

NETWORK

Scouting December 2005/January 2006

NETWORK



GROUND FORCE

The new Network partnership that's set to be a roaring success

On the road

Singing in the rain with the festival fundraisers

Bridging the gap

Tried and tested ways to entice Explorers

Know your limit

Is it time to assess your alcohol intake?

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NETWORK NEWS

We're celebrating the Network supplement's first birthday as well as Christmas this issue. Even so, **Adrian Wray** wants you to limit your liquor ahead of a prosperous Network New Year

Has it really been 12 months since the launch of the Network supplement? I'm sure you'll agree that over that time the content has moved forward in leaps and bounds. We're always on the lookout for more stuff though, so if you're taking part in an event that you want to write about, or have an issue that you think needs to be covered, email network@scout.org.uk to contact the Network team.

Have a sober Christmas

We all appreciate that one of the main aspects of Scout Network is the social side and that can often involve a few drinks, but try not to get too carried away over the festive period. To help you keep track of your boozing over Christmas, on page 11 we bring you the fantastic Booze Counter™. When you tot your weekly units up, you might find the answer to what this year's New Years resolution should be.

Elsewhere, Merseyside Members show how they are attracting Explorers into Network, whilst we also join Network Members at the UK's

top music festivals, Sweden's Edda camp, and London Zoo.

The Network Review

Over the last 12 months, the National Commissioner and the Network Support team have been carrying out a full review of the Section. In the forthcoming months we will be highlighting the improvements that will be made to ensure that the Network Section continues to go from strength to strength.

Commissioner steps down

After four years as National Commissioner, David Williamson has decided to pass on the Network baton. David said: 'Network has just gone through a major review period. As a result, it seemed to make sense to hand over the launch of the revised Network to someone who can lead the process for the next five years. I would like to thank everyone at Gilwell, the support team, the editors of the supplement and the Network Members who have gone out of their way to establish the Section so far. I wish everyone the best with Network as it goes on to a promising future.'

COMMISSIONER'S QUESTION TIME

This issue, **David Williamson** answers the most critical question of all – how to cultivate the Scout Network and get it to thrive in your area

Dear David,
After reading the Merseyside Scout Network's article about image (Network supplement, August/September, page 12), I would like to voice my own opinion on the current state of the Network Section. I feel that Network needs help and it needs to come from the top (or bottom depending on your perspective). One of the main issues with Network is certainly its current image, both within Scouting and outside the Movement. I have often heard Association Members refer to Network as 'Notwork'. I presume that this is not a localised sentiment and therefore one that poses a problem. A prime resource for recruitment is naturally Explorer Scouting, but if those in a leadership capacity criticise Network, we find ourselves constantly fighting an uphill battle.

So what can we do about it?

1. Be seen to challenge people's perceptions. The Merseyside Network have undeniably been doing this and more of us should follow their lead.
2. Be seen to plan and fulfil varying activities. It appears that many people view Network as little more than a drinking club. Perhaps due to its self-led ethos, much time is spent talking about and trying to plan activities leading to very little time spent doing them.
3. Be led. I don't mean formal leadership, but someone needs to take control. The only local Networks I know of which are working have a strong core of people who are driving it forward.

Well, that's my opinion. I must stress that it is a

personal view. The question is, what is being done to remedy the current situation?

Mark Ashworth
Network Member
Berkshire

Mark, thank you for your comments. We have heard some similar views during the Section review we have been carrying out for the last 18 months. The issues surrounding image, a successful Programme and a strong support structure are ones that we take very seriously.

During the review we have met, spoken to and listened to all types of Network Members, from Administrators and Network Commissioners, to people such as District Commissioners and County Commissioners and so on. In fact, we have strived to meet with all the people who have contact with Network in order to gain as wide a perspective on the Section as possible.

To make Network work we all need to pull together and promote the Section's many positive points. You are right

in recognising that some Networks have managed to promote themselves very successfully both locally and nationally. All Networks can learn something from this. There are many opportunities out there for Network Units to promote themselves both within the Movement and outside with *Scouting* magazine, the Network supplement, www.scout.org.uk, local radio, local and national newspapers. For further advice it is worth looking at the series of articles on PR and Marketing that ran in *Scouting* magazine from December 2004/January 2005 until October/November 2005. Visit www.scout.org.uk/magazine to download back issues of *Scouting*.

