



Welcome!

Welcome to the fourth edition of Cub Scout eNews.

In the last issue, we highlighted the five key project areas for the Section in the coming three years. This issue, each of the Project Leaders summarises the progress to date.

We have also been out and about around the UK. It is great to meet with you, and in some places, with ADCs and Cub Scout Leaders. Please pass on eNews to them and keep everyone informed of progress and other topics of interest.

Cub Scout Development

The 2008 Census, which is not fully completed yet, looks like showing a 2% growth for the Section across the whole of the UK.

The North East Region has taken up the challenge of growing and developing the Section in all communities. The Regional Commissioner, Mark Tarry, set up a regional workshop attended by over 70 ADCs and CSLs where the emphasis was on developing local action plans to meet the five key Sectional projects. It is likely that this model will now be offered to other Regional Commissioners to do the same.

Older Cub Scouts and Moving-On

The Cub Scout Support Team are making steady progress in this project, identifying ways of retaining the older Cub Scout and making the Moving-On Award more effective between Sections. It is very likely that the lessons identified in moving from Cubs to Scouts will also be applied to all Sections.

Supporting Cub Scout Leaders

The Cub Scout Support Team have now met on two occasions and have planned work for the next few months, which is to look at how UK HQ can better 'Support the Cub Scout Leader'. We have sent out project information and questionnaires to all Cub Scout Leaders, all ADC Cub Scouts and all ACC/AAC Cub Scouts in the North West Region and Wales to provide a benchmark for the proposed

changes. These questionnaires have sought views about the support/resources available at District and County/Area level and how these might be improved.

Communication

The Cub Scout Support Team have added Youth Participation to their remit and are seeking good examples of consultation and involvement of Cub Scouts in decision making, especially at District and County/Area levels. As always, please contact us using the details below to let us know about any suitable examples, or information about upcoming events.

Challenging Programme Zones

We have received some good feedback from many AACs and ACCs around the UK but more is needed! The project team would like to know if the refinements to the programme are helping Leaders.

Which areas do Leaders find difficult or shy away from in your Counties/Areas or Regions? Is there a programme or activity that works well for them which could be shared with other leaders? Please pass the message on (using the contact details at the bottom of this page) so we can all help each other.

Wiping Out Waiting Lists

Our membership is on the increase - sadly though, so are waiting lists, up this year by 1,000 to more than 7,500 young people of Cub Scout age who are missing out on the fun and adventure that we offer. We would like to challenge everyone involved in supporting the Cub Scout Section to work with Districts and Packs to find a place for every one of these young people over the next two years, halving that waiting list by January 2009 and wiping it out completely by January 2010.

We have heard many excuses over the past few weeks: the youngsters are on several waiting lists; Groups want to have large waiting lists; GSLs do it so they don't have to declare them and pay membership fees; we filled in the form incorrectly. There are no acceptable reasons to stop 7,500 young people taking part in Cub Scout activities and

we all need to work over the coming 24 months to find places for them in Cub Packs.

Your Programme, Your Voice

The first pilot of this online direct survey to Cub Scout Leaders has been very successful with over 370 respondents answering questions relating to Pack management, the Programme and Moving-on. This has provided the Cub Scout Working Group with a great deal of information which will inform and support their work over the coming months and years.

The survey has informed us that Leaders would like more support with the Beliefs and Attitudes and Global Programme Zones, and that a fantastic 93.6% of respondents feel that the recent refinements to The Balanced Programme are beneficial. An area that we will be looking to gain a more detailed understanding of, is the use of Pack forums, as over a quarter of respondents never use them. We are also keen to find out more about how Pack forums are used, and how much of a say the Cub Scouts really have.

The second pilot survey in the Cub Scout Section will ask some more focussed and detailed questions, to further enhance the picture of real life Scouting. This survey will take place in May, with a view to rolling the scheme out to other Sections later in the year.

Green Footprint Award

Following on from the success of Challenge 100 in the Scout Section, the Green Footprint Award has been launched as a new, web-based resource for all Sections to use to prove their green credentials. The award, which has three stages (Bronze, Silver and Green!), allows Groups, Sections or small groups of Cub Scouts to follow a progressive programme of activities and challenges designed to promote awareness of climate change issues and make a difference in local communities. The award has been made possible through funding from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and you can register online at www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange

Ancient Tree Hunt

As well as the Green Footprint Award, we are also working with the Woodland Trust again this year,

following our successful partnership in 2007 to plant woods and trees across the country.

The current project is the Ancient Tree Hunt; and we are asking members of The Scout Association to track down and hug the biggest tree in your area. The age of trees can be worked out from the circumference of the trunk, and counting the number of people it takes to hug the tree is an easy way to work this out. If the locations of these ancient trees are known then steps can be taken to protect them. Some of our oldest trees were around when William the Conqueror was king in 1066.

There are programme ideas available on Programmes Online at www.scouts.org.uk/pol and lots more information on the project can be found at www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk

Out and About

We are starting to get requests to attend different meetings, workshops and events from Counties/Areas and Districts around the UK. To remind you, the topics we can cover include:

- Programmes Online
- Programme Planning
- International ideas in the Programme
- Nights Away
- Young Leaders
- HQ updates

And more... we may also be able to come and build a 'bespoke' Programme session on whatever you need. So if you think we can help – do get in touch.

Just contact Steve Moysey at:
cub.scout@scout.org.uk

Beaver Scout and Cub Scout Fundays

This year's Beaver and Cub Fundays take place on 21st and 22nd June at Gilwell Park. Both Sectional project teams will be there and looking to talk with as many Leaders as possible. Remind those attending from your County/Area to pay us a visit in the Gidney Cabin for a chat and refreshments.

Using your Scout Fellowship

Are you thinking about organising an event in your District or County, introducing new skills to your young people, or looking for something different to help Section Leaders run a meeting? If so, why not get in touch with your local Scout Fellowship to see how they may be able to help you.

Fellowships around the country do a variety of different things to help local Scouting including providing activities, teaching Scouting skills, helping with catering or service teams for events, and assisting with admin and paperwork. Often, members have specific skills and would be happy to spare some time to help you, but you need to ask them!

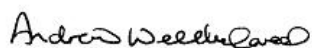
You may have local Fellowships at District or County level, and there are also National Fellowships who are active around the UK. If you would like to find out more about Scout Fellowship please go to www.scout.org.uk/fellowship or chat to your local Fellowship contact.

Activity eNews

For the latest information from the Activities team at UKHQ, please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/enews/apr08.pdf to view their latest eNews.

Finally...

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**



Graeme Hamilton **UK Adviser for Cub Scouts**



Steve Moysey **Programme and Development Adviser**