



Scouts Scotland South West Region

South by Southwest

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An Introduction from Colin Williamson



It's been a bit of a whirlwind since I was appointed new Regional Commissioner at the beginning of February but I can honestly say I am delighted to be back in Scouting in the South West.

Firstly, though, let me say a big "thank you" to Duncan Riddell for his personal commitment to developing Scouting in this Region, particularly since the reorganisation. I am taking over at a time when Scouting numbers are still growing and we have a great group of leaders, volunteers and advisors at all levels dedicated to continuing this

positive trend. Much of this must be put down to Duncan's tireless hard work and dedication. He will be a very hard act to follow.

As it has been a few years since I was involved in Scouting locally, my first priority over the next couple of months will be to get up to speed with what is happening in the Region. This will involve meeting up with the Regional and District teams, including the Executive Committee, and speaking with as wide a range as possible of those involved in organising, developing and promoting Scouting in our area. I will also have to make a trip or two up to Fordell Firs to get to know the SHQ team as well as get stuck into my Personal Training plan - but no-one said the Regional Commissioner role would be a walk in the park (or should that be a hike up a hill !)

All of the above will take a bit of time, and be a steep learning curve for me, but I am determined to keep up the momentum Duncan has created - while continuing to address all the key objectives in our Regional Development Plan. The latter is our route map to a sustainable future for Scouting as well as continued fun and fellowship for everyone involved and I am looking forward to playing my part to the full.

Colin

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Day in the Park

The 6th of November saw an early start for many to set everything up in the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock. Unfortunately for us, there had been a wedding the night before so it all had to be done before everyone arrived for the day.

But what a day it was, and I believe that everyone that attended got something out of the day. It was well supported by the Region and by the SHQ team that spent the day with us. One of the SHQ team could not join us, but she joined in by Skype.



The morning sessions comprised of break groups by the sections and some hard work was put in there, and that included administrators etc. that had a session with Graham Haddock.



Graham and the Administrator The Beaver Leaders and Eva on Skype and the Explorer section

After an excellent buffet lunch a brief session on Young Leaders, Active Support and before winding up various stalls to trawl through to gather information on a wide range of topics, before Sandy Gow, our President present Duncan Riddell with a gift to mark his retirement as Regional Commissioner and finally Graham Haddock addressed the gathering.



Communications

Not receiving emails from the Region?
Send your name and email address to
arc-communications@scouts-southwestscotland.org.uk

We all need leaders / helpers etc

But how do we find them? A good question and there are many methods that can be applied:

- Personal contact with past members, friends, business colleagues ...
- Meeting the parents of your members and appealing for help
- Advertising / appealing in local papers and local radio
- Contact local colleges and see if they will promote volunteering amongst their students

Some Groups and Districts have used their local Volunteer Scotland offices where they have advertised on the Volunteer Scotland Web Site. Many of these have been displayed for years and are perhaps no longer applicable and maybe the fact they have been there for so long, people ignore them. We would suggest that you contact your local office and have these removed.

Don't refresh them as we now have a new tool available, it is based on the same system as has been used before but now as a 'Scout Logo' against it and has a new look. It is a tried method that works very well in some Districts across Scotland. And it is a lifed entry that will be removed after a fixed period unless an extended date is submitted when it is entered on the database. I believe this is a benefit as it keeps request current with fresh requirement dates. It's free and I have access to the database to put any requests onto the database at any time.

Try it — go to www.volunteerscotland.org.uk Type in your Post Code or Town and search to see who is looking for volunteers. You can also apply a filter, such as 'Scouts' to limit the search.

On the next page is an example from a Group in Prestwick that are in need of Leaders. The information is generic for different roles, and applies to Scouting across Scotland. It contains the GSL contact name, email address and phone number as well as details of the meeting place, but not including times. It also includes my postal address as the local manager of the system, which applies across the whole Region.

There are templates for most roles in Scouting apart from DC.

Continued over

An offer

David Newell is a Beaver Leader in Ayr, but through his professional role as a Careers Advisor for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Commando, he is offering to provide a talk or presentation about the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

David can be contacted by email on nrcsni-afcoglasgowca2@mod.uk or telephone 0141 224 5714

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website 'Scotland's gateway to volunteering'. The main heading is 'Assistant Leader' with a publication date of 26/01/2012 and an update date of 17/10/2011. The opportunity is for the South West Scotland Region Scouts, located at 14 Oswald Drive, Prestwick, Scotland, KA9 1AT. The role involves supporting the leading of one of their sections (e.g., Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts or Explorer Scouts) to plan and deliver a balanced programme. Successful candidates will consider the needs, interests, and abilities of younger members when planning and encourage Scouts of all ages to participate in residential events and excursions. The role includes running games, activities, crafts, collecting membership fees, and assisting with outings. A location map shows the area around Glasgow and Kilmarnock.

To have an entry added to the database, send details of your GSL or contact, including phone number, meeting place and day, website address if you have one and the position you want advertised to arc-communications@scouts-southwestscotland.org.uk and I will do the necessary. **Bob McIntyre**

International Opportunities

It's a bit late to think about 2012 for an International camp, but how about 2013. There are lots of opportunities both at home and abroad.

