

Possibilities Chairmans Report
Annual General Meeting - 19th May 2011
30th Jan 2011- 29th Jan 2012

General

The very nature of Possibilities means that we share our resources as fairly as possible and meet the need where we see appropriate. As custodians of other people's hard earned cash we recognise our duty to get value for money and to ensure that those we help will benefit either immediately as an emergency measure, or more importantly, as we make an investment in their young lives. We see our role in Uganda as being a catalyst for change. We want to make a lasting difference by affecting individuals on a permanent basis. We don't see our role as scattering anonymous emergency funds, but more importantly placing money and resources strategically where they are needed and can have the most impact; where they will be long lasting, and as an investment in the future generation.

Website – The possibilities website will be revised this year. As we make progress and as the charity develops, the website needs to also. We will be making a more structured and methodical approach to child sponsorship in the coming year and the website will need to be developed to keep in line with the increased demand. This is not to push things in a certain direction but to respond to what seems to be happening and trying to project onto those developments that may be thrust upon us and to pre-empt that movement. We need to make sure that we keep relevant and strive for increased efficiency as well as providing a more professional and transparent service.

Visits

We visited Uganda three times in the past year. A business type trip in February 2011 where I was involved in meeting with many people and dealing with relational issues as well as checking on the children's education. I also began the search for appropriate land for us to buy to begin the farm.

I visited in July / August – more on that later. I also visited in February 2012 with Peter Gunter. We visited various projects spent much time in consultation. We visited the Malangata farm land with various interested parties (surveyor, builder, project manager, Bula directors etc,) and began forming plans for the land.

The land has since been cleared and turned ready for planting. We have built the farmer's house and are left with the latrine to be bored before it can be inhabited.

Groups that sponsor Possibilities

We have enjoyed continued support from the **Parish Church in Stowmarket**. The PCC decided that they were not going to renew that sponsorship. They wished to take a new direction with how they sponsor charities.

Stowupland High School continues to support Possibilities and has sent several cheques over the past year.

Holbrook High School – The school has not managed to gain substantial interest in adopting Possibilities. The students were difficult to engage in fundraising. The ideas that they had were often time and resource hungry for little return. So the staff decided that it would be better to try and engage with the adult community. They have organised wider fundraising activities. The Assistant head teacher, David Hall, remains enthusiastic and has organised several events to raise money for the charity. He made a donation to Possibilities in March, has a 120 mile run/walk planned for June and a mammoth physical challenge for parents and the community later in the year.

Fundraising Events

2011

9-11 April - **One Million Metres** rowing event.

25 June **Wetheringsett** village held their first Summer Dance.

1 October **Bollywood Charity Night** at a local school.

2012

12 May **May Dinner** at Brockford Barn

Vintage Tea Parties – Denise has been organising and offering tea parties as a simple but effective way of fundraising.

23 June **Summer Party**

14 July **Band Night**

6 October **Flamenco Night**

10 November **James Bond Casino**

Possibilities for Children

We currently pay for 18 Children in education

13 children at KiWoI (formerly Kiwi) all resident with Benedicta at the orphanage at Kinawataka, We are also paying for:-

1 ex Kiwi

2 extras who live near to the orphanage at KiWoI

2 at the goat village

This is ongoing and we will continue to support these children until they are of an age when they can attend university. We have discussed and agreed that our responsibility will cease for the children at age 18 or at the end of their mainstream education. University will stretch our resources too far. We currently have several individual sponsors (always more needed) the rest is made up from general funds.

Farming with Possibilities

After several months deliberation and much consultation, We bought a 3 acre plot 26 Miles north of Kampala in a place called Malangata near Namayumba. After many wasted hours on the trip in July we eventually were left with no option but to entrust SPAU (Paul Lwanga) with the purchase of the land on our behalf. The titles are still being drawn up.

This plot of land has been bought to farm and therefore produce food for emergency rations for the orphanages rather than always coming to us for financial aid. Our funds will go much further by planting and farming and it will give a degree of self sufficiency to the children's homes that we are working with. We anticipate using the farm to train and equip the children for the future. We fully expect to eventually move the children from BULA Children's home to the land when we have managed to develop the plot with accommodation. This will be an exhaustive project and much bigger than anything we have progressed before. We anticipate needing in the region of £40,000 to erect the building.

