



Newsletter 10

May 2009

Countdown:

As of the middle of May we now only have less than 8 weeks before the main party will be in Zambia for our IX09 expedition. The web site will show you the current number of days left. There is still much to do so can we please ask all members to reply to any requests by return as we have dead lines to meet.

The Project:

As you will all know due to circumstances outside of our control we have had to move the venue for our project in Zambia. We shall still be constructing a double classroom at a school in the Chinsali District the only change is that the venue is slightly further south. Kapisha School is a middle school, within the Shiwa Ngandu estate, that has recently lost its grade 8 and 9 pupils due to suitable classrooms not being available. In order to regain these pupils who currently have to walk up to 35 kilometres to school the local community were considering building the required classrooms from mud and thatch. There is already a supply of sand and bricks on site and the local community have agreed to build the classroom foundations up to slab level before we arrive on site. This was agreed while we were in Zambia at the end of April and already the foundations have been excavated and cast.

Our party will be using the camping site attached to the Kapishya Hot Spring which has the advantage of flush toilets and limited hot showers but also has the disadvantage of us having to travel about a mile to the school each day. As a relaxation period during the expedition we are planning that the party, in two groups, will have the opportunity of four days (three nights) at the Buffalo Camp in the North Luangwa National Park where they will be able to see many of Africa's wild animals.



Sleeping Foam and Chair:

On route to the site the main party will be stopping overnight at Fringilla Lodge. As you will be sleeping on the floor you will require either a lilo or Karrimat. As an alternative we have made a contact for some foam matting approx 180cm x 60cm x 10cm which may then be taken onto the coach for use on the campsite at Kapishya. The cost of this facility will be approx £12 but it will mean that you do not have to carry this from the UK or unpack your entire bag while in transit. We can also arrange to purchase a plastic chair for any member who requires one at a cost of approx £8. It is proposed to leave any chair at Kapisha for use within the school. If you want either or both of these items please return the yellow form together with to money before the end of June.

Deposits

All members should have by now paid their final deposit to Barbara. The air flights have all been confirmed and the balance paid.

Charity Numbers 206655 & 505773

Publicity:

When the main party arrives in Lusaka they will be met by members of the Zambia Scout Association and hopefully members from the Girls Brigade. There will almost certainly be a media presence which could include radio and television. For this reason all members will be expected to arrive at Lusaka airport in full complete uniform so if you are missing any parts of this please arrange to obtain them as soon as possible. You will be representing the UK associations. As it is the UK policy that young people should be the spokes person for the Associations we shall be giving two or three members some guidance on how they can best represent our party. As we expect a high profile throughout the project we expect that there will be other occasions where the media is involved.

Training Weekend(s):

You are reminded that our next training weekend over the weekend of 29th/31st May 2009 is at the Cleveland Scout Camp Site at Raven Gill in Comondale. Part of the weekend will be spent in brick laying training which will be a skill that is required while we are at Kapisha so it is important that some of the party can reach a reasonable standard. Please remember to arrive on site wearing your correct uniform.

Tentage:

At our last training weekend the sleeping tents were sorted out and each group was given their tent to look after prior to our expedition. You are reminded that these tents will be required over the May training weekend and if you are holding the tent for your sleeping group you must either attend the weekend, or make sure that the other members of your sleeping group have access to the tentage.



Home Contact:

In case of emergency while we are in Zambia all transactions between the UK and the party will be via a home contact. Details of these in the UK will be given to you before departure of the main party. To enable us to run this facility smoothly will all members **please complete the contact details form and return it to Doug ASAP.**

Visas:

You should all now be considering your application for a visa. Currently they are taking about a week to be processed but please do not leave your application too late. **I shall require the visa number as soon as you have the details so that I can arrange for the party to be fast traced through immigration in Lusaka**

Photographs:

In case of emergency we shall require a copy of four passport photo for each member of the party. These will greatly help in the event of having to obtain a replacement passport if the original is lost. There may be other occasions when a photo is required.

Personal Information:

A few members still have not returned their medical information and safety sheets that were given out at the January training weekend. Please do not leave returning these, or any other required information, until the last minute as we are now in the period where we need to keep to strict dead lines. We shall also require a set of four passport photo from each member (these will be returned to you at the end of the expedition if they are not required).



Fund Raising:

Thanks to the members who turned up for the collection at Gateshead stadium we raised £108 towards the expedition funds. Every little helps us towards our target. We are still looking for any other Fund Raising ideas that you may have.

Charity Numbers 206655 & 505773

Publicity:

The main party is almost certainly being met at the airport in Lusaka by Zambia Scouts and it is important that all members arrive in Lusaka wearing full complete uniform which includes navy trousers for all and a belt for the Scouts. It is also likely that young members will be interviewed by television and radio crews

Medical:

As you will all know Doreen is our medical officer for the expedition and to enable her to give the best possible service to the party she has requested that every member lets her know what medication they are taking. Each person will be responsible for looking after their malaria tablets and general medication but it is important that Doreen has a list of the medical name for all medication being taken. If you are taking a prescription drug Doreen will keep a three day supply for you as long as it is given to her in a clearly marked container. This supply can then be used in an emergency until a further supply can be located and obtained.



If you have any questions, or queries, on any medical problems please contact Doreen direct, either on 0191 5492668 or davies4tribe@aol.com

Equipment:

As part of the extra stuff we are taking out to Zambia for the project and community we are collecting stationary & healthy living products. Things like pens, pencils, colouring pens & pencils, rubbers, pencil cases, etc and also tooth brushes (individually wrapped), toothpaste, bars of soap (individually wrapped). Please get your family, friends, GB companies & Scout Groups involved in collecting these items for us to take out. We will collect them from you at the final parents meeting to allow us to pack them in the boxes we are taking out.

Final Get Together:

Prior to our leaving for Zambia we shall be having a final get together of all team members and their parents. This has been planned for Sunday 5th July 2009 at Fulwell Methodist Church, Sunderland starting at 15.00. The aim of the meeting will be to give you any last minute details and to answer any last minute questions. It is important that you (or your parents) attend this get together so please make a note of the date – we have arranged for a Group photo to be taken during this afternoon so please attend in full correct uniform.

Doug Corbin, Expedition Leader