

Biography:
Aidan Jones
Executive Director, WorldSkills London 2011

Aidan graduated from the University of North Wales, Bangor with a degree in Wood Science in 1994. He began his career as a Surveyor with a timber treatment company and initially was based in Yorkshire. After a short time, Aidan transferred to a newly opened office in Leicester and in 1998 he was promoted to Area Manager covering the counties of Lancashire and Cumbria.

In 1989, Aidan started a short career break which included trekking in Nepal, travelling in India and attending a National Scout Jamboree in Thailand. He then took up a volunteer role for 3 months in the winter 1989/90 season at one of Europe's largest youth activity centres – Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland. What was originally intended to be a short term volunteer role became a significant part of Aidan's career when he stayed in Kandersteg for 2 years as the Assistant Director and 4 years as the Director.

Aidan left Kandersteg in 1996 and travelled to New Zealand with his girlfriend (later to become his wife) who had secured a one year contract in Auckland as a Special Needs Teacher. At the end of 1997, Aidan and Su returned to Europe and Aidan took on the role of Director of Finance and Administration at the European Office of the World Scout Bureau in Brussels/Geneva.

In September 1999, Aidan and Su moved back to the UK when he was appointed as Assistant Director of Programme and Development at The Scout Association's national offices in Chingford. This role included overseeing Technical Services, Activities, International and the UK's participation in the 20th World Scout Jamboree in Thailand.

At the beginning of 2003, Aidan took on the role of Executive Director for the European Scout Jamboree in 2005 (EuroJam) and the 21st World Scout Jamboree in 2007, which marked the Centenary of Scouting. With around 40,000 participants and a budget of more than £20 million, this was the largest ever World Scout Jamboree.

In October 2008, Aidan was appointed as the Executive Director for WorldSkills London 2011 Ltd. – a wholly owned subsidiary of UK Skills with the remit to successfully deliver an outstanding 41st WorldSkills Competition in 2011.

Aidan and Su have a son and two daughters and they live in a rural part of Essex. His spare time is spent with his family and enthusiastically undertaking a wide range of DIY projects. He is the Honorary Treasurer of the 1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group Executive Committee.

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