

# Scottish Scout News



No 207 December 2007

## Massive Funding Boost for Scouting

Launching Scotland's first ever National Youth Work Strategy earlier this year, the then Scottish Executive announced a one-off injection of £8million to develop the youth work sector in 2007/8. Through various bidding rounds administered through YouthLink Scotland, Scouting in Scotland has secured a massive £575,000 to fund new equipment, facilities and projects during the current year.

Monies have gone to local Groups from Hawick to Inverness and to Areas such as Moray to fund new equipment. New activity facilities are being funded at Auchengillan, Bonaly, Fordell Firs, Lapwing Lodge, Longcraigs and Templars Park.

SHQ secured over £163,000 to support 15 different projects. The bulk of this funding is supporting initiatives linked to the development strands (recruitment, communication, PR and local support) of our 7-On Scottish Scout Appeal.

A brightly liveried and superbly equipped mobile display trailer (pictured) is now available to support local recruitment and PR events. Each Region is being supplied with a laptop and projector, along with sets of outdoor pop-up and hanging banners and other recruitment and publicity materials designed to project a modern professional image for Scouting.

Youth members will benefit directly too. To support growth and retention, monies have been secured for an all-inclusive fun weekend event aimed exclusively at Scouts aged 13+ that will help 'demystify' Explorer Scouts and the Young Leader Scheme.

This year's Annual Conference also incorporates our first Youth Summit, at which places are funded for 100+ Explorer Scouts and Network members who will help to shape the future of Scouting in Scotland. A high quality Young Spokesperson training day is

also planned for early in 2008, building a resource that has proved so successful in projecting a youthful image for Scouting during our Centenary year.

Funds will also help our adult volunteers, supporting a seminar roadshow for Office Bearers and administrators, a planning and consultation event for District and Regional Commissioners, training of trainers and evaluation, and a Hill Assessor's workshop. A joint initiative with Girlguiding, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade Scotland, aimed at enhancing volunteer 'manager' training, has also been funded.



This massive cash boost follows Scottish Executive funding of £115,000 secured for Scouting last year through a Youth Capital Grant Scheme, to include £40,000 for a new classroom and recreational space at the Lochgoilhead Centre.

The National Youth Work Strategy includes explicit recognition of the huge importance of volunteers to youth work, and a commitment to bringing forward a Volunteer Action Plan by March 2008. SHQ is supporting this work and, with the 7 largest volunteer-led youth organisations, has met with Minister for Children and Youth, Adam Ingram MSP to press the case for more resources to support the work of our volunteers.



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## Christmas message from the Chief Commissioner

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of our Centenary Year. It has been a good year for Scouting, a great year for those who were organising events but most of all a fantastic year for our young people.

It has also been a time to remember with fond memories and for some a time of remembering. I have some wonderful memories of the past twelve months of the travelling, the welcomes and most of all of the young people – their enthusiasm – their smiles – their comments. What lies before us is the work on capturing the interest shown by so many people and making sure that none of that electric enthusiasm is lost.

We finish our year of celebration with the theme "Jump Start". Everyone who has had to use jump start leads will know the feeling of elation they bring. We have the leads – having put a great deal of thought and hard work into the Centenary – so let us use them to burst renewed life into Scouting in Scotland and take this wonderful Movement of ours forward into the next century.

At this time of year we celebrate another life. Christmas is a celebration of love – a gift given to each and every one of us. Let us make every effort to put this wonderful gift to good use and reach out to all in the true meaning of Christmas.

I am very grateful for the support I have received during the past year and I am also very aware of all the efforts put into the celebrations to make sure the young people had a Centenary to remember. Thank you for the work you have done and continue to do in the name of Scouting.

I wish you, your families and loved ones a very happy and peaceful Christmas with a healthy and prosperous New Year.

May you all be richly blessed,

Eleanor Lyall

Chief Commissioner



Among many visitors to the Banff and Buchan Area recruitment and information stand at a recent agricultural show was the chef Nick Nairn (pictured left), who found the information on Scouting's past and present of great interest.

There was also a successfully completed Centenary challenge to obtain 100 signatures from former Scouts who visited the stand.

The 18th Inverness (Muirtown) Scout Group recently purchased a 10.69m long Highland Admiral Class Caley Cruiser, with a grant from the Scottish Executive through Youthlink.

As well as being used to run trips along the Caledonian Canal and into Loch Ness, it will be used to train Leaders, Scouts and Explorers on modern navigational aids. More information is available on 01463 235338 or from [gjpm@aol.com](mailto:gjpm@aol.com).



## Awards: July - September 2007

### MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

#### Renfrewshire:

Gerald P C Long, ADC Renfrew  
*In recognition of his courage and fortitude to continue Scouting despite having to cope with progressive disabilities and intensive hospital treatment, his devotion to duty is a true inspiration to others.*

### CHIEF SCOUTS COMMENDATION FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

#### Angus

Mrs Linda J Pert, ABSL 41st Angus (2nd Montrose)

*In recognition of her determination to continue Scouting despite having to cope with a debilitating illness, her commitment despite this is a true inspiration to others.*

### BAR TO THE AWARD FOR MERIT

In recognition of further outstanding services

#### Ayrshire:

E W Fox, ASL 52nd Ayrshire (1st Saltcoats), North Ayrshire and Arran

#### Forth Valley:

A J W Dick, SL 16th Forth Valley (Laurieston) Falkirk

#### Greater Glasgow

Mrs A F Gordon, LTM

#### Lanarkshire:

Mrs E Tweed, CSL/ADC (Cubs), 127th Lanarkshire, Canderside; R Tweed, DC/DESC (Acting), Canderside

#### West Lothian:

A W W Duncan, Group Treasurer, 6th

West Lothian (Broxburn and Uphall)

### AWARD FOR MERIT

In recognition of outstanding services

#### Ayrshire:

T H H Baxter, ACSL 71st Ayrshire (Skelmorlie) North Ayrshire and Arran; J Cumming, ACSL/DDC 102nd Ayrshire (Beith) North Ayrshire and Arran;

Mrs M Herron, ACSL 71st Ayrshire (Skelmorlie), North Ayrshire and Arran; Mrs C Marshall, ACSL 63rd Ayrshire (Glengarnock), North Ayrshire and Arran

#### Fife:

J McLeod, District Treasurer, North East Fife

#### Forth Valley:

Mrs J Feeney, Group Treasurer 1st Forth Valley, Stirling & Trossachs; P M Nichols, SL 88th Forth Valley (Braehead) Stirling & Trossachs; W K Scott, Area Scouter/Agent 2007; Miss H Shrimpton, District Supporter Stirling & Trossachs

#### Greater Glasgow:

A B Crichton, Area Scout Fellowship Member; Mrs L Crichton, Area Scout Fellowship Member; Mrs A T Jack, Group Supporter 29th Glasgow (1st Newlands), South Western

#### Inverness:

Mrs M R Davidson, CSL 9th Inverness (Culloden)

### CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICES

#### Forth Valley:

A McLean, Area Adviser Health & Safety.

