

EMBARGOED UNTIL 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007



## **. . . press release**

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007

### **What Is The Connection . . . . . ?**

**What is the common link between; Steve "Crocodile Hunter" Irwin (Naturalist), Frederic-François Chopin (Composer), George Washington (1<sup>st</sup> US President), and Lord (and Lady!) Baden-Powell?**

**Answer: It is, (or would have been) their birthday today!!!! – (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007).**

Yes, all of these people were born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, and each in their own way has made a significant contribution to 21<sup>st</sup> Century life, as we know it. It is a remarkable point of note that both Robert and his wife Olave, share the same date of birth - 1857 and 1889 respectively.

Olave Baden-Powell took over the reins of the *Girl Guide Movement* from B-P's sister Agnes, when she was appointed as Chief Guide of England in 1918 - later becoming the World Chief Guide in 1930. Between this husband and wife team, they are responsible for the two most successful youth organisations, the world has ever known.

To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell, author Dr. Mario Sica has edited a brand new book published by Pan MacMillan, of the Founder's works entitled: "**Playing The Game**". It is a compilation of writings, drawing on autobiographical information, pamphlets, articles, speeches, and letters to his friends and family.

Much of the material was written between the two world wars and focuses heavily on how young people can take practical action to build a more peaceful and tolerant world. To mark the occasion, Scouts from all over the world have met at the London Eye today to share their experiences of helping to promote this ideal.

**The views of many Lincolnshire Scouts went into the research for this new book as Lincolnshire plays a massive part in shaping the future of worldwide Scouting.**

For 2007 at least, the eyes of the Scouting-world are fixed firmly on the UK. As the founding nation the rest of global-scouting looks to us for guidance for the next 100 years. **Lincolnshire as the second-largest UK County, provides a very prominent focus for the International Scout movement**, and I am sure we will be able - as a County - to show the world what proper Scouting is all about!



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Patron HM The Queen President HRH The Duke of Kent

Founder Robert Baden-Powell OM Chief Scout Peter Duncan • County registered charity no. 522395



## Notes to Editors

- Gifts of peace in the countries represented today at **the London Eye Ceremony** include:

**The Lebanese Scouts** - coordinating a 'Rebirth of the Phoenix' project, assisting in the rebuilding of Southern Lebanon after the conflict, distributing relief to displaced citizens, developing environmental and health campaigns, and educational programs for families and children.

**South Korean Scouts** - planting a forest in North Korea, and taking part in a peace trek in which participants learn about the damage of war.

**Hong Kong Scouts** - forming a group in a prison and helping to support the integration of immigrants

**Romanian Scouts** - helping to rebuild an area after flooding, working with institutionalised children and starting an educational initiative for young people in prison.

**The UK Scouts** – hosting the largest ever Jamboree that the world has ever seen. Young people from over 200 countries and territories will gather together in Chelmsford in August 2007.

- **Playing the Game**, the Baden-Powell Compendium edited by Mario Sica is published today by Pan Macmillian priced £16.99. DR MARIO SICA entered the Italian Foreign Service in 1962 and was, successively, the Ambassador of Italy in Namibia, Somalia, at the OSCE in Vienna and in Egypt. He retired in 2004. Dr Sica joined Scouting in Italy in 1947, serving in various capacities. Currently a member of the World Committee of ISGF (international organization of adult Scouts and Guides), he is known throughout the world as an editor and translator of Baden-Powell's works.
- **ROBERT BADEN-POWELL** was born in 1857 and served in the British Army in India, Afghanistan, West and South Africa. He became a national hero after his command of the siege of Mafeking during the Boer War. His two great legacies are the Scout Movement, which now boasts some 28 million members worldwide, and the Guide Movement, with some 10 million members. He died in Kenya in 1941. Baden Powell was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1939. No award was made that year due to the outbreak of the Second World War.
- **Scouting in the United Kingdom** is as popular as ever with the number this year rising to nearly 500,000 Members, and is the largest co-educational youth Movement in the UK. 2007 marks a hundred years of scouting, and will see nearly 500,000 young people in the UK joining in the Centenary celebrations. Events will run throughout the year at local, regional, national and international level, culminating in 40,000 Scouts from over 200 countries meeting at the **World Scout Jamboree** in Essex on the **1<sup>st</sup> August**.
- **Across the world**, 2007 is likely to be the largest ever example of youth cooperation and one of the biggest global celebrations since the turn of the Millennium. The Centenary will signal a new age in Scouting, and will provide an opportunity to reflect on how the movement was founded, what it has achieved, but also where it is going.
- **Adults working in Scouting** contribute in excess of 364 million hours of voluntary work each year to their local communities. The number of volunteers working for Scouting is bigger than the combined workforces of the BBC (24,000) and McDonalds (67,000) put together.

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**For more information, please contact Ian Cashmore, County Media Development Manager**

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