

NKURINGO

Foundation Nursery & Primary School

September 2016

NEWSletter



see inside about the blacksmiths of
NKURINGO

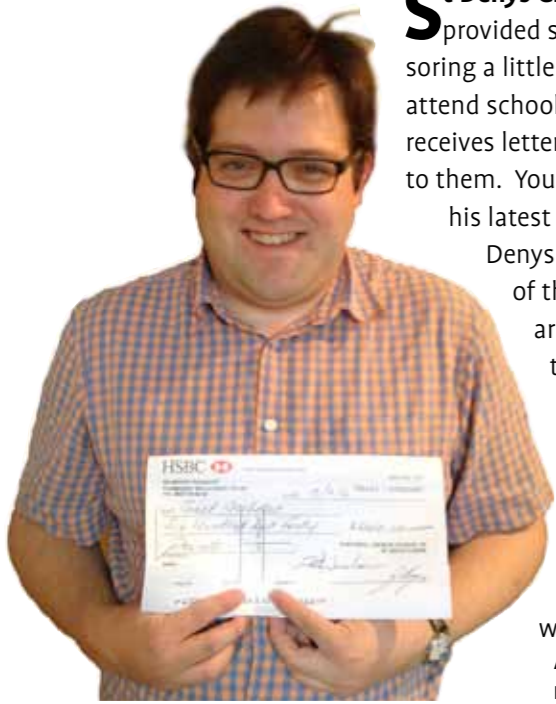
ROTHERFIELD CHURCH RAISES FUNDS . . .



St Denys Church of Rotherfield has already provided support to Nkuringo by sponsoring a little boy Desire Ndyabomuntu to attend school. The congregation ensure Desire receives letters and photos and he writes back to them. You can see a photo of Desire with his latest letter on the opposite page. St Denys has now increased its support of the community and following our article in last month's newsletter has just donated the funds to purchase another water tank for the school. This will make a tremendous difference and cut out many of the trips currently made to fetch water during the dry months. The container has already been ordered and Chris Read will ensure it is installed in October – in time for the winter rains to fill it up. We are thrilled with the warm support of this community and look forward to a wonderful alliance between these two communities.



Above: Reverend Nigel Mason, Rector of Rotherfield with Mark Cross
Left: Adam Hardy, Church Warden, donating the cheque

