

Charity No:1124195

Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)

Trustee's report and financial statements

for the year ended 28th February 2021

Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)

Legal and administrative information

Trustees

Lorna Brown
Valerie Talbot
Emyr Owen
Codelia Weedon
Nick Christoforou
Tim Smith
Jackie Milton
Ben Jones

Bankers

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Independent Examiner

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Charity Number

1124195

Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)

Index

Contents	Page
Trustees' Report	1 -6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Receipts and Payments Account	8
Notes to the Accounts	9

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 28th February 2021

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 28th February 2021. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

Dolen Ffermio is a registered charity with 9 trustees making up the management committee.

Trustee selection is by members at the AGM. Post holders are similarly elected at the AGM.

In 2021 Dolen Ffermio was unable to hold our usual AGM because of the restrictions on meetings imposed by the government during the Coronavirus crisis. The Executive Committee decided to hold a virtual AGM by means of Zoom. We asked members to approve this decision and all the paperwork was sent to them in advance. 14 Members took part and we had 4 apologies.

Potential trustees are members who have had a substantial involvement in Dolen Ffermio already. They are invited to become co-opted members of the Executive committee for 12 months before putting their name forward at the AGM. Induction would take place at a meeting of trustees.

Objectives and activities

The first objective of the organisation is the relief of poverty in two rural areas of Eastern Uganda (Kamuli and Ngora) in particular, but not exclusively, by the provision of education and training and other such services so that they may become self-supporting and their conditions of life improved.

The second objective is raising awareness in the UK of world food and farming issues.

The main activities for the relief of poverty in Kamuli, working with the Dolen Ffermio Environmental Farming and Health Organisation (DFEFHO) are:

- Goat breeding programme
- Agro-forestry programme

The main activities for the relief of poverty in Ngora, working with Farming Link Uganda (FARLU) are:

- Goat and sheep breeding programme
- Project to support orphaned and vulnerable children in the care of their extended families
- Solar energy project
- Energy and construction social enterprise company
- Agro forestry project
- Income generating projects

The main activities for awareness raising in the UK are:

- Conference for sixth formers
- Public meeting for the farming and wider community
- Stands at agricultural shows, exhibitions
- Press releases to local newspapers, publicity and twice yearly newsletters to all supporters

Public Benefit

This is to confirm that the trustees of Dolen Ffermio have studied the guidance provided by the Charity Commission and take it into account when making decisions to which the guidance is relevant. The trustees consider that the charity's activities provide public benefit to the communities in Uganda where projects are located.

Achievements and performance

In Kamuli:

A pedigree Boer goat breeding project was moved to Kamuli in 2017 under Moses Kitimbo's care and in his compound.

The aim is to improve productivity of local goats by cross breeding with Boer breeds, which will benefit the local community.

**Report of the trustees
For the year ended 28th February 2021**

In Kamuli:

Goat Breeding Project

Local herdsmen are employed to take care of the goats.

- Moses Kitimbo was able to source a Toggenburg dairy buck from Mbale district to start a dairying project. This will benefit smallholding farmers locally and children will benefit from the supply of milk. Moses and Lorna visited an excellent meat goat breeding unit in Kayunga district in March, which we hope will be a good source of meat breed bucks, but district foot and mouth disease restrictions at that time stopped them being able to buy and transport them, and since then Covid has compounded the problem.

