



Scouts Against Malaria

Formed following a Hampshire International meeting in 2015, SAM is now involving Uganda, Ghana, Malawi and The Gambia. It's main aim is to provide a program for UK Scouts in malaria awareness and to provide education and Mosquito net distribution in the target countries. I was lucky enough to be present in Uganda for their fourth Rollout. I had previously asked if this could be done in Jinja District. Therefore I was able to see the Uganda Scouts in action. We have agreed that education is as important as the nets (as quite often there is an ignorance of how Malaria occurs), and Uganda Scouts have engaged a Volunteer Doctor to assist in this. Unfortunately we have to rely on funds raised in the UK and therefore the number of nets that can be purchased is limited. We hope to remedy this by approaching donors. The local scouts are in a unique position of being able to distribute nets and provide support in their own communities.

MaveTakil



GHANA

The expedition had three aims - supporting Adaklu Health Centre working at the Volta School for the Deaf in Hohoe and training Ghanaian scout leaders at the GSA National Training Centre.

We spent 3 days at Adaklu Health Centre. We had been given a lot of donations (chairs, desks, examination couches, hospital trolleys, cabinets, electric chairs and numerous small items of medical equipment) from Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, bedding, towels and books from Caring & Sharing, Inverness, bedding from Kingsmills Scout Group, Inverness, medical items from GP practices, Inverness and OS maps from Harpenden District. We shipped a 20 foot container in September.

The items were well received at Adaklu and my expedition medic (a retired Consultant) explained everything to them. Some were too advanced for a health centre (e.g. anaesthetist equipment) so we presented all such items to Hohoe Hospital. With the help of Emmanuel who is a local supporter of the expedition we also purchased an ambulance for Adaklu, on which we stuck 4 World Badges!

We painted 6 dormitories and one outside corridor at The Volta School for the Deaf with the help of 8 Hohoe scouts along with students from the school. Everyone wanted in on the act! We even got the headmistress sanding walls. Working here turned out to be the highlight of the expedition for us.

Freddy who is a Scout Leader also arranged for Alavanyo Scouts (a new troop recently opened in a village near Hohoe by Freddy) to be at camp whilst we were in Hohoe. We had a campfire with them Saturday night and they came to Wli Waterfall with us on the Sunday, Great to spend time with them.

We then went to the Ghana Scout Association, Sam Wood Training Centre at Sakyikrom, about 40 minutes west of Accra. We had taken a lot of training handouts with us. We trained 43 Ghanaian leaders in conjunction with the GSA HQ staff. Jemima Nartey (who I have known for many years) Vice Chair, World Scout Committee was also in attendance.

Again another campfire on the Saturday night where we were told the story of Ging Gang Goolie - none of us had heard this before and it was great fun being the elephant oompaing round the camp fire. If you have not heard this story let me know. We then had 36 hours R&R being for heading back to the UK.

Jo Busby

Devine Writes

Once again it appears to have been a fairly busy quarter. I know many of you have been busy putting together your plans for the coming season and have some exciting initiatives ahead in 2017 and beyond. Centrally I have been working on a couple of things and I would like to share these with you in the hope, that, if you feel it appropriate, you might like to join in.



Amazon 2020

I was with British Exploring on two occasions over the past two weeks. They are now putting together their final plans for the Network Scout Expedition to the Peruvian Amazon in 2020. This will take the form of a high adventure activity in the Amazon rain forest and will involve trekking and environmental work. It will happen over the summer of 2020, will last for around five weeks and will be open to those who are between 18 and 25 at the time of the expedition.

Charlie Pritchard will take the lead on this but will be supported by the rest of the team and mentored by me through the process of planning and recruitment. I will not be going but I am hoping that Charlie and a couple of the coordinating team will take part as 'training' leaders. If this is a success we will use it as a development opportunity and it will, hopefully, be the start of a long term relationship with BES. The website will launch at the beginning of March and we will be inviting applicants to register an interest through to the end of September. We will be at Gilwell 24 and Reunion to promote the expedition and encourage Explorers and Network to consider applying.

I am very keen that we have strong domestic support for this initiative and would be happy to hear from any one in the ISSU who would like to support the team. We will be encouraging younger members to join in and will develop packs of training material so that young people across the sections can get a clearer understanding of the Amazon, its ecology and the people that make this part of the world their home. We will need help in developing a join in pack and if you would like to help, please let me know.

Membership

We thank those who have already completed and submitted their membership application form.

For those who have not the application form is available from our website www.issu.org.uk and we now have available our District/County badge that may be worn on the scout uniform on the right sleeve.

Why don't we run this ourselves? Well we probably could but partnering with BES means we can offer a series of high adventure activities using a well respected organisation that knows the areas they work in and have the tools and expertise already developed. A bit like Marv and Uganda, they know where they are going and know what they are doing. So, please encourage anyone within the age range of 16 and 22 now to consider signing up.

