



SCOTTISH AWARD OFFICE

MAILOUT UPDATE FEBRUARY 2008

1. UPDATE FROM SCOTTISH AWARD OFFICE

GOLD AWARD PRESENTATIONS 2008

The date for the Gold Award Presentation at the Palace of Holyrood House has now been confirmed. It will take place on Friday 4th July 2008.

JUBILEE FUND

Funding is still available to Award participants in Scotland from the Jubilee Fund set up after fundraising during the Anniversary Year. The Jubilee Fund aims to relieve financial barriers to participation in and completion of the Award, improve opportunities and access to the Award and demonstrate to young people that their needs and hopes are important. Examples are money for a pair of boots, travel to a Service Activity or hire of a basketball court. Applications are made by an online system through the Award website. Individuals can apply for grants of up to £150 although for special activities higher amounts will be considered. Further details are available online at www.theaward.org/jubileefund.

PARTNERSHIP WITH VANGO

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has entered into a new partnership with Vango, one of the leading outdoor and accessories specialists, to recommend a specific range of Vango products for those new to the requirements of expedition kit. The range, which will be available from the middle of January, includes a collection of tents, sleeping bags, rucksacks and sleep mats all of which items are on the Award's expedition kit list. The range can be identified in store by a tag featuring the Award logo and the words 'recommended kit'. For every item purchased Vango will make a donation back to the Award. Visit www.theaward.org/vango for more information.

DEAMS II and DEAMS FOR GROUPS PATCH

Version 3.5 of DEAMS II and DEAMS for Groups is now available for download from the Henley Software website. Users should take particular care to read the installation instructions to ensure that their existing passwords are preserved. In addition to the download patch a guidance document has been produced which lists all of the changes and fixes. This also contains details of all of the reports that DEAMS II can produce along with the use of the system filters.

Users who do not have access to broadband should not attempt to download the patch but should contact Henley Software on 01628 550030 for a patch on a CD. The patches can be downloaded from www.henleysoftware.co.uk/deams/

CIRCULATION: Operating Authority Award Officers, Industry, Development Officers, Wild Country Panel Secretaries, Co-ordinating Committees and Strategic Advisory Committee.

IMPORTANT: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award does not endorse any opportunities contained within these pages. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award cannot and will not be held responsible for any arrangements, financial or otherwise, concerning participation in any opportunities described here. Participants should check with their Operating Authorities to ensure that an opportunity they wish to pursue will count for their Award.

SCOTTISH AWARD OFFICE STAFF NEWS

After one and a half years as Administration and Communications Officer at the Award in Scotland Hannah Stace has moved on to another area. She joins the John Muir Trust at their Leith Office as membership assistant. Hannah is not escaping fully from the Award and is looking forward to staying involved as a volunteer through the training team.

She is replaced on a temporary basis by Stephen Wylie.

After nearly 3 years as Administration Officer at the Scottish Award office, Rosie Graham will be leaving to develop her own Remedial and Sport massage therapy business. Rosie will continue to work at the office on a part time basis in the run up to the forthcoming Gold Award Presentation.

Neal Dunn, a Technical Teacher at Alva Academy has joined the Edinburgh Office on an initial three months secondment from Clackmannanshire Council as Award Training Officer.

Roddy Ross, known to many of you in various Award roles joins on a temporary basis as Development Officer (Operations).

COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM FOR JANET SHEPHERD

We would like to give Janet a special retirement gift from the Award, and she has suggested a commemorative photograph album of images throughout her 15 years with the Award. We would be grateful, therefore, if you could forward any images that you have of her or activity from within your Operating Authority which represents the 'Spirit' of the Award in your area together with a brief description. We are also hoping to use some of these same photographs to remind staff and visitors to the office the tremendous activity that young people are engaged in across the country. Please forward to the office before the end of March.

EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITY - JOIN THE SCOTLAND OFFICE AS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The Scotland Office is looking for an enthusiastic, versatile and highly motivated individual to join as a full-time Administration Officer. The Administration Officer provides general administrative backup for the Scotland Office, organises national events such as the annual Gold Award Presentation at The Palace of Holyrood House, conferences and Award Leader training courses.

