



7 Tea Street,
Galashiels,
TD1 3JP

vmoyes@bigfoot.com

1st September 2008

Dear BEG members, Friends and Families

Despite the many excellent expeditions, events and opportunities Borders Exploration Group has provided over the past 17 years we have now come to an impasse in terms of future activities.

Over the last few years we have enjoyed a healthy membership list, appreciating the support that a wide range of people have shown the organisation. But it has fallen to a small group of people who have remained proactively committed to the majority of activities and expeditions, and this level of commitment from such a small group of people has understandably become unsustainable.

There is possibly a misconception that as a BEG leader you have to be all things to all men, and this has probably contributed to this current situation. Indeed a conversation with a past venturer highlighted this when they felt they had 'nothing to offer', an opinion which was so very far from the truth. It is important that we are clear that everybody has skills to offer whether or not they have been a leader or have been on an expedition in the past. The more people that become part of BEG the more we can all learn together, from each other, developing all our capabilities and confidence and sharing the experience.

In the spring of 2009 we would like to be able to open applications for both leaders and ventures for the next expedition. Understandable due to our previous successes there is already a huge interest from young people about future opportunities. However both expeditions and local events can only evolve when we have people who are willing to take their ideas forward, together as a group of people, to secure its success and ultimately the future of Borders Exploration Group.

THE BOTTOM LINE - In order for the organisation to continue to offer expedition opportunities to young people we need to attract a wide range of adult members. These people need to have a genuine, and more importantly, long-term 'hands on' interest in the organising of and promotion of youth development in the Scottish Borders. Therefore we have organised an Open Forum in the Town House in Melrose on Monday the 6th of October, 7:30 when we hope all BEG members, past, present and future can come along to openly discuss the following:

- Leadership / Adult helpers – how to attract and retain them
- Future Expeditions – format / duration
- The future of Borders Exploration Group

If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to discuss matters further, or if you require assistance with transportation to the meeting please call either myself on 01896 758608 or Nancy Anderson on 01896 849362, alternatively I look forward to meeting you on Monday 6th October at 7:30 pm in the Town House, Melrose.

Vicki Moyes
Chairperson BEG