



County Commissioner

Hi all, I just wanted to say a massive 'thanks' to Gordon Titherly who has put together the County 'Chronicle' for many years, passing on County information far and wide, so 'thanks' Gordon.

The format of this newsletter and the title is not the finished article as we are still trying to work through how it is going to look, who will edit it and what is going to be included. However, until that has been decided, I thought it important to send out some of the things that have been going on since May and what is planned for the future.

Update – I was fortunate (!) enough to attend most AGMs, though I missed Seahaven due to my 'trusted' campervan breaking down and a date clash with Ashdown means I missed theirs too. The mix of 'formal'

AGMs in Historic settings and combining it with social events gives food for thought for the 'Formal' County AGM which was held in September. You'll be pleased to know I am handing organisation of the County AGM 2018 over to the County Youth Commissioner to put together with her youth team; I'm excited about what is to come, so watch this space or see you there (13/09/18)!

I have also attended a number of Chief Scout and Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentations which is the best part of my role. Of course, celebrating adult volunteers in their length of service or being recognised for their outstanding service is an absolute pleasure but as we are all in Scouting for the young people; presenting their awards always tells me we are on the right path which is reward enough for me.

Appointments - Since the last newsletter, all Districts now have a DC in place with Melissa Thompson taking over Seahaven and Sara Lane taking over at Hailsham & Heathfield. On the County team; I am really pleased that Becci West has taken on the role as my Deputy County Commissioner and Martin Piggott has taken on the role of ACC Cubs. For the Executive Committee - Adrian

Brown has taken over from David Powell and Sharon Bishop has taken on the role of Executive Secretary from David Jones. Thank you so much to both of you for all you have done for the County Executive over many years.

Unfortunately, Andrew Ferdowsian has had to stand down as ACC Scouts and Dammy Sokale has stood down from her Media role (see Vacancies Section).

I am now looking forward to the new chapter in 2018, with a new HQ strategy being published, a new 'brand' for all of us as well as an (hopefully) increase in the Census figures, after all, we always want more young people to enjoy the same Scouting we do.

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



County Youth Commissioner



With YouShape month fast approaching (February 2018) myself and my team are looking forward to attending and hosting many YouShape days and evenings. As most of you will know, '#YouShape Month' is a platform to empower young people to shape their Scouting experience at a local and national level. In East Sussex, we are definitely a huge step ahead of other counties, with Youth Commissioners being active in almost every district and a strong team of Youth Commissioners at county level, we are definitely leading the way on all things #YouShape.

Recently the County and District Youth Commissioners (YCs) attended Gilwell Reunion where there was a chance for all the YCs to get together and discuss ideas on events they have run or would like to run. We had an input from HQ about their next step to embed the idea of Youth Shaped scouting into every week's programme that all sections run.

There will be an information/advisory stand at the Leaders Weekend in April to do with all things #YouShape, it is a chance for you all to come along and ask questions, get programme help, or just find out more about your district YC team and what they have been up to.

As this is my first post, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce my new County YC team: Tom Simon – Deputy County Youth Commissioner, Josh Easton – Assistant CYC (Activities) and Charly Allen – Assistant CYC (Media).

If you would like to come on board with us and help the County team, then let me know, or if you think there is an 18 to 25year old in your district who would like this opportunity then pass their details on to me.

Jodie.bennett@eastsussexscouts.org.uk





Deputy County Commissioner

Most of you will know that not only am I the DCC but I am also the County SAS Manager. With John, we have a “Vision of East Sussex SAS”! That vision is to - 'Ensure all adult volunteers across the County are aware of SAS Units and their members and how they can support them' We will do this by: Creating a prospectus of SAS Units and their members. This will outline who's who, what their experience and skills are and how to contact them.

Taking an active part in the Skills Day in April with a stand publicising and demonstrating skills SAS members have.

