

Spring Forward!

Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, 23/24 May

DC and GSL - The Toughest Roles in Scouting?

Some people say that the roles of a Group Scout Leader and District Commissioner are the toughest roles in Scouting. Whatever your view, effective GSLs and DCs are worth their weight in gold! Thanks to funding from the Scottish Government SHQ has some 'gold' to invest in these key 'managers' of Scouting.

If you are a GSL or a DC you are invited to participate in Spring Forward, a weekend event designed to provide you with practical support, information sharing and ideas to help you in your important role. We will be joined by colleagues from Gilwell Park in delivering a series of workshops covering vital parts of your role. Topics will include Group Development, Recruiting Adults, Induction and Review, Retention and

Motivation, Challenging Behaviour in Adults and more. Some sessions will be role specific, whilst others will engage DCs and GSLs together.

Representatives from the Committee of the Council (the governing body of The Association for the UK) will also be attending to share The Association's 2018 Vision for Scouting. They are keen to hear your views!

The generously subsidised rate for the weekend is only £25, to include all meals, accommodation and support materials. The application form is available on the Scouts Scotland website. Places are limited, so make sure you secure your place quickly!

When the going gets tough, the tough.....
Spring Forward!

Scottish Variations from POR

The most recent edition of Scottish Variations from POR is now available on www.scouts-scotland.org.uk. Variations from the published September 2008 edition of POR (available on Scoutbase) are required in Scotland as a direct consequence of legislative differences between Scotland and other parts of the UK e.g. on charity law, child protection, etc.

Following the introduction of a Region/District structure in April last year, Scouting in Scotland is also organised differently from the rest of the UK. Scottish Regions and Districts have

functions and responsibilities that are not in all cases directly comparable with Counties and Districts elsewhere. The resulting Rule differences are comprehensively documented in Scottish Variations.

It is imperative, therefore, that the primacy of Scottish Variations from POR is recognised. Scottish Variations should be consulted in addition to the main POR when seeking clarification on matters of Policy, Organisation and Rules applying in Scotland. In due course the web-based (UK) POR will be appropriately annotated to highlight where a Scottish Variation applies.

Praise for Scottish Scouting from HMIE

The Scottish Council The Scout Association has been praised for the quality and impact of its programme on children and young people in Scotland in a report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) last month.

The report identified the 'very well developed' quality of learning experiences available for children and young people through Scouting as a key strength of the Association in Scotland, which last year saw youth membership across Scotland rise towards 30,000, with particular increases in membership among females and in the 10 -14 age range. Involvement in Scouting badge work and award schemes were seen as vital in building confidence and practical skills, with some of those Scout members interviewed during the review emphasising how they are now putting these skills into practice professionally in teaching and community learning roles.

The HMIE report, fieldwork for which was carried out in October last year, also recognised the significant impact Scouting makes at local level in Scottish communities, ranging from work carried out in primary schools in support of local environmental and regeneration projects. The 6000 'enthusiastic and committed' adult volunteers were pinpointed as another major strength, while the report rated the operational planning of the Association in Scotland as 'excellent'.

A link to the full report is available on the News section of www.scouts-scotland.org.uk.

what's inside?

latest news	p 2, 3, 4 & 5
activity centres	p 6-7
international & special needs	p 8
beavers	p 9
cubs	p 10

scouts	p 11
explorers	p 12
network	p 13
adult training	p 14

get in touch

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Scottish Scouting helps Scouting in Malawi

Thanks to the generosity of our own Scouting community, over £1,300 raised through collections at two national events is on its way to Malawi to help the Scout Association of Malawi (SAM). These monies are being put to practical use to develop Scouting across the country.

It can be hard for us to understand how difficult it can be to establish Scouting in a developing African country when there are so many things that we take for granted that would be regarded as a luxury in Malawi.

I had the privilege of meeting the chief executive of SAM, Steve Kanene, towards the end of last year and was shocked when I heard that he had been on the verge of giving up Scouting because key grant funding for SAM had come to an end. Many of the costs of Scouting in Malawi are met by grants from Norway, Denmark and Gilwell. But these are short term lasting for a maximum of three years. There was no sign of any funding coming along to fill the gap and he had to seriously consider if he could continue in post when he had a wife and children to support.

Scouting in Malawi only resumed in 1999 after being forced underground during the reign of President Hastings Banda. Since then it has seen a dramatic growth, mainly based in schools, and numbers have soared from 5,500 in 2004/5, when the Scout Association of Malawi was recognised by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, to 10,500 currently. But this expansion has brought its problems, mainly in relation to funding, including staffing, equipment and training materials.

Through discussion with Steve Kanene and with Anne Masino of the (former) Edinburgh Area Scouts International Expeditions, who has taken Scouts to Malawi, including leading the North contingent of the UK Scouting Sunrise Malawi expedition, we discovered areas where help is most desperately needed. This includes taking Scouting to two areas of the country where it just does not exist at present.

In future issues of SSN we will outline some practical projects that you could perhaps support at relatively little cost but with significant impact, and we will consider how supporting such projects can provide interesting international programme ideas for each Section. Hamish Leal, SHQ International Adviser

2011 Jamboree

With 2008 now behind us it is now time to start looking forward to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree.

This event is being held in Kristianstad, Sweden from the 27th July until the 7th August 2011, under the theme of Simply Scouting. UKHQ are now in the initial stages of preparing the UK Contingent for this event and have appointed Mike Parkes as the UK Contingent Leader. SHQ have been asked to bid for Units for this event, and the number of allocated Units should be confirmed by Easter.

Unit makeup is the same as previous years, 4 patrols of 9, each with a Leader – i.e. 36 young people and 4 Leaders. Participants are to be aged 14 – 17 years old at the time of the Jamboree, having been born between 28th July 1993 and 27th July 1997. Unfortunately there is no indication of cost as yet, but this will become clearer as the event approaches.



In addition to the participants and Leaders there will also be the opportunity for members to attend as part of the International Service Team (IST) or the Contingent Support Team (CST). The applications for IST and the details of selection will be announced when information is available. The applications for the CST close on 13th March 2009. – application forms are available online at www.scouts.org.uk/wsj2011. The Selection weekend will be held over the 15-17th May at Gilwell Park.

There is little information forecast from the Swedish National Scout Organisation during the early part of 2009, however if any information is available it will be highlighted on the Scouts Scotland website or our eNews bulletins - Scouts Scotland Plus and Scottish Programme eNews. Anyone looking for any general information should check out the UK website – www.scouts.org.uk/wsj2011.

