



EAST SUSSEX NEWS

1st Quarter 2018

County Commissioner



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018.

The most exciting news is that our Census figures show a growth across the County of over 4%. We now have just over 8000 young people and adults involved in Scouting across the County. This growth is down to all of you working together on reducing waiting lists and creating brand new opportunities, be that with opening new sections or increasing capacity in existing ones. We've still a long way to go (I'd like to get to 12,000 by 2020) but I am sure that with all of us working together to reach out to young people and adults alike, we'll get more of

them involved in what we already know is a great 'hobby'!

The new County website went live on the 1st March and has been designed with the focus being on young people and adults already involved in Scouting in East Sussex. It is a place where adult volunteers will be able to book their courses and for leaders, helpers and young people to find out what is going on across the County and also who to speak to. Access it [HERE](#)

After the last newsletter, one of our leaders asked the question "who are the county team and what do they do?" I have attached a document with this newsletter which hopefully answers these questions plus what you can expect from us.

New Appointments

Mike Beesley has taken on the role of ACC Scouts. Mike has a wealth of Scouts experience having been a Scout leader for many years. I am genuinely excited at what Mike is going to do

with the Scout section, particularly the joint working we have planned with the Explorer section.

Mike is joined by Dean Layen as County Scout Leader. Working with Chris Weller, I know that they have a number of Scout activities in the planning stage. This leaves Mike to concentrate on supporting all the ADC Scouts in delivering good quality programmes across the County.

Unfortunately Sharon Allen and Lucy Collins have stood down as part of the ACC Inclusion team. This just leaves Vic Leon-Cutler but I am hopeful we'll be able to recruit another person to help Vic out in this very important but challenging role.

I am now looking forward to the new chapter in 2018, with a new HQ strategy being published and a new 'brand' going live in May.

Thank you all again for all you do in giving skills for life for the young people of East Sussex.





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County Youth Commissioner

February was full of all things 'YouShape' with every district hosting an event to find out the views of the young people from their area!



The idea behind it was to help the district teams get to grass roots and find out exactly what their youth members are after and want to get out of their scouting lives!

Senlac kicked it off with their district cub forum where they had their oldest sixers represent their packs on activities including group and district events. They were even asked what their ideal leader would look like!

Hailsham and Heathfield ran the second ever full district forum in East Sussex, with all sections involved! The cubs ran a dragons den activity

where the winner, chosen by the young people, was a giant nerf gun war with 6 different zones and a whole district camp with a huge variety of activities. The scouts then decided on what activities they would like to do over the next year, both as individual sections as well as at district camps.

Finding out their views doesn't need to be a dedicated activity for a full day, Hastings & Rye district are running theirs during their trip to PGL this month!

Youshape isn't just for February, it should become a regular thing within your programme and with the help from your local youth commissioner team we can help this become a reality.

If you would like more information or advice, feel free to drop me an email at Jodie.bennett@eastsussexscouts.org.uk





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Deputy County Commissioner / County Active Support Manager

We continue to bring SAS Units across the County together with meetings arranged with the District coordinators/managers to build a database of skills available to support the County and Districts. SASU members are frequently seen as those that we call on when the tea needs to be made, however John wants this opinion to change. Most members of the SASUs are experienced leaders with a wealth of knowledge in all areas of scouting, from basic scouting skills such as fire lighting, map and compass, first aid and knotting, however many have additional skills in programme planning, administration, trusteeship and other areas of Scouting. Perhaps the SASUs should be the default role for parents or other adult volunteers who cannot spare the week-in week-out commitment that we sometimes need, but can be called on for specific skills or assistance as and when required. Many SASU members have time during the day as well as during the evenings and are only too pleased to be asked to help on an ad-hoc basis. All we need to do is just ask them.

If you want to be part of the County SAS Unit or want more advice about recruiting into a SASU then please drop me an email at beccimarchant@care4free.net





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Chair of County Executive Committee

At the last County Executive meeting as well as receiving updates from the relevant leads, we also covered some of the Governance issues for the County. This follows on from a recent Regional meeting of County Chairs.

