



Newsletter2016

Welcome to our 2016 newsletter. Since our last update there has been lots going on, including two project visits; July/August 2015 and Jan-April 2016. These are great to get first hand updates on the project work being done, but also an important time to spend working with and training Moses as Project Manager, maximising effectiveness and efficiency. We are very proud as a charity to report that we run with minimal overheads. All project visits are entirely self-funded and all marketing materials are either donated or heavily subsidised by local businesses.

Project News – Agricultural Project

Reservoir

2015 saw a big push with this project. Following several years of advice and training on planting techniques, crop rotation and land management, it was felt that the biggest issue was still the lack of a consistent water supply to the crops during the dry seasons. We have implemented irrigation systems through the fields to control the water flow but this does not address the lack of water. Following a study of the land and natural water movements, a suitable site was chosen to dig out and construct a reservoir. This was a huge task and took a dedicated team of labourers, with nothing more than shovels and pick axes, 2 weeks to dig the 20m diameter by 2m deep reservoir. During this stage another team of workers were tasked with learning how to construct the concrete posts and shutters required to form the gate of the reservoir. This was a new idea to the locals and took time to ensure they fully understood how the reservoir would work and how adjusting the gates would control the water retention and flow into the fields. We are waiting for news on how successful this has been during the dry season (May – August).



Digging the reservoir

Excitement following the first rains



Fruit factory & Recycling

Using the greenhouse seen at Mityana as a guide we made our own **recycled plastic bottle and bamboo greenhouse** to protect the new seedlings from becoming scorched in the harsh direct sun, and preventing the ground from drying so quickly during the dry season. We used bamboo grown on the trial plot and collected unwanted bottles in Rukungiri town. The greenhouse is great for the plants and the environment.

We felt it would be beneficial to broaden our understanding of how to maximise the use of fruits and vegetables grown within the agricultural project, by visiting a fruit drying & juicing factory in Mityana, run by an NGO.

Benefits to drying/juicing:

- Greatly increases shelf life
- Increases profit margin
- Creates employment
- Effectively deals with produce not suitable for direct sale – too ripe/under-ripe
- Easier to transport



Washrooms & Rain water harvesting

Two more large washroom facilities with rain water harvesting have been constructed, one at Bugangari Secondary school and one at Bwambara Secondary school. Both schools are in very poor rural communities, far from Rukungiri town. The schools have almost non-existent toileting or bathing facilities and no water supply, so all water for drinking, cooking, bathing and laundry must be fetched from either a community tap or river some distance away.

Other News

This year, keen to demonstrate new ways of cooking, Ann and Rod Gothard constructed a simple wood burning range as most families still cook over open fires with large stones to support the pots. This method of cooking is very wood intensive and has health implications for the cook, as the excessive smoke is inhaled. The range uses less wood and the smoke is taken out by a chimney. Ann also ran several tailoring classes for the local girls.



In 2015 Project Uganda were very pleased to assist Richard and Johnson (above) from Rukungiri in coming to Winterslow as part of an exchange programme to learn and teach in Winterslow school. They thoroughly enjoyed their time in the village, sharing teaching skills and knowledge at the school, seeing the local area and meeting the Project Uganda committee.



Supporters & Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supports our events and stalls, and in particular:

- All Church Carol service-Winterslow
- Barn Dance - Winterslow
- St Mary's Church – Sixpenny Handley
- 1st Woodcutts Scouts Group
- SMOAT – funded rain water harvesting systems at Mugamba Model and Kishonga Primary School.

Following a Project Uganda presentation given to 1st Woodcutts Scout group by Harvey and Josh Gothard (of which they are members), the group decided to organise a 10mile night hike to raise funds. The Scouts wanted to appreciate what life was like for children in Uganda collecting water daily for drinking, cooking and bathing, so decided to carry full water containers for the duration of the hike. The boys and girls set off on a **very** cold night, where they rambled their way through the local countryside only stopping halfway for some warming soup, before arriving back at HQ at 3am to fall into their sleeping bags for what little remained of the night. Their hard work was rewarded with a delicious breakfast of bacon baps, croissants and hot chocolate, all kindly donated by 1st Woodcutts. This was a fantastic event raising £300.

Thank you

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Night hike

