

# Matugga News - May 2014

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

**Welcome to the May edition of 'Matugga News'.** We hope you will enjoy reading about recent developments and will feel uplifted by the great things that are being achieved for children and the community in Matugga, Uganda.

## Top School in the Area!

In Uganda the school year ends in late November with state exams for primary leavers in P7 and for O-level and A-level candidates in S4 and S6 respectively. In November 2013 Revival Secondary School students achieved the best O-level and A-level results in the whole area. We pray that this will encourage more families who can pay school fees to send their children to the school. For the school to be sustainable we need a balance between fee payers and those who are supported by the school with your help.

## Emily Cade's visit to Matugga

Emily from Burley-in-Wharfedale undertook a 3 month primary teaching placement at the Revival Centre between 6<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> May. As well as teaching Emily became involved in a wide range of activities including; painting the new library room, teaching the primary choir to sing in parts, introducing a pirate theme to teaching and play, taking the children to the zoo at Entebbe and visiting people in the community.



Emily was visited by her Parents Mark and Janet between 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March. Mark and Janet supported the work of the Centre during in their short time in Matugga and Emily and her parents experienced a bit more of the country and its fantastic wildlife by going on the wonderful 3 day Red Chilli safari tour to the Murchison Falls National Park in the north of Uganda.

## Norwegians invade Uganda!

Nina Jorgensen-Lie returned to Matugga for the third time in 2 years between 14<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March with her good friend Bessie Nedberg. They worked at the nursery, installed ramps to enable disabled children to access the classrooms and toilets and provided fertiliser for the farm at Gombe and food for the guard dogs at Ivan's house.

## Easter visitors to Matugga

Rachel Eydmann made her fourth visit to Matugga with partner Mark Peru, son Hamish (14), family friend Mai Haver (17) and Phil Chappell. The team were there between 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April. On behalf of their Play Away charity Rachel and Mark installed a basketball court at the Revival Centre and visited an orphanage programme in Jinja called Jaaja Barbs Home for Angels with a view to providing a play area there in 2015. It was great to see Hamish and Mai getting a first-hand experience of seeing and understanding how people are living in Uganda and the universal importance of education. Phil reviewed progress at Revival Centre, held meetings with staff and visited friends in the wider community, much of which is reported below.





### **The farms**

The farms at Gombe and Nakaseke continue to be developed and are making an increasing contribution to the food supply and sustainability of the Revival Centre. One exciting development has been the agreement of the Bristol Branch of 'Engineers for Overseas Development' (EFOD) to build a maize mill for the Revival Centre. During the Easter visit a plot of land with good access to the main road was identified on the outskirts of Matugga and we are awaiting advice on the cost of this plot. Raw maize sells at the farm

gate for around 400 UgSh/kg whereas milled maize sells for around 1700 UgSh/kg so having a maize mill will add huge value to the crops harvested at the Revival Centre's 2 farms and to the crops of many farms in the surrounding area, allowing many to move from being marginal to profitable enterprises better able to support the families that depend on them.

### **The clinic**

The priority for the clinic is to care for the acute medical needs of the 800 children and 65 staff at the Revival Centre and to extend these services to the wider community to generate income from fees but also to provide care to those without means. The clinic is a level 2 health centre which mainly deals with acute illness and maternal care. The most frequent conditions being malaria, typhoid, diarrhoea, urinary tract infections, STDs, boils and everyday injuries.



The clinic has a new lead Nurse called Suzanne who is very professional and enthusiastic. A recent donation has allowed us to draw up a programme of improvements to the clinic to; better use the limited space, relocate the delivery room to the former nurses quarters, repair the roof, replace the solar panel batteries, replace wooden ward partitions with washable tiled walls and install a header tank and basins for washing.

The clinic is small and cramped with the constant risk of infection spread between patients. We would like to purchase some land to allow the clinic to be extended in the future and we are in negotiations with the neighbouring land owner. We hope to raise support for the land purchase and clinic expansion in the coming months. We are also encouraging medically qualified people from the UK and elsewhere to volunteer at the Centre to share their knowledge and skills with the staff and community in Matugga. So if you are interested in taking a trip to Matugga to train our clinical staff and run school and community education programmes, please get in touch.

### **The vocational skills centre**

The development of the vocational skills centre has been a wonderful story. Fundraising by Harrogate Grammar School provided a fantastic vocational skills block and other recent support means that we can provide 5 courses in 2014; carpentry, hairdressing, tailoring, catering and car mechanics. We are uncertain where funds will come from to continue these courses in 2015 but we pray that God will provide somehow.



Uganda has a very manual economy and there is no unemployment pay or social support for people without an income. So it is vital that all our children leave the care of the Revival Centre with a practical skill to support them in the future. This is particularly important for those who have missed out on much of their education or have no family to support them.

