

## County/Area Scout Network Commissioners Monthly Update

January 2004

### Happy New Year to you all

Firstly on behalf of the National Network Support Team, may we wish you and your Teams a Happy New Year and a big thank you for all of your work in ensuring the successful launch of the Scout Network.

We know very well that the role of Area and County Scout Network Commissioner is not an easy one. Do remember that we are all working together to develop the section so don't be afraid to ask the Network people in your neighbouring patches or ask the National Support Team to help and advise in any way that we can to make your task easier.

### The monthly update returns

At the very start of Network we produced a monthly update for each of our A/CSNC's which people were pleased to receive as it told them what was going on in our early stages. More recently we tried to experiment with developing this into an On-Line Group system on Scoutbase, but the feedback we have received is that people prefer the monthly update approach as they can copy it easily to people in their County and Area including their CC and AC for information.

Therefore, we have re-introduced the e-mail monthly update and it will be issued towards the end of each month.

We are not going to leave the 'on-line; forum to collect dust through. We have learnt a lot from it, which we will hope to be able to use when the idea

is developed by Gilwell Park as part of membership management.

If you have a format, which you use within your County/Area that other counties may like to adopt? Let us know and we will make the ideas public.

### Staff

You may have heard that over the last month there have been some changes in the Headquarters' Staff that have been supporting the Scout Network Section. Both Tim Pike and Liz Clarke have flown the nest of Gilwell Park to new jobs, but still working within youth services, we wish them luck in their new roles. Liz stays as a member of Essex Scout Network so we will still bump into her!

Taking over from Liz, Daniel Hewitt has been appointed the role of Programme and Development Adviser supporting the Scout Network Section and I am sure that we all welcome Dan to the team. You should get a chance to meet him at regional events and meetings over the next twelve months. Just so that you know who you are meeting, we have given Dan a chance to write a little about himself so that you know who you are emailing or phoning.

#### **Daniel Hewitt**

Hello to everyone. I just thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I have been involved in Scouting from the age of eight as a Cub Scout and moved through the Scouts gaining the Chief Scout's Award and then moving into Venture Scouts, gaining the Queen's Scout Award. At the first available chance I became an Assistant Leader in a local Scout Troop and completed my Leader training. In the usual way, my warrant soon changed to Scout Leader! As well as running



a Scout Troop, I was also involved with the County Executive Committee.

In 2002 I was privileged to be apart of the United Kingdom Contingent Support Team to the 20th World Scout Jamboree in Thailand, where we supported 3000 young people and Leaders in a fantastic and life changing experience. Upon my return from Thailand, I applied for a job with The Scout Association as a Programme & Development Adviser. I was fortunate enough to be offered the position within the Adults in Scouting Team and from that to the Scout Network Team.

And that's where we are now. I am really looking forward to meeting everybody, or at least talking to as many people as I can! Until then.

### **Scout Network Support Team**

Not only has the staff at Gilwell changed, the membership of the National Support Team is being developed. Dan Wood gave us great service and worked really hard to help us to understand the section and has now moved on as a Chair of the British Youth Council, putting Scouting into a central role. Thanks for your help, Dan.

We haven't lost everyone though that would be careless. Troll continues to write Scouting Magazine's Network pages for us and Hilary Merrington, CSNC Cheshire and Adrian Wray from Rutland remain.

A number of other people, possibly some of you receiving this email update, are being approached at the moment, to join the team and help to make Network really strong.

We have been helped over the last six months by a team of Accelerators for Scout Network, people who can help Networks to really get going.

Lots of things are going on for Network people over the next few month here are a few to spread.

### **Queens Scout Award Reception**

A date for your diaries, the next QSA Reception will take place at Birmingham University on Saturday 3rd April 2004. For further information, you should contact your local QSA co-ordinator or **Tom Overstone** at Gilwell Park ([thomas.overstone@scout.org.uk](mailto:thomas.overstone@scout.org.uk)). A reminder that the closing date for entries to the National Parade at Windsor is 31st January 2004.

### **Outdoor Adventure Show 2004**

The Outdoor Adventure Show take places in London at the Business Design Centre, Islington from 6 - 8th February. The show includes climbing competition, celebrity speakers and large selection of outdoor retailers, destinations and information. The show is aimed at young professionals and therefore ideally aimed at Scout Network Members. For further information, log on to the shows web site: [www.outdoorsadventureshow.co.uk](http://www.outdoorsadventureshow.co.uk).

### **Water Activities - Personal Survival**

Do you like spending time afloat for pleasure? The National Sea Training Centre at North West Kent College in Gravesend are offering a one-day course in Personal Survival Techniques. They have a funding opportunities that mean they are in a position to offer funding for young people aged 16 - 19, the funding will enable participants to attend free of charge.

For more detail of the course or to book, visit their web site at [www.nwkcollege.ac.uk/instcl/index.html](http://www.nwkcollege.ac.uk/instcl/index.html) or contact the college direct on: 01322 629600.

### **Communication and consultation meetings - 2004**

You will recall that in late December the Scout Network office issued a letter to all CSNC's asking if you could identify someone from your regional Area/County Scout Network meetings, who can act as a regular point of contact for Gilwell Park to help us to improve the support we can give to those meetings.

Most regions have passed on this information, but those who have not, please could you send in the details to [Daniel.Hewitt@scout.org.uk](mailto:Daniel.Hewitt@scout.org.uk) by the 1st February 2004.

