult Support Working Group meetings.

District Commissioners' Conference

The second week in September saw the Adult Support Team involved in the District Commissioners' Conference in Warwick. The team ran twelve very well attended workshops ranging from adult recruitment, delegation, to how to run an effective Scout Fellowship.

On the whole, participants gave us great feedback on the quality of the sessions and we received several requests to deliver the training at County/Area and District level in the future, which of course we are more than happy to do.

If you have any feedback on any of the sessions you visited or would like us to come and run a session let us know!

So what next?

Over the next few months our work will include:

- supporting our managers by refining the key tasks of GSLs, DCs and CCs/ACs;
- establishing the National Moderation scheme for the Adult Training Scheme;

If you have any suggestions, comments or complaints please let us know.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support our adults in Scouting.



Richard Wade
National Commissioner for Adult Support
scouts@wade.nu

Scout Fellowship

Scout Fellowship Questionnaire

My thanks to all the District Commissioners and County Commissioners who responded to the *A Question of Active Support* Questionnaire.

The results are being collated at the moment and in the New Year we will bring you our conclusions.

Membership Management Database

All Scout Fellowship Members should be registered on the New National Membership database. If you hold a Warrant or Appointment elsewhere you should also register as a Scout Fellowship Member. This will ensure that we have an accurate picture of Scout Fellowship Membership across the UK. Only those registered on the database, and who pay their membership subscription or have it paid for them will be entitled to their free copy of *Scouting* direct to their door.

Contact your District/County Secretary for more information and to ensure that you are registered on the database.

National Scout Fellowship Gathering 2005

The National Scout Fellowship Gathering 2005 (the 'Northern Lights') will run during the weekend of 17 -19 June 2005 at Waddecap Scout Campsite in North Lancashire's beautiful Forest of Bowland.

There will be a variety of activities during the day, with the chance to take a part in some more adventurous activities too - climbing, fell walking on some of England's highest peaks, sailing on Windermere, or caving in the Yorkshire Dales all led by qualified instructors.

In the evening the programme kicks into action with a licensed bar, charity casino, line dancing, folk music, or just a chance to sit in the lounge and relax. The cost for this exciting event is:

Adults - £25.00
Young people aged 6 to 14 - £15.00
Young people aged 6 and under - Free

For more information and to register your interest log on to: <http://www.fellowshipgathering.org.uk/> or email: countyoffice@westlancashirescouts.org.uk or phone: 01995 61336.

The Peace Light

The Peace Light from Bethlehem campaign was originally organised by the Austrian Broadcasting Authority as part of a great charitable relief mission for special needs children and people in need in Austria and abroad.

The light comes from the Light in Jesus Christ's Grotto of Birth in Bethlehem just before Christmas, and is flown to Austria from where it is distributed at an ecumenical service in Vienna.

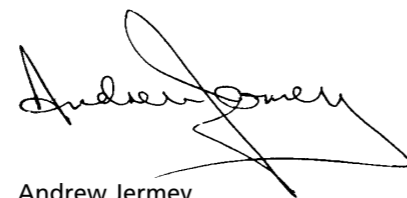
The aim of the campaign is to address as many people as possible, to bring them the Light and the Peace Message, which encourages everyone, especially Scouts and Guides, to actively create peace in their environment.

In 1996 the Scout and Guides of the UK were invited to accept the Light. The challenge was accepted by the Deep Sea Scout Fellowship. With the co-operation of the Austrian Scout Movement, Stena Line, the British Rail Scout Fellowship, Connex South East and many other people the Light was successfully taken to London for a special service. Delegates from all over the UK took the Light and distributed it throughout their regions.

Despite the troubles in the Middle East the Light still makes it, thanks to Scouting. A young Palestinian Scout takes the Light from the Grotto and carries it to the border. Here, it is received by twin Israeli Scouts who fly with the Light from Tel Aviv to Austria.

Plans to bring the Peace Light to the UK are well underway for 2004. The first UK Service of distribution will take place in Dover on Monday 13th December at St Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Maison Dieu Road, Dover at 6.00pm. It is an ecumenical service to which everyone is invited. From here representatives from across the UK will take the Light to their own regions. This is an ideal tool for promoting Peace and Scouting to a wider audience. Many use the light at Civic Christmas Services and involve Scouts and Guides in the Service.

If you would like more information, contact the UK Co-ordinators Beryl and Alan Goodall. Telephone 01304 205810 or email alan@hedgies.fsnet.co.uk



Andrew Jerney
National Commissioner (Scout Fellowship)

Adults in Scouting

Prompt Cards

Prompt cards supported all the old Adult Support 'red book' resources. These were a popular 'freebie' well used on training courses all over the UK. The prompt cards are an aide memoir to help to remind you of the stages involved in a particular part of the *Adult in Scouting* model.

New prompt cards for *Recruitment of Adult Volunteers* and *Induction: Starting adults in a new role* are now available free of charge from the Information Centre or can be downloaded www.scouts.org.uk/adultsupport We hope to produce the rest by the end of 2004.

Executive Committees

You may remember at the start of this year we asked you to get in touch about the support you wanted for Executive Committees and Administrators.

The support you asked for was a publication to support all Executive Committees in their role.

