

Spring 2010

**This is
Berkshire
Scout
Enterprises
Ltd**



servicing the community

**Scouting
Serving the Community**

Berkshire Scout Enterprises
was formed in 1985
by Adult Members of the Scout Association
in response to growing unemployment
amongst young people

Two New Grants

NEW YEAR STARTS WITH FINANCIAL HELP FOR WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

We have started the year with two new government grants both aimed at young unemployed people. With Future Jobs funding we have to create new jobs in the area and the Berkshire Young Peoples Project requires us to provide opportunities for young unemployed people to carry out voluntary work. Together with our existing contracts, Train to Gain for which we have received funding for another year, Response to Redundancy, IT4U, our Training For Your Future courses and the Gravelly Training Centre, these two new grants puts the company in much better shape. However, we have still got a considerable challenge for the future and with the aid of another grant from the Modernisation fund we have been able to buy in expert outside help to enable us to review the future direction of the company.

FUTURE JOBS FUND GRANT

New jobs to be created

We have been awarded what could become a major new grant for us, from the Department of Works and Pensions. We are to create a minimum of thirty new jobs in the area under the Future Jobs Fund, part of the government's Backing Young Britain campaign. These will be community based positions in environmental and maintenance projects, IT and administration. The young people (18-25) will receive at least the minimum wage for the jobs which will last for six months. As a result, as well as the benefits for the young people, it will enable improvements to be made to various community facilities and properties. The jobs which are for a minimum of twenty five hours a week must be new jobs which would not have happened without the backing of the Future Jobs fund.

TRAIN TO GAIN

Successful outcomes for staff and candidates

Train to Gain is a contract from the Learning and Skills Council to enable volunteers and workers in the voluntary sector to achieve NVQs. We have had considerable success recently, not only with the candidates but also with members of the company. We have had twenty one candidates who have now completed the NVQs, some in Level 3 Management, others in Level 2 Team Leading, Customer Service and Activity Leadership. The successful applicants are spread across Berkshire, Surrey and Hampshire and are involved in Scouting, Guiding and the community sectors.

In the Company, Mick Stocks, Eric Goulding, Suzanne Stout and Harriet Riley have achieved Management and Team Leading awards. In addition Eric, Mick and Nathan Bray who are involved in running the scheme have qualified as A1 Assessors.

More good news is that we have received a renewal of funding for a further year.

BERKSHIRE YOUNG PEOPLES PROJECT

A new opportunity to volunteer

This grant is for a volunteering project available to young people (18-25) who are currently not in employment. The projects undertaken by the volunteers are aimed at the improvement of the environment and helping the local community and will not affect their benefits. The projects are planned to allow the volunteers to acquire a whole range of skills that will prepare them to be ready to take up work. The informal working activities will help them improve social skills such as problem solving, communication and team working, enhancing their value to prospective employers. Regular working hours will prepare them for the time when they are able to obtain full-time employment and they will have valuable experience to add to their CV.

There will also be the opportunity of learning more practical skills such as IT, money management, health and safety, manual handling and first aid. Courses aimed at motivation and confidence building will also be available. The project has already started and runs until September 2010. Our V-Reading project successfully carried out many varied community tasks and we expect this project to be as successful for all concerned.



• Berkshire Young Volunteers at work.

Gravelly Court, Gravelly Bridge Farm, Grazeley Green Road, Grazeley, Reading RG7 1LG
Tel 0118 988 4077 Fax 0118 988 6200 E-mail enquiries@bsel.org.uk

TRAINING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Workplace risk courses for charities

We provide for charity and community based organisations a series of courses based on taking the risk out of the workplace. These include first aid, health and safety at work, risk assessments, fire safety, manual handling working and managing safety, minibus driving as well as courses on motivation, confidence and self esteem.

Courses are run by qualified tutors at our own training centres or can be carried out at the organisation's own premises.

Details of the courses can be obtained by calling (0118) 9884077 or e-mailing enquiries@bsel.ork.uk

IT4U

New sponsor required

This is a project for young people, 16-25, who are interested in IT and aimed particularly at those who are unemployed or disadvantaged. It operates two evenings a week at a Resource Centre in Bracknell and is part funded by the V-Charity, the government body for young volunteers and match funded by ASAP Computers.

