



Newsletter #2

24/10/2015

In this issue we describe how malaria occurs, what are its symptoms and why it is important to seek prompt treatment if you show symptoms of the disease.

There is also an update on other Counties joining the initiative and forthcoming discussions to raise awareness of one of the most important scourges of our times.

Mosquitos are found throughout the world but it is the bite of one particular type, the female anopheles mosquito, which injects a parasite into the blood stream which results in malaria.

Malaria is not the only disease spread by mosquitos as bites of other types of mosquitos can result in West Nile fever or dengue fever, which can also cause grievously bodily harm.

Malaria occurs through the parasites called plasmodia finding their way into the cells of the liver where they multiply and subsequently invade the red blood cells which transport oxygen around the body, which can result in severe anemia.

Protection As no vaccine exists, the long term prevention is the use of insecticide impregnated nets, which must be correctly hung up, be free of tears or holes and be tucked completely under the mattress so there are no openings.

Around the home, important to remove mosquito breeding sites which include pools of stagnant water

Symptoms include high to very high temperature (fever), sweating, headaches, nausea and diarrhea. If one or more these symptoms are observed, immediate medical treatment must be sought to prevent symptoms getting worse especially in young children and pregnant mothers.

Did you know that in Africa alone, one child dies every minute from malaria

[With acknowledgements to Awake, July 2015 edition]

Initial trials These will be held in Uganda as we have reached an agreement with Ugandan Scouts to identify ways of involving the local Scouts to prevent the incidence of this disease. Following on from Hampshire's on going clean water project in the Masindi district of Uganda, it is proposed to set up a subcommittee involving a global partner like Unicef, the Ugandan Ministry of Health and the Ugandan Scout Association. Methods will be evolved to train the Scout Leaders in certain Districts so that their Scouts will be able to

- develop methods of distributing and raise awareness of the correct usage of these nets
- recognise the symptoms and be able to explain how immediate treatment can be sought

Funds raised in the UK through earning the Scouts against Malaria badge will be sent to Ugandan Scout Association to pay for purchase of nets, their distribution and costs associated with leader training.

Earning the badge The badge requirements are set out on our website and it is strongly suggested that this be promoted as a sectional activity to illustrate the International nature of Scouting. As this is an occasional badge rather than a national badge, County permission is required to wear the badge. West Sussex have recently approved the badge while other counties who have approved are -

Hampshire, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Wiltshire, East Lancashire, Hereford and Worcester, Isle of Wight, Cumbria, Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Counties who have expressed an interest include -

Kent, Berkshire, Somerset, GLMW, West Midlands and Scotland

Resources are still being developing which can be downloaded from our website. We would also welcome contributions from those who have organised activities around this theme so it can be shared with others. Two brochures can also be downloaded which provide the back ground and explain what needs to be done to earn the badge

Keeping in contact

The Scouts against Malaria initiative will be discussed at the following meetings -

7 November 2015, 19th Hampshire International Workshop,;

30 January 2016 9th Hampshire Regional ACCI meeting – both events to be held at the URC Church, Basingstoke, 10 mins walk from Basingstoke station

14 November 2016 – plan a lunchtime update at the national ACCI meeting in London

The initiative is being led by Hampshire and the steering group currently comprises Martin Takel, Margaret and Tim Ellis and myself. Other offers of help are welcome.

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