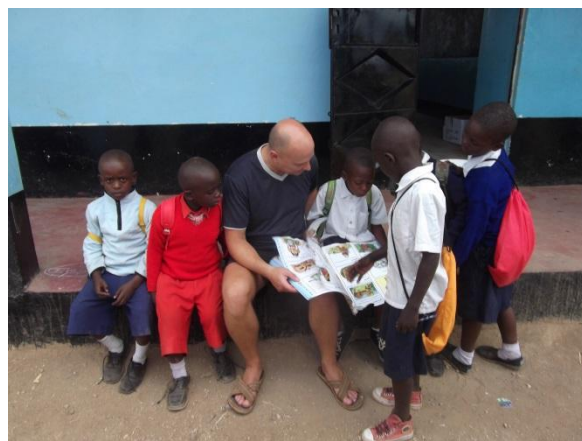


Tanzania 2014

My name is Tom Knox and I am an explorer scout who currently attends Pioneer explorer scouts. I have been kindly asked to write a short article about my recent school trip to Tanzania, which took place earlier this year (31st August – 15th September). I am currently in my first year of sixth form at George Spencer Academy, the school which organised the trip.



The trip incorporated project work, a safari and finished off with three days on Zanzibar. Twenty seven people were involved in the school trip, including five teachers.



The project we were involved in is called 'Kilimanjaro Young Girls in Need', or KYGN. The project was set up to give girls who had no hope of an education a chance in life which they otherwise could never have had. The project has since been extended to

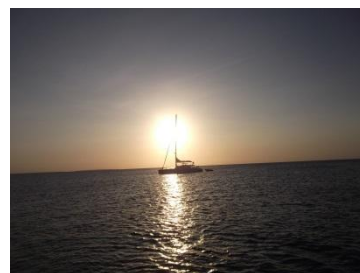
offer an education to both girls and boys of primary school age. The project is based just under an hour away from the town of Moshi (situated in the shadow of Kilimanjaro), in a small rural village called Mabogini. Upon arrival at the project, we were shown the progress that had already been made. The main school building was completed,



containing four classrooms and providing an education for over 180 children. The children arrived in buses from the village and attended school from 7:30am – 12:30pm, so as to avoid the heat of the afternoon. This meant that we were able to spend a lot of time with the children whilst working on the project. Our group helped to develop the project over the course of five days of work by helping to concrete a new nursery building, plastering a new toilet block, bordering a football pitch for the children to play on at break times and painting the wall of the existing school. We also visited an orphanage where some of the children lived and saw what the conditions were like. It is impossible to describe in this article the effect that working on a project like this and seeing the way in which the people live has had on me. In the future I intend to go back and help the project to progress further.



For the second half of the trip we went on safari to a national park and then a conservation area. The national park was called Tarangire Lake, a national park famous for its elephants and giraffes. The second place we visited was the Ngorongoro Crater, famous for being home to the big five and many more. After the safari, the trip finished with a visit to the island of Zanzibar and the beaches of Nungwi. Although this part of the trip was extremely enjoyable, having spent at a week in a village full of poverty really brought into perspective how grateful we all should be for what we have. The project work was by far the best part of the trip as it made a difference, however small, to the lives of the local children.



I am very lucky to go to a school which offered such a trip as I know many people will never get the opportunity to have such an experience. It was a real eye opener and has changed my perspective on life hugely. If you should ever get the opportunity to be involved in such a project, do not hesitate to take it.

Tom Knox

