

Introduction



Dear All,

After a few years of Creative Activities having been left a bit behind adventurous activities in terms of promotion and support, we think it is time for a change.

Our goal is to make Creative Activities as exciting as high ropes, rafting or caving. We believe that they are an essential part of the Balanced Programme and provide a fantastic opportunity to develop vital skills for young people. We realise that this is a long-term project requiring a change of mindset and a lot of work (we're ready for that!) including improving communication, creating new resources, reviewing the existing ones, as well as providing better support for section leaders. There is a lot to be done and this is the first step on this long journey. This newsletter introduces you to the HQ team working in the area of Creative Activities and asks you a few questions about how Creative Activities are doing in your Counties, Areas and Regions through our on-line survey.

Best wishes,

Dorota, Ewan and Paul

Coming up

The date has been set for a Scout Bands and Band Advisers conference – **19th February 2011** at Birmingham County Scout HQ. The event is open for all types of bands and will be an excellent opportunity for networking and exchange of ideas. For more details and booking form please see www.scouts.org.uk/events.

June 2011 will see a weekend-long Scout Show conference. Watch this space for further details.

Survey

Please take a couple of minutes to fill in a questionnaire we prepared to get an insight in the current state of creative activities in Scouting. [Click here](#) to open the survey*. Please note that it closes on 15th Dec 2010. Feel free to forward it to people who might have not been included in our mailing list – the more responses we can get the better.

(*Alternatively copy and paste this link into your browser: <http://q.scouts.org.uk/s/5-E-LpwNUm1EVAn>)

Next steps

We want to keep you updated on new initiatives and projects that are coming up in the Creative Activities world. The best way to do this will be driven by the survey. In addition, if you are also a Bandmaster or a Scout Show Producer you should expect another e-mail asking for more information about your Band or Show.

If you do not wish to receive communication regarding Creative Activities in future, please drop an e-mail to activities@scouts.org.uk, if possible suggesting another person from your County/Area/Region who could act as the main Creative Activities contact.

We kindly ask for your patience before the final circulation list is complete. Please make sure that your membership system (MSS, formerly 'My Backpack') record reflects all of your current roles in Scouting, as this will be our main source of information when generating mailing lists.

We Scout!

Scouts of all ages love wearing "i.Scout" T-shirts. Now we have a chance to design one promoting Creative Activities. Share your idea for a T-shirt tag line with activities@scouts.org.uk!

Meet the team



Dorota Górecka – Programme and Development Adviser (Activities)

“I started working in the Activities and International team in Gilwell Park only a few months ago. My role is focused on creative

activities, but I also support land activities and DofE training. I am passionate about working with young people, theatre, photography and cooking. For many years I was an active member of Scouting in Poland. I will be happy to answer any of your enquiries; I definitely do not know all the answers, but I promise to do my best to find them out for you! I can also help you advertise events on the website, promote your activities in scouting publications or put you in touch with our Technical Advisers. I am also keen to hear about your ideas on how to develop creative activities in Scouting.”



Ewan Murray – UK Technical Adviser for Staged Performances

“Hi! I’m Ewan Murray, UKTA for Staged Performances. How did I get here? Good question! With experience in the movement as a

Cub, Scout, Venture Scout, ACSL, AVSL and DSL, and most relevantly as a musician, composer, arranger, Gang Show musical director and producer; I was also Deputy Producer of LIVE07, the event in the O₂ that rounded off our centenary year.

I am passionate about the starring role that young people have in our movement, whether it be on the mountain side, on water, in the air or on stage. There is nothing that beats the buzz of an applauding and cheering audience. Every young person, no matter what their level of talent, should have an opportunity to experience this.

My aims in the role include:

- improving the offering made by Gang Shows, Scout entertainments and other staged performances across the UK so that we can be a proud shop window for the movement
- being a focal point enabling experiences and resources to be shared on Groups, Districts, County, Area and national levels
- being a sounding board / problem solver / agony aunt for those involved in staged performances
- reviewing the criteria leading to National Accreditation of a show
- allowing the spotlight to fall on young people, rather than adults

With renewed support from HQ, Creative Activities as a whole will have a greater profile. Watch this space for details of a National Scout Show Conference in 2011, a review of how shows are assessed and other initiatives. If you feel strongly about any aspect of Staged Performances in Scouting, I want to hear from you!”



Paul Wong – UK Technical Adviser for Bands

“I am a married man who lives in the West Midlands. I am a police officer with the West Midlands Police, currently deployed as a detective within a training team

teaching other detectives and police staff.

Having joined the Scout Association at the age of 8, I have been a member of all of the sections with the exception of the Beavers. I have been also a leader within the Cub Scout and Venture Scout sections. Having been an ADC and a DC, I am currently the County Commissioner for the West Mercia Scout County.



CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

I have been connected with scout bands for almost 40 years having joined as a Cub Scout. I currently run the Halesowen Scout Band who are a traditionally styled scout band and who compete in the Traditional Youth Marching Bands Association. My interest in bands does not lie entirely within the traditional setting, I have previously judged within the British Youth Band Association and was a member of the BYBA organising team for their 'Festival of Fun and Music' for a number of years.

I have led both single and joint bands on many national or international engagements, having travelled to Canada, France, Germany, Holland and Ireland. The highlight I would say is leading the combined bands who performed at the Sunrise Ceremony at Hylands Park on August 1st 2007 during the World Scout Jamboree and performing there to an audience in excess of 40,000 scouts!

In this role I hope to:

- improve the communication between individual bands and between HQ contacts and bands;
- enhance the image of Scout or Scout & Guide Bands across the whole activity;
- act as the focal point for all your queries and help you find solutions to the issues you may be facing;
- review our fact sheets with the help of key advisors to ensure they are relevant, up to date and provide advice where you need it."

As a team we want to put Creative Activities on the map as a valid and recognised part of the Balanced Programme!

Contact us

To contact any member of the team please email activities@scouts.org.uk or call 020 8433 7137. We hope to hear from you soon!