The dates listed below are Regional Meetings which people from the Scout Network Support Team hope to be able to attend, the 'HQ Communications and Consultation meetings' only. Your own region or country will probably have arranged other meetings as well during the year:

Region	Date	Location
Wales	31/01/04	Llandrindod Wells
North East	TBC	TBC
North West	08/02/04	Preston
East Anglia	29/02/04	Gilwell
South West	10/10/04	TBC
East Midlands	10/10/04	TBC
West Midlands	16/10/04	Dudley
London	17/10/04	Gilwell
South East	27/11/04	Gilwell
South	TBC	TBC

Further details of the above meetings will be forwarded to you by your local contact.

Attending Regional meetings is a valuable way of getting new ideas and seeing what other Counties/ Areas are doing. Attendance to these meetings should be by the CSNC's. Some regions and countries encourage Scout Network Members themselves to be there - after all, the Network Section is run by its members for its members! We have heard of the plans in the North - East region to run their Regional meetings combined with attending an event, their next meeting is to take place during the West Lancs. Gathering in Easter.

National Representation, and hopefully someone from the Scout Network Support Team is guaranteed at the Communication and Consultation meetings, but if you would like a member of the Support Team to attend your other meetings or events, please contact the office direct and we will try to ensure that we can be there, if the diary and budget allows!

## The team travels

As members of the National Network Support Team, we have the pleasure of travelling the Country to see the Network in action. More recently the team, attended the Manchester Snow Ball at a hotel 'near to' Manchester Airport. This was an event attended by over 150 Network Members not only from the Manchester area but from neighbouring Counties such as Cheshire and Lancashire as well. A great evening with all attending taking part to the full with full evening dresses and suits worn by all and a visit from Santa. I am sure that the event will be planned again next year following this success - but perhaps someone needs to tell the organisers where Manchester Airport is!

In the New Year the team will be attending the Essex Network Ball as well as the West Lancs. Gathering at Great Tower.

## The Programme

The Scout Association are currently in process of carrying out an on-line questionnaire on the elements of the new Youth Programme.

I am sure that you have been reminded of this on numerous occasions, but it is important for not only you to complete, but also importantly for as many Network Members as possible to do so. It is still not too late to complete it, let your views come through to [www.surveystack.com/scouts](http://www.surveystack.com/scouts). Please submit your replies by 31st January 2004.

## Scouts Go Green

Have you received information for the NPI for 2004? **Scouts GO Green** is an ideal opportunity for the Network Section to participate in the Environment Group Award and at the same time to Link with your local Explorer Scout Unit. The award encourages members to develop a sustainable lifestyle and raise the profile of environmental issues.

There are lots of ideas and projects that can be undertaken by the Scout Network and you should think of purchasing the Go Green publication that is packed full of ideas for working towards the Environment Group Award. See [www.scoutsgogreen.org.uk](http://www.scoutsgogreen.org.uk)

## Network Commissioner induction days

Following the introduction of the new Adult Training Scheme, we will no longer be running the County Scout network Commissioner Courses, as the new scheme will cover any required commissioner training. However, we will be introducing two induction days for County Scout Network Commissioners of which one will be held in the South and the second in the North/Midlands areas. Full details of the venues will be issued via the Update. Please put the dates in your diary: Saturday 1st May 2004 (South) Saturday 17th October 2004 (Midlands/North). If you would like to book onto the days, please email [Daniel.Hewitt@scout.org.uk](mailto:Daniel.Hewitt@scout.org.uk).

## Scouting 2005/7

A number of new and exciting volunteer opportunities existing within Scouting 2005 and 2007. Please take a look at [www.eurojam.org.uk](http://www.eurojam.org.uk) and [www.scouting2007.org.uk](http://www.scouting2007.org.uk).

## Snet gathering 2004

Following the success of The Gathering in 2003, with over 240 Scout Network members attending from all over the UK, West Lancs. again bring the SNet Gathering for 2004 to Great Tower in the heart of the Lake District. The event offers a selection of 'buy-in' activities and one 'all-together' activity that is run on the Sunday - be prepared to get messy! The weekend offers a great deal of choice including walking, climbing, canoeing or if you prefer, just put your feet up and watch everyone else do the energetic things.

During the weekend there will be opportunity to meet with the Support Team and other A/CSNC's, through a get-together for Commissioners, Leaders, Administrators and Network Chairs. It will be an opportunity to discuss the challenges that are ahead of us and to how we can overcome them. For further information have a look online at <http://networkgathering.westlancashirescouts.org.uk/index.php>

## Spread the word

Do email this out to anyone in your County or area who you think might be interested in how Network is going... the more the merrier!

## 'The Network Support Team'

### Contacts

If you have any queries, questions or comments, you can contact us:

- David Williamson (National Commissioner for Scout Network )  
[Scout.network@scout.org.uk](mailto:Scout.network@scout.org.uk)
- Daniel Hewitt (Programme & Development Adviser):  
[Daniel.Hewitt@scout.org.uk](mailto:Daniel.Hewitt@scout.org.uk)
- Network Support Team  
[Scout.network@scout.org.uk](mailto:Scout.network@scout.org.uk)
- Articles, comments etc for the Network Pages of Scouting [trollscoutuk@hotmail.com](mailto:trollscoutuk@hotmail.com)

Or write to us at:

### The Scout network Office

Gilwell Park, Chingford, London, E4 7QW

Or for those of you that prefer talking to someone real! You can phone the office on:  
0208 8433 7137