We are all facing the same issues over the GDPR and it does appear there will be some (but limited) Guidance from HQ. Their view is that as each Group is "... an autonomous organisation" (POR Rule 3.22 b) it is for each Group Executive to ensure compliance. As a Region we did express our disappointment in this approach.

We have started to develop a County Risk Register (this is different to risk assessments), which if you are not sure what the purpose of a risk register is, think about the recent OXFAM crisis, did they highlight the risk of adverse publicity? Once you know what your high risks are, you can then manage them.

We also realised that we are lacking a County Health and Safety Advisor, so if you know anyone with a health and safety background that is keen to get involved, please let me know.

Going back to the OXFAM issue and similar reported incidents since, this again highlights the need for good Governance. Good Governance is not hushing up stories and hoping they will go away. The Charity Commission have highlighted what good Governance looks like in the document "Charity Governance Code" You can find a copy by searching for this phrase on the internet.

Linking in with this is our own POR and it is important that Trustees are aware of their responsibilities under this as well.

But the good news is that through Good Governance we can continue to give young people some amazing opportunities through Scouting in 2018, so thank you and keep up the good work.





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Activities

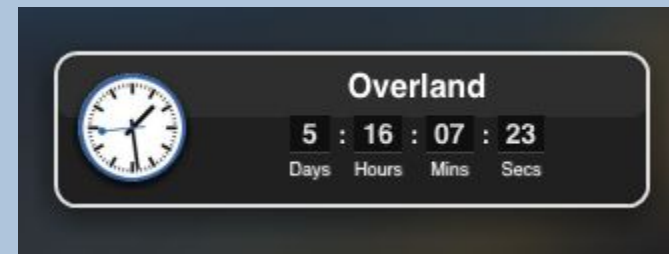
The winter months are a busy time when it comes to Activities with lots of planning and preparation being undertaken.

A lot of my time in the Autumn and Winter has been taken up with planning the Overland Hike for the Scout and Explorer sections. It is our 51st year but we are still making changes to the event behind the scenes to make it better for the young people that take part.

I have been working with a range of local activity providers on the content of the Tune-up weekend in April. I am hoping that we will have a range of adventurous activities to share with you that you will then be able to offer to your young people. This will include a range of watersports and on land activities all based in Sussex.

We have been embracing the 'Youth Shaped' agenda and undertaken a survey of what adventurous activities Scouts and Explorers want the County to put on. The results will be analysed and we hope that we can offer the young people the experiences they really want!

A quick reminder about Nights Away. Make sure you get any applications for new permits or renewals in with plenty of time to spare before your summer camps. Renewals need to show you have continued to be active since gaining your permit. New permits (or upgrades) are likely to require a practical assessment which will take longer.



At time of publishing!





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International

Some exciting times ahead on the International front, and I am not just talking about Jamboree. We have some fantastic trips coming up this year Brighton and Hove District are off to Holland for the away leg of DDQ at the end of March. July sees a group of Seahaven Scouts and Explorers flying off to Canada as part of their long running exchange programme. Also 6 groups from Hailsham and Heathfield District are off to Sweden as part of TriCamp which is a 3 yearly camp with English, Swedish and Dutch Scouts and the East Sussex Roveraway patrol also leave for their adventure in the Netherlands along with 3000 other young people from over 20 countries. Just this week we have signed off initial paperwork for a short 2 day expedition to France.

Looking forward to 2019 plans are being prepared to take Beavers abroad. But I will let the ACC Beavers let you know more about that.

So as you can see, I can report a healthy number of International event of all shapes and sizes are happening in the County.

A favour please, I think you will agree that your new County website is looking fantastic, to keep it up to date please can let me have photos

and a few lines about your International activities and events whether they take place in the far flung parts of the globe or a really great activity in your meeting place.

