

UGANDA



'Prevention is Better than Cure'
Charity No: 1115103

NEWSLETTER

No: 005
APR 2011



Welcome to our fifth newsletter, work has at last begun on the roof of our Community Hall project in Luwero, Uganda. Thanks to the efforts of all our supporters, we were able to send £20,000 out in March and you can read just how it was spent inside. 'Nobby' Clarke - Chair of Trustees.

This issue.....



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**Gilead Hall
Luwero
Uganda**



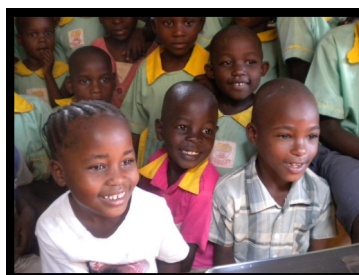
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**'Gifts
for
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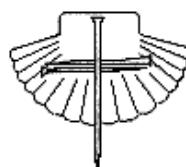
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www.ghdcafrica.org.uk

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Martyn Dalman
Rosie Dalman

UK Address.....
51 Stonebury Ave
Coventry.
CV5 7FW



**Supported by
St James Fletchamstead
Coventry**

Uganda Address...
P.O.Box 16038
Wandegeya
Uganda



1. Gilead Hall – Update

It was great to see the roof starting to take shape in March 2011. It's been a long time coming and everyone has worked hard to raise the £20,000 needed to complete the roof structure. Unlike in the UK, everything in Uganda has to be constructed from raw materials on site. This picture shows some of the 10 tons of steel being loaded on to the truck.



Meanwhile, a system of scaffolding is constructed within the building which is used by the roofing contractors. The picture shows the bound together wooden poles supporting a narrow timber plank walkway. There are no cranes or mechanical devices to help, everything will be lifted by hand and carried into position manually. All the steel is cut on the ground and then welded on top of the scaffolding.

Once all the cut steel has been welded into place, each roof support is carried along the top of the scaffolding and then carefully lifted into place. It takes eight men to carry and manoeuvre each of these heavy sections and there is only a small margin for error. Each section fits on to a notched out part of the reinforced concrete top of the walls. These many marked out portions were achieved using a lump hammer and chisel.



This latest picture shows most of the roof structure now in place. We are now faced with raising sufficient funds in order to purchase and fit the steel sheets required to cover the roof, at a cost of approximately £15,000.

Can you help to
raise funds?

Please get in touch



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2. 'Gifts for Gilead 2010 Christmas Campaign -

The 'Gifts for Gilead' Christmas campaign which we have run for the last four years, has proved to be a great way of being able to bring some more direct help to those people we see and hear about and who are in need. One of the more popular items purchased were mattresses. We found Olivier (one of our sponsor kids) sharing a simple mat on the floor together with her grandfather who is her sole carer. I met Olivier the next morning and was surprised to find that she was sharing her grandfathers mattress, saving her own so she had something special to look forward to at Christmas!



I think it's fair to conclude, that a lot of emphasis and therefore charitable funds given to Africa is aimed at children and families and older people are often miss out. It is very humbling to witness the gratitude shown when a small grocery hamper is received, but it is a very simple and effective way of honouring this often forgotten generation who have made it possible for us to visit in relative safety.

We were able to buy shoes for nine children during this years visit. Maureen aged 6 and Rita aged 9 (pictured right) tried shoes and socks on for the first time in their lives. The head teacher cut straws to length in order for us to get the children's shoes. All the shoes purchased were second hand shoes from the West, which are both available and preferred to the poor quality new shoes on offer.



It's always a fun exercise to go down to the market and buy 1250 bananas for all the children and staff at the two schools we help support...all for around £50. The market traders get very excited when we place our order and even more so, because they are treated to a bottle of coke etc for their troubles. The children queue patiently for this brief distraction from the normal diet of Maize Meal and Beans!

Happy 90th Birthday to Irene Upton - Irene has been a staunch supporter of ours since we began raising funds back in 1999 and has for some time refused Christmas presents from friends and family in lieu of donations for Gilead. Irene has even planned for her forthcoming 90th Birthday on 9th July 2011 to follow the same pattern. So on behalf of everyone at Gilead and in Uganda a **BIG THANK YOU!!!**



3. Sponsor Children.....

We now have 64 Sponsor Children.....

38 - Primary School

1 - Specialist School for the Deaf

18 - Secondary Education

7 - In Higher Education / Other

+2 - Graduated from University.



We have started to take on some children from a new school in Luwero., all of whom come from poor rural backgrounds. The selection process is carried out by our Ugandan representative in Luwero, Rommie Muyanja and we rely heavily upon his knowledge and understanding of this community. The picture above shows one of our lucky children who received a replica football shirt with his name on from his sponsor!

The cost of sponsoring a child in Uganda through Gilead is £20 pcm. Many will be full time boarders at school and will write to you a couple of times a year and send you a card at Christmas and you will be able to write directly to them whenever you choose.

4. Other News....

The Gilead Piggery continues to thrive with nearly 40 animals now being kept. Both local people and schoolchildren have been learning how to rear healthy animals.

The Luwero Women's Group has continued to go from strength to strength and meets regularly to make crafts such as necklaces and bangles (available for sale) and has started a chicken rearing project.

Nurse Christine has completed training in blood analysis, so is now better placed to be able to identify issues like the different strains of Malaria.

A Live School Skype link was achieved between Southfields School in Coventry and the Alpha Academy in Luwero, Uganda. Both sets of children were excited to be able to talk face to face and ask each other questions about where the other lived.



Ronald (pictured left) is a pupil at the 'African Outreach Academy' in Luwero, the home of our clinic, which has now treated more than 8,000 children in the ten years since it opened. He was out playing, fell and broke his arm in two places. Remarkably he was able to walk into the clinic, see the nurse and be transported to hospital, all within the hour. I remember the time, not so long ago, when he would have just been sent home, we've come a long way!!!

Thanks for your support!

John 'Nobby' Clarke - Chair of Trustees