

SPRING

2015



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1115766

AFRICA GREATER LIFE MISSION UK

THANK YOU Food Crisis Averted (for now at least)

We went to Uganda knowing that the tremendous response from the supporters of AGLM had partly averted the crisis that had existed in respect of the food situation at Bulabakulu. We have put in place the delivery of reduced quantities of the basic essentials of food to the kitchen store every month for the remainder of this year.

This has only been possible because of the enormous generosity of those of you that have given one-off donations and committed to regular giving. Some of the donations have been eye-wateringly large and we are humbled by the way that the money has come in. This is not, of course, the end of the story and we will need to keep going with the fundraising as the regular giving only amounts to £300 per month (out of a total

requirement of around £2,000). We are also encouraging our Ugandan partners to find solutions other than permanent aid from Europe.



Janice and Simon Peter prepare a special treat

AGLMUK's First University Graduate

Congratulations to Brian who is the first person to have been supported by AGLMUK to gain a university degree. His mum was one of the original widows at Bulabakulu and without her tremendously hard work in those early years, the project might well have floundered. We will, of course, keep in touch with Brian over the coming years.



Healthcare in the Community around Bulabakulu



This last year has seen AGLMUK building new links into the communities surrounding Bulabakulu - particularly in respect of healthcare.

You might remember that we reported that we had relocated the solar vaccine clinic from Bulabakulu to the local health centre at Banda. Jessie and Andy accompanied Harriet (village nurse) to Banda on this year's trip and were able to see and hear for themselves how well this move has gone down with the nursing staff there.



Harriet, Andy and Jessie set off for Banda clinic

Following a visit to a new school of nursing that has opened up just up the road from the guest house that we use, Jessie was invited to give a lecture to the students in the following week. She had a great time when she went back (complete with camera crew, Gill and Dick.). Needless to say there are some very significant differences between the way Jessie functions as a district nurse in Powys and the expectations of the trainee nurses in Wakiso.

A Crop of Catfish from the Village Pond

With only limited success in growing Tilapia in the village fish pond, Barry (with advice from our own fish-farm expert, Stephen) decided to give catfish a try. The time for harvesting coincided with our trip and it was with great excitement we watched as the pond was drained as far as possible and Stephen's nets employed to try to extract the fish from their muddy lairs. It wasn't altogether successful but a good number of fine-sized fish were caught and we know that there are a lot more still in there. It is just a matter of working out how we get them out. Stephen is keen to construct a new pond and share the proceeds with



AGLM. He is quite a businessman now. He has expanded his shop business. We were worried when we saw his old wooden board shop all shut up but then we discovered his new brick-built shop with living accommodation at the rear.

We were also introduced to his wife - although she was quite shy of Stephen's white friends!



Isaac - Mr Helpful!

We don't think that Roger Hargreaves had a Mr Helpful but if he did he would act something like Isaac. He wasn't very academically gifted and so was not sent to secondary school. He stayed at the village and made himself very useful looking after the cow and the biogas plant. He was also interested when Andy showed him how to fix the taps on the water storage tanks. He was so interested that he decided that he would like to do a plumbing course. He hasn't finished the

course yet but is already invaluable at Bulabakulu in fixing various bits of plumbing and sanitaryware which take a really hard beating from the kids.

Isaac lost his Grandad close to Christmas and he told Andy that his Grandad had said that he was really sad to be dying without ever meeting us. We immediately decided that we just had to visit his Grandma and other family and so we went as a group on the 3 hour journey to Isaac's home village. It was a great trip and an honour to meet his family. Everyone

spoke so highly of Isaac's Grandad - it is such a pity that we never met him.



Isaac, his Grandma and Jessie

Some Excellent School Results This Year



Senior 4 results (GCSE equivalent) were out while we were there and Emmanuel was called to school - and to the newspaper have his photo taken, so we were expecting something good! He had the best results in his high school - a high Division 1 and is now going on to do A levels. Congratulations to all the S4 students on their results!

The primary school results were also good. There were 2 Division 1's, 26 Division 2's and 3 Division 3's so it was a very hard decision deciding who could go to High School. Well done to the hardworking students and teachers! Six students have definitely been enrolled at secondary school and 4 started "in faith" that sponsors will be found this year!

