

**This is
Berkshire
Scout
Enterprises
Ltd**



Spring 2012

serving 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

On the Brink

The last year has been one of the most difficult in the history of the Company, due to the closure of projects and the slowness of new funding streams being available to us.

This was due to two main factors, caused by policies of the present and previous governments. One of the first actions by the Coalition government was to close the Future Jobs Fund, where we were employing thirty 18 to 24 year olds who were undertaking community work. We were waiting further funding to employ thirty more, which would have made the project financially viable when this decision was made. This meant we had to close the project in March 2011.

Prior to that, the previous government introduced a minimum Contract Value for Providers of £500,000 affecting Train to Gain, where we were actively and successfully assisting those in the voluntary sector, including many Scout and Guide Leaders, to gain NVQ qualifications. To soften the blow we were allowed to carry over our remaining contract value, for which we linked up with Buckingham County Council – Culture and Leisure Services.

These actions resulted in large scale redundancies of those employed to conduct the schemes and reduced our organisation to skeleton staff. We had hoped to offset these losses to some degree with an offer to be a Specialist Intervention Provider to A4e but although we were signed as a sub-contractor, we have had no referrals to date. However the tide has started to turn as we discover opportunities for us to once again to help those who for once reason or another are not in sustainable employment or are in the NEETS Group – Not in Education, Employment or Training. This is a growing number, particularly with 14 to 18 year olds who are opting out of school or college. The trend to provide funding to the infrastructure organisations does not, regrettably, provide the funding to give direct to our customer group. In this newsletter we set out for you details of our funding opportunities and other items that we should highlight.

Alan K B Beavis OBE - Chairman

HELPING READING GET ON-LINE

We opened an On-line Centre at Northcourt Avenue as part of the UK On-line campaign designed to show anyone in the community that using a computer to access the internet is easier than they may think. It was open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.30am to 3.30pm and the Centre, managed by Pat Farr, helped people get to grips with computers at a pace to suit themselves, with easy to follow steps. And it was completely free. It opened in September with funding until the middle of February.



GRAVELLY TRAINING CENTRE

Our purpose built training centre located adjacent to our offices in Grazeley is available to hire for meetings or training sessions of up to 25 people.

For bookings or enquiries call 0118 9884077 or e-mail enquiries@bsel.org.uk



**“We discovered
a whole
new world
– online!”**

Betty, 81
and Holly, 7

**Go ON
spend an
hour with us**
and see what
you could
do online!

- Keep in touch
- Follow your hobbies
- Research your family history
- Save money
- Get healthy
- Find a job



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

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Skills Funding Agency NVQs

This is the spill-over from our Train-to-Gain contract for NVQs in conjunction with Buckingham County Council – Culture and Leisure Services. Alan Hester is responsible for all aspects of recruitment, training and awards of NVQs, with handling back-up from Jackie Meakes. To date we have 20 learners with a target of 80 by July.

Department of Works and Pensions - A4e

We have signed as a sub-contractor with A4e who have been awarded the contract for the work programme in the Thames Valley. We are still negotiating on the level of training that we will be required to provide and we have not yet received any referrals.

Berkshire Young Peoples Project (BYPP2011)

We will be operating this on behalf of Graft who will receive funding from Reading College. This will be updated from our previous similar project using the resource centre at Northcourt Avenue. Pat Farr will be the project Co-ordinator assisted by Jackie Meakes when necessary. We are looking to recruit unemployed 19 year olds but there may be a need to concentrate on 16 to 18 year olds, which means our staff/volunteers will need to be CRB checked. The participants will undertake a variety of in-house training and outside work placements.



BIONIC

Bionic is a personalised plan of activity to support and engage young people aged 14-18 who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities in the NEET group. We have a sub-contract with West Berkshire Training Consortium. The project will be run in Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell and the young people will attend 12 hours a week. Some time will be spent at the Resource Centre and the rest on project work.

BIONIC – PLUS

This is an extension of the Bionic programme but intended for unemployed people between the ages of 19 and 24. Again participants will receive individual plans to help them in preparing for work, including courses for creditation and work placements with charity organisations.

SUPPORTING SCOUTING



Locally – Backing Berkshire

Berkshire County Scout Council

We have been providing a part-time administrator for the County Scout Council as well as facilitating the employment of the County Local Development Officer.

Separately, we have been providing the following services:

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

These Awards seem to be growing in popularity amongst Scouts in the County and as a result the issuing of packs for the scheme has been very busy. Suzanne Stout, who provides these services for us, believes the new electronic system is helping considerably.

First Response Training

The Company continues to provide 1st Response courses in First Aid and Incident Management for Scout and Guide Leaders. This training enables Leaders to achieve a First Aid certificate, which is a requirement of the Scout Association Adult Training scheme for Leaders. We have been busy organising these courses particularly as the certificate has to be renewed every three years. To enquire for bookings phone 0118 988 4077.



MIDAS



The Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme course is aimed at Leaders or others who are likely to transport people in a minibus for which a MIDAS certificate is a pre-requisite. It consists of the theory of minibus driving, instruction, demonstration and practice followed by a practical test. A full driving licence is required. To make a booking on a forthcoming course phone 0118 988 4077

Nationally

International Scout Active Support

One of BSEL's Directors, Mick Stocks has been appointed Manager of the International SAS. Mick has of course been widely involved in international Scouting since his first expedition to Norway in 1963. He has been to World Scout Jamborees in Canada, Australia, Chile and the Netherlands and was Head of Logistics for the 21st Jamboree in the UK. He has more recently been involved in Berkshire Scouts Project Africa.

Alan Beavis has stood down as acting Manager of the ISAS after successfully managing the transition from International Scout Fellowship to ISAS. He remains on the ISAS committee as Chairman. We have provided new banners, roll-up displays and new flyers to the ISAS which exists to facilitate opportunities for members of the Scout Association to participate in international Scouting. We are also providing storage for tents from Holland prior to dispatch to the Wild in Botswana 2012 expedition together with filling a container.

UK Adult Scout Alliance

We have sponsored and supported various meetings of the Alliance and will be hosting their forthcoming AGM.

Internationally

Project Africa 2011



We congratulate Berkshire Scouts on their successful expedition to Uganda, which we were pleased to support in a number of ways. Whilst they were there, the Scouts carried out community work at two special schools, the Kavule School for the Deaf and the Bukeka Children's Centre. They also found time to meet with Ugandan Scouts and in a well deserved break from the project to enjoy activities such as white water rafting on the Nile, trekking in the Mount Elgon National Park and horse riding along the banks of the Nile. Scout sections across Berkshire as part of the Global Awareness Programme, donated 1000 chickens for the chicken coop built by the Scouts at the Bukeka Children's Centre. The chickens will provide food for the school as well as a source of income by selling eggs through local markets. To learn more about the project go to their website www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/projectafrica.

For up to date information

Visit our website

www.bsel.org.uk