



NEWS FROM

The UK Uganda Network



For latest information and photos go to www.ugandnetwork.org.uk

09/00



The ad that started it all Scouting Magazine Sep 98.

uganda 2000



- OUR WILDEST DREAMS ACHIEVED

Astonishing welcome at Entebbe Airport and Outspan Scout Band leads parade that brings Kampala to a halt

It was the culmination of two years planning when hundreds of Ugandans including a children's choir turned out on the tarmac of Entebbe Airport to welcome the party of UK Scouts who had come to spend three weeks, living, working and camping with Ugandan Scouts. The band from Outspan School played the 140 Scouts off the plane and after speeches of welcome, led them in a parade through streets which

had been especially closed by Traffic Police to the City Square of Kampala, Uganda's capital. An amazing welcome which 15 year old Paul Middleton of Derby described as the highlight of his Scouting life.

The party then journeyed to Jinja on the banks of Lake Victoria where they met up with the Advance Party which had already been in Uganda for a week. The 150 strong party is the largest

group of UK Scouts ever to visit a developing country. During their two days in Jinja the contingent went sightseeing to the Bujagali Falls and the Source of the Nile. They returned to a visit from the King of Busoga who had come to greet them and who was preceded by his spear carrying warrior bodyguards. During the King's visit everyone was entertained by traditional African Song and Dance.

TEN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

After acclimatisation and sight seeing at Jinja the contingent except for the Venture Scouts undertaking the Explorer belt, split into nine groups. These groups worked with Ugandan Scouts, through blistering heat and tropical rainstorms, on a variety of community projects throughout Uganda. Many of these projects have involved schools and as one group said 'We are overwhelmed by the love the children have shown us and humbled and saddened by their needs.' At the end of these individual projects many of the groups reunited to work on a project in the capital city of Kampala.

SCOUT SKILLS TRAINING

As part of Uganda 2000, nine UK Scout Leaders travelled to Uganda in February. They ran two courses for a total of forty Ugandan Leaders in Scouting Skills training. Not only did they have to pay their own expenses but also contributed towards the £2000 need to cover the cost of the Ugandan leaders attending. This was also funded by Syntegra employees as well as Berkshire Scout Council and other donations.

VENTURES UNDERTAKE EXPLORER BELT

10 Venture Scouts (6 male and 4 female) set off with 5 Ugandan Scouts as guides on an eleven day adventure for their Explorer Belt. They quickly settled into a routine - walking, riding and meeting local people. Their projects went well and everyone including the Ugandan Scouts had a great time. The group reported that the people they met were lovely and friendly and they hoped that they were getting as much from their encounters as they did. They got used to the chant of 'Mzungu, mzungu, mzungu' (white person) and they had to speak to the children at every school they passed. Nick Winter of Bristol kept a daily eye on the groups movements.

EXPEDITION ON MOUNT ELGON

Three separate parties took up the challenge to climb Mount Elgon, Uganda's second highest mountain. The first group of fifteen with two support members reached the summit Thursday 17th at 8.30am local time and were greeted with a wonderful sunrise and a fantastic view. On their descent they met up with the second group who sadly just failed to reach the summit. Both groups descended safely together. The third group also reached the summit a little later in the week. Stuart McKay from Northumberland and Nick Tombs from Norwich were in charge of this challenge.

in Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey with contributions from Sussex and Kent, and another went from Scouts in North Wales. A fifth container was loaded at Lancing where Scout Shops Ltd donated £200,000 worth of much needed uniforms, tentage and training materials to Ugandan Scouts. Eric Goulding, Uganda 2000 Contingent Leader described the containers as the 'largest UK donation to Scouts in a developing country since the Unite Project.' It is planned for more containers to be sent so it is

still not too late to join in. Thanks are due to Geoff Dunstan of Reigate for co-ordinating this immensely important activity.

SAFARI AT SAMBIYA LODGE

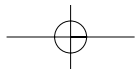
All the groups at one time or another during their stay spent time at Murchinson Falls National Park and were thrilled to see the wildlife. One young female Scout from Hampshire had only one word for it 'Wow'. But about 50,000 times.

CONTAINERS ROLL

Scouts from many counties in the UK, from Beaver Scouts to Fellowship members, collected resources for several months and on Monday 24th July five containers started on their long road and sea journey from the UK to Uganda. Three of the containers went from Farnham filled with collections from Scouts

UK SCOUTS JOIN THE AFRICAN CAMPOREE 2000

The climax of the three weeks in Uganda was Camporee 2000 where six thousand African Scouts came together to camp at the Ugandan Scouts Association National Camp Site at Kaazi on the shores of Lake Victoria, joined by the whole UK contingent. Nine of the units spent the complete six days at this Millennium Camp with the Venture Scout returning from their Explorer Belt adventure making it for the last three days. No one could fail to be impressed with the ingenuity of the African Scouts to build their tents or shelters or not be infected by the fun that they gained from Scouting.



