

Welcome back to another year of Scouting. I hope everyone has had a break of some kind over the summer and are feeling ready for the challenges and tremendous opportunities that present themselves in this new Scouting year, our first full one as a Regional Scout Council.

An important part of working together in South East Scotland Region is ensuring that individuals have the opportunity to influence decisions, particularly those which are likely to have a significant impact on them. In support of this a number of issues have been ongoing over the summer and I'd like to update you as follows:

- After a significant consultation period in regard to possible changes to the boundaries in Portobello, Blackford and Morningside I have decided not to proceed with this at this time. Instead I will be meeting separately with representative groups from Portobello and Blackford to agree the challenges, targets and developments which need to be achieved over the next few years in order to sustain their current District boundaries. In 2011 I intend then to review the boundaries of all Districts in South East Scotland Region to ensure that their structure and boundaries are still relevant and appropriate to the delivery of high quality local Scouting.
- Many thanks to all those in Blackford, Morningside and Portobello who responded to the consultation document and I hope that the outcome demonstrates to all Leaders in the Region that you are able to influence the future decisions of Scouting in your Districts and hope that you will continue to actively participate and be involved in shaping your future.
- Michael Herriot has decided to move from his role of DC in Blackford and take on the role of ADC LT. My sincere thanks to Michael, who has given significant time and energy to Blackford over the years in this strong leadership role. I look forward to continuing to work with Michael in his new position.
- I have had discussions with a representative group in the Borders and we are about to write out to all Borders Leaders asking them to nominate potential individuals to take on a whole range of roles throughout the Borders to manage Scouting across the district in ways which are more flexible and creative than previously thought possible. So Borders Leaders look out for your letter/e-mail and I look forward to hearing from you!
- Scott Walker has decided to stand down from the role of ARC Communications, however he will still be supporting communications in South East Scotland in a range of ways so he hasn't got off that easily! I'm currently looking at identifying an individual to take on the lead role

of Assistant Regional Commissioner – Communications so please give this some thought and contact me with nominations, details below.

- I would also like to announce that after considerable feedback from you I have decided to run a competition to decide on a design for a **REGIONAL BADGE**. The appropriate entry form for the competition is contained with this issue and can also be found on our Website. It should be completed by anyone who wishes to join in the fun - young or old - and returned to the Scout Centre, 15 Valleyfield Street Edinburgh EH3 9LP by the end of September 2008. A prize will be awarded to the winner, it's a secret at the moment (!) but will be appropriate to the age of the winner.

- Nominations for DC in Blackford District and Assistant Regional Commissioner, Communications should be forwarded to myself c/o Scout Centre, 15 Valleyfield Street Edinburgh EH3 9LP or on reg-commissioner@southeastscotlandscouts.org.uk

I look forward to hearing more of your views over the next year and remember you don't need to wait for me to ask for them and to meeting you at events during the year including the Annual review at Queen Margaret University on 8th October. !

Kind regards to all

Dorothy McKinney

Regional Commissioner