

Welcome!

A New Year is on the horizon and with it a change of Leadership for Scouting on the Island. On behalf of us all can I extend sincere thanks to Karen Downes as she stands down from the very demanding role of County Commissioner. Karen has led Scouting on the Island for over four years including the very demanding Centenary Year, and she is leaving the County numerically and financially stronger than when she started. Few who have not held the role of a County Commissioner will appreciate the tremendous commitment in time and energy that the post demands - 24/7 describes the role very well! Karen has ensured that the voice of Scouting on the Isle of Wight is heard at Regional and National level and has been a valuable and highly respected member of the Regional CCs meetings. I'm particularly grateful for all the support she has given me as Regional Commissioner and her willingness to undertake the extra travel that life on the Island entails to ensure Island Scouting is properly represented. Although standing down from the CC role, Karen is also active on the national scene and I'm delighted that she will be continuing her work with the Development Grants Board.

I can understand the interest in who is to be the new County Commissioner but I regret that the name won't appear in this issue! It is important that the appointment process for such a key role is transparent and that everyone in the County has the opportunity to contribute. You will all know that David Mattinson has kindly been chairing a Search Group on my behalf and I am grateful for all the work he and his team have done. The Search Group compiled the Person and Role Specification which was circulated with an invitation to nominate candidates. That invitation went to everyone involved with Scouting on the Island, to many people

'outside' Scouting and to Scout colleagues in Hampshire and 'mainland' Districts bordering the Solent. The Search Group completed their work on time and produced a short-list from those nominated. The next stage is an interview panel (which consists of Ian Kirby (CC for East Sussex), Simon Aulton (Regional Development Manager) and me. This was originally scheduled for this month, but unfortunately the date wasn't suitable for all the short-listed nominees and a new date has been set towards the end of January. Consequently it is likely that the new CC will not take up the role until the 1st March, so I need to ask for your patience please.

I believe it is most important that we honour commitments given to Leaders and this is as true of CCs as to every other appointment in Scouting. I gave an undertaking to Karen that I would ensure she could complete her term of office at 31st December and this will be effective. I deeply appreciate the agreement of Geoff Brown to accept the role of Acting County Commissioner from the 1st January until the planned March appointment and I know you will give him your full support.

So 2009 will start with change and I hope the year will prove happy and prosperous for you. As we enter a season of thanksgiving may I thank you for all that you and your families give to Scouting and extend my very best wishes for a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Martin Gerrard
Regional Commissioner



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In this Issue...

- we say good bye to the third column, well almost, and we look at the results from the County
- Communications Review Questionnaire
- Also on **Page 2** is some **News In Brief**.

- On **Page 3** we visit China in **Scouts Night Out** and Graham Drudge writes about the Royal visit to Newport Minster.

- **Page 4** looks at some of the key changes made to POR, and lists those Factsheets recently amended.

- Turn to **Page 5** for **Scouts making a splash!** And this is where you'll also find the new look **Diary Download**.

- We finish this issue of **Wight Scoutabout** as usual with David's **Adult Training** page.

Contribution

- **Deadlines:**
- 20th February for March 2009
- 20th May for June 09
- 20th August for September 09

Farewell from Karen

At the end of December I say farewell to the role of County Commissioner. I would like to take this opportunity of saying a big thank you to everyone who gives up their time for the children and young people in Scouting. The work that you do will continue to contribute towards the many skills Scouts learn, the fun they have and the friends that they make along the way.

On a personal note, I would like to say thank you to all the support and kindness shown to me over the last four and half years by so many people. I am going to miss everybody and the involvement that I have had. I would also sincerely like to wish whoever steps into the role every success in leading the County forward over the next five years.

The Scout Association is currently developing the Vision for 2018. Where possible, where there is consultation, please try and feedback your views about where you think Scouting should be in 10 years. I still believe that Scouting will be thriving and I hope that the membership will have increased significantly by this time.

I would like to finish by wishing every Group and both Districts every success in the future. The Island remains a great place for children and young people to do Scouting and I hope that we can all continue to work alongside each other to ensure that Island Scouting is a thriving County for decades to come!