Application forms for Unit leaders are available from SHQ now or can be downloaded from the International page on www.scouts-scotland.org.uk. Any other enquiries regarding this at the moment should be directed to keith@scouts-scotland.org.uk.

Validity of Criminal Record Checks – Rules Update

The Scout Association currently recognises a Scouting criminal record check (Disclosure) as having a validity of up to 5 years. A new Disclosure is required every 5 years. At the time of going to print, all Districts and Regions have been tasked with ensuring that the Disclosure records of all adult members are fully compliant with this policy.

If an individual is moving from one appointment to another in the same Region or its Districts within that 5-year period a new Disclosure is not required provided that (a) there is a valid Disclosure for the initial appointment and (b) the individual has had no break in service in that period.

The Scout Association has recently published a Factsheet (FS321004) on Criminal Record Checks. The Association's policy remains under review in the light of new legislation coming into place in England, Wales and Northern Ireland later this year and in Scotland in 2010. The Factsheet will be updated as further information becomes available.

Aberdeen Scouts in London visit

Pictured below are Stoneywood Scouts from Aberdeen taking in the sights from the London Eye during their trip towards the end of last year.

A group of 15 Scouts and 8 Leaders flew down to for 5 nights in October staying at Baden-Powell House. During the trip the group also took in a West End show, were shown around the Houses of Parliament, meeting local MP Frank Doran, and visited all of the London visitor attractions.



Awards October 2008 – January 2009

BAR TO THE AWARD FOR MERIT In recognition of further outstanding services

Highlands & Islands Region

Mrs V E Rorie, District Scouter, Orkney.

South East Region

D J Burns, ACSL 4th Leith (St Serf's);
Mrs I G Bonthron, ACSL 10th Haymarket.

AWARD FOR MERIT

In recognition of outstanding services

Clyde Region

Mrs S Boyle, CSL/DDC, 185th Glasgow (Burnside Church), South East; Mrs A E Chambers, BSL 38th Glasgow (1st Rutherglen), South East; B P Harris, GSL 145th Glasgow, Eastwood; A Johnston, SL 38th Glasgow (1st Rutherglen) South East; Mrs K Johnston, ABSL, 38th Glasgow (1st Rutherglen, South East; Mrs V F Rowan, ABSL, 38th Glasgow (1st Rutherglen), South East; Miss L H E Sharp, CSL/District Nights Away Adviser, 145th Glasgow, Eastwood.

East Region

R Aird, District Badge Secretary, Dunfermline; Mrs E A Bull, District Secretary, Rosyth; Mrs L H Couper, ABSL 83rd Fife (Cairneyhill), Dunfermline; Mrs C Doggett, GSL 62nd Fife (Crossford), Dunfermline; Mrs C Johnson, SL 83rd Fife (Cairneyhill), Dunfermline.

Forth Region

Mrs M F Hamilton, ABSL 3rd Clackmannan (1st Menstrie); I McLeish, ASL, 7th West Lothian (Brucefield); C D Robertson, SL 4th/6th Forth Valley, Stirling & Trossachs; Mrs I M Sherman,

ABSL, 3rd Clackmannan (1st Menstrie), Clackmannanshire; T L Wilson, ACSL 4th/6th Forth Valley, Stirling & Trossachs.

Highlands & Islands Region

C J Hopkins, ASL, 1st Conon Bridge & Maryburgh (8th Ross & Sutherland); J S King, ASL/TA, 1st Evanton (17th Ross & Sutherland); Mrs M M King, CSL/TA, 1st Evanton (17th Ross & Sutherland); D J Reid, DSL Orkney; Miss F M Smart, ADC (Explorer Scouts)/TA Ross & Sutherland.

North East Region

H W Ramsay, SL 1st Stonehaven, Kincardineshire; J R D Setter, ASL/ADC (Scouts), 1st Stonehaven, Kincardineshire.

South East Region

A Barlow, Group Chairman/District Chairman, 10th Haymarket; Mrs H Barlow, Group Administrator/DESA, 10th Haymarket; Mrs H Ellis, ABSL 10th Haymarket; Mrs J E Forbes, CSL/TA, 98th Pentland; A D Leal, SL 31st Pentland (Juniper Green); G M McLean, ACSL 71st Haymarket (St Anne's); W C Nicholson, ASL 6th Leith (1st Newhaven); I J M Paton, ACSL 10th Haymarket; N M D Phillips, CSL 31st Pentland (Juniper Green); Mrs K Renwick, ACSL 88th Haymarket; G Yule, CSL 10th Haymarket.

South West Region

S P Banner, DCSL Ayrshire East; D B Clarkson, SL 28th Ayrshire (Troon), Kyle & Carrick; M Hood, Group Member, 29th Ayrshire (New Farm Loch), Ayrshire East; S W Hudson, Group Committee Member, 29th Ayrshire (New Farm Loch), Ayrshire East; T A Keegan, SL/District SF Member, 16th Ayrshire (Newmilns),

Ayrshire East; C F Smith, CSL 28th Ayrshire (Troon), Kyle & Carrick.

West Region

R T Easdale, DESL Renfrewshire; Mrs K McIntyre, CSL 51st Renfrew & Inverclyde, Renfrewshire; A B Millar, ASL 4th Renfrew & Inverclyde, Renfrewshire.

CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICES

Clyde Region

D McCabe, ASL/District Nights Away Adviser/EXSL (YL), 116th Glasgow (St Josephs), Eastwood.

Highlands & Islands Region

Mrs A Cooper, ASL 2nd Orkney (Kirkwall); K Matheson, ASL 2nd Orkney (Kirkwall); J R S Tulloch, EXSL Orkney; Mrs I M Webster, ACSL 2nd Orkney (Kirkwall); J D Webster, CSL 2nd Orkney (Kirkwall).

North East Region

G D Murray, GSL 1st Portlethen, Kincardineshire; S A Walker, ADC (Adult Training), Kincardineshire.

South East Region

M A A Gray, CSL 125th Haymarket (St Ninian's, Corstorphine); I G Lamb, District Scout Fellowship Chairman, Haymarket.

South West Region

Mrs A F J Aspeslagh-Fonteyne, DESC/DSFM, Ayrshire East; D Howe, Group Vice Chairman, 34th Ayrshire (Mauchline), Ayrshire East; J Y Paterson, Group Chairman, 33rd Ayrshire, Ayrshire East; R Riddell, Group Chairman, 34th Ayrshire (Mauchline), Ayrshire East.