Auchengillian Jamboree, Glasgow - 27th July - 3rd August - http://www.clydescouts.org.uk/page-aj_2013.html

International Twin Camp Jamboree – Crawfordsburn Country Park, North Down, Northern Ireland - 3rd to 10th August - <http://scoutsni.org/nijam/>

Poacher 2013 - Lincolnshire 30th July - 6th August - www.poacher.org.uk

Kent International Jamboree - 30th July - 6th August - www.kij13.org.uk

Stavanger 2013 – Norway - 6th - 12th July - <http://www.stavanger2013.no/english/>

Scottish Explorer Belt Expedition - possibly to Estonia—contact SHQ to register interest.

Just a few of the opportunities—watch Pathfinder and the International events pages on www.scouts.org.uk

Training News

This has been a busy year with at least one course every month, sometimes more, and lots of other things to take care of so I'd like to start by saying a huge **thank you** to the ADCs Adult Training for all their hard work in the District and the time and effort they have put in to planning and running the courses. They are, like all of us, volunteers and they give up a great deal of time to provide such a comprehensive range of opportunities.

Types of Courses

We've been looking closely recently at how we are going to run courses in the coming year, based on the response to training this year. There will be a couple of changes which will hopefully increase even further the range of ways in which training is provided in the Region.

In this newsletter I'd like to take the opportunity to remind everyone about the various ways in which you can do the learning for each module. Remember that the learning is only one part of completing the module and you still need to validate the module before you can be signed off.

E Learning and DVDs

Most of the modules can be done on line and there are DVDs and workbooks for some. If you're interested in this style of learning contact your Training Adviser or ADC AT for details or go online to <http://www.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=23,223>

Courses

In South West Region we also offer a variety of courses. In the past we have run one day courses across the region with 3 or 4 modules available each day. Recently we have piloted a weekend residential course for people who find it easier to give up one full weekend rather than a number of Sundays.

Residential Course

We have run 2 residential courses where, over a weekend you can do 11 - 12 modules. These residential courses have proved to be very popular with a total of 53 people attending the two we have run. There are already 4 people signed up for the next one on 5th – 7th October !! See pictures of the last course at the Dolphin House on the following pages.

It is a great way to tackle your training as you have the advantage not only of completing a lot of modules over a weekend but of having a bit of social time with other leaders and a lot of strong links have been made as a result. If you are interested in attending the next course in October don't wait too long to apply.

One Day Courses

We will continue to run one day courses. Because of the popularity of the residential course, numbers attending one day courses have gone down so we are going to change the pattern of these courses. They will still be run in both the north and the south of the Region but there will be slightly fewer courses so that those which are run will have enough people applying to make them viable. Dates have still to be finalised for courses from August onwards but will be circulated before the summer.

Evening Courses

A new method of learning will be available from August onwards. The ADCs Adult Training will run occasional evening courses. At any one time there are always a few leaders who have only one or two modules left to do to complete their woodbadge. ADCs will identify any modules which a number of people need and the Regional Training Team will then run an evening module.

This is a pilot and we will evaluate the success of this method after a year.

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Validations

Although a lot of people are attending courses and doing the learning not so many leaders are validating their training. Can I remind you that to have the module signed off you need to validate the module with your Training Adviser. If you're not sure what to do contact your TA or your ADC AT.

Current Training Dates

March 25th, Course will be held in Loans Scout Hall, Ayrshire

Module 8	Leadership Styles
Module 9	Working with Adults
Module 11	Administration
Module 13	Growing the Movement

Applications for this course should be sent to **Annette Waddington**.

(Please note that applications should be sent to Annette Waddington and not Margaret Craik as previously stated. Names of anyone who has already applied to Margaret will be passed on to Annette.)

Annette Waddington, 2 Hillcrest, Stewarton KA3 5EE
annetewad@aol.com 01560 482770

4th – 6th May, Culzean Campsite **Note change of date and venue**

Module 38 Skills for Residential Experiences.

This course will also cover **Module 17 Activities Outdoors** and **Module 19 International** however these will be run at the end of Module 38 so that anyone who has already done them can leave at that point.

Applications for this course should be sent to **Iain Matheson**

Iain Matheson, Stroma, 4 Doonview Wynd, Ayr KA7 4HY
iainmatheson@btinternet.com 01292 440382



Pictures of the last Module 38 at Loch Ken

Module 18 Practical Skills

It is hoped that some skills days will be organised in each District. These days will be open to any leader in the District but will count towards the learning for Module 18 for those leaders working towards their Wood Badge. If you need to do module 18 please contact your ADC AT for dates.

Continued over

Residential Course

In October we will be running the next residential course, this time in Dumfriesshire. These courses have proved to be very popular with 28 attending the first one and 25 the second. By attending the weekend you can complete the learning for most of the modules. Leaders who only have a couple of modules to do can pop in to do those modules. The course will cover modules 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19. Details of the course so far;

Date 5th – 7th October 2012

Venue Allanton World Peace Sanctuary, Auldgirth, Dumfries

Please book early to ensure a place on the course.

