



LINKING NEWS

April 2009

Iganga Hospital featured in Comic Relief...

Our newly decorated Children's Ward was filmed when Denise Van Outen, who climbed Kilimanjaro as part of BBC's Comic Relief fund-raising programme, visited Uganda. She took a mother with her sick child back to 'our' hospital in Iganga! Daventry Friends had painted the ward during their visit in 2008, to help make it a happier place for the sick children.

Comic Relief featured the hospital in their evening television programme. In the programme, a mother of twins had sadly watched her son die of malaria, and now his twin sister needed urgent attention or she would surely die too.



There was no money for drugs or hospital visits, but she was taken by Denise back to the hospital, and was filmed there in 'our' ward.

Comic Relief was raising money to buy mosquito nets - although we know, of course, that nets alone will not stop children from dying of malaria. Millions of pounds were raised on the night. Thanks to Daventry Friends there are now nets up in this ward. The group going to Iganga in June this year will be cleaning and painting other wards in the hospital.

(Pictures taken after we had finished painting last year)

Come and join the 'Friends' for a talk with pictures

'Partnership Through Education'

Daventry William Parker School
Ashby Road, Daventry,
on **Thursday, 21st May**
at **6.45 for 7.15pm**

There will be a brief AGM and then teachers will talk about their experiences of teaching in Iganga in schools with large classes and few facilities - yet a great interest and enthusiasm for learning by the children.

Now read about the recent visit to Iganga by teachers and Friends

Kate Mawer, Director of Humanities College, William Parker School says...

When Richard Scott-Herridge visited William Parker School many years ago, armed with a video of Iganga and some photographs, I doubt if he knew then where it would lead. Over the years an increasing number of schools in the Daventry area have introduced Iganga into their curriculum with the use of those images. William Parker has enjoyed the opportunity to work together with Daventry and District Friends of Iganga and also with an increasing number of other schools in the district to develop curriculum partnership initiatives such as Turning the Tap (see *back page*) and Jordan's Day.



Teachers and Friends stop in Jinja on their way home for a group photo

However, to have had the opportunity to visit Iganga with both students and teachers in March 2009 has been an absolute delight and privilege. For me it is difficult to sum up in just a few lines all that has been achieved through this opportunity to meet and work with Ugandan teachers and students *for just 5 days*. So I will let others do the speaking for me!

--The impact of seeing Daventry and Iganga Friends working together - **'You don't want to pass through the world without leaving footprints behind. Creating employment, changing lives, linking people to people. I think that legacy is very important'** Mbale, Eastern Uganda. 18/7/08

--The impact of being in Ugandan schools and learning that we share the same emotions and challenges - **'Silence makes the real conversation between friends, not the saying but the never need to say, is what counts'**. Written by students at Iganga High School in the dormitory.

--The impact of spending time with Ugandan teachers and students **'We came to realise that most of us really had similar values but the difference was that the effort, zeal and determination put into holding onto our values varied'**. A student from Iganga Secondary School

'Let's keep in touch and continue to work for the good of a better, well informed and responsible generation. It is my pleasure to be of service to our partnership so as to keep it moving from strength to strength'. Aggrey Magoola Talenga Deputy Headteacher, Iganga High School. Kate

Paula Raynham from Kilsby Primary linked with Nakavule State Primary says...

Our initial warm welcome did not change throughout the visit. Nakavule staff and children are extremely friendly. Each class chanted greetings, clapped their special rhythmic praising clap and rubbed their hands together in blessings.



These boys are playing with a football made from polythene bags!

Lessons that I observed humbled me. The smallest class had 78 pupils and the largest



115. There were virtually no teaching resources other than blackboards and chalk. The staff taught the children through effective methods such as chanting, repeating, rote learning

and copying. Sometimes there were magical moments when the teacher broke into song and everyone joined in singing, dancing and clapping in complex rhythms. Paula

Hayley Tucker from Ashby Fields Primary School visited their link school, Kasokoso; she says...

I sang 'Five little ducks...' to the children and they acted out the story whilst joining in with actions and words which they picked up very quickly. It was so much fun for all of us! The children were so engaged and they all wanted to be the ducks. They enjoyed 'Five little speckled frogs even more, especially the 'glub, glub!' line in the song!





The children in P4 read the booklets sent by the children from Ashby Fields in Daventry, and then they made their own about Iganga and their lives in Uganda, Africa. This will be one of the projects that will occur annually between the partnership schools.

