

Supporting Uganda's Communities Since 1981

**Want to hear some good news coming out of Africa?**  
*Well read on.... because this newsletter is full of good news and it's all down to your support.*



**FOAG is different:** Made up of volunteers, FOAG concentrates on small scale constructive action for community development through the funding of innovative projects that are often too small for the larger international charities. FOAG provides support to 12 Ugandan-led projects which focus on health, education, economic development and the environment. The FOAG approach is to help Ugandans to help themselves.

#### FOAG in a nutshell:

- **FOAG supports ACTION, not talk or politics to alleviate poverty**
- **We VISIT the projects every year at our own expense to make sure your money is having maximum impact.**
- **Your money reaches the people who NEED it as only 8% goes on administration. Typically its 30%**

For more details go to [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org)

#### Let's Keep in Touch - *by email*

It costs quite a lot for us to print and post our newsletters and appeals but we certainly want to keep you informed about the support FOAG can give to the people of Uganda. Can we ask you to send us your email address please. Over time we will be able to keep you better informed about our projects and events. We will certainly not pass your address on to anyone else.

Unless you have already done so, please send your email address to [admin@foag.org](mailto:admin@foag.org)

If you, or someone on whose behalf you may have opened this, no longer wish to be on FOAG's mailing list, could we ask you to please advise our administrator Mo Murphy: [admin@foag.org](mailto:admin@foag.org)



Visit [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org) and use the shop or donate online

## Namalu - Karamoja's new community food credit scheme off to a flying start

Towards the end of last year many of you helped FOAG raise £2000 in a new scheme called 'Helping Ugandans help themselves'



The new food silos at Namalu



It's much easier to learn when you don't have to worry where the next meal will come from

*Community micro finance scheme to store food bringing...*

*A dependable supply of food*

*Affordable food for families*

*Fair trade for farmers crops*

Every year in Namalu town, in semi-desert Karamoja, city merchants pay farmers a poor price for their produce. Months later, when food supply is critically low, they sell it back to the local community at hugely inflated prices. Thanks to FOAG's new scheme things are changing. Your money has formed a low-interest loan to a long-established community enterprise called CIRIDE, (backed by FOAG). The enterprise has used the loan to pay farmers a fair price for their produce and is now storing the food (mostly maize and beans) in really well made local silos. Later in the year when food is getting scarce and expensive the community will have their own secured supply of food which they will be able to buy at an affordable price. This will allow CIRIDE to repay the loan into a fund to be reinvested into further projects in the area. This is a great FOAG scheme. Your donation is working hard and growing and growing.

If you want to be kept informed about this scheme email [admin@foag.org](mailto:admin@foag.org)

**Iain Patton**

**Total Given Last Year - £2000**

**For food security loan  
& 2000 mosquito nets**

**FOAG Shop Items**

**Mosquito net @ £4 each**

Please give at [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org)  
using the online shop

### More Nets to Namalu

Money is still coming in through the FOAG web shop for life saving £4 mosquito nets. Prevention is better than cure and these nets work and save the lives of children. Currently we have funds to buy 500 nets but we want to give out 1000 on our next monitoring visit. *With your help we can do it!*



No more malaria mosquitos for these families

## St Francis Rehabilitation Centre

*- inspirational development from field to 'village' of hope for children*

FOAG supports three Cheshire Homes in Uganda. One of these is St Francis Centre Pamba, on the outskirts of Soroti in Teso, which now looks after some 70 children with all sorts of physical disabilities, but what a success story it is!

*St Francis Centre aims is to:*

- identify children who would benefit from orthopaedic surgery
- take them into care prior to surgery
- arrange and pay for surgery
- care for them again after surgery
- return them to their family

and in cases where there is no stable family support Pamba continues to care for a child through continuing secondary education.

Disabilities include polio (yes.....it's still around !), the serious effects of malaria, cleft palate, club feet, osteomyelitis, congenital hip and shoulder problems as well as paralysis and damage caused by poor hygiene and wrongly administered home injections.



Dancing with joy and thanks to FOAG at St Francis

The Centre has now been on its new site for 3 years and is growing rapidly. What was a bare piece of land looking across to Soroti Rock is now home to what seems like a small village - 2 dormitories, a vocational training workshop, a substantial bakery built by Bake For Life from the Netherlands, an office and reception block and, well on the way to completion, a new kitchen to replace the flimsy smokey shed which has served for so long.

