



# ISF Newsletter

September 2008

A successful Annual General Meeting was held at the Scout HQ, Henfield, Sussex, on Saturday 28th April 2008 when highlights of 2007 were celebrated and future plans outlined. The officers were re-appointed and Peter Short agreed to take on the vacant role as Secretary. The majority of the Committee were able to meet on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at The George, Chollerford, Northumberland a Hotel that has close links with BP and the first official Scout Camp at Humshaugh 100 years ago.

Since that committee meeting there has been further progress in developing the foundations for ISF's membership growth.

**Logo and Website** A new ISF logo has been designed by Don Honey showing the globe enclosed in a garland of rope with reef knot and Scout emblem. The badge has been limited to the colours red, white and blue to facilitate reproduction and to reduce printing costs. It will have its first public airing at the Gilwell Reunion where the ISF will have a stand in the International Marquee. There has also been a make-over for our website ([www.isfn.org.uk](http://www.isfn.org.uk)) and we hope that additional features will follow.

**Remit** The ongoing review of Scout Fellowships has now reached the National Scout Fellowships and the ISF officers have given considerable thought to our future role and potential in supporting International Scouting at home and abroad. We have also re-examined how assistance can be offered to the British Groups Abroad following HQ changes in their reporting line. Our submissions to the remit review process will shortly be made. We expect that the review will confirm the relationship with the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) through the United Kingdom Adult Scout Alliance (UKASA).

In order to achieve the aims and objectives the ISF we see it working mainly as a generalist international interest support and service organisation within Scouting and mainly providing a **clearing house** for

- **People**, those involved or seeking involvement or information concerning international Scouting and linked projects.
- **Money**, providing information and experience about funding international projects and visits. Also offering a 'last resort' custodian and accounting facility.
- **International Opportunities**, offering advice, evaluation and matching-up service for international exchanges, visits and projects.
- **Cooperation**, facilitator of links between country or regionally dedicated International Fellowships and Networks. It encourages and supports the creation and development of such new groups and can provide a 'home' for any new special interest networks during the formation and early stages prior to full separate recognition. ISF provides support for UK funded Scout-sponsored charities operating internationally.
- **Social**, although mainly a service based fellowship the ISF recognises the contribution that social activities make in developing international understanding, building national and international networks and fund-raising and in order to advance ISF's aims and objectives..

**United Kingdom Adult Scout Alliance** News for members will be detailed in the forthcoming Newsletter, advises Beryl Bainbridge, Central Group Coordinator, who reports that, unfortunately, there is no UKASA voting Delegate at the Vienna ISGF World Conference this year. However Beryl and her friend Jean will be attending as ordinary participants and hopes to see other UK representatives there ([www.ukasa.org.uk](http://www.ukasa.org.uk)).

Visit [www.isfn.org.uk](http://www.isfn.org.uk)



**ISF Members Activities** We would like to report regularly on Member's involvement in International Activities and invite you to submit your news for the next edition of this newsletter which we propose to issue twice a year. Here are a few snippets of what is going on in 2008.....

**Our Chairman, Alan Beavis**, continues to give his time and also deploy the resources of Berkshire Scout Enterprises in support of many ISF linked activities and organisations including the Buddhist Three Nations Expedition 2009 and to the UK Africa Scout Fellowship.

**Carolyn Taylor** invites you to visit [www.mityana-community-development-foundation.org.uk](http://www.mityana-community-development-foundation.org.uk) and learn more about progress of this registered charity based in the North-East but working in Uganda.

**In July** the National Organisation of Scouting in Ukraine was admitted to the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. Our Secretary has on-going academic links with the country and is going to a Conference at the State Technical University in Sevastopol in September. With the help of a Sevastopol colleague he is planning to meet the Head of the Crimea Scout Association during his visit.

**Florencia Kingscote** is once again encouraging support for the ADDIS Women's 5k Challenge 2008 on Sunday 7 September 2008 in Hyde Park, London, in support of the Bambang Sunshine Project which Members were instrumental in setting up in 1999. The latest Newsletter can be viewed at [www.bambangsunshineproject.org.uk](http://www.bambangsunshineproject.org.uk)

**Building Brighter Futures** - Members support the work of this Charity that emerged out of the UK Uganda Network and its Members have just returned from a successful trip to Uganda to view the work on their project and meet local Members and Scouts. The report can be viewed from their latest Newsletter on their website [www.buildingbrighterfutures.co.uk](http://www.buildingbrighterfutures.co.uk).

