



The Mityana Charity

Registered charity no. [1064825](#)



NEWSLETTER January 2010

Back in Mityana!

Ann went to Uganda twice in 2009, and is just about to leave again for six weeks. She thought you might like to see some highlights of the last visit in October/November, and **thanks you all very much for your prayers and support.**



Ann, performing the official unveiling of the commemorative plaque at Nabukenya Primary School

Celebration Day

"We had a wonderful Celebration Day at Nabukenya Primary School to mark the completion of three blocks of classrooms and all that has been achieved" It was great to have Mark Boobbyer, Linda Raabe Marjot and pupils from Wellington College with us to celebrate all the great work they have done towards the construction of the classrooms. Our next dreams are for an Assembly Hall/church, a kitchen and a Community Clinic!

After all the speeches and formalities, the Wellington college pupils painted the faces of the children from Nabukenya Primary School, and organised races etc., in the afternoon."



Having fun! Sack races organised by Wellington College pupils on "Celebration Day",

Sarah's got the needle!



This is a picture of Sarah Collins immunising one of the chicks at our farm at Lwankuba. It is a little different from her normal work as a Senior Staff Nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital! Sarah is hoping to raise funds for a new clinic to be built in an area of the Diocese where there is no provision at all for the sick or for expectant mothers. Do get in touch if you want to help her!



POVERTY!

THIS IS SOMEBODY'S HOME

A Grandmother and two of her orphaned grandchildren live in the poor little hut at the bottom of the slope. The conditions are appalling. We have received a donation of £1500 towards building her a new home, but we need about £2500 more. Would you PLEASE consider helping?

Sponsorship

Thank you to all the sponsors who renewed their sponsorship this year.

Please can everyone ensure that their money, preferably by standing order, is in our account in November, as it makes our lives more difficult if we have to keep reminding people. We endeavour to ensure that the money is in Mityana, so the children's education isn't disrupted.

Children when they get into P7, top primary, are advised to board at school, so that they have electricity to study in the evenings. They often have early morning and late evening extra lessons. Also this enables the children not to be distracted from their studies by helping with the household chores of cooking, collecting water and firewood.

Thank you to those sponsors who are enabling these children to board. The Primary Leaving exams are important as if they don't pass they are not allowed to continue to secondary school.

sponsorship@mityanacharity.org

EVERY 20 SECONDS

A CHILD DIES OF WATER-RELATED DISEASE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

Our water filters for schools cost £47 each and protect the children from typhoid, and other life-threatening impurities in their drinking water.

Thank you to Billericay Round Table who donated £600 towards Life Straws, individual water filters (more on this next time!).

The bore hole is hopefully being started next month. Many thanks to Hugh Wakeling & Roger Fisher and his water exploration company for their dedication to this project.

Ann gives a precious gift



On each of her visits, Ann fills her car boot with Bibles. This is a gift of a lifetime to many people. (Bibles & Blankets given to prisoners at Mwere Prison.)

“...We are really feeling blessed to have you MITYANA CHARITY. When I look in our community there people who were nothing and they had no hope at all, but because of charity they are now somebody, they are in higher institutions, others have started small business for sustainability, like me myself. Thank you Mityana Charity, Thank you donors, God Bless you. This is Peter Balukaake, in Mityana...”

We still have 2 children at university, who need help with their fees. If you can contribute anything it would help them considerably. Please contact

sponsorship@mityanacharity.org



The Groups painted classrooms at Nabukenya Primary School, but also enjoyed free time by Lake Victoria

Visits

There is a group visiting Mityana February 16th – 27th this year.

TRIP IN OCTOBER 2010?

Ann is returning to Uganda shortly, but is also planning a possible trip in October of this year. If you would like to join her do please get in touch. (ann.potts@virgin.net)

The container arrived in Mityana before Christmas and the gifts have been distributed. Thank you to everyone who donated articles.



We are hoping another one will be going shortly.



Coffins by the road-side. Life and death are very close in Uganda.



Rebecca Rathge demonstrates how to blow bubbles!!

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES;

A.G.M.... Thursday 20 May at 7.30 at St Sebastian's Parish Centre, Wokingham. Do come along.

Beetle drive

This will be on 27 March in St Sebastian's School Hall, Wokingham, RG40 3AT It will cost £10 per head and include a Fish and Chip Supper and a raffle.

Please contact Helen for tickets helenelizchang@aol.com

Jon's Reading Half Marathon

Sun 21st March

You can support Jon by donating direct to Mityana Charity or online at <http://www.mycharitypage.com/jonsrun>

Sponsored Walk

This will be on 22 May at Virginia Water. Come and join us and help raise some money for the charity as well as getting some exercise!

Please contact Helen for more information helenelizchang@aol.com



Mess with Jake's head

Your chance to dictate what style I cut my hair! I will set up several Just Giving (or similar) accounts, each dedicated to a different hairstyle. More info on

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=173830489875&ref=ts>

Can you run a fund-raising event for us please?