Agro forestry project with DFEFHO

- The project began as a small agro forestry project in 2012 in Kamuli but could not expand because of lack of land for a mother nursery. In 2018, thanks to very generous donations from members and trustees, we were able to acquire 28 acres of land at Nakyaka, outside Kamuli and on the banks of the River Nile.
- This land will become a demonstration and training resource for good methods of agro forestry, emphasising organic, sustainable permaculture principles as well as a source of good quality, appropriate planting material. This will be a great benefit to the local community and beyond when it is fully developed.
- There are six team members who manage the project. all of whom are volunteers and have been heavily involved from the very start.
- The tree and bamboo nursery, funded initially by the grant from the Welsh Assembly in 2019 and donations from DolenFfermio, is thriving under the direction of Charles Mugarura, our Permaculture consultant, and supervised by Paul Musenero and other members of the team.
- The valley dam gives a continual supply of water, which can now be pumped to the 10,000 litre reservoir water tank beside the nursery. Funds to dig the dam and swales and to buy the tank, water pump, piping and hoses were raised by members and trustees to irrigate the nursery and other crops. It has never failed and is of immense benefit to everyone who works on the land and to local farmers.
- The tree and bamboo nursery has continued to flourish during the pandemic but distribution has been difficult because of school closures and farmers not being allowed to meet up and spread the word about the project. In addition, farmers naturally had to prioritise food production over tree planting. In spite of this and thanks to the efforts of supervisor Charles Mugarura and his permaculture team, 15,385 fruit and timber trees have been distributed, and there are 4000 more tree seedlings and 1000 bamboos waiting in the nursery.
- Bamboo propagation initially proved difficult, but now we have 12 species growing on the farm, and these are providing material for propagation. The tree and bamboo project, partly funded by the Wales and Africa programme running between May 2019 and January 2021, will have a lasting beneficial effect in Kamuli district, as schools and land owners now have an excellent source of planting materials and are aware of the great advantages of trees and bamboo for the environment, livelihoods and health.
- The farmers in our catchment have started a co-operative venture, with adult and youth wings to promote self-sufficiency.
- There has been a hugely beneficial effect on schools and seven more have asked to be involved, bringing the total to sixteen. Together with the training of teachers in permaculture over several years and Charles' astonishing achievement in getting Permaculture accepted on to the primary and junior secondary Ugandan national school curriculum, there is a strong basis for action on environmental care and good farming practices in the younger generation.
- A great deal of planting of food crops has occurred on the Nakyaka land under the supervision of Paul Musenero. Funds raised from these help to feed and pay workers and make improvements to the land. It has not been possible to conduct training sessions for farmers and students this year, but the developments on the farm increase the potential for training in future. The mother gardens of many tree species and bamboo are a rich resource for the nursery. A major banana plantation of 700 is now maturing, and will

Report of the trustees For the year ended 28th February 2021

provide a good shaded and moist environment for interplanting trees and crops as well as producing the staple banana food Matooke.

In Ngora:

Goat and sheep breeding project

- A goat breeding project was set up in 2007 under the leadership of Moses Ekoi, a livestock specialist, on his land at Kobwin, outside the small town of Ngora.
- The aim is to improve the productivity of local goats by cross breeding with Mubende Elite or Boer breeds. Improved bucks are distributed to the communities as well as surplus females. Households build up their herds to enable them to become self-supporting and improve their quality of life. This unit is of great benefit to the whole community.
- The goat unit has the advantage of solar power and piped water from an underground rainwater catchment tank, thanks to a grant from the Welsh Assembly.
- The vet lab has a fridge with a freezer compartment and a centrifuge. Edson, the animal health assistant helps to supervise the herds and there are two local herdsman employed at the unit.
- The Covid pandemic has restricted the opportunities to up-grade breeding stock, and continue plans for the diagnostic laboratory.
- The 50 plus goats at the unit are healthy, but they badly need to source new bucks and does for the breeding programme for the benefit of the local community. This is always difficult due to low numbers of good stock, combined with high demand in Uganda. During Covid it has been virtually impossible, due to vehicle restrictions and curfews.

