

### READ ALL ABOUT IT

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THANK YOU to all our supporters - we couldn't do any of this without you!

### UPDATE ON GOAT UNIT

by Moses Ekoi, our project leader, condensed from his latest report in September 2011:

“Christian greetings to our Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the support you give to my community enabling us to achieve a great impact that will uplift my own people from the poverty they are in.

The project goats are doing well apart from death of 4 goats and 7 new born kids that I did lose out of the bad scouring and pneumonia. On average the live weights of the kids ranged from 2.7kg to 3.5kg at birth. The crosses that I have in the farm need us to be present almost 24 hours a day to maintain them to thrive. I have made a lot of silage from good elephant grass which will feed the goats well during the next dry season. The water tank is already full and has a capacity of 75,000 litres of water. This water if used at the rate of 200 litres a day can take us for 350 days if we do not have good rains. The only challenge is the source of power and the pump to push to the upper reservoir.

I have planned for the training of 50 women beneficiaries in October 2011 and I shall give each one a goat. Good selected goats of hard resistance are first given to them and whoever is seen managing her goats well is promoted to class 1 of 50% cross until eventually they will reach to the highest percentage. The next training will be done in January 2012. The beneficiaries will have learnt a lot in the demo farm and will become the “out breeders” that will support the multiplication and research of the goats. Our farm has already become a model in and out of the district, with many visitors including top district leaders who have promised to get me involved in government programmes.”



Moses on the right ear-tagging with the help of one of his assistants. In the background Dolen Ffermio's chairman, Richard Jones.

### CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE APPEAL

The theme of this year's appeal is giving orphans the chance to help themselves. Most of you will know that orphans in this part of Uganda do not go into orphanages but are cared for by members of their extended families. It's a huge struggle for them to provide for extra children so the contribution the orphans make to the family income from their gifts makes all the difference. The emphasis is on skills and training and no animals are provided unless the conditions are right. Kumi went through a very dry period earlier this year but the second rains have fallen and everywhere is now looking green. The situation there has never been as bad as in the neighbouring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia and especially Somalia.

This year's appeal comes at a time when our economy is in a bad way and many people are facing an uncertain future. No matter how grim the outlook may seem here, think how much worse it is over there. We hope that our supporters will act with their usual generosity to enable these young orphans to stay in school and help to secure their future. Two of the communities in Kumi have been “signed off” and we are extending into neighbouring Ngora. This will be closely allied to the Goat Unit run by Moses Ekoi and, we feel, will be a very worthwhile development.

**DOLEN FFERMIO**  
CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE APPEAL  
2011



Please help us to give Ugandan orphans like Bernard the chance to help themselves

**KUMI ORPHAN PROJECT**  
IN EASTERN UGANDA

### CONFERENCES

In collaboration with Newtown and Llanfyllin High Schools we are holding a 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM CONFERENCE entitled “Eco-friendly forestry and farming - the futures” in Newtown High School on 14 November. It is hoped to have COMMUNITY MEETINGS on the conference theme in Llanfyllin on 15 November (details to be confirmed) to which you will be invited. The morning session of the 6<sup>th</sup> form conference will involve presentations by academics and researchers, including a speaker from Uganda. The afternoon session will include exhibitions, group discussions (on local and global issues) and a concluding plenary session.

## PRO-ENVIRONMENT LINKS VISIT

The **pro-environment activity links** got off to a good start with the 3 week visit in July and August of Moses Kitimbo, Connie Kauma, Wilberforce Isanga of Busoga High School, and Paul Musenero, Daniel Kitimbo and Rachael Nairuba from the Agriculture Department of Busoga University. The **aims** of the visit were to get ideas for practical projects in Uganda, which is already experiencing effects of climate change, and in Wales, one of the worst carbon dioxide emitters per capita in the world.



We started at the **Royal Welsh Show**, with its phenomenal array of livestock, and many displays of environmental research and action. After visits to the **Centre for Alternative Technology**, guided by Steve Jones and Liam Brown, and Peter Hendry's straw-bale buildings at Sych Pwll, Wilberforce concluded *"much work has been done using local and cheap materials such as straw and wood for house construction, solar energy to cut costs on electricity, farming mostly on organic principles. This system and technology is worth copying."* The new biogas plant at **Harper Adams University College** demonstrated the technology of generating electricity from animal manure and food waste, which could be most beneficial in both countries. We plan to try **biogas generation** at the Kamuli schools to reduce firewood use.