To meet this demand, work is currently underway on a new publication *Guidelines for Executive Committees*.

This will replace the current set of books supporting officers at Group level, but will be aimed at Executive Committees at Group, District and County/Area level.

If you have any ideas of what you would like to see included in this publication contact Stuart Card: stuart.card@scout.org.uk or 020 8433 7156.

Key Tasks

Those who attended the District Commissioners' Conference at Warwick in September will have received their Conference Workbook. The workbook was to help delegates at the conference record the actions that they would take in particular areas when they got home. The workbook broke down the areas of work of County/Area and District Commissioners into six key areas, which can also be applied to Group Scout Leaders.

These six areas are:

Policy, Managing Adults, Development, Communication, Committee Support and Programme.

The work book was the start of a longer project to make the workload for the people who carry out these vital roles in the Association more manageable.

We intend to take as much input, from as many people to help us first to define the definitive role description for these appointments. The next step will be to help GSLs, DCs and CCs/ACs focus on the essential tasks (their Key Tasks) that will help to develop Scouting.

The first stage of this will be a set of workshops that we will be holding in January 2005. As the work progresses we will keep you informed.

The Team...

The Adults in Scouting Working Group has undergone several changes recently. Here is the team as it stands.

Tim Kidd, Chair of the Adults in Scouting Working Group and County Commissioner of Oxfordshire.

Mike Kerrigan, District Commissioner for New Forest West in Hampshire.

Glen Fendall, District Commissioner for Clithoroe and District, East Lancashire.

Dean Jeffreys, District Commissioner for Hornchurch, Greater London North East.

Stuart Sinclair, County Training Manager for Greater London North.

Andrew Hill, Deputy County Commissioner Adult Training, Greater London Middlesex West.

Stuart Card, Programme and Development Adviser.

Barrileigh Adamson, Programme and Development Adviser.

If the team can support you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us at the Adult Support Office at Gilwell Park.



Tim Kidd
Adults in Scouting Working Group Chair

Adult Training

Regional Meetings

We will be continuing our support to you as we get out and about at the Regional Meetings. There should be at least one member of the Adult Training Working Group at each meeting, so please talk to us about your experiences with launching the new scheme, the good and the bad!

Moderation

I have invited the newly appointed Chair of the National Moderation Panel, Donna Kerrigan to write about the work that she will be doing over the coming months.

"My name is Donna Kerrigan and I have recently been appointed as the Chair of the National Moderation Panel (NMP).

You are all probably wondering what the NMP is and how it will affect you? I hope to explain the role of the panel and the impact it will have on you.

The NMP reports to the Chair of the Adult Training Working Group and has an important monitoring role. Moderation is defined as "a process by which assessment decisions and practices are regularly sampled and evaluated." It will also include for the Association the assessment of the quality of training and the co-operation of adults in meeting their ongoing learning requirements.

The main purpose of the NMP will be to:

- provide a national network for the dissemination of good practice;
- offer support and development opportunities for Training Advisers and ensure consistency of validation across the UK;
- manage, monitor, offer support and development opportunities to those delivering learning;
- review the needs of the on-going learning process.

In addition to this, given the new opportunities offered by the Open College Network, the NMP will ensure that the Adult Training Scheme has credibility both within and outside Scouting.

County/Area Training Managers have already been asked to appoint County Moderators (or a team of Moderators in larger Counties/Areas). Over the next few months we shall be seeking applicants for the role of Regional Moderators, so that teams of Regional Moderators can be created. The lead person from each team will sit on the National Moderation Panel. The NMP will sit twice a year to monitor and steer developments within remit.

It is important to remember that the moderation process exists solely to ensure that we are delivering better quality Scouting to our young people. Validation is based around the premise that the learner can put skills into practice for the benefits of our Members.

I shall be in contact with County, Area and Regional Training Managers over the next few weeks and I look forward to working with you all."



Donna Kerrigan
Chair of the National Moderation Panel.

DCs' Conference – September 2004

The workshop at the conference was very well attended and we were able to remind DCs that they do still have a role in Adult Training, to support adults going through the scheme and assist CTMs, ATMS recruiting Training Advisers.



Sally Yeo
Adult Training Working Group Chair

And finally...

There are number of "hellos" and "goodbyes" to be said in this issue of *Adult Support News*.

The "hellos" ...

I am sure you will all join me in welcoming two Programme and Development Advisers to the Adult Support Team.

Barrileigh Adamson joins the Adults in Scouting and Scout Fellowship teams and **Harry Cornish** joins the Adult Training team.

Welcome to you both.

The "goodbyes" ...

Three members of staff have left since the last issue..

Verity Steddon (Programme and Development Adviser) left the Association to take up a position as Volunteer Development Officer with Diabetes UK. We will all miss the friendly atmosphere, which she brought to the office.

Helen Apsey (Programme and Development Manager) leaves us to work for the Metropolitan Police as Volunteer Programme Manager. I am sure she will tackle her new job with the same enthusiasm and vigour that she has shown over her four years here.

And last but not least, after 15 years the Association says "Adios" to **Kathy Cross**, currently an Administrative Assistant in the Adult Support Office. We wish her well in her retirement in Spain.

Good luck in the future to all three!