Finally, here's wishing everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy!

Yours in Scouting
Karen Downes

In a Picture



Valerie presents the Eric Warner Trophy to 1st Shanklin Scouts – Team Jing – Richard, Tim, Sean, and Jack.

News In Brief

Mark's Moving On

As some of you may have heard I've got a new job. Starting in January I will be working for West Sussex Scout County as their County Recruitment and Development Officer. As a result of this, I will be moving to the Chichester area to live and will therefore be relinquishing my various roles in Scouting here on the Island.

It's been great to have worked with many of you over the last few years, and I wish you all success for the future.

West Sussex is not that far away, and no doubt I'll be visiting the Island frequently, so you might just see me about occasionally!

I'll be keeping a keen eye on Isle of Wight Scouting.

Mark Guy

2009 Membership Fees

National Membership Fee £18.60 for prompt payment, £19.10 otherwise.

County Levy £4.50, an increase of 60p.

Jamboree Levy remains at 70p.

East Wight District Levy remains at £3.80.

West Wight District Levy remains at £2.40.

2009 Census

Details of the 2009 Annual Census of Membership will shortly be circulated and passwords to the Census website will be provided to individuals as appropriate.

Please remember:

- Census figure must include all members at the 31st January 2009.
- Waiting list figures must only include those individuals of Scouting age (i.e. 6 years+).

Each Group will also be asked to indicate the capacity/number of spaces available in each of its Sections, i.e. the maximum number of young people the leadership team is prepared to admit into the Section at any one time. This data will be used in conjunction with the Census results to assist the County and District Teams with growth and development plans.

New Appointments Process

Details of the New Appointments Process were released in October. The County Team is currently considering these and planning the implementation of the new process locally. Details of this implementation will be circulated in early 2009.

Spotlight on . . . the results!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the County Communications Review Questionnaire. Your comments have been very useful and will be reflected in the future development of our County Communication tools. We've detailed some of the results below. For a full copy of the results please contact Mark Guy.

Fact 1 - 40 people completed the question, 17 from West Wight, 15 from East Wight and 8 County Appointment holders.

Fact 2 – 85% receive County communications from their Line Manager, which shows that the Communication policy is being followed.

Fact 3 – On receiving this newsletter 47.5% read it cover to cover and 50% scan read it.

Fact 4 – 65% said that this newsletter should be 'as long as required for each issue's content' and 25% said it should be 'a maximum of 4 pages'.

Fact 5 – 90% rated this newsletter as either 'Very Good' or 'Good' in terms of its content, style, easiness to read, and interest. 65.5% rated it 'Very Good' or 'Good' in terms of its usefulness to their role in Scouting.

Fact 6 – 95% considered the County Directory a useful tool, with 75% using the Directory on a regular basis.

Fact 7 – Wight Pages seems to be an under-utilized resource with only 22.5% using it to find resources, programme ideas and activities.

Fact 8 – 47.5% visit the Website on a monthly basis, 30% never visit the website.

Fact 9 – 35% rated the content of the website 'Very Good' and 'Good'. 25% rate the website layout and organisation 'Very Good' and 'Good'. These statistics confirmed that much work is still needed in the development of the website, and this process is now underway.

Fact 10 – Many of you used this opportunity to comment on the size of the font used in the Communication Tools. The Communications Team is committed to ensuring the text size used is as large as possible within the constraint of page design and format.

We accept that a minority of people are still having some difficulties in receiving communications. The County Team is trying its best to iron out such issues, but we rely on everyone who has a responsibility to play in this process and request that you play your part in achieving an efficient communication system.

'Vectis Vanguard' Explorer Scout Unit @ 6th Newport Scout Group

You may be aware that Sts Thomas' Parish Church in Newport has recently been re-designated as a Minster which reflects more accurately its role in the day to day life of our local community. You will also be aware that the 6th Newport Scout Group, to which we are attached, is linked with St Johns' Church which is, itself, directly linked with Sts Thomas sharing, as they do, the same priest – the Vicar of Newport, Canon Stephen Palmer.

