

Scouting in the Community for 30 years

In 1984, with the country at the height of a recession and growing unemployment, a group of Berkshire Scout Fellowship members got together to look at the possibility of forming a community programme. This was prompted by a call from the Chief Scout, Sir William Gladstone, to help in the community with companies Limited by Guarantee, to run, where appropriate, government funded programmes. By May 1985, Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd had been formed, with Chairman Alan Beavis and charity status obtained.



SCOUT HELP

The new company started with two small programmes approved by the Manpower Service Commission. The first programme was in conjunction with Age concern, carrying out gardening and household repairs for elderly and infirm people. The second project was for a building and maintenance team to carry out work on Scout and Community Association properties. We also operated Neighbourhood Energy Action providing loft insulation and draught proofing.

TRAINING AND ENTERPRISE

These two projects ended in 1988 when the government closed its community programme. Training and Enterprise Councils were established including Thames Valley Enterprise. We then became a provider for Employment Action in Reading, Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

WORKSHOP AND TRAINING CENTRE

In 1988 we opened a workshop and training centre in the former Huntley & Palmers' premises in Gasworks Road. Also in that year we linked with sister company Scout Enterprises Western and transferred our contractual work to them.

FOUR BUILDING TEAMS

In 1992 with the revival of Community Action we operated four building teams for the unemployed in Reading, Bracknell, Slough and High Wycombe but now with NVQs. We were also involved in new government programmes, Work Based Learning and Skill Train.

NEW SOURCE OF FUNDING

We were able to bid for an alternative means of funding from the European Social Fund for our work with the unemployed and those disadvantaged in the labour market. Programmes that were devised and funded in this way include;

Stepping Stones – for those unemployed for less than six months.

Capacity Building – to provide training for staff Integration – to develop support for other charities.

Re-lease – a pilot for New Deal for disabled people.

Character Building – outdoor activities using the Longridge Boat Centre.

Building Futures – a series of occupational courses to enhance employability.

Drive – to teach unemployed people to drive.

Re-boot – a hands-on workshop for building and renovating computers with the spin-off of providing computers for charities and volunteer organisations.

CAREERS CONVENTION AND CENTRE FOR UNEMPLOYED

In 1994 we organised the Reading Careers Convention and became Managing Agents of the Reading Centre for the Unemployed on behalf of Reading Borough Council before returning it to the Council.

RECYCLING BICYCLES

In 1995 we became Managing Agents on behalf of Berkshire County Council of Lifecycles workshop in Slough. This provided practical training for long term unemployed and made renovated cycles available for low-income groups until the workshop closed in 2001.

RECYCLING FURNITURE

In 1998 we became Managing Agents for a Recycling Furniture Warehouse in Tilehurst to provide furniture to families referred by local welfare agencies. We worked with the Berkshire Probation Service and the Reading Homeless Programme before handing it over to a local church as a community project.

TRAIN TO GAIN

This was a government scheme to encourage businesses to train their staff to NVQ level. When it was extended to include the voluntary sector we were awarded a contract to provide training and assessment to NVQs level 2 and 3.

IT4U

This project was for young people (16 to 25), especially those unemployed or disabled who were interested in IT. It was funded by the **V** charity and operated from a resource centre in Bracknell.

VOLUNTEERING READING

With an award from **V** the youth volunteering charity, we recruited unemployed young people (18-25) to become involved in volunteering.

RESPONSE TO REDUNDANCY

This is a service for people facing redundancy or unemployed for less than six months, to help them get back to work as soon as

possible. We act as local agents for Chichester College.

BERKSHIRE YOUNG PEOPLES PROJECT

We operated this project on behalf of GRAFT and provided a variety of in-house training and outside work placements.

FUTURE JOBS FUND

Funded by the Department of Works and Pensions, we helped young unemployed people by employing them in useful tasks for the community.

BIONIC

We were in partnership with West Berkshire Training and NACRO for this government funded training programme for young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS).

HELPING READING GET ON LINE

We operated an on-line centre as part of UK On-line designed to show anyone in the community that using a computer was easier than they think.

