

January 2017

## WORKING IN A RESTRICTED BUDGET ERA

As we enter our 32nd year, we are having to work within the changes due to the government funding policies for our type of contracts.

Following our success in achieving NVQ qualifications for clients, we are continuing to work with Buckinghamshire County Council, backed by the Skills Funding Agency, in offering NVQ qualifications for those in apprenticeships in the Care Sector.

Our Support Worker Ltd company has continued to provide support workers to enable people with disabilities to remain in employment with funding from the government Access to Work Scheme.

We provide employment services for Berkshire County Scout Council for their Administrator and Local Development Officers. We also continue to provide MIDAS training for those who wish to drive a minibus

for a voluntary organisation, particularly Scout Groups within the County of Berkshire. Our minibus is used extensively by Scout Groups in the Royal County.

On an operational basis we have been moving our website to a new provider, as well as moving the domain registered names of the projects we have supported for many years.

So although our activities are restricted in comparison with earlier years, it can be seen that including our support for Scouting, we are still providing much needed services across a wide spectrum.

Alan K B Beavis OBE  
Chairman



## Contract work

### SUPPORT WORKER LTD

Support Worker Ltd is a company whose sole purpose is to provide competent and suitable support workers for those with a disability and who require assistance in maintaining gainful employment. This may be simply providing transport for those unable to travel on public transport or more detailed support such as handling documents for visually impaired clients.



### BERKSHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

We provide employment services for the County Administrator and the county's two Local Development Officers as well as two interns during the summer. Since the appointment of the first LDO in 2007, Harriet Riley, we understand the membership in the County has risen from approximately 7,500 to 11,500. We like to think that we have contributed a little to this success story.

### APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING



Our apprenticeship programme in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council helped over thirty people to achieve management qualifications through BTEC, with a further five gaining higher apprenticeships in leadership.

We were particularly pleased to see past learners returning to take higher level courses and also to hear of learners gaining promotion in recognition of their achievements.

One learner, Kelly, is a care worker in a charity providing care to learning disabled adults. She completed a level 3 management diploma, and within a year of starting her programme was promoted to Area Manager. She is now halfway through her level 5 in leadership. Care work is a low paid industry but one that is vital for the country, so to help people like Kelly to build a career path is rewarding for our team.

### MIDAS TRAINING

Over the past year, we have conducted 10 courses in mini bus driver training. This means that around 40 people involved with Scouting and other youth groups have achieved the MIDAS certificate.



# Company news

## REDESIGN AND CHANGE OF DOMAIN NAME FOR WEBSITES

Throughout 2016 we carried out a programme of moving the hosting and domain names of the websites that we have supported for many years and updating the look of the sites. This includes, International Scout Support Unit, Mityana Community Development Foundation, National Scout and Guide Fellowship, Scout and Guide Fellowship, Bambang Sunshine Project and created a new website for Friends of Scouting Europe.

We particularly thank Sue Beavis for all the work she has done for us on this project.

The final task is the transfer of our own website to a new provider. This will bring to a conclusion a working relationship with Chris Wilkinson from the early days of e-mails and websites and we are grateful for all his help over these years.



# ADIEU

## SAD TO SEE HER GO

Jackie Meakes has left the company after her decision to live in France.

Jackie came to work for us temporarily for two weeks and stayed for 12 years. We thank Jackie for all her work over that time.

The administration of our clients and support workers has been taken over by Cathryn Knight.

## GRAFT THAMES VALLEY

Graft Thames Valley help disabled and disadvantaged people to improve their employability and access to work. We have been able to accommodate Graft in Barn 11, our previous offices.

[www.graft.org.uk](http://www.graft.org.uk)



**BSEL**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in April/May, full details to be agreed. The major item on the agenda will be the future of the Company.

BARN 5, GRAVELLY BRIDGE FARM, GRAZELEY GREEN ROAD, GRAZELEY, RG7 1LG

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# Supporting Scouting



## LOCALLY

### BERKSHIRE SCOUTS PROJECT AFRICA

We have continued to support Project Africa which is a Berkshire Scouts global awareness programme. In addition to the two visits in 2011 and 2015 many Scouts, particularly Cubs and Beavers, have been involved in the Project Africa Challenge Badge. This helps them understand the lives of other children in developing countries. Over 2,000 Challenge Badges have been awarded.

Berkshire Scouts have funded project work at four schools in Uganda and continue to fund teachers' wages at Bukeka Children's Centre and 2nd Thatcham Beaver Scouts still sponsor the education of two deaf children in Kavule.



## USE OF OUR MINIBUS

Our minibus has been used by Scout Groups most half terms during the year and by Duke of Edinburgh Award groups at weekends. It was also used for a couple of week long summer camps as far as north and south Wales. Requests have already been received for the coming year.

## NATIONALLY

### SCOUT AND GUIDE FELLOWSHIP

Nepal Education Support Trust is a non governmental body set up to improve educational opportunities. SAGF have made donations towards their latest efforts to provide families of these children with solar light sets. The first 64 sets have recently been distributed to parents in the village of Chhatwan.

We support the NSGF by sponsoring meetings and the redesign and running of their website [www.nsgf.org.uk](http://www.nsgf.org.uk) / [www.sagf.org.uk](http://www.sagf.org.uk)

### SCOUTS AGAINST MALARIA

One child a minute dies of malaria in Africa.

Launched at the Gilwell Reunion by Hampshire this is now a multi county initiative to raise money to purchase mosquito nets for distribution by African Scouts. The money is raised by Scouts taking part in a number of activities towards a challenge badge. The first nets have already been distributed to families in Kampala by Ugandan Scouts.

We have supported this by help with the promotions and the loan of display material.

[www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk](http://www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk)



### INTERNATIONAL SCOUT SUPPORT UNIT

This unit helps Scouts and their Leaders who wish to participate in international Scouting. We assisted their attendance at the annual Gilwell Reunion with the provision of an international café and helped with a display at the Assistant County Commissioners Conference in London.

[www.issu.org.uk](http://www.issu.org.uk)



## INTERNATIONALLY

### FRIENDS OF SCOUTING EUROPE

There are still a lot of cultural and economic differences between the 'old west' and the 'old east' since the fall of the Berlin wall. This is shown in the small number of Scouts in the 'old east' where Scouting was previously banned.



The objective of FOSE is to increase the number of Scouts in these areas. A substantial fund has been raised by the European Scout foundation from which grants can be made to Scout Groups to increase their activities on offer.

Alan Beavis was invited to become a Super-Friend UK where they are anxious to publicise their aims. We were able to offer a complete new design for their marketing and publicity, with promotional material used for the first time at the Gilwell Reunion and a new website [www.fose-uk.org.uk](http://www.fose-uk.org.uk)

Supporting Scouting (continued)



### MITYANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

We were approached by the foundation which we have supported for many years, for help in transporting goods such as tents, computer equipment and other essential goods for their Scout Group in Mityana. We put them in touch with Aviation Without Borders who arranged for the goods to be airlifted to Entebbe from Newcastle airport. They were able to negotiate reduced air freight and also donated 50% of the cost.

[www.mityanacommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.mityanacommunityfoundation.org.uk)



### BAMBANG SUNSHINE PROJECT

We have provided services for this charity which supports disabled children in the Philippines for many years and now have produced their website for them.

[www.bambangsunshineproject.org.uk](http://www.bambangsunshineproject.org.uk)



You may have noticed a change in style for this newsletter and this is because Don Honey who had produced it and all our graphics and publicity material requirements for many years has now retired. Our many thanks to Don. We are pleased that Sue Beavis has agreed to produce them in future.

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