



Daventry and District Friends of Iganga

LINKING NEWS

www.friendsofiganga.org

Registered charity no. 1100624

Developing links between Daventry District and Iganga in Uganda

April, 2008

The container is finally on its way.....

...after months of anticipation. Here you can see just a few of the donated goods all boxed, labelled and listed ready for the long journey by container on the road then sea to Mombassa and finally again by road across Kenya and into Uganda.

Mainly comprising medical and educational goods (not be taxed on arrival) the people in Iganga will no doubt benefit from everything that our strong team packed leaving no space at all in the 20ft container. When the working party arrives in June it will all be handed out.



Many thanks to all those individuals and institutions that so kindly donated the goods and of course those who gave their time to pack it all into the container.

Come and join the 'Friends' to hear

Mr Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry's MEP

talking with pictures about

'My Day in Iganga'

and an update on school links by Kate Mawer

of Daventry William Parker School

together with a brief AGM

on Thursday, May 8th 2008, at 7.15pm

The Abbey, St John Square, Daventry, NN11 4BH

More details available from Richard Scott-Herridge on 01788 814686 or e-mail

herridgers@hotmail.com

Light refreshments from 6.45 pm

Chris Heaton-Harris, MEP

Chris spent a day in Iganga last Autumn whilst he was on a trade mission in Uganda. As is usual for first time visitors, a full programme of visits and meetings was arranged for Chris by Muzamiru and David Balaba. Chris will tell us about that day and all that he learned about the work of the Friends of both Daventry and Iganga.

Kate Mawer, Daventry William Parker School

Kate has been working very hard with links both within Daventry and between schools in Daventry and Iganga. We look forward to visits in both directions by teachers and students in the future.

Chairman's Annual Report 2007 - 2008

This is my last report as Chairman and I am so pleased that such huge progress has been made with our link over my 4-year term. I will just touch on what has been going on during the last year and Peter Minhinnett, as Vice-Chairman will follow with the hands-on details.

It has been a successful fund-raising year - through generous donations, sponsorship, matched funding, events like the Race Night, the French Night and the Male Voice Choir evening and by the sale of jewellery for the Orphanage. More is needed, of course, especially donations and commitment for the Margaret's Children Fund.

Awareness has been raised via the Website and events such as our Hands On in Iganga evening and the Water for Kids day - and now the Global Schools Partnership initiative is getting under way. Peter was invited to attend the Commonwealth People's Forum in Kampala in December, where the work of our partnership was well recognised..

Visits in both directions have cemented the link - Environmental Health Officer, Emily, came from Kampala with the Commonwealth Fellowship Commission - our 5th Fellow, thanks to Peter's efforts. He organised yet another successful working group holiday, tackling our projects at the Blind Centre, the Clinic, the Orphanage and the Namunsaala Clinic. It is good that we are talking to the Friends of Daventry in Iganga about their choice of new projects and that they are monitoring the progress of previous projects.



Bugamba - the first water source we protected and still very popular after 3 yrs of use!

So, it is all exciting and on-going and I much regret that, because of family illness, I have not been able to take an active part over the last year - but the team is strong and enthusiastic and much has been achieved. I will hand over to Peter to fill in the details.....

Angela Campling – Chairman

..... Well I am not sure I can complete this report with the flair that Angela has, but I will endeavour to put a little more detail into the already detailed introduction that Angela has written.

It has been a busy and eventful year with our projects in Iganga all making good progress and especially the Iganga Town Council Clinic which I think we must all be so proud of the wonderful progress that has been made.



Health Clinic entrance

From the beginnings 4/5 years ago when the Council told us they hoped to move at last to their new offices down Saza Road in Iganga we saw the opportunity to develop the existing Health centre II (which occupied only 2 small parts of the old offices) and in partnership with the office of the Iganga District Medical Officer and the Council we started in 2005 to develop the whole site to form a Health centre III with Maternity. Now we find ourselves 3 years later with a facility where the attendance has increased from 400 to 3000 patients a month, improved health education to the local community and a maternity unit that has taken the pressure off the Iganga Hospital where only complicated maternity cases are delivered. Iganga Hospital has won awards for improved quality of work

helped by the developments at this clinic. Well done to everyone who has been involved in any small way in raising funds or even doing the work if you have visited Iganga.

