

NKURINGO

Foundation Nursery & Primary School • January 2019

NEWSletter

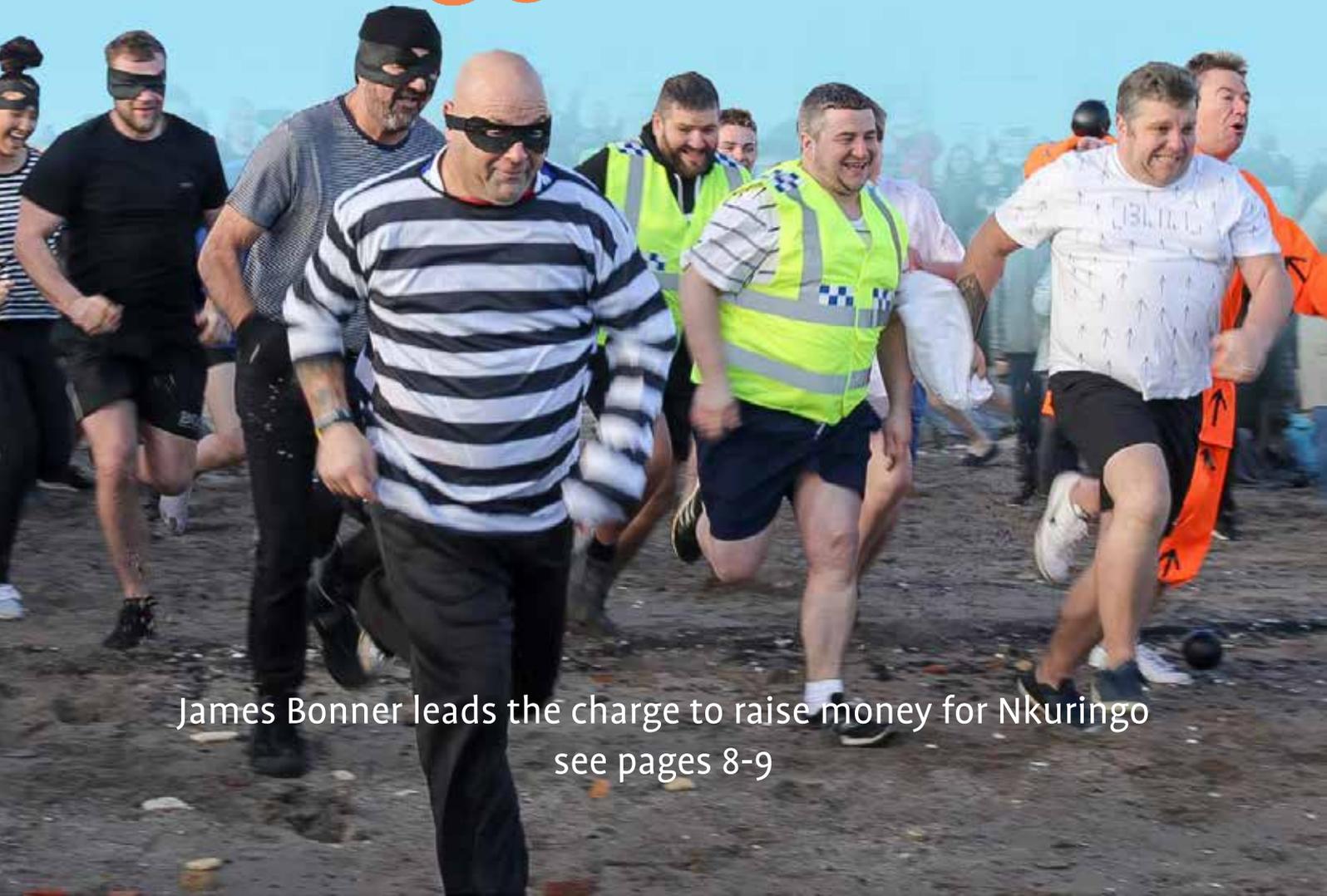
People2People

FREE ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL SPONSORS AND FRIENDS



Cops and
Robbers at the

loony dook



James Bonner leads the charge to raise money for Nkuringo
see pages 8-9

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NEWSletter

FREE ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL SPONSORS AND FRIENDS



Dear Sponsors and friends

AS WE START a brave new year time to reflect on all that you achieved in 2018! We started the year off with a bang as the Mayfield Women's institute donated money towards warm blankets for the school children and help with the Jane medical fund. Maria Clarke paid to have the playground concreted and we saw a number of new children join the school.

In February the first 17 students at the Primary School took their Certificate of Education with the Uganda National Examination board and all 17 passed – five with first grade! They are now soaring into their second year at Primary and we are pleased to say that we have just heard that the 20 that took the examination this year have all also passed! (See page xx for full details). Onwards and upwards – congratulations to pupils and teachers for working so hard!

In March Indigo Tax and Accountancy provided £1000 to build new Ecosan toilets at the Primary School following their successful Music concert hosted by Tim Vine.

In April we reported the Give a Hen for Easter project initiated by Maria Clarke got 200 hens out to needy people in Nkuringo – the first of our hen projects that have seen hundreds of hens and goats now distributed across the needy in the community. Sara McKay also paid for the children to have a full celebration Easter meal with meat and lemonade – a real treat!

In May you also stepped forward when we appealed for the money to put clocks in all the classrooms in the Primary and Secondary School. 28 clocks were purchased and the job of a child designated as school timekeeper banking on a rusty wheel rim to announce the time was made redundant! Rotherfield Primary School PTCA also donated a sum of money which enabled the girls' dormitories to be more than doubled in size to take in the growing number of children who wanted to join a school that was obviously becoming a class establishment!