## Don't miss Destination Denmark in 2009

2009 is your chance to be part of the largest ever Scottish Scout contingent to travel abroad.

It's planned to take a group of 470 Scouts, Explorer Scouts and leaders to be part of the Danish 'Blue Summer' national camp in July.

The event is open to Scout troops and Explorer Scout units, but also to individual Scouts, Explorer Scouts and leaders whose troops or units may not wish to attend. Individuals will be made up into composite troops or units.

Part of the purpose of the trip is to enable those who have never had the chance to attend an international camp to do so. It is expected that about 23,000 Scouts and Guides will attend the camp from over 40 different countries.

'Blue Summer' runs between July 15 and 23, 2009 and the total cost, including transport, will be £385 each. The Scottish contingent will travel on two specially chartered 757 jets from Scotland to Denmark and then by coach to the campsite.

A professionally produced 40 minute video of the 1994 camp is available on loan to let all those considering attending sample the 'Blue Summer' experience.

If you wish your Scouts or Explorer Scouts to be part of such a rare opportunity contact SHQ for an Application Form and payment details. Please state whether you wish a group or individual form.

Please note that the final date for booking will be April 1, 2008.

The video can be obtained from Hamish Leal, SHQ International Adviser by emailing him at [hamish@scotcap.freemove.co.uk](mailto:hamish@scotcap.freemove.co.uk).



Pictured right are Sarah Williamson, Dominic McLay, Emma Louise McGlade and Frances Megan from 1st Bellshill & Mossend who received their Chief Scout's Gold Award from the Chief Commissioner of Scotland, Eleanor Lyall, MBE.

The Chief Scout's Gold Award is the highest award in the Scouts and only achieved after 3 or 4 years of hard work.



## Scottish Explorers Triumph at Trapperskamp



12 Scottish Explorer Scouts representing Angus, Dundee and Fife Areas participated in Scouting Netherlands' annual Trapperskamp in October with the Scottish participation being organised as one of the Scottish Explorer Scouting's 12 Camps for 2007.

This year the backwoods/survival event was held in Holland, Germany and Luxemburg. There were a number of adventurous activities undertaken during the camp with abseiling, climbing,

caving, mountain biking and rafting all being enjoyed by the participants.

The Explorer Scouts are judged over the week on a series of activities – camping, cooking, navigation, physical exercises, sports and Scouting skills. All those who achieve over 60% of the possible points receive the Dutch Trappers Badge (gained by half of the Scots this year) with the Explorer with the highest score winning the Trappers Trophy.

Since Scotland started competing in 1992, the event has only been won by Scots twice, but this year Scottish Explorers took all the top 5 places, with Peter Munnoch (above left) from 83rd Fife (Cairneyhill) Explorers bringing home the trophy, gaining three points more than second placed Clayton Scorgie from Angus.

Our Explorers were well prepared, had excellent Scouting and camping skills and added that special something to the event.

## Dutch Scouts visit Fordell for celebrations on the airwaves

Fordell Firs Activity Centre welcomed a Scouting Group from Kerkrade in the Netherlands who were hosted by the 81st Fife (1st Broomhall) Sea Scout Group for the Jubilee Anniversary of Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), during the weekend of 20th/21st October.

Over the weekend of JOTA/JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet), contacts were made by radio and the internet by Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts to their counterparts in many countries throughout the world.

The event also included combined activities such as pioneering, a challenge course, quad biking, canoeing and kayaking, which were chosen to promote team building and cultural exchange between the Scouts of the two countries.

To bid the Dutch Scouts farewell, a Ceilidh was organised in their honour at the Scout Hall in Limekilns, which the visitors enjoyed Scottish dancing, good Scottish food and of course Irn Bru!

During the presentations Donald Yard, Cub Leader (81st Fife) and Malcolm Hamilton, radio operator, were invested by John Waterreus as Honorary Members of the Scout Group St. Wellibrord, Kerkrade, Netherlands. All in all, the Scottish – Dutch experience proved to be a huge success.

More information about JOTA can be found on [www.scouts.org/jota](http://www.scouts.org/jota).



# 2007 - a year of opportunity

## A look back at Sunrise Malawi 2007

This summer 40 scouts and leaders took part in the Sunrise Malawi 2007 Expedition, 17 of whom were from Scotland.

In 2005 it was discovered that UK Scouting still owned the Malawian Scout National Campsite, Makwawa. With this in mind, an expedition was set up to take a group of Scouts to Malawi to upgrade the facilities before handing the campsite back to the Scout Association of Malawi. The projects included renovation of 3 buildings and the extension of a 4th. The team rose to all the challenges and were a credit to the Scout Association, their parents and leaders.

The enthusiasm of the young people and the energy of the Malawian Scouts was a major contributor to the successful completion of all the projects allowing the improved site to be handed over to the Scout Association of Malawi at the end of the expedition.

During the 5 weeks spent living and working with Malawian Scouts lots of new friends were made.

It was an experience of a lifetime that will not be forgotten. If you would like to know more about the expedition please contact Anne Masino - [anne.masino@easie.org.uk](mailto:anne.masino@easie.org.uk).

## Huge Scout turnout for Centenary Mass

Over 500 Scouts, former Scouts, family and friends from across Scotland packed into St. Patrick's RC Church, Shotts, on Sunday 26th August for a celebration Mass organised by the Catholic Church in Scotland to mark the World Scout Centenary.

The principal celebrant was Cardinal Keith O'Brien, who proudly wore his own neckerchief as Hon. Chaplain to a Scout Group in Rome, assisted by National RC Scout Chaplain Fr. Brian Lamb. The Mass was also attended by civic leaders from Parliament and local government.

All those in uniform, led by a superbly drilled Explorer Scout and Network Colour Party, were paraded to the church by the St. Patrick's Parish Brass Band. Youth members led the readings and bidding prayers. Cubs and Scouts brought Offertory Gifts of a Scout neckerchief, the World Scout Flag and a set of Wood Beads, symbolising membership of the international family of Scouting and the service of volunteer leaders.

