



Newsletter #1

20/09/2015

Gilwell launch

For those who attended the Gilwell Reunion and visited the Interational Cafe, you will have seen the launch of this initiative. We were visited by many people including the Chief Commissioner for England and there were expressions of interest from non UK Scout leaders as well.

We should emphasize that this initiative is purely voluntary and so Sections, Groups or Counties may join at any time. The goal is to reduce the incidence of illness and possibly death from the disease particularly amongst

children under the age of 5 who are most vulnerable to the high fever associated with this illness. The basic idea is to raise awareness amongst UK Scouts and raise funds to purchase an insecticide impregnated mosquito net while Scouts in Uganda where the scheme will be trialled will be involved in distributing the nets and explaining how they should be correctly used.

Brochures

There are two brochures that can be downloaded which provide the back ground and explain what needs to be done to earn the badge.

County permission

As this is an occasional badge rather than a national badge, it is necessary that each County gets approval from their County Commissioner to wear 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 aspects of Scouting that makes our Movement unique. And Ugandan scouts who take part in the activity will also be able to earn and wear the badge.

Counties who have approved the initiative so far 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 are -

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

Reducing childhood illness

This is one of 17 Sustainable Development goals that will be approved this coming week in New York, at a special meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nation. So by taking part in our initiative, we can show that Scouts can make a difference and that each of us can save a life as the cost of an insecticide impregnated net in bulk is not much more than that of an ice cream.

Resources

We are still developing resources for this initiative which can be downloaded from our website. We would also welcome contributions from those who have organised activities around this theme so we can share it with others.

Moving forward

We wish to trial in Uganda first because of our strong links with their Scouting and we are discussing with Ugandan Scouting and Unicef how we might work together. Once we have found a way of working together, we would be keen to involve other Scout Associations in sub tropical Africa.

Keeping in contact

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

19th Hampshire International Workshop, 7 November 2015;

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

We will be also be present at the national ACCI meeting in London on 14 November.

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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