Orphan and Vulnerable Children Project

- The project was set up in 2012 by Moses Ekoi and a committee of 6 people. They drew up the terms of the project, using a holistic approach. Funds are raised through an annual gift catalogue and donations.
- The project has been running for almost 9 years after it took over from the one in neighbouring Kumi. In that time we have helped a total of 260 children and their carer families, giving each child 3 years of support with gifts of seeds, livestock, mosquito nets, school resources and invaluable skills training which benefits them while on the project and continues after they have left, with many children choosing vocational education and some setting up their own small businesses.
- Children in this part of Uganda do not go into orphanages but are cared for by members of their extended families.
- Detailed budgets are submitted each year before funds are transferred and the accounts are audited annually by a qualified accountant.
- The project did not recruit any new children in 2020 because of the plans to build a Vocational Training Centre. The Ngora team is very keen to offer support to youngsters at secondary school who have dropped out because their families cannot afford the fees.
- The land for this venture was purchased in 2020 with funds raised by some trustees and Moses himself. No funds were provided by Dolen Ffermio. The land was fenced with help from our partner group, Dolen Lianbrynmair whom we are very glad to have working with us.
- Unfortunately there has been no further progress because of the pandemic but will resume as soon as restrictions are lifted and grant funding has been obtained for the rest of the project.
- We continued to raise funds in 2020 for the final 30 children and for the wider community by taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge, the UK's biggest online match funding campaign. This proved an instant success with over £7,000 of the donations made through the Big Give website. The funds will help the 260 NOVC project children and their families to access clean water, grow nutritious food, plant fruit trees and deliver skills training to create better opportunities.

Ngora Community Solar Project

- This is part of TECCO (Teso Energy and Construction Company), set up as a social enterprise in 2017.
- The aim of the solar project is to light up as many community homes as possible to replace smoky, dangerous kerosene lanterns and candles, and to install solar power in local institutions. Ugandan national grid power is extremely expensive.

Report of the trustees For the year ended 28th February 2021

- The climate change campaign is raising awareness in schools and the wider community and attracts buyers, as does the showroom and advice centre.
- Everything is offered at the lowest price possible and those who cannot afford to pay straight off are given hire purchase terms.
- This solar distribution project continues to supply small scale solar items such as lanterns for safe lighting as well as small solar panels for household use.
- Moses Ekoi is optimistic about the future of TECCO in spite of this difficult year when potential customers and government agencies have had great financial problems.
- Customers have learned to trust our **company's** quality services.
- For solar the sales representatives are operating further afield, into the villages to gain new clients, and, in Ngora town, relocation soon to new high street premises will aid sales.
- The planned vocational training school will have a solar department for training in assembly, needs assessment and sales, creating employment opportunities in the sector.
- In construction, government continues to grant us small projects, recently primary school latrines. Our lack of major capital makes it difficult to bid for bigger contracts.
- At our FARLU office premises in Ngora, TECCO has constructed 2 rental units which will generate income.
- It has also manufactured all the concrete fence poles for the new technical school grounds, and this skill will also generate income and employment opportunities.

Ngora Agro forestry and permaculture project

- The project in Ngora has progressed slowly due to lack of funding in the past and the demands of the other projects here, but it is nevertheless very important to our partners and to us.
- Deforestation is a huge problem in Ngora with all the consequences for the environment and water retention.
- We were fortunate to receive a generous donation from an individual recently which is supporting a tree and bamboo nursery beside the Goat Unit.
- Production of fruit, timber and fodder trees continues, providing a mother garden for community distribution.
- The permaculture garden is now fully fenced and contains demonstration plots of many food crops, including banana.
- Training of 260 households of the NOVC beneficiaries have started to take place now that restrictions have been lifted. The 15 school teachers trained at the Permaculture design course in December 2019, funded by Dolen Ffermio, are involved in the training sessions

School Links

- School links are of great mutual benefit to pupils and teachers both in Uganda and in Wales.
- Links between schools in Wales and Uganda have been formed since Easter 2008. Barbara Maycock obtained funding from the British Council for teacher exchange visits to Llanfyllin High, Llanfechain Primary and Llansantffraid Primary Schools.
- There are now well established links between Llanfyllin and Busoga High Schools, and 6 local primary schools with 6 in Kamuli district.
- However, they have been on hold since the start of the pandemic. Schools in Uganda have been closed for virtually the whole year. Therefore, there has been no opportunity to develop the links further in Uganda and very little opportunity in Wales but, as soon as schooling returns to normal in both countries, we are determined to re-start the programme as we believe this is one of the most important aspects of our work.