Publishing a newsletter, being active on the County website, County Facebook page and 'tweet'

Alongside this we will grow our County SAS Unit (currently 1 manager and 3 members) and work alongside the District SAS Units to share best practices and work together to ensure County events and Districts without SAS Units are supported. We will also have joint social activities and events. If you want to be part of the County SAS Unit, then please drop me an email at beccimarchant@care4free.net

ACC Activities

We are hoping to address some short falls in Nights Away Assessors in a number of Districts and so will be putting together a training package early in the New Year - more info next year. If anyone wants to take on new challenges with adventurous permits next year, please let me know.

Likewise, if you want to take your Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network on an adventurous activity, drop me a line and I'll make sure you can get the permit holder you need. Albert Hinton - athinton@btinternet.com





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Executive Committee

Chair of County Executive Committee

This was my first meeting since taking over from David Powell as the Chair, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for all his work over many years as Chairman. I am pleased to say David is staying on as vice chair so we don't lose that knowledge.

As always for the first Executive Committee after the AGM, the first part of the meeting was taken up with agreeing future dates etc. Very interesting update from the CC and the Executive were pleased to support the proposal for 6 patrols to represent the County for the World Scout Jamboree in 2019. We also had an update from the County Youth Commissioner on all the fantastic work the Youth Commissioners are doing in the County. They really are a great resource for us and this update will now be a regular feature. Linking in with this she spoke about how we select youth commissioners and the executive have agreed a proposal to improve the way we do this. There is a lot of other work taking place with regard to finance, Broadstone Warren and County development.

Two areas we had discussion about, firstly executive training. In order that you can deliver the fantastic programmes that you do, we do need the backup of good Governance. There has been a couple of issues recently where things have not quite gone as they should and this can be prevented by Executive committees understanding their role. To do this they do need to make sure they have undergone the necessary training. Having said that we know that there is some good practice taking place, so to capture and learn from that we have asked the County Secretary to attend some meetings to look at this. Secondly there is going to be a change next year with regard to data protection and how we manage and use data, which can be anything from a simple telephone list, to the full County records. This is due to a change in the Law scheduled to come into force in May 2018. To make sure we fully comply with the new requirements we have agreed to set up a task-and-finish working group at County level to look at the issue. Once we fully understand the impact and any changes necessary we will let you know. So, watch this space.



International



The last 6 months have been busier than normal on the International front, May and June saw the appointment of our Jamboree Unit leaders, not an easy task with such a high calibre of applicants.

In June and July there was the traditional chasing of paperwork to enable me to make recommendations to DCs for groups to go abroad. However, I must say that the standard of paperwork has improved dramatically over recent years and you have provided great international experiences for our young people. Thank you.

During the summer break 10 participants and 1 member of IST from East Sussex attended the Moot in Iceland. From what I have seen and heard it was a great adventure.

In August we confirmed that we will be sending a patrol to Roveraway in 2018 and if my memory serves me right this is the first time East Sussex has sent a sizeable contingent to 2 of “The Big 3” (Moot,

Roveraway and the World Scout Jamboree) but more about that later).

At a local level, it is encouraging that groups planning trips abroad are getting their Visits Abroad form part A submitted earlier, I currently have forms for 3 trips taking place in 2018 and a Trip in 2019, all these trips have had initial sign off by DC’s so we can now get going on the follow-up paperwork plus paying deposits etc. To enable me to make a final recommendation for DC’s to authorise those trips.

So, looking forward for the next few months - the Roveraway patrol will start preparing for their adventure in The Netherlands and Districts will begin preparing for their International trips arranged for 2018.



On a personal front, I have been selected to be part of the UK Contingent Support Team which gives an interesting insight to the problems that HQ have when organising big events. My area of responsibility is 'Unit Support' for South East Region, for me this is a great opportunity to see how other Counties operate and see how we can learn from each other and feed back to HQ the problems that Counties and Districts have.

John and I are looking to expand the County International Team. We are currently working on our Terms of Reference to form an International Committee to assist Districts and County on all things International. With the increase in young people going abroad with Scouting, we want to increase our capacity to support these trips.

If you would like to know more and are interested in being part of the new team, let me know.