Andrew Sharkey, SHQ Explorer Scout Commissioner, led members in a renewal of their Promise. Beaver Scouts presented the Cardinal with a commemorative Stole specially made to mark the Scout Centenary.

The Cardinal gave thanks for Scouting for its leadership and development support given to so many young people, and to the wider communities in which Scouting operates. He particularly gave thanks to Scouting for maintaining the centrality of Faiths and Beliefs to its membership and programme, commending Scouting for its example as a worldwide multi-faith organisation for peace.



## Scouts celebrate Centenary aboard Britannia

Over 150 young people and adults were guests at a special reception on board the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh on Wednesday 3 October, honouring the many people who have worked so hard to make our Centenary Year celebrations such a huge success. The evening was hosted by the Eleanor Lyall MBE, Chief Commissioner of Scotland, and drew together individuals and groups who had supported Centenary events as members of The Scout Association or external organisations who had contributed time, talents and money to our special year.

After welcoming the assembled guests to Britannia and thanking them for their individual and collective contribution to the centenary programme, the Chief Commissioner invited David Morton, a young spokesperson from Inverness, to share his experience of Scouting. David spoke warmly about his passion

for Scouting and the opportunities that it has given him. He spoke about the positive contribution that Scouting makes to local communities and the skills that it makes available to young people and in particular he referred to the sense of achievement that he has gained as a direct result of his involvement. In summary he challenged those present to accept change as a way forward in an exciting and ever changing world.

The words of our young spokesperson were echoed by the guest of honour, Fergus Ewing MSP Minister for Community Safety who attended the event on behalf of the First Minister of Scotland. Mr Ewing commended the many hours of volunteering that takes place across Scotland and committed his government to supporting initiatives that empower more people to give up their time.

The guests were then invited to tour the

Royal Yacht and the evening concluded with a superb final rendition from the Centenary Scout Pipe Band who once again played superbly...in the pouring rain.



In the run-up to the implementation of the new Regional Structure from 1st April 2008, Scottish Scout News will be profiling the new Regional Commissioners from each of the 8 new Regions, to get their thoughts on the future. First up in this edition are:



Sandy Jack,  
Regional Commissioner,  
Forth Region



Derek Colley,  
Regional Commissioner,  
East Region



Stuart Imrie,  
Regional Commissioner,  
Clyde Region

## Q. What is your background in Scouting?

**Sandy Jack:** I was a Cub at the age of seven and never found my way out! I've had various roles over the years – Group Scout Leader, Section Leader, Assistant Area Commissioner, I also chaired the Executive Committee at SHQ for four years.

**Derek Colley:** I can't remember a time when I haven't been involved in Scouting. My father was involved in Scouting and I have very early memories of a Scout camp cooking competition when I was four or five years old and also of being invested on my eighth birthday.

**Stuart Imrie:** I started as a Cub and Scout in Edinburgh. I was ASL in Glenrothes for 9 months, then spent 10 years in Glasgow Area Fellowship before becoming the AAC (Scouts) in 1997. In 2001 I was appointed as Deputy AC where I have continued until my appointment as Regional Commissioner (designate) for Clyde. I've been involved in Blair Atholl Jamborettes since 1984 and am now Activities Co-ordinator. I was re-elected to the Scottish Board in 2006 and through this I am a member of the Scottish Executive.

## Q. What work have you been involved in outside of Scouting?

**Sandy Jack:** I was a business manager for four years and then was involved in the family business of retail furnishing before the company was sold.

**Derek Colley:** I work as an accountant with the NHS, based at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. I'm also doing a

part-time MA in Arts and Social Sciences at Dundee University. I met my wife at the 1976 Blair Atholl camp and have two sons, both of whom have been through the Movement. I'm also an elder of the church in Alyth.

**Stuart Imrie:** I am employed by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde as a Clinical Scientist in the West of Scotland Regional Genetics Service where I provide diagnosis for cytogenetic syndromes such as Down syndrome. I met my wife, Karen, at Cub camp at Fordell (we were both leaders!).

## Q. What do you think will be the main challenges of your new role in the future?

**Sandy Jack:** In terms of Forth Region, a key challenge will be to bring together the four current districts into one Region with a single aim, and to achieve a harmony of people and programme. The key will be to find the best form of support to achieve this. We'll also need to recognise the different needs of these different parts of the Region. It's not just about getting individuals to do things, it's about being clear about what you want them to do and why.

**Derek Colley:** I think the size and diversity of the East Region will be the main challenge. We have urban areas like Dundee, Perth and Dunfermline which have mature scout organisations, and also rural areas which are more isolated, both geographically and in terms of support. Personal contact will be very important here, to make these more isolated areas feel part of a bigger team and to make sure they have a network of people who can support them.

**Stuart Imrie:** The new Regions will focus on development, communication and adult training as well as support for Explorer Scouts, Network and Advisory roles. Therein will lie our main challenges. Developing Scouting in local communities and supporting the recruitment of adults is key to growth, and we must ensure these new Leaders are suitably trained and supported. The whole purpose is to provide BETTER support which must have an effect on Scout Groups - if they don't notice the changes then I think we will have failed significantly. The appointment of a Group Scout Leader in every Group is also key in managing the delivery of Scouting to the young people and filling more of these posts can only be of benefit.

## Q. What progress towards the new structure has been made in your Region so far?

**Sandy Jack:** The commissioner team has been meeting for the past year and making good progress. Our team of Assistant Regional Commissioners and advisers are all in place, apart from a Faiths & Beliefs Adviser. I feel we have a good cross-section of people, drawing from all parts of the Region.

**Derek Colley:** We've made good progress, we've got a lot of continuity in places like Dundee and Perth, and a number of those appointed have good experience in similar roles. We're yet to make appointments for the ARC Communications and Development positions but we're confident we will find candidates with the charisma and Scouting knowledge to take on these roles.

**Stuart Imrie:** I have now managed to appointed all the ARC posts and have made significant progress identifying Regional Advisers. Of course all of this has only been achieved with a great deal of support from Commissioners, Leaders and supporters throughout the Region, for which I am immensely grateful.

## Q. What are you looking forward to most in your new role?

**Sandy Jack:** Having a single focus rather than my current situation that has responsibility for the centenary, conference, Area and Region. In the long-term the main thing I'm looking forward to is helping to provide better Scouting to more Scouts and to see our membership rising.