If you are interested we would love to hear from you. More information and application forms are available from Melanie Main, Executive Officer Melanie.Main@theaward.org or Jay Sandhu, HR Officer, Jay.Sandhu@theaward.org. The deadline for applications is 12th March and interviews will be held week commencing 17th March.

2. EVENTS & FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

DEVELOPING POTENTIAL, RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT CONFERENCES

YouthLink has awarded The Duke of Edinburgh's Award a grant to support the cost of hosting conferences about the Award working in schools. As a result, we will be hosting two conferences during March 2008 on the theme of the Award's role in modern Scottish education. The first conference will be held on the 17th of March in Edinburgh. The second conference will be held on the 19th of March in Nairn. The events are aimed at Directors of Education, Heads of Schools Services, Quality Improvement Officers, Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers, Award Officers, Development Officers, Teachers and Award Leaders and volunteers within schools. If you would like to attend one of these conferences or would like more information, please contact either Louise Speedie (louise.speedie@theaward.org) or Adeline Amar (Adeline.amar@theaward.org)

SHOWTRAILER

TNT will now be supporting the Showtrailer for a further 2 years. At the moment bookings are being taken for the whole year bookings for January to August will be confirmed straight away. Bookings for September to December will be confirmed in April. As before, in case of a clash of bookings, they will be considered based on size/target audience of the event, as well as where the event is being held in relation to bookings on consecutive days, to ensure the driver can get to the event safely.

If you previously booked the Showtrailer for this year, we will be in touch to confirm if you still wish your booking to be considered. If you wish to notify us straight away, please email info@theaward.org with the booking contact name, Operating Authority and event name.

If you need a booking form or have any further enquiries please contact the Showtrailer team in Windsor – Phone 01753 727400 or email info@theaward.org

THE CENTRE FOR CONFIDENCE AND WELLBEING

The Centre for Confidence and Wellbeing is organizing a conference in March called Foundations for Flourishing which may be of interest to you. The 2 day conference will focus on recent research which indicates the importance of providing young people with the opportunity to understand risk. Booking forms and further information can be accessed from the link below

<http://www.centreforconfidence.co.uk/index.php?pid=2&sid=45>

3. EXPEDITION SECTION

HILLPHONES

The Hillphones service will be in operation again in 2008. The Hillphone service provides information to enable hillwalkers and climbers to find out where stag stalking is taking place and to plan routes avoiding stalking operations. Recorded messages are regularly updated with some recorded daily and calls are charged at normal rates. The red stag stalking season is from 1 July to 20 October. The dates that estates start stalking varies. September and October are particularly busy months, when stalking is often taking place six days a week. Hinds are culled from 21 October to 15 February, with most activity taking place before Christmas.

Roe stalking can also take place on forested estates. The roe buck stalking season is from 1 April to 20 October, with June to August being the most important months, and the doe stalking season is from 21 October to 31 March. Deer stalking does not take place on Sundays. Further information is available from www.snh.org.uk/hillphones

4. RESIDENTIAL SECTION

CLYDE SAIL TRAINING TRUST VOYAGES

Clyde Sail Training Trust's Sail Training Vessel "Clyde Challenger" has been programmed to provide 2 five day Duke of Edinburgh Award Voyages from Monday 28th April to Friday 2nd May and from Tuesday 27th May to Saturday 31st May. The Trust will reserve these dates for Award candidates until Tuesday 1st April at which time, if there is insufficient interest, the dates will be reallocated. Contact the Trust for further information on 0141 944 5555 .

5. SERVICE SECTION

KEEP SCOTLAND BEAUTIFUL

In 2007 the Award's support in promoting 'National Spring Clean' helped to raise 11,500 volunteers who between them picked up enough rubbish to fill Hampden half a metre deep. They are now recruiting groups for this year's Spring Clean. Anyone wanting to organise a litter pick should choose a day in April and apply online at www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean for a Clean Up Kit. They will be sent the material and information they need to get started and kept up to date with the campaign.

