



Newsletter 8

January 2009

Welcome to 2009. We are now in our last six month run down before we travel to Zambia. Over the next few months there will be many details that we have to sort out and confirm so if you receive any paper work asking for details etc. please return the information straight away so that item may be completed and time may be spent on other important details.

The Team:

I am sorry to have to inform you that Jean Darch who was to be our nurse on the expedition has had to withdraw from the team due to family commitments. On a more pleasant side I would like to welcome Lauren Greenwood who has joined our team. Lauren has had previous experience of Africa as she was on expeditions run to Tanzania and Malawi.



Deposits

You should have all paid your forth deposit of £300.00 which was due on 1st December 2008. It is important that we keep up to date with payments as there will be certain bills that we have to pay before leaving in July. If you are still outstanding on your fees please arrange for this to be sent to Barbara as soon as possible. The next instalment of £300.00 is due on 1st February 2009.

Training Weekend(s):

Over our last training weekend we managed to achieve several stages of our required training. One of the main observations made over the weekend was that many of our members did not know the correct way to use a hammer to drive nails into a piece of wood. We suggest that over the next few weeks you try and borrow a hammer and nails and practice driving a nail into a piece of wood and the retrieving the nail if possible for reuse. Another useful exercise is to mark off a piece of wood (say 10cm long) and then cut it off cleanly using a saw.

Our next training weekend will be at Raven Gill Camp Site over the weekend of 3rd/5th April 2009. Please put this date in your diary and remember to return your form, even if you are not able to attend, so that we can arrange the programme. Over this weekend, in addition to other training, we hope to introduce you to brick laying as this will be a skill that you will require while in Zambia. Our last main training weekend will be over the weekend 29th/31st May 2009. We shall be camping for both these weekends in preparation for our three weeks in Zambia.

Personal Information:

We would like to remind you that we shall require a photocopy of the last page of your passport to enable us to have your correct name printed on the air tickets as soon as possible. We shall also keep these in case we have any problems with passports while in Zambia. **Please send these to Doug as soon as possible.** Also remember that your passport must have at least six months to run dating from our return from Zambia. If you require a new passport do not leave it too late before applying as you will also need to send it to the Zambia High Commission for you Visa (do not apply too soon as the Visa may run out before our trip). We have been informed that the cost of Visas have been reduced since last year. The four members who will be staying on in Zambia for another week may need to consider whether they need a multi entry Visa.

Uniform:

After discussion at our last training weekend it was agreed that full correct uniform for members will be as follows:- **Scouts:** Shirt (appropriate for the section), Navy Blue Trousers with a Scout Belt (trousers may be the official Scout activity trouser or the Regatta equivalent)

Girls Brigade: White Girls Brigade poloshirt and navy V necked jumper with navy blue Regatta trousers, or equivalent.



Buy a Brick:

I hope you have all been busy selling bricks for our project. If you have any sales from these please pass the money on to Barbara.

Fund Raising:

As stated in our last newsletter our fund raising is not coming in as fast as we would like. This is not helped by the International financial situation so we all need to try and step up a gear. We have planned a Coffee Morning at Fulwell Methodist Church, Sunderland on Saturday 21st February 2009 from 10.00 until 12.00. At this event we have the opportunity to sell cakes and any other suitable items with all the profit going to the expedition. Please let Barbara know if you will bring any cakes etc. If you are available for the morning we would be pleased to see you as we also hope to use this event as a publicity drive. At the last coffee morning at Fulwell we raised over £500.

Bag Pack:

Please remember that we have been offered the opportunity of a bag pack at Marks and Spencer's in the Metro Centre on Saturday 14th February 2009. We shall require as many members, parents or friends to help us on this day. To enable us to sort out some form of rota please let Doug know whether **or not** you will be attending, and also for what period of the day you will available. **PLEASE CONTACT DOUG BEFORE MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2009.** Members will be expected to wear their uniform with Scouts using the Zambia neckerchief. There will be some extra neckerchiefs available for any parents and friends.

Medical Requirements:

It is now time that you should be looking at any inoculations that you may require for Zambia. As these may differ for each member you should now be consulting your GP. Do not leave this to the last minute. There may be a problem with Yellow fever as this is not currently required but there are suggestions that if any member needs to have a medical airlift out of Zambia, via South Africa, it may be a requirement. We are looking into this situation and will let you know as soon as possible.

Polo Shirts:

I shall be submitting our next order for polo shirts etc on Monday 19th January 2009. If there are any items you wish added to this order you must let me know by Sunday 18th January 2009. There may not be another order until just before our expedition.

Web Site:

Are you keeping an eye on the web site? All relevant information will be added to this site so if you lose your newsletter, or any other information, you should be able to find it together with other useful details on the site.

The web site address is: <http://www.ix09.co.uk>

Doug Corbin, Expedition Leader