These are the training dates from February – June 2012. Dates for August 2012 – June 2013 will be circulated after April.

Remember that if you have any questions at all don't hesitate to get in touch with me, details below. Thank you for all the time you have given to training this year for the benefit of the young people in our care.

Margaret Craik
Assistant Regional Commissioner Adult Training
01294 214733 margaret.craik01@btinternet.com

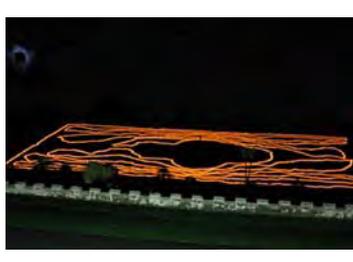
The Dolphin House Training Week-end

Below, some pictures of the training course week-end at the Dolphin House near Culzean Castle. The top centre picture is the accommodation block, whilst the main house (bottom left) was used for tuition groups and also contains the kitchen. The group made the best of the facilities including using the Tepee as a tutor room.



Kyle and Carrick

The Phoenix Explorers took up a challenge in the autumn last year and transformed the Fountain Garden in Culzean Country Park for an evening. Supported by local MSP Chic Brodie and members of Strathclyde Police, who acted as official witnesses, the Unit's task was to beat a record set by a school in America, to break the Guinness World Record for the longest chain of glow sticks.



The record at that time was 3,916 glow sticks and is 2,188.27 m (7,179 ft 4 in) long. The Kyle and Carrick Explorers succeeded in linking an amazing 4500 sticks which when linked together as a chain measured 802 metres or a total length-end to end of glow sticks of 2514 metres, thus breaking the record.

A spare time occupation?



Two leaders from the Region, not content with their full time jobs and their role in Scouting also operating with local Mountain Rescue Teams.

Eric Johns (second from the left), DC of Kyle and Carrick, lives in Ayr and operates with the Galloway MRT and Colin Golphin (second from the right) is involved with Annan Scouts, lives in Annan and operates with the Moffat MRT

They are pictured here with the Chief Constable of Dumfries and Galloway and members of the Mountain Rescue Teams receiving an award in recognition of their working to supporting the Police.

Dumfriesshire District

Remembrance Sunday around the District



And else where in the District over the last few months



The Lockerbie Beavers visited 'Pets at Home' in Dumfries to learn about caring for their pets, their habitat, feeding and sleeping and gained their Animal Friend badge as a result.

Lockerbie Scouts took part in the annual Christmas Post project in the town where the locals had the opportunity to have their cards delivered for a small fee just prior to Christmas. This can be a good wee fund raise for a local troop and is with the agreement with the Post Office.



Craigshiel Challenge 2011—September 2011

Help at the Craigshiels centre in the Forest of Ae, the event is open to all Scouts in Dumfriesshire



The competing Scouts face a series of challenges laid on by Explorers and Leaders



and the 2011 winners were Lockerbie and the wooden spoon went to Langholm.

Dumfriesshire Cubs Unihoc—October 2011



Held in the David Keswick Centre in Dumfries, the Noblehill Cubs won this years tourney

Galloway



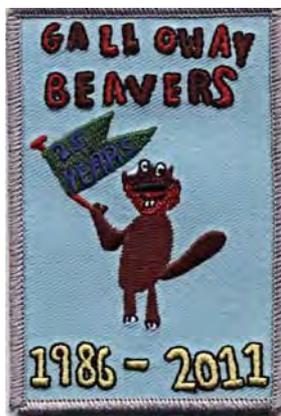
Galloway held their annual 'Leaders Gathering' in Gatehouse of Fleet at the end of January. A well attended meeting where the District Explorers did presentations on the World Jamboree in Sweden and Jambo Makobe, the Regions Expedition to Kenya last summer. Both events had representatives from the District. Ruth Nichol, the Region's Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinator gave a brief talk on the Safeguarding Awareness Course that all Leaders must complete ever 5 years. There were also a number of Awards to Leaders in the District including an Award of Merit to Sandy Binks, CSL in Minnigaff and also Appointments Secretary for the District. There was one other presentation made at the meeting to Drew Young, but this was not a Scouting Presentation but a District Presentation to Drew to recognise over 40 years of Service to Scouting in the Stewarty and Galloway. Since taking on the role of ASL in 1960, he has held the roles of AVSL, DC in Stewarty, County Commissioner in Galloway, Area Chair in Galloway and he is the current District Chairman in the District. He was also appointed Vice President of the South West Scotland Region in 2009. Scouting Awards to Drew included, Medal of Merit in 1969, Silver Acorn in 1981, Bar to the Silver Acorn in 1989 and finally the Silver Wolf in 2000.



Galloway Beaver Fun Day and 25th Birthday Party



Galloway held the above event in October at the Mabie Farm Park, near Dumfries.



As well as the run of the park, the beavers had lunch in the Farm's tearoom