

OUR PRESENT SITUATION

It was very disappointing to learn in May that the Government had pulled the funding from the Skills Agency to the Providers, Buckingham County Council, which allowed them to provide apprentices training by non-funded agencies, that is to say, by charities. Our contract to provide apprentice training will therefore come to an end in April 2018.

This means that we now only have some minor activities alongside our Support Worker company. It will be a challenge to our new management committee to see whether it is possible to obtain funding and once again offer training to young people who due to their economic or social need help to gain employment.

At our 32nd Annual General Meeting, held in May we received the resignation of Bob Stiff MBE and we want to place on record our appreciation of Bob's service to the company. Not only his role of Director and Trustee since 1992 but also as Company Treasurer for many years. We welcome the election of new members of the General Council which is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

Alan K B Beavis OBE
Chairman



Contract work

SUPPORT WORKER LTD

Support Worker is a company which provides competent and suitable support workers enabling those with a disability to remain in gainful employment. We have at present 14 Support Workers servicing 12 clients. No new clients have been taking on in this year.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

We continue to supply employment services to the County for their employees, administrator, development officers, and sessional workers.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

We learnt in April that due to changes in Government funding Buckinghamshire County Council will no longer be able to employ the company to provide training for apprentices. This will bring to an end many years of successful training as we operate a run-down contract, completing qualifications for those registered before April 2017 and completing twelve month's apprenticeship and training. We are grateful for all the work done by Alan Hestor for the success of this contract with a successful audit by Buckingham C. C.



MIDAS TRAINING

Earlier in the year many leaders had taken the MIDAS test or renewed their MIDAS permit to enable them to drive mini buses in the voluntary sector. Courses will recommence in the spring for leaders and groups that have their own vehicles.



Company matters

At the AGM we were delighted to welcome four new members elected to the Council, all with long service to the Scout Movement. Mark Ashworth, Joe Edwards, Vince Knight and Steve Richards. At the first General council meeting, the following were appointed; Chairman - Alan KB Beavis OBE, Secretary - Mrs Suzanne Stout, Treasurer - Alan Foster, Vice Chairman - Joe Edwards and new Director and Trustee - Vince Knight.

It was also agreed to re-introduce a Management Committee to look after the day-to-day arrangements of the Company. This will comprise of Joe Edward as Chairman, Alan Beavis, Alan Foster, Vince Knight and Steve Richards,

Due to our reduced activities, it became necessary to make Jen Beavis and Viv Tickner redundant. Cathryn Knight will take over the administration along with her duties for Support Worker Ltd.

Supporting Scouting

LOCALLY

BERKSHIRE SCOUTS PROJECT AFRICA

Berkshire Scouts Project Africa which we have supported, has already led two expeditions to Uganda, in 2011 and 2015 and is now planning the one in 2018, The response from Leaders has been staggering with 61 expressing interest in taking part.



This is part of Berkshire Scouts, global awareness programme and includes not taking part in the visits by the Project Africa Challenge Badge of which thousands have been awarded. The commitment has been ongoing with project work funded for four schools as well as teachers' wages and schooling for deaf children.

USE OF OUR MINIBUS

Our minibus has been made available for Scout and other Groups for weekends and summer camps.

INTERNATIONALLY

BAMBANG SUNSHINE PROJECT

This project for which we have supplied website services is still continuing to provide support for disabled children in the Philippines.

www.bambangsunshineproject.org.uk

BULANGIRA DISABLES ASSOCIATION

Although we continue to hold some funds on their behalf, there has been nothing to report recently.

MITYANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Caroline Taylor, the originator of this project is now living in Uganda and has built a new clinic. The Water Harvesting and new dormitories have been completed at the school.

www.mityanacommunityfoundation.org.uk

NATIONALLY

INTERNATIONAL SCOUT SUPPORT UNIT

A meeting has been arranged for members to meet the International Commissioner, Jack Maxton with Manager of the ISSU, George Devine on Saturday 20th January 2018 at the Quarries Campsite, Milton Keynes. Tony Fulford and Alan Beavis look after the administration, membership and finance of the Unit.

www.issu.org.uk



SCOUTS AGAINST MALARIA

One child a minute dies of malaria in Africa.

We have met recently with Marv Takel to discuss progress of this project. We have loaned him our power point projector for presentations to be given to groups around the country.



www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk

NATIONAL SCOUT & GUIDE FELLOWSHIP

Several members attended the World Conference of ISGF in Bali. A report new can be found on their website. Arrangements are well in hand for the next West European gathering to be held at Eastbourne in October 2018.

www.nsgf.org.uk

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING EUROPE

A very successful reception was held at Gillwell Reunion which resulted in 20 new members.



www.fose-uk.org.uk

BRITISH SCOUTS OVERSEAS

We have been storing their equipment after the Gillwell Reunion. An inventory is being prepared and rent and insurance by BSO is being considered if to be long term.

www.britishscoutingoverseas.org.uk

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