

Matugga News - May 2013

The Revival Centre provides hundreds of children with education, skills, a safe loving home, medical care and the capability to escape poverty and support themselves and their families in the future.

Debbie and Harry visit Matugga

Between 18 and 29 October 2012 Debbie Walker made her 6th visit to Matugga accompanied by her father Harry who is in his eighties. Being a nurse Debbie provided particular support to the medical team in the clinic and as a trustee of the UK charity helped Ivan and Allen develop plans for the coming year. Harry had taken up a personal invitation from Ivan to go to Matugga to share his wisdom and Bible knowledge with local pastors attached to Ivan's church ministry.

At the time of her visit Debbie was an occupational health nurse with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and arrived in Matugga bearing gifts from colleagues. The significance of these gifts is summed up well in Debbie's own words of thanks to her colleagues:

"The socks, pants, toothbrushes, paste and flannels were all received with great enthusiasm, with enough spare to hold some back for the beginning of the new term, when there will inevitably be some new arrivals who have little or nothing with them. The generous selection of pens, pencils and other stationery were given to the primary seven students who were due to take their final exams the week I left. Supplies of paracetamol and ibuprofen were eagerly received by patients in the clinic. The cost of quality medication in Uganda continues to create significant problems. The gift of such basics is so valuable in the treatment of many common but serious conditions such as malaria. Thank you for caring, it is so important and special to these children that people so far away care about them."



Allen Lugolobi and Kateba Sam's visit to Pudsey Grangefield School in December 2012

After 3 months of negotiation with the UK Border Agency's contractor in Nairobi, visas for Ivan's wife Allen (Head of Revival Grammar) and Kateba Sam (Director of Studies at Revival Grammar) to visit the UK were finally issued. This was the return leg of a teacher exchange supported by a British Council grant. In June 2012 Ken Cornforth (Principal of Pudsey Grangefield School) and teacher Alistair Harris visited Revival Grammar and laid foundations for a joint project (see *previous edition of Matugga News for details*). They had a wonderful experience and returned with new perspectives on life and education in Uganda and in the UK.



Allen and Sam were understandably daunted by the huge size and amazing facilities of a modern secondary school in the UK but got heavily involved in the life of the school during the week of their visit. Ken and this family made Allen and Sam very welcome in their home. Allen stayed an extra week and had a good time in Ilkley catching up with friends and supporters. On the way to Heathrow we pulled off the motorway to give Allen the chance to encounter snow for the first time.

School registered as exam centre - finally!

We are pleased to announce that after 3 years of trying we have finally received confirmation that the Revival Centre has been registered as an examination centre for state primary leaving exams and secondary O-level exams with a promise that it will have registration for A-level exams in 2014. This is a big step forward for the Centre and will help reduce costs. We will no longer have to pay fees to other schools for our pupils to sit their exams or pay for buses and fuel to take them to other exam centres.

Phase One of the Vocational Skills Centre has been completed!

In the very manual economy of Uganda and with no state support for people, most children will need a skill to survive. For the last 5 years we have been praying for the means to give children skills for life, especially orphans and children rescued from the streets who will really be on their own when they leave the care of the Revival Centre.

So you can imagine how delighted we are to be able to report that the first block of the Vocational Skills Centre has been completed and is now in use thanks to funds raised by Harrogate Grammar School and Ilkley Harriers and donations from individuals. One workshop is being prepared for tailoring to be taught in the near future and the other workshop is being used to provide computer skills training while the classroom area has become the base for the already established training of nursery teachers.

We are very grateful to Soroptimist International of Ilkley for supporting 2 girls from the champions programme (Babirye Faith and Kemissa Carol) in working towards a diploma in nursery teaching. Both girls are from very poor backgrounds and desperately need a skill to sustain themselves in the future.



From Stornoway to Matugga with love

Anne Macleod (now a 4th year medical student at Glasgow University) visited the Revival Centre in April last year and returned with an enthusiasm that infected much of the her family and friends in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. Anne and her family ran a number of events on the Island and raised £3,840. This made it possible to ship vital goods donated by local schools on Lewis to Matugga and has helped us continue to meet the everyday costs of feeding 800 children, paying 65 staff and keeping the clinic supplied with medicines. It is great that Anne will be returning to Matugga to volunteer at the Centre again this summer.



Supporting community projects in Matugga

When we visit Matugga we are always impressed and humbled by the ladies in the women's group who work so hard to support themselves and their families. Despite their own poor situations they share what little they have with their struggling neighbours such as the very elderly Mrs Musoke who has dependent handicapped adult children, Janet who has lost the use of her legs and Restie who has learning disabilities and needs help looking after her 5 children.



A link with the Ark events that take place at St John's Church in Ben Rhydding, Ilkley has been made with the women's group and has provided funds to help them reach out to vulnerable members of their community. With this support the group has built Mrs Musoke a new home and helped Faith set up a small groundnuts business. Due to limited funds our main focus has to remain on sustaining support for the Revival Centre in providing vital education and skills to children from very poor backgrounds so we are actively exploring new avenues of support for the women's projects.

