

Malawi 2025 Community Project

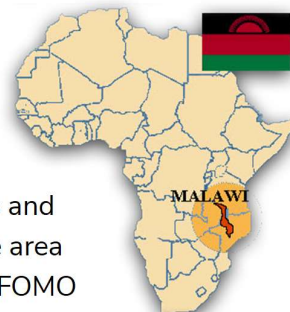
Information Pack



In 2025, West Lancashire Scouts will complete a three-week long expedition to the village of Mangani, which is located in the South of Malawi. While in the village, the team will undertake several projects working with the charity Friends of Mulanje Orphans (FOMO), amongst other projects, refurbishing existing education centres to be used by the local community, including painting and building work both inside the centres and



the play areas. West Lancs Scouts are returning to the same area as the Africa 2022 trip, to continue to work with the charity FOMO and the communities they support. FOMO is a Lancashire based charity who work with Malawian orphans and their families and do a significant amount of work in this area of Malawi.



Who can join this project?

The trip is aimed at the Explorer and Network section and is open to anybody born between the dates of 1st September 2000 and 31st August 2009. The individual must be a member of West Lancs Scouts as a Leader, Explorer Scout, Young Leader or Network Member.

We would then like to take a further contingent of Network members, born between the dates of 1st September 2000 and 30th April 2007 as those participants at the younger end **MUST** be 18 by the time of the last training weekend – April 2025. This will be to undertake their Scouts of the World Award. These will be projects designed and managed by those young people.



When will this project happen?

This project will happen in the summer of 2025. The trip is expected to take place between the start of the school holidays in July and return just before the A Level results are released in August. Dates are TBC, subject to flights.

What will this project involve?

Main project

It is expected that that the main project will involve multiple small projects that will make a big impact on the communities we will work with, while working in line with the charitable aims and priorities of FOMO. These are likely to include, in depth refurbishment of one of FOMO's existing centres, including painting both inside and out plus artwork, replacing doors, and floor and ceiling repairs.



Other projects may consist of lower level centre refurbishments, building of a playground, construction of rocket stoves and instillation of water tanks, and sorting and distribution of clothes across FOMO's centres.

SOWA Projects

The Scouts of the World teams will work with FOMO to identify other smaller projects in the community and the secondary school funded by them, in order to complete their Award. They will be fully responsible for all fundraising, project management, delivery and completion in line with the requirements.



What happens after the community projects?

After the community project, the contingent will enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation. We expect this to be determined in partnership with all participants and a budget of £250 (per person) has been set accordingly. This period will be approximately 5 days.



How much will the expedition cost?

The cost of the trip will be no more than £2400.

Included in the cost is:

- Flights to and from Malawi
- Travel insurance (some personal items may not be covered)
- Food for 3 weeks
- Travel and accommodation in country.
- 4 training events and other training events classes as mandatory
- Rest and relaxation period – activities to be decided.
- 2 contingent neckerchiefs
- A contingent polo shirt
- A contingent Hoodie
- Contingent badge

The trip cost does not include all expenses as some are subject to change before we travel, and individual in nature.



Additional costs not included:

- Fundraising of £500 per person specifically for the project
- Vaccinations and antimalarials
- Visa costs
- Optional training events
- Personal item travel insurance for some valuable items (cameras etc)
- Meals at any stop overs unless provided by airlines.



This trip may end up being less than the quoted figure of £2400 as there is an amount of contingency within the budget to ensure we are not in the position during these uncertain times where we do not have enough funds to be able to deliver the trip as advertised. Any surplus money will be returned to the participants after the trip has returned.

How many places are available for this trip?

The leadership team will be selecting a total of 30 young people (Explorers and Network members) for the trip, with approximately 20 for the main project, and no more than 10 for the SOWA projects. This number is based on the number of people FOMO are able to accommodate and transport whilst in Malawi.

There will be a selection event on Sunday 24th March 2024 to enable the leadership team to ensure we have the best possible group of young people to carry out the projects and represent West Lancs Scouts.

To be selected for either the main project or SOWA project you will need to attend the selection event. There will be a cost of £5 per person payable on the day.

How much will be needed in order for these projects to be carried out?



Participants will be asked to raise an additional £500 on top of the cost of the trip in order to carry out the projects. All fundraising for this part of the cost must be completed and paid by the end of April 2025 in order for funds to be transferred, materials purchased in Malawi and ready for our arrival.

SOWA teams will set their own budgets for their projects, but the amount to be raised will be roughly the same as the main project.

The first £500 of each person's fundraising will go towards the project they are on. After this, additional fundraising can go towards the personal commitment of the trip. Any fundraising that exceeds both commitments can go towards the project costs. We will also be looking maximising fundraising through grants and Gift Aid.

The leadership team will work to both support the participants and to fundraise themselves towards the cost of the trip.



Who are the leaders involved in running this trip?

Michelle Durney (Expedition Leader)

Michelle has been in Scouting for over 15 years and is ACC Beavers for West Lancs Scouts and a Beaver Scout Leader in Ormskirk District. Although her main role is within Beavers, she has been an Explorer Scout leader, and was an assistant leader on the Africa 2022 trip. Michelle has 2 children in their 20's who have both been through Scouting. She has supported them and seen them grow and develop through their experiences. Her youngest son was a participant on the Africa 2022 trip and built a chicken house for his SOWA project. Michelle works as a nurse but is hoping this is a skill she will not need to use. Africa 2022 was a life changing experience for her, and for the young people who went, and being able to take another group of young people to experience the culture and lifestyle of the communities FOMO work to help, is something she was passionate about doing from the moment she returned. We really can make a difference.



