

FOREVER FRIENDS OF UGANDA

England & Wales · Charity number 1167629

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-06-14

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 56 Silverlea Gardens
Horley
RH6 9BB

Phone 07481912966

Email foreverfriendsofuganda@gmail.com

Website <https://friendsofuganda.wordpress.com/>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE RURAL WAKISO AND LUWEERO DISTRICTS OF UGANDA:1) THE PREVENTION AND RELIEF OF POVERTY BY ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND HEALTHCARE PROJECTS AND ALL THE NECESSARY SUPPORT DESIGNED TO ENABLE INDIVIDUALS TO GENERATE A SUSTAINABLE INCOME AND BE SELF SUFFICIENT.2) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR THE SCHOOL FEES OF CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE DECEASED OR ARE POOR AND UNABLE TO PAY FOR THEIR EDUCATION AND BY PROVIDING AND ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR EDUCATION.

Activities: We sponsor the education of children in need to give them a future. Support capital projects including school buildings, access to water , solar lighting.Promote reading for pleasure project. Help children with school uniforms, stationery, clothing.Support the local orphanage and a Ugandan football academy.Promote projects to bring our Ugandan colleagues closer to self-sufficiency.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Uganda

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£34,266	£37,952	-	-
2024-03-31	£34,500	£32,364	-	-
2023-03-31	£29,148	£31,507	-	-
2022-03-31	£29,904	£23,400	-	-
2021-03-31	£28,717	£27,450	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
GILLIAN PARTRIDGE	Chair	2016-06-14
ANDREW DAVID PARTRIDGE		2016-06-14
Anne Boulton		2022-11-22
DANIEL MCGREGOR		2017-03-02
Dr Alexander McGregor		2018-06-02
FELICITY ANNE JONES		2017-03-02
KEITH WILLIAM MILLS		2017-03-02
Nigel McAdam		2020-09-26
Rogan Mills		2018-06-02

Accounts

Forever Friends of Uganda

Charity No: 1167629

56 Silverlea Gardens, Horley, Surrey RH6 9BB

Tel: 07534936901

Mail: foreverfriendsofuganda@gmail.com

Blog:

<http://friendsofuganda.wordpress.com/>

Coordinator's Report

April 2024-March 2025

Sponsorship

As always, this programme is at the heart of what we do. It has enabled Little Angels Primary School to exist and has had a great importance in maintaining Golden Hight School though its difficult years.

We do however need to note an important change in the balance of what we are doing. Until recently, it was heavily slanted towards Little Angels. The gap is narrowing with currently 55 in secondary and further education and just 79 at Little Angels. We need to discuss this situation further in Item 9.

Last year we simplified the primary school payment system to just 2 levels. Basic support is £80 (of which £5 transfers to the girls fund) with a voluntary addition of £20 to provide school uniform. The majority of sponsors choose to offer uniform.

All sponsored children passed their PLE and were able to progress to secondary school. The results have been improving year on year.

There was a 100% success rate at UACE.

Three notable mentions:

Maria Nanyonga graduated in Law

Dianah Nakimbugwe is about to graduate as a doctor

Hellen Nabayiki attained the 2nd best UACE results at her school and is now studying at Arua University.

The Stockport County Connection

Fraser Horsfall and Club President Steve Bellis joined us for the Cale Green Summer Fair.

A bucket collection was held.

The January meeting at Bask with Fraser Horsfall and Lewis Bate, chaired by Steve Bellis, brought in far more funds than we anticipated, and was also a great social success.

Other notable mentions

The start of the HIV support programme following the removal of USAID (see the later report). Our thanks go to Sue Hartridge for starting this off with her initial donation.

Valuable work continued at the skills centre: hairdressing, sewing, and further production of reusable sanitary pads. It had been hoped to make the last part of this self-financing through sales. Unfortunately that has proved impossible as those who are most in need are the ones who cannot afford to buy them.