Dingwall Scout gets British Climbing team recognition

13 year old Dylan MacKenzie from the 1st Dingwall, 1st Ross-Shire Scout Group has been selected as an aspirant member of the British Junior Climbing Team, joining his brother who has been competing at International level since 2005.

Although Dylan (pictured right, snowboarding is one of his many other interests!) is too young to compete internationally this year, this means that he will benefit from extra coaching and team training events in preparation for International competitions in 2010 and the World Youth Championships to be held in the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, Ratho that year.



The Scottish Scout Fellowship

What have they been doing to help Scottish Scouting?

Over the last year, the Fellowship has been supporting local, District and national events across Scotland - from running bases at District camps to running and coordinating events on behalf of SHQ.

In what was one of the larger projects we supported this year, the Scottish Scout Fellowship was approached by Bonaly Scout Fellowship requesting help to rebuild their assault course.

The course had been gradually deteriorating over the years and unfortunately eventually had to be closed due to its poor condition.

The assault course was originally built by the Territorial Army over a period of several months, and it was a tall order to attempt to renovate the whole course in just one weekend, especially as we were holding our AGM on the Saturday night.

A keen team arrived for the work weekend and a lot of hard work and effort was put in by all who attended. Some of the obstacles had to be completely rebuilt, with others getting hefty make-overs to make them safe for use. Luckily the weather was on our side, and the rain held off.

By Sunday afternoon, after a lot of drilling, sawing, hammering and building, our challenge was complete. The whole team was proud of their efforts and the course now has a new lease of life.

Bonaly Scout Fellowship has expressed their heartfelt thanks for the renovation work we put in, and made sure we were well fed and watered all weekend.

They were then able to go on and complete the finishing touches to allow it to be enjoyed by all for many more years to come.

How can the Fellowship help you?

Among the members of the Scottish Scout Fellowship there is a great deal of experience, skill, knowledge and enthusiasm!

We are based all over Scotland and many of our members hold Wood Badges, Form Ms, Cs and Ws along with other activity qualifications and first aid certificates. And if we don't have a Fellowship member who can help then the chances are we know someone who can!

If you think that the Scottish Scout Fellowship could help you and your Section, District or Region or would simply like to know more, please contact your Regional Commissioner or our Fellowship Chairperson, Catherine Burnett at ssf@scouts-scotland.org.uk.

Changes to Scottish Scout News

Scottish Scout News (SSN) is an important tool for us to communicate what is happening in Scouting across Scotland. Over the last year or so, we have been reviewing SSN to make sure it is working as well as it can. Feedback on ways in which we can improve SSN has been sought through surveys and at various events. Thanks to all those who have taken the time to let us know their thoughts on how the publication can be improved.

The review of SSN has taken place during a time when we launched (in April last year) two eNewsletters aimed at getting specific information across to you in a more efficient way.

Scouts Scotland Plus is our general SHQ newsletter. It is sent out on the first Tuesday of every month to all adult members in Scotland who have a valid email address in the membership system. It contains news on policy updates, upcoming events and all other SHQ news, as well as interesting news items submitted by our members.

Scottish Programme eNews is a more targeted newsletter. It is sent on the second Thursday of every month to key supporters of Programme delivery at District level, as well as those in key roles at Regional level. It contains useful programme support information from the SHQ Sectional Commissioners and Advisers. The introduction of these newsletters also has an influence on the future purpose and format of SSN.

We plan that the content of SSN in future will be less focused on time-limited information, and more on showcasing Scottish Scouting and the range of activities taking place across the country. Much of this content will be image-led and generated by our membership. SSN will also continue to carry relevant news on updates to POR, grants information, etc. while more time-limited information regarding events will primarily be carried through our newsletters.

In future, we plan to produce SSN twice a year (February and August) in full colour, with the first 'new' edition being produced in August of this year, after a final June edition in the current format.

Again, we are keen to receive your feedback on these proposed changes, so if you have any comments or objections to these proposals, please contact David Tripp at david@scouts-scotland.org.uk.



Forth Region gears up for Namibia Expedition

Four Leaders from Forth Region have recently returned from Namibia after completing an exhausting week of reconnaissance prior to a major expedition in June 2009. Participants from Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling and West Lothian will travel to Namibia at the end of June 2009 to help dig a two mile trench in which a water main will be laid. The water main will supply 500 – 700 people with fresh water.

Scouting was a proscribed organisation during the war between South Africa and Angola and has only recently become established, experiencing rapid growth in the last three years. Part of the expedition plan is to support the Scouts of Namibia by organising a weekend camp for the local Namibian Scouts at the Northern Training centre at Oupundi. When in Namibia the four Leaders were invited to a meeting in the local Scout hall in Ongwediva where they helped to provide a programme for the young Scouts. The Scout hall turned out to be

a giant Wild Fig tree in a piece of open ground in the middle of the town (see below).

Plans for the expedition members also include the building of a training room and assault course at the Oupundi northern training centre together with a number of smaller tasks like erecting a flag pole and the shelving of a store room. There will be little free time!

Future meetings to prepare our local Scouts are planned in each of the Districts. Skills such as carpentry, bricklaying and cement working will be undertaken. In addition, Highland dancing and singing skills have already started to be honed, as a significant part of the experience for members will be the cultural exchange with the local Namibian people.

Fundraising has been ongoing in Forth Region's four Districts from April of last year and to date around £25,000 has been raised against a budget of

£123,000. A wide variety of events have already taken place; coffee mornings, bag packs, jumble sales and stewarding at a number of prestige events during the past summer. Rotary clubs across the Region are to be provided with a presentation on the objectives for the expedition and their support invited.

Of one thing there is no doubt, all of the participants will have a challenging three weeks of hard work and fun together. The last few days are to be spent enjoying a short tour of Etosha national park, the Skeleton Coast and the famed Namib Desert dunes. The whole experience will change everyone's perceptions and outlooks about what life in the Third World is really like, face to face.

Should you wish more information or wish to offer any form of support to the Scouts please visit the expedition website - www.forthnamibia.org.uk.



