



Notes of 28th International Workshop on the Global Program Zone

Saturday 11th November 2023

Present: Anna Kviclova (66 Praha), Charlotte Swaffer, Nicolas Olmas, Lorenzo Del Freo, Mike Dawson, Chris Mead, Paul Ruddick, Marion Christmas, Graham Brook, Adam Brook, Adam Battery, Martin Takel, Rayner Mayer; apologies Ray Bunce, Tim Ellis, Jackie Heath

Annual ranking of global needs - This ranking was discussed and the following needs were assessed where Scouts could make the greatest difference -

- *Creating tolerance and understanding* amongst people and communities as conflicts were increasing with many people suffering and even dying. As an international organisation with members in almost every country, Scouting could help to create understanding between peoples with different religions, languages and cultures
- *Alleviating hunger and poverty* as about 1/7th of the world's population (1 billion people) suffer from hunger and poverty. Buying products which carried the Fair-Trade logo was one way that Scouts could help as the producers received a premium which they could use to buy food, pay for their children to go to school or buy seed to sow their next crop
- *Limiting climate change* as the average global temperature rise was very close to the limit (1.5C) above which irreversible changes in climate could occur. Each of us should therefore consider how we could use less energy and consider how to convert energy use from fossil fuels to using renewable energy sources which did not result in emissions of greenhouse gases

Scouts for SDGs World - Scouting has pledged a target of 3 billion hours of voluntary labour between 2015 and 2030 as their contribution to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Any activity relating to the SDGs should be recorded on the WOSM website but check that the hours are correctly recorded.

www.sdgs.scout.org

World Scout Jamboree - 3 Explorer Scouts (Charlotte, Nicholas and Lorenzo) from Yateley Green Group participated in this year's event in South Korea. Together with Anna from 66th Prague Scout Group, who went as an IST (international Service team) member, they described their experiences of their visit. A lack of adequate planning by the organisers resulted in the Jamboree starting a day late

and ending some days sooner due to a variety of factors including extreme weather conditions and flood conditions on the camp site.

Alternative arrangements had to be made to ensure that the rest of their visit was a success which members were able to enjoy. For the IST members, it was an extremely difficult time period to ensure the success of their participants' journey. It was important to learn from these experiences so that the next Jamboree in Poland in 2027 could be enjoyed by all.

For video of Czech participation go to - <https://www.facebook.com/skaut/videos/285316291043595/>

Soma, Gambia - Marion described Hampshire's ongoing collaboration with this community since 1989. It had involved not only building Kairo Konko Lodge which provided accommodation for visitors to Soma, but also as a meeting place for the local Scout Group and other community activities.

Hampshire Scouts had also reached out into the surrounding communities and projects had included provision of clean water and distribution of mosquito nets. She described their most recent project which involved providing clean water for a local community. What was sad was the lack of interest in education and in employment opportunities which had caused people to migrate at great peril to themselves and family.

Jackie Heath (who could not join us) wrote that 'I organised a trip to Soma with 24 explorers and network Scouts in August this year and you can see our highlights on video' -

<https://youtu.be/3iiBzOQjj3s?si=fiHATWFsfgoclzFf>

Scouts against malaria - Marv described the ongoing collaboration since 2015 to reduce the incidence of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. This involved education of local Scouts and their communities about malaria as well as the distribution of insecticide treated bed nets under which families could sleep at night without being bitten.

Important to continue fund raising as malaria was one of the world's deadliest diseases with 200 million people being infected each year and some 630,000 deaths, mainly under the age of 5. In bulk, such nets cost only a few pounds each. Attached is a letter of explanation to parents so if you organise a SAM evening you could copy or email parents so that they might be willing to donate or fund raise to buy one or more mosquito nets.

Clean water - This was another ongoing collaboration with the Scouts of Masindi district of Uganda. With funds raised by UK Scouts, some 45 spring wells have been constructed since 2000 and all were still in use as the local communities and Scout Groups ensured that the water sources were kept clean and not contaminated.

Restoring biodiversity - Local Scout Groups in Yateley have been active each autumn in converting some grass verges to wild flower meadows by cutting the turf, lifting and either turning over or stacking on one side to form a beetle bank. Then sowing wild flower seed as specified by Hampshire Highways.

Global program zone - This provided activities and resources which could form part of any sectional meeting. Not only were they interesting and challenging but also transferred skills and knowledge which Scouts may well need at some future time.

Useful links to activities

www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk

www.changingwithclimate.info

www.bramshillscoutdistrict.co.uk - sustainable development goals, clean water, wild flower meadows

Next meeting - Saturday 9 November 2024

Adam Brook has supplied some further information about the European Scout Centre at Wiltz in Luxembourg when I took my bike on a personal recce to [Wiltz Scout Centre](#). In the summer they host Scouts from across Europe, it is not as large as Kandersteg but they have several chalets/hostels and camp sites and it is an interesting area. I took my bike and after a few days in the Ypres area took a train to Luxembourg - very low fares compared with the UK. Within Luxembourg - the country as well as the capital city - all public transport is free, even for visitors, so that was an unexpected bonus. Wiltz is a small and attractive town in the Ardennes, the Scout Centre is run from a permanent office in the town's chateau. Cycling would definitely be a good option for Scouts/Explorers, afterwards I cycled on a very good, tarmacked, ex-railway track to Bastogne in Belgium, another very historic and interesting town.

The 17 Sustainable development goals to which WOSM has pledged 3 billion hours of voluntary labour by 2030 by World Scouting



Demonstrating how to erect a mosquito net



Completing a spring well Masindi District, Uganda



Cutting the turf and stacking it alongside



Sowing wild flower seed and tramping in the seed