



## **Newsletter from the Scout Executive – October 2017**

**Welcome** to the first Newsletter from the Scout Executive.

This has been prepared to let everyone know what was discussed at the October Island Executive meeting. It is the intention of preparing a similar Newsletter after each meeting to inform everyone about the themes that are discussed, and to give information about the strategic decisions that are made for the benefit of young people on the Isle of Man. Now the Exec has agreed the format, future newsletters will be issued shortly after the meeting to which it relates.

We would welcome any comments as to whether this is felt to be worthwhile and any improvements that can be made. Guy Thompson, Island Commissioner; James Kite Island Chairman and Kath Andrews, Island Secretary.

### **Welcome back and thanks for all you do.**

James Kite, the Island Chairman welcomed everyone back after the summer break and thanked everyone and the groups they represent for the hard work they have carried out since we last met at the AGM.

### **New group**

With the help of some very committed leaders, funds from a charitable source and the tremendous assistance of "The Hub" at The Lodge, The Strang who have provided support and a venue, Guy's vision to create a group which is accessible to all is about to come to fruition. Young people who have previously not been able to access scouting due to physical, emotional or other disability are being welcomed to a new group. In order to ensure that leaders have the opportunity to access the necessary training this group will start in a small way and there will be specialist support from the staff at the Hub. When it is possible the SEN units in the schools will be contacted and scouting will be offered to them. In addition to the leaders that have already come forward to assist with the new group training will be offered to the leaders of existing groups to assist with incorporating young people with additional challenges into their groups to ensure that all groups have the opportunity to be inclusive. If you would like to find out more information about the new Group, the specialist training, or would like to help out as a Leader, please get in touch with Penny Collier.

### **Climbing wall at MYC**

The climbing wall is nearing completion, and all the various routes will be accessible to all ages and all abilities. Lighting, paving and security fencing has also been added to the project to improve safety and access.

The Association is very grateful to local companies who have donated resources at no cost and to Guy for making several successful applications for grants which have helped to finance this exciting project.

Additional leader training for climbing will be undertaken in the near future and it is hoped that the wall will be available for groups from Easter.

### **Scout shop**

Discussions are ongoing about options for the future but in the meantime grateful thanks are extended to the volunteers who have provided this service for so long.



### **A “wish list” for a new Scout HQ**

At the AGM in 2013 there was an Island discussion which resulted in a “Wish List” of features and facilities that members would like to be included in a prospective new HQ. This list was discussed and whilst no suitable properties have currently been identified, the list is being re-visited and a budget prepared to enable the Association to respond quickly should an appropriate property become available.

### **Dates for your Diary**

St George’s Day celebrations have been confirmed as 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 with the venue to be confirmed.

SkillsnChills will take place in Cumbria 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May

### **Good Governance – “Please ask for help if you need it”**

This topic is covered in every Executive meeting and on this occasion the importance of all groups having their Exec Committee positions filled, holding the relevant meetings and filing accounts was discussed.

The Island Exec are very keen for all groups to understand that there is help available to leaders to achieve this. Harley Shimmin as the Island Treasurer will assist anyone who needs help in keeping financial records and preparing their accounts. Paul Aldridge has done a vast amount of work on behalf of the Island Exec already and he has the full support of Guy in offering guidance and support to leaders in ensuring that their groups are safe and compliant in the terms laid down in POR. This can cover assistance with establishing an Exec and holding meetings, holding information safely about leaders and members, completing DBS checks, putting helpers through the appointments process, issues with premises or equipment and developing exciting programmes.

The importance of training was also covered and there was a valuable offer to help any leaders from Norman Longden to understand the training that must be covered and options available to complete this in the most effective way.

### **Scout Survey and development plan**

Alex Armstrong was thanked for the 2 surveys that he has prepared so far and the excellent presentation and discussion that he led at the AGM. It was agreed the survey planned for those not involved in Scouting should now be issued. The results of all the surveys will then be incorporated in a draft development plan to take us forward with new activities, new groups and an exciting future with the possibility of a new HQ.

### **World Scout Jamboree**

The selection process and the necessary fund raising was explained.

**Many thanks** for all you do on behalf of the Scouts in the Isle of Man and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

### **The Island Executive**