



# THE MARY WOOD TRUST NEWSLETTER

Charity Number 1144311



## JUNE 2018

It is always a pleasure to share with you what is happening with the Mary Wood Trust. As you will read there have been many exciting changes since our last newsletter – a new head teacher at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, a secure play area for the children at Ruth Memorial Nursery School, more ex-sponsored girls pursuing vocational training courses, sponsorship of day girls at NGSS, provision of solar lighting at NGSS and improving the male staff accommodation at NGSS.

It is 10 years ago that Mary Wood passed away. What a legacy she has left behind and how pleased she would feel about our continuing support for those less fortunate than ourselves. We are only able to do this because of the tremendous support that we receive from you all. Thank you and God bless you.

## NYAKABUNGO GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL

NGSS continues to struggle a little to maintain its numbers. It is the only girls-only boarding school under the umbrella of the Diocese of Kinkiizi. Its rural location on sometimes impassable roads does not make it an easy site to reach.

A new head teacher was appointed in March this year, Mrs Molly Musinguzi. She is aged 48, married with 4 children. Her husband is also a teacher. She has an MA in language and translation and a degree in education; she has been a teacher since 1990. We are hoping that her broad experience will help with the challenges that the school faces. In her words:

*“the location of the school is hard to reach. the community around doesn't value girl child education. And some people around don't wish the school well. Again, internal conflicts with in the school would spill to community thus spoiling the school the more. The few families around that would love to educate their girls from here are headed by women whose husbands deserted and they married other women, therefore they can't raise fees. This is one of the major challenges I encountered ever since I stepped here. On that note allow me once again to appreciate MWT for the support you are giving this school because it is highly indebted”*

We have been saddened to hear that two of our girls were asked to leave because they were pregnant, one aged 15 and one aged 19. Many of them have little support from their families or guardians and indeed some may even be encouraged to 'marry' rather than continue with their education. The school realises that the girls and their guardians need both better education and guidance on this and so there is to be a series of speakers and workshops at the school to address this concern.

This year we are sponsoring 32 girls in the boarding section and 10 day girls from the local community. All these girls are chosen because of their real need. Many are orphaned or have one sick parent, or perhaps are being looked after by an aged grandparent or older sibling. The rural environment means that most people who do work are poor subsistence farmers. Life is very tough!

The dilapidated and overcrowded state of the male staff accommodation has not been conducive to attracting good male teachers. In order to address this, we are in the process of building a new male staff block and renovating the old accommodation. (see below).

The solar lights (personal lights and three-light clusters for evening-time classroom use) that were taken out during a trustee's visit in March are much appreciated.

Another exciting thing that is happening is the provision of a sewing room at the school, where girls can learn a vocational skill along with their academic studies. Kath Smith's vision for this began after her husband Cliff died in 2014. It will serve as a lasting memory to him and will skill the many girls who use it over the years. It will be fitted out with 8 sewing machines and there will be a visiting tutor from a local technical college who will do the teaching. The school might even use this as a basis for a Home Economics course to be added to the curriculum in the future. This would need extra planning and money.

Sport has always played a big part in the non- academic side of the school. We trust that it will continue thus and that the girls will do as well as they did last year in volley ball and football. They have the equipment and the kit. They now need the enthusiasm and occasionally the extra money to travel further afield within the region.

**Building New Male Staff Accommodation**



**Renovation of the Existing Male Staff Quarters**



**Sewing Room**



**Solar Lights**



**Football Team**



**MWT A-level Girls**



## **RUTH MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL**

RMNS continues to provide a safe environment for the young children in the local area of Kihiihi. The majority who attend are children of AIDS victims and are now being looked after by relatives or guardians. There is no doubt that they are very poor and the paying the small fees that the director asks for each child is a struggle for many. This in turn means that he finds it hard to pay the salaries of the young teachers. It is fortunate that the Mary Wood Trust has some generous donors who ensure that the children receive porridge every day, milk two or three times a week and pancakes occasionally.

As you will see from the photos, there is now a secure fence and gate at the front of the nursery school, providing a safe area for the children to play. They love the new play equipment that we have provided and there will soon be more! We have also managed to finance the completion of the final group of classrooms-plastering walls, concreting the floors and securing the windows and doors.

It is all going to look very smart and will create a healthy environment for these children.

The director and founder, Ephraim Tumwesigye, is a caring and dedicated man. As a retired teacher, he knows the importance of a good primary education. Through the Ruth Memorial Nurse School, in memory of his wife, he is doing his best to do just that, to all the needy young children in his care.

**Secure Fencing**



**New Play Equipment**



## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### Little Baskets



During Lent our village church of All Saints, Marcham in Oxfordshire, decided to collect their small change in aid of N.G.S.S. using the small baskets made by the local ladies of Nyakabungo. Over £200 was raised and everyone decided to continue collecting throughout the year.

Thanks must go to Christine Whild, who collects the money and staggers to the bank with it!

Ann Gover

### Coffee and Cake at Greville Road



Our Greville Road do started when a neighbour and I thought it would be good to give the people on our road the opportunity to meet each other in a friendly setting. We decided to invite everyone on Greville Road to a coffee and cake morning. This proved to be a great success. Following on from this we've held one in the summer and one in the winter for the last two or three years. This year I thought it would be a good opportunity to let people know about The Mary Wood Trust and see if people were interested in making a donation. We were thrilled to make £97 for the MWT on the day and everyone left full of cake and less money in their pockets, plus information about the charity. What's not to like?

Pippa Hutchins

### E baying

Turning one person's junk into another person's treasure, through e bay, is a great way to raise money.