De-forestation is the greatest environmental challenge in Uganda. **Coed Cymru**, led by David Jenkins, gave an excellent overview of their forestry activities in Wales, from planting, woodland regeneration, to low cost house building and furniture making. **Pontbren Environmental Farmers** gave us a tremendous welcome, at Roger and Eirlys Jukes' farm, and we were very impressed by their tree shelter belt planting combined with water conservation. Keith and Decia Blacker's Caeaugwynedd wood business is an excellent example of environmentally friendly harvesting methods. Connie particularly loved these visits, *"I am going back home more zealous and full of inspiration. Ready to make my dream come true, that is to plant a forest."*

Visits to **organic farms**, Ed Goff's dairy farm, Trevor and Sue Wheeler's beef, sheep and vegetable farm, Chris Dixon's Dolgellau forest garden and Martin Peck's hill farm convinced us that farming can work with nature, instead of against it. Paul made a profound comment about Wales as *"a country with a thin layer of soil, and full of stones, turned into value in terms of production and planning for the future, as opposed to tomorrow as in Uganda."*

The huge area of **active blanket bog regeneration** above Lake Vyrnwy and the way heather moor and wild-life conservation is combined with commercial organic sheep and beef production was ably explained by Gwyn Evans and Mike Morris of **RSPB**. We are lucky in Wales to have sources of grant funding; in Kamuli such support is almost non-existent. However, Moses is optimistic: *"We hope to work together with Ugandan government bodies to assist us in our venture in environmental issues."*

Recycling of plastic, paper and metal waste as a social enterprise by **Cae Post**, and production of garden compost from household food waste at **Cwm Harry Land Trust**, Newtown, were particularly relevant to our Kamuli visitors, because these "waste" items could be a valuable resource and create much needed employment in Uganda. Rachael commented, *"From what I have been seeing, nothing is trash, as long as you handle it the right way"*.

A very enjoyable visit to **Llanfyllin MENCAP's** furniture and music workshop inspired our guests and Dan Grove joined us to give a practical session on charcoal making and hedge-laying. **Community gardening** demonstrated by Llanfyllin Allotment group, Cwm Harry Land Trust in Newtown, and Garth Hillside in Glyn Ceiriog gave us great ideas for both countries. Our guests felt that people in Kamuli would be less likely to sacrifice fruit trees which have food and financial advantages, for firewood. Our visit to Tony Gray's Fragile Planet **bee-keeping** enterprise was very good. Moses is already a keen beekeeper in Kamuli, and the protective suits generously given by Tony will be a great asset for Moses' training courses. We would like to set up a link bee-keeping group here. Anyone interested?

The **Cain River Valley project** and the Llanfyllin car park wetland were of great interest. Daniel has made a special study of this and gave a short talk on it at our well attended Open Evening at Llanfyllin Institute. The other guests covered the environmental aspects of forestry, firewood, crops, livestock, and wild-life in Uganda, and the Young Farmers movement.

What a lot of **pro-environment projects and community initiatives** are going on here! We are very grateful to everyone who took time to explain their enterprises so clearly. We were overwhelmed by the warm welcomes and amazing hospitality we received. Daniel summed it up when he said, *"The entire visit was wonderful because everybody was so happy to interact and welcome us, the community is caring, friendly and above all hard working."* Special thanks to Mandy Case, Shannon and Amy for all the wonderful meals, and to Lydia Homer and Cordelia Weedon for driving and being such good company. As to the practical outcomes of the visit, our guests have already set up **the Kamuli Environmental Farming Group** and are now acquiring land for young farmers to plant a fruit orchard. We would like to start a **community orchard** here, involving as many people as possible, schools, other groups and individuals. Please step forward if you have ideas and enthusiasm.

