



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021



The Chairman's Report

Dear friends,

As I write this, our Prime Minister is once again announcing a plan to beat the Coronavirus. This has played such a big part in our lives recently, taking its toll on us physically and emotionally. Although some of us are beginning to meet friends and family face to face, there are still others who are still uncomfortable in crowded places. Many scout and guide fellowship members have provided the welcome phone call, message or zoom to those who need that contact with the outside world. I know in Shropshire we have held an informal zoom chat every week throughout the pandemic, and this has proved very popular especially for those who live on their own.

We have been very saddened recently by the death of two of our stalwart supporters. In June we heard that Jennifer Roberts, partner of Peter our treasurer had passed away. Jennifer was often seen helping at badge and stamp stalls at scouting events and attended many ISGF international conferences and workshops. Donations in her memory went towards the Uganda Rabbit project that she supported. Uganda featured greatly in the life of David Mowbray who died in early September. He was heavily involved in the work of ISGF there and here in Britain. An account of his scouting life features later in this newsletter but needless to say both he and Jennifer will be deeply missed by us all.

We were lucky enough to have Mathius from the Kampala Guild in Uganda to join us at the AGM in June on zoom. SAGF UK are now twinned with Kampala Guild. Mathius told us about the work the Guild are doing with the Rabbit project we support. A full report appears later in the newsletter but we are pleased with the progress made so far. Fundraising continues and you can help in many ways suggested in the update report. The AGM saw me (Muriel Rayner) remain as chairman, Jane Wardropper as secretary and Peter Short as treasurer. The SAGF representatives on the Joint National Committee are Muriel Rayner, Helen Watson and Alan Beavis.

This newsletter contains information about our future events including a Fellowship Day zoom. I hope that many of you will be able to join in. We still hope to be able to hold next year's AGM face to face in Chester. Details of this will be given later in the year.

I hope this finds you all well and able to start supporting scouting and guiding in your own areas soon.

Regards

Muriel.

Muriel Rayner

The next contribution is from Mark who was elected to the SAGF UK Committee at the Annual General Meeting.

Scout & Guide Fellowship – “The Third Way”

The Scout & Guide Fellowship has existed as a concept for an awfully long time.

Within Scouting today once you hit 25 you've two choices really, either become a Leader or leave.

Often at the age of 25 or thereabouts you may have been involved in Scouting from the age of six as a Beaver, Through Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network. Then nothing. I've mentioned Scouts in particular as Guiding still thankfully has the Trefoil Guild!

The "Third Way" is the Scout & Guide Fellowship, a way to stay engaged with likeminded people, still be able to assist Scouting and guiding locally (even raise funds for them), visit groups and give talks. There is nothing today in Scouting for pure adult membership, which is understandable as the Scout Associations Charitable Objectives is to support young people until they are 25.

I think joining a local Scout & Guide Fellowship is a wonderful way to stay engaged, enjoy social events and not lose the "bon amie". Hopefully those very adults will in time want to volunteer with either Scouts or Guides, but in the meantime can still stay engaged on the periphery.

Scout Active Support Units [SASU] are not "Adult clubs", they are in existence to provide "Active Support" either generically to a Group, District, County or Nationally. Many of the SASU's are special purpose vehicles performing a single narrow specific function. Hard to believe the Scout Fellowship as was disappeared twenty years ago, how time flies.

Can I suggest that we all spread the message far and wide that Scout & Guide Fellowships do exist, we as an organisation may only have relatively few members, today, but if each of use recruited a couple of friends and get them engaged, the numbers would soon increase and the work we can do in supporting Scouting & Guiding both in the UK and abroad would increase. I really think part of the problem is not enough potential members know we exist.

As I've said thankfully the Trefoil Guild is still going strong, but it would only take a single policy change in Girl Guiding UK and that would lead the situation we face on the Scouting side. Thankfully many people remain in Scouting as Adult Volunteers, and there is currently a huge Adult Volunteer recruitment drive going on and I wish it every success. I'm told we may have lost up to 10,000 Scout Leaders/supporters & volunteers during lockdown. If we could just reach out to a handful of them, we'd double or treble the SAGFUK numbers instantly.

Please be pro-active in talking about SAGFUK and the opportunity to start or bolter existing groups.

