

# Matugga News - October 2012

**Welcome to this edition of 'Matugga News'.** We have so many good things to share with you. We hope you will enjoy reading about recent developments and feel uplifted by the great things that are being achieved through this wonderful partnership.

## April Visitors to Matugga

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May visits to Matugga were made by Anne MacLeod from the Isle of Lewis (a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Medical student at Glasgow University), Hannah Chappell and the Porter family from Ilkley. Anne got involved in teaching chemistry in the secondary school and with the clinic where she undertook a project on Malaria in the Matugga community. Hannah was making her 7<sup>th</sup> visit to Matugga and spent time working in a number of areas at the Centre and in the community. As a student of nursing at Bradford University Hannah gained valuable experience working in the clinic.



Ilkley GP Anita Porter and her husband Stephen (a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology) and their teenage children Anna and Daniel had a wonderful experience in Matugga. Anita worked in the clinic examining and treating the symptoms of malaria, tuberculosis, typhoid and other diseases. Stephen taught biology in the secondary school, ran a 'well woman' clinic and provided a much needed solar panel for the secondary school to help students study in the evenings when the power is off (which is much of the time). Anna and Daniel worked in the secondary school, did some painting and worked with Hannah interviewing and encouraging all of the 150 children on the 'Champions Programme'.

The team had the pleasure of handing out gifts donated by legal firm Squire Sanders which arrived during their visit. Due to corporate re-branding a wide range of really useful items were donated such as mugs, umbrellas, writing pads, pens, towels and polo shirts.



## Ivan's Visit to the UK

Pastor Ivan was with us between 16<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> July and had a busy time visiting 12 schools, 4 churches and enjoyed fellowship and meals with many church house groups and families in their homes. There have been so many visitors to Matugga we had to run 3 events to give Ivan the opportunity to meet those who have volunteered at the Revival Centre along with those planning to go in the future. Ivan provided updates on developments at the Centre and on the progress being made by the children in his care. The biggest challenge remains meeting the rising costs of food, fuel and salaries.

Ivan attended one of the 'Ark' events at St John's to experience how we are reaching out to those with learning difficulties in our own community. He visited old friends now in care homes in Ilkley, attended one of the Luffman's soup days and served burgers in the rain at Ben Rhydding Community Fete. Ivan visited Ilkley Harriers on 26<sup>th</sup> June and was presented with a cheque for funds raised by the Ilkley Trail Race which will go towards establishing the Vocational Skills Centre later in the year. He also met the talented ladies of 'Patchwork People' in Garforth who, as well as making quilts for the Champions beds, raised £800 to equip the tailoring workshop of the Skills Centre.

## Ken Cornforth and Alistair Harris of Pudsey Grangefield School visit Matugga

A wonderful relationship has developed between Pudsey Grangefield and Revival Grammar over the last 5 years. In 2008 the Pudsey school donated a large amount of furniture, books and equipment when moving to a new site. Since then classes have written to each other and Pastor Ivan has visited Pudsey each year. In 2011 Pudsey started sponsoring a girl called



Najuma Agnes at Mukono University in Uganda where she is studying to become a teacher. Seeing someone from a poor background at university is miraculous and provides hope and motivation to all at school in Matugga.

In February 2012 the schools succeeded in getting a British Council grant for an exchange of teachers. In June Ken Cornforth (Principal of Pudsey Grangefield School) and teacher Alistair Harris visited Revival Grammar to lay foundations for future joint projects. The schools Global Partnership project is supported by Warwick University which will enrol students from both schools as Young Researchers who will work towards a Young Researchers Award. The joint project will focus on sustainable energy production which is a priority in both the UK and Uganda.

It is planned that Allen Lugoloobi (Pastor Ivan's wife and Head of Revival Grammar) and Sam Kateeba (Director of Studies at Revival) will visit Pudsey Grangefield this term but there have been repeated delays in obtaining visas for Allen and Sam to come to the UK and at the time of writing we are still awaiting the outcome of their applications.

