

# TOFTA & LMVC News Bulletin

*'EDUCATING THE LESS FORTUNATE &  
'REACH HIGH THROUGH HARD WORK'*

Tofta Educational Trust P.O. Box 1200, Jinja Web: [www.lordsmeade.org](http://www.lordsmeade.org) Email: [toftatrust@yahoo.com](mailto:toftatrust@yahoo.com)



**July 2010**

## Message from John Kirkwood.



Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter for Tofta Educational Trust (TET) and Lords Meade Vocational College (LMVC).

Co-director Peter Kalibbala and I enjoyed 3 weeks away attending the R. I. Convention in Montreal, then visiting friends in Canada and USA. We were fortunate to meet up with former students of my first Ugandan school, and see how far they have reached in their lives in the US.

On our return the valuable work that TET does was emphasized by the news of some of the former beneficiaries of the Trust, and where they are currently working.

Meanwhile some of the TET beneficiaries were participating in the sports day and the visit of the Thurfield staff and students. It is rewarding to see a child, formerly put on the 'human refuse pile' through no fault of his/her own responding to being given a chance of a better life.

The 'Village Experience' group from US paid a welcome visit. One of the leaders first came to LMVC as a member of a Rotary G.S.E. Team.

Everyone at TET joins me in thanking all our supporters as without their continued support we could not extend our assistance to so many very needy children. The joy of seeing a needy child enjoying their opportunity to receive education is a great reward.

## THURFIELD COLLEGE VISITS & SPORTS DAY



Left: *Charlotte, from Thurfield College, wins the ladies relay*

10 students and staff from Thurfield College, Leatherhead, UK, one of our twinned schools, spent a week at LMVC. Their first day was spent officiating and participating in LMVC's third sports day. They won the ladies relay, but were beaten by both the teaching and non-teaching staff teams in the men's.

The twinning is part of the British Council sponsored 'Dreams & Teams' scheme. This was a return visit after Head Master Mark Malinga and 2 LMVC students visited UK in March.

LMVC students enjoyed hosting their visitors and both visitors and hosts learnt a lot about each others' cultures.

The Sports Day was well organized and many of the students were able to display and develop their athletic talents.

## VOLUNTEERS

The students and staff of LMVC are very grateful for the volunteers who came from UK. 3 came from Wolverhampton Grammar School and 2 from Haileybury College to teach at LMVC.

As usual, the volunteers appear to have enjoyed their time in Uganda. They returned to UK in time to prepare for their further education, and all at LMVC wish them well in their next step.

Several of them have grouped together to sponsor a couple of students who come from the very poor Karamajong community in Jinja, again with the hope that with secondary education these youngsters can be

## TET OFFERS MORE GIRLS SCHOLARSHIPS



Tofta Educational Trust (TET) has continued to sponsor more girl children this year. Last year, the Trust assisted 190 students to further their education in both secondary and tertiary institutions. 60% of these were

girls. It is by coincidence that the numbers of girls who come seeking for assistance are more than the boys, and considering the circumstances in our communities, girl children find it more difficult to make it through in life without acquiring secondary education. When you make a donation to TET, it goes directly to an individual child in East Africa. It helps a youth, especially a girl, to receive an education, which increases her value and status in the community. Due to her obtaining knowledge and skills she is less likely to contract HIV/Aids through the early marriages into which they are forced by parents / guardians because of poverty and cultural influences. **Above:** one of the lucky girls, **Alvin Akujo** a 13 year old girl in S.2 at Lords Meade Vocational College. She is being raised by a single mother after the father died of HIV/Aids. Her mother was failing to pay her school fess until she applied for the TET scholarship.

She now hopes for a brighter future with her secondary education.

## VOLUNTEERS (CONT)

rescued from the cycle of poverty.

LMVC welcomes volunteers as the students not only learn from their teaching, but also learn about their cultures. So far all volunteers have returned to their homes as changed, more mature youngsters.

One parent summed up her feelings by stating that she took a boy to the airport, but collected a man.

Please contact us about chances to volunteer at LMVC.

## THE STORY OF ONE OF THE TOFTA BENEFICIARIES

**Richard Okiror, (right)** is one of the current beneficiaries of Tofta Educational Trust. This is his second year under the Trust's sponsorship at Lords Meade Vocational College.

He came to the Trust seeking for sponsorship at the beginning of 2009, after he had worked as a night watchman in Jinja for three years and had failed to raise the money for his Advanced level education.

The Trust offered him a scholarship and he is sitting for his final Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) at the end of this year. "My first days at Lords Meade Vocational College opened my world to me", he says. "I realized I could achieve my dream of becoming an engineer. I will never be a night watchman again. I am so happy for what Tofta Trust is doing for the youth like me—I now see a useful life ahead of me". With your help, Tofta Educational Trust continues helping these unfortunate youth acquire education for their better, brighter future.



## INTERACT CLUB

The Interact Club of LMVC held their handover ceremony on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010. This Club, which was chartered in 2003, has 40 very active and vibrant members.

The outgoing president, Interactor James Gidudu handed over to the incoming President Felix Onyango on this colorful function. The guest of honor, the President of the [Rotary](#) Club of Jinja, Petronella Lujwala, urged the incoming board members to be active and to dedicate all their efforts serving those who are in need of their help in their communities.

