



NEWS from...

The UK Uganda Network

For the latest information and photos go to www.ugandanetwork.org.uk

Full House for Uganda 2003

There has been Great enthusiasm for the visit to Uganda in August 2003 and our aim of 100 Scouts taking part was quickly achieved. The first places to be filled were for the Explorer Belt and climb of Mount Elgon. Nick Winter is pleased to be leading his second Explorer Belt in Uganda and knows that these 20 young people will have the experience of a lifetime with memories they will treasure as long as they live.

The remainder of the expedition will be carrying out a variety of community projects during their stay. The largest single contingent are from 7th Epsom (Methodist) Scout Group and they will be continuing their Group's involvement in Tororo and Mayuge where they have been sponsoring projects. Scouts from Surrey and East Sussex will be joining in a project with Ugandan Scouts from Soroti who have recently been given 20 acres for Scouting use. More Scout Groups from East Sussex and Surrey will be working on the Kamuli project helping in the school in the village of Lukotaime developing lifeskills and spreading awareness of international Scouting. North Hampshire Scouts have a project in Masindi whilst West Sussex Scouts and others will be joining their local African counterparts in a community project in Mbale.



Up, up and away at Gilwell Reunion

Commonwealth Capers was the theme of last years Gilwell Reunion and all the groups going to Uganda 2003 including the Explorer Belt, were represented at the Network stand. There was a great splash of yellow as we sold balloons for a balloon race. Also in attendance were Michael and Godfrey from Uganda and they were able to meet and be photographed with the Chief Scout when he visited the stand.

What they can expect...

Community Based Projects

After a short period of acclimatisation, all contingents will be welcomed into a village community. Working on a local project with local Scouts will be a great experience, learning what life is really like in a developing country where the basic services we take for granted in the UK, often fail or simply do not exist. The friendly Ugandans however will make everyone feel most welcome.

All Work and No Play?

When the project is over, it will be farewell to new found friends and time to travel to Murchinson Falls and Safari Park where they will see a stunning range of wildlife in the most spectacular National Park in the whole of Africa. And then to the source of the Nile where it leaves Lake Victoria and the wonderful Bujagali Falls.

Explorer Belt 2003

The Explorer Belt expedition will entail travelling 160km in 10 days undertaking projects on route. They will be accompanied by a Ugandan Scout in a very rural part of Uganda where there are many farming communities and fishing villages on the banks of Lake Kyoga. The visit includes the

opportunity to climb Mount Elgon, the second highest mountain in Uganda. Although it is on the equator snow can be found on the summit. The lower slopes are teeming with wildlife and the plan is arrive at the summit early in the morning to watch a most spectacular dawn. Also included is a visit to a National Park to see the sort of wildlife you can only see in Africa.

Farewell Visit to Buwenda

The Buwenda or Avonja project began in 1993 with a 10 year commitment by Avon Venture Scouts to build a Training Centre and camping ground at Jinja, as well as planting orchards and developing vocational training projects. Thanks to the dedication of the Avonja team the building was completed in time for Uganda 2000 and the site has toilets, showers, mains water and a canteen. The building is now in use as a secondary school during the week providing a much needed facility. Considerable credit is due to those leaders who have had the drive and determination to see it through to its conclusion. Over a dozen visits have been made during this time and as part of Uganda 2003, Avon Scouts are holding a final reunion visit.

Holiday in Madeira Prize

You could win a holiday for four adults in a five star hotel on one of the worlds most beautiful islands for just £1. Madeira is rich in natural splendour and often called the floating garden. It is also famous for walking along the levades, narrow water channels hewn out of the rock that take you into the interior. There is plenty more to do and see in a climate that remains warm and comfortable throughout the year. Eric Goulding has been donated this holiday by one of the Island's hoteliers and the money raised will be shared between Bulangira Disables Association and Kauule School for the Deaf.

Tickets are available from Eric Goulding
Tel 01252725656
e-mail mandegoulding@lineone.net



UK Uganda Network

The UK Uganda Network supports the aims and objectives of The Scout Association and the development of the Uganda Scouts Association by promoting ways in which members of both Associations can contribute to the understanding of each countries culture and people.

Updates on previous projects

Mityana Scout/Community Enterprises

Northumberland Scouts have had links with Uganda for over 15 years and with Mityana since 1966. A partnership has now been set up with Scouts in Uganda under the title Mityana Community Enterprises to develop a former technical college as a centre for the use both of Scouting and the community. The Resource Centre will be home to the Mubende District Scouts for their Leader Training and activities. Geoff Breedon MBE has undertaken the role of Project Manager and he can be contacted via their website www.mityana-community-enterprises.co.uk

Bwaise

Northampton Scouts have provided financial backing and other assistance since 1995 to the Outspan School at Bwaise a suburb of the capital Kampala. In 2002 they have made the purchase of final piece of land to replace wooden classrooms with permanent structures. Members are visiting in February, helping teachers at the school and with the Street Kids Project.