**Derek Colley:** I'm keen to see District Commissioners taking the lion's share of responsibility and accolades. They have a tough job and are the drivers of the whole move towards the new structure. Generally, I'm looking forward to making Scouting more accessible and focused on the localities where Scouting is taking place. I'm very supportive of how the Movement is driving forward change.

**Stuart Imrie:** Getting on with it for real! Putting into practice all we have talked about, to bring Scouting to more young people and adults. Scouting is obviously a significant part of my life; through it my family and I have made many good friends throughout Scotland and indeed the rest of the world, and had a lot of fun in the process. Long may it continue!

## Fordell Firs

### DIARY DATES

**The Final Countdown - the 12 bases of Christmas**  
7 - 9 December 2007

**Brass Monkey Camp**  
18 January 2008

**Brass Monkey Camp**  
15 February 2008

**Festival Camp '08 - Scout and Guide International Camp**  
27 July - 2 August 2008

contact:  
The Warden  
Fordell Firs National Activity Centre  
Dunfermline  
Fife KY11 7HQ  
t: 01383 412704  
e: warden@fordellfirs.org.uk

## Activities

### Hill Assessor's Forum

Assessors from all across the country came together for the 2007 Hill Assessor's Forum on the weekend of the 9th - 11th November at Meggernie Outdoor Centre. The assessors spent 2 full days being advised by 4 outside instructors on a variety of aspects of hill activities. The whole weekend was a great success and will help the assessors have more opportunity to develop their leader skills.

If you have any questions or are looking for guidance regarding activities, please contact SHQ Activities Adviser Roderick 'Bod' Maclean or Chris Lawson, Programme and Development Officer at SHQ.

**Lochgoilhead:** visit [www.lochgoilhead.org.uk](http://www.lochgoilhead.org.uk) for information and events

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You can now catch up on what is happening at Fordell by logging on to:  
[www.fordellfirs.blogspot.com](http://www.fordellfirs.blogspot.com).

19 NORTH LEITH SANDS  
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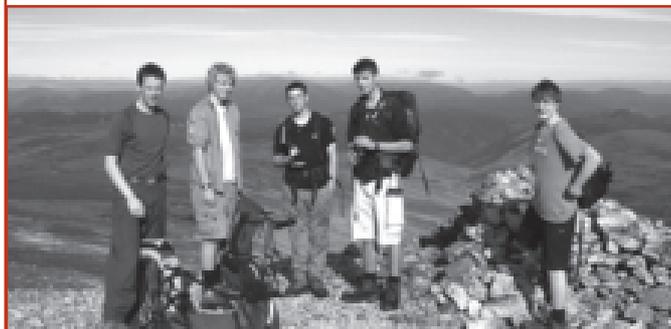
## North East Scouts Hit the Hills

14 Explorer Scouts and 13 adult Leaders/Network members from Aberdeen City and Kincardine & Deeside got together for an extremely successful NE Region hillwalking weekend on 5th to 7th October at Braemar.

Based at the excellent Braemar Guide Centenary Shieling, the members completed a variety of medium and high level hikes in small parties over the two days. The routes provided very enjoyable walks in less busy areas of the Glenshee hills, and included some elements of instruction by the walk leaders, as well as a leader Permit assessment.

The weather was excellent, and it was estimated that the 27 participants, from several different Units and Groups in the two Areas, collectively covered more than 1000 'boot' kilometres over the two days - about the length of the UK!

The local Area Commissioner took off his uniform to become Master Chef for the weekend, and provided a wonderful array of healthy, and very filling meals for the hungry hikers. It is hoped to hold a follow-up NE Region hike weekend for interested hillwalkers sometime next spring.



## The future's bright at Meggernie

Like many Scout Centres up and down the UK this year our trees from the Woodland Trust have arrived. We have 1845 to plant altogether, some to form a hedge and the rest spread around the site. Hopefully many centre users between now and March will play their part in the planting. 27th Forth Valley Scouts made a great start when they managed to work magic and plant 160 between them. 33rd Fife brought Hogwarts to the Banqueting Hall for their spellbound evening. The Hall also saw the Glenlyon Children's Halloween Party.

Calling all Cub Leaders, please pass on the date and contact details for our Parent and Cub Camp in May. As all adults need to be disclosed for a residential they need to apply as soon as possible.

Have a good festive season and hope to see you in 2008.



### Contact details:-

Judith or Rab Potter  
Meggernie Outdoor Centre,  
Fasgadh, Bridge of Balgie,  
Glenlyon, Aberfeldy,  
Perthshire,  
PH15 2PP

Tel/Fax: 01887 866231

email: warden@meggernie.org.uk

You could visit our new website at [www.meggernie.org.uk](http://www.meggernie.org.uk). It's getting better all the time!

Meggernie does have equipment for hire and the range of activities available is increasing all the time. You could even give us a call and drop in at the Centre for a cup of tea and a look round

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(Tick boxes as required)

- Meggernie Outdoor Centre
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**Bonaly Scout Campsite**  
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Tel:0131 441 1878 Fax:0131 441 6169  
Email: [info@bonaly.org.uk](mailto:info@bonaly.org.uk)

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## Special Needs

Well another Scouting season is well underway and I am sure the many special needs members in groups throughout Scotland will be enjoying their Scouting. A big thank you to all leaders who are providing that little extra support that is required. I am delighted to say that I have received several enquires for help in supporting a new young people to join a group. There appear to be several young members with autism who are going to be able to join in Scouting. Please remember that there is a network of advisers throughout Scotland who will be happy to support leaders and groups with any issues or concerns they may have with including young members with additional needs.

I am looking forward to our restructuring which will see a network of Advisers in each of the new Regions. There will be a pool of knowledge and experience of many aspects of special needs so that support and advice will continue to be available throughout the country.

I would like to remind all leaders that our balanced programme and award system is based on achievement individual to each member's ability. This allows all young people to enjoy the Scouting adventure and feel they are valued and achieving to the best of their abilities. Special Needs covers a very wide range of abilities. This of course leads to many varied ways of ensuring that the ability of a member is appropriate to the activities being undertaken. The special needs team has experience of many situations and will be happy to discuss any support needs to help leaders to meet the requirements and challenges that may be involved.

When providing alternatives to include members of all abilities it is often necessary to purchase specific equipment or to have additional helpers, particularly when camping or going on expeditions. Both these aspects will undoubtedly involve additional expenses. Please remember there is a fund at SHQ to provide support for special needs in Scouting. An application form for the fund is available on the Scottish Scout website; if you wish further information please contact me.