We appreciate that one of the main elements of the Scout Network is the social aspect, but we should always remember that socialising is done in many different ways. There are a lot of Networks out there doing fantastic activities both at a local, national and international level. We must aim to promote these activities to those who wrongly believe that Network is 'Notwork'.

The review has shown us that where a Network is active, it has

strong support from the County/Area Scout Network Commissioner and County/Area Commissioner. Often with these Networks, the Network Commissioner has a small Leadership Team to help support the individual Networks or look after specific areas. We are closely looking at this method of operation within the review and an announcement about any changes or new developments can be expected around Summer 2006.

I wish that we had a magic wand to ensure that there was an active Network Commissioner in each and every County/Area who was supported by a County/Area Commissioner, and where needed, a team of Network support leaders to help too. Unfortunately, as you know, we are not always lucky enough to find the round

peg for the round hole!

The placing and structure of Network has always been a struggle, as it was never fully clarified what a local Network should be. However, through the review we aim to ensure that the structure of Network is clearly laid out; providing a number of options tailored to suit different Counties/Areas, and yet still be flexible enough to allow Network Members to join more than one Network (if they go to university for example). We are aware that there are clearly areas that we need to tackle to make this as simple as possible to achieve.

Rest assured, as soon as we have the information ready it will be issued through appropriate channels to ensure that Network continues to grow into a strong and healthy provision.

Question the Commissioner!

David Williamson is the former National Commissioner for Scout Network.

Email scout.network@scout.org.uk if you have a problem for the Commissioner to solve. ■





FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

The Phoenix Network in Derby needed to raise cash for group excursions. They soon struck gold, and this summer they again embarked upon their festival fundraising tour. Members **Fliiss Walker** and **Pete Hogg** recount a tale of mud and music

Is your Network always short of money? Have you always wanted to visit the Glastonbury Festival? Does summer fly by with nothing particularly exciting happening?

If you answered yes to

any of the above, then you should take a leaf from the book of Derbyshire's Phoenix Network. By working hard and providing essential services at a number of major music festivals, they've managed to have lots of fun

and earn lots of money!

The Phoenix working 'festival season' begins each year in June with the Glastonbury Festival of Performing Arts. Here they take charge of parking caravans and camper vans. After the drenching of 2004, this year each Network Member made sure they'd packed their waterproofs and Wellington boots. At first it seemed all that was needed was sun cream, but, as we've seen in the past, Glastonbury weather is anything but predictable.

After two days of skin blistering heat it started to rain, and it rained, and it rained some more... Soon some areas of the site were under more than a metre of water. Those who thought it was a good idea to pitch their tents at the bottom of the site's numerous dips found themselves soggy regretting the decision. Of course, no Scouts made such a foolish mistake. They all instinctively new the best

and safest ground to pitch up their tents on – honest!

When not on shift, there was the opportunity to dance to the likes of Fatboy Slim, Keane, Coldplay, Ian Brown and many others. There wasn't just music to be entertained by, there were also circus acts, street performers, comedians and a whole host of delights. There was even time to do a little shopping in the marketplace.

A load of rubbish

By the time everyone had dried out from Glastonbury it was July and time for a group of Phoenix Members to attend the Summer Nights concerts, headlined by the likes of Will Young and Meatloaf. The work was fairly easy, involving what the Phoenix call 'scrut picking' – that's litter picking to the rest of us. Although it sounds like an awful job, the 'skip rats' in the Network always manage to find many treasures amongst the rubbish; after all you

know what they say, 'where there's muck there's money.'

Whilst they were busy picking up litter and listening to Meatloaf crooning such touching ballads as *Objects In The Rear-view Mirror May Appear Closer Than They Are*, the rest of the Phoenix Scout Network where scrut picking at Shepton Mallett, for The National Adventure Sports Show. When off shift, Members took full advantage of the BMX dirt tracks.

