

## County Commissioner

First of all I would like to thank Christine for leading the County since Ben so sadly passed away. I would also like to look to the skies and thank Ben for laying the foundations for East Sussex Scouts to be more youth led. Following both of these great people is an honour and privilege.

I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me. As well as passing on some thoughts on where I think the County can continue moving forward.

First of all let me say a little about myself. I have been involved with Scouting as an adult (having previously been a Cub, Scout and a Venture Scout) since taking on the role of Akela in 2000. The roles I have also performed are at Group level as a GSL, at District as ADC Cubs, as an Assistant Explorer Leader and more recently as a District Network Leader. I have also had the privilege of working at County level as a Network Commissioner. I have led expeditions to Macau, Hong Kong and China as well as leading the East Sussex Unit to represent the UK at two World Scout Jamborees in Sweden and Japan.

Well that is enough about me. Now where do I think East Sussex is going as we all work towards realising the Scout Associations Strategy to 2018. As you all know, we have 4 areas to concentrate on - Growth, Community Impact, Inclusivity and Youth Shaped. Over the next few months, working with Groups and Districts with the support of the County team, some of the ambitions I have are: to reinvigorate the role of the Youth Commissioners (including Assistant Youth Commissioners) at District and County level. We will all have to look at where we deliver Scouting ensuring that we are accessible to anyone. If someone wants to be in Scouting, we must make it available to them. I also want to make sure that all of you who are in a leadership role have the necessary tools to carry out your role, the training to give you confidence to deal with all situations and to support you when you need it. But most of all I want to continue the legacy that Ben set in making East Sussex Scouting youth focussed and youth led.

Over the next few months, I will be meeting the County Team which includes the DC's to set out how I think working together we can: grow, including reaching the ambition of having at least 4 girls in each section by 2018, make sure all of our communities know that we exist, provide high quality scouting to all communities including for those who may have differing needs and to make sure we are all accountable to the young people in all the sections.

Finally, as 2017 gets into full swing, we will be looking to run the Jamboree selection process in preparation for the 24th World Scout Jamboree to the USA in 2019. We will also look to make sure that the vacancies that exist in District and County teams are filled.

As this Chronicle is published I will have taken on the responsibility as County Commissioner; a role that fills me with excitement and enthusiasm. I hope that you will embrace the inevitable changes and challenges that will come and I look forward to working with you all.

John Easton

## Practical Managers Course

The Regional Services Team is running a Practical Managers course for volunteers from East Sussex on Saturday 4th March 2017.

It's for current and potential managers – and is a great way to give yourself some time and space to think about the bigger picture of your role. It is also a great opportunity to meet others in the County to benefit from their experiences.

We also hope some of the Youth Commissioners will come to find out more about management in Scouting.

Follow the link below for more information on the course and to book on – it is straightforward and takes about 5 minutes.

<https://practical-managers-east-sussex.eventbrite.co.uk>

Contact David to discuss: 07974 764817 or email on [david.floud@scouts.org.uk](mailto:david.floud@scouts.org.uk)

David Floud  
Growth and Development Officer (East Sussex)  
The Scout Association

## County Executive

At the last meeting on 10 January we welcomed John Easton to his first meeting as County Commissioner elect, who gave us a flavour of his 'direction of travel' for the future of scouting in the county, when he takes over on 1st February. No doubt he will be saying more elsewhere in this newsletter. We are extremely pleased and lucky to have John as our leader with his experience and enthusiasm, and the Committee wished him every success for the future.

At the same time we recorded our grateful thanks to Christine for holding the reins, again, for the last few months.

Scout HQ's are currently promoting the benefits of 'good governance' in the movement and at a recent regional scout meeting we discussed what that meant for groups, districts and county. At county level our objective will be to ensure that we have policies in place, (nothing grand or too sophisticated), to provide sound transparent and informed management of our affairs. That we have people with the right skills and experience on the Executive, (or Board of Trustees), who will make a positive contribution to support the delivery of quality scouting. Hopefully Districts and Groups will embrace that concept too, and County will help wherever we can.