Mark Brett SAGF UK Committee Member

Appeal: Micro-business Support - Uganda

The ISGF (International Scout and Guide Fellowship) based in Brussels managed an appeal to support refugees in northern Uganda. It reached its target it and has closed. In November 2019 a party of three Trustees of SAGF-UK visited (at their own expense) the Uganda refugee camp and held discussions with BP Guild Kampala. It was identified that there were further needs, particularly as employment opportunities were few, to support and encourage self-employment among the refugees and the local native population. Ways of helping were considered by the visitors and two micro-business possibilities were examined (1) a rabbit production unit and (2) a bee-keeping enterprise. A Trustee personally financed a pilot unit for the rabbit production. Covid restrictions stopped local support and the project was not successful. *SAGF-UK subsequently became formally twinned with the BP Guild Kampala.*

Undaunted by the setback, our partners have launched a 'Rabbit Stock Farm' with the help of local Scouts, at St Joseph's School in Mityana where they are students, giving them training in animal welfare and forage crop production to feed the animals, all with the school's support. This will provide a steady stream of

animals for demonstration purposes, to sell and to stock the new enterprises in the camps and elsewhere. It will also enable the development of improved strains of rabbits suitable for local conditions.

Other forms of start-up assistance may be offered by the provision of trade tools and equipment and appropriate training in Uganda and the Camps.

SAGF-UK has agreed to support the roll-out of the scheme with BPG-Kampala undertaking the local delivery. Following our AGM, we have commenced fundraising efforts in the UK and in Uganda they are developing support and delivery systems. Already over £1200 has been raised by Committee members, business sponsorship and Donations in Memory of a late member. This has enabled us to fund the purchase of materials for the construction stage.

We are now seeking to raise core funding to underpin the proposed scheme plus funds for grants for other start-ups and support. We hope that you can donate for this programme and raise funds for this project by holding local fundraising events.

If you are able, can you Gift Aid your donation and as this is an ongoing programme for at least three years a continuing bank standing order would offer welcome support.

Peter Short

Hon. Treasurer

Scout and Guide Fellowship UK



Building the Shelter for the Rabbits

David Lockwood Mowbray MBE - 16/11/1934 – 02/09/2021

David died On 2 September 2021 after a full life of service to his Country, Scouting Nationally and Internationally and Freemasonry.

During his National Service in Cyprus, David wore his Queen Scout Bracelet given to all Queen Scouts on National Service. This helped to save his life for it was recognised by a local lady who took him into her home for safety when his platoon was under attack.

Scouting in Northumberland:

David held many appointments within Scouting and was presented with their highest award the Silver Wolf.

He was a leading light in the Newcastle Gang Show, together with his wife Florence. For many years he undertook to organise 'The Baden Powell Walk' at Fourstones to the Look Wide Campsite, retracing the footsteps of Lord Robert Baden Powell to the original site of the first official Scout Camp in 1908.

Scouting Internationally:

Uganda 1991 - I first met David in Uganda where he was leading a team of Venture Scouts from Northumberland, who were building a Training centre for the Ugandan Scouts at their Camp site on the banks of Nile.

We met again in London where we joined a working party to develop the Unite programme - a child immunisation program to tackle the six killer diseases. He became a founder member of the Uganda Network. This led to David returning to Uganda on many occasions and more recently to having a house built at Mityana .

David was instrumental in setting up the charities Mityana Scout Enterprises, Mityana Community Enterprise, Fire Cadets – all thanks to David’s enthusiasm and support.

Bambang Sunshine Project (formally Philippine Disabled Association) - With the closure of The International Scout Club in 2001, we formed the Philippine Disabled Association Bambang. David visited the Project with its founding light Florencia Kingscote

Scout Fellowship – With the formation of the Scout Fellowship in 1999, David continued his support both locally in Newcastle and became involved Nationally and subsequently with the **International Scout and Guide Fellowship**, attending many Regional and Worldwide Gathering and Conferences. He was a member of the ISGF Ambassadors Guild.

Scout and Guide Fellowship UK - David served on the National Committees of both the Scout and Guide Fellowship and The National Scout and Guide Committee.

With the closure of the Scout Fellowship David became involved in the International Scout Active Support Unit and latterly the International Scout Support Unit.

David was involved with the British Legion in Newcastle and organised the Poppy Day collections in Newcastle for many years.

David was awarded the MBE in 2019 for community service in the UK and Abroad.

David was someone who could never say ‘No’ if requested for help or support and will be sadly missed by all knew him.