On Wednesday September 24th, at 1900hrs, there was a Service of Inauguration to celebrate the new Minster status of Sts Thomas. This was a very high profile occasion in the presence of a member of the Royal Family – His Royal Highness Prince Edward - The Earl of Wessex and Viscount Severn.

I am very pleased indeed to inform you that our Explorer Scout Unit was invited to supply a Guard of Honour at the main entrance of the church to be in position as the Royal party, and many other VIPs, including the Bishop of Portsmouth, The Right Reverend Dr Kenneth Stevenson and the High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight Alan Titchmarsh arrived at the Minster.

As we are a relatively new Unit we considered this to be a great honour. It was, we felt a privilege for us, as a uniformed youth organisation, to be offered this opportunity and we were very keen to accept the invitation.

This was a Royal visit, and we were asked to provide the church authorities with the names of our Explorer Scouts both for official invitations and for security purposes.

This was also our very first formal, public appearance. The 12 strong contingent was, on the night, ultra-smart in 'best', full and correct Explorer Scout uniform with all badges properly in place. We were most grateful to all the Explorers and their families for their fullest co-operation enabling us to put on an impressive turnout both in our numbers and their smartness. On departing Prince Edward spoke briefly to a few Explorers and thanked them for their efforts.

Graham Drudge

October Programme eNews

Keep up to date with your Section's news with the National Programme eNews newsletter at:
www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/ppoints/index.htm

Recent updates to Scouting Policy and Factsheets

The latest edition of Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/por

There are several changes to the new version and these are listed in the amendment document <http://www.scouts.org.uk/documents/por/Amendments%20to%20POR%20Sept08.pdf>

The key policy changes are described below:

1) Rule 3.8(h)

The Association has now had confirmation from the Department for Children, Schools and Families that Section 71 of the Children Act does not apply to Scouting. This is excellent news as it means that there can be flexibility in the lower age range for Cubs (7½ years). The core age remains 8 -10 years.

2) Rules 3.23(iv), 4.25(e) and 5.16(e,iv)

Following Charity Commission guidance the wording of these rules has been changed to reflect that the Councils *receive and consider* the Annual Report and Accounts rather than *approve*. Approval is carried out by the relevant Executive Committee.

3) Rules 3.26(f), 4.28(f) and 5.19(f)

These rules introduce an Occasional Helper form for parents and helpers (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) who are involved more than once a month. This is to ensure that the Association has a record of everyone who is involved in Scouting and prepares the Movement for the introduction of new legislation in October 2009 that will introduce a new mandatory vetting scheme. Further information about criminal record checks in the Association will shortly be available in a new factsheet.

4) Rule 3.42

This amendment allows the DC to assume the responsibility for a vacant GSL post and brings the arrangements into line with those for vacant DC and CC roles.

5) Rules 4.28(b) and 5.19(b)

This amendment means that a further criminal records check is not necessary if an individual is moving from one appointment to another within the same County or its Districts, providing that:

- The Disclosure Certificate is not more than 5 years old.
- The individual is not returning to Scouting after a break in service of more than 30 days.

c) Headquarters does not have recorded any adverse information concerning the individual. However, a further Disclosure will be required if an individual wishes to take a role or appointment in another County or if a District/County requires a new Disclosure for operational reasons.

6) Chapter 14

The rules on Copyright and Trademarks have now been updated.

7) POR: The Appointment Process

The rules for the new Appointment Process are located in this chapter. Details for the transitional arrangements for moving from the previous process to the new can be found in the *Introduction*.

Factsheets (New and Updated)

FS120521	Jamboree on the Air
FS155052	Planning an Outing for Beaver Scouts
FS155053	Guidelines for Beaver Scout Sleepovers
FS155061	Adventurous Activities for Beaver Scouts
FS170018	Links between the Beaver Scout Colony and the Pack
FS170057	Planning an Outing for Cub Scouts
FS170245	A Beginners Guide to Cub Scouting
FS185091	Funding Training Adviser Recruitment and Support Projects by the Development Grants Board
FS185096	Building Fund - HQ Pilot Project
FS200202	The 6-25 Programme
FS250045	DC Guidelines - Age Ranges Flexibility (Special Needs)
FS260055	Scouting Facts: New Zealand
FS260071	Visas for Scouts visiting the UK
FS320008	Tree Safety Guidelines
FS320009	Falls from Height
FS320010	Managing a Safe Scout Premises
FS452008	The Unit and its links
FS950000	Promoting good sexual health within Scouting
BR120161	Original Material suitable for Gang Shows
BX310606-10	The Appointment Process
AANEW	Adult Application (AA Form) for New Appointment Process
OHF	Occasional Helper (OH) Form

