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# Soft Power Education



## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2007

Welcome to the Autumn Soft Power Education newsletter... phew what a manic summer we have had! I'm sure you all know how I like to dedicate the newsletters so this one is dedicated to all of our amazing volunteers.. whether they have stayed for one day or three months they have been incredible. I don't have space to mention you all but you know who you are!



This summer we had over 100 long term volunteers and we sent most of them out to site to live. They managed to finish Lokolo Muslim, Kagoma Hill and Namagera Primary schools - incredible well done! Living on site means sleeping in one of the classrooms Monday to Friday and really becoming involved in the day to day of the school. The last group to stay at Namagera even organised a Sports Day on the last day of term which went down a storm!



We have obviously also enjoyed the company of Leeds University again this summer and this year they raised an absolutely astonishing £35,000! We placed them up at Murchison along with the delightful Calum. They had a great time living right in the National Park enjoying elephants and hippos roaming past their tents at night. They made great in roads into the project there too almost completing the refurbishment of Paraa Primary School and with good progress to the Education Centre. A huge thank you to all the Leeds crew for their hard work both fundraising and whilst here. Thanks to the Uganda Wildlife Authority and Bulisa District for hosting them so wonderfully and also to others including The Jephcott Charitable Trust and the Pan-African Conservation Education (PACE) project, thank-you.



## FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

Once again I have a million people to thank - to everyone who has held events before coming here or even after they returned home. Huge thanks to all the long term volunteers who donated out of their own pockets! In the last newsletter you may remember the mud wrestle.. this event raised £960 - thank you! Also, Adrian and Helen, they came for six weeks and raised a huge \$4500! Before they came they also set up a link between their local school and Swidique Muslim and returned back to Oz with letters for their school. We hope it will be an ongoing relationship and the Education Centre would like to thank them both for all the wonderful work they did there.

Over the summer we had volunteers David Erazo and Mary Kay who raised over \$2000 and used some of the money to buy equipment for the Education Centre; Emma and Stu raised over £2000 and made a huge contribution to the refurb of Namagera; Penny Shoubridge's church group gave £200; Nick Atherton did a Fun Run raising £500; Simon Klein held a music festival in Richmond raising £340; Caroline Pook did the London to Brighton bike ride raising £1000; The Rothschild Trust donated a huge £10,000 through Evie who was a volunteer last summer; Peter and Leslie raised over £1300 through a pub quiz, collections boxes and a dress down day at the office!; The Sturt Leopards of Sunshine Coast grammar School, Australia brought a whole heap of cash with them; Emily Sherly shook collection buckets on the underground and raised £650; Steve Lodge raised £1200 from running the London marathon - well done!; Patricia McNeela fundraised €3500 through all kinds of activities including a Table Quiz Night; Diana Everest donated £1000; Shawn Ben, Jan and Leo a group of four students from Belgium recently arrived to start volunteering and brought with them €1145 after auctioning themselves to their friends!

Volunteer Emma Heaphy raised £1500 through all kinds of activities. She spent most of her time here at Namagera Primary School and has now gone back home to set up a link between the Pre school she works with and NPS here. Any proceeds from fundraising activities this year will come to SP! We would like to send our congratulations to her as she returned home and is now enaaed!



On the 1<sup>st</sup> September Elly and Danny (from Middelharnis in Holland) celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Instead of gifts they asked their friends and family to donate to us and raised €750. Many congratulations to the happy couple and the donation will be used to build pit latrines at Nawangoma Primary.

Peka Kroef Potatoe processing company of Odiliapeel, Holland donated €2500



12 keen kayakers joined us here in Uganda to tackle The Mighty White Nile. They also spent 3 days volunteering with us and brought with them €7,700!

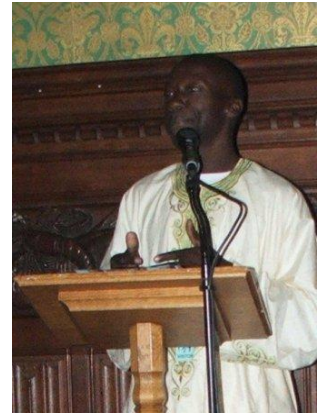


Robein Bank (Holland) donated 15,000 EUROS which will sponsor the new Priamry School annex at Namynia.

PHEW!! A huge thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to keep the money coming our way, we really wouldn't be here without your donations. I am truly sorry if I have forgotten anybody.

## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September we were lucky enough to hold an event at The House of Commons in London. We would like to say a big thank you to Penny Shoubridge and Mags McAlpine for all their hard work in putting the event together and also to our Trustee Paul Daniels for getting us the venue and his help. As you can see from the photo we put Kibii on a plane to be our Ugandan representative at the event and his speech caused much amusement!



## WHATS HAPPENING IN UGANDA?

Both Kyabirwa Children's Centre and Bwenda Pre School have just enjoyed a full refurb, special thanks to Niamh Stack and Helen Brown who took on KCC and to Paul Tobia who has worked tirelessly to complete Bwenda before leaving. They both look fantastic.



As I mentioned before, we have now completed Kagoma Hill Primary School and Lokolo Muslim. Namagera Primary School saw the majority of its classrooms painted and refurbished. Thanks to the donations from Diana Everest, Peka Kroef Potatoe processing company of Odiliapeel, Holland and the donation from Patricia McNeela we will also return there to complete a 6 classroom block which was started by the parents but they were unable to complete it. The new block at Kisinga St Johns has just been painted and looks incredible; Kivabuka now has a lovely school hall and a new 3 classroom block which is currently being painted.

Work has begun on the new annex at Naminya thanks to the donation from The Robein Bank (Holland) This will allow us to build a 3 classroom block and office, a pitlatrine and 8,000 litre water catchment system. We also have a group called Carpe Diem arriving at the start of October to help with the work there.

The Education Centre continues to grow and improve, the community programmes are due to start next year so the tutors have been busy putting their plans together. Special thanks goes to Gordon Durward who recently funded the new road to the centre and to Freddie (son of Dragoman Charlie) who did a great job research into sanitation and malaria in local clinics. Nic and Dave have been busy putting in funding applications for the Education Centre and we are very sad to report that they will be leaving us at the end of October. We would like to wish them the best of luck... they are going to need it as .. Nic is pregnant! Many congratulations! As luck would have it (and it is often the case with SPE) a couple called Marie and Fearghal showed up just as Nic and Dave broke their news. Marie and Feaghal will now be taking on the task of the Education Centre. We wish them good luck too!

## REMOVABLE TEACHING AIDS

After recent talks with the schools they have expressed an interest in the teaching aids being removable from the classroom walls. This is something we have been looking at for a while and would now like to get into place. We plan to involve the day volunteers in drawing and painting the pictures on A2 paper and to then laminate them (the pictures not the volunteers!) to keep them Uganda red dust free! We have found an A2 laminator in Kampala but in the long term it will work out more economical if we had our own... so if any of you happen to know of one going spare... well you know what to do! If any of you teachers out there too happen to have spare posters at your schools these would also supplement the volunteers' aids do feel free to send them out

## WHATS HAPPENING IN UGANDA? Continued...

The Leeds crew may have left but work still continues in Murchison. We have taken on Edwin who will assist Calum. They are busy developing a one day volunteering programme for visitors to the area. Work is continuing and we are looking forward to Hands of Help joining us in December to start the refurbishment of Wanseko Primary School at the edge of the Nile Delta. Many more exciting projects to follow so watch this space!

## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL 12 HOUR CYCLE MARATHON



Oh yes we are doing it again! Now I realise that for those of you involved in last years event you may only be able to remember the mud.. this year we need everyone to do a sun dance!

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Venue: Kyabirwa Village, Uganda

Event: 5km track around the village with teams of 4 people cycling in relay to complete as many laps as possible in 12 hours.

Why: To raise money for Soft Power ... of course!

We would like as many teams as possible so please please start hassling your bosses and friends to sponsor a team here. We would love to have teams from each of our partner schools. Each team of 4 costs \$200 to enter and we promise to send team reports after the event!

### How can I get involved?

Do you like what you have been reading? Do you fancy getting involved right here in Uganda? If the answer is yes then click below to send me an email and find out about volunteering opportunities

[sharon@softpowereducation.com](mailto:sharon@softpowereducation.com)

Don't have the time or kind bosses who will let you take a few months off? Don't worry you can still be a part of Soft Power. You can set up a standing order for just £15 a month to help us run the Education Centre. That will cover 10 children to visit the centre for one day and experience things they never thought possible.

Or even less hassle you can make [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com) your home page, choose Soft Power as your chosen charity, make this the search engine you use and support us with very little effort! Follow this link:

<http://www.everyclick.com/uk/soft-power-education/374744/0>

**Well that's about it for this edition, thanks again to everyone who has been involved whether here in Uganda or elsewhere around the world. We continue to be both amazed and inspired by the support we receive.**

**Until next time...**