



Matugga News - December 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 December 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 with your support.



Chris, Hayley and Rachel

The Gibson's in Uganda

On 18th May Melbourne residents Chris and Hayley Gibson and their friend Rachel McLeish arrived in Matugga. Chris and Hayley were there for 5 months and Rachel for a few weeks. They rapidly became part of the school teaching and church ministry teams and maintained a great blog throughout their time in Uganda (see: <https://gibsonsinafrica.wordpress.com/>).

They raised significant funds and completed a number of vital projects including: completion of the science lab and basketball court, buying a printer for the primary school, drums for the church and a solar panel for the school, repairing drains and playground equipment, setting up a bakery and a rabbit breeding programme, helping the ladies group set up a craft shop in Kampala, meeting and helping local people supported by the ladies ministry and taking some of the poorest children for a day out in

Kampala. They were joined in October by their good friend Debbie Bognar. They were all a huge blessing to the children and community of Matugga.

The Vocational Skills Centre

With support from the Gibson's fund to pay the salaries of the skills teachers and money from the UK to buy materials, a number of skills courses were piloted in 2014. The bakery will provide some local income for the skills centre but not enough to run courses in 2015. To run 5 courses in: carpentry, catering, tailoring, hair and beauty and car mechanics costs around £1,000 per month. We are applying for grants to support the skills centre but it may take some time before we are successful, so if anyone can make donations or fundraise to help provide skills training in 2015 and beyond that would be fantastic.

On 14th November we met the senior management team of Craven College and are in the early stages of establishing a learning partnership. As funds become available to commence skills courses in Matugga, the advice of expert staff at Craven College will be vital in making sure everything is set up well and delivers what the children need to gain skills and support themselves in the very manual economy of Uganda.



Ivan visiting Craven College

Ivan's visit to the UK

Pastor Ivan was with us between 6th and 28th June 2014. During his time with us Ivan visited 12 schools, 1 college, 5 churches, 3 church fellowship groups, 2 community fetes, the Ben

Rhydding Community Choir and Engineers for Overseas Development's summer ball in Manchester. Additionally, Ivan had meals and trips out with families, visited friends in care homes, met with groups of supporters and with past and future visitors to Matugga, and a wonderful 'visit celebration' event was held at a packed St John's church in Ben Rhydding on 22nd June. We thank everyone who supported Ivan's visit in any way.

The 2014 summer team

The summer visits commenced with Harriet Birkby visiting between 18th June and 9th July and Dr Anne Macleod (making her third visit) between 30th June and 15th July. Harriet had a wonderful time undertaking a 3 week teaching placement in the primary school and Anne focussed on the medical side and enjoyed renewing friendships made on previous visits. Between 11th July and 10th August Chris and Hayley Gibson were joined 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

The team saw the reality of how people live in Uganda and had conversations with students, staff and people in the community. The team got involved in all areas of Revival Centre activity and helped in classrooms, painted the skills centre and school classroom buildings, laid floor tiles in the clinic, marked out the basketball pitch, cooked school dinners, ran a party for the champions and visited poor families in the community.

But it was not 'all work and no play' as they also camped over-night at the farm in Nakseke, had a day trip to Jinja to see the source of the River Nile, camped on the Ssesse Islands in Lake Victoria and enjoyed a 3 day Safari in the Murchison Falls National Park in the north of Uganda. The team made valuable contributions to the lives of others in Matugga and gained experiences that will help them in the rest of their own lives.



Jess
 Nina
 Christina
 Naomi B
 Katie
 Georgie
 Ali
 Lucile
 Tyne
 Naomi E



Chris, Harriet, Anne & Hayley at the source of the Nile

The farms

The chickens at Gombe are making a good contribution to the funding of the Revival Centre and the small harvests of crops there are saving on some food costs. The much larger farm at Nakaseke has sadly seen a failed harvest earlier in the year when the rains came too soon and drowned the crops. We have now cleared and fenced 12 of the 16 acres of land at

Nakaseke and we now need to raise funds to re-dig and re-plant. If a crop can be planted early next year and harvested in the summer it will make a very significant contribution to the Centre's running costs (and will cover the cost of re-digging and re-planting and getting the farm running on a self-sustaining basis).