Scouts Summer Camps 2010
Free Place Extravaganza

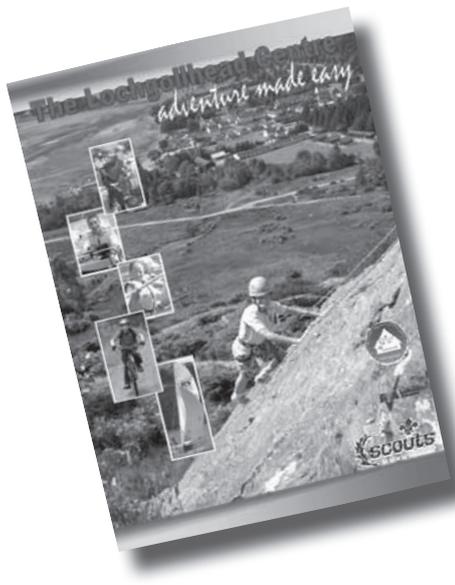
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www.jeka-groupolidays.co.uk

The Lochgoilhead Centre

visit www.lochgoilhead.org.uk or www.scouts-scotland.org.uk to download the new Lochgoilhead Centre leaflet and 2009 course diary



Courses at The Lochgoilhead Centre

The following courses are being run at The Lochgoilhead Centre during the first half of this year. Please visit the web site for more information – www.lochgoilhead.org.uk

RYA Sailing Courses

- Dinghy Start Sailing Level 1 - 27th/28th June
- Dinghy Basic Skills Level 2 - 27th/28th June
- Seamanship Skills – 30th/31st May
- RYA Dinghy Instructor – 6th – 10th April

RYA Powerboat Courses

- Powerboat Level 2 (Coastal Endorsement) – 4th/5th April
- Powerboat Level 2 (Coastal Endorsement) – 30th/31st May
- Safety Boat – 11th/12th April

Scout Permit Courses

- Terrain 1 Assessment - 18th/19th April
- Terrain 2 Training - 14th/15th March
- Terrain 2 Assessment - 18th/19th April
- Climbing & Abseil Training - 21st/22nd March
- Climbing & Abseil Assessment - 18th/19th April

First Aid Courses

- 16 hour Standard - 11th/12th April

Mountain Leader Training

- SPA Training - 16th/17th May



Contact:

The Warden,

Fordell Firs National Activity Centre,

Hillend, Dunfermline

Fife KY11 7HQ

t: 01383 412704

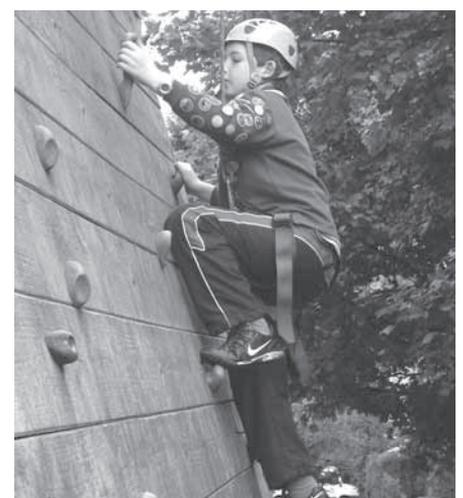
e: warden@fordellfirs.org.uk

w: www.fordellfirs.blogspot.com and www.fordellfirs.org.uk

What's available at Fordell in 2009:

If it's a Group, District or Centenary Camp, Fordell Firs can help with:

- Reception facility
- Marquees
- Tables and benches
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- Pots and utensils
- Field huts
- Activities for 200
- Flag break and Scouts' Own
- Transport on to site
- Plenty of parking
- Wet weather facility
- Henderson Building kitchen facilities for 600
- Assistance for transport from Airport or station
- Pre-camp storage facilities



Fordell Firs Fellowship needs YOU!

Are you up for learning some new skills and having fun?

The Fordell Firs Fellowship could be just what you are looking for.

Contact the Warden for more information - tel: 01383 412704

or email: warden@fordellfirs.org.uk

www.meggernie.org.uk

Our annual Snowman camp once again was low on the snow front but high in enjoyment.

The Scouts from 9 different Troops from all over Scotland enjoyed activities including the Tyrolyon Crossing over the River Lyon, Archery, Grass Sledging, the Traversing Wall and much, much more. One night indoors and the other camping in subzero temperatures all added to the experience. Look out for next year's event as this event is growing.

Spaces are still available at our Parent and Cub Camp on 15th - 17th May 2009, this event has grown due to demand. Don't miss out on this chance to experience a fully programmed weekend at Meggernie.

A couple of weeks later on 23rd May, there's an opportunity for Beavers to join in the fun at Meggernie for a Beaver Day. If you think you are within reasonable travelling distance get in touch for further details.

Weekends in the accommodation are filling up fast this year, so if you would like to come to Meggernie you will have to hurry. Summer camps are booking up too. Are you ready to come to Meggernie this summer?

Check out www.meggernie.org.uk for news of events: Beavers, Explorers, Network, HALOW Camp for all Section Leaders...there's something for everyone at Meggernie in 2009.

Contact us at:
Meggernie Outdoor Centre,
Bridge of Balgie, Glenlyon,
Aberfeldy, PH15 2PP
Tel/Fax: 01887 866231
email: warden@meggernie.org.uk

Alternatively why not come see for yourself, have a cuppa, chat and tour with the wardens then you will understand why groups come too Meggernie time after time. Give us a call or drop an email beforehand, you won't be disappointed by what you see.



Remember to keep your contact details - email, postal and phone - up to date by logging in to www.scouts.org.uk!

www.highlandadventure.org.uk

This year's camp will be LOWLAND ADVENTURE at Dalmeny House, South Queensferry.

Activities will range from quad biking and hover crafting to backwoods cooking and survival. Please visit www.highlandadventure.org.uk to download the application form and advertising flyer.



Douglaswood is a few miles north east of Dundee in the Angus countryside.

We have a choice of 2 indoor accommodation centres which sleep up to 34 & 24 each, as well as 11 campsites of various sizes across the site.

There are several on-site activities like mountain biking, an interesting nature trail to follow or you could try the field studies centre. Many other activities are available nearby so whether it's skate boarding or water sports, there's plenty to do.

Take a look at our website for more information and to make a booking

www.douglaswood.org.uk
or email us - bookings@douglaswood.org.uk
Come and stay - you'll have a great time

Kirkdale Port Campsite

Situated on the Galloway coast, SW Scotland, Kirkdale Port is a greenfieldcampsite with altar fires, campfire circle, water stand pipes and chemical toilet disposal. Activities include a climbing tower, crate climb, leap of faith and 56 metre "Kirkdale Tunnels".