We are still endeavouring to raise funds to finish out the kitchen and equip it with modern efficient wood-burning stoves as used at Butiru and Masindi

Centres....estimated cost £2,000. In addition we want to assist with the extension of the vocational workshop to provide a carpentry section - at present there is space for tailoring and dressmaking only and 10 students are being trained.....estimated cost £5,000. We are also mindful of the desperate need for the Centre to have its own minibus for transporting children to/from hospital..... estimated cost £7,000.



Sister Sophie  
- ever smiling and dynamic!

**Total Given Last Year - £7813**

*For operations, starting the new kitchen & school fees sponsorship*

**FOAG Shop Items**

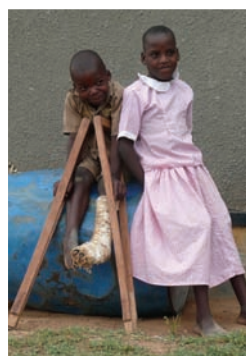
**Childs Orthopaedic Operations @ £200**

Please give at [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org) using the online shop

But..... our biggest concern right now is the escalating cost of orthopaedic surgery. All operations have doubled in cost over the past 2 years for a variety of reasons and a complicated/repeat course of surgery can now easily cost £200 or more – still a fraction of the same here in UK but out-of-reach to the average Ugandan family. Additionally, there are the ever-present ancillary costs of medication, prostheses, wheelchairs, physiotherapy, mosquito nets etc.

St Francis Pamba brings so much hope to children who, on the face of it, should have no hope. It works on a shoestring budget and FOAG is privileged to be part of it. We, in turn, have been particularly grateful to The Sixth Form at Malvern College and the Rotary Clubs of Malvern and Colwall for their interest in this project. They, together with associate member Francis David who secured a £1,500 grant towards the new kitchen roof, have made much of St Francis's growth possible. However, our contribution is small in comparison to the energy and love generated by Sisters Sophie, Crescentia, Winifred, Margaret and Pauline for this cause.

**Betty Hudson**



*Plaster, crutches and new hope*

**Fund Surgery and Change a Life for the Better**

It's easy to get carried away with the obvious progress of building work but we always try to keep a perspective that, at the end of the day, the work of St. Francis Rehabilitation centre is about healing children who have been damaged. This is why we keep appealing to you, our Associate Members, for funds for surgery. It is the most effective way that money can be used to change someone's life for the better.

**Masindi Centre for the Handicapped (MCH)**

*- milestone as the sustainable new kitchen starts to use home grown logs*



*Sustainable firewood to cook on at MCH*

It's all change for the kitchen at the Masindi Centre this year, the monitoring team reports, following its recent visit. Out goes the soot-stained, smoke-filled cooking area where uncut logs were slowly fed into the jaws of the open-fired cookers, and out go coughing cooks and helpers too!

Herald in the arrival of the first logs harvested from the 3 acres of woodlot planted four years ago using FOAG funds and now stacked for drying before being sawn up for use in the kitchen. Every year a

quarter of the woodlot adjacent to the centre can be cut, saving greatly on fuel costs. It was planted by MCH, tended by MCH and now harvested by MCH. The next growth is already visible from the stumps of the first quarter and will be ready in 18 months time.

Masindi Centre for the Handicapped is a boarding school 10km from Masindi town along bumpy roads and set on a hillside. It caters for over 100 children aged 6 to 18, and FOAG has been a supporter since the late 1980s, paying for specific projects and the salaries of ancillary staff.

Thanks to the generosity of FOAG supporters, MCH has been supplied with three new gleaming insulated cookers complete with chimneys and cooking pots in a new kitchen block. There isn't a spot of soot or dirt anywhere – a real pleasure to see and another great success for MCH and FOAG.