If you have any items that you wish to sell then please do get in touch with me or any of the trustees, or you can also sell things yourself, and nominate that the proceeds go to the Mary Wood Trust.

We have already raised about £500 this way so far this year!

Clare Ramsden

### Lothersdale School

It was lovely to be asked to speak to the children at Lothersdale School recently about our work at Nyakabungo School. They were clearly very interested in learning about life in rural Uganda and at the school and asked lots of questions. The school is next door to the house where Mary Wood lived and I was pleased to be able to tell them about how the charity started, and about Mary.

Our village church, Christ Church has supported the charity for over twenty years and continues to fundraise and promote our work. In past years they have offered lent lunches to the village, but the changing demographic no longer makes this practical.

During lent this year the school held a Fair Trade coffee morning for Nyakabungo in the village hall where despite very heavy snow they raised over £200. It was well attended, and as always supported by church members and the village community.

Well done Lothersdale School, and thank you!

Kath Smith

## FURTHER EDUCATION NEWS

It is great that we can help some of our girls pursue further education. Our funds are limited so they do have to have attained certain marks in external exams and studied suitable subjects.

Joan (Ansasiibwe) and Joan (Arinawe) are at Bishop Barham University studying for degrees in Public Administration and Management. At the moment, Joan Arinawe is doing an internship at the sub county local government. She says

*"I am involved with public work, counselling people especially the orphans, and many other things concerning the welfare of the people and the community".*

Noredah is at Kabale University. Having completed her diploma course in Social Administration last year she is now studying for a degree.

Doreen is soon to complete her diploma in Information Technology with Computer Education for teachers.

Pamella is about to complete her degree in Business Administration.

Here she explains how grateful she is for all the support she has received:

*"I really thank the Mary Wood Trust for the far you have reached me & thank God who through you helped me to complete all the levels I have completed, sincerely, bravo to Mary Wood Trust for the work well done towards attaining my education & glory goes back to the lord. As I talk now, I completed my university level last week with bachelor's degree in business administration. I am extremely happy for having achieved this because of you. However, I would request you if you don't mind to continue with me as ever & push me for at least one level of CPA (Chartered Professional Accountancy) because here, degrees are outcompeted by CPA so I would be more than happy if I attained CPA to compete with others. I am very sure I will not misuse your funds as I have never done so because I know where you got me from so that's why I can't waste any single opportunity given to me. Otherwise thank you, thank you & thank you very much, may God reward you forever. I really love you"*

We also have Asia who is half way through her Nursing Certificate course at Bwindi Nursing School, and Prudence will join her there in July.

Medius is half way through her Electrical Installation course at Kihiihi Technical College and Dallen is in her second term at Nyakatare Technical College studying Agriculture.

Of course, there is no guarantee at all of getting a job, even with these qualifications. However, we do find that those completing midwifery and nursing courses manage to find jobs sooner than most.

**University Girls with Solar Lights**



**Future Nurse**



## **NYAKATARE HEALTH CENTRE**

Nyakatare Health Centre was founded in 1995 by the Diocese of Kinkiizi with the aim of contributing to improved health of mothers and their children in the area.

Under the competent administration of Ritah Katumbah, it has grown and now has three buildings, providing in and out patient care, a maternal child health department, HIV care, a laboratory, an outreach department, ultra sound, dental clinic and administration department.

A new maternity ward is under construction as well as new staff accommodation.

The MWT's involvement has involved setting up the dental clinic along with providing occasional equipment and support. Peter the dentist is doing well and there has been improvement in the oral health services, mainly due to the increase in outreaches.

They are very grateful for the generator we purchased, which is now up and running, and the new patient latrine and washing area that we provided is a great asset to the clinic.

The taps and running water to the laboratory are working well. However, the microscope that we provided some years ago, thanks to Medical Missionary News, is now having some problems. We hope to be able to rectify this before long.

**New Generator**



**Patients New Latrine and Washing Area**



**The Laboratory**



## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Mary Wood Trust has been truly blessed by a committed group of supporters. We are very grateful for this as we continue to support and enable the support of needy young girls at Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School, and Ruth Memorial Nursery School.

We have also continued to support several "old girls" from NGSS into further education, increasing their opportunity to develop and learn new skills and employable attributes.

The regular donations by standing order that come in every month or quarter, for various specific purposes, are much appreciated.

I am delighted that we have been able to start using money that we have had on hold for the various projects that both NGSS and RMNS have been wanting to undertake. We are pleased that we have a partnership with the diocese in the sending out of money for NGSS and Nyakatare Health Centre, that ensures that the money is spent effectively and there is accountability.

Please continue to give as we strive to educate the girls and young women in this area. Thank you.

Peter Wood

It is obvious from the comments that we receive from the girls that the Mary Wood Trust is making a real difference in their lives. This can only happen because of all the support that we receive from you. We do appreciate this very much.

The additional benefit of Gift Aid where applicable also makes a huge difference. Gift Aid forms and standing order forms are available through the website or from any of the four trustees- Peter, Clare, Kath and Ann.

If you have any further ideas about fundraising or comments on the newsletter, then please do get in touch.

Clare will be travelling out to Uganda again mid-October and will hopefully see the staff accommodation at NGSS in its completed state and the sewing room being put to good use.

If you have letters for pen pals or sponsored girls then please let us have them in good time so that they can be hand-delivered.

Our website has changed since the last newsletter (thank you Peter) but the web address is the same:

[www.marywoodtrust4uganda.org](http://www.marywoodtrust4uganda.org)

We also have a Facebook page – The Mary Wood Trust.

You can write to us at 9 Handforth Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 2LX

And you can e mail us at: [marywoodtrust@gmail.com](mailto:marywoodtrust@gmail.com)