We are pleased to report that we have completed the purchase of the plot of land upon which a maize mill will be constructed by our friends at Engineers For Overseas Development (EFOD). The Bristol Branch of EFOD is now in the fundraising stage of the project. EFOD teams have previously completed 2 maize mills in Uganda and the design and construction experience is already available. We wish the Bristol Branch well with their fundraising and look forward to the construction stage. For further information about the wonderful work of EFOD go to: <http://efod.co.uk/>.

Debbie's October visit to Matugga

Debbie Walker made her 8th annual visit to Matugga between 5th and 19th October. Being a nurse Debbie had a particular interest in recent developments at the clinic and as a Trustee of the charity had meetings with a range of individuals and organisations in Uganda with whom we have important relationships. One lovely task Debbie had was handing out letters from sponsors in the UK to their excited sponsored children in Matugga. The letters are a huge encouragement to the children.



Debbie handing letters to the children

Clinic developments

The clinic provides for the acute medical needs of the 800 children and 65 staff at the Revival Centre and serves the wider community. The clinic has a new lead nurse called Suzanne who is very professional and enthusiastic. A recent donation has enabled a programme of improvements to be undertaken in the clinic which Debbie was able to report back on. The building has been expanded and the internal layout revised to increase the size of the wards and the treatment areas. A water tank and washbasins have been installed and the walls plastered and painted and floors tiled to make washable surfaces to improve hygiene. The solar panel batteries have been replaced to ensure light is available when mains power is off.

In the community

One of the privileges we have is helping the ladies group care for their poorer neighbours many of whom are elderly or physically or mentally disabled. Our visitors will know elderly Mrs Musoke and her mentally ill son Isaac, Restie and her 5 children, Faith and her dependents and Susan the daughter of the recently deceased Janet (the elderly crippled lady). In the last 24 months with the help of the ARK at St John's, the Gibson's and other visitors we have been able to help provide new homes for Mrs Musoke and Restie, set Faith up with a groundnuts business, buy a wheelchair for Janet and support all the families with food and medication. The new craft shop in Kampala will provide an outlet for the crafts, jewellery and clothes made by the ladies group to help them support their own families and their poorer neighbours.



Jane, Hayley & Debbie visiting Faith

On behalf of the ladies group and all those they support we convey special thanks to Tamsin Wright who recently cycled from Land's End to John 'O' Groats and raised £1,200 for the ongoing work of the ladies ministry in Matugga.

The Stockdale's recent visit to Matugga

Peter and Pat Stockdale are heavily involved with a charity doing wonderful work in Rwanda and are very supportive of Pastor Ivan's work in Matugga. On their return from Rwanda at the end of October they and their daughter Elizabeth spent a couple of days with Pastor Ivan in Matugga and had a tour of the Revival Centre. They were very struck by the extent of the need there and by the scale of the responsibility Ivan carries for the Centre and for his busy household. Throughout their stay pupils in P7, S4 and S6 were sitting their state exams and we pray that they all do well and take another big step towards a brighter future.

Future visitors to Matugga

David Harrison a farmer from Weston near Otley will be visiting Matugga between 4th and 18th December and will be focussing on the farms at Gombe and Nakaseke and doing some practical work at the Centre.

Fiona Schneider from Ilkley is planning to be in Matugga for the month of February 2015 to work in Ivan's church and use her specialist medical knowledge and skills in the Clinic.

A group from Harrogate Grammar School and 6 independent travellers have already booked to visit Matugga between 10th July and 10th August 2015. The independent travellers include: Emily Futers (and friend Josh), Naomi Hill (and friend Olivia), Rose Andryszewska and Fran Falcini. For Emily and Naomi this will be their second visit.

Recent events

The annual Ilkley Trail Race which took place on 26 May raised a record-breaking £1,925 for the charity and the Ben Rhydding Community Choir sang to a full St John's church on 12 July and raised £1,302. These funds have played a crucial role in helping us meet the everyday cost of providing school meals to 800 children, paying 65 teaching and care staff and keeping the clinic supplied with vital medicines.

Launch of Christmas Gift Scheme

The gift scheme is a great way of honouring your friends and family while at the same time supporting needy children in Uganda. Please contact us for an envelope containing the gift catalogue, order form and gift aid form or download them from our [Gift Scheme web page](#).

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 our [Donations and Fundraising web page](#) or directly at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/giveachildahope>

Thank you to our wonderful donors and fundraisers

We thank all individuals, churches, schools and community groups 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