In Iganga special thanks go to our good friend Muzamiru Bidondole, Senior Health Assistant, and his colleagues Hajji and Simon for their help with projects in and around Iganga. In addition, regards to our friends on the executive of the Iganga Friends of Daventry who continue to make efforts to develop their organization. We look forward to seeing further progress in 2008/9.

Thanks must go to David Walsh for his own personal efforts with the help of his home village of Rotherstrophe in raising so many funds towards the Namunsaala Village Health Centre Project, we hope to see its completion and opening before the end of 2008. As you read this the local people are still carrying out more work to reach completion.

Behind the scenes in 2007 further developments have been taking place developing school links with our partner schools in Iganga. Kate Mawer of William Parker School has been leading this and will be attending our AGM to update us on the exciting plans to arrange for local school pupils from WP to visit a conference in Uganda in 2008 and hopefully to visit and stay in Iganga.



Namunsaala Clinic before rendering

In concluding this report my thanks to our outgoing Chairman Angela Campling for her excellent Chairmanship of our Charity over the last 4 years, both as Chair of meetings and attending events where she has been able to welcome people and say those special words that mean so much to both Trustees and Members. This year has been a difficult time for Angela with her husband, John, being unwell but we are all thrilled to see that he is at last making good progress and we look forward to Angela continuing to support the Trustees as a Member of the Committee for many years to come and for John to be able to attend some of our events again.



Iganga Town Primary children line up for water. Pump supplies 1000 school children and was out of order for 4yrs until our repair last June

The new year and the future bodes well for DFOI as donations continue to increase, more support for Margaret's Children is received, Projects in Iganga continue to develop and Membership increases. If you have not checked our regularly updated and developing website www.friendsofiganga.org then please do, please keep in touch, join David and me in Iganga for a holiday/experience of a lifetime, continue to give the trustees your support and I hope to see you all at a fundraising event somewhere in the coming year.

Peter Minhinnett - Vice Chairman

Race Night romps home with more funds for Friends.

This was a fun night when grown men were reduced to shouting at the screen in the hope of a win! There were eight lucky owners and many punters who went away very happy but Friends funds was the real winner with lots of money raised on the night. The tombola sold out quickly making about £150. With 'matched funding' from Barclaycard, DFoI will be assured of another £1500 to continue projects in Iganga. When the next working group goes out to Iganga this money will be well spent. Thanks go to all of those who attended, to Ken Knott for compering and also to Daventry Working Men's Club for generously hosting.

Hitting the right notes!

Northampton Male Voice Choir came to Rothersthorpe Church in early March and gave a Concert as a fund raiser for the clinic at Namunsaala. With over 130 people in the audience and nearly 50 in the Choir the Church was full making a nice atmosphere. I am told the singing was good - but being a choir member it is not for me to comment! Peter's slide show on the work of DFoI with our colleagues in Iganga was well received. I think quite a few people present were surprised at our achievements and the closeness of the relationship between the people of Iganga and DFoI. The main purpose of the concert was to raise funds for the building work at the Namunsaala clinic and the evening was very successful in that respect. From ticket sales, donations, and match funding from Barclaycard, £1550 was raised on the night and a further donation of £250 has been received making £1800 in total. Sincere thanks to all concerned. (In our next newsletter you can read more about the new clinic in Namunsaala.)

David

**Wilbert is coming! He arrives on 17th
April and will be here until 21st May.
Don't miss him!**

Jordan's Day

World Water Day was celebrated two days early this year on 20th March. Once again William Parker School hosted over 200 primary school pupils for a day learning about the problems of living in Iganga - a country short of easily available running water at many times of the year.



Uganda has two wet and two dry seasons.

Friends worked in the lab with groups of pupils who first watched a demonstration and then investigated for themselves the different methods of irrigation suitable for use during the dry season.

MEMBERS!

Please tell us if you have an email address and would be happy to read Linking News on the web.

email Richard at herridgers@hotmail.com

We will send you a reminder and a link to our website to download our latest newsletter. We want you to continue reading our news but are keen to reduce admin costs.