



Scout and Guide Fellowship UK  
NEWSLETTER - May 2020

At this time of social Isolation due to COVID 19 members are involved in various community actions ranging from telephoning some one or emailing them to check that all is well, and / or if they are able to joining groups of volunteers delivering groceries, and providing other services in the Community as required. Many people will also be attending Guild meetings using Skype, Zoom or other platforms. Several members have as a result gone through a giant learning curve. The result is that contacts are maintained, and the new skills used to keep in contact with friends and also to keep in touch with family members.

Your Committee is now using Zoom for meetings. It has been decided to use Zoom for our postponed AGM – further instructions later in the newsletter.

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**Rabbit Project.**

In the last Newsletter we mentioned the plan to have a group of Breeding Rabbits at the Imvepi Refugee Camp Uganda and an order had been placed for the Rabbits. **Good News** the Rabbits have now been taken to the Camp by the NSGF Team who were helping with the completion of the houses paid for by the ISGF appeal. Seven Rabbits, one male and six females are now installed in their purpose-built accommodation.



Housing Built by ISGF Team



Rabbits

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**Follow up on the Visit to Uganda by Audrey Mc Naughton**

Following my visit to Uganda, in 2019, to support the Refugee project at the Imvepi Camp, I organised a Thinking Day Event for Lancs. West, Trefoil Guild in order to introduce them to the project and seek their support.

30 members attended and took part in sessions of Ugandan Art, Crafts making elephant hanging toys, dressing in traditional dress from 4 other African countries and a traditional craft practised by the Women’s cooperative in Kampala and surrounding districts.

I made a presentation of my visit and really caught the attention of the ladies’ present.

Members kindly donated items for a raffle which raised over £70 for the Rabbit project being undertaken at the Imvepi Camp

. We enjoyed some of the local Ugandan food as well. Watermelon being the most favourite.



Bark Paintings



the Craft Table



Watermelon



Dresses from around Africa. Uganda, Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria



In January 2020 I assisted with some Trefoil Guild members to cater for 100 hungry Scout leaders at a District Training Day.

**I'VE NEVER MADE SO MUCH TEA AND COFFEE!**

**Audrey**

**Ambassadors Guild** This is an ISGF charity that several of our members belong to and during the last year one group who received help were Guides and Scouts in the one of the Nairobi Slums. This year following the lockdown of the City, Guide Leaders and other women in the community have been distributing food parcels to families. Some of the money has come from members of the Norwegian NSGF.

In the Ivory Coast there is a group of guides The Eclaireuses Laïques de Côte d'Ivoire (ELAICI) who manage their training centre for young street girls and accommodation for girls. This group have recently received help with an environmental project part of which was cleaning up the neighbourhood around the centre



Members of the Zéphyr Unit



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### **Reflection on COVID 19 by Dave Mowbray**

Dear Friends,

I thought I would like to give a different twist of our effort and reactions during the lockdown because of what we are and all being in the same boat our experiences may be similar and perhaps repetitive to the reader.

I'm sure I'm not alone at the frustration of being bombarded on TV by all the so called experts who all gave different views and advice. Then there was the selfish idiots and the toilet paper rumpus. The morons who completely disregarded the simple request to stay at home and have consideration for others. Then there were those who complained we are living in a police state and throwing our rights and liberties away.

I would just like to draw attention to a place we have all have had a great deal of involvement for the last two or three years and obviously I refer to Uganda. They are experiencing exactly the same situation as us, lockdown, shop and business closures and fear of the virus.

However the approach is completely different. To clear the street vendors off the streets armed police baton wielding one and all even if you just happened to be there. There is no such thing as Government support or financial help. In the centre of Kampala a couple or so supermarkets opened for two or three hours a day but with no comprehension of safe distances. Even if you did go in if you haven't got the money you can't buy the food.

Some mothers with their children made a protest outside Parliament Building pleading for help. Once again all standing together and once again the police answer was to break them up with a baton charge. When

they say a lockdown in Uganda they mean a lockdown. The streets are patrolled all the time and if you are caught out no excuse, no argument, you are flung inside straight away.

The small party of us who visited Uganda never really saw the poverty, hardship and conditions of the real Ugandan villages away from the tourist areas. The density of population, poor hygiene, lack of clean water and the complete ignorance of the dangers of the virus. Rats are part of normal life and are one of the greatest means of passing on any disease.

Even in normal times when someone falls ill and dies the normal culture is to bury the following day because of the heat and lack of mortuary's. So at the moment they have no idea if it was Covid 19 or not because they haven't had time to nor means to keep correct records. About a week ago official figures posted for Covid 19 virus was 86 cases 0 deaths. I feel those figures quoted are quite meaningless.

The virus in Africa started in the west and is sweeping eastwards and reached Uganda about 3 or 4 weeks ago I dread to think of what the real figures will be because I don't think we will ever be able to find out.

So when we read all the complaints and problems we are facing here and the pressure's to get our society back to normal as quickly as we can, as an individual I would rather be in lockdown and keeping 6 foot apart than be 6 foot under.

Dave.

(If you wish to compare world -wide statistics of COVID 19 visit the WHO corona virus site:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

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### **Plans for the Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm as there will still be restrictions on travel and meetings your Committee decided to hold a virtual meeting (if parliament can do it so can we) using Zoom.

To join the Meeting you have to:

1. have an android phone, iPhone, computer or I pad and download Zoom. (It is a free download)
2. Contact the secretary [janewardropper@btinternet.com](mailto:janewardropper@btinternet.com) by email and ask for the meeting details. The secretary will then send a copy of the papers for the meeting and the access code and instructions on how to join the meeting.

Please note a nomination form will accompany this Newsletter as we will have two vacancies for the committee. A letter from our Chairman Muriel Rayner will also be with this posting.

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Thinking of the old Guide Law – A guide is thrifty, there is a chance to put it into practice in today's world by making your own face covering from an old Tee shirt.

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A Translation of a Notice now be found in many French Churches:

It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God. On the other hand, it is not likely that He will contact you by phone. Thank you for turning off your phone. If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to Him.

If you would like to see Him, send Him a text while you are driving.