Mark Lloyd
ACC(Int)

24th WSJ - USA - The adventure has begun...

The East Sussex Unit and the East Sussex patrols joining Kent for the 24th World Scout Jamboree has been launched! On the 24th February 2018, 54 scouts and 6 leaders came together to begin this incredible journey. It was clear, from the very beginning, everyone felt privileged to be there. New friendships were quickly formed after a couple of rounds of speed dating, some blindfolded trust exercises and a game of 'Moose, Moose, Grizzly Bear' After lunch, everyone was introduced to Bootcamp, the first of many vigorous exercise routines, created by leader, Emma. Not one person escaped without a sweat! Everyone also had the opportunity to design a unit logo, receive advice on fundraising and share their hopes for the Jamboree. It was an amazing day, thoroughly enjoyed by all; here's to many more to come!

Robyn Foster - Unit member





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Beavers

County Beaver Funday 23rd June 2018 -
Bushy Wood



We have almost 500 Beavers from across the whole county booked for the County Funday. To ensure they all have the best possible experience we are splitting Bushy Wood into zones and Beavers will stay in the zone for their allocated time. In order for this to work well we need adult/Explorer volunteers to support some of the activities, particularly the craft activities. If you are free on 23rd June 2018 and would like to

help, in any way, could you please contact Helen Preston ACC Beavers



Cubs

Now that the weather has improved (for now !) it is time to start thinking more about

the outdoors and I hope the Cub Scouts of East Sussex will be getting out and about in the next few months.

I have been trying to visit events all around the county including leader meetings, indoor camps, a lovely carol service in Senlac District, a wonderful lego competition in Hailsham and Heathfield and a sixers meeting in Seahaven. At present I am also helping at a Cub Pack in Brighton to keep my hand in!

The County have just run a very successful My Faith Day at Barcombe Church and I must say how well behaved and enthusiastic the cubs and leaders attending were. It certainly didn't involve just sitting around ! A big thank you to the Rev. James Hollingsworth and his team for putting together such a brilliant day. 78 cubs from Ashdown, Senlac, Seahaven, Hailsham and





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Heathfield and Brighton and Hove mixed together for a fun and informative day. The only downside was that 112 were expected (and indeed had paid !) so there was a large drop out on the day. Obviously the event was planned (and budgeted !) on the larger number. I feel it is quite important (but I appreciate not easy) to try and instil a sense of commitment amongst our young people and parents. I appreciate there are difficulties but I don't think it is unreasonable to expect some sort of commitment.

Now to the future:

County Cub Bivouac Camp – Broadstone Warren – Saturday May 19th / Sunday May

20th. Closing Date : Friday April 13th (but if interested in attending please let Martin know now by email) – all money and forms by the above date.

County Cub Activity Weekend – Broadstone Warren – Friday June 8th – Sunday June 10th. Closing date for deposits now passed but entries can still be accepted although please let Martin know before sending in forms Closing date for all money and final numbers: Friday April 27 th

Amberley Day, Communications – Saturday September 15 th – Amberley Museum, West Sussex. Closing Date for entries: Friday July 20th. Details have already been circulated

for these events but if you want to know more please contact martin.piggott@yahoo.co.uk

I look forward to meeting with many of you at these events or within your own Districts as I travel round the county.

I thank all the Cub Leaders who continue to give freely of their time and energy for the benefit of our young people.

Martin Piggott ACC Cub Scouts East Sussex





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Scouts

The Overland is nearly here and is the first County Scout event of the year, after months of training, you need put into practise everything you have learnt and don't forget to work as a team. Good luck to all the teams taking part, enjoy it and have fun.

The next scout County events are Colditz on the 7th and 8th of July, then we have the summer break and come back to the County Camping competition 14th - 16th September and then to finish of with the Scout and Explorer Mountain Bike Challenge Sunday 4th November.

Any other activities you would like to do please let me know and it can either be arranged as a County or District event. Details of the events will be coming out shortly, keep an eye on the new county website for updates and events coming up.