Volunteering with Possibilities

This past year we have sent two volunteers to Uganda. This is nowhere near enough and we would love to have supplied more - an area that we can improve on.

In April 2011 Kristian went to Bula for 3 weeks.

In August 2011 Phoebe went to Another Hope Children's Ministry for a month's stay

I currently have a tentative enquiry outstanding which may develop into a 12 month placement???

Possibilities with Goats

The goat project is a little concerning. The goats didn't appear that healthy on our visit in August. We sent a vet to check on their health.

We started the project May/June 2010 when we bought 6 kids. The original Billy goat was too immature and so we had the she (nanny) goats impregnated by a local billy goat. This was a temporary measure and so we started a facebook campaign in April 2011 to buy a new billy (he) for Possibilities. In June we purchased a new billy with money donated from 10 donors on FB.

4 kids were born in September two sets of twins. Unfortunately they all died and we have instructed a local vet to train the villagers and also to check out the general health of the remaining 10 goats.

On my visit in February 2012 we had some very hard decisions to make. The goats were unhealthy and appeared to be not looked after particularly well. We had to let the goat herder leave the village and instructed the village people on their new responsibilities. Once again we hired a vet to treat the goats and bring instruction to the villagers. There was some good news however - The new billy goat has fathered two kids and the original billy

is now performing too. We are planning separation and will develop two herds. Musa Kakooza spent a week with the villagers building a new grazing pen this will be inspected in september by Peter Gunter.

Travel with Possibilities

We ran our first organised trip to Uganda last summer. It was a mix of volunteering, culture awareness and luxury safariing. This first trip was highly successful and we will be running a similar type trip again during the Easter of 2013. We currently have 16 interested parties, including 11 firm travellers. The mix will be adjusted slightly for Easter 2013 with a better mix of volunteering and holiday type pursuits. We will increase tourism and extend the safari by a day. This, we hope, will improve on what is already a great holiday experience and will break up the volunteering and give a more rounded and more complete trip.

Possibilities with Beads

We were fortunate that with the BA win I also managed to get extra baggage which meant that we could take extras bags with clothes and sports equipment this time and also bring back extra beads and bags for sale. Beads and cards have been sent out for others to sell as well.

Other NEWS and Information

Great Britons is now well known and well documented but it has been a great benefit to the charity and has brought exposure and funds and enabled us to do much more than would have been possible otherwise.

Olympic Torch Rob has been chosen to run with the olympic torch on July 5th in Ipswich – A great honour.

May Dinner This was a huge success and we will run this type of event again in the future. It raised £465

Craft With the extra beads and the drinking straw bags that we now have, we have increased the outlets that we have and have been seeking to get stalls at local craft fairs etc.

Christmas Tree Festival We had a Christmas Tree at the Stowmarket Parish Church Festival during December

N.M. Raft Race We are entering a raft at the raft race on 10th June 2012 . It has been designed by Mark Adams and Ian Currie. A team will be water testing on 27th May and you can watch the attempt by the paddlers on June 10th around Needham Lake. It is a great fun event and as well as having a stall selling beads, cards and bags, we would gain some more exposure and have some fun as well. Rob has been asked to present the prizes to the winners as he is now a local celebrity - Haha

SPAU In the past year we have paid for some HIV testing to be carried out in Gobero which is an area near to the land that we have purchased. Spau are managing the farm build for us. I am extremely impressed with their activity and on my return in Feb contacted a Swiss NGO to request a new vehicle for SPAU, This is being considered and they will hopefully release funds to update the vehicle.

Travel Summer 2011 the team that travelled with Possibilities were active in labouring for a local builder at Bombo where an addition to the school was being built. They decorated 3 Bedrooms for the girls and for Kenneth and cleaned out the water tank at KiWoI. We also paid for some wardrobes to be built for the girls to enable them to keep their uniforms and general clothing tidy and more easily cared for. The team also gave Bula Children's home a deep clean – an option that was considerable cheaper and more appropriate than decorating the whole of the house.

A great year and very productive. The next year will be a time of fundraising and making plans for the land at Malangata.

Rob Pattison
12 May 2012