We are hoping to expand our network of special groups particularly within hospitals and the children's hospices. If anyone would be interested in helping with such a group or would more information please contact me at [johnhkitson@btopenworld.com](mailto:johnhkitson@btopenworld.com)

John Kitson  
SHQ Special Needs Adviser



## International

### Danish Scouts want help for Scottish trip

A small group of Danish Scouts - two adults and six Scouts (aged 12-17) - are looking for help in planning to plan a visit to Scotland. They plan to travel on foot and want to know about good routes and places to camp.

If your troop/unit would like to assist them please contact Thomas Hansen by emailing [thomas@tmh.dk](mailto:thomas@tmh.dk)

### Ugandan Scouts seeking Scottish twin

Mbale District Scouts in Uganda are keen to twin with a Scottish Scout District. Mbale is a small town in eastern Uganda and the district has a population of about 2.5 million and 2500 Scouts from various schools and institutions. It is 200 miles from Kampala, 14 miles from the Kenyan border and surrounded by Mount Elgon, the second highest peak in the country.

Any district interested in developing a twinning arrangement should contact Mbale District Scouts Council public relations manager, Dongo Aramazan, by emailing him at: [aramzula@yahoo.com](mailto:aramzula@yahoo.com) Please also let me know on [hamish@scotcap.freemove.co.uk](mailto:hamish@scotcap.freemove.co.uk).

### Belgian Scouts wish to meet Scottish Scouts

A group of 12-15 year old Scouts from Belgium would like to spend some days together with Scottish Scouts in the Highlands next summer. They want to camp in the Highlands, meet a Scout troop from Scotland and hopefully spend some days together so that they can learn how Scouting operates here.

If you wish more information or are willing to spend some time with these Scouts please contact me on: [hamish@scotcap.freemove.co.uk](mailto:hamish@scotcap.freemove.co.uk)

### US Cub Scouts seek pen pals

A Cub Scout leader in Colorado Springs, Colorado is looking for pen pals for his older cubs and also to exchange badges. Anyone interested can contact Robin Kirby as follows:

Robin Kirby,  
5037 Raindrop Circle North,  
Colorado Springs,  
80917 719-596-7306,  
USA

or alternatively email:  
[rmkirby99@hotmail.com](mailto:rmkirby99@hotmail.com).

### Blair Atholl Jamborette proving popular with overseas groups

The 2008 Scottish International Patrol Jamborette at Blair Atholl is, as usual, proving a popular event with overseas Scout groups.



All 72 patrol spaces for Scouts from abroad have been filled nine months before the camp is due to take place. Once again it has proved a big pull for Boy Scouts of America troops with 14 of them sending contingents to Blair Atholl.

There will also be five Canadian troops represented and two Austrian as well as Scouts from Russia, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Belgium, Japan, Malawi, Singapore, Poland and South Africa.

Scottish Scouts are being selected between now and the end of the year.

Hamish Leal  
SHQ International Adviser



# R-U-In?

.....sign up NOW!

## Opt In

18-25? Want to take part in network activities and gain your awards? Then make sure you're in!! It's important that you're registered as a Scout Network member to get the most out of the network. Your membership card should list Scout Network as a role. Check out your details at [www.scouts.org.uk/membership](http://www.scouts.org.uk/membership).

## In Style

The SSNC branded clothing range is now available. Stand out from the crowd and show you're proud to be a part of Network in Scotland! Details and prices are available on the Scout Network website.

## In the hills?

Are you looking to complete your Queen's Scout & Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions? Can't get the required numbers then why not go to the [scout-network.org.uk](http://scout-network.org.uk) forums to find others in the same boat. Mountain Leader training is an ideal way of working towards QSA & DofE as well as gaining authorisation. Check out course dates and venues at [tinyurl.com/2rt3fd](http://tinyurl.com/2rt3fd).

## In-volved

With Areas merging to Regions, Scout Networks are moving to Districts. As networks are run by the members make sure you're involved in the transition. Find out from your Assistant Regional Commissioner – Scout Network how your region is going to be represented on the revised Scottish Scout Network Council. It's your chance to influence Scottish Scouting – not just the network.

## In the frame

A picture speaks a thousand words. And a thousand pictures speak volumes. Let's show what Scout Network in Scotland has been up to by creating a massive collection of photos from our centenary year. The Chief has been all over the world with Scottish Scout Network, let's share the pics. Send your centenary pics to the email address

above or submit them to [www.flickr.com/groups/ssn/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/ssn/). Why not put together your own slide show or video of the year?

## In the future

The Scottish Network Conference from 14th March 2007 in Glasgow is open to all Network Members. It's a chance to find out more about Scout Network, have your say and have some fun. With activities, a formal dinner on Saturday evening and bases on Sunday as well as the AGM of the SSNC it's looking like a great weekend. Applications will be available from January.

## Upcoming Events:

18th - 20th January 2008  
SSNC, Linlithgow

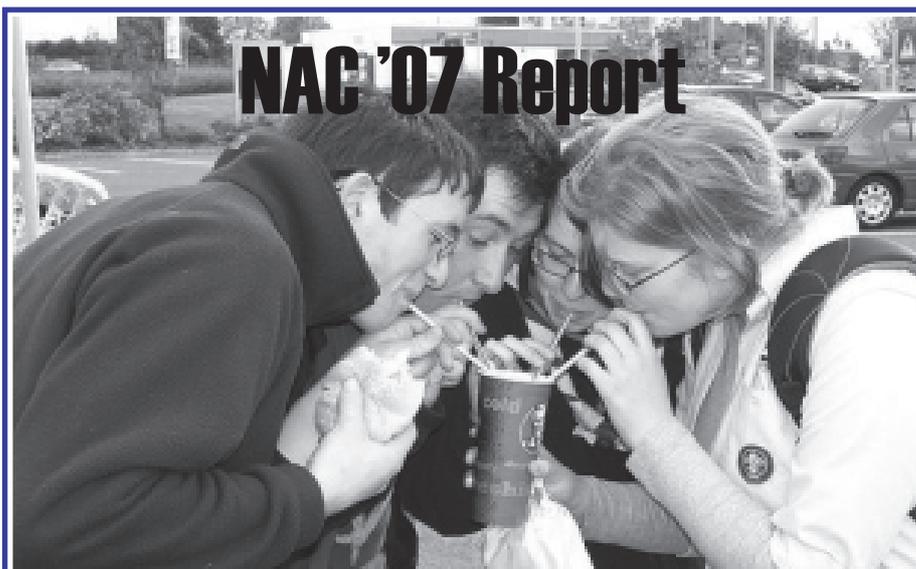
14th - 16th March 2008  
SSNC Conference, Glasgow

1st April 2008  
Network In Districts, Scotland

28th March - 13th April 2008  
Wiltshire SN-Andorra 2008, Andorra

4th - 6th April 2008  
Aber'iginal Network 2.0, Aberdeen

Over 21st June 2008  
Shetland Solstice



This year saw the Network Activity Camp – NAC'07 underwritten by Fife Area, and run under the Fife Network banner. Overall the camp was a huge success, with 46 network members attending.