World Scout Jamboree 2019

Districts (and a County) selection will be taking place over the next few months to identify participants to represent East Sussex County Scouts at the 24th World Scout Jamboree 2019 in West Virginia USA. We are taking more young people than we have ever done before and although there are some challenges ahead, I am hopeful that we'll soon see more participants from across the County, attending the most amazing Scouting event.

Mark Lloyd - ACC (International)





Training

The training team have been busy organising additional courses for you as well as planning for the County Skills Weekend in April. John is still keen for you to speak to your DCs to demand courses dependant on your needs rather than us putting courses on that are not (or poorly) attended.

John is also very aware of the number of adult volunteers who have appointments but have not completed their training or do not keep their mandatory training up to date. Mandatory training is provided to keep adult volunteers safe and to give them support when things go wrong. When an incident is reported, the first thing that The Scout Association (TSA) will check is the Mandatory Training part of Compass. If this is out of date, then TSA find it hard to support those adult volunteers in defending positions of negligence or complaint. Although this may seem harsh, the training is designed to keep you up to date, relevant and confident to deliver your programmes in a safe environment. If you are out of date, then please book yourself onto a course as soon as possible.

Training in the following subjects are being provided between now and the end of the year: Safeguarding, Safety, Training Advisers Course, Youth Commissioners Training day, Advising on Adult Appointments, Delivering Effective Presentations, Facilitation, Management Skills (Regional Delivery), Delivering a Quality Programme, Programme Planning, Skills of Leadership / Working with Adults, First Aid and a First Aid Refresher. Please contact your TA, Training Manager or the County Office for more details of when and where the course is being run. There are also links to book onto the courses from the County website or failing that, drop the County training manager or the County office an email to book onto the courses direct.

You can contact the County office at countyoffice@eastsussexscouts.org.uk or contact the County Training Manager at eastsussexcountytraining@gmail.com





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Beavers

Our ACC Beavers, Helen Preston, has been actively getting around Districts and supporting the ADC Beavers, working with them on planning and delivering quality programmes. The focus for all Beaver leaders should be the reduction of waiting lists and making sure section meetings are full of Beavers. This then makes sure that all Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Sections are full too. No pressure, but it really starts with Beavers! Also, if you have time, encourage parents to get involved – they are our future leaders. If you want to know how to involve parents more, contact David Floud on david.floud@scouts.org.uk. The County



Beaver Fun Day is scheduled for 23rd June 2018 at Bushy Wood and I know Helen and the team are busy putting it all together. I have seen the outlines of the plan and it looks really great with loads of fun things to do.



Cubs

Like Helen, our ACC Cubs, Martin Piggott, has been trying to meet with all the ADC Cubs to see what support is needed. The focus is similar to the Beaver section in making sure all those young people who want to be cubs have the ability to be one. Some of the events County have planned for next year are:



- 19th/20th May 2018 - Bivouac Camp
- 8th to 10th June 2018 - Cub Activity Day/Camp
- 15th September 2018 Amberley Museum Day - Based on Communication Badge





Scouts

With Andrew departing from the ACC Scouts role, thank you Andrew, this leaves a massive gap in our capability, though I am really pleased that Chris Weller has agreed to stay on in the County Scout Leader role. Chris is working with a small team to progress the County Camping Competition next year and the potential resurrection of the Mountain Bike Challenge. The Scout section worries John the most. As a whole, we see most young people leave in this age group. Whether this is due to a disconnect with the Explorer Section (from Group to District), outside pressures or other factors but we really need to try and address why they leave...and stop it. It may give us an idea if we ask Scouts that have left; why?

Perhaps we need to be a bit more flexible with this age group as we do with adult volunteers. With exams, sports and other extracurricular activities, their free time becomes valuable. Perhaps offering them the freedom to come every other week or once a month or even just coming along to camp may influence them to stay rather than leave altogether. Any suggestions to keep Scouts involved would be greatly received, so please feel free to share.