**Val Clark**



*The old smokey kitchen at MCH*



*Headteacher Eseri proudly demonstrating the new efficient and clean school cookers*

**Total Given Last Year - £8020**

**FOAG Shop Items**

**MCH graduates work starter packs of tools and materials @ £25 each**

Please give at [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org) using the online shop

# Teso Oxen Re-stocking Project (TORP)

– evolving to help even more farmers



with oxen a family can now cultivate four times the amount of land



Otatai farmers meeting the FOAG monitoring group this February

The village of Otatai lies just west of Soroti town in Teso, Eastern Uganda. It is typical of villages right across this area. Life depends totally upon agriculture which in turn depends upon the climate and prevailing market forces. Teso is, in a normal year, drier and hotter than some of the other major food-producing districts of Uganda and so it faces additional challenges.

A good season means surplus food to sell - which means health and education can be afforded. A poor season, on the other hand, means your children simply have to drop out of secondary school whilst healthcare becomes a luxury.

FOAG visits Teso at least once a year and our February 2010 visit centred upon Otatai where 26 draught oxen have been supplied through the FOAG community loan scheme. Following the usual discussion over the progress of repayments we then made the customary inspection of oxen before giving detailed changes to our future

oxen support. In line with a steadily increasing commercial approach within Uganda, FOAG will, in future, support individuals who wish to acquire oxen with a simple micro-finance scheme rather than supporting a village as a whole. This will be open to FOAG/TORP villagers who are clear of all outstanding debts under the existing scheme and who meet certain basic criteria. It is designed to encourage the go-ahead farmer who is capable of serious production combined with a responsible commitment to loan repayments.

TORP could not operate without the continued hard work of Soroti-based John Echeru, administrator, and Leo Dijkman who holds a firm reign on the accounts. We are very grateful to them both.

**Malcolm Rankin**

**Total Given Last Year - £4895**  
For 20 ploughing oxen,  
staff salaries & transport to run  
the scheme

## The Multipurpose Training and Community Empowerment Association - MTCEA

– transforming cultivation through our ox ploughing loan scheme

Cultivating the land to be ready for planting is a major problem facing Ugandan farmers. It is sheer hardwork. Traditionally in the Busoga area of Uganda this has been done by hoe - very hard work indeed. However, one group we have been assisting for some years, known as the Multipurpose Training and Community Empowerment Association (MTCEA) in Iganga, have complemented their literacy and agriculture training work with a scheme which is making oxen and ploughs available on a loan basis. Ploughing with oxen is sustainable as there is enough fodder available, and unlike a tractor spare parts and fuel is not an issue. In fact, unlike a tractor, oxen do not depreciate (but even appreciate) because when its useful life is over the ox has value as meat.

With the help of FOAG the project has now grown to 72 groups of farmers, each group having 10 to 30 families sharing a pair of oxen and a plough. Each group member might plough about 2 acres per season. MTCEA is supervising each group for 4 years to ensure good management and veterinary care of the oxen, and administering the fund repayments. Up to now scheme members have been asked to pay back 50% of the loan, but when funds become available to extend the scheme, future groups will be expected to repay 100% of the cost of



oxen now taking much of the burden at MTCEA

the oxen and plough plus interest. This change reflects a growing movement to commercialize the scheme and other activities by MTCEA so that it is more business orientated rather than donor supported. Full repayment of the loan will enable the money to be recycled to benefit further groups of farmers with more ploughing oxen.

FOAG has visited this project every year for the last 10 years and it is clear from meeting the farmers that the scheme is making a big improvement to their economic well being and as a consequence to the community as a whole. MTCEA have identified an overwhelming demand for an extension of the scheme, for up to 150 groups. Can you help us raise the funds?

**Michael Bentley**

**Total Given Last Year - £6700**  
For ploughing oxen & scheme managers salaries

### **FOAG** Shop Items

Ploughing Ready pair of oxen @ £310 each

Which can benefit up to 300 people

Please give at [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org) using the online shop

# MTCEA - *The Multipurpose Training and Community Empowerment Association*

## *A Quiet Agricultural Revolution Going on*

Makuta village, south of Iganga towards Lake Victoria, provides an illustration of the significant changes which are happening in this part of Uganda, facilitated by the MTCEA oxen scheme. Any preconceptions of 'poor' agriculture are rapidly dispelled as you travel into this area. Oxen are now being used on a wide scale to plough the land ready for planting when the rains come. But ploughing and planting, as any grower knows, is only part of the story. In Uganda, with the warm temperatures and moist soils weeds can rapidly smother a crop. Good weed control is vital and you will now see ox drawn weeders being used which make higher yields on a larger area possible.