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For the more adventurous, canal canoeing can be organised and Beecraigs Country Park is nearby. Beecraigs has wide range of outdoors activities ranging from archery to rock climbing - all within 10 minutes.

Do you want to know more? Visit our website

WWW.THECRAIGSSITE.INFO
or contact the Bookings Manager on 01506 633 689

Denmark – The Scots are coming!

Imagine if you can the sheer logistics of providing 20,000 Scouts with fresh food every day. It beggars belief. But that is just one of the many tasks facing the organisers of the Blue Summer 2009 Danish national camp that 400 of us Scottish Scouts will have the privilege of attending this summer.

As well as having the opportunity to work and play with thousands of Danish and other Scouts from 40 other countries, it will be the first opportunity for many to sample the true meaning of 'international' Scouting.

The Scottish contingent is made up of Troops and Units of all different sizes, as well as a handful of individual Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders who want to sample what will without doubt be an unforgettable eight days.

They are coming from as far north as Dingwall, from Stewarton in Ayrshire in the west and Eyemouth in Berwickshire in the south east, and many other villages, towns and cities in between. With six troops taking part, Edinburgh has the largest representation, followed

by East Kilbride with three. But we also have groups or individuals from Insch, Braemar, Inverurie, Milltimber, Aberdeen, Angus, Perth and Kinross, Lanarkshire, Greenock, West Lothian, Longniddry and Gullane.

Our largest contingent comes from the 10th Perthshire Scout Group with 47 people taking part, nine of whom are leaders. The smallest group is West Lothian Explorers with two leaders and five Explorer Scouts. We have six Scouts and nine Explorer Scouts without their own groups but they have been teamed up with some of the other Troops or Units. Then we have seven Leaders, including a Fellowship member, without a Troop or Unit responsibility and we will all be joining the camp international service team.

The youngest participant is the daughter of two Leaders who will be just two at the time of the camp and the oldest person will be 69. We have five sets of twins in the party, four bagpipers and 14 people who will have birthdays whilst we are away.

It's not only the camp organisers who have logistical issues to tackle. We need to get 418 Scout personnel from across the country arriving at North Shields on eight coaches at staggered intervals so that the DFDS ferry staff can cope with such a massive influx of young people. By that time all their camping equipment will have been picked up by an 18-ton truck over the previous two days.

Cabin allocation for the overnight crossing is another nightmare because we have to match like with like in four-berth cabins – male Scouts with male Scouts, female Explorer Scouts with female Explorer Scouts and Leaders with Leaders of the same sex, as well as keeping a handful of family groups together.

But the effort will undoubtedly be worth it because the activities still being planned for the camp range from the large and breathtaking and sampling Scouting from across the world to ones where you can just sign up for a morning, afternoon or evening.

Special Needs

John Kitson, SHQ Special Needs Adviser
johnkitson@btopenworld.com

Including young people with a special need will almost inevitably require some extra support. This support is available either from Advisers or information in fact sheets or on the internet.

The team of Regional Advisers is now nearing completion - see box below right for their contact details. The Advisers will be happy to discuss any issues that leaders may have and will advise on how to obtain the appropriate information and support that will be need.

Whatever your requirement is (and no matter how trivial you may think it is) please do get in touch with the SHQ Special Needs team. The team will be happy to discuss your situation. If a visit to your group is required we will endeavour to arrange that as soon as possible.

On Scoutbase there is a wide range of special needs topics covered by factsheets; this information can be accessed through the special needs section of the website. Information on how members can take a full part in our awards programme for all sections can be obtained there. A further set of

information is available on the website handsonscotland.co.uk – this facility covers many situations and indeed covers many topics that will be useful for all leaders.

There is also funding that is available to assist in providing additional support:

- **SHQ Special Needs Fund** - A fund to provide programme related support.
- **Trelor Fund** – A fund administered at Gilwell which mainly supports physical access to buildings.

Application forms are available on the SHQ website for the SHQ fund and the special needs section of Scoutbase for the Trelor fund.

Remember that Scouting is all about taking part and badges and awards are about an individual's achievement. I fully appreciate that including young members with special needs can be very daunting for leaders. Indeed thinking how the programme can include these young folk can on occasions be quite demanding. The Special Needs team will be happy to assist leaders with both practical support and programme ideas.

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West	Quentin Levack	levack@aol.com



Eva Will

SHQ Commissioner (Beavers)

beavers@scouts-scotland.org.uk

Lots of good news stories and great ideas this issue. Firstly, from Beaver Scout Leader, Fiona Douglas:

“As part of the Friendship Challenge ‘raise funds for a good cause’ the Beaver Leaders of 65th Aberdeen (Milltimber) Beavers resurrected the idea from the 20 year celebrations of collecting as many 20p pieces as possible in a Smartie tube. The Beavers were given two weeks for the collection which raised £184. The amount collected for each lodge was calculated and the lodges were given Present Aid Catalogues (www.presentaid.org).

The Beavers (with some help!) had fun deciding what they would like to buy with their money to help those in the 3rd World. The resulting gifts included ducks, pigs, basketballs, computer training, a disaster kit and a can of worms! With the money left over and late donations, the leaders chose to buy 8 turkeys as it was Christmas!” The Beavers are pictured below with the cards they received from Present Aid.

This is a great example of “youth participation” within the Beaver colony. Young People of all ages are encouraged to help with decision making in their section. Obviously at Beaver age, we’re not asking them to sit on committees but listening to their news and valuing their opinions is as important at the age of 6 or 7 as it is when they reach Explorers or Network. There is a new Factsheet – “Youth Participation in the Beaver Colony” which can be found on Scoutbase. This explains the principles of “Log Chews” as we call these chats, and gives hints on making these successful.



From another Beaver Scout Leader, Dorothy Peters:

“The 83rd (Fife) Cairneyhill Beaver Colony had a Beaver Sleepover before Christmas using the ‘Hot Wheels’ Creativity Badge as their theme.

A local rally driver Graham Mack brought along his rally car for the Beavers to see. The Beavers had to design a car and track, build a car and make a track that they raced their cars on.

All 18 Beavers received their ‘Hot Wheels’ Creativity Badge. They have sent away evidence to receive a ‘Hot Wheels’ certificate for the colony. There were lots of Leaders available for the

sleepover as it coincided with sorting out the Scout Christmas Post.”