JOB CLUB

Run in association with GRAFT UK, we helped people with disabilities to find work.

APPRENTICESHIPS

In partnership with Buckingham County Council we provide work based learning, designed around the needs of employers, leading to recognised national qualifications, such as NVQs.

SUPPORT WORKER LTD

This new company which we started in 2013 provides support workers to people who are working with a disability. The support workers, who we recruit and employ, carry out the functions which our clients are unable to fulfil because of their disability, which means they are able to have sustainable employment.

AWARDS

Over the years, we have had many inspections of our programmes from OFTED. We were awarded MATRIX – quality standards for information, advice, service and annual Self-Assessment. We were shortlisted for a national award in a competition for success using ESF funding and also in 2005 we were winners of the Edge Employers Award for giving unemployed people a helping hand during difficult times.

SUPPORTING SCOUTING

Around the World



BACKING BERKSHIRE

From its very formation it was agreed that that Company would support Scouting whenever it could.

It maintained an office at the Reading Scout & Guide headquarters and has worked with the Trustees and Management Committee in maintaining and upgrading the facilities used by local Scout and guides.

Building Teams

Our building teams have carried out projects at Scout Headquarters throughout the County together with maintenance and general work at Earleywood, the county training Centre and Campsite.

Getting on-line

The company has supplied members of the County Scout Council with computers and other equipment. We sponsored the setting up and maintenance of the County website.

Vehicle Loan

We have provided equipment and sponsored vehicle loan for many camps including WINGS and international expeditions such as Slovenia 2004.

Our 12 seater minibus has been available for use by Scout Groups.

Driver Training

We introduced MIDAS, minibus driver training for Scout Leaders and others who take young people on activities.

1st Response

We also provided 1st Response courses for Leaders in first aid and incident management required by the Scout Association.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

We carried out administrative duties for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme on behalf of the County Scout Council.

ASSISTANCE AROUND THE UK

Scout & Guide Fellowship UK

We have sponsored and supported the Scout & Guide Fellowship UK by hosting meetings providing publicity and marketing materials.

In 2003 we facilitated the arrangements for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship at Chalfont Heights.

Toys for Smiles

We provided storage facilities, administrative assistance, marketing and publicity for this 60th anniversary project of the International Fellowship by the National Scout & Guide Fellowship/Scout & Guide Fellowship UK which involved collecting and shipping over 17,000 toys for Syrian children in refugee camps in Jordan.

Scout Holiday Homes Trust

For many years we edited and produced Holiday Action the newsletter of the Scout Holiday Homes Trust as well as brochures and other publicity material.

Wansbeck Scout Enterprises

We assisted Wansbeck Scout District in setting up Wansbeck Scout Enterprises in Northumberland.

HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

UK-Uganda Network

From its inception the company supported the network administratively and sponsored its meetings, together with the UNITE programme in 1993 providing child immunisation. It also sponsored and provided publicity for Uganda 2000, where 150 Scouts visited Uganda participating in community work, community and Scouting activities. Similar expeditions have been held since.

Bulangira Disables Association

As a result of Uganda 2000, the Company joined a partnership with BDA UK Project Team, the Uganda Scout Association and Friends of Scouting Uganda, to provide a vocational workshop for the Association, which also has a large Scout Group.

Mityana Scout and Community Enterprises

The Company sponsors this project in Uganda which is developing a plot of land as a Scout base and Community centre.

Africa Network Scout Fellowship

The company was involved in setting up this Fellowship, sponsoring the formation meeting and providing publicity and display materials together with computers.

Bambang Sunshine Project

The Company has supported this project which provides support for families with disabled children in the Philippines by producing their website together with newsletters and publicity material to raise funds in the UK.

YES Project – Kenya

This charity was set up to provide AIDS orphans with accommodation, clothing, food, schooling and Scouting. We arranged sponsorship for their first and second years and provided marketing and publicity to attract further funding.

British Scout Groups Abroad

We produced Far and Wide an information sheet on behalf of the Scout Association for British Groups Abroad until it became a digital and downloadable publication.