Another revolution is the commercialisation of agriculture which works on loans, not grants, and aims to produce a surplus for sale in the towns and for export. Grain is being cleaned and graded, stored in vermin free silos and marketed in a coordinated way to optimize the price.

Iganga is becoming the bread basket of Uganda with the FOAG funded MTCEA oxen scheme and training playing a major role. Your continued support to FOAG will enable us to continue supporting Peter Owor whom we pay to run the scheme and the Iganga farmers in their ground breaking work!



*Moving on from subsistence. Cleaning and grading maize to get a better price*

## Mengo and Guluddene

### *Guluddene School – a humbling and exceptional place*

**Deep in the countryside at Guluddene, 20Km from Kampala, is an exceptional place caring for children with learning difficulties. As you bump and twist along a forest track through the lush tropical landscape you wonder why on earth someone would choose to establish a school there. On arrival at the site your doubts are immediately shed as the tranquillity and peace of the area envelopes you, creating an atmosphere of a happy and well organised centre.**

Founded by British born Patti Squire, the children at Guluddene learn basic living skills, vocational skills, animal husbandry, horticulture, carpentry and sewing in well illustrated classrooms. With excellently maintained vegetable plots for each class in which they grow maize, cassava, spinach, eggplants, pumpkins, groundnuts, avocados and bananas.

Places like Guluddene are few and far between in Uganda but you, as supporters of FOAG, are helping to fund this school. Patti said on our recent monitoring visit that the Mengo and Guluddene sites would not be able to function without FOAG's support and she sends her grateful thanks on behalf of the staff and children at both centres. We are enabling the children from Mengo and Guluddene with special needs to be useful to their families and not be social outcasts.

It is a humbling experience to realise how much we take for granted in the UK and how low expectations are in Uganda. Every penny of your donations makes a

contribution to improving the lives of the children, some of whom just would not have a life at all without your help.

**Val Clark**

**Total Given Last Year - £3250**  
*For staff wages, food and learning materials for the children & reconditioned engine for the school bus*



*A teaching room at Guluddene taken at the May monitoring visit*

### **FOAG** Shop Items

chickens and enclosure @ £25

Please give at [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org) using the online shop

## The Star of Guluddene - FRED KARANGWA



*Star of Guluddene Fred Karangwa -committed and then some!*

Fred is absolutely gifted in his empathy, care and understanding of the children in the school. There are 28 students, 16 of which are boarders. Fred is now in charge of the school. He has a quiet authority, an excellent rapport with the other staff members, and ensures that the school presents a warm, homely atmosphere with brightly decorated classrooms and corridors.

It is a regular sight in the village to see Fred taking the boarding children for an evening walk into the community. He says this is to help the children's socialisation and to forge local links. Another idea from Fred was to build a large tree house in the playground to encourage the children to exercise and have fun.

Fred is full of ideas but needs our support. One is to buy a solar panel to provide light for the four teachers' rooms so that they could spend extra time preparing lessons after dark when the generator has been shut down. (This is only on for two hours a day). Candles are so dangerous. A further suggestion from Fred is to buy chickens to teach

the children the rudiments of poultry care and to provide eggs for their meals

Fred is exceptional but without the help from FOAG he would not be able to give as much support and guidance to the children at Guluddene. They are so lucky to have him.

STOP PRESS..Fred has stayed on at Guluddene for an extra 10 days of his holiday because the caretaker was taken ill and he wanted to guard the school and look after the goats in the caretaker's absence.. How many UK teachers would do that willingly in their holidays without a penny more?

## Kumi Hospital - *new equipment making a big difference in challenging times*

It is with mixed emotions that I write this annual report as Kumi Hospital has been faced with many hurdles to overcome during this last year but I am delighted to report that the dedication of the staff has continued through adversity. Due to financial pressures their power supply was cut off and the hospital has had to rely upon the generator and diesel fuel, both supplied by FOAG, to keep the hospital going.

FOAG continuing to play a vital role.

