



NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the Board of Trustees Meeting held on 24th March 2009, Jim Leftwich handed over the Chairmanship of the Board to John Kent. Jim had completed a term of 3 years as Chairman and will continue to serve the charity as a trustee.

John Kent was educated at Rugby School and Oxford University where he read Engineering. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers (FICE). On leaving university, John joined the consulting engineering practice of Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners and stayed with the same firm throughout his career, becoming a Partner in 1976. He had 3 overseas postings in the Sudan; in Damascus and in Athens.

In 1959, John married Mary and together they have 2 sons. The elder is a missionary in France and the younger a structural/civil engineer who is married with 5 children aged from 9 to 17.

John joined the then newly formed Berkshire Local Community Action Group in January 2001. He was trained as an Adviser-Coach and he and his wife have served as a Couple. In July 2002 John became Chair of the Berkshire LCAG until moving to Barnt Green in North Worcestershire in September 2005. In October 2005, John was invited to become a Trustee of Explore.

NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

The National Family Week will be held in the UK from 25—31 May 2009. There will be hundreds of events and activities taking place throughout the country encouraging millions of people to celebrate being part of a family. Further information is available on www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk.

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A Fantastic Endorsement from Brune Park School

Becky Penbethy, the RS Subject Leader from Brune Park School, Gosport in Hampshire writes:

“From my point of view, I think it [Explore’s workshop] has been fantastic. It is the best “outside” event that I have ever been part of. The experience and insight that the pupils have gained is invaluable and they surprised me with the mature questions that they asked.”

I would like to thank you [Gay Mallam] and the volunteers for all your hard work in making this a success and it will definitely be something that we will look to do again next year.”

Well done Explore Hampshire.

The Prison Programme

Well done the team that delivered the 2nd Workshop at the Verne prison on Portland. A great success with a record 50 participants.

“Every course has its own life and emphasis. But I am convinced that the testing of their own thinking, the requirement for responsible approach and behaviour and the new perspectives gained enable the young men to make wiser choices in the future” Governor YOI.

Explore is pleased to announce that agreement has been reached between HMP Erlestoke and Explore Wiltshire to enable the first workshop to commence in the very near future.

John Murphy will be leading the 23rd Workshop at HMP Warren Hill. This Young Offenders Institution was the location for the pilot workshop in the prison programme in 2002.

The Effects of the Global Financial Crisis

Today’s papers are full of the gloomy news about collapsing banks and the global financial crisis. Explore remains grateful to those many kind and generous individuals who make donations to the charity and those highly supportive and loyal Trust Funds who continue their funding through their grants programme. Explore are pleased that during the last 2 months, two Trust Funds, who have not previously supported Explore, have generously approved grants. They are the Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Foundation and the Tramman Trust. We thank them both for their support.

First LCAG Chair in Dorset

Explore are pleased to announce that Simon and Barbara Howells have agreed to become the co-Chairs of Explore Dorset. They have been actively involved with Explore as a couple in Dorset since the launch in 2007.

Simon and Barbara live in Parkstone in East Dorset and have been married for 42 years. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Simon is a retired lawyer and Barbara is a secular-trained councilor and occupational therapist.



A Norfolk Experiment

In early March 2009, the Norfolk branch of Explore trialed running a Half Day Conference not as a single event completed on one day but over three one hour lessons in the week at Notre Dame High School in Norwich. Gavin Struthers and Karen Nice acted as Adviser-Coaches for the sessions—Gavin working with Year 10 and Karen with Year 11.

The lessons ran very much like a Half day conference with the first lesson introducing Explore and developing the young people's thinking about long-term relationships, marriage, their hopes and fears for marriage and family life while preparing what questions they would like to ask the couples. In the second lesson, the young people got to meet a married couple and question them and afterwards reflect on what was said. Finally, in the third lesson, the young people met and questioned a second married couple, reflected on the dialogue and evaluated their experience over the week.

"It was not what I was expecting—I learnt a lot of new things today. It has given me a better understanding of how good relationships work and last" A Gryphon School, Dorset, Year 12.

Overall, 86% of the young people rated the lessons as good or very good. The school rated the experiment as very good and successful and commented that "The groups seemed to enjoy the sessions and the atmosphere was very good indeed. The way that Gavin and Karen animated and worked with the groups was excellent."

The School Programme continues to grow

The Explore School Programme is witnessing more and more schools opening their doors to our workshops and Half Day Conferences. During the 2008/09 Academic Year, Explore will be welcomed for the first time to the Madjeski Academy, Reading; Reading Girls School; Hellesdon High School in Norfolk; Bridemary Community Sports College in Gosport; Bishop Challoner School in Basingstoke; the Rockwood school in Andover; St Luke's School in Portsmouth; Westgate School in Winchester and Leehurst Swan in Salisbury.



**THE STUDENTS
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***Lasting Relationships and
Marriage.***

Explore is an educational charity that works in schools and prisons bringing young people and married couples together to explore the realities and rewards of lasting relationships, family life and marriage. The aim is to enable young people to gain a deeper understanding of those vital life skills that can provide success and happiness in their adult relationships. The active participation learning method that is used by Explore has been experienced by over 22,000 young people over the last 8 years in 120 schools and 13 prisons. The participants have overwhelmingly [93%] rated highly the learning process.

We're on the Web.

www.theexploreexperience.co.uk.

New E-mail addresses

Please note the following changes in email addresses:

John Murphy [john.explore@btconnect.com]

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Karen Nice [explorenorfolk@ntlworld.com]

Gavin Struthers [gavin.struthers@sky.com]

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