Oman 2018

I am waiting on final details from Steve Sutton on the plans for this Explorer Belt. I am aware that he has been in conversation with the local Scout association and he is now developing the detail. I am hoping we will be able to start positively promoting this very soon. As soon as we have the details we will launch on Scouting + and seek applications.

Gilwell Reunion

Just to remind you that the date of the 2017 Gilwell Reunion is Friday 1st September – Sunday 3rd September. We look forward to seeing you there.



ISSU Newsletter
Please send items for the next
Newsletter to
issunews@issu.org.uk by
30th June 2017

David McKee

At the International Commissioners meeting for Europe David McKee was presented with the Silver Wolf, the highest award in Scouting.

David is Regional Director in the World Scout Bureau.

Tim Kidd is seen presenting David with Silver Wolf in recognition of his outstanding service to UK Scouting.



FOSE-UK RECEPTION

18 MARCH 2017 AT BADEN POWELL HOUSE, QUEENSGATE, LONDON

The reception was delighted to welcome new members to FOSE UK where they made contact with other members and friends. They were also pleased to welcome Tim Kidd, UK Chief Commissioner, Dr Ann Limb, Chair of the Board, Hannah Kentish, UK Youth Commissioner and Matt Hyde, Chief Executive UK Scouts during their lunch break.



David McKee with three members of FOSE

Charity numbers: 306101 (England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland)

Uganda February 2017 report

Nick Winter, Avon Scouts, International Scout Support Unit

Marv Takel, Surrey Scouts, International Scout Support Unit

Background - UK Scouts involvement with Uganda goes back to the 1990's. Nowadays our main involvement in Uganda has been assisting and advising groups that wish to visit Uganda or support projects in Uganda. Since 2009 we have been travelling to Uganda every two years in order to enable us to stay 'current'. Primarily these visits enable us to view past projects and liaise with Uganda Scouts Association.



Uganda Scouts - Recently Uganda Scouts appointed a new Chief Commissioner, Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala. He is reported to be a no nonsense person and is making his presence known at Scout Headquarters. Okello Richard is still the National Executive Commissioner. Unfortunately I was not able to meet with the incumbent International Commissioner. However, due to my involvement with 'Scouts against Malaria' I am able to work closely with Cleopatra John, responsible for International liaison issues. Our meetings in Kampala included Dave Mowbray, from Northumberland Scouts. The County helped to refurbish the National campsite at Kaazi, on Lake Victoria. In 2008 Northumberland raised a Cairn at Kaazi similar to the one at Lookwide campsite in Northumberland. I have asked Dave to speak to his County to see if they will fund a badge similar to the BP Walk badge except to establish a BP walk from BP house in Kampala to Kaazi.

Itinerary - Each visit to Uganda necessitates a route to be chosen that differs from the previous visit. 2015 saw us travel in a vast circle starting Kampala and heading east through Jinja and Mbale. Heading North through Kumi and Soroti. West through to Pakwach and then South through Murchison to Masindi and Fort Portal before heading back to Kampala.

The 2017 route took us East through Jinja to Mt Elgon. Then back to Kampala for an organisation meeting with the USA regarding a roll out of SAM in Jinja. Following the meeting we headed West through Masaka, Lake Mburo, Mbarara and to the extreme Southwest to Lake Bunyonyi. This route enables us to check on previous projects such as the Mpigi District protected springs.

Jinja - Jinja Town, approximately 90kilometres East of Kampala is the site of the BP training and Camp site at Buwenda. In 1993 Avon Scouts entered into a 10 year partnership with Jinja Scouts. Since then the site has had to rely on sporadic donations to keep the site going. In the past there have been arguments between the USA and Jinja Scouts which have since been resolved. Indeed, Jinja Scouts won the East Africa Camping Competition recently which has greatly raised their profile. It is hoped that, with the aid of Steven Wante, Mayor of Bugembe, Jinja, the freehold to the site can be negotiated. Steven assures us that a large part of the rent arrears has been paid and they can move forward in the Freehold negotiations.



There are maintenance issues with the site (mainly minor electrical problems). These have now been sorted. However following a storm at Christmas part of the roof of the main building was damaged and although the roof is now intact, the guttering and fascia need replacing. Work has ceased on the tourist Bandas.

Wessex BP Scouts have provided a new sign at the entrance giving greater visibility and there are proposals to continue with a path from the campsite down to the 'beach' at the river's edge. It is hoped that the tour boats that have recently started down river can stop at Buwenda.

It is also hoped to provide funds for a water storage tank to be erected by the main building. Vitally important with the extreme drought conditions recently

Two other projects we visited were the Lubanyi Vocational training centre which was started by Bournemouth's Nile 2010 group. Funds were raised to build the centre using a £25000 block making machine donated by a Dorset businessman. The centre is used to train local people in various trades in order for them to earn a living. The project is now being supported by the 1st Wessex BP Scouts. Despite storm damage at Christmas repairs are well on the way.