'Pimp my Campfire' kicked off the weekend on the Friday night, which included a full size outdoor karaoke with projectors lined up front of a huge campfire.

Saturday saw a difference this year, with teams of fives travelling around Dundee on buses, going to bases located all over the city. The bases enabled the teams to complete a series of challenges to win cheques of money. Each team also had a number of quizzes in their challenge packs.

The cheques won by the teams were converted to money for the teams to

use at the race night that evening.

A cocktail reception held by Niall set the evening rolling with cocktails and nibbles prior to a full sit down meal. Following this was the horse race night, which saw the biggest win of the night - £31K.

Sunday was a slower pace with a number of onsite activities from archery to Queen's Scout Awards planning bases.

Following last year's Scout Own with a difference, this year we had a brief outline from Keith Armour of his Everest experience with the underlining words of "If opportunity knocks – grab it by both hands, help will always be there"

So to wrap up with the big question – Yep there will be a NAC'08!



Andrew Sharkey  
SHQ Commissioner for Explorers

## 2007 - What an incredible year!

2007, the Centenary of Scouting. A year that our Explorers won't forget!! Why am I so sure? Well almost 18 months ago as we looked forward to the centenary and wondered what it might bring to all of our members I was told that it would be up to us to make it. And we made it something special!

Almost 400 Scottish Young People at the World Jamboree, Explorers at the Tattoo, almost 50 Queen Scouts at Windsor reviewed by the Queen, winning Trapperskamp and taking the top five places, and then the real highlight for so many of our Explorers - the 12

Camps - our year long Scottish Explorer Jamboree.

Originally it was to be 12, but due to demand it became 14 events, covering all programme zones and allowing Explorers and Leaders the opportunity to:

- try something different,
- learn new skills,
- meet new people,
- supplement their programmes,
- develop the section and themselves,
- get new ideas to try locally, and
- improve their Scouting whilst having fun.



Explorers across the country talk about Jump Start, the Bennachie Challenge, Even More 2 Explore, Blackpool Towers, CeNs-LeSs, Party On, the Cally Rally, Highland Extreme, the Young Leader Training Weekend, Woolly Jumper, the

Explorer Extreme Challenge and Lyon Rampant, all of them superb and original camps. Only the Final Countdown at Fordell is left; another great experience awaiting the participants and leaders.

These wouldn't have happened without a lot of hard work by many people and I thank everyone for making this year such a success. I must also thank Paul Field who coordinated the 12 camps on my behalf and who worked tirelessly to ensure that what seemed like a good idea became an incredible success.

We must make sure that the momentum the centenary has built up isn't lost. This year has to be about celebrating the centenary and building for the future. Explorer Scouting is at the strongest point it has been in its 5 years of existence; the past 12 months have put it onto a sound footing for the future and it is up to us to make it even stronger in the coming years!

## ACTIV8

An area of concern for all leaders involved with the Explorer section has been the moving on process from the Scout section to Explorers. To help improve retention through supported transition into the Explorer section we are going to run jointly with the Scout section 3-fully catered residential activity weekends designed to introduce Scouts to the Explorer section whilst also building teamwork skills, confidence and independence.

The events, called ACTIV8, and aimed at members of the Movement between 13 and 14 ½ are being held at Auchengillan (1st - 3rd Feb), Templars Park (tbc) and Fordell Firs (tbc). There are 600 spaces across the 3 events and the cost, is just £10 per person.

I would encourage everyone to get all Scouts in that age range to attend and use the opportunity to then get them involved with your local Explorers.

Full information will be mailed direct to Scout Leaders and more information will be available via [www.scouts-scotland.org.uk](http://www.scouts-scotland.org.uk) or [www.theexplorerscouts.org.uk](http://www.theexplorerscouts.org.uk).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### 7th - 9th December 2007

The Final Countdown - The 12 Bases of Christmas (Fordell Firs)

### 15th - 17th February 2007

Young Leaders Training (being held at Lapwing Lodge)

### 7th - 9th March 2007

CeNs-LeSs

### 21st July - 1st August 2008

Blair Atholl International Patrol Jamboree

### 27th July - 2nd August 2008

Festival Camp 08 - Scout & Guide International Camp (Fordell Firs)  
Explorers/ Young Leaders being looked for to be on Service Team.

And for those looking into the real future:

### 1st - 8th August 2009

AJ09 (Auchengillan International Jamboree)

For further details on all forthcoming local, national and international opportunities and events and booking information, log on to [www.theexplorerscouts.org.uk](http://www.theexplorerscouts.org.uk).

## Census 2008!

Last year our Explorer census figures showed a remarkable increase. Having spoken to people in the Areas showing the largest increases it seems that a lot of it was down to accurate record keeping and the relationship between the various Explorer Units and the Districts that are responsible for recording the data.

An ongoing problem that seemed common to many was units that meet at Group level or sections that had Young Leaders did not record any members as there was nowhere to do so on the Group return. This is because Explorers are a District Provision and numbers must be on the District return (or Area if no districts exist). The best way to address this is to start looking now, so that when the figures are required at the start of 2008 you are ready to provide them.

I intend to write to each District to remind them of the importance of getting the data collected and making sure it is accurate, but this is a two way process with units and sections with Young Leaders making sure that all members are correctly recorded on the census return.

## And Finally...

Remember that SHQ is there to support you!

If you think it would be useful to discuss programme ideas, would like someone from the Explorer section at SHQ to visit your District or Area please contact us and we will do whatever we can to help. I can be contacted on [andrew.sharkey1@btopenworld.com](mailto:andrew.sharkey1@btopenworld.com).

## City Treasure Hunts

Units are always looking for something original to do and I think I may have found a ready made solution for a fun day out, Treasure Trails. These are either murder mystery or treasure trails around an area seeking out and then following clues, seeing the sites of the location as you do so. There are also prizes to be won every month for groups taking part.

There are over 35 trails already available in Scotland and loads more round the rest of the UK. For more information visit [www.treasuretrails.co.uk](http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk).