Alan K B Beavis OBE

David with an old friend, of 50 years, Margery Robinson



Fellowship Day

In 1953 following resolutions from WAGGGS and WOSM on the 25th October the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) was founded in Lucerne, Switzerland. What better day to create an international organisation than the day after United Nations Day which commemorates the creation of the United Nations in 1945. Have a look at the United Nations web site and explore the history of the founding of the organisation 76 years ago.

Members of ISGF use the day to contact other members throughout the world and the Chairman sends a message to all members. SAGF UK is linking up with the Baden Powell Guild, Kampala, Uganda, which it is twinned with for a meeting via Zoom at 6pm London time on the eve of Fellowship Day 24th October at 6pm London time. Please contact janeardropper@btinternet.com for the link.



Supporting Scouting and Guiding.

One of the roles of all member countries of ISGF is to support WOSM and WAGGGS Scouting and Guiding activities at home and abroad. Now is a good time to reflect how, during the year, have you as an individual supported one or other or both, of these organisation's youth activities. It may be that you are a Guider or Scouter and assist with the running of a Unit, on the other hand, you may share expert knowledge with a unit, this may range from talking to Brownies or Cubs about the history of their section and the changes in uniform over the years to sharing specialist skills with the older age groups. It may be that you have assisted at a County or District event as an occasional helper. Are you the treasurer of a Unit or an editor of a web site or a face book page for unit or group?

Another way to help is to belong to a supporter's group such as the Friends of one of the WAGGGS World Centres. Have you made use of the WAGGGS virtual tuition sessions where for a small fee you or your Guild or group can learn about Indian cookery from Sangam or join other virtual sessions from the other of the World Centres? If your background is Scouting, do you belong to the Friends of Scouting Europe? It is a good way of supporting European scouting initiatives. The UK co-ordinator is one of our committee members Alan Beavis.

Looking at the WAGGGS web site I found these initiatives undertaken recently in different countries: As part of a COVID-19 Community Outreach programme, Nigerian Girl Guides have been supporting girls with distributing sanitary towels, facemasks and palliatives.

In Nepal, Girl Scouts delivered a five-day online Free Being Me workshop for 40-50 girls and boys.

The Malawi Girl Guides Association organised a webinar 'The Voices of Boys', involving boys and men in the work on gender-based violence.

The Irish Girl Guides ran an international social media campaign highlighting violence against women during the COVID-19 crisis.

Girl Guides Queensland in Australia delivered the WAGGGS Surf Smart Programme to ensure online safety during COVID-19.

The WOSM web site also gives examples of the many initiatives undertaken by members of Scouting during the pandemic. Two of these are: a programme supporting “vaccination awareness” targeting young people by Scouts in Portugal, and in France Scouts launched a solidarity action to support students during the pandemic.

Money donated can be used in many ways to support the youth in scouting and guiding worldwide.

As a UK group we are supporting scouting in Uganda with “the Rabbit” project which Peter has written about earlier in the Newsletter. This will provide a micro enterprise for a scout group enabling the members to learn many skills to prepare them for life after school.

ISGF News

On the 18th October 2021, the Chairman of ISGF wrote to announce that due to the many uncertainties caused by the COVID 19 Pandemic the 29th World Conference planned to be held in Madrid in February, would now be transformed into a Virtual Conference. Further details will soon be circulated and members booked in for the Conference will be contacted by the host committee.

The letter is displayed on the ISGF Web site.

We thank all members of the host committee for all their hard work during this uncertain time and hope that there will be an opportunity to visit Madrid in the future.

Request for News from Members

This past year has been difficult for everyone, but please can you send any news of activities, events you have attended either in person or virtually or other activities which would be of interest to other members to the SAGF secretary at janevardopper@btinternet.com as this will make the newsletter much more interesting.

Keep up to Date.

- **Please look at the ISGF web site (isgf.org) regularly as it is here that you will find up to date information about Sub Region and Region gatherings and meetings. During 2022 the following have been planned :** 26. May 2022 - 30. May 2022 Nordic Baltic Gathering,
- 28th Western Europe Gathering 11. September 2022 - 15. September 2022
- 17th MED/6th Southern Europe Gathering 25. October 2022 - 29. October 2022th
- South America Gathering 29. October 2022 - 1. November 2022

It is hoped that a group of members will be travelling from the UK to Lille for the Western Europe Gathering in September. Remember Lille is on the EuroStar Train route from London.. More information will be available soon.