

July
2009

Newsletter

For volunteers in Western Europe



Welcome

Since the last newsletter, there have been a few changes at the Volunteer Projects Office. Firstly, I'd like to introduce and welcome Mr Eric Manca as the new Volunteer Development Manager. He has already attended several Committee Meetings and, for those of you who haven't yet had the opportunity to meet him, he is planning to visit you all in due course so please keep us informed of all your meeting dates. I'd also like to welcome Mrs Anita Pluckwell and Mrs Clare Quick to Victim Support Western Europe..

Whilst we're pleased to say that the VPO is at last fully-staffed, we are also very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Sigi Melvin as the SSAFA Forces Help Western Europe Chairperson and we wish her and her family all the best for their next posting.

Upcoming projects include the Children with Additional Needs Holiday at the end of the month. A big thanks goes to the In-Service Committees who have generously sponsored the cost of either a child, volunteer, chalet or specially-designed holiday T-shirts. After the holiday, Big Brew Up week will soon be upon us so I hope plans for your fundraising events are well underway. Please contact me if you need any help with publicity for this event, or indeed with any others you are planning.

Alison Crowe, Publicity Officer

SERVICE VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2009



Fiona Ingham with
GOC Major General Melvin

Fiona Ingham – Chair Herford In-Service Committee
Kenny Peate – Secretary SHAPE In-Service Committee
Kim Beeton – Volunteer & Fundraiser, Paderborn
Elmpt In-Service Committee

Before sitting down to a celebratory lunch, the GOC UKSC Major General Melvin presented all recipients with a certificate signed by HRH Prince Michael of Kent.

Last month, Volunteers nominated for a Service Volunteer Award attended a ceremony held at the ARRC (Allied Rapid Reaction Force) Officers' Mess at JHQ. The Awards are in recognition of the dedication of SSAFA Volunteers worldwide during 2008. In Western Europe, three individuals and one group were nominated:

CONTACTS

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Projects Development Officer
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Alison Crowe

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Paula Oakes

Administrative Assistant
Mil: 72 3392
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Anita Pluckwell

Victim Support Coordinator
Mil: 72 2048
Civilian: 02161 472 2048

Claire Quick

Victim Support
Deputy Coordinator
Mil: 72 2272
Civilian: 02161 472 2272

**Volunteer Projects Office
SSAFA Forces Help
Western Europe
JHQ
BFPO 140**

**Fax Mil: 72 2260
Fax Civ: 02161 472 2260
VPO Email:
bfgvpo@ssafa.org.uk**

Branch (Germany) for Ex-Service Enquiries

Email: paula.g@ssafa.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)207 403 8783
(Welfare Dept. Central Office)

Eric Manca, Volunteer Development Manager for Western Europe said, *"We could not carry out the work of SSAFA without the commitment of the Volunteers and we are delighted to be able to recognise their selfless hard work in this public way"*.

BIG BREW UP 2009

This year's Big Brew Up week is 3rd to 11th October and the VPO hope that plans for your events are already in full swing. Last year saw a record-breaking 400 events taking place worldwide and raised over £100,000. In Western Europe alone, over 80 event packs were sent out and all monies raised went directly to local committees and projects such as the Children with Additional Needs Holiday.



The VPO's traditional Big House Big Breakfast will take place on the 10th September, so if you are in the JHQ area, please come along – everybody welcome! Packs for your event will include tea bags and biscuits supplied by NAAFI, along with posters and other promotional materials. These will be available from the VPO soon.

If you need any advice on planning or publicising your event, or would like to register for an event pack, please get in contact.

Please note: Big Brew Up in Western Europe is sponsored by NAAFI. To receive relevant posters and free tea bags and biscuits, please contact the VPO directly. Please also do not approach your local NAAFI for sponsorship.

DESIGN-A-POSTER COMPETITION 2009

Earlier in the year, children and young people aged 5 to 18 were invited to create an imaginative poster to help advertise this year's Young Achiever Awards, SSAFA's annual event celebrating the outstanding personal achievements of young people living in Western Europe.

An astounding 150 entries arrived at the VPO and, after much deliberation by a panel of five judges, it was agreed that the best entry came from 13 year old Matthew Howe from Windsor school. As well as receiving £30 of Amazon vouchers, donated by Sixth Sense, Matthew will see his picture made into a poster, which will be used to attract nominations for this year's Awards.

The Young Achiever Awards will launch on September 1st and nomination forms will be available from local HIVEs or downloadable from www.hive-europe.co.uk or www.bfgnet.de.

HELLOS & GOODBYES

Welcome

Becci Bazeley
Chair – Hameln

Sam Bentley
Chair – Herford

Vicki Jules
Treasurer – Herford

Rachel Southwood
Volunteer - Herford

Dahlia Wood
Secretary – Detmold

Karen Middleton
Volunteer – Detmold

Jackie Herbert
Chair – Elmpt

Rachel Fallows
Secretary – Elmpt

Wendy Barker
Treasurer – Elmpt

Sharon Tyrell
Publicity Officer – Elmpt

Kim Cuppa
Volunteer – Elmpt

Lynne Bowen
Secretary – Ramstein

Matt Heptinstall
Publicity Officer – SHAPE

Lee Jordan
Volunteer – SHAPE

Sonia Bale
Volunteer - SHAPE

Farewell

Fiona Ingham
Chair – Herford

Julie Swan
Treasurer – Herford

Rachel Wilson
Volunteer – Herford

Jani Lambeth
Volunteer – Herford

SSg.t Mac Macallum
Chair – Elmpt

NORTON HOMES WINNER DISABILITIES AWARD

In June, SSAFA Forces Help won an award in the Disability category at the Charity Awards 2009, the UK charity sector's most prestigious awards scheme. SSAFA was chosen for its "Norton Homes", two "home from homes" close to the main military hospitals at Headley Court and Selly Oak, where the families of wounded servicemen and women can stay while their loved ones are undergoing treatment.