AVONJA

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 dedication of the Avonja team, the building was completed in time for Uganda 2000 and it was here that the whole contingent started their visit. The site has toilets, main water, showers and a canteen and the building is in daily use as a new secondary school during the week providing a much needed facility.

MITYANA

Northumberland has had links with Uganda for over 12 years. They have built and maintained the Training HQ for Uganda Scouts Association at their National Camp Site at Kaazi where the UK contingent camped with African Scouts at Camporee 2000. They have also built a series of swings for children and garden seats for adults at Mityana Hospital and on a visit by a 23 strong party in July of this year they handed over a minibus they had purchased to the Friends of Scouting Society Uganda to be used for the benefit of Scouting and the community.

BWAISE

Northampton Scouts have provided financial backing and other assistance since 1995 to the Outspan School at Bwaise a suburb of Kampala. Four further classroom blocks have recently been added as a result of their funding. It was the Outspan School Band that welcomed the contingent to Uganda and led their parade through Kampala.

Emma Stubbs (20) and Kris Roberts (22) both young leaders in Northamptonshire's Adult Training team went to Uganda in June to use their training skills in a different and challenging country. In their three week trip they visited the Outspan School and ran several sessions with 'Street Kids Scouts,' a scheme to help homeless children in the capital also sponsored by three Northamptonshire Districts.

BROMBARA

11th Bromley Scout Group have maintained a link with Scouts at St Lawrence School Nyamittanga, in Mbarara. They had a successful group visit to Uganda in 1999 a result of which they invited Scouts from Mbarara to join them at Campdowne 2000 in the UK. They were delighted that to blind Scouts were able to be part of the contingent.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP AWARD

Uganda 2000 has enabled many Scouts Groups throughout the UK to participate in this project leading them towards the International Friendship Award.

HELP FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Many organisations have helped make Uganda 2000 the success it has been and in particular two companies have helped reduce the not inconsiderable costs. British Airways who offered discount flights for the contingent to Uganda and P&O Nedlloyd who gave discounts for the shipping of the containers of Scouting and educational resources.

Great interest from television press and radio in Uganda

A film of the parade through Kampala appeared on Uganda television as well as the welcome by the King of Busoga. Leaders and Scouts were interviewed by the country's press on their arrival at Entebbe airport and a photo of Tilly from North Wales featured in a National Newspaper competition. George William Agriru, Managing Director of Voice of Tesco radio has been keen to support Uganda 2000. As part of this commitment, Peter Ssekasko Morgan, the Production/ Programme Assistant recorded a number of commercial jingles and an interview promoting the role of Scouting in the Region.

MESSAGE FROM FORMER INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONER

John May, former International Commissioner and now Chairman of Programme and Development, the Scout Association, has written to the contingent in Uganda. In his letter he says 'I knew from the very first moment I set foot in Uganda, many years ago, this that it was somewhere very special. I wish I could be with you this summer, but I wish you the very best of fortunes and look forward to hearing of your adventures when you return.' And so say all of us.

HUGE INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL LINKS

The support generated through the Uganda 2000 Millennium Project has provided the opportunity for Scouts in Uganda to have direct contact with Scouts in the UK. In the year before April 1998 9 Friendship links were established. Since that date this had grown by another 121

links up until the end of July 2000 and more requests for links is expected from the Uganda 2000 visit. The Scout International Link Scheme, often called the Pen Pal scheme, is co-ordinated by Joan and Roy Walker and the Network greatly appreciate their help.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

On 27th October a Network meeting will be held at Youlbury Camp site in Oxfordshire to discuss Uganda 2000 and the future role for the UK-Uganda Network. Everyone is invited to attend. In December Alan Beavis, the Network Co-ordinator, and David McKee will be visiting Uganda to find out the needs and wishes of the Ugandan Scouts themselves.

Want to know more?

Your points of contact area: International Department, The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW. Tel: 0208 498 5363 Fax 0208 498 5329 E-Mail International@scout.org.uk. Network Co-ordinator, Alan K B Beavis, Hatchery, The Street, Mortimer, West Berkshire RG7 3PB. Tel: 0118 933 3313 Fax 0118 933 3383 E-mail. ALANBSE@aol.com or don't forget to visit our web site www.ugandanetwork.org.uk

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 peoples.

This newsletter is sponsored by Berkshire Scout Enterprises

