

Visit to Mukono from Guildford Feb 2013 – Summary report

1. The visitors were Sally and Tony Edie, Eleanor Harber, Malgosia Nathanson, Sat Luthra, Archie Luthra, Jim Rattray and Sue Wilbraham. The visitors arrived on 14th February and left on different dates.

2. Purpose of visit

- To meet previous contacts, to consolidate existing links and to diversify the base;
- To inspect Guildford's physical interventions and meet the eight sponsored students;
- To meet the local Mukono Guildford Strategic committee, and to confirm the election of a new Link Committee to run the day to day operations.
- To hold a meeting with Head Teachers of the Linked schools and to visit the Linked schools
- To visit the Mukono sports activities run by The Kids League of Kampala with advice from Douglas Kisauzi and Head teachers at the 3 venues;
- To visit Mukono Arts Centre and give additional musical instruments donated by Surrey Arts.
- To visit the Government's Mukono Health Centre;

3. Summary of visit

- It was especially pleasing to welcome the new elected Link Committee chaired by Julius Mukwanya, with Timothy Njakasi as deputy Chair, Susan Wamala as Secretary and Edward Kaweesi as Treasurer. All members of the new committee are active in Linked projects. The appointment of a nominee from the Municipal Council is awaited. Shadrak Kyobe represents Guildford.
- The linked schools and their head teachers were each visited with warm greetings
- The sponsored students are doing well with their studies, and three of the graduates are taking part in the new Link Committee.
- The Mukono Arts Centre was pleased with the new instruments that have been donated by Surrey Arts. Visitors enjoyed a fine performance of Brass and African music.
- The sports run by The Kids League Kampala at three Mukono schools for their local communities with volunteer coaches are very well attended and offer excellent value for money – some 450 children are given weekly sessions at a cost of £5 per child pa. Fresh sponsorship is required for 2013/4.
- The library is not operating satisfactorily. A meeting was held with the Town Clerk who promised the new Link Committee and the Guildford visitors to rectify the problems (by the end of March 2013).

4. Strategic Committee meeting

The meeting with the CBO committee on Sat 16th Feb confirmed its intention:

- to recognise the original Committee as a Founding Members Board of Trustees responsible for strategic policy issues, supervision and arbitration;
- to form a new Link Committee to be responsible for running the link business;
- to hold a general meeting to elect the Link Committee, which in turn will appoint a core group to handle the day to day activities.
- To receive and approve the 2012 statement of accounts that had been prepared in Guildford.

5. Members General Meeting and election of The Link Committee

- The meeting of Members was held on Sunday 17th December and was attended by 26 members plus the Guildford visitors.

- At the meeting each member indicated his/her specific interest in Link activities and demonstrated the widespread interests present. Initial discussions outlined the achievements of the partnership over the past 10 years
- The meeting welcomed the proposed election of an active Link Committee that would ensure the continued overall success of the Link and resolve problems that might occur.
- The election was held and the following officers and members were appointed:

Chair	Julius Mukwanya - Head of Mukono High School
Vice Chair	Timothy Njakasi of Kasenge Riverford Organic training centre
Secretary	Susan Wamala, Head of Mukono Boarding PS
Treasurer	Edward Kaweesi, Head of Lutengo United SS
Member	Bridget Namagambe, a sponsored graduate appointed by students
Member	William Bulega, of Keenotes - appointed by enterprise interests
Member	Vincent Matovu, appointed by Primary School interests
Member	Susan Suubo, appointed by Secondary School interests
Member	Kalule Abdu, appointed by sports interests
Member	Shadrack Kyobe, appointed by The Guildford Mukono Link
Member	there is a vacancy for an appointment by Mukono Municipal Council
- The four officers (ie the Core Committee) later met with the Strategic Committee and arranged the hand over of financial and secretarial responsibilities from the Board of Trustees to The Link Committee.

6. School Heads meeting

- The Heads of all the Linked schools were invited to a meeting hosted by SW, SE, SL and JR, followed by a buffet supper at the Jobiah Hotel. This was attended by Lydia Sserwanga (Ntaawo PS), Caroline Namaganda (St Kizito PS), Susan Wamala (Mukono Boarding), Edward Kaweesi (Lutengo SS), Milly Namukasa (St Andrew's), Robinah Kato Nabanoba (Namawojjolo), Mathias Kiwanuka (Busenya PS) and Vincent Matovu (Vincentalex PS)
- Separate notes of this meeting have been prepared.