In June Our Go Uganda group burst on the scene and took the people of Nkuringo into their hearts. The amount of aid and support given was bigger than ever and we really began to see what a tremendous difference the groups were making to the community. We also met the Nteko Positive Living Group for the first time and the idea began to germinate of building a new clinic and facilities for them. Gwynne Furlong and Stephen Knowlden are still pursuing this.

In July Enoth and Donata were the first recipients of the medical fund – Enoth had some large growths removed from his face and body and Donata was treated for a long standing horrific skin infection that she had suffered with because of lack of money for medicine.

In August we launched our second Give Hope Give a Hen appeal, this time to get 200 goats and hens to the Positive Living Group to provide much needed eggs and milk to the group fighting HIV. Jane continued her medical visits on the slow journey towards complicated surgery to remove a very large goitre from her neck.

In September Casio Electronics Co. Ltd answered an appeal



from one of our sponsors, Jenny Aldridge, for scientific calculators for the secondary school. They donated 300 calculators plus pen and pencil sets that made an enormous difference to the prospects of the children. Helen and Tony Lloyd Waldren started fund raising in Spain before their October Go Uganda visit. That fund raising was going to have a major impact on many lives.

In October we continued our stories of support from so many for water tanks, solar panels, hens and goats – all slowly improving the lives of our adopted community.

In November the second Go Uganda group hit Nkuringo. Tony and Helen used their funds to purchase a motorbike for the Nteko positive living group, a water tank for the secondary school – and then went on to take under their wing two young children their grandmother brought to the Guest house looking for help. Quite a few children met their new sponsors during this trip. Lots more hens and goats were given to grateful families and we met Gilipina – another candidate for the medical fund who needed urgent medical treatment for a large growth behind her eye.

In December we had the news we had been waiting for for so long – Jane was successfully operated on her Goitre and we heard that Gilipina's condition was also operable! Marsaili Macleod smashed our hens and goats target for the year by asking her friends to donate hens and goats for her 50th birthday. Peter Whitmarsh paid for another year of caretaker salary having seen the tremendous difference a full time caretaker had made to the school. Search Seven and Gavin Willis donated money towards much needed school repairs and the medical fund.

More appeals were launched – the Red Box project by Tara Garritt to ensure all female pupils and teachers of menstrual age in our Primary and Secondary School received the sanitary protection they required. The Give a Book campaign was set up to provide Text Books to each child in the Secondary School. Our appeal for Charity Status is also slowly edging towards a hopefully successful conclusion thanks to the hard work of Gwynne Furlong. We hope to be NKURINGO EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT – NECS – Watch this space!

And now we hurtle into 2019! We started it with a bang with the tremendous efforts of James Bonner and Karen Bonner and their friends and the New Year's day Loony Dook dip in the river Firth. It has raised £2750 for the community which will cover the red box appeal by Tara Garritt plus provide much needed funds for building work in both schools. We will bring you photos and updates on how the funds are spent as soon as we can. The drive is on to find sponsors for the new children wanting to start Primary School and to enable those who passed their exams to attend secondary school.

We have a new goat target for the Reformed Poachers Association – and of course need to start preparations for our next Go Uganda trip in May!

We are thrilled to be part of such an amazing group of people who are making such a big difference in Nkuringo!

Happy New Year to you all and I look forward to bringing you lots more good news next month!!!

Jan Duchesne



MEMBERS OF RUBUGURI REFORMED POACHERS ASSOCIATION

The name **Reformed Poachers Association** conjures up ideas of men creeping around at night stealing game. That is probably not far from the truth although we should put it in context.

- 1 Bakina Sypriano – Chairman DOVE
- 2 Byibesho Yohana – Vice Chairman
- 3 Nshemereirwe Vincen – General Secretary
- 4 Hakizimana Charles – Treasurer
- 5 Bangamwabo Charles
- 6 Bandebaho Kanizio
- 7 Mboga Felex
- 8 Hakizimana Vesensio
- 9 Behane Patric
- 10 Rugyiriririza Gabriel

- 11 Bagamba Peter
- 12 Karenzyo Bturumayo
- 13 Ndinabo James
- 14 Nbabihagyire Portaz
- 15 Bafakuhera Peter
- 16 Hamizimana Alsene
- 17 Bagure Daudi
- 18 Bakwatakanwa Alfonsi
- 19 Machansi Alex
- 20 Garubanda Charles

- 21 Kazooba James
- 22 Kyomukama Richard
- 23 Tumushabe Francis
- 24 Bagambe Kenneth
- 25 Bugumisa Banarda
- 26 Byibesho Constant
- 27 Manaku Simon
- 28 Ayesigyey Demasi
- 29 Byekwaso Benadi
- 30 Ndyamugiranta Henry

- 31 Kajamari Vincent
- 32 Mugara Wilbaforce
- 33 Kafukuzi Vallence
- 34 Bakehehainki Simon
- 35 Wednesday Moridy
- 36 Bamwoya Christopher
- 37 Twesime Peter
- 38 Ruratuye Paul
- 39

IN THE DAYS before the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest was turned into a conservation area, when the Batwa were still living and subsisting on the fruit and animals within and before tourists paid to see gorillas – there were men who made their living trapping animals to sell for food.

Most of the food they trapped were yellow backed duikers, bush backs, bush pigs and birds like common francolins and helmeted guinea fowl.

They made a living and would have been proud to be called hunters.

When everything changed, the Batwa were kicked out of the forest and these men became poachers not hunters.

The Conservation groups that Asgario is a member of, tried to help these people who now found themselves unable to feed themselves and their families in the way they had always relied on. They formed the Rubiguri Reformed Poachers Association. The men (it is always men as women in Uganda do not carry weapons or hunt) surrendered the tools they used for hunting and are being taught how to look after and conserve the forest.

Asgario has asked whether or not we can help the community help them by making them our next Project.