Our present contract runs out in March and unless we can find new sponsors to match-fund with the V-Charity, it is likely that the project will close.

REVIEW OF THE COMPANY'S FUTURE

Help from the Modernisation fund

For various reasons the company has reached a crossroads in its existence and we have taken the opportunity of a grant from the Modernisation fund to review the future direction of the company. This has resulted in a great deal of thought and activity in the company culminating in a meeting of the Board and Council, using the services of outside consultant Amanda Carpenter to plan future operations. These are now actively being pursued to ensure we secure a sustainable future for the company.

RESPONSE TO REDUNDANCY

Getting people back to work

We are still getting people come forward for this free scheme for people facing redundancy or who have been unemployed for less than six months. We can provide a complete service from initial advice and guidance to skills training to change careers or upgrading skills and knowledge with the aim of enabling a quick return to the workplace. We are acting as agents in Berkshire for Chichester College who have the contract for the South East from the Learning and Skills Council. The scheme is managed and facilitated for us by Alan Hester.

PREMISES

Northway House, Bracknell

We have recently signed a new five year lease for this resource centre in Bracknell.

Northcourt Avenue, Reading

We have let our offices to the Graft Thames Valley which has had to move from its earlier premises. Graft has received a big lottery grant for three years to provide ways into work for people with disabilities.

GRAVELLY TRAINING CENTRE Somewhere for your next meeting?

Our purpose built Gravelly Training Centre, which is adjacent to our offices in Gravelly Court, Grazeley, is gradually being used by other organisations. It is available to hire for meetings or training sessions of up to 25 people. It is self contained with its own toilet block and a well equipped kitchen for self catering or catering can be provided. It has the latest audio-visual equipment and everything needed for a training course or meeting.

For bookings and enquiries call (0118) 988 1707 or e-mail enquiries@gravellytrainingcentre.org.uk



SUPPORTING SCOUTING

Locally – Backing Berkshire

BERKSHIRE SCOUTS – PROJECT AFRICA

We are delighted to be involved in the Berkshire Scouts 2011 Uganda expedition, Project Africa. This has linked with the charity Building Brighter Futures, which was started after the UK Uganda Network Millennium expedition led by Eric and Marie Goulding, founders of Building Brighter Futures. Whilst in Uganda, Berkshire Scouts will be supporting ongoing works by this charity with two special schools, the Kavule School for the Deaf and the Bukeka Children's Centre.

As well as the community work to be carried out by those Scouts taking part in the expedition, it is also hoped to involve other Scouts in the County who will be asked to collect books to provide a library in each of the two schools. There will also be an opportunity to sponsor chickens that are being kept to provide eggs for the children. It is also hoped to find sponsors for the camping equipment to be used by the Berkshire Scouts on the expedition which will be left behind for use by local Scout Groups.

FACILITATING SERVICES FOR BERKSHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

As well as facilitating the employment of the County's Local Development Officer, Harriet Riley, we also

provide facilities for a part time administrator, Jackie Meakes, for Berkshire County Scout Council. Both Harriet and Jackie helped out at the recent Group Scout Leaders Conference held at Wokefield Park.

Other Services

We also continue to provide training courses available to Scouters in the County: First Response, first aid and incident training and MIDAS providing certification for those who drive minibuses. We also provide the administrative back-up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in the County.

Nationally

Scout Adult Support

We have been assisting with our sponsorship, the change to Scout Adult Support for the International Scout Fellowship, UK Africa Scout Fellowship incorporating the UK Uganda Network and the UK Adult Scout Alliance.

Scout Holiday Homes Trust

We have produced and sponsored the Trust's Winter Holiday Action newsletter.

Internationally

Building Brighter Futures

This charity who we have helped with financial donations and who will be linking with Berkshire Scouts for their expedition in 2011, have an expedition of their own to Uganda this coming March.

Bambang Sunshine Project

We will be producing the Spring Newsletter for this project as well as some saleable material based on cards produced by the children who benefit from the charity in the Philippines.

Website

Our website has been drastically overhauled and we think greatly improved. Judge for yourself by going to www.bsel.org.uk

AGM

Will all members please note that the Annual General Meeting of Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd will be held on Thursday 29th April.

For the most up to date information on the activities of BSEL

Visit our website
www.bsel.org.uk



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