Contacts:

enquiry@mityanacharity.org

<http://www.mityanacharity.org>

The Secretary, 6 Tanglely Drive, Wokingham, RG41 2NY

Virtuous Woman

A GIVER'S HEART ANN POTTS

Trina Richard

At the tender age of fifteen – sixty years ago – Ann's dream was to be a missionary in Africa. At that material time, many would have read fantasy or dismissed the dream as a mere impulse on the part of the young English girl. Thus, from her early years, Ann knew that God had to steer her onto the cause of her life. However, being a minor also placed a legal hurdle in the way of legitimacy of Ann's resolve to pursue her missionary dream. She was a minor and as such, her decision would not be legally binding. She was told to first finish her schooling before being freed to pursue whatever dream she had.

Her dream then, as it has turned out, was precisely a prophecy about her calling in life.

However, little did Ann Potts know, at that time, that Africa – the continent that most people in the western world loved to avoid – was truly the destination of her life's mission; Africa abounded with immeasurable need for her care.

Well, she grew up, finished her Business Studies and Law degree and got employed before meeting a young man, Martin Potts, who would later become her husband. She stopped working upon marriage only to resume when her beloved husband succumbed to brain cancer. Her two sons were then 11 and 9 years. They had to be looked after and so she had to go back to work.

God was on Ann's side and she landed a plum job as a Deputy Town Clerk of Wokingham, UK before being promoted to full Town Clerk.

Her life has been punctuated by debilitating painful challenges; it all started with losing her husband early on in their marriage; next her first son Roger got into a near-fatal motor cycle accident that cut short her stint with the Local Government as a Town Clerk, before eventually losing her younger son to testicular cancer.

Naturally, these blows devastated her to a point of getting

“ Her life has been punctuated by debilitating painful challenges; it all started with losing her husband early on in their marriage; ”

angry with God. However, her love for Him overrode all her tribulations and soon she was back on track with a renewed faith. In the midst of it all, the reckoning that she were predestined to serve the LORD beckoned her by the day. She became a lay minister at her local church. While there, Ann got to learn that a member of the same church had been to a place in Africa, called Mityana, Uganda. She prayed and God told her to go to the same place. After a while, Ann and some friends were eating out when she got to hear that a friend of a friend was involved in a sponsorship scheme and again in, of all places, Mityana! Ann and her friends' response was reminiscent of the enthusiasm she had exhibited as a 15-year-old girl who dreamt of being a missionary in Africa those many years back. The only difference this time round was the fact that she was now able to decide about it - and act!

They visited Mityana in 2004 and fell head over heels in love with the place and the people. She could hardly believe her dream of being in Africa had come true.

On her first day, the locals gave her a local name, Nabukenya and the then Bishop of Mityana, Danstun Bukeruya, asked her if she could help him in the Diocese. There could not have been a better way of confirming that that was what God wanted her to do. While visiting Mityana for the second time, she got to see the beautiful 500-acre piece of land owned by the diocese but not being put to productive use and wondered

how they could utilize it. The Bishop suggested that they begin a school. That's how Nabukenya Primary School was founded. Ann together with her UK friends, are now sponsoring about 200 came at the school.

Developed by Mityana Charity, the "New Life" Projects have come into being. Indeed, the projects have a big and expansive vision categorized as: New Life in Faith, New Life in Education and New Life through improved Agriculture.

Through the integrated initiative, Ann and her missionary partners-cum-colleagues aim at improving the living conditions of the Mityana community.

The Charity leased the 500-acre land from the Diocese of Mityana to farm and run the school and other "New Life" projects. The concept is an inter-complementary strategy. The objective is to ensure all-round salvage of the needy within the target-diocese of Mityana.

The Charity is planning to develop a much needed Vocational School at Namutamba under "New Life" auspices.

A Gift Scheme that shall help and empower the locals to alleviate poverty is also in place.

Ann, who is the Trustee and Director for the Charity in the UK, says that prisons ministry is something she holds dear. They preach to prisoners and also offer material help. When she is recounting the miraculous things

God has done in the lives of Ugandan children who have discovered hope through their charitable hands, her face brightens with joy as her voice assumes a passionate tone about what she is totally sold out for.

The heart to help the needy drove Ann to go to Gulu where she got so taken up by the plight of children she saw at the Internally Displaced Peoples [IDPs] camp. And, oh yes! She is helping some people in the northern Uganda, too. She says that had she not established herself in Mityana, she would be somewhere in Gulu as her base.

Because of the multi-faceted approach to Charity, Ann and her friends are not only engaged in "handing out fish but also teaching the locals how to fish for themselves"

through income generating projects; they are feeding both the spirit through their bible scheme and the body through material-needs-

support.

And did I say they support grandmothers who, due to unfortunate loss of their children, have found themselves having to look after themselves and their grandchildren as well.

There is also the exchange programmes between Nabukenya pupils with their English counterparts, thanks to the commendable work of Ann Potts and her philanthropic friends back in England.

In her life, she is pretty much busy with missionary work, among them planting churches – one of which she ran for four years in her early days. In Ann Potts and her friends, Ugandans, especially from Mityana, have found a caring Auntie, as they call her.

