Daventry & District Friends of Iganga

LINKING NEWS

www.friendsofiganga.org Registered charity no. 1100624

Developing links between Daventry District and Iganga in Uganda

February 2010

A message from our Chairman, Peter...

I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and hope this first Linking News of 2010 finds you well and looking forward to news of Iganga and our friends so far away in Uganda.

Our most recent major project continues with the building of the Nurses' accommodation at Namunsaala which has just recently been roofed. Thanks once again to David Walsh and also to Julia and the community of Rothersthorpe for raising the majority of the funds required. We look forward to the latest news from Namunsaala as Mark, our vice-chairman, returns from his January trip.

We hear that **Iganga Hospital is the best performing hospital in Uganda for the 4th year in a row.** Daventry has been presented with a certificate (left) by Iganga Friends of Daventry, in recognition of our work to help improve Health Services in Iganga District. Included with the certificate was a copy of the Medical Superintendent, Dr Lubega's, speech.

Nassar is now half way through the 2nd year of his University Social Work and Social Administration course at Mukono Uganda Christian University, and Lizzy continues her hard work raising almost all the funds to support Nasser through his Degree. Lizzy has recently moved to South Africa to study with 'Youth with a Mission' and we wish her well there. She has stood down as a Trustee while she is away.
See our message from Nassar on page 3.

I have spoken many times recently to **Ruth** at the Orphanage regarding the supporting of Orphans with their school fees and other living expenses. There are several young Orphans who have joined them in the last 2 years and who now need to start school. Ruth is asking Friends if we can support them through 'Margaret's Children's Fund'. We may be able to do this and the Trustees will be discussing the possibility at future meetings, but we will need more support. If you feel you would like to become a regular subscriber to the 'Margaret's Children's Fund' please look on our website for details. All of the money raised is paid towards this worthy cause with no expenses or overheads taken out, and giving full value to your money along with gift aid where possible (www.friendsofiganga.org)

The Iganga Town Clinic continues to thrive and we understand that the Town Council should be receiving funds in the next 6 months with which to fence the compound and make it a safer place at night when it will be open 24 hours a day. We hope to be able to help with further developments - perhaps new wards or expansion - but with our limited funds these are sadly just dreams at the present time. We never give up hope and again the Trustees are always discussing possible future projects.

Mark Fyfe, our Vice Chairman, has just made a personal visit to Uganda, to rekindle friendships he first made when he travelled with me in 2006. Mark visited Iganga briefly and, in addition to delivering post and renewing friendships, he was brought up to date by Muzamiru Bidndole with the latest projects and Iganga Friends' news.

May I wish you a Happy New Year and I hope to see you soon at one of our meetings or social functions. Please check our website for the latest news; we are again working on its updating.

Thanks
Peter Minhinnett
Chairman Daventry Friends of Iganga.

Fancy a trip in 2010?

If you are interested in visiting Iganga, either for the first time or to make a return visit, then please consider travelling with me, Peter Minhinnett, when I lead a party of about 20 people in July later this year. You can get more details from me if you need it; please email peter@minhinnett.fsnet.co.uk or phone 0116 2393061 to discuss. The cost of the flight is at present around £530. 10-14 days in Kampala and Iganga will cost around £400 - a total of just over £900. We also hope to go on safari at the end of the visit for 3 or 4 days which would raise the cost to nearer £1300. Yes, I know it's not cheap, but I can promise you great fun and most likely a life changing experience whilst supporting such a worthwhile cause. If you are interested get in touch and let's start planning! During our visit we hope to complete the Nurse's home in Namunsaala, achieve more painting and maintenance at the hospital and make more visits to schools and other projects – all in conjunction with the locals. Don't worry if you think you are not young or fit enough or have no skills, your wish to travel with us is all we need and I am sure, like many people before you, we will find something worthwhile for you to do.

Peter Minhinnett

Orphans enjoy their first day out together

Daventry Friends were very happy to fund the Orphans on their first ever trip out together to Jinja to the Agricultural and Trade Show – very much like our Royal Show.

Ruth arranged the 25 mile trip and everyone got very excited. The little ones saw many dangerous animals like pythons, and crocodiles!

They learned about where their food comes from and how it is best grown. Here are some of their comments about what they learned:

--Sugar is made from sugar canes.

--Sugar canes are planted in lines to have enough space for growth.

--Sugar canes take 12months before they are harvested.

--We saw different types of fish like the mud fish, tilapia, and Nile perch.

--Fish are caught in nets then preserved by smoking and drying. … and many more!

Ruth with the children from the Orphanage at the show

The older children learned about the source of river Nile, fish farming, food processing and preservation, techniques like drying food under the sun, or the use of preservatives, They were told about water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and bilharzia. They also heard about the various crops grown in Uganda like cassava, maize, egg plants, pumpkins, oranges, avocado, and water melon. The fact that juice is made from fruits like water melons and vegetable oil comes from plants too. Coffee and cotton grow easily in Uganda. So much was learnt! Ruth said this was much more practical learning than theory which is conducted in the classroom and it will help towards their exams too.

Ruth and the children thanked Daventry Friends for their financial contribution and for allowing this trip to go ahead.

Iganga will now be a safer place!