The end of the season

During the year, the Network always takes a few days off and attends an International Scout Camp. This year Phoenix attended Peak 2005 at Chatsworth Park, Derbyshire. Five days later some lucky Members went on a summer trip to Budapest, whilst those remaining prepared to pick up all the rubbish at V2005, at Weston Park near Stafford. Unfortunately there

wasn't a bin big enough for the Kaiser Chiefs, but they did manage to collect and dispose of most of the other rubbish at the festival.

The Phoenix's working festival season ends on the August Bank Holiday with the Carling Weekender. This year they took on the responsibility of the car parking and the gates. Once the bulk of the festival-goers were in, Phoenix was deployed to man the fire towers. Highlights from this year's festival included the fabulous Foo Fighters, Love Ends Disaster! and Iron Maiden for all the metal heads.

Further Information

If you like the idea of getting cold, wet, muddy and having a great time while watching the best bands and earning money, visit DC Site Services' website at www.dcsiteservices.com or email phoenix_network@hotmail.co.uk to contact Phoenix directly. ■



there was no alcohol and no apparent withdrawal symptoms! There was also the Gilwell Reunion, which took place around a campfire in the woods and entailed singing Back To Gilwell with those in the same Patrol. This was followed by some tasty reindeer meat sandwiches and a nostalgic chat about the various training courses everyone had attended.

Market Day

On the Thursday it was Market Day, where each Group provided an activity or service to be paid for in Viking currency (better known as plastic beads). The Network built a sedan chair, and took customers for rides. In the evening there was a talent show starring our very own Network Barbers Shop Quartet singing Mr Sandman.

Soon it was Friday and time for the Closing Ceremony. Again the rain clouds threatened as we sang familiar and not so familiar campfire songs, and then everyone said farewell. On the Saturday, we stayed long after the Participants had left to take down the marquees, remove vast quantities of pioneering poles and clear the site of litter so that it could return to its natural state as grazing land. The following day we travelled back to the UK totally exhausted, but with many fond memories of the camp and the many friends we had all made.

In late July 2005, over 3,000 Scouts visited Sonnarps Campsite, near Orkelljunga, for the Viking themed Edda. They came from all over the world to the southern tip of Sweden to take part in the camp organised by The Swedish Guide and Scout Association.

Amongst the British contingent were 26 Network Scouts from Greater London South West (GLSW). Arriving for the pre-camp on 27 July, they were put to work alongside their Swedish hosts as members of the camp staff, erecting several huge marquees, installing various site services and preparing the camp programme. Instructions were first given in Swedish and then in perfect English. Soon a strong bond developed between the various team members. As the first day of camp approached, there was feverish activity

A VIKING INVASION

Nowadays Sweden is more commonly known for its flat pack furniture than rampaging Vikings. But 26 Network Members were among 3,000 Scouts from across the globe that were about to be transported back to a bygone age of swords and shields. **Chris Dean** relives the excitement of Edda

to ensure everything would be ready. Then on Saturday 30 July the Participants arrived. It didn't take long until everyone was on-site, tents erect and camping areas made habitable with a vast array of Swedish gadgetry.

The Opening Ceremony

As the rain clouds threatened, everyone made their way to the main arena and stage for the Opening Ceremony. The highlight of the spectacular opening was the arrival of two Viking Longboats from



Edda saw over 3,000 Scouts from around the world take part in traditional Scouting activities such as pioneering, raft building, campfires and of course, fancy dress

Chris Dean is County Scout Network Commissioner for Greater London South West.

across the lake. Then there was a roll call of Groups, each coming on stage sporting the Viking shields they had made especially for the camp. Not to be left out of things, the GLSW Scout Network paraded its own shield, which had made the journey safely through customs. Even after the Opening Ceremony there was work to be done, meetings to attend, and finally some relaxation in the staff tent before a well earned night's sleep, either in Swedish shelters or British lightweight tents.

For most of the camp Network Members were running a range of activities including climbing, canoeing,

building a Viking house, the inevitable sauna, various Viking crafts and all kinds of challenges and games. In the evening there were campfires and discos, and for the older Scouts, an incident hike, which culminated in a campfire constructed on a platform floating on the nearby lake. Network Members also helped in the staff canteen, the International Tent where there were displays from the visitors, and they also spent a joyous morning cleaning the staff toilets.