(Uganda follow on)

Berkshire's 'Project Africa' together with the NGO Softpower entered into projects at Butagaya and Iwololo schools. We visited Butagaya School and handed over Football shirts to their team together with footballs and pump, donated by a Bristol resident



Mt Elgon and Rwenzoris - Previously, Mount Elgon was a popular activity for UK Scouts. It is a 4/5 day hike from the village of Budadiri (where the Uganda Wildlife Association resides) to the summit of Elgon, Wagagai peak, at 4321 metres. In the past few years the costs for young people have become prohibitive. This is a UWA policy decision in order to bring Uganda into the going East African rate. At one time there was a Student discount which is no longer given. UWA have sometimes reduced the overall time on the mountain by bussing people further up to Bumasola. However I have reservations regarding this practice because of the shortened acclimatisation time. The price includes an accredited Guide but does not include the costs of the porters and their provisions. However non UWA walks are available on the mountain below the National Park border.

John Hunwick, the owner of Backpackers, Kampala, is also the Director of the Rwenzori Trekking Service. This is an UWA backed organisation that can arrange walking trips around the Rwenzori Mountains in the West of Uganda as well as more challenging trips such as Mt Stanley and Marguerita. John used to be an advisor to World Challenge and has spent the last 9 years establishing trekking huts and trails in the Rwenzoris.

Lake Nabugabo - This Lake, sandwiched between the town of Masaka and Lake Victoria, has often been used as a stopping point for expedition groups, mainly due to the fact that all journeys should be completed during daylight hours. Uganda is on the Equator therefore has an equal day and night cycle. Being fairly dangerous to travel at night in Uganda, Nabugabo is a useful stop off for groups going long distances.

Jjalamba, Mpigi District - Situated in Mpigi District, Jjalamba is the site of one of the more ambitious 'Protected Spring' projects. It was constructed in 2006 by the Cholsey and Clifton Hampdon Explorer Scouts from Oxfordshire. What makes the spring so unique is that the water supply bubbles from the ground in seven locations. In 2005 the whole area was forest jungle. The Explorers cut back the forest to find the Spring 'Eyes' and with the help of the Mpigi District Water Authority succeeded in channelling the water to a single outlet. A massive undertaking with great success. I have made a point of visiting the site over the years and it is still operational. However the locals now tell me that there are cracks developing in the infrastructure and sometimes dirty water is prevalent. A new drainage trench was proof that work is still going on. Considering the drought in central Uganda at this time I was surprised to see a flow of any kind.



Finally

Having supplied their National badge in the past, I was able to facilitate the supply of 1000 national badges. I am in the process of further commissioning of the Uganda Scouts shoulder flash. Hopefully the Sussex group will be able to take them out later this year.

ISSU Website

We have registered a domain name and set up a website www.issu.org.uk with holding page.

We look forward for a volunteer Webmaster to help develop this website to actively reflect the work that we are doing. Volunteers to advise George. Thank you.

db's Reminder

Just a reminder that all member's of the Scout Movement must hold a current db's. After joining the ISSU it is up to you to apply for a db's.

All you need to do is to go to scouts.org, and down load the Adults Information form and Compass ID checking Form, complete then and give them to your Appointments Sec or Scout HQ.

International Opportunities 2017

Thinking of an experience in 2017/18 ???

1 July - 8 July 2017	NORD, Norway
2017	Jam Cam Ecuador
22 July - 30 July 2017	Jamboree Denmark Sonderbord – Southern
29 July - 5 August 2017	Kent International Jamboree, Kent County Showground, Detling, Kent
29 July - 5 August 2017	Poacher, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln
29 July - 5 August 2017	Nijam 2017, Crawfordsburn Scout Centre
25 July - 2 August 2017	World Scout Moot, Iceland
29 July - 12 August 2017	ICES, Netherlands
28 July - 4 August 2017	Chamboree 2018 – Yo-ho yo-ho pirates life for me! Cheshire
27 July - 2 August 2018	31st Asia Pacific Regional Jamboree, Mongolia
27 July - 2 August 2018	10th Serbian Jamboree
27 July - 5 August 2018	Moot, Cuzco, Peru
28 July - 4 August 2018	Walesby World Experience

SIG (Special Interest Groups)

If you require more information on your **SIG** contact

Arab SAS- Mike Aston mike@kcited.demon.co.uk

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Russia Network- Kevin Angell kevangel@btopenworld.com

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Friends of Scouting Europe

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Scout & Guide Fellowship

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NASASU NEWS

NSASU is a new newsletter for all National Scout Active Support Units and the first issue was in October 2016.

There is also a website page listing on scouts.org of all the National Scout Active Support Units with a brief description of the Unit and links to there websites and social media channels. Take a look and if you would like your part of the page updated, please email adult.support@scouts.org.uk.

Contact Details for the Newsletter and web page .

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For More Help contact adult.support@scouts.org.uk