## Phil and Liza's July Trip to Matugga

On Phil Chappell's 8<sup>th</sup> trip to Matugga he was accompanied by Liza Nelson a pupil of Bradford Grammar School. They both got involved in painting the church, interviewing the champions, visiting people in the community, marking exam papers and giving lessons in chemistry and maths to students of Revival Grammar. Liza made good friendships with a number of the students who were so interested in comparing notes about life in Uganda and in the UK.

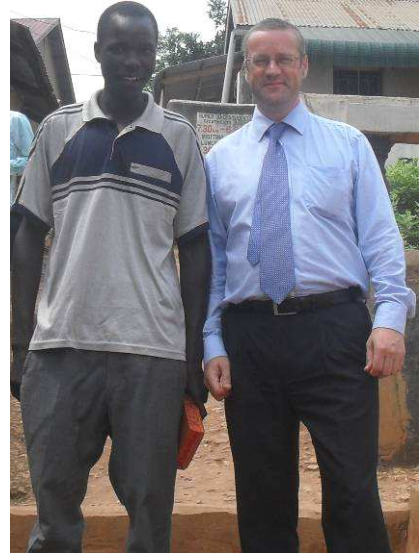
During the trip workers were hired and materials bought to prepare two play areas for the nursery and primary school. Supporters from Ilkley, Rachel Eydmann and Sharon Crosby, had spent nearly two years raising funds to transform two muddy eroding areas into well equipped playgrounds. It was fantastic to see the play areas transformed from mud to concrete over a 3 week period ready for Rachel and Sharon to install equipment during their August visits.

An architect was engaged to draw up plans for the Vocational Skills Centre for submission to the local planning authorities and work began on draining land where the Skills Centre will be built. Phil and Liza were excited to see arrival of the goods shipped at the end of May. The consignment included desks and other furniture donated by Moorfield School and Ben Rhydding Play Group along with text books, reading books and stationery donated by a number of other local schools. It was great to take part in the handing-over ceremony and to see all the items put to good use in the nursery, primary and secondary schools.



## Okumu Ronald

One of Ivan's champions is 22 year old Okumu Ronald who has lived through some terrible times. He is an Acholi from Kitgum in the north and many of his family and friends have been murdered by the Lords Resistance Army. Despite his harrowing childhood running into the bush when strangers entered his village and living in displacement camps he remains amazingly calm and philosophical. He is determined to make the most of any opportunity given to him in order to support himself and the surviving members of his family. At the end of a long conversation Phil suggested to Okumu that one day he should write his story. But only 3 days later he returned with an exercise book filled from cover to cover. He is currently in Senior 5 and studying history, entrepreneurship, divinity and ICT and his dream is to study Law at university.



## Farm Development

The rising cost and shortages of staple foodstuffs in East Africa (and the world in general), exacerbated by speculators looking to make money from this commodity, forced us to set up a farm in Autumn 2009. The original 6 acre 'mixed' farm at Gombe (5 miles north of Matugga) is doing well. The rearing of chickens for the table is more profitable than egg production and is making a profit. The seven cows are doing well and another calf was born (to Monica) during Phil and Liza's visit. In July an impressive field of maize and potatoes was ready for harvest and fruit trees planted in Summer 2010 are now bearing fruit. Being near Matugga this working farm is used to teach the children all the different farming skills as many of them will end up working on the land to support themselves and their families in the future.



The Gombe farm is doing well but the harvests only feed the school for a few weeks. We have been renting land 30 miles north of Matugga in the Nakaseke area where soils are more fertile and land is cheaper and we have been wanting to buy a 10 acre plot there. A generous donation has enabled Ivan to buy the land and we plan to raise further funds to fence the land and put up a small house for a farmer to live in. The farmer will manager the farm, keep it secure and hire local workers for planting, weeding and harvesting. A 10 acre harvest of maize will feed the school for a term (82 days) saving £50 a day on buying maize flour) so saving around £4,000 a term and helping the Centre become more self-sufficient.

