

Notes 29th Annual International Workshop 9 November by Zoom

Attendance 15 persons

Annual ranking of human needs where Scouts can help

Our annual ranking this year was –

- Limiting climate change
- Accessing clean water
- Reducing illness and disease

Greater extremes in weather is affecting almost every country, some more than others and impacts inter alia peoples' health and well being, ability to produce food and occupation,

Contributing to the UN's sustainable development goals

World Organisation of Scouting Movements (WOSM) has pledged 3 billion hours of voluntary activities by the world wide Scouting movement. Hampshire is actively involved in meeting 4 of these goals as described below.

Scouts against malaria

Malaria threat is increasing due to greater climate extremes and each year some 200 million persons are infected and more than 600,000 deaths recorded, mainly children under the age of 5.

UK Scouts learn about the illness and how it can be prevented and are challenged to raise on average £5/head so that African Scouts can purchase and distribute insecticide treated bed nets under which families can sleep without being bitten. More than 60 campaigns have been organised in 4 African countries – Uganda, Malawi, Ghana, and Gambia - over the past 9 years.

A *malaria prevention handbook* has been written together with a set of activities for Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to illustrate how this illness occurs and how it can be prevented. It can be downloaded from our web site www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk.

Clean water wells

In collaboration with Masindi Scout District, Uganda and Ugandan Water Board, some 45 spring wells have constructed in isolated villages to provide clean water for their inhabitants with funds raised by UK Scouts. Further supplies have also been financed in Soma, Gambia.

Cycling in Normandy

Adam Brook (3rd Alton) described the annual cycle event which involved Scouts from 3 counties and involved shipping 90 bicycles this year from Portsmouth to Caen and visiting some of the D day sites. Very successful event.

Explorer belt, Denmark

Lexi Grinsted (3rd Alton) described the 12 day expedition to Denmark including meeting many Danish Scouts and undertaking some 10 major challenges. One of these was why Denmark is ranked the second happiest country in the world.

Soma, Gambia

Marion Christmas (2nd Bentley) described their association with the people and Scouts of Soma which dates back to 1989. This year some 16 persons visited in February and undertook a large variety of activities to support the local communities in and around Soma. This included not only providing food supplies but also providing equipment for a local health centre and support for local schools and the community garden. Kaira Konko Lodge and Scout centre was now self supporting due to use by other NGOs.

Ypres, Belgium

Kasia Jaruchowska (Frogmore and Hawley) described Bramshill District's visit to Ypres and surrounding villages and D day sites during October half term. Also enjoyed contact with Belgian Scouts.

2025 visits

Malawi (Jackie Heath) – 30 explorers from Hampshire – plan to work on class rooms and possible distribution of mosquito nets together with Malawi Scouts
Kandersteg International Scout Centre, CH – Hartley Wintney Scout Group

International opportunities

- 2025 Kent International Jamboree, Maidstone
- 2026 Wings International Jamboree, Berkshire
- Explorer belt expedition, Albania, Cambridgeshire
- 2027 Camjam International Jamboree, Cambridgeshire
World Scout Jamboree, Poland

Helping refugees

The number of refugees were increasing due not only to the impacts of climate change, but also due to lack of work opportunities, wars and internal strife. Wherever possible, Scouts should try and help integrate such people into the community and invite children to their Scout meetings

Increasing biodiversity

Scouts can help to convert grass verges to wild flower meadows to provide habitats for pollinators and butterflies as Bramshill has done.

Fair trade products

Products that are fair traded carry the Fair Trade logo and involve more than 6000 such products. Such products ensure that the producer gets paid a premium which they can then use to buy food, seed for growing crops and paying for their childrens' education. An interesting and challenging activity is to visit local shops, identify fair traded products and then go back to their meeting place and prepare a meal with such products. For more information including resources and program activities go to www.fairtrade.org.uk/activities

Global activities badge

Scouts should be encouraged to earn their global activities badge which will help other people in need.

Links to global program activities

for sustainable development goals, clean water activities and converting grass verges to wild flower meadows go to

- www.bramhillscoutdistrict.co.uk/about-us/international

for activities relating to preventing malaria go to

- www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk

Date next meeting

Saturday 8 November 2025

Rayner Mayer
International adviser