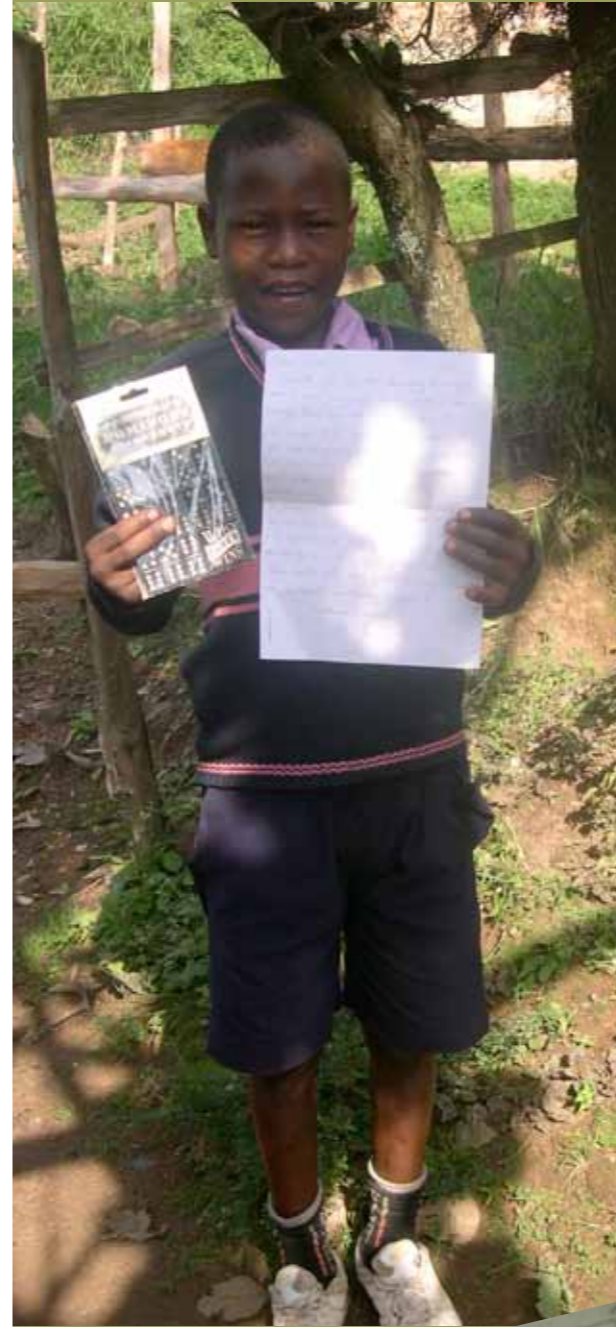
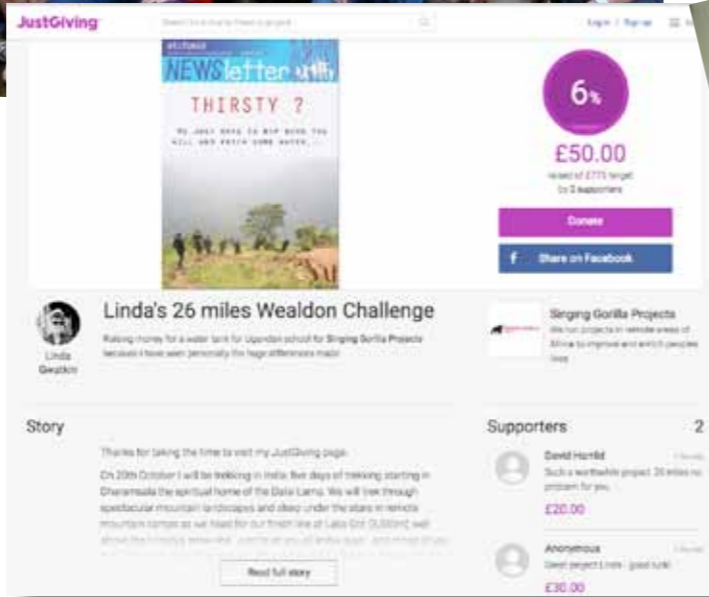


THE LOVELY LINDA

We were privileged to have Linda Gwatkin on the same trek as Steve and I when we visited Uganda and the Nkuringo Foundation and Primary School for the very first time. Looking at the group photo now there are so many of those kind people who now sponsor children – pigs and even goats – for this community!

Linda is trekking in India with the charity Dream Challenges this October and - along with Steve and I - will be raising funds and awareness to support the school and community further. Linda has a Just Giving page where you can help her raise the money for a further water tank for the school. Thank you so much Linda for your continued support for this community. If any of you have any spare pennies please do go to her Just Giving Page and help Linda achieve her dream. We will be walking 26 miles with her on 9th October as part of this challenge and as a warm up for our Himalayan adventure – give a thought for our feet!

Above: Linda Gwatkin (shown in the white circle) on her trip to Uganda and Nkuringo.
Right: Linda's "Just Giving page" advertised on Facebook.



KEEP WRITING

We encourage sponsors to reply and write letters to their children. There is always great excitement when a letter arrives at the school. Please do not put anything other than stickers, bookmarks etc. in the letters when you send them as there is no guarantee that will get through – however ordinary paper/cardboard does seem to be ok and where a child is unable to read the letter there is always someone on hand who can help!

Remember letters need to be sent to:
**Nkuringo Foundation Nursery & Primary School,
P.O Box 36385,
Kampala,
Uganda.**
Attn : Name of Child
c/o Joshua Ayubare (headmaster)

If you live close to me you can always give me your letters to enclose in one of my packs of newsletters that are printed and sent monthly to the school.
Keeeeeep Writing!!!

Left: Ivan Tumwesigye
Below Left: Letters arriving at the school
Below Middle: Benedicto Aronda
Below Right: Desire Ndyabomuntu
Bottom Right: Children reading the newsletters

The children write to their sponsors at least twice a year and the letters are either sent to us to distribute or given to Chris Read on one of his regular visits. He then forwards them to us to distribute.



OUR MAN DID IT!