## The Ben Rhydding Community Choir 'Sing for Matugga'

On the 14<sup>th</sup> July texts came through to Phil in Matugga saying how great the 'Sing for Matugga' concert had been. The 50 member choir performed to a full church and raised over £1,300 for the Revival Centre. The money raised has helped us continue to meet the everyday needs of food, medicines and staff salaries. The Choir was formed, trained and conducted by the inspirational Keely Hodgson. Keely is delighted to see the choir provide a focus for building community in Ilkley while at the same time supporting and educating children in Matugga.



## The August Team Visit to Matugga

The big theme of the August team visit to Matugga was 'Playgrounds'. Rachel Eydmann and Mark Peru, Sharon Crosby and her son Dennis, Libby and Hannah Chappell and Emily Atkinson were joined by Libby's cousin from Norway Nina Jorgenson-Lie to complete the playgrounds and



install play equipment at the nursery and primary school. They enjoyed going into Kampala to select the equipment and negotiate a price and the drive back in a big green truck piled high with the swings, slides and other play equipment was an experience for Rachel and Mark.

On returning to the Centre the equipment was installed and much painting was done by the team to spruce up the Centre for the grand opening. The opening ceremony included speeches and the cutting of ribbons and everyone was so pleased to see the children at play on the newly installed equipment. For Rachel and Mark the nursery playground is the first one

completed by their new 'Play Away' charity (for more information see <http://play-away.org.uk/>).



Visitors to Matugga find it hard watching people collect quite dirty water from the community well adjacent to the Revival Centre and carrying their heavy jerry cans long distances to their homes, when all we have to do at home in the UK is simply turn on a tap!

While the Revival Centre is fortunate in having two boreholes and pumps the water is not really clean enough for drinking. Whilst it can be used for washing, cooking and cleaning it needs to be boiled or treated to be made safe for drinking. The visiting team bought a set of blue containers so that some of the water can be sterilised with tablets and reserved for drinking. The team also built a small incinerator to dispose of sanitary and clinic waste.

Gifts of food and soap were taken to four of the most vulnerable families in the community and a wheelchair purchased so Janet, an elderly crippled lady would no longer have to shuffle along the floor.

### **The Vocational Skills Centre Project and Harrogate Grammar School**

We are so grateful that Harrogate Grammar School chose the Revival Centre to be their chosen charity for 2011-12 with the aim of turning the dream of a Vocational Skills Centre into reality. Through a wide range of fundraising events which involved everyone in the school, they managed to raise nearly £17,000. Events included a sponsored walk, a fashion show, a sponsored 'stay awake' and student Oliver Watson with dad Julian did a Coast to Coast cycle ride. The amount raised is enough to prepare the site, construct a building and get the first workshops up and running for the start of the new school year in February 2013.



### **The Lugoloobi family**

Apart from the occasional bout of malaria Ivan and his family are currently all in good health. Daughters Ashley (12) and Ivana (5) are studying at boarding school, Elisha is a lively 2 year old and baby Marianna (10 months) will soon be on her feet. The children enjoy the many visitors who from time to time share their home.

### **Forthcoming events**

Our next '**Matugga Evening**' will take place at: **7.00pm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November at St John's Church Hall, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley.** Please bring your family and friends. For further details visit our website.

### **Thank you**

We thank all individuals, churches and schools who make regular donations to help us support the children in Matugga and a huge 'well done' to all who have undertake fundraising events. If you or your friends are planning a fundraising event please let us know so that we can give you our support.

**For further information contact Phil or Libby Chappell on 01943 430744 or at [philchappell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:philchappell@blueyonder.co.uk) or visit [www.revivalcentrematugga.org.uk](http://www.revivalcentrematugga.org.uk)**