



# The Mary Wood Trust Newsletter

UK Charity Number 1144311

## Summer 2024

As always, we need to start our newsletter with a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support us – through regular donations, sponsoring girls at school or university, supporting Ruth Memorial Nursery School, donating items to sell on eBay and responding to specific requests. Without you we would not be able to carry on the work.

Since the last newsletter great things have been accomplished at Nyakabungo Girls' Boarding Secondary School and it is exciting to be able to share this with you now. We also reached our target of sponsoring 40 girls at the school.

### **NYAKABUNGO GIRLS' BOARDING SECONDARY SCHOOL 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The school is now well into its second term, with 192 students and a teaching staff of 24 – some locally employed and some on the government payroll. Last term saw an unexpected change to the school when the headteacher, Mrs Molly Muzinguzi was promoted at very short notice to head up the leadership team of a prestigious girls' boarding school in Bushenyi. The timing of this was difficult, with the organising of the celebrations for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school only days away. The deputy headteacher, Mrs Gertrude Kembaga, stepped up to the task and along with the support of her staff, a wonderful and unforgettable day was enjoyed by many people.

The school's new marching band, with instruments donated by the family of the chair of the board of governors, Mrs Anne Gamurorwa, provided a real sense of occasion to the day. As well as the dedication and opening of the new A level block there was a thanksgiving service, where the offertory included gifts of sugar cane, matoke, fruit and vegetables, chickens and even two pairs of goats. These were then auctioned off to help raise money for chainlink fencing for the school.

There were many speeches, including one from Dr Chris Baryomunsi, the Ugandan Minister of ICT and Communications, who was a special guest on the day. Clare was also invited to speak to the school. As well as explaining about the background regarding the building of Margaret Block she also talked about Commitment, Consistency and Care - all three attributes that the Mary Wood Trust has shown to the school over the past 22 years and which hopefully the teachers and students alike will show towards each other.

It was a hot, sunny day, enjoyed by parents, guardians, staff and students, old girls, members of the local community and representatives from local schools. With prize giving for students who had done well, singing, dancing, music and a delicious lunch which included beef, a rarity for the school menu. It was certainly a day to remember.



## OPENING OF THE NEW A LEVEL AND ART BLOCK "MARGARET BLOCK"

After a number of years in the planning, the new A level and Arts block was officially opened on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2024. With solar panels, a rainwater collection system, new desks in the sixth form rooms and shelving in the art room, it is a fine addition to the school and hopefully will encourage more girls to stay on at school for their A levels. It is also hoped that more girls might be attracted from other schools to study in the 6<sup>th</sup> form. We are so grateful to the Linden Trust for their generous donation in memory of Margaret Pearson, (a great friend of Mary Wood and supporter of the school), that made this project possible. The opening was a splendid occasion and formed part of the special celebrations for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school.



## NYAKATARE HEALTH CENTRE AND DENTAL CLINIC

We continue to offer limited support to Nyakatare Health Centre. This is a local health centre under the diocesan umbrella. Recently we were able to send money to pay for the fixing of the portable ultra sound scanning machine which broke down some while ago. We also support the salary of the dental assistant, Moses, although he is anxious to be able to do further training as his skills are limited. They are always very happy to receive the toothbrushes and toothpaste which my kind dentist in Wilmslow donates.

Community health outreaches are proving to be a great success - taking the services out to local villages. Thanks to your support we are being able to help finance these. In fact many items donated recently have been sold on eBay specifically for this project so a big thank you!



## RUTH MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL, KIHIIHI

This private nursery school attracts over 90 needy children from the local area and offers a good start to the children's early education. RMNS relies very heavily on the support we give it which enables it to provide nourishing food for the children and a safe environment in which to learn and play. We fund the stationery and the cost of the cook and in recent years have installed a water tap, refurbished the latrine, fenced in the school and provided outdoor play equipment.

During the latest trip to Uganda in April we gave out footballs, colouring pens, pencils and paper and polo shirts for the children- generously donated by KJB, a Cheshire building company. We are so grateful for all the support that we receive in helping the director, Ephraim, to run the school.



## PAST NGSS SPONSORED GIRLS

Last year 5 of our sponsored girls achieved well enough at their A level exams to qualify for admission to a local university to study for either a degree or diploma. However, because of limited funds we have only been able to offer support to the two girls who got the best marks. Hopefully they will start their courses at Bishop Barham Christian University in Kabale in August. It is always a great delight to meet up with past students and Clare took the opportunity to gather 9 MWT sponsored Old Girls together, for a supper in Kabale at the end of her recent visit. 5 of them had left NGBSS some while ago and the other 4 are studying at University. It was a delightful evening; a great opportunity to share some good food, to catch up on what everyone is doing and also for the girls themselves to interact with each other.



It is very encouraging to see that supporting girls into Further Education is worthwhile. Securing jobs in Uganda is hard, just as it is in the UK, even when you have a degree or a diploma. This is why it is so good when we get the chance to see that our sponsorship has proved worthwhile. Among some of the jobs our girls have secured are nursing, librarian, accounts clerk, social worker, business woman, accountant, lawyer's clerk. None of this would have been possible without your support.

## FUNDRAISING

After the success of last year's cake and plant stall Pippa and grandchildren decided to repeat the experience this year. Having more people helping was great. They had a lot of cakes, some donated by a friend, and they were all set to go under a gazebo. The forecast wasn't great and they had some sunny periods between the lashing rain and hail! Some donors had to shelter under the gazebo when the weather was at its worst. Amazingly they sold a lot and raised a good amount of money. The plant stall is still outside and the total slowly increasing every day. So far they've raised £ 302 for the MWT.



Over 450 of these special pens were given out during our latest visit to Uganda in April. You too could be the proud owner of one for just £1 each. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.



## OTHER NEWS



Clare with Modern who is just completing her nursing training



Medius, who is now working for a building company in Kampala



Joan, who is working in a shop that supplies agricultural chemicals



Pheonah and Rev Alex with their young family



The new incinerator at NGBSS is nearing completion



Wonderful produce given by a grateful parent

The Mary Wood Trust relies entirely on your support. Thanks to all who give so generously. If you would like to know about sponsoring a student, setting up a standing order or taking advantage of Gift Aid then please do get in touch – through our website [www.marywoodtrust4uganda.org](http://www.marywoodtrust4uganda.org) or send an e mail to [marywoodtrust@gmail.com](mailto:marywoodtrust@gmail.com)

You can also contact the editor: Clare Ramsden, 9 Handforth Road, Wimslow, SK9 2LX Tel +44 1625 531233 or +44 7776087501

If you would like to donate directly to our ongoing work it is possible to do so by using the QR code to the right to access our Total Giving page