### **In the community**

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. The Ark events that take place at St John's Church in Ilkley have become linked with the women's group in Matugga and have provided funds to help them reach out to vulnerable members of their community. This support has recently built Mrs Musoke a new home, helped Faith set up a groundnuts business and provided a new house for Restie and her 5 children.

### **Sponsorship programme update**

Every year children on our sponsorship programme leave the Revival Centre having completed their studies and skills training or because their guardian moves to another area or for other reasons. In June Pastor Ivan will come with details of children who have been newly taken onto the Champions Programme and we will allocate them to sponsors whose children have recently left the Revival Centre. We will be encouraging all sponsors to write to their sponsored children by the middle of July so that the Summer Visitors to Matugga can take the letters to the children and return with their replies in August. One of the children taken on to the Champions Programme in April was Jessica from the slums of Kampala. Visiting families in the slums and offering a safe home and an education to some of their children is one of the most moving and hopeful things to become involved with.



### **Our university students**

It is hard to believe that Najuma Agnes and Nakafeero Agnes are now completing the last term of their 3 year degree courses at Mukono and Gulu universities respectively. They are hugely grateful for the support they have received and for the opportunities this will give them in the future. We have an offer of support for 1 student to go to university this year and Okumu Ronald from the champions programme has been chosen. He achieved the best A-levels and has truly earned this opportunity. He is from Kitgum in the north of Uganda and grew up in the brutal times of the civil war and many among his family and friends were killed in the civil war which only stopped 4 years ago. He spent several years in an IDP camp and his motivation is to succeed so that he can return to the north to support the surviving members of his family.



### **Australian Visitors to Matugga in May**

On 18<sup>th</sup> May Melbourne residents Chris and Hayley Gibson and Rachel McLeish will arrive in Matugga. Chris and Hayley will be there for 5 months and Rachel for a few weeks. They are keen to become part of the school teaching and church ministry teams. They have raised funds which will be used to support the vocational skills courses and other projects.

### **The 2014 summer team**

Between 11<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August Chris and Hayley Gibson will be joined in Matugga by a team of 10 young volunteers from the UK and Norway.

Georgina Harris (A2) Ilkley Grammar  
Jessica Hampton (A2) Ilkley Grammar  
Naomi Elliott (AS) Ilkley Grammar  
Katie Griffith (AS) Skipton Girls  
Naomi Burns (AS) Skipton Girls

Alasdair Kerr (A2) Bradford Grammar  
Tyne Anderson (AS) Bradford Grammar  
Lucille Chave (AS) Bradford Grammar  
Nina Rein (from Norway) at Manchester Uni  
Christina Lernes (from Norway) at Manchester Uni

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. The team 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. The team will get involved in all areas of the Revival Centres activities and will see more of this wonderful country when they go to the north for 3 days to see the scenery and wildlife of the Murchison Falls National Park staying at the Red Chilli camp.

### **Working with UK schools**

So far this school year we have been invited to do assemblies and support class work in schools on 9 occasions and many more visits have been arranged for Ivan's time with us in June. It is wonderful to share understandings of life elsewhere with our children in the UK.

### **Ivan's visit to the UK in June**

We are making plans for Ivan to be with us between 5<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June. Ivan will be visiting our local schools, churches, community groups, families and will enjoy getting together with past and future visitors to Matugga. It is really important that supporters get chance to meet Ivan in person and get first-hand feedback on how things are going in Matugga.

### **Forthcoming Events**

- **Ilkley Trail Race, Monday 26 May 2014**

Combine your love for running with helping care for and educate children in Matugga. This 11km Trail Race starts at 11.30am from Ilkley Lido (Junior races from 10.00am). £8 pre entry (£10 on day), for details contact the entries secretary: 4 Trinity Rise, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1RG. Tel: 07891 001592 or email [trailrace@ilkleyharriers.org.uk](mailto:trailrace@ilkleyharriers.org.uk)

- **Ben Rhydding Community Choir Concert, Saturday 12 July 2014**

Come and enjoy an evening celebration of 'Community and Song' at St John's Church, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley (Ticket details to be published soon). The Ben Rhydding Community Choir was set up by Keely Hodgson to learn a repertoire of unaccompanied songs through one year, culminating in a concert to raise funds and awareness for the Revival Centre.

### **Online Fundraising**

Anyone who is keen to fundraise for the children in Matugga can set up a fundraising page via our 'Give A Child A Hope' profile on BT MyDonate and, as we are fully registered with the Charity Commission and HMRC, Gift Aid will be collected on all relevant gifts. Our profile page can be accessed via the '[donations and fundraising](#)' page of our website.

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](mailto:philchappell@blueyonder.co.uk) or visit [www.revivalcentrematugga.org.uk](http://www.revivalcentrematugga.org.uk)**