

---

## Introduction

---

Welcome to this first Cub Scout eNews from the Programme Team at Gilwell Park. It is designed to inform you about what is going on with Cub Scouting across the United Kingdom as well as provide information that is relevant to the leadership and management of the Cub Scout Section.

The first piece of news is that Graeme Hamilton has been appointed as the UK Adviser (Cub Scouts). Over the past few years, Graeme has been the Scottish Headquarters Commissioner for Cub Scouts and a member of the National Cub Scout Support Team.

Over the coming months, Graeme will be putting together a plan for supporting the Section in conjunction with his fellow UK Advisers. The plan will be developed with the UK Commissioner for Programme, the new Regional Advisers and staff at Gilwell Park. If you would like to speak to him or one of the Cub Scout Team please make contact using the details at the foot of the page.

---

## Regional Advisers

---

Now that Graeme has been appointed, the next task is to find volunteer Regional and Country Advisers for each of the eight English Regions and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These people will be appointed by United Kingdom Headquarters primarily to support Assistant County/Area Commissioners (and equivalent roles).

Full details of the volunteer roles and the application process (for the eight Regions in England) can be found at...

[www.scouts.org.uk/noticeboard/2007/March07/090307.html](http://www.scouts.org.uk/noticeboard/2007/March07/090307.html)

Information for the Country Adviser roles in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be available shortly.

---

## Cub Scout Development

---

The significant national decline in Cub Scout numbers over the last two decades is an area we should all be aware of. Whilst the numbers of Scouts and Explorer Scouts continue to grow, Cub

numbers either continue to decline, remain static or in exceptional cases, show a modest increase. This issue is a high priority for United Kingdom Headquarters, and is a key focus of our work. At present a small team is working to create a Cub Scout Development plan. They have run a number of focus groups throughout the United Kingdom to understand the issues, explore examples of best practice and to seek solutions.

It is important to note that there will certainly not be one single solution to this issue, and that some ideas will work in some parts of the United Kingdom, in particular Packs, and not others. For this reason, the next stage of forming the development plan is to run a further series of focus groups, with the aim of establishing the overall suitability and potential impact of the solutions that are currently being discussed. If you feel that your County/Area, or a particular District, would be able to assist in this matter by hosting a focus group please contact Steve Moysey in the Programme Team at Gilwell Park (using the details at the foot of the page). Please be assured that the development project is ongoing and more information will be coming out to you as soon as possible.

It would also be helpful if you could let us know if you have been thinking or are starting to think about the issue of Cub Scouting in your County/Area. We would be very interested to learn of ideas and initiatives that you believe have worked well. These can be submitted to Steve Moysey in the Programme Team at Gilwell Park (using the details at the foot of the page).

---

## Cub Scout Start-up Kit

---

You will be aware that the Cub Scout Leader Start-up Kit was launched last year as an aid to new Cub Scout Leaders across the United Kingdom. However, it is not only new Cub Scout Leaders who have been benefiting from this resource; experienced Leaders have found that it has enabled them to provide a fresh, exciting programme for their Cub Scouts, and add to the range of activities and games on offer.

The Start-up Kit is made up of three sections: 'The Beginner's Guide', which explains what Cub Scouting is and provides essential information about The Scout Association, the organisation, running and administration of the Cub Scout Pack, policy,

training and useful contacts; 'Programmes to Go', which contains a complete year of tried and tested programmes for Leaders to run as well as a list of the equipment required; and the 'Appendix', which includes games, session notes, activities, quizzes and templates of letters and forms that Leaders can adapt for their own use.

The Start-up Kit will be featured in the April/May issue of the Scouting Magazine Focus supplement, including a personal testimony from a District Commissioner who has used the Kit.

The Kit has proved to be very useful to those leaders who have received it, whether they are new Leaders or not, and is available to you by calling the Scout Information Centre or you can download it at...

[www.scouts.org.uk/startup](http://www.scouts.org.uk/startup)

---

## Programmes Online

---

Programmes Online celebrates its first birthday this month. Over the last twelve months, this programme planning tool has grown into a comprehensive library of over 1500 activities that will help Leaders plan Cub Scout programmes. Programmes Online is different to any other online library of programme ideas in that it provides all the necessary resources to support the delivery of the programme. For example, if the activity is a simple pioneering project for Cub Scouts, construction diagrams, images, etc. are provided. This hopefully reduces the time a Leader spends sourcing appropriate material.

It is pleasing that Programmes Online won the Voluntary Sector Project of the Year category at the 2006 Computing Awards. In addition it was Highly Commended in the Knowledge Management Project Award category at the British Computer Society Information Management Awards.

Programmes Online is also enabling the United Kingdom Programme Team to deliver support material on specific subjects and with the delivery of Award and Badge requirements (such as the two new Staged Activity Badges – Hikes Away and Emergency Aid – and the recently launched Join in Centenary material).

There is always a need for new content on Programmes Online. We are encouraging our Leaders who have many years experience in

running programmes to submit their excellent ideas to Programmes Online and share them with fellow Leaders.

It would be of help if you could continue to publicise Programmes Online in your Counties/Areas and Districts. Both in terms of Leaders using the system to plan programmes and to submit tried and tested ideas that work well with young people.

If you would like support with publicising Programmes Online, a member of the Programme Team from Gilwell Park would be happy to help with an interactive presentation. If you feel this would be of benefit please contact Steve Moysey in the Programme Team at Gilwell Park (using the details at the foot of the page).

To access Programmes Online visit...

[www.scouts.org.uk/pol](http://www.scouts.org.uk/pol)

The user guide can be found at...

[www.scouts.org.uk/pol/userguide.do](http://www.scouts.org.uk/pol/userguide.do)

---

## Supporting ACC/AACs

---

Due to the already incredibly busy year for the Movement in 2007, we have decided not to offer the Assistant County/Area Commissioner Information Day as in previous years. However, if you are a new ACC/AAC Cub Scouts and feel you would benefit from an informal induction, Steve Moysey in the Programme Team at Gilwell Park (who can be contacted using the details at the foot of the page) is happy to arrange this for you and to discuss your role and needs, any plans you might have and national initiatives that can support the work you do.

---

## Cub Scout Website

---

You may be aware that the Cub Scout website at [scouts.org.uk](http://scouts.org.uk) has not been updated regularly. In the coming weeks there should be a process of updating material so that it proves useful and relevant to Cub Scouts, Leaders and parents. This will be an ongoing process over the coming months, and we thank you for your continued patience. In the meantime if you have or are aware of any suggestions for improving the site, please email the Corporate Communications Team at Gilwell Park at [web.team@scout.org.uk](mailto:web.team@scout.org.uk).

---

The Cub Scout website can be found at...

[www.scouts.org.uk/cubs](http://www.scouts.org.uk/cubs)

---

## Sainsbury's Active Kids

You may be aware that The Scout Association has entered a partnership with the Sainsbury's Active Kids programme. Scout Groups can register to receive programme support material (that can be used in Section meetings) and can collect vouchers that can be redeemed for equipment and materials from the Active Kids catalogue. Please do publicise this opportunity as widely as possible.

Full information can be found at...

[www.scouts.org.uk/scoutingplus/301106/301106.htm](http://www.scouts.org.uk/scoutingplus/301106/301106.htm)

---

## Finally...

Thank you for reading the first edition of Cub Scout eNews. If you have any ideas that you feel would make future issues even more helpful, please do not hesitate to let me know.



Andrew Wellbeloved  
UK Commissioner for Programme

Email. [programme@scout.org.uk](mailto:programme@scout.org.uk)

April 2007