Mike Beesley ACC Scouts - East Sussex

Explorers

Over the past few months I've had the pleasure of attending numerous Chief Scout Award presentations. Without doubt it has been an absolute honour to see Explorer Scouts in East Sussex receive their Diamond and Platinum Awards that they have worked so hard for. It is important that we recognise the achievements of these young people as well as give them the chance to reflect on their experience and for them to learn how to apply this in their careers and life in general as they develop into young adults. Very well done to all the Explorers that gained an Award recently.

This year our focus is improving the link between the Scout and Explorer sections. All leaders work really hard planning and delivering a great programme so it's a real shame when Scouts don't move on to Explorers to take advantage on the great activities and experiences that are offered by Explorer Scouting. We've already made good progress in sharing ideas and information by holding joint Scout and Explorer County Meetings. This is a practice that we would like to see





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echoed at District level. Please contact your local ADC Scouts/DESC or DC to arrange this.

Looking ahead I'm always keen to hear about Explorer activities, Summer Camps and Expeditions. Please let me know what you're up to so I can shout about it on our shiny new website. Finally a huge thank you to all the Adult Leaders and volunteers that help deliver experiences for Explorer Scouts in East Sussex. You're doing great and your time and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Grant Kerwin-Nye - ACC Explorers

acc.explorers@eastsussexscouts.org.uk

Network

Mason French and Joe Firth are the Assistant County Commissioners for Scout Network in East Sussex County Scouts. The below is written by Mason:

"So this is the first time Scout Network have been included in the County Newsletter – So here is a proper introduction.

In case you're asking "What is Network?" – Network Scouts are scouts aged 18-25 years old.

Also a "Network Scout Unit" is also known as a "NSU" – Just in case I use that in the below message.

Since our appointment myself and Joe have been Networking (pardon the pun) across the county, trying to establish the current Network situation in each District. When we joined the team we had knowledge of our local areas – Mason in Ashdown District and Joe in Eastbourne District, which definitely gave us a good area to start with.

Since we have nailed our local areas, we've begun to reach out to other districts and get information on what is actually happening in our county.

Here's some statistics of what we have achieved in the last quarter (and a bit).

As of the beginning of July 2017 we have:

- 251 Scout Network Members
- 5 Network Scout Units (spread across all 8 districts)

Now in March 2018 we have:

- 313 Scout Network Members (increased by 62)





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- 7 Network Scout Units (spread across all 8 districts) (increased by 2 units now fully open) – With another unit to be created hopefully by the end of the year/early 2019.

“What’s next for Network in East Sussex?” I hear you cry (I can’t actually hear you, but it’s the thought that counts). Well; at ‘Tune-Up’ the Leaders Training/Skills Weekend on the 21st April 2018 (yes it is open to Network members!), Network will be firmly on the agenda.

Following this, post April, we want to iron out the creases in Network, including assisting the new units in the area to get firmly on their feet, namely Senlac NSU and Lewes (Plumpton College) which is running as a joint Explorer and Network unit.

Hopefully this is a good insight into what those “Network Guys” have been upto during this quarter of the year.

Plenty of other plans in the pipeline, stay tuned to our Twitter @esaccnetwork: or drop us an email on: esaccnetwork@gmail.com if you want some further info or have any questions.

I’ll leave you with a lovely picture of me and Joe, taking our first (not awkward) selfie whilst being watched by everyone in a pub.





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Current Vacancies

We have some really exciting volunteer opportunities if you fancied a new challenge.

These are:

- DC Brighton and Hove (to start in September 2018)
- DC Eastbourne (to start early 2019)
- County Safety Consultant
- County PR and Social Media Manager
- Grant Applications Executive
- County International Committee member

If you are interested in any of these roles or know of someone who would, then please feel free to email the County office for more detail.

Last but not least - Don't forget to book into the Adults skills and social weekend (Tune-Up) 21st/22nd April 2018 and remember you don't have to come for the whole weekend.



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