County Leaders Camp

30+ Leaders had a fantastic time at the County Leaders Camp! The reason for the weekend was to give a little something back, and to give them a chance to have a go at activities, including canoeing, rowing, crafts, wood carving, knots, lashings, archery and rifle shooting. Don't miss the next one at Corf 18th - 20th September 2009 where we hope to provide similar activities, and more!

Scouts making a splash



Scouts Aston and Alex take to the water with BSL Leah 'Flash' Elkin.

East Wight Scouts have been getting wet, wet, wet – and it hasn't been at the hands of the weather for a change. Their recent activity camp at Nettlestone included raft races at The Duver. The Scouts had to bid for poles, floats, ropes and paddles and build their rafts. Sea worthiness tests saw even the Leaders get a soaking before the 5th Ryde team won the race. Who says Leaders don't have fun!

The East Wight District Swimming Gala was another occasion to take to the water. As well as the traditional events, the float, obstacle and goggle races proved great fun, as did the Leaders' race. Overall winners were 1st Bembridge.

Histree Trails

Discover the Island's magnificent and historic trees with the Histree Trail Project. The eight trail guides are available from the Island's Tourist Information Centres, Libraries, and www.histreetrail.com

Cub Cyclist Badge



Over a 4 week period, 1st Godshill and Rookley Cubs worked for their Cyclist Badge with Dad Martin Herman, who comes from Holland. Martin, who has a garage full of bikes, helped the Cubs learn how to look after and ride their bikes. After practising road safety and riding in a quiet Godshill cul-de-sac, we went for a ride on the Cycle track in three groups, where we bumped into Newport Cubs also on bikes!

Penny Weedon

Free Activity Resources

Visit the sponsorship pages of scouts.org.uk to find out more about the free activity resources from:

Serco the sponsors of the Cub Scout Personal Safety Badge and the Scout Environment Badge

Ordnance Survey the sponsors of the Cub and Scout Navigator's Badge, and

Leap Frog the sponsors of the Beaver Explore and Experiment Activity Badges.

www.scouts.org.uk/ordnancesurvey

Diary Download (Updates in red)

December

- 4th EW District Exec Meeting
- 6th Adult Training, PLP & Validation Day
- 7th WW Beaver Outing to Pantomime
- 8th Adult Training, Mod.3: Tools for the Job

January 2009

- 6th County Exec Meeting
- 15th EW GSL/SIC Meeting
- 17th Adult Training Access Day
- 24th WW Cub Chess Competition
- 31st **EW Scout Football Competition**

February

- 2nd Young Leader Training, Mod. A
- 5th EW District Leader Meeting
- 7/8th WW Cub Sixers Weekend
- 7th Adult Training, Mod.10: 1st Response
- 8th Adult Training, Mod.16: Beaver Sleepovers
- 23rd Adult Training Access Evening

March

- 3rd Adult Training, Mod.3: Tools for the Job
- 3rd EW District Team Meeting
- 4th Young Leader Training
- 11th Adult Training, Mod.10: 1st Response Refresher
- 12th EW District Exec Meeting
- 21st Adult Training, Large Events Course
- 21st Young Leader Training Day
- 21st EW Cub Scout Quiz
- 22nd Adult Training Access Day
- 28th WW Cub Skills Day
- 28th WW Beaver Outdoor Challenge Day
- 28th **EW Scouts Skittles**
- 29th **County Conference**
- 29th Training Adviser Meeting

Additional dates added to the Diary

- 8th June **EW Scout Cooking Competition**
- 11th July **EW Scout Pioneering**
- 17th Oct **EW Scout Swimming Gala**

Adult Training Review

On Sunday 16th November, 24 Adult Leaders gathered at St Mary's Sports and Social Club to review the management and provision of Adult Training on the Island. They spent the afternoon in discussion groups reviewing support for and from Training Advisers, the Personal Learning Plan and Validation process, accessing, requesting and booking onto training sessions, taking part in training sessions, communication with line managers and the presentation of training modules.