Kumi hospital's staff continue to provide dedicated high level patient care under very challenging conditions. It is only with FOAG's support that the generator continues to provide vital power to the hospital. I would urge supporters to continue with their valued support to Kumi hospital which is needed even more in these difficult times.

I end with this response from Dr Opolot, Superintendent of Kumi Hospital, to the donation of funds for the haematology analyser:

"It is so difficult for me to find appropriate words with which to thank you and the entire FOAG fraternity for your kindness. You may not have an idea as to how much difference that piece of equipment is going to make to the work of Kumi hospital and the waiting on the side of patients! God bless you. Pass our love and best wishes to all"

**Sue Derbyshire**

**Total Given Last Year - £16043**

*For Doctors salaries, blood analyser machine, sterilising autoclave & maternity unit equipment*

### Inspired by a visit to Kumi Hospital

A few years back Helen Bryden, Alice Sturdy and some friends walked with their babies on their backs from their home to Cheltenham Maternity a distance of 10 miles. It took a long time with stops for feeding of babies and mothers but it created great empathy for Ugandan mothers who have to walk with their babies all the time. £300 was raised and was used to help establish the maternity unit at Kumi with further support in the form of catheters and IV Giving sets donated by Worcestershire Royal Hospital Special Care Baby Unit.

*What could you do to raise funds for Ugandan women?*



*Connie Akiror by the revolutionary blood analyser - both supported by FOAG*

At present there is no resident orthopaedic surgeon, therefore the hospital is not able to function at capacity.

On a very positive note, a haematology analyser was purchased through a FOAG donation of £7,500 in December 2009. This has revolutionised both the clinical practise and patient care. This machine enables the analysis of blood samples to be processed much more quickly thereby giving the patient a more timely access to treatment. Connie Akiror, a qualified laboratory technologist who was supported through her training by FOAG, is thrilled to have access to the analyser as it has made her job more time efficient with resulting improved patient care.

It is also a pleasure to report that the new maternity unit is now up and functioning with the steam autoclave supplied by

## Kamurasi Primary School Special Needs Unit

*- giving blind children a chance to go to school*



*Hungry to learn at Kamurasi School*

Grace is 11 years old. Her family live near Kiryandongo in Masindi District. At somewhere around 5 years old she suffered an eye infection which quickly affected both eyes. Today she has very limited vision and life is not easy. She is always dependent upon other people.

However, the good news is that Grace attends Kamurasi Primary School just outside Masindi town. 5 years ago the school's headmaster opened up a Special Needs Unit for children who are blind or who have impaired vision, and, with FOAG's help, a new building was completed last year to house up to 48 children. At present there are 19 resident children and Grace is one of them. FOAG continues to help by contributing towards the cost of food and staff salaries.

Much emphasis is placed upon teaching not just Braille and sign-language, but also practical skills that will give children like Grace a small income potential when they grow older. There is also increasing village outreach work to actively seek out similar children who may otherwise be condemned to a life without hope of change or improvement.

The school is blessed with Harriet, a very devoted, long-serving and capable special needs teacher, and has also secured the services of Fen, a Dutch VSO and trained occupational therapist, to help Harriet develop the unit. She is supported by another Dutch VSO, Jan van der Velde, who is working with special needs children via the Masindi District Ministry of Education office. During FOAG's recent May visit it was obvious that there had been much progress. However, building-wise, there is still much to do with furnishing and plumbing the accommodation unit. FOAG remains committed to Kamurasi School.

**Malcolm Rankin**

**Total Given Last Year - £5084**

*For childrens food, completing the new dormitory & staff salaries*

## Butiru Home - reaching out to the most remote villages to help disabled children



Butiru success story Moses (and his son) who now runs the orthopaedic workshop

Butiru Rehabilitation Cheshire Home is an amazing place. At the moment the home accommodates 40 – 60 children below the age of 18. The success and high regard that the home has achieved within the area of Bugisu in Eastern Uganda is due to the team work of many. Sister Catherine Nabutyeka as head of the home has greatly encouraged and expanded the work of the outreach programme in which social workers, Joseph Bulolo and Florence Apio visit homes in remote villages, encouraging parents to bring their disabled children to outreach clinics so that they can be assessed for treatment.