Awareness Raising of World Food and Farming Issues

- This is the second objective in our Constitution and a very important part of our work.
 - Normally we organise a sixth form conference at Llanfyllin High School, followed by a public meeting and we were very sorry that we were unable to do so in 2020.
 - Neither were we able to attend the agricultural shows in Llanfyllin and Llanfair Caereinion, the first we have ever missed.
 - However, regular articles were printed in local newspapers and our twice yearly newsletter was distributed to all supporters.
 - The newsletter is translated into Welsh and we are working on a Welsh version of the website.
- Trustee Cordelia Weedon has taken part in the Hub Cymru Africa initiative "Reframing the African narrative"

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 28th February 2021

- Trustee Nick Christoforou is now in charge of communications and fundraising. He has upgraded our excellent website (www.dolenffermio.org.uk) and has considerably extended our social media presence with our Face book page (DolenFfermio) and Twitter feed (@dolenffermio). This year he was helped by two new volunteers, Lena Fritsch and Kadun Rees, who were introduced to us by Hub Cymru Africa.

Financial Review

- The financial position of the charity remains stable and consistent with previous years.
- Total income for the year was £44,959 and total expenditure was £45,320
- We are completely volunteer managed, have a very low base of costs and have modest funding commitments in Uganda.
- All trips to Uganda are made entirely at their own expenses

Reserves Policy

We keep a reserve of at least £1,000 and the rest of the funds are transferred to our projects in Uganda, apart from small amounts to meet essential expenses in the UK such as postage, printing, stationery, bank charges and auditing expenses.

Risk Management

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks the charity is exposed to. Where appropriate, procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

Safeguarding

- We have conducted a thorough review of Safeguarding in Uganda and Wales, with the help of Hub Cymru Africa.
- Our Safeguarding policy has been approved by them and by our partners in Uganda and is now on our website.
- We have produced a Code of Conduct which will be signed by all trustees and anyone who comes into contact with Dolen Ffermio's work in Uganda and Wales.
- All visitors to Uganda will receive induction training and will sign the Code of Conduct,
- We have produced a consent form for photographs and written and audio material which are provided to promote our work.

Statement of disclosure of information to the Independent Examiner

In so far as the trustees are aware:

There is no relevant information which the charity's Independent Examiner is unaware of; and

The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will not continue in operation.

Report of the trustees
For the year ended 28th February 2021

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with section 130 Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations . They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board

Lorna Brown
Chair

Val Talbot
Secretary

Date: 04 /12/2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Dolen Ffermio

I report on the accounts of Dolen Ffermio for the year ended 28th February 2021 set out on pages 1 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, as amended;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and Regulations 11 of the 2006 Regulation. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable as proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Thomas Ojo (BA, BSc, FCPA)
Independent examiner

Date: /12/2021

Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)

Receipts And Payments Account

For Year Ended 28th February 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	£	2020 £
Receipts					
Project income	2	16,862		30,503	
General income		28,097		30,653	
			44,959		61,156
Total Receipts			44,959		61,156
Direct Charitable Expenditure					
DFEFH	6	10,895		22,144	
NOVC		11,299		8,964	
Sponsorship		1,440		1,900	
WHOVC / FFTYO		5,245		3,000	
Evening Events				1,450	
FARLU		13,299		20,190	
Goat Project				850	
Permaculture				2,950	
Text books				100	
Printing and other running costs		2,122		864	
			44,300		62,412
Other Expenditure					
Accountancy and Bookkeeping		450		494	
Bank Charges and Interest		570		648	
			1,020		1,142
Total Payments			45,320		63,555
Net Receipts for the year			(361)		(2,398)
Bank Balance at 28/02/2021			5,742		6,103
Net Surplus / (Deficit for Year)			5,381		3,705

Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 28th February 2021

1 Accounting Conventions

The financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention on a receipts and payments basis.

2 Income is made up of mainly donations and is completely unrestricted.

3 All receipts and payments relate to general unrestricted funds.

4 Charity Trustees are only paid to cover out of pocket expenses.

5 There is no reason to suggest that the charity will not continue as a going concern.