If we could give every man on that list a goat they would collectively have a flock of goats



they could breed, sell and learn to support themselves with living animals instead of dead animals.

Everyone wins.

These men have stood up to be counted and we should give them a hand to join in this new world rather than be sat on the outside and treated as thieves and worse.

We have started the ball rolling by purchasing a goat to be called DOVE for the chairman of the group.

We need 36 more goats to ensure that this group becomes self-sufficient.

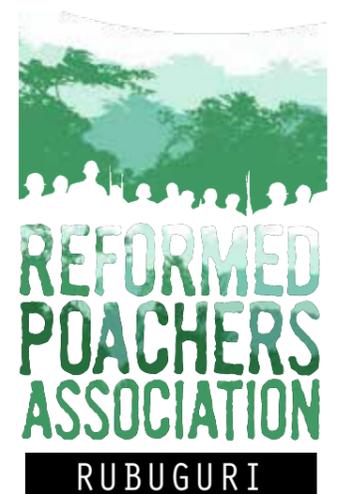
Goats cost £30 each – not a lot to change the livelihood of a man and his family.

However if you wish to help but do not have £30 please give what you can.

If you pay for a whole goat please name her (we always buy girls but they are happy to have a boy's name!). You will receive a photo of your goat with the beneficiary and the knowledge that another family has hope and dignity again.

Last year I asked you to help me get 200 goats and hens for the HIV group. You helped and we made that target before Christmas.

Let us do it now for this group – remember behind every man there will be a family relying on him to provide.



CHRISTMAS DAY SPORT

NKURINGO YOUNG STARS V RUBUGURI FOOTBALL CLUB

On Christmas day all over the world people love celebrating together. In Uganda there is often a football match and this year was no exception.

Families love to watch the match whilst chatting with neighbours and friends.

Nkuringo Young Stars were in Blue and Rubuguri Football Club were in Yellow.

It was a great match and Rubuguri Football Club won 3 goals to 2.

A fine time was had by all!!



SPOT THE BALL AND WIN A CHICKEN!



There are 910 permutations of where the ball can be! Write down on a piece of paper where you think the ball can be. For example could it be in the box F10 or Z25? When the bottom photo is revealed in next month newsletter you will see how close you were.

You can only have 1 go at where you think the ball can be - and if you right down the answer and date it give the piece of paper to Asgario with your name and address the first person who is pull from the box with the right answer with the earlist date will win a chicken. If no one gets the right box than it goes to the person who chose the closest !

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35		
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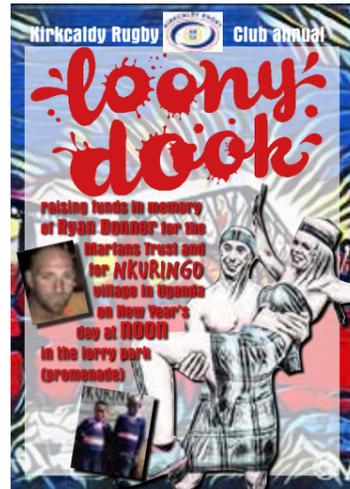


There are 910 permutations of where the ball can be! Equamuscime voles apelece pudaepint, oditaquat? Eles as aut mod un... Ibeaquam quibus, venimint, ium solut doluptatio. Rum accus, omnimusan faccabo. Ernarnulpa voloris intum, id molo ipsuntem venimet magnatem doluptaera sum fuga. Nempos rem ipsae. Ut estem evella perunt que non plita num lique ped quisimp oreiur rerspis quatem quod modis dolorem aut pratus is sum qui officil ipsandandis aut esendit fuga. Nonemquia volupid magnimpe net, commin Equamuscime voles apelece pudaepint, odi-



"on my head Derick"





LOONY DOOK FOR NKURINGO

The Loony Dook, is an annual event held on New Years' Day in which people dive into the freezing waters of the Firth of Forth at South Queensferry, often in fancy dress.

THE NAME "Loony Dook" is a combination of "Loony" and "Dook", a Scots term meaning "dip" or "bathe".

The original Loony Dook organiser was a lady called Ann Belton. James Bonner (Jimmy), President of Kirkcaldy Rugby Club, got the club involved some eight years ago and has continued every year since. During that time they have been instrumental in raising in excess of £20,000 for different charitable causes such as Testicular Cancer, British Heart Foundation, Breast Cancer, The Teenage Cancer Trust to name but a few...

Karen Bonner, James Bonner's sister-in-law, is one of our sponsors and a wonderful friend and supporter of our work in Nkuringo. Karen is booked to go out with the October 2019 Go Uganda Group. She told James about Nkuringo and the many causes we support in the community. She asked James if this year half the monies raised could be donated to helping the village of Nkuringo and he agreed!



The other half of the money the club raises is going to the Marfans Trust in memory of Karen's stepson Ryan who died suddenly in February last year. Another very worthy cause.

With that in mind at Noon on 1st January 2019 approximately 60 people in fancy dress assembled ready to run into the icy waters of the Firth of Forth! Over 200 spectators (probably in thermals) gathered to watch them! The theme was Cops and Robbers and there was a healthy sprinkling of both!

There was much hilarity and the odd blue tinge as people shrieked and dipped and dipped again!

The final sum raised is xxx which means Nkuringo will receive the amazing sum of xxxx! Thank you so much to James Bonner, The Rugby Club and all those who helped make this event such a success!

Karen will certainly be welcomed with open arms when she arrives in Nkuringo later this year!!

The Marfan Trust

The Marfan Trust is the only Marfan charity in the UK that funds its own laboratory undertaking medical and analytical research so that more is known about Marfan syndrome and its management. Over 18,000 people are affected by Marfan syndrome in the UK, with many more anticipated to be living with the condition undiagnosed.