Keith Mills

November 2025

Forever Friends of Uganda

Receipts and Payment Account for the Year to 31 March 2025

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
Receipts		
Sponsorship	17,271	16,536
Donations	11,539	5,502
Girls Fund	949	499
Sale of Crafts	425	528
Gift Aid	4,082	4,054
Grants	-	7,381
Total Receipts	34,266	34,500
Payments		
Sponsorship	19,519	17,633
Capital Projects	12,485	8,549
Enhanced Salaries	2,957	2,180
Membership & Girls Club	1,937	1,242
Gifts and Awards	568	517
Craft Purchases	5	290
Skills Training	-	1,908
Insurance	-	46
HIV Treatment	481	-
Total Payments	37,952	32,365
Surplus (Loss) for the Year	(3,686)	2,135
Bank Balance	17,144	20,830

I have examined the Forever Friends of Uganda Accounts for the year to 31 March 2025 with the books and vouchers relating thereto and have obtained all the explanations that I required.

I certify that in my opinion the Receipts and Payments Account accurately reflect the transactions carried out on behalf of Forever Friends of Uganda by its Officers.

W John Baker

W John Baker

15 January 2026

Forever Friends of Uganda

Receipts and Payment Account for the Year to 31 March 2025

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
Receipts		
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W John Baker

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15 January 2026

Accounts



Forever Friends of Uganda

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Coordinator's Report

April 2023-March 2024

Sponsorship

This programme has been central to what we do ever since we initiated it in 2006, some 19 years ago. Quite naturally, as children have progressed through the years, the balance of the levels where the girls and boys have reached has developed. It doesn't seem long ago that the students who had reached secondary education and beyond we're in small minority. That is now far from the case and we now have 29 students at the secondary level.

It is very satisfying to know that a good number beyond this have qualified and are working in a range of posts including teaching, hairdressing, welding and building.

We have had our first few university graduates (including Maria Nanyonga who has now risen to the Ugandan Bar Association). More are on the point of qualification.

It is important to stress that none of the funds from this programme go to the children themselves or to their families. They help to ensure that the school remains viable and most especially that the staff can be paid. It also helps the Ssenyonga family to be able to help needy children who are as yet unsponsored but who can still be supported.

Closely linked to the sponsorship programme are the gifts that sponsors purchase for their children - most especially school uniform. That being said, I have done my best to persuade people to support equally poor unsponsored children who are often seen as less worthy of support than those who are formally helped.

Golden High School

As you will all be aware by now, the future of Golden was reaching the stage of becoming unviable. I was told that our sponsorship of the secondary school students had been crucial in ensuring that it did not fail completely.

The whole thing was rescued when James managed to bring on board a group of his former student friends - most notably the musician Ykee Benda who not only was prepared to put in some of his own wealth, but had the contacts to drive the project on in the national media. A new, high profile approach not only brought in support for the school infrastructure but also in terms of support for students in need.

Skills Centre and Well at Bulumbu

Anne will bring you up-to-date on these two items. Let me just say that the former has breathed new life into our support for the Abawaala ku Mwanjo (Girls First) project but both that and the well have enabled our colleagues to strengthen support for the village community.

Other Matters

1. Our link with Stockport County continued to bear fruit. With Fraser Horsfall as our Player Ambassador, we have maintained our profile at a level higher than would otherwise have been likely among the fans. Our bucket collection at a home match also brought in useful funds.
2. We have been back in the groove with our stall on Cale Green Park, bringing in funds, but also maintaining our profile in the community.
3. Our thanks went out to Andy Titley for representing us in the Hatters Half Marathon
4. The Kirabo Awards - Jeanette and I have fronted this new project for 2 years now. It allows children to be rewarded in a whole range of areas, including being kind and considerate, showing leadership qualities, appearance and hard work.
5. We funded classroom painting and repairs.
6. Reading for Pleasure - I have mentioned this small but important programme on a number of occasions. Long may it continue.
7. Last but not least . We continued to support the school staff with our enhanced salary payments and to help the girls and boys in the Little Angels Children's Home with payments towards feeding the youngsters who are staying there.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Keith Mills

October 2024

FOREVER FRIENDS OF UGANDA FINANCIAL REPORT 2023 – 2024 SUMMARY

Our Bank balance at the end of the year was £20,830, an increase of over £2,000 on the previous year.

