

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SCOUTS BWAISE UPDATE

December 2007

This is an update on the project following a visit between the 17th & 25th October by Keith Shackleton



OUTSPAN CONTINUES TO GROW BY DEGREES!

Outspan continues to grow and develop, both academically and in terms of its overall facilities. The previous update, issued last October, gave details of the first phase of a first floor extension which, it was hoped, would eventually be completed to all the original school buildings. That first phase is now complete and in full use.

The second phase of this work commenced at the beginning of the year but had to stop suddenly, due to a shortage of funds, when Barclays Kampala refused to honour a perfectly legitimate cheque and then vetoed any further transactions utilising cheques – a system we had used successfully for 11 years!

Barclay's decision almost bankrupted Outspan. In order to pay the builder for work completed to date, the school had to use all of its funds and the teachers even went without pay for a while. Eventually, we have been able to close our account in Kampala and have all our monies returned to us – it only took 7 months, 6 phone calls to Uganda, over 50 emails, the filling in of several forms, writing a letter and a personal visit to the bank!

As soon as we received our funds from Uganda we immediately made an electronic transfer direct to the schools account. Who needs Barclays anyway? In fact, cutting them out has saved us money as we no longer have to pay their monthly management fee. The school has been able to get itself back on an even keel and restart the building work.

The second phase of the first floor extension was completed at the end of November, save for decoration and furniture which should be in place when the new school year starts next February. The school also has a permanent shelter, under which pupils can take cover from rain or sun during breaks, and the playground has been concreted.



Final phase of construction work to complete - upper floor over classrooms and offices – and £10,000 to raise!!



As you may know, several less fortunate pupils at the school are sponsored (have their school fees paid) by people back here in the UK. In a similar way, Keith has been supporting Dismas Otoori, the Headteacher, for the last six years whilst he has upgraded his skills and knowledge by attending Ndejje University during school holidays. During this time Dismas has attended a school management course, attained a Teaching Diploma and, more recently, a full Bachelor of Education Degree.



During his visit, Keith was able to attend Dismas' graduation at the university and the ensuing party at the Hotel Garden, Kawempe. Keith was accompanied by Diane and Stuart Mackie, who were part of the '97 Expedition and visiting Uganda for the fourteenth time! It was a very proud moment for everyone.



The project goes on and benefits, in some way or another, all those who have been or continue to be involved with it. We will leave the final message to Dismas.

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking part in building and nurturing our school which is growing in stature as a leading institution and a model of quality education.

All this would not have happened if you had not come to extend your support.

May you therefore share our gratitude and amass heavenly blessings and grace in this Christmas season and more time to come."