



Daventry and District Friends of Iganga

# LINKING NEWS

[www.friendsofiganga.org](http://www.friendsofiganga.org)

Registered charity no. 1100624

Developing links between Daventry District and Iganga in Uganda

January 2009

**We wish all of our friends a very happy new year!**



## **Our latest ambulance finally arrives!**

In the last Linking News you saw pictures of the new 4WD vehicle bought with the main purpose of visiting the villages around Iganga for help with immunization and education. Now, at last, a secondhand St John ambulance has also arrived. These vehicles have been bought with the help of a generous donation from *Northampton County Council Unison branch, in memory of Richard Carr, a former union official, St John and Northampton Beckett Rotary club.*

You can see a group of Friends (left) at the send off from Northampton.

Right, you can see one of the many tool boxes filled with old tools, which have been painstakingly renovated by members of the charity 'Tools for Self Reliance', - all ready to be shipped out to Africa.



Dave Walsh (left) drove the ambulance to Tilbury for its sea journey to Mombasa.

Our good friend Muzamiru Bidondole was there to meet the ship, sort the tax and paperwork, and then drive the ambulance west across Kenya and finally into Uganda to Iganga. That was the plan, and Muz looked forward to being home safely in good time for Christmas. However, that did not quite work out and poor Muz eventually arrived home, after several difficulties along the way, on Christmas eve! Thanks to Muz once again!

*In our next issue we hope to bring you pictures of our two new vehicles in action both in the town and out in the bush.*

**In his latest email, David Balaba, Chairman of *Iganga Friends of Daventry* says...**

*... 'Please send an appreciation from Iganga to the people of Daventry concerning the new ambulance. The 4WD which was bought for the hospital is doing wonderfully in immunization and village out reaches. Many children are being saved from killer diseases. It is so wonderful. Thanks again for the efforts and contributions from Daventry.'*

**David**

*The next people to visit Iganga will be a group of teachers during February half term. They will work in their link schools, sharing ideas and views on teaching practices. Look out for pictures and reports in our next issue! Peter Minhinnett will lead a small group alongside to plan new, and work on, various projects in and around Iganga.*

## William Parker students visit Uganda

### Jinja International Youth Meeting 2008

We finally arrived in Africa! All our preconceptions of Uganda changed in an instant. We hear about war, famine, and poverty in Africa but all we saw was lush green rolling hills, fertile land and the friendliest people on the planet.

We were there representing William Parker School and were accompanied by Mrs Kate Mawer, Director of Humanities College, to attend the **Jinja International Youth Meeting 2008** at the **Discovery Centre**. This was organised by Richard Johnson, Andrea Leadsom and staff at Campion, Chenderit, Roade and William Parker Schools. Altogether 8 students from these schools attended and met up with 10 students from 5 Ugandan Secondary schools.

We were given topics like Social Justice, Values & Perceptions and Global citizenship to discuss and argue over between ourselves. These were so beneficial and interesting to us; they made us more aware and widened our perspectives on global issues. It was a fantastic opportunity which both of us feel we want to repeat.

Of course, it wasn't all discussion groups as we spent a lot of leisure time too with the Ugandan delegates. The most heart-warming moment was when we all sat around a campfire and sang both traditional and folk songs from our respective countries.

This visit has made a huge difference to both the Ugandan and British schools. We have made sure we will have future projects together to make sure we keep in touch. We have already exchanged our first letters with students from Iganga High School and now look forward to their replies.

Our visit was over in a flash. We enjoyed this thoroughly and we loved spending time with everyone there.

We would like to say a tremendous thank you to everyone who sponsored us; without your help we wouldn't have experienced this phenomenal international event. *Thank you!*

**Janak & Reesha**

William Parker Humanities College



### **...and Aggrey, deputy head of Iganga High School, writes...**

On Friday 31st October, I led a delegation from Iganga High School to meet other delegates from different schools in Uganda and UK at Jinja Discovery Centre for the (second) International Youth Conference.

Kate Mawer and I had not met before but through exchange of emails and photographs it was not difficult for both of us to know each other! Both the Ugandan and UK delegates were a direct match. One could easily get the impression that they had grown up together. It was very interesting to see them all working together during the conference, the workshop presentations, challenge course, camp fire and indeed in all they did.

The partnership between Iganga Town and Daventry is a source of pride and inspiration not only to me as an individual but the entire Iganga High School community. Iganga High School and William Parker school are building strong pillars.

My special thanks go to the organizers of the conference and also the participants who made the conference a success. I am also indebted to Kate Mawer who suggested Iganga High School to be invited.

**Aggrey Magoola**

***It is very easy to make a secure donation to 'Friends'***

**Visit our website [www.friendsofiganga.org](http://www.friendsofiganga.org) and click on 'Just Giving'**

**It is simple, safe and will help to boost our funds!**

***Thank you!***

***A message from Ruth who runs the Orphanage with brother Richard telling us how busy they are...***

Recently I attended a workshop/training in promotion of alternative skills by UNESCO Uganda. Now we have other new skills to train the children and the youth in Iganga.

I am still busy at the university and of recent I sat for my final exams of Masters in Human Resource Management and Development. So I am now engaged in research writing . I am currently lecturing - Issues to rural Development, Politics and National Development and Sociological Concepts. We are breaking of for Christmas Holidays on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

The gown business here is doing well, and we are able to help brides hire gowns from us most months now. It has enabled us to solve some necessities like feeding the orphans! So many prospective brides have come to know about it. For your information we have such unique and lovely gowns in the town and and we have even had three brides from Jinja! Please pass our thanks to all friends who have contributed.

