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## *Ugandan Ministers Welcome Lancashire Scouts*

This summer 24 Scouts will be travelling to Uganda to assist in a ambitious building project. Recently, three of the Project Leaders from West Lancashire Scouts travelled to Uganda to meet the Scouting and Community Leaders of Kakomo, a village in the district of Kabale, South West Uganda. They were surprised and delighted to be welcomed to the Country by some of the top ministers and Scouting Leaders at a "Historic" press conference. The meeting saw the foundation stones laid for an on-going relationship between Ugandan and West Lancashire Scouts. Dr Ruhanka Rugunda, Uganda's Internal Affairs Minister said they were "Mobilising the youth and Scouts of Uganda to build on the historic colonial links between the two countries."

The Lancashire Scouts will be joining with over 300 Scouts from Kabale to build a new medical and community centre for the scattered village. It will provide a centre for the visiting doctors, an education facility for the villagers to learn about hygiene, HIV/aids, and get vaccinations, it will also be used by community groups such as Scouts.

After they have helped with the construction the Scouts from Lancashire are using the opportunity to travel through the Masai Mara game reserve and will discuss how the Western World can assist developing countries to prevent animal trafficking and illegal poaching. They also hope to visit Pax-Tu in Kenya, the last home and burial place of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the founders of the Scout and Guide movement, where they will lay a wreath from West Lancashire Scouts in a special ceremony before travelling to Nairobi for the flight home.

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## **Editor's Notes:**

- Scouting is the largest co-educational youth movement in the UK with a total of 476,992 members (March 2002 figures)
- Worldwide, there are well over 28 million members in over 216 Countries. Two thirds of the membership lives in developing Countries.
- The Aim of the Association is "To promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.
- Scouting in West Lancashire has a membership of just under 10,000 members in the following 8 Districts: Chorley, Blackpool, Preston, Ormskirk, South Ribble, Fylde, Wyre and Lonsdale.
- This Project is the start of long term co-operation between the two areas. It is hoped that follow up visits will include projects to renovate the village school and help with other building projects such as sporting facilities.
- The Scouts are all Explorer and Network Scouts age between 15 and 25, from all over West Lancashire - Parbold, Burscough, Southport, Upholland, Longton, Penwortham, Ashton, Ingol, Freckleton, Blackpool, Cleveleys, Grimsargh and Lancaster.
- Scouting in the UK currently has around 500,000 members and runs activity programmes for boys and girls aged 6 to 25, with training courses for adult leaders at 18, and young leaders aged 16-18.
- Uganda Scouts Association was formed in 1915, and since 1982 has been revitalized and has grown to over 80,000 members. With the help of UNICEF they have a proficiency badge for immunization service, and have learned about mortar-mesh technology for building low-cost housing.

**If you require more information, would like to interview any of the participants or leaders involved please contact me:**

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