Ice - cream Business Takes off



Whilst it is not a project from AGLMUK we are excited to report that an ice-cream business “Papa Sanyu” established by a good friend from Northern Ireland, Joe Doherty (Wafer Limited) is going great guns and employing not only Reagan (brother to Barry and Joshua), but several of the young people from Bulabakulu. Joe sourced all of the ice-cream makers and the insulated carts and imported them into Kampala where he trained Reagan to run the business. It is a really good news story as we are seeing livelihoods created for a number of people formerly reliant upon AGLM.

Joe was at Bulabakulu when Chris and Andy first visited in 2005 and he helped raise finance to construct the primary school.

We, of course, feel that it is our duty to buy an ice-cream on most of the occasions that we pass the base in Nansana (between Bulabakulu and Kampala)!

Great Need for Vocational Training

The list of young men and women that are looking for vocational training or an apprenticeship is growing. These people have come to the end of their academic education but need help in finding a livelihood. The sooner we can help them in this, the better it will be for both them and AGLM. Money is needed for both training/apprenticeships and a combination of grants and loans to set them up in business. There are very few opportunities for gaining jobs with employers. It is a sad but understandable fact that most jobs go to the people that are known to the

employer - and “our” young people, almost by definition, have no people of influence in their family circles.

If you think that you might be able to assist one of these young people get trained and established in a small business then we would be very glad to hear from you. We think that we would need to budget for around £50 per month for two years to get someone on their feet. This could equate to two people providing £20pm each-

with Gift Aid.

We know that this can work - just look at the great example of Stephen on page 2.



Other Resources Purchased



The head and deputy head teacher with some of the children and recently purchased text books.

Thanks for the donations that allowed us to buy vital resources for the children at the village. It is easy to forget but mattresses, sheets, paper, pens, soap, toilet paper, clothes and shoes are examples of some of the annual purchases that are necessary to make life at the village and boarding school half-decent. We take some things with us but have to buy most when we get there.



Some of the recipients of new mattresses with their old ones for comparison



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www.everyclick.com

You can find ways of supporting and donating to AGLMUK - some that don't cost you a penny.

Follow us on Facebook

AGLMUK has a facebook page! We produce 2 newsletters a year but hope to be able to post more frequent updates on Facebook. We think if you just search for AGLMUK on facebook you should find it.

Lland'od Charity Shop

AGLMUK has booked the charity shop in Middleton Street Llandrindod from 26 July—1st August. This should be a good fundraiser for the charity - but only if we have lots of good stuff to sell, and volunteers to help us do it. If you think that you can help with either then please get in touch with one of the trustees.



The Team for 2016

We will almost certainly use the usual guest house as they look after us very well. We must take travel logistics into account and it is probably best for us to stick to a maximum of around 8 persons. The trustees have decided that the only fair way to decide upon the composition of the team is to invite all persons interested in going in late January/early February 2016 to register their interest with Chris and Andy by the end of August 2015. Please talk to us if you are interested. We have briefing notes that might help you. The cost is around £1,100 and it is for participants to find this themselves.

Adrian Stott

Some of you might know Adrian and others might have spotted reference to him in previous newsletters. He has moved to Uganda to live and is working on a horticulture project that he has developed at Bulabakulu. Whilst this project is not part of the AGLMUK work we will obviously follow his progress with great interest.



TALKS

We will be organising an open evening in Llandrindod in the not too distant future but if you would like one of us to come and give a talk to a group near you please do get in touch. We just love talking about the children of Bulabakulu, and the young men and women that have moved on from there.

The Team of 2015

There were seven of us in the 2015 AGLMUK visit to Bulabakulu this year. Everyone had visited before.

Our trip this year was rather marred by an incident on our final day when 3 of our passports got stolen. We were already in Entebbe and relaxing at the Botanical Gardens before going to the airport for our evening flight home. Jessie and Gill's bags were snatched from them and although their passports were eventually recovered this was not until long after the flight had departed. Jessie, Gill and Dick had to stay in Kampala until Monday in order to report to the UK

Embassy and caught the Monday evening flight home. KLM were brilliant in re-booking the flights and providing the necessary paperwork. If you are thinking about coming with us please do not let this incident put you off. As Gill said recently "We still really enjoyed the visit and don't regret going. No point letting that last afternoon spoil the trip!" Whilst it is nice to take along friends who are familiar with the village we are very keen that new people are introduced to Bulabakulu and Uganda and our selection criteria very much take this into account.



Left to right: Barry, Joseline, Dick, Gill, Colin, Janice, Andy, Harriet, Chris, Jessie