To give you a scale of the work achieved by the Home: through the dedicated work in the community of Sr. Catherine, the outreach workers Joseph, Florence and the physiotherapists Sr. Goretti and Robert Makuto, during 2009, 783 patients were assessed of which 561 were cared for. Of these, 46 underwent operations in hospitals in Kumi, Mbale and Entebbe. They were rehabilitated at Butiru, receiving nursing, nourishment, physiotherapy and in many cases nearby.

Brothers William and Episolom (aged 16 and 17) orphaned and disabled. William was able to walk despite his club foot but Episolom was unable to move at all. They underwent rehabilitation at the Home and were discharged to resume life at home but unfortunately because of their extreme living conditions, the brothers started deteriorating. Their guardian can barely afford to feed himself. However the continued monitoring of these two brothers means that they can be readmitted for care at the Home. Butiru Home is a critical safety net for many children such as William and Episolom. Thank goodness for it.

Another vital member of the team at Butiru is Moses, who is himself a real success story. When we first met Moses he was still in a wheelchair but now he is able to walk with the aid of crutches.

Moses was found as a baby abandoned in a rubbish dump by a doctor. This must have been the reason why he was given the name Moses. He was physically disabled and his head had been badly pecked by birds. The Doctor looked after him and enabled Moses to have several operations. Eventually he came to Butiru where he continued to receive love, care and an education.

Today Moses is a fine young man, married with a family and a home of his own of which he is very proud. Moses runs the orthopaedic workshop at Butiru, and with his assistants, he is able to provide and adapt artificial limbs, parallel bars, standing frames, crutches, corner seats and carry out maintenance on wheelchairs and tricycles.

Sr. Catherine writes, 'There is nothing more fulfilling than seeing children making efforts to live on despite their disability status. This would not have been possible without your love and unrelenting support throughout the year.'

**Jane Sturdy**

**Total Given Last Year - £3750**  
For childrens orthopaedic operations  
& school fees sponsorship

### FOAG Shop Items

School Fee sponsorship £250pa

Please give at [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org)  
using the online shop

## Helping us Get Into Secondary School



Pictured here are four of the five FOAG sponsored students Andrew Sakaya, Violet Nakayenze, Nabulumbi Goretti and Godfrey Okomol. During the Project Monitoring Visit in May 2009, Sr. Catherine highlighted the need for sponsorship for impoverished pupils who wished to go onto secondary education. Primary education is free in Uganda but fees have to be paid for those attending secondary school.

Violet is an orphan whose home is now Butiru as Sr. Catherine was concerned for her welfare. She attends Nyondo Secondary School in Mbale during the term time, the rest of the time she lives at Butiru helping the Sisters and the disabled children.

Violet is one of the five pupils currently being sponsored through secondary school by FOAG. We are grateful to the donors who have committed to paying the school fees for Andrew and Violet but we still need sponsorship for Nabulumbi, Godfrey and Denis. The school reports we have received are very promising. *Can you help?*

## Kiwoko Hospital Nurse Training School - a lasting legacy

The nurse training program differs from most of FOAG's other projects in that it is a commitment we make to individual young people, young people who cannot afford to do the training, but who have the ability and the will to care for their fellow Ugandans. FOAG has been supporting the nurses since 2000 and is also involved in subsidising a training of trainers programme. Numbers of nurses are increasing now and what an invaluable contribution they make to the development of Uganda!

I met a number of this year's nurses on the recent monitoring visit and will let them have the final words.



**Olga Tsubira**

*"It's very unfortunate that I lost my father when I was at Kiwoko. I thought I would never finish my course but by God's grace FOAG sponsorship came to my rescue. I am happy to see that I am finishing my course."*

**Klalulya Charles**

*"We were born 18 in our family. Actually, by the time I reached to join the course we had lost our father who was a very hard working man. Problems approached me. We lost our properties soon after his death and nothing was left to support us who were still young."*

*It's through God's mercy that I managed to get FOAG sponsorship which has enabled me to fulfil my dreams of at least becoming a medical*

*person who is always there to save peoples."*

**Frank Kagambula**

*"I lost my father in 2007 shortly after getting a place at the training school and was left with no support. It was by God's grace that within a short period I was granted a sponsor from FOAG otherwise I wouldn't have managed to go this far."*