## WWW.THEEXPLORERSOUTS.ORG.UK

The Scottish Explorer website recently it had its 118,000th hit! It's a great resource for sharing programme ideas, activity opportunities and general chat. It has an attached mailing list that is used to share information about the section directly to everyone that has signed up. This means we can have a quick turn around on items that may be of interest to you or your Explorers. If you haven't signed up yet the only person missing out is you!



As the centenary celebrations come to an end the challenge we all have now is how we take Scouting forward into its next century. Have you thought yet how you are going to develop your Troop in 2008 and beyond?

2008 brings a number of changes to the structure of Scouting in Scotland and how you in your Troop will be supported at local and a national level as well as some changes to the balanced programme.

A number of events and activities are planned to help you manage these changes and get the most benefit for you and your young people.

## National Camping Competition suspended

With the changes to the structure in Scouting from April next year the Scout Support Team have agreed to temporarily suspend the National Camping Competition in 2008.

We are already discussing how this event will be re-launched in 2009. The Support Team would welcome any suggestions about how this event could be run in the future under the new structure.

Suggestions should be sent to [scoutsection@scouts-scotland.org.uk](mailto:scoutsection@scouts-scotland.org.uk) and marked Camping Competition.

I would however encourage as many Districts as possible to run their own District Camping Competitions throughout 2008 and to that end I have placed a set of generic rules used over the last few years for Inter-Area Camping Competitions on the website to assist ADC(Scouts) in the organisation of their own events.

## Support Team vacancies

We are currently looking for two people to join the Scout Support Team. The Support Team provides a vital role in supporting the development of the programme and the section within Scotland.

If you would like to put your name forward please send an e-mail to [scoutsection@scouts-scotland.org.uk](mailto:scoutsection@scouts-scotland.org.uk) marked 'Support Team'.

## ADC (Scouts) Conference 2008

Changes arising from the move to the new Regional structure from April 2008, means a greater support role for Scout Troops will be needed at District level. To assist Districts and ADC (Scouts) in this revised and vital role we plan to hold a weekend workshop at Tulliallan from Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th February 2008. The event will concentrate on how

the lines of communication will work, practical support for Scout Leaders, supporting the changes in the balanced programme, events at local and national level and best practice for ADC (Scouts). Each District will be entitled to send one representative and application forms, available on the website, need to be in soon!

## The Campsie Challenge

sponsored by 



The Campsie Challenge was held at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre from Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd September 2007. Over 250 Scouts and Leaders from all over Scotland attended to participate in this new event in the Scout section programme. What a fantastic weekend it turned out to be with over ten teams participating in the two day Campsie Challenge, competing for the Adventure Challenge Trophy, by navigating their way around the Campsie Fells and completing various challenges. Twelve teams also participated in the Lunar Challenge Incident Night hike too.

While all this was going on, over 130 Scouts were participating in a wide range of on-site activities at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre including climbing, team building, pioneering, mountain biking, crate climbing and raft building. Many

thanks to the Scottish Fellowship and, in particular, Duncan Millar and Bruce Lindsay for their organisation of the event.

The Campsie Challenge was won by the 19th Ayrshire (pictured above) who retained the Adventure Challenge Trophy they won in 2006. They were all presented with a top of the range Vango rucksack courtesy of our sponsors. In second place was the team from the 145th Glasgow who were presented with Vango sleeping bags and in third were the 10th Perthshire who all received personal Mini-Trangia stoves.

Following on from the success of the event it is planned to run the Campsie Challenge again in 2008 - more details will follow early in 2008.



as 'the Devil's Descent' (abseiling) 'Ghost Ship' (sailing) and Dastardly Disguises (making scary masks) before 'Escaping from the Underworld' via the Jacob's Ladder. To top it all there was a Halloween Party on the Saturday evening. Both the Cubs and Leaders had a great weekend.

don't forget to check out Programmes Online at [www.scouts.org.uk/pol](http://www.scouts.org.uk/pol). There are many useful programme ideas on this website. If you want to know more, phone the Information Centre at Gilwell on 0845 300 1818.

As the Centenary year progresses much has happened this year. After the launch of the 31 woggles in August (pictured right) the woggles are currently being passed from pack to pack in each Area. We have heard positive stories from all over Scotland and we are looking forward to getting the woggles back with the pictures and ideas that capture current Cub Scouts for generations to come. The woggles, which together form a staff, will then have travelled throughout Scotland. By the time the woggles come together at Fordell Firs to make the staff whole again each Cub Scout will have been part of its journey. If you want to know when the woggle is coming to your pack, contact your AAC Cub Scouts or Area Commissioner.

Other events have also been organised for the Cubs. On 26th to 28th October Cubs had a chance to get together for a truly scary Halloween themed weekend at Lochgoilhead. Cubs had to do a variety of creepy activities such

The next Cub Weekend will take place at Lochgoilhead the weekend of 29th February to 2nd March 2008. The theme will be Pirates. With water and boats on the doorstep this is bound to be a fantastic weekend for your Cubs too! If you want more information contact the centre on 01301 703217 or [info@lochgoilhead.org.uk](mailto:info@lochgoilhead.org.uk).

Another exciting opportunity is the 8th Parent and Cub Camp at Meggernie on 16th to 18th May 2008. The activities of the weekend will reflect the nature of the countryside found around the Centre. Please make your Cubs and their parents aware of this event. Apart from being great fun, parent/child camps are one of the best ways of recruiting new volunteers. As places are limited and all parents need a disclosure form, you need to contact Meggernie quickly on 01887 866231 or [warden@meggernie.org.uk](mailto:warden@meggernie.org.uk) for more information.

For planning your own Cub activities



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Eva Will SHQ Commissioner for Beavers  
beavers@scouts-scotland.org.uk

As our centenary year draws to a close, I hope you will all be able to look back and feel that it's been a memorable one, not only for yourself, but for the young people in your care. Think of all the things you have achieved this year.

- Have your Beavers attended a Centenary camp or Sunrise Ceremony?
- Have they achieved the Scottish Challenge Award?
- How many Beavers in your colony have you encouraged to gain their Chief Scout Bronze Award or move on to Cubs?
- Have you managed to complete some or all of your own training?
- Have you learnt a new skill or met new people?

It is good practice to set yourself challenges as long as they are achievable. You don't even have to write them down, but it's not a bad idea to tell someone – they'll hopefully encourage you and may be able to help you along the way. You may not get a badge for completing the task like the Beavers, but the sense of accomplishment will make it worthwhile.