## PHOTODIARIES EXHIBITION by Cordelia Weedon

The exhibition started with an Open Weekend, with the added attraction of stalls selling Welsh and African crafts organised with the help of Arts Connection. A music DVD of a Ugandan band, Atoot Jassy, was very entertaining.

Images and stories of life in Africa taken by young people in Kumi are central to this exhibition. The young photographers show us how this rural agrarian society is rebuilding its community after many years of insurgencies; they show us their world which is another side to the ones in the media. They tell us of their difficulties, but also of everyday occurrences, their joy and their sadness. The generosity of spirit I encountered working with them also shines through in their words and images. These photodiaries have helped form a link between schools in Wales and Uganda over the last two years.

There is also a selection of my photographs from Uganda and some of these and the photodiaries will be shown at the Hereford Photography Festival from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 26<sup>th</sup> November. I hope to run some workshops with schools based around visual and written literacy, linked into the exhibition and the Millennium Development Goals, and hope to extend the dates for the exhibition into the new year to enable schools to get involved. If any schools are interested or just want to visit the exhibition please contact Sheela Hughes on 01691 648044.

There will be a private view of the exhibition and showing of the music videos before the Dolen Ffermio AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> November from 6 to 7.30 pm. Come along and find out more about a music based social enterprise project in Ngora which we hope to collaborate on.

Exhibition Dates: 8th October – 22nd December  
Opening Hours: 9 am – 5 pm weekdays  
Private View: 30<sup>th</sup> November 6 – 7.30 pm  
Venue: Top Floor Gallery, Youth & Community Centre, Llanfyllin SY22 5DR



*This is me and my friend Belinda cooking posho and beans for our teachers. We help when the school cook is not around. Firewood is our common source of fuel and our kitchen is made out of mud. I am a total orphan. This leaves my education at the mercy of God. I wonder if you have orphans in this state of Wales.*

Words by Letisha Asio

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR KUMI by Eileen Roberts



Pupils and staff at Mukongoro High School (seen here) and Kumi Township Primary School are delighted to have received the musical instruments made by the Kobwin community with money raised by Newtown High School, Penygloddfa Primary School and friends of Dolen Ffermio. The British Council has re-opened its Global School Partnerships reciprocal visit grants and I will be supporting Newtown High School and Penygloddfa Primary School with their applications for this grant. If they are successful music teachers from the schools will visit Kumi and Wales during 2012. We are still looking for a secondary school to link with Wiggins High School in Kumi.

## FUNDRAISING NEWS AND PLANS

**Lorna's Spring Sale:** a very wet morning didn't dampen the spirits or the fortitude of the helpers or those who came to buy. A very big thank you to everyone who contributed to the praiseworthy sum raised of over £900.

**Trefonen Hill Walk:** the 16 mile walk started off in the rain but when it cleared the views were spectacular. It was cold and windy for the special service at All Saints Church but nobody noticed when they tucked into the piping hot bacon butties! The theme for this year's weekend was "Talent" and during the Friday evening show, Cordelia Weedon gave a talk on the untapped talent for photography and music in Ugandan youngsters. Lorna Brown gave a talk in church on the talented farmers and herdsmen who breed goats. The whole event raised a staggering £2,500, which is just about to be spent on the next batch of goats for Moses Ekoi's Goat Unit. Our heartfelt thanks to Helen Francis and the committee for putting our names forward again this year and to all the many willing volunteers who make this event so successful and enjoyable.



This year our intrepid band of cyclists decided to do a **sponsored bike and canoe expedition** from Tenby to Aberystwyth following the coast line. It took 5 days and they biked for a total of 250 km along a Sustrans route and 9 km by canoe along the Teifi. Hard work, yes, but they had a great time, with lots of fun and laughter along the way. We're still collecting sponsorship money, which can either go direct to our Treasurer (see the paragraph on Christmas cards) or donate online from our website ([www.dolen-ffermio.org.uk](http://www.dolen-ffermio.org.uk)). Please support them – they most definitely deserve it!

## Sewing Machine Project:



Thanks to generous personal donations, we have already sent £400 out to Kumi Technical School which has bought 5 treadle machines and 12 stools and here they are in the photo.