**...a lasting legacy:**

**Agnes Namusoke**

*"I promise to be a good nurse who is going to save patients' lives, give care and support where needed because of what you have made me to be."*

**John Cowie**

**Total Given Last Year - £4700**

# Budaka Cheshire Home

*- saving more children than ever before*

**Budaka Home is a FOAG supported project which never fails to deeply move those who call in. Every day is a daunting financial challenge to Sister Mary Florence and her staff and yet the love and care which 'her' children receive is unfailing. To be entertained and greeted by disabled children who, on the face of it, have no reason to smile whatsoever, is a humbling experience.....even to the most seasoned visitor. The Budakas of this world remind one of a true sense of perspective in an age where real values are often so distorted.**

Budaka, 20 miles west of Mbale, cares for children requiring orthopaedic operations and aftercare. It is run under the supervision of Sister Mary Florence and has 70 resident and 30 day children. Over 60 children have benefitted from medical treatment and/or surgery during the past year. During this time the cost of surgery has almost doubled and, with very limited financial resources, it is a difficult task deciding which child should have priority when the opportunity for surgery arises.

Fencing the whole premises has been a target for some time, to both improve security and also to prevent children wandering away. With FOAG funds Sister Mary Florence had been able to purchase enough materials to make a start but another £1,700 is needed to

complete the work.

During our recent visit in February we witnessed considerable growth in both numbers of children dependent upon the Home and in the quality and range of its buildings. Existing dormitories for girls and boys had been renovated. However, one of the two kitchen stoves is in need of improvement and we discussed the installation of a better secondary flue. Other FOAG priorities, apart from the need to complete the fencing, are for solar lighting in those buildings not yet supplied, and the installation of more guttering and rainwater storage tanks.

A new boys' dormitory is being slowly built and when complete this building will serve several purposes and will be a huge asset to the Home.

***This home, and Sister Mary Florence need your support.***

**Mo Murphy**



*Sister Mary Florence and FOAG administrator Mo Murphy cutting the welcome cake at the May monitoring visit*

**Total Given Last Year - £8500**

## **FOAG Shop Items**

For Security fence **£1700**  
Solar lighting for dormitories **£2000**  
& Rainwater collection **£300**

Please give at [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org)  
using the online shop

## **Baking for life**

There is a busy bakery at Budaka where bread and doughnuts are made. Although facing strong commercial competition from outside, it provides an invaluable work training for several children as well as producing a small income for the Home. It was fascinating and delightful to see the look of satisfaction on the faces of some of the disabled girls who were working there.



## **Now it's your turn:**

- 1. Recruit a friend or family member** to bring the work of FOAG to the next generation of supporters. Pass on this newsletter or better still pay for them to join for a year – *it's only £15 for a family*. Email [admin@foag.org](mailto:admin@foag.org)
- 2. Put on a small fundraiser** for FOAG. We can help with ideas and can send you leaflets about our work to give out
- 3. Invite FOAG to speak** – we have a great story to tell and will inspire people to dig deep into their pockets!
- 4. Donate and Gift Aid it too if possible.** This newsletter is packed full of the life changing impact of FOAG supporters donations. Donate at [www.foag.org](http://www.foag.org) and email us for a Gift Aid form [admin@foag.org](mailto:admin@foag.org)

## **Come to a FOAG Event**

**FOAG**

**FOAG Concert** at Pershore Abbey - Saturday **20th November** at 7.30 p.m

**Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra** [www.cheltenhamssymphonyorchestra.info](http://www.cheltenhamssymphonyorchestra.info)

Mozart: *Overture Bastien and Bastienne*, Vaughan Williams: *Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis* & Bruckner: *Symphony No. 4* ("Romantic")

**Tickets £12.50 from the FOAG Office** Ridgeway Farm, Powick, Worcester WR2 4SN tel. 01905 831276, and at the door.

**FOAG Christmas Celebration** Worcester venue to be announced - Friday **10th December**.

**Summer 2011 FOAG picnic and theatre in the garden** with professional players Heartbreak Production

Visit the website or email [admin@foag.org](mailto:admin@foag.org) and we will tell you the details closer to the time.