## Restructuring

Looking forward to next April, we will be entering the new Regional/District structure. As far as the Beavers are concerned, there will be little difference, apart from a change in the badges they wear. Colony Leaders will still be supported by ADC (Beavers) at local level but ADCs will now be supported directly by the Beaver Support Team at SHQ.

There will be new districts formed in some parts of Scotland so you or your neighbouring colony may be in a different district from before. The support team hope to travel round the country in spring next year to meet those supporting the colonies and to help those in new roles with any difficulties they are encountering.

## Scottish Challenge

We've been delighted with the interest so far in the Scottish Challenge Award. Judging by the number of badges which have been bought from SHQ, over a quarter of Beavers in Scotland have gained the award this year. Thanks to all leaders who have included the award in their programme.

Next year, the support team will be starting to evaluate how the award has been used; if it has been successful; if there are any areas which could have been improved; if it was too hard or easy to achieve. If you have any thoughts on this we would be delighted to hear from you. Some leaders may be contacted and asked to help with a more formal evaluation and we look forward to your co-operation with this.



## New Faces on the Support Team

There has been a change in the membership of the SHQ Beaver Support Team since summer. Elise Stephen has finished her time on the team and is taking on new academic challenges. I would like to thank her for all her help over the last 2 years. Her place has been filled by Joe Lally, a GSL from Airdrie, who has been actively supporting the leaders in his Group for a number of years. He brings a fresh approach to the team.

Because of the restructuring process, we decided to bring an extra member on to the team, and we're delighted to have Jenny Harrison who has been AAC Beavers in Midlothian for a number of years, and brings with her a great deal of experience in running and supporting colonies as well as in adult training.

I thank all the team members for the work they do, over and above their other roles in Scouting.

If you have any questions about anything regarding the Beaver section, please feel free to contact us by email at [beavers@scouts-scotland.org.uk](mailto:beavers@scouts-scotland.org.uk) or by mail via SHQ.

Best wishes to you all this Christmas.

## Last of the Centenary Camps

Beavers in Shetland joined with other members of the Area in the most Northerly Camp in Britain – on the Island of Unst. They opted to hold their camp over the Sunrise Celebrations on 1st August. Judging by the photos, they seem to have had a great time.



## Adult Support - it's everyone's job

I was reminded recently of the need to keep your feet on the ground. The down pipe at the back of the garage was making a strange gurgling noise and I confidently toddled up the ladder in order to look down to see what the cause was. If only I had kept my feet on the ground. I soon found myself wobbling further off the ground than I was comfortable with and failing to solve the problem.

Scouting is similar. We can easily get carried away with the latest concept, the emerging strategy, the redefining of boundaries, new appointments.... The list is endless yet we forget why we joined up and what this great game is about.

It is sad to say that I don't now do as much training as I once did and having just returned from a weekend with leaders for the Highland Region I realise that I have been missing out. The training has been reviewed, evaluated and recommendation gathered for the future but that is not what was memorable. The

autumn colours of the Spey Valley were breathtaking, the accommodation warm, comfortable and welcoming and the catering excellent - but even that was not what was memorable.

The memorable part was the time we all spent together, chatting, sharing tales of our Scouting adventures and reminiscing over events and experiences past. The tales covered almost every continent and certainly a number of decades! We laughed, chatted and learned a lot from and about each other.

Training may not always be to everyone's liking, and some people may feel reluctant to sign up but once you are there I have yet to attend a training event in any capacity from which I didn't take something worthwhile away from it - even if it was a happy memory or someone else's funny story.

Training helps us all keep our feet on the ground and is a reminder of why we are doing it. That is to ensure that our young people enjoy safe, appropriate, exciting

and fun Scouting.

I eventually managed to get the gurgling stopped once I took the plate off the pipe and cleared the leaves. To do this my feet were firmly on the ground.

Isabel McNab  
SHQ Commissioner (Adult Support)



## Employment opportunity at SHQ

There is an employment opportunity at Scottish Scout Headquarters from mid-January for a part-time Quartermaster to support equipment hire operations.

For more information please contact SHQ on 01383 419 073 or go to [www.scouts-scotland.org.uk](http://www.scouts-scotland.org.uk).

## Scottish Scout gift range

If you're still looking for the ideal Christmas gift, what about an exclusive gift from the Scottish Scouting gift range? You can choose from kilt pins, a traditional mini Scottish quaich, cufflinks, brooches, photo frames and, of course, a traditional Scout woggle.

All proceeds go to the 7-On Appeal to help develop Scottish Scouting. You can download an order form from [www.scouts-scotland.org.uk/library](http://www.scouts-scotland.org.uk/library). Please order before 10th December for delivery in time for Christmas.



### Local Training Contacts

<b>Aberdeen</b>	J Park	01224 733057
<b>Angus</b>	J Bell	01356 622300
<b>Argyll</b>	J Kitson	01505 850298
<b>Ayrshire</b>	A Waddington	01560 482770
<b>Banff &amp; Buchan</b>	J Lee	01261 821280
<b>Borders</b>	M Sims	0131 336 3556
<b>Caithness</b>	S Carson	01847 892518
	M Thompson	01955 602074
<b>Clackmannan</b>	A Steele	01259 218718
<b>Dumfriesshire</b>	I Mitchell	01387 267609
<b>Dunbartonshire</b>	P Durrant	01389 841804
<b>Dundee</b>	G Walker	01382 812897
<b>East Lothian</b>	M Sims	0131 336 3556
<b>Edinburgh</b>	M Sims	0131 336 3556
<b>Fife</b>	G Gilbert	01383 739656
<b>Forth Valley</b>	R Fletcher	01786 465182

<b>Galloway</b>	V Service	01557 860283
<b>Glasgow</b>	G Bainbridge	01360 770966
<b>Gordon</b>	A Fotheringham	01224 744973
<b>Inverness</b>	A Smith	01847 892590
<b>Kincardine &amp; Deeside</b>	A Fotheringham	01224 744973
<b>Lanarkshire</b>	F Elder	01555 841137
<b>Lochaber</b>	A Smith	01847 892590
<b>Midlothian</b>	G Loudon	01968 673060
<b>Moray</b>	V Smith	01343 842517
<b>Orkney</b>	A Smith	01847 892590
<b>Perth &amp; Kinross</b>	H Kirk	01738 840701
<b>Shetland</b>	P Davis	01595 695073
<b>Renfrew &amp; Inverclyde</b>	B Donaldson	0141 561 3920
<b>Ross &amp; Sutherland</b>	A Smith	01847 892590
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<b>W. Isles</b>	G Denny	01851 703849

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