

Newsletter. January 2017.

Following an enjoyable and successful SAGF Gathering in Shrewsbury in May 2016, you will find enclosed details of our **2017 Gathering** which will take the form of a **City break, 12th – 15th May, in Newcastle upon Tyne. The AGM will take place on the Saturday and everyone is welcome to join us** for all or any part of the weekend, please bring your friends along too as we need to grow our numbers and increase the visibility and awareness of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship in the UK.

National and International gatherings and camps have been the start of many life-long friendships, and are an excellent time to renew them!

Charity Appeal.

Following the success of our previous projects, the **'Fellowship Toys'** for refugees in Lebanon and raising funds for **'NEST'** to provide solar torches and educational needs for children in Nepal, this year (2017) we are hoping to help a Charity in Ghana.



Purna Kumar Shrestha, founder of the **'NEST'** charity came to our 2016 AGM and spoke inspirationally about the project, he was able to show us pictures taken less than 24 hours previously of the first of **'our' Solar torches being distributed in Nepal**. It certainly illustrated the need for our contributions and also the fact that having a personal link to our chosen partners ensures that every penny of the money goes

directly to the source with no deductions and a minimum of delay! So far **£1,350** has been sent to NEST. Thank you all very much for your help - and in anticipation – future help.

Now to **Africa**, the **Ghanaian Children's Trust** was started by Jean Edusei, Chairman of Newcastle Trefoil Guild, and her husband, (who came from the Kumasi area). (See enclosed information sheet). It relies totally on charitable donations and Jean will ensure that our financial contributions will be used in the best possible way, which at the moment sounds like good **nutritional food** for the orphanage. Jean says this is plentiful in the area but of course needs to be paid for. There is also always a need for **shoes, clothes and blankets** for children, (from **new born to the age of 25**), and these can be shipped in a container from Newcastle. For the best way to facilitate this please contact your nearest Committee member, - see list at the end of this letter.



International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) News.

2017 is World Conference year in Bali, Indonesia, from **9th – 14th October**. All SAGF members are welcome to come to Conferences and gatherings and the group who are going from the UK would love you to join them, please let us know if you are interested. For full details, costing etc., please look at the ISGF website. www.isgf.org

An important date for us all next year is **8th – 12th October 2018** when it is our National Scout and Guide Fellowship's turn to host the **Western European sub-region Gathering** and this will be at the Claremont Hotel in **Eastbourne**. A committee are already working on an exciting and interesting programme, why not suggest that your unit has a mid-week break by the sea next year, shared with friends from all around the UK and Europe! If you are twinned with a group abroad do suggest they come too!

Are any of you still **'twinned'**, as groups or individuals through ISGF? If not would you like to be? If so please let us know.

SAGF Committee.

We are always pleased to **welcome new people to the committee**, at the moment we have 6 members. One co-opted member co-ordinates the **SAGF group on the Isle of Man**. If you would like to form a local **'special interest group'**, supporting each other and working together on international projects, please contact Peter who has some guidelines which may help.

Useful addresses.

Chairman: Liz Aveston, Shrewsbury, 01743 359507, lizaveston@tiscali.co.uk

Secretary: Katharine Diver, Weston-super-Mare, 01934 709591, kediver@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: Peter Short, Newcastle upon Tyne, 0191 2675610, peter.short29@btinternet.com

Membership: Margaret McColm, Lancaster, 0152462355, margaret.mccolm@yahoo.co.uk

PR website: Alan Beavis, Mortimer, W Berkshire, 0118 9333313, alanbeavis@btinternet.com

International rep: Dave Mowbray, Northumberland, davemowbray80@btinternet.com

Isle of Man Group: Diane Haigh, Ramsey, 01624 813530, diane.haigh@manx.net

NSGF UK International Secretary: Jane Wardropper, janeWARDROPPER@btinternet.com

Enclosed is your **Membership Renewal form**, subscriptions remain the same this year but as some of our expenses have to be paid in Euros who knows what may have happened by next year!

Hoping to see you all in Newcastle in May.

Liz.