Marfan syndrome (MFS) is a genetic disorder of the connective tissue. The degree to which people are affected varies. People with Marfan tend to be tall and thin, with long arms, legs, fingers and toes. They also typically have flexible joints and scoliosis.



THE PRIMARY SCHOOL GETS A MAKEOVER

Renovations and upgrading of the classrooms that were covered with elephant reeds to a more permanent ones that are comfortable for school children. Special thanks to Mr Gavin Willis of Search seven for the generous support, and thank you all those who support our Foundation School. Engineer Julius and Fabious the school caretaker are doing a great Job.

THANKS TO THE KIND donations of so many we are slowly seeing the Nkuringo Foundation Nursery and Primary School becoming a school that anyone would be proud to attend. Apart from the high level of teaching the classrooms are gradually being transformed by an ongoing programme of repairs and renovations.

We have already seen so many improvements in the school over the past two years – from the building of new dormitories and classrooms to the new playground, steps and general classroom refurbishments.

Fabious, the school caretaker kindly paid for by Peter Whitmarsh this year, continues to carry out repairs and upgrades to ensure the school is safe and weather proof. Thanks to an injection of funds from Gavin Willis and Search Seven and the donations of so many towards school repairs the school were finally able to take on the upgrade of the old original elephant reed classrooms.

These were the only classrooms that existed when we first visited the school. The walls were literally woven reeds that

often tore and disintegrated in the more inclement weather. There have been several attempts to repair the reed walls but now was the time to tackle the problem once and for all. With the assistance of Julius, the engineer who has been in charge of many of the school building, the old temporary walls have been removed and replaced with a permanent building that will hopefully be ready to receive the children when they start the new school year at the end of this month.

We have just heard that all Primary Seven pupils passed their exams to go to Secondary School making this school one of the best educational establishments in the area. We can now add that with the ongoing upgrading of the buildings and facilities you, our many sponsors and friends, are making this school a place to be proud of – a safe secure and well run establishment that is making a real change in the prospects of so many young people in this remote area of Uganda. We hope to bring you more photos when the work is complete. Those on our next Go Uganda trip in May will see a real difference! Thanks everyone



LETTERS & GIFTS

NORMALLY WE FILL these pages with the photos of the many letters and gifts sent by you over the past month and received with thanks by the community. Unfortunately Steve and I have been away most of this month in Ethiopia and have not got time to collate all the photos of hens, goats and letters sent out. I enclose a few here and promise that everyone who purchased a hen or goat or sent a letter will see the photos in our February edition. In some cases the children live far from the school and will have already left for home before the gift money was received. The new school year starts next week and photos in those cases will be taken then.

Please do note that the children love receiving your letters and will always write back – although you have to wait for a Go Uganda visit to collect the replies!

Hens and goats make a big difference to families – and remember our current project is goats for the Reformed Poachers if anyone would like to contribute! Goats are £30 and hens are £10 and you receive a photo of your named goat or hen with the recipient!

Thank you so much all of you for your many contributions so far – we hope to be back up to date by next month!



THE RED BOX PROJECT TAKES OFF!

Last month Tara Garritt wrote an article on Period Poverty. Many people are unaware that 1 in 10 young women in the UK cannot afford sanitary products.



IN NKURINGO THE situation is much worse where – even if you had the money for sanitary products the local shops refuse to sell them and the nearest store is over three hours away, a journey predominantly made by men on their weekly market trips. Tara wanted to give back dignity to the pupils and teachers in our Primary and Secondary School in Nkuringo by providing each one of them, initially, with a pack of reusable, washable pads. As there are approximately 90 women currently who require such support this meant a need for an initial £200 - £300 outlay. Whilst Tara was busy writing this letter **Karen Bonner** and her brother in law **Stephen Bonner** were busy getting ready to jump into the icy waters of the Firth in Scotland with their friends for the **Looney Dook** celebrations in aid of charity (see pages xx and xx). We are thrilled to say that the first project to receive funding from the Looney Dook event is the Red Box Project!

Thanks to a Scottish traditional event the young women in Nkuringo will ALL receive a pack of re-usable pads when they start school at the end of this month. Thank you so much everyone who donated to the Looney Dook and made this first step to fight period poverty in Nkuringo a success! Next phase is to provide a red box in both schools with a supply of sanitary protection.

We welcome any input, support either in contacts or cash to ensure this hidden problem is eliminated forever!
Any ideas or offers of help please contact us! Tara is looking forward to co-ordinating any support for this important project.



The continuing success of the children in our Primary and Secondary Schools in Nkuringo is largely dependent on the continued support of our sponsors and friends.

OUR CALL FOR NEW SPONSORS BEGINS!

MANY OF THESE children would have no hope of getting an education – let alone continuing on into secondary education where their future opportunities are dramatically increased – without your support.

Sponsoring a child makes such a big difference to the child and his or her family – giving them all hope of a better future.

As the school year comes to a close we always start by reviewing the children we already have in education. Some of those have sponsors who have supported them over several years but for one reason or another can no longer continue. Before we bring any new children into the school we like to ensure that these pupils are found new sponsors to enable them to carry on with their education. When we bring a child into school we make that commitment to them – if the sponsor finds it impossible to continue we will ensure that someone else is found to carry on. Our support is there throughout their Primary and Secondary Education – giving them all the tools they need for a better future.

For anyone who can no longer afford to support a child – please do not feel you have failed. Every year you gave that child is a year that will make a big difference to them. We are confident others will step forward to take over.

Next month we will have a full summary of children in both schools needing support. For the moment I bring you just one.

Boniface Arinaitwe has been in school since January 2015. You can see from last year's report he was already doing well in school – and we expect even better results in his 2018 report (which is on its way to England for distribution with the others from the Primary School). He has just lost his sponsor.

