



# The Mary Wood Trust Newsletter

Charity Number 1144311

## SUMMER 2023

Greetings to you all and thank you for your continued interest in and support for the charity. Summer has certainly arrived in England and I think everyone is now praying for rain. Rather reminiscent of Uganda where rain is always seen as a blessing!

It is some months now since our last newsletter and we have lots of news to share with you: Clare and Oliver's visit to Uganda in March, the completion of the renovation of the female staff house and news of the latest fundraising activities that have taken place.

We are also delighted to be able to report that three of our ex-sponsored NGSS girls have just started at university and one more will join them in September.

## NYAKABUNGO GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL

### Students

The girls are now settled back into their second term. The school year in Uganda begins in February and ends in November. This year we are sponsoring 34 girls, 19 of those have individual sponsors who contribute to the girls' upkeep at the boarding school. The families of the girls are expected to contribute towards their girls' education such as providing their school uniform and making a contribution of food such as beans which make up the staple diet of the girls at school. The Mary Wood Trust also provide money for geography trips where appropriate and national exam fees.

Perhaps this sponsorship is something you might be interested in helping with? For £20 per month a girl is being given the chance for a secondary school education that she might not otherwise have. Regular termly school reports and letters from the girls create a closer connection with the girl. Please do get in touch if you feel this is something you might like to do.



Mary Wood Trust sponsored girls - March 2023

### Mosquito Nets and Sanitary Pads

Our Christmas campaign was a great success and raised enough money for us to be able to buy 100 new mosquito nets. Malaria is still a huge problem in Uganda and so by providing this protection we are hopefully preventing the girls becoming ill as well as instilling good habits in them about using nets.

The Christmas campaign also provided sanitary towels for the whole year for both students and female teachers. We hope that by taking away this burden from the parents/guardians of providing these at the beginning of each term, we are showing our love for all the girls welfare. £10 per year is all it costs to provide the girls with this basic necessity. We will soon have to start collecting money for 2024 - would you like to help?



Boxes of ST's and mosquito nets arriving at the school

### Inside the Fine Arts Room



## MARY WOOD DAY

Mary Wood Day this year was celebrated on March 11th along with International Women's Day. Oliver and Clare were fortunate to be with the students and staff of Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School (NGSS) on that day. It is a good opportunity to give thanks for the life of Mary Wood and the continuation of the vision that she had of helping those less fortunate girls to have the chance of a secondary education. Many years on and many students later it is a blessing to see how the school has grown and how well the sponsored girls are doing.

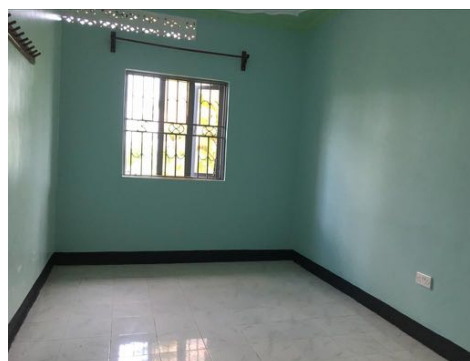
As well as speeches and thanksgiving there was lots of singing and traditional dancing and prizes given to those who had distinguished themselves at O and A level exams. The Mary Wood Trust provided a cow on this day so that everyone could enjoy a change from the daily diet of beans. A real treat! The rain did come but only for a short while and the day ended with the girls dancing and enjoying their special day.



## FEMALE STAFF HOUSE - MARY HALL

It is great to be able to inform you that the renovation work of Mary Hall is now complete, and the building was handed over to the school on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The job was not without its challenges, and it was helpful that Clare and Oliver were in Uganda in March and were able to give helpful and constructive advice about the work being carried out. The building now has comprehensive solar power, 7 rooms for teachers (4 with en-suite facilities), gutters and a rainwater collection tank, good drainage channels and an efficient septic tank. It is unfortunate that the local water supply is not available at the moment and so the rain collection is vital. There is an outside kitchen where the teachers can prepare their food, using charcoal stoves.

The whole project has cost far more than we had originally hoped but we trust that by providing this facility it will encourage the teachers to give of their best.