Contrary to original forecasts the financial outcome of the Cub 100 event has turned out to be nearly as successful as the event itself. Together with West Sussex we made a surplus, which will also cover the costs of producing a DVD of the event for participants. Well done to the organisers.

Our general financial position to date remains good and we would like to see more spent on adult training this year. Broadstone Warren also made a surplus in 2016 of c £20,000 which will be spent on infrastructure on the site...drainage in particular! We also agreed to examine our strategy for the continuing work of our Development Officer David Floud when the current 3 year programme comes to an end. Any thoughts on that please let us know. We noted with pleasure that new Dc's have been appointed for Hastings & Rye, Lewes and Ashdown. There are still pending vacancies, so if you know of anyone who would be suitable contact John.

We have sent comments on the Charity Commissioners consultation paper on revision to its code for charities, which of course affects us all; in which we said any revision needs to be short, simple and workable and 'one size' does not fit all!

David Powell  
County Chairman

## Overland Hike 2017

The Overland Hike is a 2 day competition hike for Scouts over 12 years old and Explorer Scouts from East and West Sussex. You can find the [INFORMATION AND RULE BOOK](#)

The application form for entering teams can be found by clicking on this [APPLICATION FORM](#) link

In previous years the information has been posted to all ADC and DESCs however in an attempt to reduce our costs these will be distributed electronically by means of this message. Please could you share this with your scouting contacts, especially if they are not using electronic communication.

Albert Hinton  
ACC Activities

## International Affairs

I have just returned from the International Forum in Birmingham and among many updates on Moots, Roveraway and Jamborees we were given information on the UK Representation which is a fantastic opportunity for Network members to be trained and supported by the UK Scout Association to represent the Association at international seminars, conferences and events organised by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and some other international organisations and networks. Unfortunately we have just missed the closing date for this year's applications but this is certainly something to start planning ahead for. More information is available on Scout.org under UK Representation.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their part A forms for Visits Abroad. Hopefully I will be receiving more detail soon. If you are thinking of going abroad this year and have not submitted form VA part A, please hurry up, so young people are not disappointed because trips are not approved.

Finally a quick reminder that Jamboree leader team applications should be completed and back with me by 31<sup>st</sup> March. We have not been informed by HQ if we have a full unit or not, this is because Boy Scouts America have not finalised contingent size yet. If you have any questions on visits abroad or anything International please feel free to get in touch.

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## Training

We have a range of courses going on the website in the next few days so please do check on these and get booked in asap. There will be more coming online over the next few weeks as well so keep checking and let other leaders know what's available.

Please check your own record on Compass and make sure you get renewal courses booked in time for your review. Safeguarding and Safety are both available online or face to face in the County. First Response refresher courses are available and can be done as long as you are still in date.

We have seen a lot of Woodbadges awarded in the last few weeks so congratulations to all those leaders. If you feel you should have had a woodbadge but have not received it, please contact me and I will look into it for you.

We are continually looking for people to join the team as Training Advisors and Trainers, so if you are interested, please contact me and we can look at how we make it happen. We will also be running some train the trainer and facilitator training later this year, so if you are interested in taking part keep your eyes open and book on the course when it comes online.

We had a very successful team day in December and I would like to thank the team for coming along and taking part in the day.

Management training is changing this year and we will be sharing information about the changes as we know how it will affect us here in East Sussex. The training will be part of a regional offer but will be advertised on the County website. If you would like to have a look, there are a range of videos as part of the training with workbooks. These are part of a structured training programme which also includes two weekend training courses for face to face modules. It is really exciting to see a more modern approach to adult learning being adopted by the Scout Association and should prove to be a great way for new Managers to complete their training.

We are also looking at some new course offers, not just woodbadge ones, such as "bushcraft survival"; These will again go on the County website as soon as they are arranged.

Good luck with your training and please do let us know if you have an issue at any time

Jan

CTM

## Editor

The next edition of the Chronicle is due in May 2017.

Items closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017