

Bromley**scouts and Guides of St. Joseph's***Mutual development through sharing***Mbarara**

Agandi

Newsletter No. 7**April 2000**

It seems a long time since our last newsletter. It described our journey and experiences in Uganda in 1999 – but we have not been idle!

Diamond Jubilee and Brombara Celebration

The 11.45 am Mass on 17th October was very well attended by our whole Scout Group, many past members, the Guides and Brownies and representatives from our District and County. Fr. Jack Thora began Mass by saying, "Though this is my first visit to Bromley, your welcome and your living links with Mbarara where I have spent so many years as a White Father Missionary, make me feel as though I have 'come home'. During the celebration we reflected on our friendship and achievements over the last sixty years that laid the foundations of our very successful Brombara Project.

We met in the Hall afterwards for a buffet lunch and presentations of awards and certificates. Many congratulations to Simon Joyce who received the Chief Scout Award from our District Commissioner. Frances Poulson, County Commissioner, then presented all



Frances & Simon

members of the Scout Group, the Guides and Brownies with the International Friendship Award badges and certificates. I believe this is the first time that Guides and Scouts have been able to receive the same badge and award. I hope it won't be the last. The Award is given for joint work for a developing country. It entailed all sections working together, learning about Uganda and fundraising for the project. I know a lot of hard work went into this and I must thank all the leaders and parents for their commitment to the project. Those present enjoyed viewing photos and mementoes of Uganda and other Group items.

A slide presentation has since been assembled and shown to all sections in the parish beginning with our reunion one

very cold January evening in an unheated hall. However it was good to be together again – the first occasion since leaving Heathrow on our return. Terry displayed the tools and implements used in Uganda: such as a local shovel and a panga. He has not yet constructed the washing machine for Brenda! We have had great exchanges of photographs and diaries.

Uganda 2000 – Learning for Life

Resources still needed

The slides have also been shown to many other Cub Packs and Beaver Colonies in Bromley District and also to the District Beaver Leaders, as part of the Uganda 2000 project. There has been remarkable enthusiasm among these young people to provide **books, writing materials and other goodies** for the children in Uganda. Many leaders have also managed to find **old typewriters, sewing machines, uniforms and books**. Imagine trying to teach a class of 120 children to read with no books – that is what Ugandan teachers are faced with. Books of any age are very valuable so why not go and have a quick look round now and contact me. The container will be going out in April but not until it's full. Even if you think you've missed your chance contact me anyway.

Mbarara - Good news at last!

We have just heard from Pascal and Nkabakyenga that the Scouts have been granted a 20-year lease on the land for the River Rwizi campsite. The written agreement has yet to be completed but we are very hopeful that the Scouts and Guides of Mbarara District can now proceed with developing the site as originally planned in our project.

CampDowne 2000

This year's summer camp at Downe is fast approaching. 18 Scouts, 3 Ventures and 3 leaders from the 11th Bromley will be attending the international camp from 27th July to 5th August and - most important of all – we will be joined by Pascal, Julius and 8 Scouts from Mbarara. We will all be on Saturn sub-camp together with groups from Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, the U.S.A and many others from the UK.



Pascal has been working very hard to ensure everything is attended to in good time and they already have their passports and visas - purchased with borrowed money. They will all have medicals and yellow fever vaccinations before coming and will be attending at least two training camps, just as we did before our trip out. He is also arranging for a 'send-off' ceremony and welcome home party complete, with T.V. and press coverage. This is a really special adventure for them all.

They arrive in Gatwick, U.K. on Wednesday morning 26th July landing at 4.55am. We will bring them to Wilberforce [courtesy of Bromley District] where they will be able to rest up after their long journey. I hope that some of you will be able to come during the afternoon or evening to meet our friends and to share a meal with them on the first night. They will go to the Camp with us on the following day. They will be there until 5th August. Each Ugandan will then be the guest of a Bromley family for two nights before flying out on 7th August. I hope that many people will be able to meet them after Mass on Sunday 6th August.

Brombara – Ugandan Visitors:

Ngaro K. Pascal Scout Leader of the Mbarara team. He is married to Annette with a son Alex who will be one in June. He has been teaching at St. Lawrence Primary School since 1989. As a Scout Leader he has completed his training and therefore holds the Wood Badge. He is ADC Programmes and Brombara Project co-ordinator. He is also a member of the Red Cross and is a keen and active first aider and blood donor. He is interested in further strengthening the existing link between Uganda and the U.K. He is looking forward to taking the Scouts to the U.K. to exchange cultures and experiences by participating in activities with Scouts from overseas. He likes gardening, cultivating crops and nature conservation. He also writes: *'I am grateful to Veronica and her team for their great help and sponsorship. Great thanks to the 11th Bromley people.'*



Pascal

Niwagaba Julius Ssalongo is the Leader for the blind Scouts. Both he and his wife Elizabeth are teachers and they have twin boys Adolph and Andrew [18 months]. Julius was born in Kabale District [SW corner of Uganda] where his father is adviser to the District Scout Council. He is the sports teacher for St. Helen's school where he founded the Scout Troop for Blind children. He is also responsible for training in the



Niwagaba Julius

Scout District of Mbarara. He is interested in athletics and in further developing scouting for the blind. He is keen to visit the U.K. to cement the relationship between Mbarara and Bromley. *His aunt Imelda worked with Veronica at Nyamitanga dispensary in the early seventies.*

Birungi Andrew is 13 years old and is a pupil at St. Peter's Senior School at Katukuru. His father was head teacher at St. Lawrence until he retired in 1982. He was born at Ruti near Nyamitanga and is the 9th child with three brothers and six sisters. He joined Scouts in 1997 and likes volleyball, football and swimming. He wants to visit UK to find out more about Scouting.



Andrew

Kakure Jude is 15 and attends St. Joseph's Vocational School, Nyamitanga where he is in year two. He was born in Rwarire, the 5th in a family of seven. He joined scouts in 1999 at the school and is interested in football and volleyball. He says he wants to visit U.K. to see for himself how scouting is carried out and to make friends from overseas and exchange ideas and culture.



Jude

Lubega John Bosco will be 15 when he visits us. Both his parents died some time ago and he is looked after by his older sister Silvia who is a tutor at Nyamitanga Secretarial College. He completed his primary education at St. Mary's Katete thanks to a grant from Mbarara Municipal Council because of his football skills - he's a striker. It now seems unlikely that he will continue his studies unless he finds a sponsor. He has been a scout for two years and is a patrol leader. Apart from his scouting and football he is also interested in athletics. He is looking forward to his trip to U.K. *'to make new friends, see big tall buildings and to learn how to put up tents'*.



John Bosco

Mwesigwa Michael will be 14 in May. He lives with his mother Grace who is a housekeeper at the Poor Clare Convent, Nyamitanga - his father died. He is the oldest of 4 children and is in P6 at St. Lawrence PS. He has been a scout for over 4 years and enjoys being a patrol leader. He enjoys singing and dancing and is an altar server at the Poor Clares and at Nyamitanga Cathedral. He is keen to make new friends and to learn new things overseas.



Michael



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