Boniface will be going in to Primary Two. He takes a size 1 shoe (see shoe article).

If anyone would like to sponsor Boniface please let me know. He already has a uniform so the cost would be £15 for the year – which includes the cost of a new jumper.

We expect to have a dozen children requiring assistance so please if you would prefer a girl or an older child I am sure we can help. For the moment Boniface has been told to continue at school and I just need one kind person to step forward and take his hand.

The work you all do in supporting these children is changing lives and futures and making such a big difference. Thank you.



Jasper Ayebare, above-photo taken in February 2014 when he was first sponsored. Jasper only has a mother and was thrilled to be given the chance of an education – now he is one of only two students to achieve a first class pass of the Certificate of Education to enable him to attend secondary school! Well done Jasper!

FOUNDATION NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL
C/O P.O. BOX 30285 KAMPALA TEL: 0782193135
Email: nkuringonursery@gmail.com

TERMINAL REPORT

NAME OF CHILD: **AD. INAITWE BONIFACE** CLASS: **TOP** TERM: **III**

AGE: SEX: **M** YEAR: **2017**

POSITION: **11th** OUT OF **26**

SUBJECT	MARKS	SCORE	REMARKS	INITIALS
ENGLISH	100	87	Good	Eudick
SCIENCE	100	80	Good	
MATHEMATICS	100	87	Good	
SOCIAL STUDIES	100	76	Good	
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	100	76	Good	
PE/DMSC	100	61	Good	
ORAL	100	60	Good	
HEALTH/ARTS	100	57	Good	
DRAWING	100	57	Good	
WRITING	100	57	Good	
LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT	700	514		



GILIPINA

IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEING CURED!

As you know we have a medical fund which many of you contribute to. It enables us to help those in Nkuringo with illnesses or health issues that would otherwise be left to run their course because of lack of funds to pay for medical treatment.

WE HAVE ALREADY treated several members of the community – the last being Jane who was operated of a large goitre on her neck. The surgeon who successfully operated on Jane was Dr Bugembe.

When Gilipina came to us in October last year with an eye popping out of her head because of a build up of something behind the socket she was resigned to the worst as she could not afford the scans or surgery necessary to help her.

Our wonderful sponsors stepped forward and Asgario was able to take Gilipina to have the scans necessary to see if anything could be done.

The scans showed a large cyst that had built up behind the eye and was slowly pushing it out. On 11th January we heard that Gilipina was in for surgery. She was under the same Dr Bugembe who had treated Jane. The surgery was successful and removed the large cyst causing all the problems.

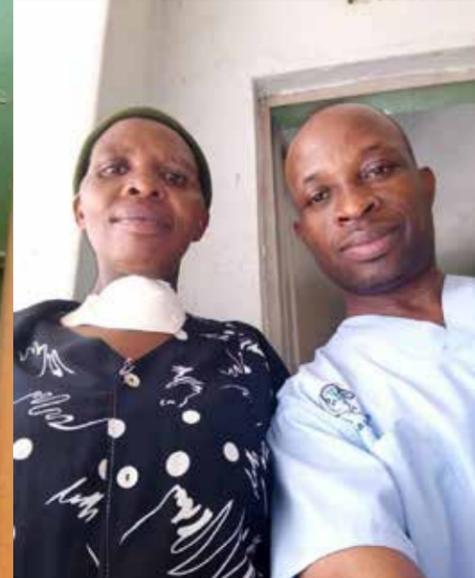
After a few days Gilipina was home to recover. We are told it will take up to four weeks for the swelling to go down and the eye to return to its correct place in her socket. At that stage Gilipina will go back to the hospital for a final checkup.

She is already feeling a lot better and looking forward to being cured.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the fund that made this possible. We hope to bring you photos of Gilipina next month with her "New Look"!

We will continue to bring you stories of the people the medical fund helps. Like education, health is not necessarily given to all and where we can make a real difference we will do our best.

Thanks again to Asgario who is always there to ferry these people to hospital and ensure they receive the best treatment.





SHOES FOR OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NKURINGO

The idea to take a foot measuring gauge to Nkuringo started from a discussion between my friend and fellow sponsor, Maria, and myself when we were talking about taking out shoes for our sponsor children.

SIZE	8	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	12.5	13	13.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5
No	2	2	5	4	0	5	8	7	12	19	16	0	32	15	23	12	26	29

SIZE	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	12.5
No	16	21	0	32	39	29	13	20	8	8	14	16	9	5	2	2	0	1

The tables shown above show the numbers of shoes of each size needed and this will be updated in each newsletter and on our Facebook page too.

We will soon be sending the individual class lists to all sponsors so they can see their child. Sponsors CAN purchase a pair of shoes for their sponsor children if they know someone who can take these out for them and any others too if possible. Conversely if anyone has any appropriate shoes and can get them to me or Jan, then we will endeavour to find someone to take them to Nkuringo.

Shoes don't have to be new, but they must be flat, sturdy and in good condition: outgrown school shoes in good condition are ideal. Please remember no heels!

We are also going to ask all Go Uganda 2019 members to send me the number of shoes they are taking and the sizes. In turn I will allocate them to children, advise members of the children's names and hopefully the shoes can then be labelled with the child's name and class so distribution in Nkuringo is as simple as possible.

So let's get collecting and ultimately every child will have a much needed sturdy pair of shoes!

Thank you for your help!

If you need any further information or have access to a number of shoes, please feel free to email me:
aldridgejenny@hotmail.com.

JENNY ALDRIDGE

WHEN MARIA HAD gone on the first 'Go Uganda' trip in October 2017, she kindly agreed to take out shoes for my first little sponsor child as well as for her own sponsor children. We made a guess at the sizes the children would need and as luck would have it we weren't too far out and most of the shoes Maria took out were fine.

