

News from Ruhanga

PO Box 368 Ntungamo SW Uganda

www.ugandalodge.com

Is this email not displaying correctly?

[View it in your browser](#)

Uganda Lodge Newsletter
December 2014



RUHANGA RESOURCE CENTRE

SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN UGANDA



Ann's Update Six action packed weeks in Uganda simply flies by and I cannot believe its time to return to my home and family in the UK, and get organised for Christmas.



Ruhanga Development School We ended the final term of the year on a happy note and all the children performed extremely well in their exams with most ready to move up a class in the new school year. which starts in

February, Parents day was well attended and they heard P6 had exceptional results in the government Primary 7 entrance exams with 9 gaining Grade 1 and 11 students gaining grade 2.

We came third out of all the Primary Schools in Itojo sub-county, and now everyone says we will receive many more new applications from students wanting to join us in February.

This will cause us a problem as we need more people to join our low cost [SPONSORSHIP](#) scheme, which helps us to keep the fees very low when compared to other non-government-aided schools. We still have many un-sponsored children from last years new entrants so please will you sponsor even just one? Its only 90p a week and you can choose [him or her here](#) We have adequate facilities for extra children, thanks to your previous donations and Denis's desire to help educate as many local youngsters as he can.



All we ask for is a monthly donation of £3.50 for each child

The best way to donate is to set up a regular monthly standing order to our Barclays Charity bank account and if you gift a Child's

Education as an extra present this makes an ideal way to spread the cost of Christmas throughout the year. We will email you a certificate of sponsorship with the child's name and photo and also your (or your gift recipient's) name as sponsor. Contact me by email or a phone call on 07867 53588 for a fast response.





Various improvements and additions have happened at the school throughout the year, not the least being the opening of a successful boarding section back in May. Unlike in the UK, the majority of

teenagers who are still in school, board in Uganda for the whole term. This enables them to study better with good facilities like electricity and not have to complete many home chores each day, such as fetching water, cooking, digging or looking after younger siblings, alongside their



homework. It also saves long walks to and from school. and ensures they get proper nourishing meals and receive prompt medical attention if needed.

However the girls dormitory is now what was planned as a P7 classroom, and as we do not have funding to build another room at the moment, they will have to utilize what was the staffroom. Foundations are already in place but it will take a sizeable donation of at least £5,000 to get it built and ready for occupation. (Anyone feeling generous and able to help please do come forward - all past volunteers know how quickly Denis can get somewhere up and running once he has the necessary money!)



Other recent school activities included a Harvest Festival service, and on the last day of term every child received a Christmas Gift of a white school sports bag plus a plastic drinking bottle or a T-Shirt - thanks to the Accent Peerless Group



Donations from different volunteers throughout the year have enabled glass to be added to all classroom windows, metal framed playground equipment to be put in place, new grass is growing steadily across the vast sports-field, the Scouts are now



better trained, sports and school uniforms & equipment has been provided, and various items such as washstands and 'tippy taps' erected at village homes. Thanks to all who brought out donations of clothes and items for sale in our regular mini-markets, the proceeds from which has paid for paint, cement, bricks and other much needed items throughout the year. Thanks to Rosie and other volunteers who organised these eagerly awaited events. Do let me know if you have donated cash to our project and have missed out on receiving a "Thankyou" Certificate. (Same for volunteering and Sponsoring) I know its not much but its just a small token of appreciation from Denis and myself on behalf of the people of [Ruhanga](#).



of [Ruhanga](#).





Kasenyi - is an impoverished fishing village in QE national Park where Denis inherited a large plot of land alongside of Lake George a short while ago. This village has also benefited Denis's entrepreneurial spirit and Community involvement and a few months ago volunteer Alan spent several weeks of hard work plus he added a substantial donation. There is now a

filter system in place utilising water from the lake and a flush toilet plus a shower with water warmed by the sun. Denis has started to build several simple Bandas that are currently suitable for camping under and already has Christmas bookings. He is looking



for investment here (rather than donations) so he can provide good quality facilities and the high cost of accommodation around QE National park would mean that any loans were paid off quickly and then the income generated would help provide more vocational training

facilities in Ruhanga.



Vocational Training We have now completed the building of two



full size classrooms on our new site across the road from the School - thanks to donations of £5,000 from Hastoe Group through the charity "Let them Help themselves out of Poverty" and input from profits from volunteer accommodation and safaris. A



successful Dinner & Dance held back in October by LTHT raised over £1,000 towards a toilet block and with additional input from Denis this is almost completed so we will be able to open the Vocational centre early in January. As we already have some computers



and sewing machines and many inquiries for the training of both subjects we have decided to start with IT and tailoring lessons very soon after Christmas. The bicycle initiative is on hold until we have more volunteers back again in the summer months.that can work closely with the girls and help them become efficient engineers and begin earning some money. Two



teachers have been identified for IT and tailoring and they are now working out the syllabus and various charges. for the courses Once up and running the small profits will help build facilities for other skills and also



help subsidise the work of the Medical Centre.

McNeil Medical Centre Thanks to Terry and ASE Consulting's ongoing support of funding medical staff salaries each month, more patients are being treated every day and also there is a Dental Clinic each Monday ([Funded by Dentaid](#)) Education classes are held regularly in the local Community and this new initiative is advertising the clinic to a wider audience.





Coffee Shop & Snack Bar - Thanks to several donations and especially the larger ones from a past anonymous volunteer and another whose boss donated £500 - the foundations have been started They are much larger than I envisaged. Denis always has a clear vision of the future. and he sees

buses and overland tour groups stopping there as well as small visitor groups and especially once there is also vehicle servicing facilities. Passengers will relax in comfort with drinks and



snacks while their vehicles are being worked on. Both the coffee shop and the vehicle servicing section will be part of the whole concept of getting youngsters up to P7 level and then training them in business skills alongside a giving them a practical skill, thus enabling them to work for themselves rather than spending their lives looking for non-existent jobs.



Investment - Again there could be an investment opportunity here - especially when you consider the lowest rates for loans in Uganda is well above 25%! Denis is very keen now to open avenues that, unlike the school and medical centre, will generate some sort of income for all concerned. This will be possible both with vocational training, when a service is offered such as snacks, vehicle servicing, and tailoring and also with accommodation being offered within the boundaries of QE National Park



Volunteers have nearly all departed back to their own countries now so between Christmas and Easter is a very useful time to come out to Uganda and find some sunshine, help in the Community and assist our teachers at the school or staff in the Medical centre. Gareth especially

recommends volunteering to the guys!! If you reserve a charity flight now it doesn't have to be paid for until shortly before you go.



Safari Time Most people say that joining one of Denis's amazing safaris is one of their favorite life experiences - it certainly is mine!

We cannot close the year without thanking every

one of our donors, fundraisers, staff members and volunteers and especially the various coordinators who have worked tirelessly to make Uganda Lodge in Ruhanga a great place to stay at, volunteer from and experience Africa.



If any of you reading this feel able to help Denis and myself build on what we have already achieved so far in the past 8 years - especially with funding either by direct donations, sponsorship, fundraising events or investment (ie getting your money back again!) please do contact me NOW.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH & EVERY ONE OF YOU

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR from ANN & DENIS

