

# PONT newsletter – October 2005

This newsletter is the first of a regular series we plan to produce to update our partners with news of the work in Mbale made possible through your generous giving.

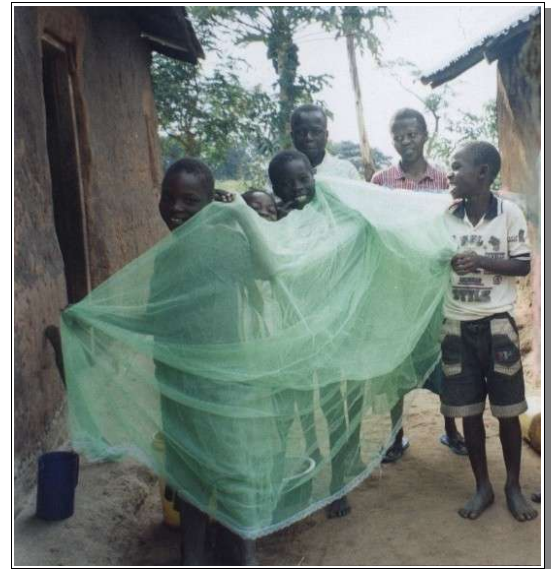
## FDNC Band – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 7.30 pm



The Foundation for the Development of Needy Communities (FDNC) is one of the NGOs that we support in Mbale. They have trained and equipped a group of young people from Mbale who perform Ugandan songs and dances and play as a Brass Band. On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November they will be giving a concert at Coedylan Comprehensive School, Cilfynydd as part of their UK tour. Tickets are £5 each and are available either from the Harvest Book Shop in Pontypridd or from the Pontypridd Museum.

## Mosquito Nets

Malaria accounts for one in five of all childhood deaths in Africa. Mosquito Nets provide a cheap and effective first line of defence against the disease. For less than £5 we are able to provide a net large enough to protect up to 3 children. To date 320 Mosquito nets have been distributed to families, with appropriate advice given on how to best use and take care of the nets. We plan to review how this is going during our forthcoming visit, and to ensure that links are set up with government schemes to treat the nets with insecticides.



## Health Care Update

We are moving into an exciting stage of our partnership now – our visit in November (18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>) will enable us to assess the results of the initial survey work done in 300 households and to analyse and refine the process with those who administered the survey to help us provide the best and most needed assistance to our partners in doing their voluntary health work amongst the poorest people.

We will also be working out how best to focus our support in the training of volunteer health workers. We will be working closely with our partner NGOs in cooperation with the local government health service, aiming to identify and help share best practice amongst those organisations. Initially, in very simple practical terms, we will also be providing a copy of “Where there is no Doctor”, a manual for health workers, to all the volunteers who don’t yet have their own.

For the first time, we will have a hospital doctor, Dr Eryl Hicks, from Royal Glamorgan Hospital travelling with us to make links with Mbale Hospital to see how we can help in secondary care.

## Goats

Through our 3 partner NGOs 106 goats have been provided to families who care for orphans or are very needy. Through breeding these goats the families will have a new source of income. We have received the following report from Share an Opportunity describing the effect the project is having on the community of Maresi.

### **GOATS GETTING CHILDREN & FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY.**

In Uganda goat rearing has been viewed for a long time as a labour intensive activity and traditionally less value has been attached to it. This trend has changed. The sensitization, training and education, of communities in goat rearing as means of eradicating poverty has brought a significant attitudinal change. Today in Maresi goat rearing is like fire set on the grass. The population has turned to goat rearing. This has caused a change in community's usual way of earning a living from smuggling and stealing to goat keeping! Goat rearing is being embraced with great enthusiasm.

The Community is aware that goat rearing is going to make poverty history in the shortest period of about 3 years. The community has come to believe in the goat Project to generate wealth and fight food insecurity.

With this concept in their mind, development is at the door steps. The donation from PONT of 40 she goats bought and distributed to 40 children in Maresi, Bubutu Sub County. (*The first beneficiaries of the Pontypridd/Mbale partnership.*)



There is great joy in these families, faces beaming and radiating relief could not be hidden not only in the lives of children but in the lives of parents and community of Maresi. One community member said "*thank you for bringing riches to Maresi the bleak future is turning bright*".

Guardians have each contributed Ush 2000 (equivalent to 60p) towards medical treatment of the goats. A qualified vet was hired to carry out the treatment exercise.

One challenge the community is facing is the lack of calliandra shrubs – a cheap source of proteins for Goats.

## Contact Details

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