
Introduction

Welcome to the seventh edition of Activities eNews. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with the latest developments and opportunities within Activities. It is being made available online on ScoutBase UK and notified to ACCs/AACs Activities, County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Advisers and those with Activities appointments.

Home Contact Review

Thank you to all who took the time to respond during the consultation period of the home contact review. We received some very useful feedback and thoughts during this time. The consultation period has now finished and we are in the process of rolling out the pilot scheme in three Counties / Areas / Regions (Scotland). Depending on the success and feedback of this pilot there should be more information available later in 2009.

DofE Update

Following a substantial number of changes the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has made over the past 18 months we have recently issued an update to County Advisers. This update contains details about training, support, rebranding, section changes and the new DofE Handbook. The update can be viewed online at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/dofe/links/dofeupdate.pdf

Training and Assessment Courses

A quick reminder that you can find details of all the activity training or assessment courses that we are aware of on ScoutBase UK. So if you are running a training or assessment course, let us know the details and we will publicise this for you, and if you are looking for an assessment or training in an activity, hopefully you can find what you are looking for here.

Training course can be found at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/training.htm

and assessment courses at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/permitassess.htm

A Big Hello

We have two new members of the UK Activities Team to welcome. Tim Allen has joined as the UK Technical Adviser (UKTA) for Narrow Boating and Ian Angell is the new UKTA for Swimming and Scuba Diving. Sadly we are also saying farewell to two of the team as Graeme Morrison has stood down as UKTA for Climbing due to the pressures of his other voluntary roles, and on the professional side Nicola Ashby has moved on internally within the programme team to co-ordinate the production of new resources.

Tim and Ian can be contacted via Gilwell Park. Details can be found at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/naas.htm

NSGSO

The National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra (NSGSO) has now planned their 2009 summer course. This will be held in Cheshire from 2nd – 9th August and applications are now open for potential members. Full details can be found at:

www.nsgso.org.uk

A Song and a Dance

Scouts on stage are one of the most public shop windows of Scouting. It is only right, therefore, that we ensure all Groups, Districts and Counties that express themselves through the performing arts do so in a way that displays a vibrant, youth-led movement. To assist with this we are planning an updated and coordinated foundation of information and resources.

As this work takes place we want to ensure that those involved are kept in the loop with all developments, so if you are running any type of Scout Show, please ensure your record on the membership database reflects this. This is most likely to be done through roles such as County/Area or District Adviser for Staged Performances or Creative Activities.

Additionally, don't forget that you can promote your show on ScoutBase UK. Just send us the details and we will include it at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/activitiestemp.htm

Diary Dates

Below are listed a number of activity events taking place in 2009. Many of these allow novice levels to take part without the need to bring specialist activity equipment. The fact that we are advertising them does not mean that these events are necessarily vetted or endorsed by The Scout Association nationally. For a full and up to date list of activity events and dates please see:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/activitiestemp.htm

Chase Walk 2009

Cannock Chase
21 March 2009

www.chasewalk.fsnet.co.uk

Pike View Hike

Bolton
24 – 26 April 2009

www.pikeviewhike.co.uk

National Sea Scout Centenary Jamboree

Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham
1 – 8 August 2009

www.seascout100.net

Kibblestone Adventure Week 2009

Kibblestone, Staffordshire
8 - 15 August 2009

www.kibblestone.org/events/adventureweek

Adult Pike View Hike

Bolton
2 - 4 October 2009

www.pikeviewhike.co.uk

UK Technical Adviser Vacancies

There remain a few roles available in the UK Activities team for UK Technical Advisers. These are roles for those with specialist technical knowledge and experience of particular activities. You can find details of the roles currently available at:

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

Factsheet Updates

Details of new and updated factsheets and assessment checklists over the past few months can be found on their dedicated web page at:

www.scouts.org.uk/recentupdates

Permit Scheme Rolling Review

A reminder that there is an ongoing rolling review of the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme. If you have any thoughts or comments about any specific activities, assessment checklists, factsheets or forms supporting the scheme then please send them in to us. They will then be considered the next time the activity involved is reviewed. Comments should be sent to activities@scout.org.uk

Lightweight Expedition Update

The definition of a Lightweight Expedition Nights Away event has been slightly modified. This is to ensure that those taking part in an expedition who have to change their plans and stay put for a day or more due to circumstances such as the weather are still covered. The updated wording is:

Lightweight Expedition – for planning on staying at any site for not more than one night before moving on. The core activity is a form of expedition, not residential, and all the equipment is transported with the participants. eg. QSA/DofE hikes, expedition hikes, canoe expeditions:

National Support

A quick reminder that members of the UK Activities Team are very happy to visit Regions, Counties or Districts to provide support, run presentations, answer questions etc, for any area of activities. For more information email Barney Poulton and Jess Kelly at activities@scout.org.uk

And Finally...

Thank you for reading this edition of Activities 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**



Linda Thelwell
UK Adviser (Activities)