

Overcoming barriers to employment

Berkshire Scout Enterprises was formed in 1985 by Adult Members of the Scout Association in response to growing unemployment amongst young people.



Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd
Gravelly Court
Gravelly Bridge Farm
Grazeley Green Road
Grazeley,
Reading RG7 1LG
Tel 0118 988 6448
Fax 0118 988 6849



BERKSHIRE Scout Enterprises Ltd

Scouting Serving the Community

More International Activity

but plenty going on at home.

Berkshire Scout Enterprises has sponsored the UK-Uganda Network for many years and in this newsletter you can read about the Mityana Scout/Community Enterprises and the Bulangira Disabled Association which have developed from the Network. You will also find details of how we have supported the setting up of the Philippines Disabled Children's Project. At home our work for the long term unemployed and those disadvantaged by disability has been growing. We have facilitated hundreds of people back into employment and we have news of a new pilot contract. We show how we have converted a cowshed into offices with IT facilities and meeting rooms which have already been used by Scouting groups. Also we list some of the other ways in which we have assisted Scouting throughout the County.

Unemployed and Disabled Programmes

Building Futures

Berkshire Scout Enterprises manage this programme funded by the European Social Fund. It consists of a series of occupational courses. A new innovation is Health and Safety for those with language problems using signs and coloured handouts.

New Deal for Youth / 25+

We continue to work in partnership with Scout Enterprises (Western) Ltd in their provision for London, East and South East. This includes the contract for the provision of New Deal for Youth (18-25 year olds) Voluntary Sector Options for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire together with Gateway Option in Bracknell and Oxfordshire. Together with provisions to help those over 25 years of age back to work.

Work Placement

We act as Work Placement Provider for participants on government funded programmes giving them an opportunity of serving in the community, work experience and job tasters.

Support for Disabled

The company works in partnership with Scout Enterprises (Western) Ltd who run a range of programmes assisting those with disabilities back into work. These include Work Preparation for those with disabilities referred by Disability Employment Advisers, and the Support Worker scheme which continues to grow with over 400 clients with disabilities being helped to stay in employment, by provision of a Support Worker. There is also the newly-launched Job Broker Service aimed at encouraging those on invalidity benefits for many years to return to work. The latest contract is a pilot for Workstep, the government's latest initiative to encourage people with disabilities into supportive employment.

Character Building

Also funded by the ESF for New Dealers is Character Building a four day course in outdoor activities based at Longridge Boating Centre.

Premises and Resources

Berkshire Scout Enterprises facilitates and maintains premises that are used as Resource Centres for these programmes, with the provision of furniture and equipment including photocopiers, telephone systems and IT facilities. Through our team of volunteers we have installed computer networks in Gravelly Court, Grazeley, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, London Street, Reading. We also have a computer recycling project in High Wycombe and we are fortunate in having secondhand computers donated which we can recycle for use in our centres by up-grading or passing to Scout Enterprises recycling project in Rhyll, North Wales.

Mini-bus Driver Training

It is essential that mini-bus drivers have a MIDAS certificate which the company can organise at a very low rate for Scout Leaders in the County. The normal non-scouting rate is £70 per person, this is reduced to £35 for anyone involved in Scouting but there is a further subsidy by Berkshire Scout Enterprises to make it just £20 for all courses booked through them. Details from the Admin Centre at Gravelly Court.

County Scout Website

The company has sponsored the setting up and maintenance of the County Scout website (see our Website list).

E-mail bse@berkshire-scout-enterprises.co.uk

UK-Uganda Network

Following the success of Uganda 2000 when 200 Scouts visited Uganda participating in community work, scouting and social activities, there is great enthusiasm to achieve something similar in 2003. Berkshire Scout Enterprises hosted the recent members meeting at Reading Scout & Guide Headquarters. A new mobile display designed by Jonathan Cooksley from Staffordshire and built by Lindsey Askew, Group Scout Leader of 1st Shinfield and Laurie Tickner, was on display. It will be used to attract new members to the Network.

Mityana Scout/Community Enterprises Project

The company sponsors the Mityana Scout/Community Enterprises Project to develop a plot of land at Mityana as a Scout base and community centre. One possibility at the centre is IT resources for Scouts and the community. Geoff Breeden OBE, Project Manager and Jonathan Cooksley recently visited Mityana to discuss the project with the local Mayor, Town Council and District Scout Commissioner together with members of The Friends of Scouting Uganda. It appears that it may be more advantageous to purchase a former local Training College, a three storey building. This could be converted into Mityana Community Enterprises which will work as a partnership involving the town council and local committees, Scouting and ourselves. The Scouts will then develop the site as a separate initiative possibly funded by the generation of income from the project. You can find more information (see our Website list).

Bulangira Disabled Association.

The company has joined a partnership to provide a vocational workshop for the Bullangira Disabled Association. The Association has over 50 members, including men, women and children with a range of disabilities. The workshop will enable them to be trained in various skills and produce suitable goods for their own self-sufficiency. There is a Scout Troop with 22 very enthusiastic Scouts ranging in age from 6 to 13. If you would like to learn more about the Network you can visit the website set up and maintained by Berkshire Scout Enterprises (see our Website list).

Philippine Disabled Children's Project

The company has provided support for the setting up of this project, which aims to provide families with physically disabled children with food, clothing, medicine, wheelchairs, surgical appliances and financial help where appropriate. The company is assisting it to achieve charitable status and working as a network between the Scout Association in the UK and the Philippines. It recently hosted a committee meeting and Don Honey, Group Scout Leader 52nd Reading has produced their first newsletter. Further details of the project can be found on their website sponsored and set up by the company and designed by Sue Beavis (see our Website list).

County Scout IT Equipment

In the past we have provided County Scout Council members with IT facilities and we have recently upgraded some of this equipment.

Building Support for Scout Headquarters

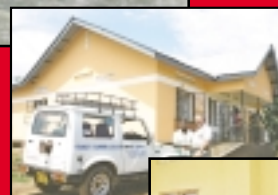
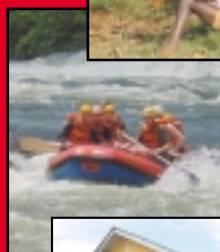
Amongst the recent work carried out is replacing the steps at South East Berks District Headquarters. At Reading Scout and Guide Headquarters, assistance has been given with replacing flooring in the main hall, replacing front fascia boards facilitating Fire Exit doors to the main hall and fitting security doors for the garage. Reading Scout and Guide Shop has been fitted out with storage racking.

International Scout Fellowship

The company sponsors and supports the work of the International Scout Fellowship. This is a newly formed organisation for members of the Scout Fellowship who wish to participate in activities of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship through the UK Scout & Guide Alliance.



UK Uganda Network



PHILIPPINE
DISABLED
CHILDREN
PROJECT

websites

Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd
www.berkshire-scout-enterprises.co.uk

Scout Enterprises (Western) Limited
www.scout-enterprises.co.uk

Berkshire County Scout Council
www.berkshirescouts.org.uk

UK Uganda Network
www.ugandanetwork.org.uk

Mityana Scout/Community Enterprises Project
www.mityana-community-enterprises.co.uk

Philippine Disabled Children's Project
www.pdcp.org.uk