Youngsters are trained there in this important trade which offers good employment opportunities as well as the possibility of setting up their own small business. Before this, the course only had 6 machines and nothing for the students to sit on to operate them! We would like to buy more and we are hoping that local craft groups, as well as individuals, might like to sponsor a machine at a cost of £75 or, needless to say, any contribution towards this, no matter how small. If anyone knows of such a group or would like to donate, please contact Val (details at the end).

**Christmas Cards:** 8 photographic cards showing the work of Dolen Ffermio for £1.60. Minimum post free order: 3 packs for £4.50 from The Treasurer, Dolen Ffermio, Nant Gwy, Llansilin, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7QQ. (cheques payable to Dolen Ffermio)

### RHYDYCROESAU PANTOMIME "SINBAD THE SAILOR"

**Benefit evening for Dolen Ffermio  
on Saturday evening, 7th January, 2012**

Tickets £4 adults, £2 children - but don't just buy,  
we want to fill the hall and raise the rafters

Ring 01691 791626 for tickets

## OUR SIXTH FORM TRIP by Holly Kalra

In July, I was lucky enough to be part of the group from Llanfyllin High School who went out to Uganda for two weeks. Our trip was primarily to visit our partner school, Busoga High School, but we did other things too. We began with a 7 hour drive to Murchison Falls National Park. We visited the falls, cruised down the Nile and went on an early morning safari where we saw giraffes, hippos, buffalo, elephants and caught a glimpse of a male lion. Our next stop was Jinja, where we visited the source of the Nile at the end of Lake Victoria. We also went to the bustling market, full of colours and exotic smells, which sold everything from padlocks to smoked fish. Highlight of the week was white water rafting down the Nile. A day-long trip involving seven massive rapids that could quite easily 'suck you in'; floating on our backs down the river between rapids; with a much welcomed BBQ at the end.

The second week of the trip was spent with our partner school, Busoga High School in Kamuli. We worked on two

projects: Art and Media. With a few paintbrushes, dyes from the back of a cupboard and some good old sugar, both school logos were painted on a wall. We somehow managed to create a 30 second advert despite the snail paced computers and intermittent power! We paid fleeting visits to the numerous surrounding primary schools where we were welcomed with traditional singing and dancing; had a chance to sit in on lessons; and without fail, food whether it be a cup of tea and groundnuts or an 'all you can eat' spread - we certainly didn't go hungry! Our last afternoon all together was spent playing sports on the school field at Busoga with our new friends, some of whom we are hoping to welcome to Wales next year.



After we had dropped the rest of the group off at the airport, my friend and I spent the following two weeks in Kampala volunteering at an orphanage for babies. There are many orphanages here, unlike rural areas such as Kumi. So, after one of the most amazing months of my life, I left Uganda with a better understanding of the country, many stories to share but, more importantly, a huge desire to return to Africa. If you haven't been already, do try and go - there is so much to see and do and, without a doubt, even though many have next to nothing, the people are the most welcoming and hospitable I have ever met.

## LATEST ON THE SCHOOL LINK by Peter Jessop

The Llanfyllin/Kamuli school link continues to go from strength to strength as the cluster has been successful in attracting further funding from the British Council. This means that visits in both direction can happen between the staff of our 3 schools here (Llanfyllin High, Llanfechain CiW Primary and Llansantffraid Primary schools) and the 3 schools in Kamuli. In addition, our own fundraising has borne fruit so Busoga High School students will be coming to visit too, giving us the opportunity to return the hospitality and goodwill shown to us this summer gone. They will be hosted by our own students who made the trip to Uganda in July and will take part in regular daily life in school alongside our own students. Naturally, we are keen also to show them something of our own home area. More on this nearer the time. The link expands!

Last but not least, the **Dolen Ffermio AGM** will be held on Wednesday, 30 November 7.30 pm in the downstairs room of the Youth and Community Centre in Llanfyllin. We shall only send out calling notices, etc to members but everyone is welcome to turn up.

Contact Val Talbot at Graigwen Cottage, Llansilin, SY10 9BL, email val@daval.demon.co.uk or phone 01691 791310. If you have an email address that we don't know of, please let Val know or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list.