

# Let Them Help Themselves Out Of Poverty



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2011

Edited by Ida Horner

### Welcome to our first ever newsletter.

By way of background, the charity came out of a chance conversation between Ann McCarthy and myself. Ann was already working in Uganda and I had recently set up [Ethnic Supplies](#) to enable African women involved in handicrafts and textile production to access the UK market. In 2009 the charity "LET THEM HELP THEMSELVES OUT OF POVERTY" was formerly registered with the Charity Commission 1127387.

We have come a long way since then, mostly thanks to your generosity.

### Our Achievements So Far:

#### Village school

When Ann first arrived in Ruhanga, children under 8 years old had no access to education. To date the community school we started enables 250 children to access education free of charge. Most of these children come from low income families and many are orphans.



### Child Sponsorship

This scheme was set up to enable children to attend the school without the worry of parents or guardians finding money for school fees each term.

### Mosquito nets

Last year we distributed mosquito nets to 250 homes for free, to help with the prevention of malaria.



*Distributing Mosquito Nets*

### Piped water project

This is a vital project in this rural location as villagers spend several hours a day in search of clean water. We have worked with the community to make this possible, and we are nearly ready to turn on the first taps in Migorora Village and at Uganda Lodge. Work on a second water source to supply further homes and schools will commence shortly thanks to promised funding.



*Main holding tank for the village water supply.*

## **Uganda Lodge**

This is the guest house where those amongst you that have already visited Ruhanga have stayed. The income from the guest house has enabled us to pay for the construction of the school buildings as well helping with the ongoing costs of providing education to the local children.



*Guest accommodation at Uganda Lodge*

## **Ruhanga Guest House**

We have recently completed building an office and a small Guest House in Kampala to ensure smooth and comfortable transfers for volunteers and other visitors to and from the village. The fast internet connection in Kampala is making admin and communication from UK much easier.

## **The Future**

Although we have achieved an awful lot in a few short years, there is still much work to do and we are very excited about the future. Over the next 2-3 years we would like to:

1. Complete the water project which will provide water for up to 10,000 people from 3 villages.
2. Expand the school to Primary 7. Currently we have four unfinished classrooms and need about £12,000 to complete them ready for students.
3. Build a school hall, with kitchen facilities, additional toilets and a staff room. Plans are being drawn up to enable us to obtain a quotation.
4. Business Initiatives - a key reason for our existence is poverty alleviation. It is our belief that this should not continually be through handouts but instead by enabling folk to acquire skills that they can use to help themselves out of poverty
  - a. **Bee keeping** - Ruhanga is well positioned for beekeeping and we have learned of a scheme that provides training and equipment to get people started in commercial beekeeping at a cost of £2240
  - b. **Bakery** - after we held a Business Skills Training Workshop a number of attendees started a savings scheme to build and open a bakery in the village. They have acquired the land where it will be located and require another £5000 to complete it.



*View of our School from water source*

## Upcoming Events

In the final push to finish off the water project and as part of end of the school year at Ruhanga Development School we are organizing a "Walk 4 water" event. For more details please visit our website:

<http://www.letthemhelpthemselfes.org/walk-for-water>

3. By fundraising for our school or for one of our Community Business Initiatives to enable folk in Ruhanga become financially independent.
4. If you can get to Shepperton, Ann could use admin help – this could involve responding to email enquiries, managing the various data bases and websites, book-keeping, collating photographs or updating websites.
5. By becoming a member of our charity or offering to become a trustee.
6. If you have visited Ruhanga we would like to hear from you by way of feedback or you could write about your experiences for our blog <http://www.letthemhelpthemselfes.org/blog>

## How can you help?

1. By sponsoring one of children - it costs £42 a year or £3.50 a month [www.SopnsorAChild.co.uk](http://www.SopnsorAChild.co.uk)
2. By joining the many people that visit Ruhanga to volunteer or simply to enjoy a safari and have a "holiday with a difference"



*Ruhanga Development School June 2011*

Thank you for your friendship and continued support.

**Ann and Ida**