



## Project Africa Update - September 2011

### Interim report

90 Berkshire Scouts and Leaders have recently returned from a very successful project in Uganda after spending 3- or 6-weeks working at two very special schools - as well as taking part in a wide range of activities and getting to know the 'Pearl of Africa'.

*"The 3 most amazing weeks of my life, and probably the hardest work I've ever done. I'd like to thank the guys who organised this trip and made it possible. I think we all did a good job and I would also like to thank my group for making it such an enjoyable time. Thanks."*

### The project . . . so far!

*So much was achieved in getting to Uganda and even more has been achieved in Uganda.*



*Groups preparing to leave the LTCC for the first of the three bases.*

All 11 groups (average of 6 Scouts plus a group Leader) spent their first day in Uganda at the Lweza Training & Conference Centre (LTCC) - located between Entebbe and Kampala. An opportunity to rest and be briefed before moving to the first of three bases.

### Bukeka Children's Centre (Mityana)

The construction work that took place at the Bukeka Children's Centre has more than doubled the available facilities and resources for the school. This new work added to the ongoing support provided over many years by the charity *Building Brighter Futures*.

Bukeka was the base for the main construction work by Berkshire Scouts. The large multi-purpose

building (including a chicken coop) provides a sustainable project so eggs laid by chickens (to be purchased by Berkshire Scouts) can be used as food for the school as well as sold at the local market to create an income stream to support the school. The new school kitchen replaces a temporary shelter and open fire.



*Scouts moving tons of soil by wheelbarrow!*

Following a grand welcome by the schoolchildren and their brass band, the Scouts worked with three local builders learning the skills of bricklaying (Uganda style) and experiencing the hard graft of moving and levelling tons of soil using only hand tools and wheelbarrows.



*Scouts bricklaying with the help of local builders.*

At the end of week 6 the multi-purpose building was completed up to roof level with some of the roof sheeting in place.

The kitchen was built up to ring beam level. The local builders that worked with the Berkshire Scouts will complete all outstanding work to make sure the project is complete before the wet season sets in.



Photograph shows the work completed at the Bukeka Children's Centre towards the end of week 6. Background: the partly roofed multi-purpose building (includes classroom; chicken coop; and store). Foreground: the new school kitchen is built to roof level.

### Kavule School cont

There was a partly installed and poorly maintained rainwater harvesting scheme that Berkshire Scouts agreed to fix and expand.

### Kavule School for the Deaf (Mbale)

Berkshire Scouts had undertaken some basic training in signing (sign language for the deaf) as well as trying to understand the challenges of being profoundly deaf . . . an important aspect of working closely with the schoolchildren at Kavule.



Scouts with staff and schoolchildren at the Kavule School for the Deaf.

Work at Kavule included painting the interior and exterior of buildings; building a much needed staff washroom; and expanding a rainwater harvesting scheme.

Berkshire Scouts also took the opportunity to spend time playing games and sports with the schoolchildren.



Base for new water storage tank built by Scouts.



Delivery of a new water storage tank to Kavule

## Kavule School cont



*Ready and willing to start painting classrooms!*

## Activities

The Scouts took a well-deserved break from project work to enjoy activities at the Buwenda Scout Centre (Jinja) and/or trekking in the Mount Elgon National Park.



*Scouts white water rafting on the River Nile.*

Activities at Jinja also included horse riding; a forest walk; visiting the source of the River Nile; as well as local markets; workshops; villages; schools; and local Scout Group Meetings.



*Berkshire Scouts take part in local Uganda Scout Meetings.*

## Activities cont

Many of the groups took up the challenge of 3- or 5-day treks in Mount Elgon National Park.



*Scouts at Wagagai Summit (Mount Elgon). Cold, wet, snow on the ground and in the air, absolutely no view, but everybody happy!*

## Being part of the local community

Visiting Africa was a first time experience for most of the Berkshire Scouts. It was therefore important to make sure the programme offered opportunities to meet and make new friends.



*Making friends . . .*

An opportunity for Ugandan young people to get to know our young people as well as for Berkshire Scouts to learn what it's like to be a young person in Africa.

Purchase of building materials and food from local trading centres also helped Berkshire Scouts become part of the local community.

## Facebook Page

A pro-active Facebook Page helped keep parents and supporters in touch with the great adventure. Follow the continuing story by visiting . . .

[www.facebook.com/pages/Berkshire-Scouts-Project-Africa/121894197860812](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Berkshire-Scouts-Project-Africa/121894197860812)

## Project Africa Challenge Badge & Global Awareness Programme (GAP)



Both the *Project Africa Challenge Badge* and *Global Awareness Programme* have been very successful in broadening the project beyond the 90 Berkshire Scouts and Leaders working on the projects in Uganda.

Many Sections across the County have used the programme resources to help our young people understand the lives of their peers in Uganda and East Africa. Section Leaders explained it also helped their young people to better understand the need for support and fundraising.

*Project Africa . . .*  
*young people*  
*helping young people*

### Budgets and finances

The project is still ongoing and it will be some months before both event and project costs can be fully reported. Early indications are that both sets of expenses are close to budget forecasts.

### New assets for the Scout County!

Berkshire Scouts have purchased a pig and a goat!



*Spyder*



*Chewie*

*Spyder* was purchased for the purpose of being an efficient waste food disposal unit!

### Fundraising for the project work

The fundraising target of £37,000 was reached during the period of the project and now stands at **£39,500!**

***Berkshire Scouts thanks all their sponsors and supporters for helping to make Uganda 2011 such a huge success.***

## Fundraising

The following table gives an analysis of fundraising sources.

Charities/Trusts	£13,380	34%
Rotary; Lions; Lodges; etc	£1,225	3%
Commercial companies	£4,520	12%
<b>Scouting</b>		
Sections; Groups; Districts	£6,337	
Participants; family & friends	£9,469	
WINGS (2009)	£1,200	
Greetings cards scheme	£857	45%
<b>Other sources</b>		
Not classified above	£1,184	
Gift Aid	£1,328	6%
<b>Total fundraising at 1/9/2011</b>	<b>£39,500</b>	
<i>PA JustGiving</i>	<i>£6,126</i>	
<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>£1,145</i>	
<i>Paris Marathon JustGiving</i>	<i>£776</i>	
<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>£183</i>	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£8,230</b>	<b>21%</b>

### Project Africa continues . . .



*Photograph shows the roofing of the multi-purpose building (Bukeka) has been completed by local builders*

The 3 local builders that worked alongside Scouts in Uganda are completing all unfinished work.

Berkshire Scouts are looking at how best to maintain its links with the two special Schools.

### Contacts and links

Visit the Project Africa website at:  
[www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/projectafrica](http://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/projectafrica)

To contact the Project Leaders:  
[projectafrica@berkshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:projectafrica@berkshirescouts.org.uk)

**Berkshire Scouts: enabling young people to explore their worlds**