Evening entertainment was also provided for the Leaders, but in keeping with Swedish Scouting rules



TIGER FEAT!

A great new partnership will see Essex Network Scouts help refurbish areas of London Zoo. **Martin Steers** reports upon their first task – to venture into the tiger enclosure and ensure a happy habitat for these majestic creatures

Saturday 2 July, saw Essex Scout Network gathering together for a weekend assisting zoo keepers in the refurbishment and enhancement of London Zoo's tiger enclosure. Work started early with the clearing out of the current enclosure, finishing late on Sunday with tree planting, wall cladding and other educational,

enhancing features for the Zoo's two Sumatran Tigers – Lumpur and Raika. The refurbishment will be the first of many in conjunction with the zoo and brings Scout Network Members from around Essex together to work on environmental projects towards the Queen's Scout Award and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

A great weekend
Adam Babbs, a Member of the Darkside Network from Ongar in Essex, said: 'The project was a great way of showing people what we can achieve in the Scout Network and letting people know that Scouting is available to young people up to the age of 25. It was a fun weekend where we have all learned new skills whilst meeting people from different Networks around Essex.'
Bill James, the Operations Manager of London Zoo's Animal Department, was very pleased with the work. He said: 'This is excellent! We wouldn't normally be able to undergo projects like this due to the labour costs, but these young people have done a really great job. The work will ensure that the tigers are much more comfortable when the enclosure reopens.'

TIGERS: THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON (ZSL)

It's difficult to avoid alcohol this time of year, but you should be mindful of your limits. Follow **Adrian Wray's** advice, and next time you get that drinking feeling, check out the chart

THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK!

With the festive season fast approaching, there will be a number of opportunities to party coming your way, and we all know how hard it can be to say no. The recommended units of alcohol per week are 14 for women and 21 for men. Why not have

a look at our table and calculate how you compare?

- FEMALES**
0-5 units: A relatively safe level to drink, however, even low levels of alcohol intake have been linked to Breast Cancer.
5-10 units: You are heading towards the upper limit for females. Make sure that you have at least one clear alcohol free day during the week.
10-15 units: 14 units per week is the medically recommended alcohol level for females. Perhaps you could cut back on your alcohol intake by having mineral water rather than wine with a meal?
15+ units: This is

- over the medically recommended alcohol level for females. You should consider cutting down.
- MALES**
0-5 units: This is a relatively safe level of alcohol to drink per week.
5-10 units: If you can keep your alcohol intake at this level, then this is relatively safe.
10-15 units: This level of drinking is still under the medically recommended limit of 21 units of alcohol per week for men. However, make sure that you have at least one clear alcohol free day per week.
15-20 units: You should consider cutting back your alcohol intake by looking back over each week and judging your drinking habits.
21+ units: The recommended alcohol intake for men. If you are approaching or are above this level it's time to think about cutting down!

| DRINK | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT | SUN | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Wine 1 unit | | | | | | | | |
| Beer (pt) 1 unit | | | | | | | | |
| Cham- pagne 1 unit | | | | | | | | |
| Fortified wines 1 unit | | | | | | | | |
| Spirits 1 units | | | | | | | | |
| Other 1 unit | | | | | | | | |



The Merseyside Network have become adept at promoting themselves at events around the country. Now they've introduced an information pack to help recruit Explorers



MERSEY'S SIDE

Bridging the gap between the Explorer and Network Sections is vital. Once again the mavericks of Merseyside have a plan; this time to nurture new Members. Here, they reveal all...

Explorer Scouts are the future of Network's success simply because they are a source of Members just begging to be tapped. Therefore, it's important to make their transition into Network as smooth as possible.

Joining a new Section is, in some ways, like joining a new school; you find yourself being nervous about a number of things. One concern is often, 'Will I like the activities and stuff they do?' As well as the likes of, 'Will I know anyone?' and 'Will they like me?'

To address this, it is

essential that the Explorer Scouts know what Network is and who the people in Network are. Break down the barriers between the two Sections so that you are not strangers when the Explorer Scouts come to join you!

How can you do this?