During the last year, this club has continued with its project of raising funds to pay school fees for a needy child in a local primary school. This is one of the community based projects that the students participate in.



**Above:** President Lujwala gives the Rotary 10 / 11 banner to President Felix

## MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA AT LORDS MEADE

Lords Meade Vocational College held their Inter House Music Dance and Drama competition on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The annual competitions between the four houses; competed in various categories like the folk song, the traditional dance, original composition and a play. Music and Drama competitions are one of the extra-curricular activities carried out at the College. Hippo house won the competition and were given a trophy, which was handed over by the chairman P. T. A., and

encouraged to take their talents seriously as it's a source of income to many people in the world.

**Left:** Students doing the traditional dance.

**Right:** Students acting in one of the plays



## VISIT BY THE VILLAGE EXPERIENCE—USA

Greg Beck (2nd left below) first visited LMVC during his Rotary sponsored GSE Team trip a few years ago. This year he returned with Kelly Campbell and her 'The Village Experience' group from the US. During the two day visit they planted over 50 assorted fruit trees, which, it is hoped, that the sale of the fruits will assist in sponsoring a needy child from the north. Greg's own N.G.O.—'Help Child Soldiers'—is already sponsoring Francis Okello (S3) who was a child soldier with the Lords Resistance Army L.R.A. for 7 years.

The Village Experience not only donated and planted the trees, but also painted the front of the Nalongo Maxine girls dormitory at LMVC. The visitors also spent time in the classrooms watching the students being taught. We look forward to further visits by this group of kind supporters.



**Above Left:** Greg plants a fruit tree with the assistance of 2 staff from LM.V.C.

**Above Right:** Patrick Okello, a former L.R.A. Child Soldier helps paint the girls dormitory with the help of the Village Experience group. While the L.R.A. has stopped causing insurgency in Northern Uganda there are many children who are either former child soldiers or who lost their parents during the 20 year insurgency, and still need assistance to obtain secondary education and return to a better form of 'being normal'. Being given a chance of secondary education greatly assists the child in its rehabilitation.

*I am so happy for what Tofta Trust  
is doing for the youth like me—I  
can now see a useful life ahead of  
me.*

*Richard Okiror*



## APPRECIATION

The Trust continues to appreciate you for your continued support to educate the less fortunate in East Africa. Indeed many youth have realized their dreams of becoming useful citizens. Many have qualified in various fields and are now employed. Often they are able to support one or more siblings with their education.

Jonathan (*left*), now qualified in building and concrete practice after a T.E.T. sponsorship for his vocational course, is now employed by a construction company in Jinja.

He was orphaned during his early childhood and his aunt brought him up.

He now assists his sister with her secondary education.



## WORLD CUP!

**Joshua Ibanda**, A former TET beneficiary, was selected to attend the World Cup in South Africa by the international organisation he works for (YALDA-Youth Alliance for Development and Leadership in Africa), as a reward for his dedication over the last few of years.

Joshua was a prefect at LMVC during his 'A' Levels. He says he uses many of the skills he learnt then for his current work.

*Although I miss  
my parents a lot,  
I miss my education  
the most.  
Quotation from a  
TET applicant.*

## DEVELOPMENTS

- A.** Recently a music room and an additional classroom were completed with the assistance of Wolverhampton Grammar School. It was unfortunate that Miles Le Marchant, a volunteer from W.G.S. was not able to enjoy using the new facility as he was keen to improve the level of music at L.M.V.C.
- B.** Umeme, the electricity supply company in Uganda kindly supplied a 3 phase transformer near the College so that soon, when all the wiring is complete, we will be able to use the woodwork machinery that were donated by Rotary some time ago. We look forward to being able to plane and cut our own timber on site thanks to this project.
- C.** Due to the need for installing the electrical connections for the carpentry workshop work on the boys dormitory has had to be halted. However, the bottom storey of the double floor dormitory is being used to accommodate the senior boys in more spacious surroundings.
- D.** Unfortunately the engine in the old Ford Transit mini-bus failed, and it is prohibitively expensive to obtain another one. We are now squeezing every coin we can get to put it towards the purchase of a reconditioned newly imported 30 seater 'Coaster' minibus.
- Any contributions towards this project will be most welcome. (How to give donations can be seen below)*
- E.** Thanks to a donation from the Rotary Club of Stafford Knot we are in the process of obtaining mosquito nets for the girls dormitory. It is expected that the rate of malaria will be greatly reduced when the girls are able to sleep under treated nets. Malaria remains the biggest medical problem that the students suffer from.

**YOUR DONATION CAN HELP to make a difference while the Trust continues to help vulnerable youth to obtain education, accommodation and health services so they may have a better future.**

**STERLING DONATIONS:** Please make out cheques to "Tofta Educational Trust" and forward to:

The Secretary, Tofta Educational Trust, Flat 302, Bridge House, Sion Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4BW

### **ON LINE DONATIONS:**

If you prefer an on line option, click the "Donate Now" button and join us to change the world.

**Donate Now**

Secure Through the Torry Pines  
Rotary Foundation

You will receive a 501(c) 3 receipt.

Email: [toftatrust@yahoo.com](mailto:toftatrust@yahoo.com)

Phone: +256 772 412345/ +256 774 225355

Please state if you would prefer to support a boy or a girl.

**Tofta Educational Trust**, P.O. Box 1200, Jinja, Uganda

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