The P1 class teacher was very keen to learn about the reading strategies we use in England to help the children to read. I told her about *Jolly phonics* and left some resources for her to use. Hayley



Liz Butler, in her role as Lead Advisor for Behaviour and Attendance in the Northamptonshire, says...

In England I work with many schools, both Primary and Secondary with a focus on the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and their effect on motivation and behaviour.

I took a play chute to Iganga with activities for developing language, numeracy and cooperative group work as well as confidence and lots of fun! One of my four sessions was with about 70 pupils - a very challenging experience, due to the large numbers around a 5 metre play chute and a very limited understanding of English!

On arrival in Iganga and following discussions with the Senior Education Officer and schools it became apparent that training for staff was something that didn't happen very often and that they would welcome this opportunity. I eventually led two training sessions - one for Primary Head teachers and Deputies on Behaviour Management and one for the staff of a Primary School on teaching Social and Emotional skills and teaching structure for motivation and engagement.

For me this was an incredible learning experience - which will affect both my approaches to work and to life. The importance of establishing basic values and emphasising them through all interactions with staff and children, whatever the circumstances, has been made. Liz



Lizzie Mitchel from Grange Primary had a good time despite being ill for part of the trip...



Left is Iganga Children's Centre's school orchestra. The Head teacher, Hawa, is in the middle. She proudly told me how her school had entered a national music and dance competition in the capital city of Kampala, and out of 52 schools they came 6th!

I had some clothes made for me to bring back for the children at *The Grange School*.

My class loved trying them on and we had a fashion show as part of



my assembly. I told the whole school all about my amazing trip! They were truly fascinated to hear about Iganga and their partner school *Iganga Children's Centre*, even the youngest managed to sit for the 40 minute assembly and there are still lots of questions coming my way, which has been really rewarding - the children are genuinely intrigued to learn about their partner school.

The school gave me a wonderful send off on my last day of teaching with them; pupils shared in dancing, singing and music. The picture shows me presenting Hawa with a gift from my school. Lizzie

What's it like on the Management Committee?

I have been a member of Daventry and District Friends of Iganga for over 6 years. Attending Management Committee meetings has been a very rewarding experience not least because I can have a direct involvement in the decision making process of the charity. The projects are the most important part of the Friends' work and take up the majority of the business of the meeting. Meetings are held every 6 to 8 weeks at a committee members house - tea, coffee and biscuits (or cake!) are generously provided by the host. The meetings provide plenty of opportunity for lively discussion. Members who newly join the committee are made to feel welcome and their contribution is always acknowledged.

I am always taken aback by the commitment of members of the Friends in giving up their free time to organise fund raising events or talking to schools and local community groups about the charity. However, having travelled to Iganga in 2006 to see the development and support that the Friends give to the district and the positive influence that we have on the daily lives of the people our time is well spent.

Join us!

Mark Fyfe

The ambulance was finally handed over during the February visit. As is the custom, we had many long speeches! This included one from Peter Minhinnett who explained how David Walsh had masterminded acquiring the second-hand St John ambulance via Rotary, and using a donation from UNISON, in memory of Richard Carr, transported it to Iganga. Thanks to Muzamiru Bidondole for his help!

Ha ambulance is now in the hands of Iganga Town Council and will be used in and around the town, and to take emergencies from the clinic to the hospital.



TURNING THE TAP 2009

To celebrate World Water Day, William Parker, with Kate Mawer, once again hosted this event. Pupils from no less than eight different primary schools in our district were represented this year. They were treated to a variety of workshops; Peter and Carey demonstrated water harvesting in Uganda, and Jan and Jude were simulating the protection of a water source (see right) and many others.

Whilst in Iganga in February Paula Raynham, from Kilsby School, was treated to a fantastic display of traditional dance and music. The video that she took was then used in a dance workshop for Turning the Tap. The young pupils enjoyed copying the movements and dancing to the music.

The pictures below show the dancers at Iganga Children's Centre Primary School, and, on the right, at William Parker School for 'Turning the Tap'. You can just see the film of the African dancers on the screen at the top right



We held another successful 'Race Night' in March and, with 'Matched Funding' from *Barclaycard*, raised in excess of £1500. Thank you to Barclaycard and to all those who helped on the evening and the punters who came along to enjoy a 'Night at the Races'!

There is still time to go to Iganga this 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?

If interested contact Peter Minhinnett for more information on 0116 2393061

peter@minhinnett.fsnet.co.uk Mobile 07876 475713