**Richard Sawdon Smith** and **Don Honey** continue to edit and provide the graphic design for the Scout Holiday Homes Magazine. A Charity owned by Members of the Scout Fellowship in providing reduced price holidays throughout the country in specially adapted caravans for disabled or infirm members as well as low income or single parent families.

**UK Africa Scout Fellowship.** Several Members support the work of the UK Africa Scout Fellowship with organizing participation in trips to African countries in support of community projects working with local Scouts.

**2009 Annual General Meeting** The committee would be pleased to receive suggestions and offers concerning possible venues for the 2009 AGM which we would like to hold in mid May to mid-June. This would enable Audited Accounts to be presented to the meeting rather than being circulated separately later.

**Membership** The ISF would welcome new members and advises that an application form can be downloaded from our website [www.isfn.org.uk](http://www.isfn.org.uk) or alternatively please complete the slip below:

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To: The ISF Secretary, Peter Short, 29 Chadderton Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1EL

Please send me a membership application form.

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Name

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Address

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Postcode

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Tel

Email

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Dave Mowbray, International Development member of Committee has renewed his acquaintance with Uganda and writes:

## LOOKWIDE UGANDA – 08

*The title above refers to the latest expedition to Uganda by Northumberland County and marks 20 years of continuous links and mutual friendship between the two bodies.*

*This years project was threefold:*

- 1. Refurbish and decorate Lookwide House, the Training Headquarters at Kaazi the Ugandan Scout National Campsite, which was built in 1991 by a joint party of Ugandan and Northumberland Venture Scouts.*
- 2. Construct and establish a self sustaining chicken and egg facility at a school for the deaf at Kavule. Hopefully this will give the school a self sufficient source of income to allow more impoverished deaf children to attend school.*
- 3. Work in the classrooms at a school at Mokuno on an educational project supported by the British Antarctic Survey and dealing with climate change and its universal knock on effects.*

*I'm pleased to report that all three aspects of the project were carried out successfully and we did everything we set out to do plus a bit more.*

*Hopefully the activities of the climate change programme are going to be incorporated in some way into the Ugandan Scout Proficiency Badge system. Ongoing work is being done to facilitate this.*

*Lookwide looks in pristine condition with a new roof, the solar light system is again working, and the toilet and shower blocks are all functioning well again.*

*Perhaps one of the more satisfying aspects of the project was that once again it was a joint working group with everyone of us wearing the same neckerchief. With the co-operation of the Uganda Scout Association we were able to bring a party of Ugandan scouts from Koboko in the extreme north of Uganda and this not only provided us with labour but gave the Ugandan party their first glimpse of Kampala, the capital, and Lake Victoria, none having seen a stretch of water before. We also included Mityana with whom a twinning arrangement has been in place since the mid nineties*

*As a finishing touch at Kaazi we built and unveiled a replica Cairn to that which stands at Humshaugh in Northumberland and marks the spot of where the first ever official scout camp was held.*

*The Lookwide Cairn at Kaazi was built in memory the Hon Manual Pinto, Chief Scout, who died earlier this year and to commemorate the 20 years of working together.*

*You may ask what has this to do with the Fellowship and the answer is everything. For the past two years I have been actively practicing what I have been preaching to anyone who would listen. As a support body to the uniformed section of the Movement we should be proactive in offering our help and support in any way we can. It could be fundraising, filling in grant application forms, supplying once off specialist skills such as teaching, nursing, building and electrician skills, simply having contacts or dealing with public relations. The list is endless.*

*Finally, those who led the first project, both the UK and Ugandan leaders must have done something right. Not only was there a building built but also enduring friendships. There were four members each from of the original teams involved once again. Not everyone is still active in scouting but the desire to work for the Movement again still burns brightly in the heart and it is touching to record that one of the Ugandan members has christened his children with the family names of the English friend he made at Kaazi.*

*Things like that make it all worthwhile.*

**Dave Mowbray**