Brombara

11th Bromley Scout Group has maintained a link with Scouts at St Lawrence School, Nyamittanga in Mbarara for many years including a successful visit in 1999. They are now sponsoring over 40 children's education.

Bulangira Disable's Association

During Uganda 2000, some members visited the Association which has 150 members with a range of disabilities, including men, women and children and a Scout Group with 22 enthusiastic Scouts. A partnership has been formed with the Association, the Uganda Scout Association, The Friends of Scouting Uganda and Berkshire Scout Enterprises with the object of building an independent vocational workshop. This will enable members to be trained in various productive skills and so produce saleable goods towards self sufficiency. The cost of purchasing the site and constructing the building is around £15,000. So far enough has been raised to purchase the land and the final payment for this has now been made. If you would like to know more or make a donation contact Peter & Betty Scurry, 38 Wentworth Avenue, Ascot, SL5 8HQ.

St Joseph Balikuddembe Primary School

The 31st Oxford Scout Group recently handed over a cheque to Network Co-ordinator, Alan Beavis for money they had raised towards the purchase of pigs for the Kanaada Scout and Guides Open Troop at St Joseph Balikuddembe Primary School in Kampala. The school places great emphasis on areas like Scouting and Guiding, games, music, dance and drama. They also train the children in fish and pig farming. As well as the vocational skills the children learn, this also brings in much needed revenue.

Talk at Founder's Day Service

Robert Mitchell, an Explorer Belt holder from Uganda 2000, gave a talk on the expedition to the District Explorer Scout Training Weekend at Gilwell Park. Robert obviously impressed because he has been asked to speak again at the Founder's Day Service in Westminster. This is what Robert has to say;

'As an 18 year old Venture Scout, I undertook my Explorer Belt at Uganda 2000, a moving experience with partner Jenny Smith and a Ugandan Scout. Afterwards I met the Scout Group of Bulangira Disable's Association. 22 disabled but enthusiastic Scouts who demonstrated their camping skills. The Association which has 150 disabled members, already makes items for sale. The challenge is to build them a vocational workshop to develop skills and make them self sufficient. Funds have been raised but more is needed to make this dream come true. I am returning to Uganda this year, committed to International Scouting.'

Brought together by U2

Mark Purkiss a member of the Networks website team first went to Uganda in 1997 with Books for All and then again the following year to help provide Computer Training. But it was at Uganda 2000 that he met Charlotte Hough and they were married on 21st December 2002. Our congratulations and best wishes.

Next Network Meeting 24/26th October 2003

The next Network meeting will take place after Uganda 2003 on the weekend of 24/26th October. The venue is Chalfont Heights Scout Camp Site at Chalfont St. Peter, Buckinghamshire. www.chalfont.org Cost will be £30 per person all in.

Network rallies to Ugandan leader hit with Malaria

Information was received about a Scout Leader known to the Network suffering from malaria. Funds were immediately dispatched for him to have hospital treatment which happily has saved his life.

UNICEF delivers final UNITE Motorcycle

Unite was a project of the early 90s run by the Scout Associations of UK and Uganda in conjunction with UNICEF. The purpose was to continue with work begun by Scouts in Uganda on health education projects, to ensure vaccination against the six killer diseases that were easily preventable. Scouts in the UK raised money which was donated to UNICEF and the project still lives on in Uganda. Part of the money was also given to the Uganda Scout Association to provide motor cycles and bicycles for leaders to be able to move around Districts, many of which are remote and without any form of public transport. We are pleased to report that the final UNITE motor cycle was delivered in August 2002.

Jubilee Badge Appeal aids Street Kids

Many Scouts and Leaders purchased the Queen's Jubilee Badge during 2002 to mark the Queen's fifty years on the throne. Proceeds from the badges have gone to three Commonwealth country projects. One of these is the Street Kids project in Kampala run on behalf of the Uganda Scout Association. It is hoped that David Bull, Scout Association - International Commissioner will be making a formal hand over with a large cheque shortly. The Street Kids Project was originally funded by three Northampton Scout Districts.

New projects

County Commissioner Generating Power!

Stuart Hall, County Commissioner of Surrey has initiated a new project to raise £10,000 to provide a generator and electricity supply to a school in Palissa. This will also power a pump for the well that had previously been provided through the efforts of Eric and Marie Goulding.

Tree of Life Trust

Rev. John Wilkinson of Oxford is in the process of setting up a project in the Rakai district working closely with The Scout Association and the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The plan is to set up a pilot scheme for sixteen children in Kyotera. There will be a trust to provide housing for a pastor and a number of orphaned children. The children will be housed in child headed family units and educated as per Baden-Powell's patrol system under adult guidance.

Want to know more? Your points of contact are

International Department, The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, Bury Road, Chingford, London E4 7QW

Tel 0208 498 5363 Fax 0208 498 5329 E-mail international@scout.org.uk

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