



**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 2016**

## **Welcome back to Linking News 2016**

It has been a long time since our last copy, but much has happened during that time. Read on to see how Iganga is slowly transforming, and how Daventry has helped in much of this transformation.

Our 20<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> in Daventry Methodist Church Hall and we would love to see you there.

## **Iganga Municipal Clinic**

Early visitors to Iganga stayed initially at the East View Guest House and then at the Mwaana Highway Hotel, a four storey building with en-suite bedrooms! It fronted onto the main East-West highway across Africa. Opposite, down a side road and just off the main road, there was a Clinic which was in quite a poor state of repair and shared the site with the old Council offices. It was little used in those days, but such a clinic was needed.

Daventry stepped in and, working together, the clinic has gradually been brought up to a Grade III.



*The clinic as it was...*



*... and now*

You can see the new roof line with the added canopy for shelter, and is even used for clinics when needed.

The ambulance is parked there and is about to have a new shelter to protect it from the harsh sunlight which has begun to damage it badly. This has been paid for by a donation from a well wisher.

**Water** – something we all take for granted. The number of patients using the clinic has grown enormously, with the consequent need for more stored water.

The original water tank, for harvesting roof water, held 2000 litres. With much greater use of the clinic, an extra tank of 6000 litres was needed. It is huge!

Rain water harvested this way will save the clinic from having to use too much piped water which is a very expensive commodity in Africa.



## New projects for 2016

This year we are keeping our focus on the Clinic. The population of Iganga has grown and the numbers of people using the clinic is growing daily too. The number of in-patients to the clinic is hampered by lack of wards and beds.

Friends have been asked by the Municipal Council to help finance the building of new wards. There is room for 2 new wards, and Friends Committee has agreed in principle. We are awaiting more detailed plans before we can go further. In the meantime we will continue to raise more funds.

We always welcome new members and friends who wish to donate or make a standing order – either for General projects such as the clinic improvements or for Margaret's Children's Fund which you can read about on the next page...

We would very much like you to consider becoming a new committee member. A meeting every 6-8 weeks is not too onerous and new ideas for raising funds would be most welcome.

## ..and below more of what was achieved in 2015



*Boys washroom and toilets*

### Centre for the Blind and Partially Sighted

The new wash room and toilet block for the boys living at the Centre for blind and partially sighted children is pictured left.

The dormitories were also sprayed to eliminate bugs in the mattresses – and was very necessary.

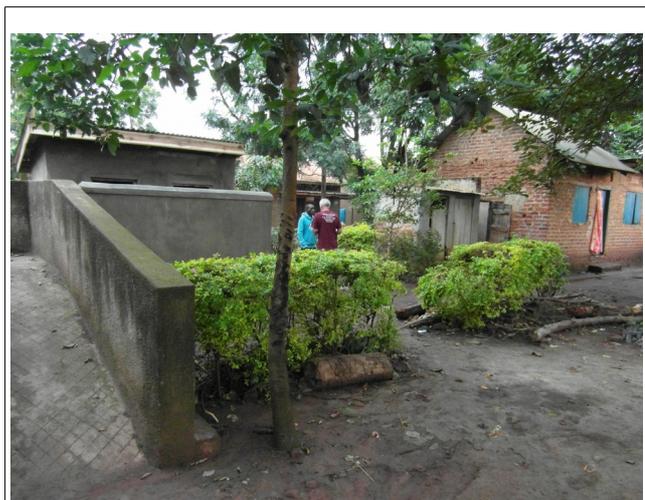
In the past, Friends have completed much renovation at the centre. Complete refurbishment of teacher Paul's quarters, painting of the boys and girls dormitories, and maintenance work outside has made life for the blind children a little easier.

### Our Orphanage

During the last 20 years, so much has happened at our Orphanage. In the beginning it was run by Margaret who invited 'street children' into her small home. Like Topsy, it has grown!

Sadly Margaret died and her family, with Ruth leading, took over looking after the growing family of orphans.

Now there is a work room, an area for woodwork, a dormitory for boys and one for girls. A brick kitchen was added a few years ago. More recently a new eco loo block was built and last year the wash rooms were constructed. In the picture, you can see, in the background, the old washrooms which were in desperate need of modernisation.



*New and old washrooms at the orphanage*

# Schools in Iganga

**We continue to support the children from the Orphanage** with their education. Unlike England, the majority of schools are private and the fees can be costly. State schools are few but 'free' although parents still have to supply money for lunchtime food and uniforms. These schools can have very big classes. The largest I have seen was 128 pupils in one room being taught together.



Typical private primary school classroom

Private schools with smaller classes are favoured by most parents and they will do anything to raise the funds needed for such an education.