It was only natural that I would return the favour to Maria when I went on the October 2018 trip and as the date neared Maria and I discussed what shoes needed to be taken out for our sponsor children. It was during one of these discussions that I said a foot gauge would be handy for future use and with both of us thinking it would be a useful resource to have in Nkuringo, I located a 'Clarks' version on the internet and added it to the ever increasing pile of things for me to pack.

As Jan has already said, we made a decision on that trip that we would no longer use the Go Uganda trips to take individual gifts to sponsor children. For fairness and equality in future what we provide for one child we needed to provide for all of them. With shoes being the most necessary item for most children as many are bare foot or wearing shoes that are broken or too small, when Jan saw the foot gauge she set about having the feet of all the children in both schools and the staff measured and our first programme to provide all children in both schools with one pair of substantial shoes had begun!

By the time I had got home and unpacked, photos had already been emailed to me showing the lists of children in both schools and their foot sizes. With children's names being spelt in what Jan has described as a 'loose' way, sorting the names into class lists presented its challenges, but between Jan, the Primary and Secondary Head teachers and myself we now have class lists showing foot measurements as at October 2018. To err on the side of caution we have added 1 shoe size to each of these measurements to allow for growth and we now have a good idea of the number of shoes of each size that we are looking to send out in either the June or October 2019 trips.

452 pairs of shoes in total! (2018 Primary 7 needs adding)

With 24 people going on each trip this means that if each person can take 9 or 10 pairs of shoes we will achieve this!



NEWS ON

NKURINGO COMMUNITY VOCATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL



WOMEN AND EDUCATION

Denis Twebaze (head teacher) is very passionate about education and his work in the community. He is especially passionate about making sure girls, not only in the Nkuringo community, but also the whole of Uganda, have the same chances as the male population.

He says, “ Girl’s education is highly necessary for the future of my community and my country at large, as women are the first teachers of their children and therefore the nation. If the education of girls is ignored, the future of our nation will not be as bright. “ There are many families in the community and Uganda who have at least 5 and often a lot more children, in one family. A lot of the children we sponsor come from such households. This puts a huge burden on the families financially, especially when it comes to paying school fees. Fortunately for Nkuringo, we have

the sponsorship programme, but the hope is that a few years from now, there will be less need for these programmes because everyone will be educated and able to help their own families and community.

You can see how strongly Denis feels about this from the following message he sent us when asked about his views on women: “An educated woman may easily handle her family, making each family member responsible, infuse good qualities in children, participate in society, which will then lead her towards a socially

PLEASE NOTE If you would like to donate, please email Mel at melasizz@yahoo.co.uk or post on her facebook page or the Go Uganda facebook page. She will then send you details of what to do.

MANAGED BY MEL DOLDING AND KATE BISHOP

and economically healthy nation. By educating a man, only a man is educated. By educating a woman, the whole community can be educated. Lack of girl’s education weakens the powerful part of society. Girls should have full rights and should not be treated as inferior to men. Educated women are the real source of happiness in the family, society and country. It is very truly said that educating a female child means you have educated the nation. The future of a child depends on the love and care they receive from their mother. Every child receives his/her first lesson through the mother, thus it is very important for the mother to be educated. Only a well educated mother can shape and mould the career of her child. Trained and educated mothers may nourish many lives in their life time and give rise to the developed community or nation. Education is the most important weapon which can be used to change the world. Girls have rights to get a proper education to perform better in all areas of life. The reason for the backwardness in my community and Uganda at large is because of the lack of proper education for women. The lack of proper female education is because of the various social restrictions against women in

my community. Education is very necessary for each and everyone in order to improve knowledge, way of living as well as social and economic status throughout life. Getting a proper education is everyone’s birth right and restricting this, is a crime! Education is the ultimate way to get victory over all the personal and social problems. I support girl’s education as it is needed in my community to change the status of women. An educated woman is respected everywhere!”

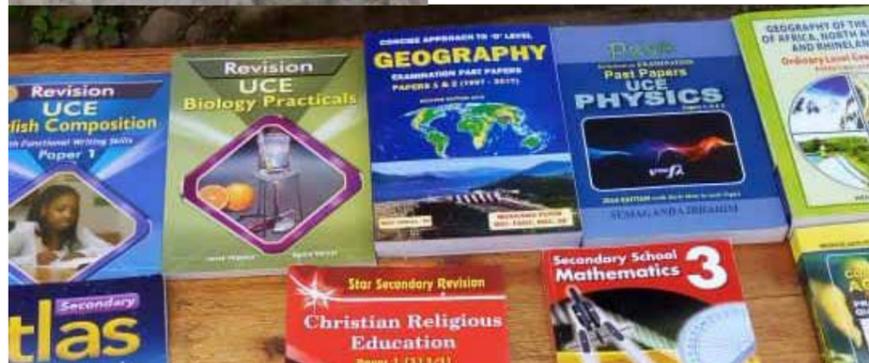
Reading this message when it came through to us, made me realise how lucky all the children (boys as well as girls) are to be attending Nkuringo Secondary, with such a forward thinking person at the helm. It also makes us realise how extremely lucky we are in our countries. Yes there are still some inequalities between women and men but we are all given the same basic opportunities in our schools and most of the time (excepting extra curricular activities) our education is free! The more we can do now to help people in countries such as Uganda, the better the future will be for generations to come.



Text Books

Thank you so much to everyone who bought a book in our campaign before Christmas. We managed to reach our target and Denis has already purchased the books ready for the start of school. Denis sent a message to say “ a big thank you to everyone who kindly donated a book or books to our school. Students and teachers will be able to use these books during their private readings and in class. Thank you so much once again.”