Hot Wheels is one of the companies which has provided resources for leaders to help complete Activity Badges. Jetix sponsor the Imagination Badge, Eat in Colour have a great resource to help with the Healthy Eating Badge while LeapFrog have a new Space Explorer pack out to complement the Explore & Experiment Badges.

Further details were published in the latest Beaver Supplement and can be downloaded from www.scouts.org.uk or by phoning the Information Centre at Gilwell.



From Beaver Scout Leader Kenny Lee:

“The 1st Carnoustie Beavers took part in the 2009 Homecoming Celebrations by hosting a Burns Supper in the Scout Hall on Saturday 24th November. The event was packed with over 100 parents and family. After speeches & a supper of traditional fare came the entertainment with Tam O’Shanter acted out by some of the Beavers, followed by everyone dancing a Gay Gordons. The Beavers also performed and sang The Deil’s Awa, re-enacted the Battle of Bannockburn 1314, and some of the Beavers performed a Sword Dance. The evening closed with Auld Lang Syne.

This was the final event for the Scottish Challenge Badge with over 20 Beavers receiving the badge.”



The Beaver support team has been delighted with the response to the Scottish Challenge Award from Leaders and all the original stock of badges has now been sold. In response to requests, we plan to keep the Award running so more will be ordered soon. New Leaders who haven’t received a copy of the requirements can receive these by phoning SHQ or download them on line at scouts-scotland.org.uk/beavers.

With the change in the structure of Scottish Scouting last year came a change in badges. The original Badge positions pictures are now a little confusing for parents as we no longer have Area badges & some Regions have introduced a Regional Badge. A new version of badge positions for Scottish Beavers can be found as an appendix to the Scottish Variations of POR, available on the Scouts Scotland website in the Library section, in the ‘General Information’ drop-down box. I heard recently of one Leader who uses safety pins to attach newly earned badges to Beaver Scouts to make things easier for parents. Great idea!

Thanks to all the Leaders who’ve been in touch recently. Keep all your news coming. It’s good to hear what’s going on around the country...and good ideas are best shared.



Cub news roundup:

- UK Headquarters have recently produced a booklet entitled 'Growing our Packs - A guide to Cub Scouting Development for District Commissioners'. All Regional Commissioners, District Commissioners and ADCs (Cubs) should now have received this. If you would like a copy, there is a limited supply of copies at SHQ, or it can be downloaded from www.scouts.org.uk/cubdevelopment.



- Congratulations to Cubs from the 157th Pack who won the Sandy Jardine Football trophy at Blackford District's five-a-side football competition recently and also to the 35th Pack who were runners-up and received the Holyrood Cubs Football Shield.
- A Superhero indoor camp will be held at Lapwing Lodge, near Paisley, from 2nd – 4th October at a cost of £40 per head. Contact warden@lapwinglodge.org.uk for more details.
- How many Silver Awards do you aim to present by Easter? Where are they being presented? Let us know – who can think of the most original place? Please send a photo to cubs@scouts-scotland.org.uk and we'll let other Packs share in your achievement.
- The Cub support team have now met quite a few ADCs and are busy devising materials for use by Packs and Districts, as well as being available for a chat about what you are doing and any questions you may have. Contact us by phone, letter, email etc!!
- Please let us know what your Cubs have been doing – send information and photos to cubs@scouts-scotland.org.uk for inclusion here, on the Scouts Scotland website or in Scottish Programme eNews or Scouts Scotland Plus.

Thanks to Robert Anderson, Leader with the 7th Blackford (George Heriot's School) Cub Pack, for sending in the following report of the Pack's recent holiday:



14 Cubs, a weekend in a remote cottage, a walk along the West Highland Way (in the dark) and numerous emergency calls. Was it a disaster, and activity gone horribly wrong or just the 7th Blackford (George Heriot's School) on their annual Pack Holiday to Forest Lodge? Mercifully, it was the latter.

"And where's Forest Lodge" is the question everybody asks. It's near to the Bridge of Orchy. At the hotel, turn right and follow the single track road for about 6 miles, until the road ends. Then using the Land Rover track, turn left and next right. When you come to a cottage, that's Forest Lodge. You can't miss it (it's the only building around for miles).

Yes, we did walk along the West Highland Way with the Cubs. It's hard not to because it goes past the front door. In fact, you have to drive along it to get to the Cottage, and we walked it in the dark - all of about 100 metres of it.

The emergency calls! Well, there were 13 of them, as the Cubs worked towards their Communicator badge on the Saturday morning.

Saturday afternoon and off to Auchengarrich Wildlife Centre, Comrie. A new attraction arrived at the Centre that day, the lesser spotted Cub. A pack animal, easily identified by its green body with coloured marking on its arms, and distinctive loud noise. Loves to play in mud and seems impervious to the cold. Takes food readily from the hand of any giver.

Saturday night and a last minute addition to the programme. A clear sky and a moonless night saw the Pack standing outside in the pitch black gazing in wonderment at the stars. The longer we looked the more we could see as eyes became accustomed to the light and fainter stars revealed themselves. With no artificial light, the scene was truly amazing (and a great way to keep to Cubs quiet and still for 5 minutes).

Sunday and a bright sunny morning to go outside and send semaphore messages to finish of the Communicator badge before striking camp. Headed home before the biggest snowfall to hit in 6 years blankets the UK. The calm before the storm.





Kenneth Robertson
SHQ Commissioner (Scouts)
scoutsection@scouts-scotland.org.uk

Zodiac Award: SHQ Commissioners Annual Challenges 2009

With the start of a new year there are a revised set of Annual Challenges on the website. We have removed two of the 2008 Challenges and added two new ones. It was always the intention that some challenges would remain for more than a year.

The challenges for 2009 are:

- **Challenge 1** - Camp as part of a community service activity.
- **Challenge 2** - Camp as part of an incident hike.
- **Challenge 3** - Camp as part of your Chief Scouts Gold Award.
- **Challenge 4** - Camp in an unusual place.

Zodiac cards are available from SHQ on request. Please contact Keith Hewitt at SHQ for further information.

The Black's of Greenock National Camping Competition 2009

The new format National Camping Competition will take place over the weekend 6th – 7th June 2009 at Meggernie Outdoor Centre. Every District in Scotland will be entitled to send one patrol to the event. Please note that new guidelines and rules will be available on the Scouts Scotland website from mid-February.