Farm development

Now that phase one of the vocational skills centre has been constructed attention can turn to further developing the farm at Nakaseke. We have gratefully received a gift that will allow more land to be purchased, cleared, fenced, ploughed and planted in the coming weeks. We also need to establish a small house for a farmer to live in who will manage the land, keep it secure and hire local workers for planting, weeding and harvesting. This exciting expansion of the farm in 2013 will help the Revival Centre take another big step towards self-sufficiency and protect it further from the ever rising cost of maize and beans which is the staple diet of our 800 school pupils and 65 staff.

Vikings in Matugga

Libby's cousin in Norway Nina Jorgensen-Lie has just returned from spending 8 months in Matugga as part of a 1 year break from her job. Nina's daughter Andrea (21) joined her for the last 4 months and they returned home to Norway at the end of April.



As a teacher and therapist of handicapped children Nina used her skills to help at the schools and became particularly involved with the nursery children. We are looking forward to Nina visiting us soon to hear how her time in Uganda has enriched her life and to receive her advice on how we can improve the services and support we give children at the Revival Centre.

Fundraising and profile building

We thank everyone for the wonderful fundraising events and generous donations without which there would be no Revival Centre. Recent highlights include a performance at St John's Ben Rhydding by Guiseley Brass Band, an awareness raising event in Briggate in Leeds city centre and a sponsored run at Beckett Park (organised by students from Leeds Metropolitan University) and a 50's & 60's rock and roll night featuring the Good Buddies at the Clarke Foley Centre in Ilkley.



We thank our local schools for their continuing interest in and support of the children in Matugga. It is wonderful to be able to share first hand with children here what life is like for others. The positive and loving response of our children to what they see and hear is truly heart-warming. It is so important to help our children understand their place in the world and to value others equally.

Having moved to working 4 days a week at the Environment Agency, Phil is available to go into schools to do assemblies, support class work and projects and maintain the mutually rewarding links our schools have with Pastor Ivan and the children in Matugga.



Ivan's June Visit to Ilkley

We are making plans for Ivan's annual visit in June. However, we cannot make firm appointments until we are sure a visa has been granted. As soon as it is we will be in touch to fix dates for Ivan's visits to schools, churches, community groups and supporters.

Summer visitors to Matugga

A number of young people will be volunteering at the Revival Centre in Matugga over the summer. The first arrival will be Sophie Clarke (Nottingham Uni) on 22 June. Sophie will then be joined by the main group who will be there between 6 and 31 July. They are: Andy Malley (Loughborough Uni), Sarah Bowes (Nottingham Uni), Eleanor Rice-Birchall (at Skipton Girls school), Harry Simpson (at Woodhouse Grove school), Naomi Hill and Emily Futers (both at Abbey Grange Academy) and Anna Saunders (who will be staying in Matugga until 10 August). The team will be led and supported by Eleanor's mum Helen between 6 and 19 July and by Phil Chappell between 14 and 31 July.

Being there in person is a huge encouragement to the children and staff at the Revival Centre and whatever your age or skills, there is always plenty you can do to be a blessing to them. Visitors will get the chance to see the reality of how people are living in Uganda and to have conversations with students, staff and people in the community to better understand each other's lives. Uganda is a beautiful country full of friendly welcoming people. Matugga is a vibrant market town and the Revival Centre lies at its heart. It is great to be part of the Revival Team for a couple of weeks or more and be surrounded by hundreds of smiling excitable children.

Our University Girls

In February 2012 we introduced you to two young ladies from the Champions Programme who are being sponsored at University. They are both well into their second academic year and achieving good results in their exams. Nakafeero Agnes is studying Business at Gulu University supported by a family in Yorkshire and Najuma Agnes is studying Education at Mukono University supported by Pudsey Grangefield School. Knowing the very poor situations these girls come from it is fantastic that they are now at university and they are very grateful for this opportunity.



Forthcoming events

- **Ilkley Trail Race, Monday 27 May 2013**
Come and combine your love for running with helping care for and educate children in Matugga, Uganda. This 11km Trail Race starts at 11.30am from Ilkley Lido. £8 pre entry (£10 on day), for details email trailrace@ilkleyharriers.org.uk or download an entry form from our website or that of Ilkley Harriers.
- **Ben Rhydding Community Choir Concert, Saturday 13 July 2013**
Come and enjoy an evening celebration of Community and Song at St John's Ben Rhydding, Ilkley (Ticket details to be published soon). The Ben Rhydding Community Choir was set up by Keely Hodgson to share and learn a repertoire of unaccompanied songs through one year, culminating in a concert to raise funds and awareness for the Revival Centre.

We thank all individuals, churches and schools who make donations and undertake fundraising events to help us support the children in Matugga. 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 or visit www.revivalcentrematugga.org.uk