We thought it would be nice for you to get a better understanding of the people who make the Nkuringo Foundation and Primary School tick. This month we focus on THE member of the community. **Founder of the school:** Asgario Turyagyenda and head of the Community Conservation and Development Foundation

NCCDF REGIONAL COMMISSION P.O. BOX 106, KISumu		VOTER ROSTER FOR	
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This page: Asgario with his family

Above: Ballot papers
Right hand page:

Asgario name on the Oath of Office and being sworn in



ASGARIO TURAGYENDA WINNER

Each month we try to give you information regarding one of the staff at the Nkuringo Foundation Infant and Primary School. As this month we had some great news regarding Asgario Turyagyenda – founder of the school and now newly elected chairman of the Nkuringo Community Conservation and Development Foundation (NCCDF) – a very important man who has worked hard to build the school and helps us work with the community to improve the lives of everyone in it – we decided he should be our feature staff member this month.

The school was founded by Asgario Turyagyenda in 2011. It was founded under a community water tank shelter in the Nkuringo Trading centre. It began with 35 children divided into Baby, Middle, Top and Primary One classes. The need for the young children between 4 to 5 years. In order to attend school in the 80's Asgario had to walk 10km morning and evening. This prohibitive distance on top of the school fees meant that most children did not go to school.

In 2003, Asgario became a school teacher at St Joseph's Vocational Secondary School in Rubuguri teaching Mathematics. After a year, he joined the Uganda Wild Life Authority(UWA) and worked as a Ranger Guide in Bwindi and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. He was a guide involved in gorilla tracking, nature walks, hiking and climbing volcanos with tourists. He worked as a guide for 4 years until 2008 when he began working with tour companies in and around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park as well as the other national parks of Uganda and Rwanda.

As a guide he worked to raise awareness of the lack of schooling in Nkuringo and managed to find enough well-wishers and supporters to help him start the initial school – much to the delight of the community. This support has grown, as you know, and currently many of the most in need children who could never have dreamed of attending school now have a place in education. These opportunities have been extended to groups such as the Pygmy/Batwa group and the HIV Group. Orphans sit alongside children whose parents can afford to pay tuition fees, without discrimination.

It is now 6 years since the school began. The school has a Board of Directors and School Management Committee of 9 people. The chairperson is Vicent Nshemereirwe. It also has a thriving Parents Teachers Association headed by Donant Tumuheise. These are the functional committees



which help and direct the school in its progress. Currently the school has 9 classes with 170 children. They have been developing/creating a new class each year. Next year the final class - primary seven - which is the highest level class for all primary schools in Uganda - will open its doors. Those pupils now in primary six will join primary seven and will all sit the national examinations at end of year similar to all other pupils in the rest of the country. That is when the hard work of the past years will come to fruition. We are all certain the children of the community have worked so hard they will pass these exams and we can finally say Nkuringo has a working education system.

At the school, Auleria Asimwe, Asgario's wife, works as a School Coordinator/Liaison officer between the Parents and children. Whenever there are issues/problems between the parents and the school, she comes in and visits the parents to see how they can amicably solve them.

Asgario's children are Alastair Nabeeta 9 years old and in primary four, Britty Natukunda 7 years old and in Primary two, Davis Shawn Taremwa 5 years old and in Middle Class. They all attend the Nkuringo Foundation Nursery and Primary School. Their favourite games/hobbies are football, athletics, singing and dancing. Britty, in particular, is a very vocal and energetic participant often seen in tourist videos of the children singing! Asgario says "My next projects for the school are: to have the new classes and school dormitories completed; have enough solar panels to provide light to the whole school; have more Batwa children attend school; have a computer lab; have more stationery and textbooks which are in line with the Ugandan Educational curriculum and have a high energy efficient stove!" It is always good to think big! He adds "Above all we promise to always provide quality education, good health and excellent sanitation facilities, so that our pupils pass with high grades. As our school mission states: "to provide quality education and develop children into useful citizens"

Asgario has just completed a campaign to win the election for chairman of the NCCDF – the Nkuringo Community Conservation and Development Foundation. He spent weeks walking around the Nkuringo community that comprises 23 villages of approximately 10000 people. You can see from the ballot papers the election went very well and the Nkuringo community has entrusted him with the position of chairman for the next 4 years. His tireless work within the community has been recognised and we know that he will ensure that he lives up to the trust of the community.

With your help and support we can help him help this community reach its true potential.