PL & APL Training Weekend

Following on from the success of last year's Patrol Leader & Assistant Patrol Leader training weekend at Meggernie Outdoor Centre we intend to run another this year. This is an opportunity for PLs & APLs to participate in a two night/three day training event to learn leadership skills for use in a patrol and Troop situation. Practical skills covered over the weekend would include axe & saw, map & compass, pioneering, and various other basic Scouting skills. The event will be held over the weekend of 5th – 7th June 2009 and application forms will be placed on the Scouts Scotland website. Places are limited to 40.

Super Trooper Final Challenges

If you have been completing the challenges please register on-line to ensure that your Troop get their award at the end of the challenge. A new set of challenges for 2009-2010 will be launched in April.

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Jenny Steven
SHQ Commissioner (Explorers)
jennysteven@aol.com

Explorer! Explore! Explore!

Explore! Explore! Explore! is the Scottish National Explorer Activity Challenge over the weekend 12th – 14th June 2009.

It is a fully programmed weekend of activity being run from Everton Scout Campsite, near Inverkip. The camp will have a range of activities, challenges and 'daftness' over the weekend, including a disco, volleyball, cooking, trampoline, swimming, Scouting skills, challenge hike on the local hills and a competitive element to keep you on your toes.

The camp starts on the Friday evening with the competition running through till Saturday dinner, when the competition stops and the party starts! The camp then starts again on the Sunday, finishing at 3.00pm with the presentation of the Andy Matthew Trophy. Sponsored by Blacks of Greenock there will be excellent prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

The camp is under canvas and is based around the idea of a lightweight camp so teams should plan to be able to carry all the equipment they bring to the camp in one lift. Dinner on the Saturday night will be provided, but Units will be expected to cater for themselves for the rest of the weekend, with enough extra food to allow the judges to taste.

We want as many Explorer Units to apply as possible and would love to have participants from every Scottish District.

The cost of the event is £18 per person (£108 per team of 6). This includes Saturday dinner, but all other food and travel is not included. Teams must have 6 Explorers and Districts can enter as many teams as they wish. Forms and more information are available on www.scouts-scotland.org.uk, www.theexplorerscouts.org.uk or from Gordon McCready on 05600 479942 or mccreadyg@hotmail.com.

Future Events

- **GAPP**, 6th - 8th March '09, Douglaswood, near Dundee.
- **DESC Training**, 20th - 22nd March '09, Tulliallan Police College.
- **CeNs-LeSs**, 27th - 29th March '09, Bonaly, near Edinburgh.
- **Woolly Jumper**, 17th - 19th April '09, Templars Park, near Aberdeen.
- **Queen's Scout Awards**, 24th - 26th April, Windsor, London
- **National Explorer Competition**, 12th - 14th June, Inverkip, near Greenock.
- **Explorer Belt**, 27th July - 10th August, Poland.
- **Auchengillan Jamboree**, 1st August - 8th August, Auchengillan, near Glasgow.
- **The Bennachie Challenge**, 25th - 27th September, Daviot near Inverurie.
- **Cally Rally**, 16th - 18th October, Dochgarroch, near Inverness.
- **GAPP**, 13th - 15th November, Auchengillan, near Glasgow.

Explorers website

Over recent months the Explorer website has encountered a few problems. Paul Field and Andrew Sharkey have been working hard to iron out these problems, but please can we ask you to be patient. All the 2007 information has been moved into a history section, which can still be accessed for interest.

The website is being updated as information about forthcoming events is finalised. Camps from previous years can be maintained and updated by the camp organisers themselves, and we will put any information on we have on them. A few comments have also been raised about the colours used on the site and the webmasters are looking into this.

GNAS Archery Leader Course

If you are interested in becoming authorised to offer your youngsters the opportunity to take part in this excellent sport, then a course is being offered to all Explorers (over 17), Scout Network and Leaders at Fordell Firs from 4th – 7th September 2009. More details can be found on www.13thexplorers.org.uk.

Young Leaders' Scheme

By the time you read this several more Young Leaders' weekends will have taken place around Scotland and it is great to see many more Regions taking on this challenge.

Moray held their first Young Leaders' weekend on the 6th – 8th February, while Highland & Islands ran their second one over the same weekend. Lapwing Lodge hosted the National Young Leaders' weekend on the 13th – 15th February and East Region held their 12th over the weekend of the 20th – 22nd February, while the National Young Leaders' weekend took place at Lapwing Lodge the previous weekend. What is it about February?!

Well done to all who took part and please send any pictures taken at these events to me (jennysteven@aol.com) so we can highlight the success of the events in future publications.

One of the main projects the Explorer Scout Team at HQ is looking at is the delivery of the Young Leaders' Scheme Modules. Part of this project is to produce a Young Leaders' Essentials Plus in 2010. To help them with this they are looking for examples of where people have developed different ways to deliver each of the modules, but still covering the aim and objectives. If you have any ideas you can share with us then please contact me at jennysteven@aol.com.



NETWORK

WELCOME TO
SCOUT NETWORK
TAKING THE LEAD



Niall Williams
SHQ Commissioner
(Scout Network)

scoutnetwork@scouts-scotland.org.uk

Taking the Lead

Involving youth members in decision making is key to developing good Scouting. In Beaver Scouting this may simply be asking them what they would like to do for their bonfire party. In Cubs it may involve a Pack decision on where members would like to go for their pack holiday.

In Scout Network, the members, with the support of their Network Leader, are responsible for running themselves. It is therefore fundamental that they're involved in the decision making process and leadership, so we've a responsibility to support them in learning the necessary skills.

We all make decisions every minute of the day, the hardest thing is to implement these decisions and make things happen. To help grow these skills a new resource called 'Taking the Lead' has been launched.

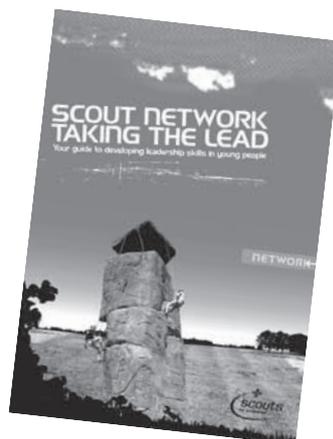
This resource is packed full of information to empower Network members in making the decisions that matter for their Scout Network and is a great way to develop lifelong leadership skills.

The resource is split into four sections:

- Being a Member of Scout Network
- Building skills outside Scout Network
- Being on the Scout Network Committee
- Additional skills/information

Each of the sections contains a number of small tasks allowing the group to pick up and run without much preparation.