Our income was £34,500 and expenditure was £32,364, both of these were up on the previous year but this year we received more than we spent, leaving us in a very good financial position.

We received £16,476 in sponsorship and spent £17,633. Keith works hard to retain existing and recruit new sponsors and although we received slightly less this year, we were able to maintain and increase our expenditure on sponsorship.

Donations increased by more than £6,000 to £12,483, with Anne securing grants to finish building the Skills Centre from LYT, and from Wilmslow Wells for the Well at Bulumbu. As Keith has reported, both of these projects have contributed greatly to the well being of the local community.

Funding these ourselves would have put a great strain on our finances so very many thanks to Anne.

Gift Aid was up this year at £4,054, and money was also raised at a Bucket Collection, the Christmas Appeal and the Half Marathon, and from donations for Gill's birthday party. Thanks again to everyone who worked on those projects.

Our total expenditure on Capital projects came to £8,548 and included finishing the dormitory and necessary classroom repairs.

We also funded two Skills training days as part of the Girls First Project at a cost of £1,908.

Keith and Jeanette spent £290 on craft purchases during their visit to Uganda, and raised £528 at Craft Fairs throughout the year. Thanks again to both for the hours spent, not only in raising money, but increasing awareness of our charity.

Forever Friends of Uganda

Receipts and Payment Account for the Year to 31 March 2024

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23
Receipts		
Sponsorship	16,536	17,796
Donations	5,502	6,754
Membership	499	1,239
Sale of Crafts	528	402
Gift Aid	4,054	2,957
Grants	7,381	-
Total Receipts	34,500	29,148
Payments		
Sponsorship	17,633	17,307
Capital Projects	8,549	9,949
Enhanced Salaries	2,180	2,259
Membership & Girls Club	1,242	1,665
Gifts and Awards	517	327
Craft Purchases	290	-
Skills Training	1,908	-
Insurance	46	-
Total Payments	32,365	31,507
 Surplus (Loss) for the Year	 2,135	 (2,359)
Bank Balance	20,830	18,695

I have examined the Forever Friends of Uganda Accounts for the year to 31 March 2024 with the books and vouchers relating thereto and have obtained all the explanations that I required.

I certify that in my opinion the Receipts and Payments Account accurately reflect the transactions carried out on behalf of Forever Friends of Uganda by its Officers.

W. John Baker

W John Baker

22 November 2024

Accounts



Forever Friends of Uganda

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Coordinator's Annual Report

(April 2022-March 2023)

How time passes! We started off the 2022/2023 period expressing our delight that things had settled back into a pre-Covid type of routine. The children and the school in general still had a long way to go to make up for everything that had been lost during the years of lockdown. Writing this, 18 months later, I like to think the catching up is now bearing a sweeter fruit.

That can be born out by the fact that all of the school's candidates in the Primary Leaving Exam passed, leading to 13 of them being admitted to Golden College as sponsored students; Two others joined apprenticeship programmes and another prepared for university.

Capital projects. The perimeter wall was completed. Local government had insisted on the separation of the school from the community at large. An additional plus is that it lays down the place's status in the eyes of the community.

The dormitory at Bulumbu was started. The reasoning behind such an additional feature is to allow the school to attract paying boarders who will help with the progress to self-sufficiency, cut down the reliance on sponsorship while still allowing the Ssenyonga family to support children in need. Things were delayed when the rainy season caused damage prior to completion.