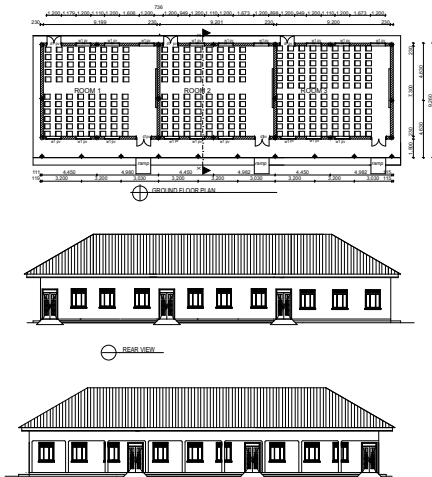


## NEW A LEVEL AND FINE ARTS BLOCK

Thanks to a very generous donation in memory of one of the Wood family's great friends, Margaret Pearson, we are in the fortunate position to be able to provide a new A level and Fine Arts block for NGSS. We hope that this will encourage more girls to stay on at the school to study for their A levels and also attract others from outside to join the school in the sixth form. The revised drawings have all been made, the site has been cleared and we are now waiting for the latest quotations for the building. Once we receive those a suitable builder will be appointed.

We are also now in a position to be able to provide a new incinerator for the school. This work will be carried out at the same time as this new build.

We look forward to being able to share with you as the building work progresses.



## RUTH MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL, KIHIIHI

Ephraim and his small team of teachers work hard to give the 70 young pupils in their care a good start to their education. Although called a nursery school, they do teach up to the first years of primary school. The secure fencing that we have provided at the front of the school needs some repair, as do some of the seesaws. The blackboards need replacing and the remainder of the classroom walls need to be painted white, to comply with ministry regulations. On our recent visit we were able to hand over lots of colouring books and felt tipped pens and colouring pencils which various people had kindly donated.

As always when we visit the children are very happy to sing and dance for us and they looked particularly smart in their new uniforms. It is fortunate that we are able to provide daily milk, porridge and pancakes for these young children. However, on our visits we like to make it a bit more of a special occasion and we give out hard boiled eggs, biscuits and juice which always go down very well!

Providing the stationery and supplies for this little school is becoming a bit of a burden. The supplies are all available locally but are costly and the small termly fees that are charged hardly cover the costs of the teachers and helpers. If you feel you might be able to help with this then please do let us know!



## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Fundraising is all part and parcel of running a charity. Not only does it raise money but it also raises awareness of the work we are doing out in Uganda. Covid 19 stopped this for a while although selling items on E bay and through Marketplace carried on and has brought in a steady additional income. If you have items you wish to sell please name the Mary Wood Trust as the recipient charity or perhaps give your items to one of the trustees who could do this for you.

Our main fundraising at the moment is focussed on providing the funds to fully equip the new A level and Fine Arts Block at NGSS. We plan to provide solar power for this three classroom block and there will be desks and blackboards and cupboards to put in at a later date.

Pippa and her family had a cake and plant stall in Kenilworth in May which raised £475. A brilliant result!



Clare and Oliver held a fun Quiz Night in Wilmslow in May which was very well supported and raised £1,800. Thank you to all those involved in making this such a great success





## NEWS OF PAST NGSS SPONSORED GIRLS

The girls at NGSS performed well at both O and A levels at the end of last year. Considering the broken schooling they all had due to Covid restrictions and school closures, it is something worth celebrating. A number of our sponsored girls achieved high enough grades to go on to university to study for either degrees or diplomas. We have been able to offer four of them support. Agnes and Rosette have started at Bishop Barham University to study for Bachelor degrees in Education and Precious has started her diploma course in Information Technology. Shyne will join them in September to begin her diploma course in Business Administration. Until then she is volunteering with Compassion International, a Christian organisation that supports very needy children.



Rosette, Agnes, Shyne and Precious

## NYAKATARE HEALTH CENTRE AND DENTAL CLINIC

Nyakatara Health Centre 4 is now under the care of Dr Joe Kalenzi and his team. He has a huge task ahead of him, especially when it comes to equipping the operating theatre of the new maternity hospital. The laboratory also needs upgrading, and they are desperately in need of a CBC blood counting machine.

The Mary Wood Trust have been involved over the years in upgrading some of the facilities, especially in relationship to the dental unit. We have helped support the dental assistant, provided toothbrushes and toothpaste, and bought a new air compressor (central photo) for the dental chair.



**The Mary Wood Trust relies entirely on your support. Thanks to all who give so generously. If you would like to know about 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, Wilmslow, SK9 2LX, UK.  
Tel. 01625 531233 or 0777 6087501**