

The Scout Association

The UK Scout Association raises awareness of development issues through 3 main linking schemes:

1. Arranging trips for young people to travel overseas by a variety of different means. For example some groups take Scouts camping in France, others attend large world events such as Jamborees, and other groups organise development projects over short or long periods.
2. By participating in world Scouting as a member of the World Organisation of Scout Movements (WOSM). This involves some linking with other associations; attending world and European conferences to decide policy and development; and taking part in WOSM organised projects – for example they are currently partnered with Malawi as part of a European and African support scheme.
3. There are UK Scouts living overseas in 3 main areas. There are UK branches in small Commonwealth countries based in the South Pacific, Caribbean and Gibraltar. There are also UK Scouts based in expatriot communities abroad with British Groups Abroad, and British Scouts of Western Europe.

All the above have the potential to raise Scout's awareness of development issues by making them understand what being part of a world family of Scouting really means; helping them to see the commonalities and differences between Scouts globally, engaging them with the issues this raises, and empowering them to do something about it.

Scout Leaders are also encouraged to engage their Scouts with global education through the activities they deliver in weekly meetings. Leaders are asked to deliver a balanced programme made up of 6 different zones, one of which is the global zone. Resources are provided to give activity and programme ideas in print and online written by HQ volunteers and employees, Scout Leaders and external organisations.

The following are extracts from a report by some Explorers (14-18yrs) who went to India in 2008 to help develop a school:

"Every year there is a religious pilgrimage where a representative of each village carries water over 200km to their home village. Then late in July when the moon is in the right phase all the village has a feast and worships in the chapel. So picture us there covered in mud amongst the colourful clothing and celebrations. We did look quite out of place, but it was still a great experience. Vast quantities of food (made from vegetables) were being prepared and we were given sweet tea by the Holy Man. After breakfast, Adam, Ben and Charles went with Martin to collect six Guinea Fowl for the farm. On our way back we were stopped and given Prasad the celebratory food from another temple. Now that was a productive day!"



As an Explorer Unit we have raised money for the Baas Educational Trust School and for our trip to India and have helped with digging the foundations at the school. Hopefully that is just the start of a partnership that will continue in the years to come. Thinking further ahead we would like to be able to have another trip out to Gairatpur Baas to see the progress with the development of the school and help with whatever the current projects are at the time."

Daisy Charlton

Rotherham Explorer Scout Unit South Africa 2010

21 intrepid Explorer Scouts and Leaders from Rotherham have recently returned from South Africa where they renovated a small care centre (crèche) for young children in a disadvantaged Township in Mossel Bay, Western Cape. The idea came from Dave Tingle, one of the Explorer scout leaders when he was talking to friends, Debra Willoughby and Richard Mellors, who own property there. Debra is a director of a local Charity, Meet the People Cares, which is an off shoot of a Tour Company, Meet the People. The charity was trying to raise money to refurbish the centre which was badly in need of updating. It is run by Evelyn, a local lady and caters mainly for single mothers so that they can then go out to work to feed their family. 2 years ago the work started to make the idea a reality. Fundraising events took place so that we could fund the building work, training camps were run.

Mossel Bay is a vibrant, friendly community and we would like to thank people for their friendship and hospitality, especially Richard Mellors, who lent us his vehicle for the whole of our stay. Jaukie Voljoen, Director of Meet the People, who sponsored a great deal of the transport for us. Pat Farnham, the Scout Leader of the 2nd Mossel Bay Scout Troop and his wife Quinta, both of whom became very good friends and helped us a great deal. Jay DeMoor, our local builder who assisted greatly in our work. Colin, a local Plumber, who fitted the sanitary were at no cost.

A special thanks must go to Quids In, Rotherham for their generous donation, to the Scouts association for their contribution, to all the mums and dads who not only found the money for their kids to go, but also joined in the fundraising. Are we proud of what we achieved? You betya we are J

Northallerton District Explorer Scouts BARNES Unit Operation Gairatpur Baas 2008- India

After a visit to Tikli, Mrs Marilyn Ewart (Assistant District Commissioner Development) told her Scouts about a project to build a school in Gairatpur Baas. In May 2007 Mr Martin Howard came from Tikli to visit their "Centenary of Scouting" District camp. In the short time Martin was at Thorpe Perrow, they were able to chat to him and learn more about what he was trying to achieve. It soon became apparent that a team from the BARNES Explorer Unit would be very welcome to go out to India and assist with the next stage of the project. The whole Unit was very enthusiastic and eager to be involved.

The inspiration behind the trip was to enable everyone to find out something of Indian culture, to do some sight seeing in the area and to help the Baas Educational Trust (BET) School. The next stage of the project was to build an Assembly Hall at the School. They helped with the digging of footings, ready for laying of the foundations. As well as their hard word digging, they spent two days sightseeing in and around Delhi and a weekend in the Agra area to visit the Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri.

Five young people were selected to attend the trip, and then worked together to raise funds and learn more about India, education and the work the BET School was doing. Although only a small team would be going to India – the whole Scouting community was involved in preparing for the trip and sharing the knowledge. The Scouts are continually fundraising for the BET School, keeping in contact to exchange stories/ideas/communication, and are looking into planning another trip in the future. See <http://www.best-bets.org.uk> for further information.