B & Q ONE PLANET LIVING AWARDS

In partnership with charity BioRegional, B& Q are offering between £1000 and £10,000 of B&Q products to organisations and groups to help support environmental/energy saving projects, natural habitat/wildlife projects and local culture/heritage projects. In addition to the community awards, two combined cash/product awards worth £5000 each will be made to schools that develop science-based activities that show an understanding of the environment and the importance of tackling climate change. There is an application form, available at www.diy.com/awards or you can call 0845 300 1001. Closing date is 28 March 2008.

Winners will be announced in May.

6. GENERAL SECTION

NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION HELPLINE 0808 800 5000

This is a 24 hour helpline offering advice for adults worried about a child's safety or welfare. Help is also available by email and in other languages. Visit <http://www.nspcc.org.uk> for more information.

7. TRAINING SECTION

INTRODUCTION TO THE AWARD - FOR TEACHERS ONLY		
Date	Venue	Cost
20th & 21st May 2008	Carnegie Conference Centre, Halbeath, Dunfermline	£120.00
This is not a residential course but overnight accommodation is available at £50.00 per person excluding evening meal.		

INTRODUCTION TO THE AWARD		
Date	Venue	Cost
2nd & 3rd October 2008	TBA	£120.00

BRONZE AND SILVER ASSESSOR COURSE		
Date	Venue	Cost
5th November 2008	Glasgow	£50.00

BRONZE AND SILVER ASSESSOR COURSE		
Date	Venue	Cost
29th November 2008	Aviemore	£50.00

BRONZE AND SILVER ASSESSOR COURSE		
Date	Venue	Cost
17th January 2009	Edinburgh	£50.00

INTRODUCTION TO THE AWARD

Date	Venue	Cost
24th & 25th January 2009	TBA	£120.00

FOUNDATION AWARD GROUP LEADERS COURSE

Date	Venue	Cost
21st & 22nd February 2009	TBA	£120.00

ADVANCED AWARD GROUP LEADERS COURSE

Date	Venue	Cost
March 2009	TBA	£120.00

JOHN MUIR TRUST TRAINING

ENVIRONMENTAL GAMES WITH THE GREEN TEAM

Date	Venue	Cost
1st March 2008	Vogrie Park, Midlothian	£40.00

Experience and learn a wide variety of activity ideas and games to use with young people of all ages in an outdoor setting. There will also be tips on when to use particular activities to manage the pace or dynamics of your group and how to successfully frame these activities to ensure willing participation. This will be an active and outdoor-based day.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Date	Venue	Cost
28th March 2008	Beecraigs Country Park, West Lothian	£40.00

How do we manage our impact when we take groups outdoors? Explore what we mean by 'minimum impact', and take a practical look at Leave No Trace principles and techniques. Aimed at those who visit wild places with groups.

REVIEWING OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE WITH ROGER GREENAWAY

Date	Venue	Cost
21st April 2008	The Hidden Gardens, Tramway, Glasgow	£50.00

A practical introduction exploring reviewing techniques, giving you tools and ideas for sharing experiences that can be used both indoors and outdoors.

BIODIVERSITY

Date	Venue	Cost
11th June 2008	Inshriach, Cairngorms	Free

Biodiversity – what is it and why should we care about it? This participative workshop will promote your understanding of biodiversity – 'the variety of life' – and offer ideas and activities for sharing this knowledge with groups. The full day will be out of doors.

JOHN MUIR AWARD LEADER TRAINING

Date	Venue	Cost
Various		

These two-day residential courses give a thorough introduction to the relevant skills, knowledge and approaches needed for delivering the John Muir Award scheme. They are designed for staff, volunteers and leaders interested in delivering the John Muir Award. A number of courses are running throughout the year across the UK.

For more details of these John Muir Trust training courses visit www.jmt.org/award-leadertraining
To book a place email info@johnmuiraward.org or telephone 0845 458 2910

DATE OF NEXT PUBLICATION

There's still time to get interesting stories or photos to us for the next edition of the Scottish Award News which will be distributed in September 2008. If you have any articles please email to Scotland@theaward.org or contact the Administration and Communications Officer at the Scottish Award Office no later than **09 July 2008**.

If you're sending out a local press release please include the Scottish Award Office in your distribution list.