Named after Captain Peter Norton, who suffered appalling injuries in Iraq and whose family inspired the project, the homes were opened following a campaign to raise £7 million and have opened their doors to over 300 people since February 2008.

If anybody would like further publicity and a photograph pack of the Norton Homes, please contact Alison at the VPO.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

This month is a busy one for training new Volunteers for both the Carer Support Scheme and the Children with Additional Needs Holiday, which takes place at Center Parcs, Venlo at the end of this month. New Volunteers for Victim Support Western Europe also attended core training last April. The VPO would like to welcome the new volunteers and hope that the training was both interesting and enjoyable.

SSAFA Forces Help is always on the lookout for new volunteers, so if you think you have the time to help others by volunteering for either the Carer Support Scheme or the Community Volunteer Scheme (Rhein region), please give the VPO a call and we can give you more information and send you an application pack.

Please also see Diary Dates for details of training in both and at Central Office.

2009 IN-SERVICE VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Approximately 150 volunteers and staff attended this year's Conference, held on the 24th June 2009 at the Honourable Artillery Company, London. Themed "Reaching our Service Community Volunteers Worldwide", the focus of the Conference was to address the effects of overseas deployments on family members. Speakers included Dr Tony Baker, a Consultant in Child and Family Psychiatry and two mothers on how their families were affected when their sons were injured on operations.

Overseas groups attended for the first time and Volunteers from Brunei to BATUS were invited to speak about their work worldwide. Thank you to all those from Western Europe who were able attend, it was great to see so many representatives from all corners of the globe.

Farewell cont.

Alison Hodges
Secretary – Elmpt

Georgie Makepeace
Treasurer – Elmpt

Liz Kama
Publicity Officer – Elmpt

Sue Fowler
Volunteer – Elmpt

Sgt. Kenny Morris
Treasurer – Ramstein

Sgt. Parker
Volunteer – Ramstein

Leon Buckley
Publicity Officer – SHAPE

DIARY DATES

10th-12th July 2009
Carer Support Scheme Training
Church House, Lübbecke

23rd July 2009
AGM, London

25th – 31st July 2009
Children with Additional Needs
Holiday, Center Parcs Venlo

11th – 12th August
HR Induction, Central Office

1st September 2009
Launch Young Achiever Awards

10th September 2009
Big House Big Breakfast, JHQ

3rd – 11th October 2009
Big Brew Up Week

7th-8th October 2009
Communications & Marketing
Seminar, Central Office

14th October 2009
Western Europe Conference,
Herford

5th November 2009
Close Young Achiever Awards

2nd – 3rd December
HR Induction, Central Office

4th December 2009
VPO Open Office

21st Dec – 4th Jan 2009
VPO closed

NEW FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

Two new groups have recently been set up for Bereaved Families and Families of Injured Service Personnel. The tri-service groups meet regularly and provide an opportunity for families to share experiences, information and advice.

Both groups are open to partners, parents, grandparents, step parents, siblings and anyone else who is part of the family unit and feels they would benefit. For more information, please contact Jane Barnes in Central Office on +44 (0) 207 463 9234. Leaflets are also available from the VPO or Central Office.

SSAFA MERCHANDISE



Please contact the VPO for posters, leaflets, balloons, T-shirts, caps, carrier bags, stickers, bookmarks & collection tins. If you are planning a big event, please give as much notice as possible since we may not have everything in stock.

As modelled by Sarah and Eric (who don't get out of bed for less than €10 a day), Rugby shirts are available at a cost of €24 each, Polo Shirts at €12.50, SSAFA bears at €11 (large) and €8 (small), Plaques at €22.50, SSAFA mugs at €5 and SSAFA pens are only 60c each and can be sold on at your events for profit.

AND FINALLY...

Congratulations to **SSgt Jackie Herbert**, new Chairperson for the **Elmpt In-Service Committee**, who is to be honoured with an MBE for her inspirational and selfless commitment to 16 Signal Regiment.

She is cited as being an exemplary individual with her inspirational leadership of young soldiers, gaining her deep respect from all ranks in the regiments. She was a pinnacle of the Unit's Welfare Office on the Regiment's first deployment and is an active member on the SSAFA In-Service Committee.

Jackie will be travelling to London later this year to be formally awarded with her honour by a member of the Royal Family.

USEFUL NUMBERS

**Carer Support Scheme
Coordinator**
0178 777 8692

**Community Volunteer
Coordinator (Rhein Area Only)**
0151 2147 7426

**Confidential Support Line
Freephone from Germany**
0800 1827 395

Central Office Main Number
+44 (0) 207 403 8783

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

**SSAFA Additional Needs and
Disability Advisor**
Jane Barnes
+44 (0) 207 463 9234

**SSAFA Additional Needs and
Disability Coordinator (BFG)**
Jayne Manca
0522 1069 01771

**SSAFA Forces Help
Additional Needs Fund**
JHQ Mil: 72 2053
or 02161 472 2053

The Family Fund
Grants for families of children
with additional needs
+44 (0) 845 130 452 or
www.familyfund.org.uk

Overseas Benefit Advice Line
+44 (0) 191 218 7777