7. School visits

Separate notes have been prepared covering school visits

8. Mukono Arts Centre (Keenotes)

- The centre is led by a talented musician – William Bulega. He runs classes for children of all ages – and has welcomed the opportunity to receive the instruments from Guildford as this enables the Centre to develop strongly its activities in line with the wishes of Surrey Arts.
- An additional 15 musical instruments, a Drum Major's Mace and some music stands were donated from Guildford – mostly from the Surrey Arts 'retired instrument' collection. This tops up the number of instruments to more than 30 in three years.
- There was a stunning Musical performance – initially by the Brass Band, followed by African music and dancing.
- Guildford has been asked to help provide new uniforms and this project is being investigated.

9. Mukono Health Centre visit

- SW, SE and TE visited the Mukono Health Centre and handed over dental equipment received from York House Dental Practice in West Byfleet and HealthCare Direct (Hertfordshire). In March 2013 additional dental equipment from Hertfordshire was sent to Mukono.
- Tony Edie also delivered a laptop computer to the Health Centre and personally gave it to Dennis Mugisha, the dentist. They are delighted as it now means that the dental patient's details and appointments can be integrated into the main Health Centre system.

10. EACO (Shadrak Kyobe) visit

- Shadrak took the visitors to a project area where he has been funded by American interests to build pit latrines and to provide agricultural advice and pigs to needy beneficiaries. He is also running a programme to build boreholes for distant communities at a cost of some US\$10m each.
- Shadrak has been helpful in advising the Link's sponsored students on their future careers and has been involved with Surrey University student enterprises (SIFE). He was appointed by Guildford Trustees to the new Link Committee at the meeting on 17th February.

11. Sports - Mukono Kids League

- Visitors attended two of the three sports sessions that were held at Mukono Boarding, Mbalala and Namawojjolo primary schools. Around 150 children attended each session when we visited – and around 400 attend at the three venues on a weekly basis. The coaches and the coordinator were volunteers from Uganda Christian University and sports teachers from each school. Douglas Kisauzi (founder member of Mukono Guildford Committee) has been heavily involved in arranging the programme with TKL.
- Visitors participated in the sessions and enjoyed a presentation of equipment/medals/T shirts donated by Surrey University/ Bagshot FC/ Keith Henderson Sports Knaphill and Tom Aggar Paralympic athlete. There was no lack of enthusiasm and the coaches managed the large groups well.
- Photos were taken with signs thanking the Casey Trust – the principal sponsor of the programme that will be held weekly for three school terms. The overall cost is modest around £2,000 (or £5 per child pa) – and sponsorship will be required for the 2013/4 season. The programme is incredibly good value for money. The Kids League will provide a 2013/4 budget for consideration.
- Mukono High has a great sports facility next to MBS and is a successful link school – contact should be re-established with Julius Mukwanya who has been elected as Chair of the new Link committee. He has several experienced passionate sports staff that had considerable input in the original planning in 2009-11 (Fred Balenzi).

12. Kasenge Riverford Organic Training centre visit (Timothy Njakasi)

A visit to Kasenge was made on Sat 16th February – this enabled Eleanor Harber (a Surrey 6th former) to research a project that will seek funding for building fuel efficient stoves to replace inefficient open fires at selected schools.

13. Sponsored Student meetings

- Meetings over lunch for the three sponsored under graduates (Ruth, Kenneth and Masitula) and the five sponsored graduates (Kalule, Bridget, Harriet, Norah and Susan) were arranged by SW and SE – one at 882 The Terrace, Old Kira Road, Kampala and the other at Jobiah Hotel Mukono. The main purpose was to gain an update about their present employment and plans for the future. The meetings were successful and separate notes have been prepared.
- Graduate employment opportunities are scarce and to help the students Mr Patrick Kagenda (Director of Datacare, a computer software company) has offered to meet each student to discuss career opportunities.

**Sat Luthra, Sally Edie, Sue Wilbraham, Jim Rattray
March 2013**