Traffic calming measures have been introduced within the town in the last six months due to the unacceptable number of pedestrian road casualties. This followed the resurfacing of the road, removing the many pot holes! It was also noted that traffic calming has been introduced on the main highway from Entebbe right through to Jinja and Iganga; where centres of population exist along the route, there are two or three different types of speed hump, and road traffic signs showing a maximum speed 50km per hour. Traffic police may be observed with hand-held speed cameras!

Iganga Friends of Daventry (IFOD) – Annual report for schools 2009

On 16th April 2009, **Aggrey M. Talenga** (Iganga High school) and **Rita Kababiito** (Butt Villa) were elected as Education Link Officers for Iganga District.

They called a consultative meeting with schools, particularly those already linked to a school in Daventry and IFOD. The purpose of the meeting was to get the views of stake holders, particularly the school administrators and IFOD executives, on ways and means of strengthening the link between Iganga and Daventry schools as well as between Iganga schools. It was very fortunate to have in attendance from Daventry, **Jude Eddon** (DFOI representative) who shared her Daventry schools' experience with the group.

No less than 12 schools were visited by Ms Ruth Nakaima (Vice Chairperson of IFOD), Mr. Fred Bisobye (Treasurer) and Mr. Aggrey. M Talenga (Education Link Officer) in order to ascertain commitment to international links.

It was resolved to organize a number of activities including the ***Iganga – Daventry Cup*** as part of the **International Partnership Day celebrations**. The idea behind these activities was to raise awareness and show appreciation for international cooperation.

Of the schools who have already commemorated International Partnership Day, the conclusions drawn were:

- Joint school activities would go a long way to raise enthusiasm and strengthen our schools links.
- To maintain enthusiasm so far generated, each registered school with IFOD needs to be linked with a school in UK.
- In an effort to strengthen the international links, we hope that our schools will be able to learn from one another and even share facilities.

Daventry thanks Aggrey and Rita and all those who have helped towards this valuable exercise, and must endeavour to continue the excellent work of the school links that has so far taken place.

A message from Nassar:

Hello Friends, I wish to acknowledge the assistance, support, care, advice and love that you have always rendered to me. My studies at the University are going well and I thank you. I am now in the second year of my course studying a Bachelor's course in Social Work and Social Administration at the Uganda Christian University in Mukono. I was inspired to take this course because of the love, care and support our late mum, Margaret Nakidodo. showed me when she was still alive.

Therefore, friends, one of my future plans is to continue helping people to help themselves and I am promising even before I graduate to start up an agency in the name of **Community Health Uganda** (CHU). The activities of this agency will include :-

1. HIV/AIDS Counselling and Testing,**2**. Environmental Health Activities like sensitizing the local masses about good hygiene and sanitation, sensitizing them about benefits of afforestration (Agro forestry).

Nassar

Jordan is back on his feet...

We are happy to announce a good recovery to date for orphan **Jordan** who needed to have his spleen removed in an emergency operation in ***Iganga Hospital***, following a nasty fall out of a tree.

Here he is showing off his scar!

Poor Jordan was in hospital over Christmas. He must now try to keep out of trouble and well away from infection – difficult, living in Uganda, but he will undergo regular check-ups.

Many of you read the story via **http://www.justgiving.com/Care-4-Jordan** Thanks so much to those of you who donated towards his health care through this JustGiving site. If you still wish to donate, any extra funds will go towards Jordan's ongoing medical expenses and education via Margaret's Children's fund.

Nurses' home at Namunsaala...

For the last 4 years David and Barbara Walsh have been raising funds to build a clinic and nurses` accommodation in Namunsaala (linked with Rothersthorpe), a small village 6 miles from Iganga in the rural parts of east Uganda.

The cost to date has been about £25000, the majority of which has been raised within the village of Rothersthorpe through village organisations and individuals. The rest has been raised by *Daventry Friends of Iganga*, through whom the link was established, and the charity *Water for Kids*.

The clinic was opened last year and is well used. However because there is no accommodation for the nurses the clinic is only operating in the daytime. Consequently with the maternity section closed at night, it causes considerable distress to expectant mums in and around the village. The picture shows the new roof in place but we need to raise a further £3000 to complete the project. This will provide accommodation for the senior nurse, an assistant and a midwife, allowing 24 hr opening of the clinic. We then hope to try and raise a bit extra to give solar panel lighting to the clinic as the nearest electricity is about 4 miles away!

David continues...

On the 27th March we will be organising what has become our annual "French Night" fundraiser in the Rothersthorpe Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets have been kept at £12-50 and can be reserved by contacting us on 01604 831455. If you wish to support this event please contact us as soon as possible so we can plan the catering. You will need to provide your own liquid refreshment, which does not seem to have been a problem previously!

(Editor's note – a really good evening!!)

I understand there may be 2 teachers from Iganga with us that evening who are on an exchange visit and I am sure they will be delighted to meet us and try some French cuisine!

Please contact us should you wish to discuss this event or if you feel you could do a little fundraising on our behalf. To donate you can do so through our JustGiving page on **http://www.justgiving.com/friendsofiganga-namunsaala-nurses** .

Many thanks

David and Barbara Walsh

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Late news ...

***Forthcoming visits to Daventry:* Aggrey Talenga** (pictured on page 3), teacher and Education Link Officer for Iganga, will be experiencing life in England in a few weeks time. Whilst Aggrey and another teacher are here, we will also receive a flying visit by friends from our Japanese link. News of their visit next time!

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

For more information about the work of the Friends, please look on our website www.friendsofiganga.org
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