



TRUSTEE TALK



October 2009

www.kentscouts.org.uk

ISSUE 9

Welcome to the 9th edition of

Trustee Talk

Essential reading for all Scouting Executive Members

Full addresses for all website links on back page

For email addresses use @ instead of AT

Kent County Scouts AGM

The Kent County Scout Council AGM was held on Saturday 3rd October 2009 at the Dockyard Church in the Chatham Historic Dockyard. Members attending were also able to see Cubs from all over the County enjoying themselves at the Big Day Out, and join with the Cubs for their closing ceremony.

During the AGM the County Commissioner was pleased to announce the appointment of Bill Cockcroft DL as new County President following the retirement of Lord Patrick Mayhew. Bill has been involved in Scouting for many years and was a previous County Commissioner for Kent, as well as being a former Chief Commissioner for England and Chair of the 2007 World Scout Jamboree.

The CC also announced the appointment of a new Chair for the County, John Warr, MBE, and also that our County Administrator, Nadia Carey, is to take up the duties of County Secretary. John started his Scouting career as a Wolf Cub and continued through Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts, gaining his Queen's Scout Award on the way. He has been a leader in Scouts and Venture Scouts and a member of the County Team since 1986,

most recently as Deputy County Commissioner. Nadia has been the County Office manager for the last three years and does an invaluable job keeping the County's admin straight!

Please keep us up to date!

Many (most, I hope!) Districts will have now held their 2009 AGM. Even if you haven't had changes in officer posts please let Nadia know the details of your new District Executive, including full contact details, so that you receive any relevant information from County Office during the forthcoming year. Nadia will shortly begin to draw together information for the 2010 County Directory and she would appreciate a speedy return of her request form when you receive it so that the Directory may be published promptly. This is a vital tool for County Leaders and officers as well as for many of you, so your assistance is much appreciated. Email Nadia nadia@kentscouts.org.uk or use the contact details on the back page.

Trustee Training - what would you like?

The Training and Communications working group, along with the new Chair, is looking at future Trustee Training. The role of the trustee is very important and there are a number of legal responsibilities involved. For example, prior to the recent purchase of Grange Farm (see www.kentscouts.org.uk for pictures of our barn and adjoining property, which will become our County Office in due course) we had an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Trustees to consider the purchase and its implications. Although the site will be of great benefit to our young people and leaders it was the responsibility of the trustees to consider all details of the purchase, including, most importantly, the financial aspects. To help trustees be aware of their responsibilities we will again lay on trustee training sessions in 2010. Please would you let us know what information sessions you would like. Email me at liz.simmons@kentscouts.org.uk

Health and Safety

Although in many cases it will be the leaders who do the risk assessments for camps and events the responsibility ultimately lies with trustees (Group and District Executive Committees). You may be lucky and have someone with good experience and knowledge of H+S but if not you might find information on the Health and Safety Executive website useful. They have just produced a template to assist with creating risk assessments and health and safety policies which will be of benefit to most leaders and executive committees. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/step4.htm>

With bonfire night fast approaching many Groups and Districts will be thinking about organizing displays. For HSE information on firework displays visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/fireworks1.htm>

CRBs / ISA

The ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) went "live" on 12th October. There are new regulations about who needs vetting and, from now, if you need to dismiss a leader or helper because of inappropriate behaviour you must inform the ISA. The guidance is available from http://www.isa-gov.org.uk/PDF/VBS_Guidance.pdf and a toolkit with pdf posters etc. is at <http://www.isa-gov.org.uk/toolkit/> There is a Frequently Asked Questions document from Department for Children, Schools and Families at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/vettingandbarringscheme/vettingvandbarring/>

There will inevitably be questions in the transition period between CRBs and the ISA taking full control of vetting (which won't be until late 2010) so if you have a problem which can't be answered by your District Appointment Secretary contact Scout HQ on 0845 300 1818 / 020 8433 7100, or email info.centreATscout.org.uk. They are open from 8 am - 6 pm weekdays. They have a great team and will find the answer to any Scouting related query.

It is vital that CRBs are done on all volunteers over the age of 18. Please don't let confusion or apathy stop you from completing the process - it protects the children, but also the leaders and executive committee as we

have a duty of care to the young people and must take the necessary steps to comply with the vetting process.

Rain tax!

You may have heard or read about the outcry by churches, Scout Groups (including the lobby at the Houses of Parliament by the Scout Association on St. Swithun's Day!) and similar organisation about the steep increase in payments for drainage, the so-called "rain tax" levied by Water Companies. The lobbying had the desired effect, the government ordered Water Companies to review the charge and you can see recent details on <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/090928a.htm>

Websites


Some Groups and Districts are fortunate to have someone who can set up and maintain a website for them. It is important that websites are kept up to date, look attractive, are easy to navigate and give accurate information. It's also important to observe good practice by not naming young people (e.g. if there is a photo don't give the full names of the young people in the picture) and don't give full details of where / when you have meetings or events (you may attract someone you wouldn't want to come along). You can give contact details or a "click here" for information instead. If you can avoid publishing email addresses (by using a "click here" button for example) you will reduce the amount of SPAM mail. For advice on setting up / maintaining a website contact Jim Martin, ACC Creative, jim.martin@kentscouts.org.uk. and / or look at factsheet FS295207.

The BT Community Connections IT award scheme is now open for community and charitable organisations who'd like to get online. You need to demonstrate how an award would help your work and the community. The award gives you a laptop and a year's worth of broadband connection. You need to apply online by 7th January 2010.

<http://www.btcommunityconnections.com/page.php?id=64>

Going Green

As Scouts we should be very aware of "green" issues and generally ought to observe environmentally friendly practices. Executive committees might be interested in things such as the electricity consumption at their HQ for example, as being "green" would not only be good for the environment but probably also good for the bank balance! More information on initiatives may be found at <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe/>




I hope you find these items and links helpful. If you have anything you would like to contribute to this newsletter or any questions you would like us to try and answer please let me know: liz.simmonsATkentscouts.org.uk (substitute @ for AT) by 15th January 2010.



FOR A FULL KENT SCOUTS EVENTS DIARY LOG ONTO
www.kentscouts.org.uk

For up to date monthly information about what is happening in the County log onto www.kentscouts.org.uk and download CCC - County Commissioner's Communication. Published on the 1st of every month and sent by email to all Districts. Contact your DC and ask to be put on their distribution list if you don't currently receive CCC.



Contacts

Kent County Scout Council, The Youth House, Upbury Manor Complex,
Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 5HR ☎ 01634 281770

Office Hours Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri. 9am - 4.30pm,
Wednesday only 10am - 2pm

Scout Information Centre, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW

☎ 020 8433 7100 Open 8am - 6pm Mon - Fri.

www.kentscouts.org.uk

www.scouts.org.uk

www.scoutbase.org.uk (for POR and factsheets)