BLACKSMITHS



As well as bringing you information regarding staff at the Nkuringo Foundation, Nursery and Primary School we are also focusing on different areas of the community to give you an overview of the ways in which different people make a living. This month we are looking at the blacksmiths of Nkuringo – in particular the business of Nicholas Barutsa.

Nicholas is 59 years old. He is married to Vastine Banshekesa. They have 10 children. Three of his sons work with him as blacksmiths. The father of Nicholas is also a blacksmith so he inherited those skills from his grandparents.

The family mainly make knives, machete, axes, spears, and hammers. They sell them in the local markets in neighbouring villages. They do use iron ore mined locally but more often now they melt down discarded scrap metal such as old hoes, saucepans, and iron bars.

The name of the blacksmith with leaves on his head who is shown on the front cover, and again on this page, is called Sunday Silverio. He is 27 years old and the fourth born. He is married to Shallon Kyansi. They have two children.

There are other blacksmiths in the community but they are all from the same Bagesera clan, so in essence there are only two families that are blacksmith locally.

Blacksmiths still play an essential role in the community where they are responsible for nearly all of the tools and utensils used.

From top to Bottom:
 Sunday Silverio working the bellows
 The blacksmiths's hut
 Nicholas Barutsa with his son Sunday Silverio
 Hammering the tools into shape

THE HIV GROUP GET MORE GOATS



As you know from our last newsletter, we have been working to help the HIV Group become more independent and have the good food they need to help them stay strong. We had a target to purchase hens and goats for them to provide eggs and milk. Last month they received a goat, called Nina, and twelve hens, thanks to the efforts of Mel, Georgie and Mollie Dolding and Ethan Buss.

If that were not enough, Mel Dolding thought that Nina the goat looked a little lonely so offered to pay for a companion. She was soon joined by her friend Sarah Millward, Juliette Gaffney, who was on

the Ugandan trek and also sponsors a little boy called Lovingi – and myself. That meant four more lady goats – Mel, Sarah, Juliette and Jan to join Nina!

Eileen Johnstone – sponsor of a little girl called Pamela AND a pig called Eileen – decided the best way to grow the goat herd was to add a Billy – and kindly purchased a Billy Goat to be called Jono after her husband.

So not only has Nina a bunch of new friends – but the HIV group have the start of a lovely herd of goats! All thanks to you!

If anyone else fancies having a goat – or a hen – named after themselves and, more importantly, to help this community – please get in touch!

Kenneth Tumbwene – head of the group – is over the moon and thanks everyone for their support!





AS I WRITE this newsletter the container that left Havant in England all those weeks ago, reported in the last newsletter, is now at the Uganda border. New rules on taxation of goods coming in to the country have slowed down the passage onwards. We are all learning about Ugandan tax law rather quickly. Luckily we have a team of people on the ground who are willing the container through.

In three weeks' time, I shall be taking a small group of five volunteers to Nkuringo to work in the community. We have five new water tanks going in, one of which is a super size 5,000 litre tank. This will be placed at the 'Green Hill Hospital' health clinic, which is now complete, ready for business. Solar power has been fitted, plumbing installed and the local inspectors have given it a green light for operations. In the container we have two medical inspection beds, desks, chairs and a whole host of medical equipment that will be used in the clinic.

The other water tanks are the 3,000 litre variety which will be installed in and around the Nkuringo and Nteko Ridge area. The first tank to be installed will be at the "old lady's" house. Nobody quite knows how old she is, the local children seem to think she is 184!



Here (left) is a water tank installed next to the Singing Gorilla Projects Music School. This was the first tank to be installed in Nkuringo by Singing Gorilla Projects. The kids are always hanging out around the tank. Without the tanks, it's the job of woman and children to fetch water with jerry cans from local water sources. Because Nkuringo lies on top of ridge, the nearest water source is either in valleys below a 300 metre drop over some pretty steep hillsides, or springs that again are generally found at the bottom of the hills. Either way it's a significant trek to the water sources, and once filled up, it needs to be carried, often on the tops of heads to the tops of the hills. Back breaking if not head sore!



The water tanks are key to the transformation of the community. By capturing water in the tanks, the journey to fetch water is shorter. This means that kids spend more time at school, which in turn improves their life choices. We are already seeing a noted improvement in results from regional exams sat by the children. What we need now, are more tanks!

Chris Read



Left: Green Hill Hospital' health clinic