Kate is sending stickers with the names of everyone who donated, over to Denis, in order for them to be stuck in the front cover of each book, so the students will be able to see how many fabulous people there are over here supporting them in their studies.



School Garden Update

As you can see from the photo on the left the cabbages are growing well in the school garden. Cabbage is a very popular vegetable in Ugandan schools. They are hoping to grow other vegetables such as tomatoes and egg plants this year. If anyone would like to donate money specifically for the school garden – for seeds, garden tools etc, email Mel - melasizz@yahoo.co.uk.

As well as the school garden, Denis has his own vegetable garden at home. He grows vegetables for his family as well as for selling. Here he is during the holiday spraying his Irish potatoes to protect them from insects and diseases. For one sack of potatoes he can get 50 dollars. He is hoping to introduce this to the other teachers and get the school involved with growing potatoes too. How great would it be for the students and staff to not only grow vegetables for their own consumption but to also make enough money to put back into the school.

“Happy New Year to everyone – especially the sponsors and people who have supported Nkuringo Secondary School! Last year we had a great year of fund raising, sponsorship, etc. One reason we love being part of Nkuringo, is “meeting” all the generous, kind hearted people who have become involved with the school and community. With so many awful things happening in the world, it is wonderful to know and witness so many amazing people doing good! So thank you very much.”



PTA Meeting

The school in Nkuringo, as in schools in Britain and other countries, have a PTA with a committee. The chairman is Gad Hategeka. Before Christmas they had a PTA meeting, which all the parents are invited to attend if they are able to. All the parents gave thanks to everyone of you who sponsors their children in order for them to continue their secondary school education and for all the donations the school has received. The chairman extended his thanks to Jan, Steve, Kate and Mel as well as all the sponsors, etc for the “good services you are offering to the school and Nkuringo community at large.” His words were: “ May you receive more and more rewards from the almighty God.”



THEY HAVE ASKED FOR JUMPERS

As we enter 2019 the first Go Uganda trip in May suddenly becomes a reality! People have paid for their gorilla passes where applicable and are now turning their minds to filling their bags and preparing for their adventure!

HAVE ALL THE fleeces and polo shirts for this group ready to send out. They can be picked up from us in East Sussex or you can contact me to organise postage (which will be chargeable). The group travelling from Spain will pick theirs up at the airport (along with the additional bags we are packing for them). Remember you wear the fleeces and polos to travel to Nkuringo as it gives us an identity and makes for easier crossing through the various checkpoints!

Jackie Knight reminds you all that you must have at least 6 months left on your passport before expiry when you travel or you will not be able to get a visa – which you will apply for approximately one month before travel. I am sure yellow fever vaccinations are already in hand (they last a lifetime so if you have one already you do not need another).

You have received lots of advice on what to pack – please take note of the article in this magazine on shoes. If you could let Jenny Aldridge know the sizes and quantity of shoes you are taking out we are hoping to label them – where possible – with the name of the recipient. Jenny can tell you what name to put inside each pair of shoes. Of course if you sponsor a child and want to send them a pair of shoes you can contact Jenny to know what size to get and she will confirm and update the records. If anyone asks you to carry shoes specifically for a sponsor child please note we are hoping that they will provide at least one other pair for another person. We want to be as fair as possible to all the children – hence the banning of specific sponsor gifts in lieu of a scheme that benefits everyone. Sweatshirts and Shoes for all is what we are aiming for!

We are also pleased if you can take anything that will help the schools – compasses, protractors, rulers, pens, pencils, p.e. bags to put books in etc., mini wind up torches, toothbrushes, tooth-



paste, soap (we collect the little travel ones you get in hotels) – you get the picture.

We also had a request for warm jumpers from the women's group. Warm jumpers and hats for any age is always welcome as it gets very cold at night and in the rainy season.

Those who have been before on a Go Uganda trip will know that the day after arrival is very busy. You sort the aid out – firstly removing bags for the Women's groups, HIV groups etc. and then putting the rest into piles around the Guest House. You then take your position at one of the stations – be it bras, womens clothes, boys clothes etc. Then the line of recipients arrives.

Over the past trips the first people to benefit have been pupils and teachers of the schools. As they have been through three

Go Uganda trips now we thought we would let the local Batwa pigmy group be the first this time as normally they just receive cast offs. Asgario is organising for them to come and line up at the Guest House to be provided with clothing – with 46 bags of aid we should be able to manage 3 items per person from that group! Will be very emotional. I shall miss being with you for this! Irene's baby will be 7 months old by then!

The Go Uganda groups this year are already full but I am opening the lists for May and October 2020 so if anyone is inspired and wants to get their names in quickly please do contact me. We have space for a maximum of 24 people to fill our 12 available rooms at the guest house.

Of course if you want to get your own party together to visit Nkuringo you can! Just contact me with numbers and when you wish to go and I will speak to Asgario to organise it.

If this year is as successful as the last two years you will find that one visit to Nkuringo is not enough – everyone always comes back!

PRIMARY 7

This is the only the second year that the Nkuringo Foundation Nursery and Primary School has been in a position to put forward pupils for the Certificate of Education.

SMASHES IT!

PASSING THIS Certificate gives a student the right to attend Secondary School – an unobtainable dream for so many for so many years.

Thanks to the support of our friends and sponsors we are thrilled to say that 20 pupils – 16 of them sponsored – took that examination and ALL OF THEM PASSED!

Special congratulations to Jasper Ayebare and Felix Sebatware who both passed with a first! – All the others passed with a second – many only one or two points outside a first so brilliant results all round!

At the end of the month all these pupils will attend a celebration meal with their parents or guardians. At that time they will have to confirm whether they wish to take up their place at Secondary School.