Explorers



Hopefully most of you will have got to know me, seen me or at least heard of me over the few months since I have taken on the ACC Explorer role. I am genuinely proud of Explorer Scouting in East Sussex, it is one of my passions and as an Explorer leader in addition to being ACC, I do understand the challenges all Explorer leaders face.





Young Leaders (YLS)

So that we can plan how best we [County] can support you, I am in the process of finding out what the status is of YLS in each District.

I hope to appoint a County Explorer Leader for Young Leaders in the near future and their role will be to support YL Explorer Unit Leaders in delivery of training, providing training materials and running an annual Young Leader Training Weekend.

In one District 80% of their YLS step up to take on an adult appointment (if only for the time before they disappear to University). This is a statistic that can't be ignored and represents a good Adult Leader recruitment path; something which I hope can be rolled out in other Districts.

Connecting Scouts and Explorers

We have a concern about the falling numbers in the Scouts and Explorer Sections. This is an issue that is affecting the Scout Association nationally and we would like to develop a strategy on how to deal with the issue in East Sussex. One specific area that is a concern is the relationship between the Scout and Explorer sections. We need to do more to ensure an effective transition between Scouts and Explorers. I am planning on doing some collaborative work in the new year, with the DESCs and ADC Scouts which will hopefully improve our retention of 13 to 15 year olds.

Some dates for your diaries to engage the Explorers are:

- Operation Triangle 18th/19th November 2017
- Overland Hike 24th/25th March 2018
- Monopoly Challenge – 24th June 2018
- Gilwell 24 – 6th/8th July 2018





Top Awards

Most of you will know Derek Cleaver and Jo Richardson around the County as they have been out and about promoting the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, the Chief Scouts Platinum and Diamond Awards as well as the Queen Scout Award as well as putting on D of E Assessor and Supervisor courses.

As a County, we are trying to increase the number of top awards that are gained across the County, particularly across the Scout, Explorer and Network sections. Jo says that she is willing to come to an Explorer or Network evening (1½ -2hrs) to launch the QSA, Platinum and Diamond awards to make sure that all young people are on the journey and are clear about what they have to do. Jo also says, that if they are interested in the top awards (and, why shouldn't they?) she will give them an award planner sheet to help them establish what they have to do, are already doing or have completed. Other resources can also be handed out and both Jo and Derek will make sure they have a better understanding of the International, Community and Values activities in each of the levels as well as how they can achieve them. So far, Jo has already been to visit; Ashdown Network; The County YC's, Eastbourne Explorers and is due to visit Hastings Network. If you would like Jo to promote the top awards then email either Jo on hartjojo79@gmail.com or Derek on axedc@talktalk.net. Both have a wealth of information to help young people achieve their top awards.

Training

Hopefully most of you will have seen the advert (at the end of this newsletter) about the **Over 18s Skills Brush-up Day** being held on the weekend of the 21st April 2018. I think it will be an exciting opportunity for us all to; gain skills we don't currently have and/or brush up on some we may have forgotten. It will also be an opportunity to quiz the County team, ask questions of our experts in Safeguarding, DofE, Queen Scout Awards, Inclusion or to learn about the Discovery Award, plus much more. It will be an opportunity to discuss sectional programmes – learn from each other at drop in sessions or speak to our Activities experts on what you can do with your young people. Plus, a chance to listen to the Youth Commissioners on how to use 'YouShape' or 'AMillionHands' in your section meetings.....And of course a time to socialise, take part in activities you normally only





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get chance to watch, eat and drink and listen to some of our young people take part in the open mic' session or just to chat amongst yourselves. Also on the Sunday, if you would like to, to renew our promises all together. If you haven't booked, please use the link [here](#) to book in so that we can gauge how much food to order for Saturday evening.

Current Vacancies

We have some really exciting opportunities if you fancied a new challenge. These are:

- ACC Scouts
- County Media Manager
- Newsletter Editor
- 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.

Breaking News



Grant, Albert and John have been working with the website developer in getting the new East Sussex web site up and running. Left is a sneak preview of the front page though this is likely to change slightly as we approach the go live date, anticipated to be 1st January 2018

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



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