

UK Uganda Network

Notes of the meeting of the Network held at Walesby Scout Camp Site over the weekend of 17/19 May 2002.

Some set up camp, other utilised the indoor accommodation in the Parker Lodge.

A team from a Member Scout Group in Doncaster kindly provided the catering throughout the weekend which was greatly appreciated.

On the Saturday, the Members discussed their plans and arrangements for Uganda 2003.

Keith Shackleton kindly facilitated workshops on the Risk Assessment and Health and Safety good working practices.

During the evening barbecue, the Members were joined by David McKee, Programme and Development Manager - International, who shared information on the way in which the Queen's Jubilee is enhancing the importance of the work of the UK Scout Association in Commonwealth. On Friday, David Bull, our International Commissioner, had received a visit from the newly-appointed Governor General of the Cayman Islands and invested him as Chief Scout. A long-established tradition that continues with all Commonwealth Countries.

David advised us how pleased the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were to be able to attend the Annual St George's Day Parade at Windsor - her first official function after the period of mourning for her mother's death.

The attendance of Scouts from 18 Commonwealth countries was noticeable, if not only for their excellent marching ability and appearance.

On Sunday morning, the Members held their Network Meeting, chaired by Geoff Breeden OBE, where Members were brought up to date with events and activities by the Network Co-ordinator, Alan Beavis.

Peter Scurry reported to the Members on his recent trip to the Bulangira Disabled Association in Palissa where they had found that the original site planned for the Vocational Workshop, had been reclaimed by its owner and developed for another purpose. During their visit they were able to

negotiate the purchase of another plot on which to develop the Vocational Workshop. Peter brought back a sample of a table leg produced in the workshop, by what we would consider primitive methods, but nevertheless of good quality.

Uganda, like all other countries, has a surplus of plastic bags and the workshop has creatively used these to produce plastic rope and samples were shown to Members - perhaps a recycling initiative for Scout Groups to follow - we need to establish the needs for plastic rope - any ideas?

Neil Dallen spoke of his recent trip on behalf of the 7th Epsom Scout Group where they have identified two new projects for 2003.

Geoff Breeden, Dave Mowbray and Jonathan Cooksley showed plans for the development of the old Technical College Building in Mityana into a Community Enterprise Centre.

Last Saturday Robert Mitchell, one of the Venture Scouts who was awarded the Explorer Belt in Uganda 2000, was invited to talk at the District Explorer Scouts Training Workshop, on how the Explorer Belt Scheme can benefit those joining the new section.

The Members departed after a successful weekend, looking forward to meeting again, either at the Gilwell Reunion or our next Network Meeting at Hesley Wood, Sheffield, the weekend of 18/20 October 2002.

Alan K B Beavis