



## Newsletter 9

**March 2009**

### **Countdown:**

As of the beginning of March we now only have less than 20 weeks before the main party will be in Zambia for our IX09 expedition. Are you ready????

### **The Team:**

We are pleased to welcome Doreen, David and Rebecca Davies to our team. Doreen is a qualified nurse and will be responsible for the health and welfare of our party while David, as a professional driver, will be looking after the overall safety and organisation of our transport while in Zambia. Rebecca is a member of the Girls Brigade who was originally interested in the expedition when it was first launched.

### **Deposits**

Each member should have received a note detailing their outstanding fees. Please note the date by which the final instalment is due as at this time we have to pay the balance for our air flights in addition to other expenses that have to be paid before we leave for Africa.

### **Training Weekend(s):**

You are reminded that our next training weekend is at the Cleveland Scout Camp Site at Raven Gill in Comondale. Part of the weekend will be spent in brick laying training which will be a skill that is required while we are at Chinsali so it is important that some of the party can reach a reasonable standard. Please remember to arrive on site wearing your correct uniform.

The last main training weekend before our trip will be over the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May 2009. This again will be at raven Gill Camp Site. Please make sure that this date is in your diary.

### **Tentage:**

We have been able to obtain sufficient sleeping tentage for all the members of the expedition through C W Tents. Over the April training weekend we hope to pitch some of these so that members can learn how they are erected as these will be the only tents used during our May training weekend. After we have finished with the tents they will be left in Zambia for local use.



### **Gifts for the School:**

We are hoping to take a variety of small gifts with us that can be left behind to help the children at the school. The sort of things that we are looking at are pencils, small note books etc that can be used in the classroom. As we shall have to carry these items we are not looking for too many hard covered books as these are a little too heavy. If you know of any groups who may be able to help us with these items please contact them with information about our project. The other sections within your Group such as Beavers and Cubs may like this as part of an international programme. If you manage to obtain any suitable items please arrange for them to be passed onto me so that a complete list may be drawn up. Items will then be split up into various bags for transportation to Africa.

### **Buy a Brick:**

The bricks are selling very well and have made a big mark on our fund raising but please do not stop as we still have plenty of more bricks available if required.

### **Fund Raising:**

Our target for fund raising was £30,000 in addition to the personal fees that all members were asked to pay. This, together with donations, currently stands at approximately £8,600 which is still a fair way short of our target. This figure includes our recent Bag Pack (£2,036) and the coffee morning at Fulwell Methodist Church (£478). Many thanks to all members who helped with these two events.



### **Personal Information:**

We are still waiting for personal information from some of the party this particularly includes a copy of the photo page from your passport. We shall also be collecting in your medical information and safety sheets that you were given at the January training weekend. Please do not leave returning these, or any other required information, until the last minute as we are now in the period where we need to keep to strict dead lines.

### **Recce Visit:**

We have planned a short recce visit to Zambia at the end of April so that we can sort out a few of the outstanding arrangements prior to our arrival in Africa. During this trip we plan to visit all the areas that we shall be using in July and to talk with the locals concerned. If anyone has any important questions, or items, that they think we should be addressing please let us know at, or before, the April training weekend.

### **Visas:**

As you will all know you have to have a Visa in order to enter Zambia. These are available through the Zambian High Commission. You will have to send your passport together with the completed form and appropriate fee. This fee is currently £35 for a single entry and £60 for a multiple entry. Those members who are staying on in Zambia may want to consider a multi entry Visa. The visa are valid for six months from the date of issue so it is now OK to apply for one at any time that is suitable to you but you may require a letter of invitation or a copy of your air flight ticket. I am currently checking this and hope to be able to let you know the situation by the end of this month. Please do not leave it too late as they can take up to a week to be returned (this may extend during the summer period due to holiday requests).

### **Final Get Together:**

Prior to our leaving for Zambia we shall be having a final get together of all team members and their parents. This has been planned for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at a venue to be agreed. The aim of the meeting will be to give you any last minute details and to answer any last minute questions. You will also be given a bag of goodies that we shall require for our expedition in Zambia. We shall expect you to carry to these on behalf of the expedition as part of your main baggage. The bags will all be different and will contain important tools or equipment that we shall need in Zambia. We shall try and balance the weight but they may be of different sizes. In addition you will be expected to carry part of a tent (generally one tent between every two members). It is important that you (or your parents) attend this get together so please make a note of the date – we shall inform you of the venue as soon as it has been arranged.



Doug Corbin, Expedition Leader