We hope to launch this great new resource at the forthcoming District Scout Network Leader (DSNL) training on the weekend of 4th - 5th April. We'll also be trying out some of the tasks, to get a firm understanding of the potential of this new resource.



District Scout Network Leaders' course - 4-5 April 2009

This weekend will provide Network Leaders the opportunity to come together and learn from each other as well as covering some of the relevant modules from the adult training scheme, including:

- Module 20 – Administration (Managers) – Record Keeping & Procedures
- Module 22 – Section Support
- Module 23 – Safety for Managers and Supporters
- Module 24 – Managing Adults – Effective Management in Scouting

We also hope to offer sessions on Taking the Lead, Mentoring, Removing the Mysteries from Finance and Providing a Balanced Programme.

This course will offer you an opportunity to work with other leaders within the Network section. The event is also open to those who hold the role of District Scout Network Administrator.

Contact SHQ (01383 419073) for more information and for the booking form.

Network Diary Dates

Event	Location	Date
Scottish Scout Network Council meeting	Clyde region	21-22 March
DSNL training course	Tulliallan	3-5 April
Network National Gathering	Windermere	10-12 April
National QSA parade	Windsor	25-26 April
Joint ARC ES/SNet meeting	SHQ	9th May
SSNC meeting	Forth region	13th June
Aber'iginal Camp	Aberdeen	19-21 June
Joint Explorer & Network Camp	Dundee	3-5 July
AJ'09	Auchengillan	1-8 Aug.
Gilwell Reunion	Chingford, London	4-6 Sept.
Halow II	Meggernie	2-4 Oct.
NAC – Network Activity Camp	East Craigs campsite	23-25 Oct.
Scottish AGM	TBC	7 Nov.
GAPP	Auchengillan	13-15 Nov.

www.network-events.org.uk

This is a UK wide website that publicises all Network events across the UK - keep an eye on it so you know what's happening. Also if you have any events you can use this to publicise them to others.

Towards the end of 2008 the Assistant Regional Commissioners (Adult Training), with help and input from the Assistant District Commissioners (Adult Training), completed an evaluation of training in Scotland. The content of these evaluations will feed into how we move training forward in the coming year. At the same time, adults who had completed Wood Badge training during

2008 were invited to take part in an online survey of their training experience. Again, this valuable feedback will help us to develop training in the coming year. Thank you to all who took part in both exercises; your feedback is much appreciated. The responses received from adults who had completed their Wood Badge are below:

Just a reminder that if you have not already done so, please book your place on the workshop / training events taking place at Tulliallan in March and April. You can download a booking form from www.scouts-scotland.org.uk.

- DESC Course, 21 – 22 March
- ADC (AT) Conference, 21 – 22 March
- DSNL Course, 4 – 5 April

District Explorer Scout Commissioner Course

An essential toolkit to unlock the role of the DESC as a key manager in the District. The weekend will include relevant modules from the adult training scheme and specific sessions that support this important role. The event is also open to those who hold the role of District Explorer Scout Administrator.

ADC (Adult Training) Conference

A practical two day event to explore the role of the Assistant District Commissioner (Adult Training). The weekend will include focussed discussion and interactive sessions that will assist with the various functions of this new role.

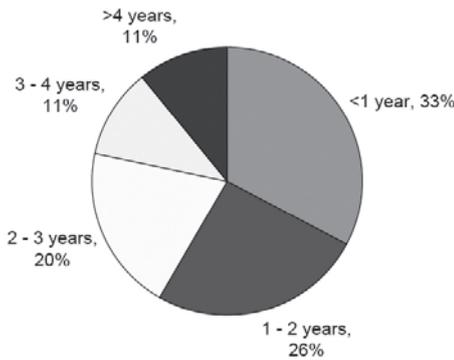
District Scout Network Leader Course

An essential toolkit to unlock the role of the DSNL and their role within the District. The weekend will include relevant modules from the adult training scheme and specific sessions that support this important role. The event is also open to those who hold the role of District Scout Network Administrator.

Training Bazaar

We are sorry to report that we have taken the decision to cancel the Training Bazaar that was to take place in April at Tulliallan. At the closing date for applications we only had 1 booking and we now intend to engage with Regions and look at alternative ways that we can deliver this important training more locally. Please make contact with your ARC if you are interested in attending one of the Trainer Training Modules.

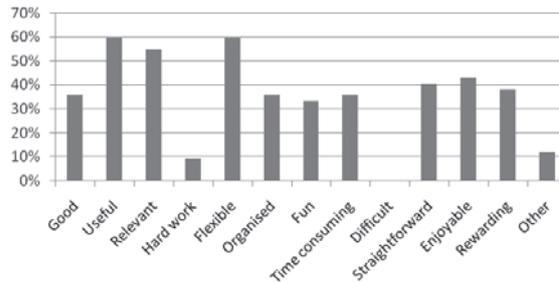
Time taken to complete Wood Badge training



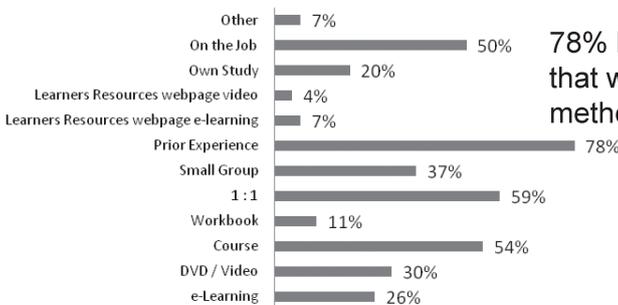
79% completed their training in 3 years or less.

None of those who responded found their training difficult and 33% even had some fun!

Describe your training experience



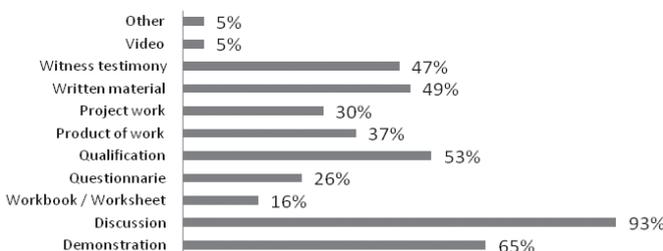
Learning Method



78% had prior experience that was used as a learning method.

Discussion was the most popular validation method with video joint last!

Validation Method



Regional Training contacts

Clyde
 East
 Forth
 Highland and Islands
 North East
 South East
 South West
 West

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