Paul Harris (Deputy Leader)



Paul is Team Leader for programme in Blackpool District as well as being Assistant County Commissioner for Scouting Skills and Nights Away. Paul has been in Scouting for 42 years and has attended a number of international events and trips. Paul was responsible for supporting the Africa 2022 trip as an assistant leader with specific responsibility for delivery of the Scout of the world (SOWA) projects. He also led the West Lancashire Project Malaysia Expedition – a community project in Malaysia and Borneo. Like all of our superheroes, Paul has a day job and works as a Group HSE Manager for a Pharmaceutical and Cosmetics Product Manufacturer. Paul is especially looking forward to returning to Malawi to work with

FOMO again and believes projects like these change lives – not only for those we go to help but also the participants take with us.



Victoria DaSilva

Victoria is absolutely delighted and truly honoured to be part of the West Lancs Africa 2025 project as an Assistant Unit Leader.

She is currently a Squirrel Scout Section Leader as well as the County Squirrels Sub-team leader. She is looking forward to working with the leadership team to provide young people within West Lancs an exceptional and potentially life changing opportunity and deliver a lasting and practical legacy for the young people in Africa.



Andy Pennington



Andy has been a Scout Leader at 8th Penwortham St. Teresas for over 10 years where he has helped to organise many different camps and activities. Last year Andy had his first overseas Scouting trip, where he was an Assistant Leader with the West Lancs Scouts Explorer Belt to the Balkans. Andy enjoyed that experience so much that he decided to be a part of the Malawi 2025 trip. Andy has three adult children all of whom went through Scouting, or in the case of his daughter Guides. Andy enjoys hiking and hill walking and has recently started climbing the Munros in Scotland.

Lisa Lewis

Lisa joined Scouting as a parent helper, and very quickly fell in love with it, and officially became a leader in 2012. She has had many roles since then such as a Beaver, Cub and Scout Section Leader, Assistant Group Scout Leader, District Young Leader and is now Group Scout Leader at 1st Chorley Methodist Scout Group in Chorley District. Lisa has attended many Red Rose events, but this will be her first major international trip with Scouts. She is very excited about working with this incredible charity as well as enjoying the journey of the run up to the event, participating, and leaving a legacy on local Scouting. Professionally, Lisa has been a Company Director of a Fulfilment Distribution Business for a number of years at a business in Chorley.



Will Horrocks



Will is the youngest member of our leadership team. He has been in Scouting for 12 years, starting his Scouting journey in the Cub section. As well as being a Network member, Will is an Assistant Scout Leader. He has a fair bit of experience with international trips, with his first to Belgium as a Cub. His second was when he was a participant on the Africa 2022 trip where he completed his Scout of the World Award. Last year his international adventures took him to Macedonia to complete his Explorer Belt. The next step for him then was clear – to become a leader on one of these incredible trips, and to help guide others to achieve their top awards.

Frequently asked questions

How will I fundraise for this trip?

There are a million and one ways to fundraise for this trip! Bake sales, coffee mornings, sponsored events, just giving pages, grants and hardship funds, raffles..... the list goes on. All participants will be supported throughout by the leadership team; however, they will not be fundraising for you. The first £500 you raise will go towards the project. After this you can use the rest to help pay for the trip and other costs.

What are the toilets like?

The toilets in the accommodation are like toilets in the UK, however the plumbing is basic, and does not allow for excessive waste and paper. (we had an issue last time!) The toilets on project are a different story and varied depending on the location. The picture is a traditional Malawi toilet.



What is the accommodation like, and will I be able to have a shower?



We will be staying in one of the FOMO centres, which will have cooking facilities, dormitories, some running water and limited electricity (not enough for charging devices). It is important that we keep ourselves clean and although there are showers, water is a scarce commodity and should not be overused. Bucket baths are sufficient most of the time, as are bed bath wipes. What we don't want to do is leave FOMO with a hefty water and electricity bill once we have left.

Will there be Wi-Fi?

In the village there is no Wi-Fi, nor will there be on any of the project locations. There will be limited access on R&R depending on the destination, but the quality of connection is likely to be poor. The beauty of this trip is that not being able to connect to social media allows you to fully immerse yourself and enjoy the experience.

I am vegetarian or I have a dietary requirement, will I be ok on this trip?

In most instances, yes you will be fine. The contingent will largely be cooking for themselves, and we will be able to cater for individual needs. On the training weekends we will be looking at the type of food we can buy there and formulate some recipes for breakfasts, lunches and evening meals.

What will the weather be like?

Malawi does not have seasons the same way the UK does but has wet and dry seasons. July and August are part of the dry season; however, it may still rain heavily at times. The weather will generally be hot during the day (t-shirt and sun cream) and cool in the evening (hoodie and long trousers).

What vaccinations will I need?

These will be different for everyone depending on what you have already had, but there will be ones that will be needed to attend the trip. All participants will be expected to be fully vaccinated for those required, this includes antimalarials. We can advise on what the recommendations are, but you must get individual advice from your GP or local pharmacist. Some may be available on the NHS, while there may be a charge for others.

What language do they speak in Malawi?

The 2 official languages are English and Chichewa. English is relatively understood in most areas, with the children in the FOMO schools being taught this. This is not the case everywhere, and a basic understanding is useful. There are books and apps that can be obtained beforehand to help with this.

Any more questions?

Please email michelle.durney@westlancsscouts.org.uk

Application closing date is Sunday 17th March 2024 11.59pm

Applications can be completed at <https://forms.office.com/e/Cr66VLHMeY> or by scanning the code below.