Friends have until now been supporting some of the Orphans in private education but, after much discussion, have decided to opt for sending them to the state schools close by. It is felt that to give more children the chance of a basic education, rather than private for the few, is in their best interest. On the right is a copy of a typical term's fees for a primary age child.



Assembly outside at Iganga High School

Rote learning is the method used together with much chanting along the way. Children learn English when they start school having spoken mostly their own local language until then. Progress up the levels is made every year so long as exams are passed. Otherwise they remain down until they can pass sufficiently to move.

From primary to secondary level after rigorous 'Leaving Exams' for the able child comes a year later than here, but then there are only four years of learning before 'O' level exams take place.

Fees for secondary level are naturally greater, and sixth form even more so, but these are reducing with Government changes to the education system.

Fortunately, we have been able to get scholarships for some of our secondary level students and for our sixth formers too, with expert help from Aggrey Talenga, our great friend and Deputy Head at Iganga High School. This certainly helps our funds to go further.

**Margaret's Children's Fund** We have an account set aside for the education of our orphans and many people have a standing order to pay into the account. You can find a form on our website or simply set up an online standing order.

Our **bank details:** Sort code **08-92-99** Account number **65222234**  
or call Carey on **0116 2393061** or email [careymin@me.com](mailto:careymin@me.com)

**\*\*Please do email Carey to tell her if you set up a standing order\*\***

## School fees per term...

Primary	Ug Shillings
Fees	125,000
Shoes	25000
School sweater	25000
Tour	30,000
T.shirts	15,000
Meals	40,000
Exams	10000
Books x24	12000
Pencils x12	2400
Shoe polish	3000
Socks x2	4000
Razor x2	1000
Toilet paper x4	2000
Brooms x3	1500
Ream of papers	15000
Coloured pencils	5000
<b>Sub- Total</b>	<b>315900</b>

(approx £60 per term )

The exchange rate varies...

during the last 20 yrs it has ranged from  
2800 to 4500 Ug Sh to the £

## School Links; Iganga – Daventry

From the early days, schools in Iganga have enjoyed being linked to a Daventry school. We have about 15 such links today. However, with the increased demands made on the school curriculum and teacher's time, here in this country, keeping in touch has become more difficult.

We have a good friend in Iganga, Aggrey Talenga, deputy head at Iganga High School, and he helps to organise, often with great difficulty, Skype sessions, for pairs of linked schools. As long as the electricity is working, the children gain so much from the experience.

The latest innovation is to use the 'cloud' and teachers can send pictures and video to their link via the cloud. This will not impact on time in the classroom. No longer time for spontaneity!

To help us gain access to our UK primary schools, a group of us are offering a free workshop where students will be able to learn about the difficulty getting safe water. They will set up a simulation of protecting a water source, to understand how Friends have done in Iganga very many times to give thousands of people safe water.

## Uganda Elections

National elections took place in February and went ahead without too many problems.

Our very own David Balaba was elected Mayor of Iganga.

David has been Chair of IFOD (Iganga Friends of Daventry) and is a Director at King of Kings School which is linked to Danetre School Learning Village.

We wish him well in his new role and hope that Iganga and Daventry can continue to work together towards improving the lives of the people.

## Patrick Baguma

Patrick was our Commonwealth Scholar in 2015. He was an Environmental Health Manager from Masindi, spending time at DDC and other local authorities in the East Midlands. He thanked everyone for all the help he was given in UK which he can take home and share with his colleagues working in Environmental Health in Uganda.

## Obituary

We were deeply saddened to hear that **Brian Lomax OBE** had passed away at the end of 2015. Brian supported Friends at every opportunity and especially enjoyed his two visits to Iganga. There he was known as 'The Big Man', yet he was so humble and caring. Brian will be missed by us all.

## Membership and donations...

**Your membership, is still only £10, and the renewal date is June 1<sup>st</sup>.** Setting up a standing order, is the easiest way to pay but do advise Carey that you have done it please. Contact Carey for other ways to pay...

**General Account** details are: **sort code 08-92-99** account number **65222234**  
**or contact Carey on 0116 2393061 or email careymin@me.com**

During the past twelve months we have received many donations, both large and small. We thank you all. We are proud of the work we do in Iganga and could not do it without your help. Please continue to help, and again we **THANK YOU!**



We often work alongside **Water for Kids Charity** and we thank them for their cooperation and help so generously given to the Friends of Iganga.

Watch out for our summer events. We are hoping to hold a garden party in July.

**We would love to have new faces on our committee bringing new ideas for fund raising. It isn't an onerous task – just a meeting every 6-8 weeks. Do join us...**