



Daventry & District Friends of Iganga

LINKING NEWS

www.friendsofiganga.org

Registered charity no. 1100624

Developing links between Daventry District and Iganga in Uganda

April 2011

Yazz Reeve made her first trip to Uganda in February ...

Wow... what an amazing experience! My friend and I travelled to Iganga on the 17th of February with a teacher from Danetre School and some members of the Daventry Friends. We had seen many pictures and heard many stories but nothing we had heard or seen compared with the real experience.

We helped to protect a water source in a village which was to supply 3000 people with access to safe water for the first time. We also went to the Orphanage that we had heard so much about. It was great as the kids just allowed us to join in with whatever they were doing. We were able to see the start of a new indoor kitchen which would make life easier, and improved dormitories for the children with mattresses, nets and new wardrobes which were built by Tom.

One of my favourite experiences was when we went to King Of Kings Primary School and we played football with some of children who were there. They then sang us a song before we had to leave and it was so lovely.

We were some of the last people to see the Bujagali Falls before the land was all flooded in order to build a new hydro-electric dam. Such a beautiful spot soon to disappear.

For the first time in our lives we experienced tear gas and real gun shots - amazing but really rather frightening. National and local elections were taking place whilst we were in Iganga and, in order to keep them peaceful, the police and army were stationed on every corner. On this particular occasion, they fired tear gas towards a group of people who were probably just chatting, but they happened to be right outside our hotel, and we all ran inside.

We all had a great time and I am certainly looking forward to returning to Iganga one day in the future.

Yazz Reeve (age 15)

(pictures show Namaboga water source before and after protection, Bujagali Falls, King of Kings School, new kitchen, refurbished swing with Zuleha and Tom, and Jordan in boys' dormitory all at the Orphanage)

We hope to see many of you at our **AGM on May 11th** where, after a short business meeting, there will be lots to hear about our recent visits and the projects achieved this year.

Please remember that **June is the time to renew your membership** and it is most helpful if you would consider creating a Standing Order for this.

We would like to thank you all for your help towards the funds raised during this year - especially to our school links who have helped.

Like all Charities, we are finding it difficult to raise enough money to do all that we would like to and ask for your continued support, either in offering to organise an event or simply through a standing order for Margaret's Children towards education, or a one-off donation. **Thank you!**



Daventry and District Friends of Iganga Chairman's Report for 2010-11

Hello to all members and supporters of 'Friends of Iganga'. Another year has passed, with 2010 being a busy and successful year for the Friends and our link and partnership with the community of Iganga in Uganda. We hope that we keep you in touch through our newsletter, various events and e-mails. Don't forget you can always find out more from our website.



A drama lesson in school

There have been visits in both directions with Aggrey Talenga from Iganga High School, accompanied by Christine Tikyamulala, visiting us last spring as part of the Global Schools link with Iganga and the schools in and around Daventry. Aggrey has become an excellent ambassador for 'Iganga Friends of Daventry' and is helping Jan Morrott, our Trustee who links the Daventry and Iganga schools. With the assistance of Kate Mawer at William Parker School and many other teachers, the school links continue to grow with more schools becoming involved and the promise of more visits. 17 schools in the Daventry area now have links with schools in Iganga. In February this year Jan Morrott, Jude Eddon and others, including 2 students and a teacher from

Danetre, visited those schools in Iganga, helping to strengthen the links.

The recent link with our Japanese school also continues, and another group visit from Japan has just taken place. This 3-way link between Japan, Daventry and Iganga is an exciting development of the partnership with Iganga and it is hoped that this will continue and build into the future. We now look forward to an exchange visit to Japan by either Daventry or Iganga. So far only Skype sessions have been possible between Daventry and Japan. Unfortunately, Iganga students have to send their questions and replies ahead of the sessions as they cannot yet join in the Skype chats, but they are kept informed at every step.

As you will know we regularly collect and store items that will be useful in Iganga. This includes hospital equipment, especially beds and mattresses, equipment for disabled persons, books for schools, sewing machines and tool kits. David Walsh's involvement with the charity *Tools for Self Reliance* (Northampton) has meant we could send excellent tool kits for use in and around Iganga. In 2010 we were able to send another container and David, who always leads the loading and dispatch, again tried to be in Iganga when the container arrived. Sadly, once again timing the arrival was difficult with delays in the container reaching Mombasa and crossing Kenya, to arrive in Iganga only 24 hours before David was flying home! So although he was able to get it unpacked he did not have the time to see the goods handed over to their recipients in Iganga. Collecting, storing and then dispatching goods is a time consuming, difficult, and some may say expensive task. But when we are given such useful items as the hospital beds and schoolbooks, and we get such wonderful thanks from our Iganga friends, the Trustees believe that we should continue to plan for another container. If you think you may have something useful for us to send then please check with one of us – but please no computers or secondhand electrical equipment and no old clothes.