Some of these children have already received assurances from their sponsors that they will continue to fund their education in Secondary School. For those who no longer have the support of a sponsor we will publish the list and have already assured the children that we will ensure each one of them finds a sponsor to enable them to take this unexpected but well deserved step into further education – one they and their parents had never dared hope for.

Kate Bishop and Mel Dolding manage the support of the Nkuringo Community Vocational Secondary School and we will be working hard to help these new students make this bold step towards their dreams.

We are already aware that some of these children will need new sponsors so please, if you would like to consider helping a young man or woman into further education please contact us.

For the moment we will celebrate the success of our hard working teachers and pupils – long may it continue!

PRIMARY LEAVING EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2019						
NAME	ENG	SO	SST	MATH	AGG	AV
AKAMPA GODFREY	3	5	3	2	13	2
AKAMPURIGA JONATHAN	4	4	3	4	15	2
ALINDA ILIMINA	5	7	4	6	22	2
ANKUNAA TILDA	4	7	4	6	21	2
AYEBARE JASPER	2	3	2	5	12	1
BINDMUGIHA KELLEN	4	6	4	7	21	2
FRIDAY HERBERT	4	5	3	6	18	2
MUKAMA PROSPER	4	5	3	5	17	2
NIATUKUNAA MERIMINA	2	5	2	4	13	2
NDYAADUMUNIV DESIRE	3	4	2	4	13	2
SEBATWARE FELIX	3	4	2	3	12	1
MINSIMA KATHERINE	4	6	3	6	19	2
TUSHEMEDEAWE CAROLYNE	4	6	5	5	20	2
TWEYONGERE CLEUS	4	5	2	3	14	2
KATUSHABE ROSEJINA	4	7	5	8	24	2
AGABA ESAU	6	6	3	7	22	2
GUMOSHABE LEHEMA	4	6	6	6	22	2
TUMUKUNDE CAROLYNE	5	6	4	6	21	2
NIWAGABA JULIUS	6	6	5	7	24	2
ATUHEIRE DRIVIAS	5	7	4	5	21	2

Compiled by LEONARDI BTOBUSIRUKYE
H/T/R

SPONSORS IN ETHIOPIA!

We must never forget how our involvement with Nkuringo first started in October 2014. Stephen Knowlden and I were on our first trek ever – with Dream Challenges – in Uganda. We sat with gorillas and finished our trek in Nkuringo – which was the beginning of a love story that has grown and grown.



MANY OF THE people we met on that trek – and subsequent treks – have become firm friends. We have endured high winds, cold temperatures and searing sun in places like India, Jordan, Morocco and now, Ethiopia.

Friends made on treks are unlike any other friends. You have supported each other through tough days. They are the only ones who will ever really understand the thrill of making it to the top of a peak or overcoming your own doubts to meet a challenge.

This month we were privileged to spend two weeks in Ethiopia with such friends which included the following lovely people who continue to support children and projects

for us in Nkuringo: Apart from Stephen Knowlden and myself we were with **Theo Peeters** – our amazing guide, **Tara Garritt** – who has visited Nkuringo almost as often as I have and is instrumental in so many of our projects plus **Eileen Johnstone** and **Anne Cripps** who both sponsored from the early days. Eileen, Anne, Tara, Steve and myself will all be back in Nkuringo this year! We were also accompanied by **Helena Highfield** who has also trekked to Nkuringo and been back to provide much needed support.

Ethiopia is wild and poor – like areas of Uganda – but the struggles they face are uniquely theirs. At night the temperatures in the mountains dip low into minus figures. You wake in biting winds that only cease when the fierce sun comes out to chase them away. In the remote areas people live in basic homes with their animals to keep warm. Their diet is mainly vegetables and spices with some fermented bread and occasionally meat – usually goat.

We met the young women who climb the hills outside Addis Ababa every day to collect up to 60 kilos of twigs which they bind into large loads they then carry back down the mountain to sell as firewood. All this for a maximum of \$1 a day. As vulnerable young women they are prey to all types of abuse during the day from scrupulous men who find them easy pickings. We could not even lift the burdens they regularly carry to stay alive.

It is 2011 in Ethiopia – they have a different calendar to us! Steve celebrated his 65th birthday on 7th January which also happens to be Christmas Day in Ethiopia! Two Christmases in one year! As the country is very religious (protestant) we saw many celebrations, singing and dancing, mostly centred around the churches – of which there are many.

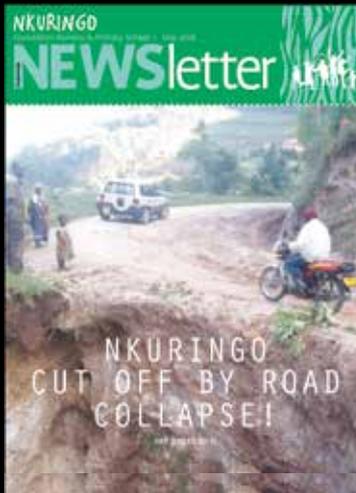
Time is also difficult to comprehend. Apart from the East African time we understand (3 hours ahead of us) – there is the Ethiopian time most people follow: A 12 hour clock which basically sticks to the 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness the country usually enjoys. During the day the time is linked to daylight so 1 o'clock is one hour into daylight – say 7am. 11 o'clock is therefore approx 5pm....confused? We were!

Community and family ties are essential in such primitive conditions as people pull together to face the daily challenges of life.

We climbed several peaks in Ethiopia culminating with Mount Bwahi at 4,300 metres – quite a challenge!

We loved our time in Ethiopia with our special trekking family and look forward to more such challenges in the coming years!





Looking back over 2018 we **thank you** for all your support that made everything possible. **Looking forward** to an exciting 2019 full of promise. We have made so many friends around the world as we join together to make this a **better place** for all. Happy New Year to Everyone – Let us make this **another Year to Remember!**