The afternoon gave the Training Management Team lots of feedback on what is going well, as well as ideas and suggestions for improvement. The team are meeting in the next few weeks to look at the feedback from the sessions and decide a way forward.

Once again, David would like to thank everyone who took part for their comments and suggestions, and for giving up another Sunday afternoon to do it!

Training Access Sessions

In 2009 PLP & Validation days are being replaced by 'Training Access Sessions'. These sessions are being held once a month (except July & August) alternating between weekend days and weekday evening sessions.

The Training Access Sessions will provide an opportunity for Adults in training to have their Personal Learning Plan developed, validate modules, access e-learning modules, complete on-line registration for CRB and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) as well as have one to one or small group delivery of training modules.

Look out for more information on these sessions in the coming weeks.

Large Events Course

On Saturday 21st March the Training Team are running a 'Large Events Course'. This course aims to give Leaders the skills and knowledge to assist with the organisation of large events such as District/County Night Hikes and Camps, Family Camps, and Fun Days etc. Look out for more details coming soon.

Earn an NVQ whilst completing your Adult Training

There is still the opportunity to earn an NVQ level 2 or 3 whilst completing your Adult Training. If you are interested in gaining an NVQ, or would like more information on this scheme, please contact David Turner.

1st Response Refresher Course

Look out for the 1st Response refresher courses; these one evening courses will enable Adults to renew their current 1st Response Certificate for another 3 years. You can only book onto these courses if your 1st Response Certificate is still valid; if your Certificate has expired you need to complete the whole course again. Courses are being held in March and October 2009.

Scouting Skills Day

On Sunday 10th May the Training Team will be holding a 'Scouting Skills Day' designed to give Leaders the opportunity of learning some new skills. Those on offer will include pioneering, knot tying, backwoods cooking, fire lighting, map & compass, knife, axe & saw, arts & crafts and many more.

The Training Team would like to hear from experienced Leaders who would be willing to come along and run some of these sessions – please contact David Turner to offer your help.

Training Hot Topics 2009

2009 Hot Topics are focusing on Recruitment and Retention of Adults and Young People - more information in the next edition of Wight Scoutabout. Training Hot Topics are an ideal way to complete your ongoing learning requirement.

Ongoing Learning

Following the completion of the Wood Badge, all Appointed Adults must undertake some ongoing learning in order to maintain their Appointment as current. Over the calculated period of the Appointment, an adult must complete an average of five hours ongoing learning each year.

Ongoing learning, or ongoing training, is essentially any training, learning or development completed by an adult that is subsequently used by them in their Scouting role. It can take place both inside and outside Scouting, but must ultimately benefit the young people, and adults, in Scouting.

Undertaking training modules to refresh your knowledge is one way that you can complete ongoing learning. For other options please refer to factsheet FS500006.

Training Achievements

Since the last edition of Scoutabout the following people have completed 'Getting Started': Carly Richmond (ACSL), Matthew Hendey (ACSL), Claire Flowers (BSL), Ray Taylor (ACSL), Sue Lacey (ABSL), Terry Cook (AGSL), Helen Graham (ABSL), David Rowe (CSL), Hannah Robinson (ESL), Paul Downes (ESL), Jane Fallick (ASL), Mark Locke (SA), Zena Whiteside (ASL), David Pearce (DCC), Tony Elgar (ADC), Steve Humphrey (SL) & Jo Budden (BSL). The following people have been recommended for their Wood Badge: Jane Fallick (ASL), Graham Drudge (ESL), John Lander (GSL), John Budd (SL), Sue Budd (ASL) & Karen Chessell (DBSL). The Training Team would like to congratulate you all.

Training Dates

These can be found in the 'Diary Download' on page 4. To book a Training Module please contact Jane Fallick on 529458 or email jane.fallick@yahoo.com

David Turner
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