**Ruth**

*Ruth is requesting more sets of bridesmaids dresses - especially sets of similar coloured dresses but in different sizes, as these are popular today in Africa. Also headdresses, gloves, and veils and more gowns if possible. (xxl, and large sizes are very welcome!)*

*Their gown business helps the Orphanage to raise funds for school fees, food and other living expenses.*

*Marriage of Robert(Fellow in 2006) and Joan who is wearing a hired gown from Ruth.*



*John working at Tools for Self Reliance in Northampton*

***John Opio was our sixth Commonwealth Fellow from Uganda who spent 3 months in the UK experiencing work in Environmental Health with various Local Authorities in and around Northamptonshire. As he was leaving he wrote the following...***

It's quite difficult to find the right words to express how happy I am for all of you who collectively and individually contributed to my taking up the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship in the UK. It's no measure of your kind and caring love to all of us who were here for the noble cause to see how we can further the professionalism towards contribution to MDGs. (millennium development goals.

I am unable to exhaustively write down the account of the fellowship successes, wonderful experiences and and friendships I have had while in the UK, but just to leave behind a brief report. I also recognised the efforts of professional colleagues in the health sector broadly-Environmental Health and Health Protection Agency. The individuals in these fields are wonderful and friendly; please convey my best regards to all of them.

Thank you all very much!

***John Nelson Opio***

## ***Let's go to Iganga in June 2009***

***10-17 days from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June arriving home on Monday 15th June or Monday 22nd June***

Fancy a holiday experience with a difference where you can use your skills and do something worthwhile for people in a developing country, whilst at the same time have a holiday to remember for the rest of your life?..... Then join Daventry Friends of Iganga as part of their annual visit for the 5<sup>th</sup> year.

This visit is being organised by Peter Minhinnett, Environmental Health Practitioner, Chairman of 'Daventry Friends of Iganga'

***Will include a 3 day Safari at the end possibly Chimp Trekking, Rhino walk, Game Drive and Nile Boat ride to Murchison Falls or similar - awesome!!***

If interested contact Peter for more information on 0116 2393061

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**... and now a new link with Japan!**



*Yoshi meets Aggrey, deputy head teacher, Iganga High*

In September, through the kind help and introduction of **Peter Minhinnett and Daventry Friends of Iganga**, a visit was made to the Friends' partners in Iganga by **Kazuyoshi Matsumura Kazuyoshi**, the director of Naturing Project, a community organisation and social enterprise from Kagoshima in the South of Japan, accompanied by **Phillida Purvis**, of Links Japan, which promotes links between British and Japanese voluntary and community organisations and NGOs, and **Julia Brown**. Creating links between Japanese and African communities is an initiative proposed by Links Japan. Iganga became the destination after Phillida met Peter at a meeting of **BUILD** (Building Understanding of International Links for Development) of which both the Daventry Friends of Iganga and Links Japan are members. Before going to Uganda, Yoshi and Phillida met **Kate Mawer at William Parker School** in Daventry.

One of the main purposes of the visits was to establish a triangular link between the William Parker School, and a primary school in Daventry, the Iganga High School and a primary school in Iganga, and the Globe Academy a school for children from primary through secondary school, which Yoshi opens in Japan in April.

Making such links between Kagoshima, Iganga and Daventry Yoshi sees as being enriching and horizon-broadening for all three communities.

Yoshi, Phillida and Julia spent three days in Iganga and were guided, to many schools, the hospital, clinics, and some rural communities outside the town by members of **(IFOD) Iganga Friends of Daventry**; David Balaba, Ruth Nakaima and Muzamiru Bidondole. They also saw some of the many water sources that 'Daventry Friends' have helped to protect, as well as many of the projects carried out by *Daventry Friends*.



*Yoshi and Julia meet Ruth, Muz, his father and grandfather (2nd right) and other family members.*

### **UKOWLA (United Kingdom One World Linking Association) Conference, November 2008**

The annual UKOWLA National Conference this year was held at The Muslim Resource Centre, Coventry. This was a wonderful opportunity for *Friends* to make new contacts and renew old friendships. Many linking organisations were represented from different parts of the UK and all had rewarding experiences with communities in Africa, India and South America to share. Many delegates attended from these linking communities and they were made to feel very welcome.

The conference theme was 'Partnerships for Peace and Reconciliation' and this coincided with Peace Month in Coventry. This theme provided many opportunities to for serious discussion within 10 workshops spread throughout the two days. Some workshop titles were: 'Exploring how education about war promotes peace' - a workshop organized by the Red Cross, 'International dimensions in schools' - facilitated by a Governor of a school with a Sri Lanka partnership and 'Mukutano Junction - a Kenyan soap opera' - which provided a great snapshot of daily life in a partnership community.

There were also great opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment during informal morning and evening networking sessions. On Friday evening there was a Samba session and a chance for delegates to get up on stage and perform songs, poems and share stories.

The conference was a great success and much was learned about improving community links and developing UKOWLA as an organization supporting these links.

**Mark Fyfe (vice chairman)**

The trustees meet regularly, around every 6 weeks, and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

The Committee includes

Peter Minhinnett (Chairman), Mark Fyfe (Vice-Chairman), Richard Scott-Herridge (Secretary), Pam Eastaff (Treasurer), Carey Minhinnett (Membership Secretary), Dave Walsh, Nick Ravine, Jan Morrott, Annette Dunn, Phil Edwards, Julia Smith, Jude Eddon, and Lizzie Clarke.

**For more information about the work of the Friends, please look on our website [www.friendsofiganga.org](http://www.friendsofiganga.org) or contact Richard Scott-Herridge on 01788 814686 or at [info@friendsofiganga.org](mailto:info@friendsofiganga.org)**