Help with Explorer Scout events

Does your County/District run Explorer Camps? Why not offer to help? You could run a base at the event or perhaps marshal a course for example. This

is a great opportunity to meet the Explorer Scouts and simply break the ice.

County Explorer Scout Forum

Does your County use one of these? Set a date every couple of months where Explorer Scouts from each District can come together and discuss what they like, what they don't like, and what they would like to do. Getting their ideas on board will help the Explorer Section to improve and also give you an idea of what they will be looking for in Network. Perhaps your Network



could run the forum? By doing so, you can improve contact with District Explorer Scout Commissioners and the Explorer Scouts themselves. West Lancashire and Merseyside have been using this idea to good effect for some time now.

Linking camps

Hold a 'Taste of Network' camp for Explorer Scouts over 16 to enjoy some cool joint activities and get

a feel of what Network Scouting is about.

Info pack

Merseyside Network recently produced and published its own information pack, which can be downloaded from their website and was made available in hard copy to Explorer Scout Leaders, Group Scout Leaders, District Commissioners and so on. This contains vital information that

many Explorer Scouts will need as their 18th birthday draws closer. This includes a simple checklist of what to do, a registration form and information on how to get Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and organise membership fees. All burning questions that are made nice and easy with this pack, in a bid to take the stress out of Network!

Awards

It's worth reminding the Explorer Scouts in your area about the whole 6-25 Programme, and include an outline of how the awards work and how what they have been doing in Explorer Scouts can be continued with Network, such as the opportunities you can offer to finish the Chief Scout Award and Queen's Scout Award.

So, think about the Explorer Scout Section, take the opportunities to make your faces known and don't be a stranger to them. Keep your links strong and then be prepared for a wave of Explorer Scouts running in the direction of your Network! ■

Network diary dates 2005 2006

Here's where you find out about events open to all Network Members or events that we think you may be interested in. Please let us know of any events coming up by emailing Scout.
network@scouts.org.uk

November 2005

12 Nov-11 Dec
CHRISTMAS AT BLENHEIM
BLENHEIM PALACE,
OXFORDSHIRE
01993 811091

17 Nov-21 Dec
MANCHESTER EUROPEAN
CHRISTMAS MARKET
MANCHESTER
0161 234 5000

19 Nov-8 Jan 06
TOWER OF
LONDON ICE RINK
TOWER OF LONDON
0208 241 9818

26 Nov-15 Jan 06
KEW ICE RINK
KEW GARDENS
0870 4000 0797

December 2005

1-4 Dec
LINCOLN CHRISTMAS
MARKET
LINCOLN
01522 873272

1-11 Dec
BATH CHRISTMAS
MARKET
BATH
01225 477223

3 Dec
CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR
NATIONAL INDOOR
ARENA, BIRMINGHAM
0121 767 4525

3-4 Dec
DURHAM CHRISTMAS
FESTIVAL
MARKET PLACE, DURHAM
0191 384 3720

3 Dec 8-15 Jan
HAMPTON COURT
ICE RINK
HAMPTON COURT
0208 241 9818

3 Dec-15 Jan 06
GREENWICH ICE RINK
OLD ROYAL COLLEGE,
GREENWICH
0208 8241 9818

9, 16 and 18 Dec
GLAM ROCK CHRISTMAS
PARTY NIGHTS
MERSEY FERRIES,
LIVERPOOL
0151 330 1444

10 Dec
BEAT BEATLES
CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT
MERSEY FERRIES,
LIVERPOOL
0151 330 1444

17 Dec
60'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
MERSEY FERRIES,
LIVERPOOL
0151 330 1444

March 2006

3-4 Mar
WHISKY LIVE LONDON
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL
HALLS, LONDON
01603 633808

9-25 Mar
GLASGOW COMEDY
FESTIVAL
GLASGOW
0141 552 2070

23-25 June
ESSEX SCOUTS NETWORK
MAD UK
SKREENS PARK,
CHELMSFORD, ESSEX

Work your stress away, come party and play. This promises to be a weekend of pure fun where you can expect a weekend of parties that will include Blind Date, fencing, competitions, archery, kayaking, crafts, fancy dress, climbing, inflatables plus It's a Knockout and a café. If you would like further details simply email
maduk@essexscouts.org.uk ■