Unpacking the container

8 people accompanied me on my visit to Iganga in July 2010, including friends, students and one teacher from William Parker School. We all had a good time and were in Iganga for the completion of the nurses' houses at Namunsaala Clinic. David, who led this project, was pleased to see this during his December visit.



In last year's report I advised you of the plea from Muzamiru Bidondole that we help to refurbish the Iganga District Hospital as it had water problems,

making it difficult to keep the place clean. During our July visit, with help from 'Water for Kids' funds, we were able to do some great work in the operating theatre such that all the staff were thrilled that they had water to assist them with cleaning instead of carrying water so far as in the past.



At the Orphanage the children are growing up and progressing through school where they continue to get excellent results. Jordan, who sadly had an accident at the end of 2009, has fully recovered and started secondary school this year. Tom who started at the technical college to learn carpentry was their top student. Nasser finishes his University course in 2011 and we look forward to him graduating later this year. Thanks, especially to Lizzy Clarke, Helen Charles and our friends at Daily Bread in Northampton, who have helped with his fees over the last 3 years. I hope you have seen the 'Margaret's Children' newsletter that we sent out by e-mail with more detailed news. We would love to have more people helping us with funding these children, making it easier for the Friends to support them. Their education will get more expensive once more of them start at secondary school, which generally is not free in Uganda. Please consider

giving £20 a year or £5 a month or even a one off donation towards their education.

I must take this chance to thank my Committee of Trustees for their hard work and attendance at meetings during the year, and a big thanks to our hosts Jan Morrott and Pam Eastaff. We still need more help and new ideas, so if you feel you can help please come along to a Committee meeting and maybe we can persuade you to become a Trustee in the future.

I must also thank our good friends in Iganga who lead the 'Iganga Friends of Daventry Association' for their continuing support and involvement. They include David Balaba (Chairman), Ruth Nakaima (Secretary), Muzamiru Bidondole (Link Officer) and their Committee.

Thanks for your continuing support, I hope to see you at one of our meetings soon, please keep in touch, and if you have yet to visit Iganga why not join us there soon.

Peter Minhinnett
Chairman

World Water Day, in March, was once again celebrated at William Parker School. Organised by Kate Mawer over two days, primary children were treated to a day of learning about the problems encountered in getting safe water to everybody. Yr 9 students helped in the teaching and Friends were there running workshops too. Look at their comments:



It made me think how hard it would be to carry that water every day of your life for miles and miles

We looked at how rain water was collected, called rainwater harvesting - a cheap source to be used later.

My favourite workshop was when we had to design where to put a play pump and rain water harvesting



I liked carrying the big jug of water, because it made me think how hard it would be to carry that water every day of your life for miles and miles

It is not easy to get clean water in Uganda

My favourite workshop was designing a safe water source

Now I can imagine how hard it is, to carry water. I was glad that I don't have to do it every day. I hope people soon get pumps near them.

Education costs!



More and more young people in Iganga would love to undertake courses which would lead them on to employment, just like the ones offered by **The Pioneer Technical Institute** in Iganga. We were amazed at the range of courses being undertaken by students who hitherto had very little chance of following their dream into the work place.



All youths above 14 years of age, male and female regardless of any academic background, and all who have special needs, are welcome. The Institute upholds a motto 'SELF RELIANCE' which lays out the aims of the training at the centre.



The Orphans that you help to support are all growing up and doing well at school, and we hope they will be able to go on to earn their own living.



However, it costs!

The Pioneer Institute route is a good way to ensure a passage into paid work, but we know they will need support for this. Can you help? Please ask Friends for more details.



Stop Press Iganga ...

Chairman Peter has just returned from a 12 day visit to Uganda and spent 8 days in Iganga. Two new small projects started and funded by DFOI are:

- A large roofed shelter in the grounds of Iganga Council Clinic to protect patients from rain and sun, while at the same time giving some protection from the risk of infection which can happen when waiting inside the building. There is a serious high risk of TB in Uganda at the present time and this shelter will be a great help.
- There are still many times when electricity is off due to Government power shortages and the Council not able to meet the expensive charges. The cost of kerosene for lamps gets more expensive. Previously DFOI provided a small solar panel, and Peter was able to pay for this to be upgraded, plus install an improved battery and more light fittings to provide lighting at night during emergencies. This was a special request from staff and all were thrilled at the improvements.

The new Municipal Council intends upgrading the Clinic to a higher standard and Peter attended meetings to discuss how to plan and fund this large project. It is hoped that DFOI will be able to get involved with this over the next 5 years and possibly look for funding to assist Iganga get the health facilities they want and need.

Peter was once again happy to see many friends, see the progress with the projects and plan for more visits by members and friends in the near future. He brought greetings to all DFOI Members from everyone in Iganga who so value our friendship and assistance.

Webale inyo, Kale!

(Thank you very much, OK!' says Peter)

Fund Raising

Daventry Friends welcome your ideas for fund raising. If you are willing to run an event or help to increase our funds, please do contact us. If you see an event advertised, please support us if you can!