I think that there is an important lesson to be learned here. It was at this stage (allied with the need for repairs to classrooms) that I learned that, over the years, estimates had been kept at the lowest possible level in order to allow for more construction than would have been otherwise possible. The downside is that this is not financially sensible in the long term. Lower construction costs mean higher repair costs. I believe that we have reached the stage where such an approach needs to be seriously reappraised. I have told the Ssenyongas so.

Much of our progress back in UK had a Stockport County involvement.

We were given a two-page spread in the match-day programme which was allied with an introduction to the corporate guests.

My 80th birthday sponsored walk from Stockport Town Hall, to Edgeley Park and on to the Training facility at Carrington brought in much needed funds. As did Danny's participation in the Hatters Half Marathon.

We were also awarded a bucket collection at a home match.

The sponsorship programme continues to be at the heart of what we do, both in terms of workload and in keeping Little Angels PS on track. And of course for the value that it has brought to the educational success and the lives of children supported post-primary school.

We continued to help feed the girls in the children's home and to supplement the teachers' salaries. The latter is certainly paying off with improving exam results. A new award scheme (the Kirabo Awards) was funded by Jeanette and myself. The idea is to present a small gift to children who succeed in a whole range of ways - particularly non-academic. We were pleased to be able to present shoes to the winners during our visit.

Speaking of which It was good to be back at the schools in March/April for the first time in 3 years. Because of our decision to spend some of the time for personal pleasures, it was more rushed than normally. We nevertheless managed all of the basics at Bubebbere and Bulumbu, at Golden College and in visiting most of the students who had moved on to further education.

Keith Mills

October 2023.

FOREVER FRIENDS OF UGANDA FINANCIAL REPORT 2022-2023: SUMMARY

2022/23 was a difficult year. With the cost of living crisis, people had a lot less money to spend, while at the same time there was increased pressure for donations from all of the large charities. We did well to maintain as many sponsors as we did, and credit must go to Keith who chased up new sponsors every time someone had to drop out of the scheme.

Given the financial situation it was not surprising that we experienced a small dip in our income, from the previous year £29,904 down to £29,148 while our expenditure went up from £29,399 to £31,507. Comparing our income with the previous year you will see that everything suffered, except Sponsorship and the income from Gift Aid, with Donations faring particularly badly, bringing in £5,654 as opposed to £10,657 in 2021/22.

As regards expenditure, we spent £17,307 on Sponsorship, an increase of nearly £10,000, and spent more on the Enhanced Salaries and on Gifts and Awards than in the previous year. We only had one Capital project, the Staff Dormitory, which cost us £9,949.

The Sponsorship Fund is healthy and we raise enough through the Membership Fund to continue to feed the girls in the Children's Home but the drop in donations is a cause for concern as they largely fund any capital projects we will have in the future. Craft Sales, events like the Bucket Collection at Stockport County, Keith's fund raising walk and Danny's run are all crucial to sustaining a decent income.

We ended the year with a slightly smaller Bank Balance of £18,694, down about £2,500 on the previous year.

However the schools are thriving, the new dormitory is finished and the new skills centre is now very much a part of the community.

FOREVER FRIENDS OF UGANDA FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR April 2022 to March 2023

Income

Sponsorship	£18,346
Donations	£5,654
Membership & Girls' Club	£1,790
Sale of Crafts	£401
Gift Aid	£2,957
Total	£29,148

Expenditure

Sponsorship	£17,307
Capital Projects	£9,949
Membership & Girls' Club	£1,664
Enhanced Salaries	£2,259
Gifts & Awards	£327
Office Expenses	£0
Craft Purchases	£0
Total	£31,507

Bank Balance at 1/04/2022 was £21,052

Bank Balance at 31/03/2023 was £18,694

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Sponsorship: £17,307

Capital Projects:

Staff Dormitory £9,949

Girls Club:

Food for children's home (20 girls) April 2022 £398

Food for children's home (20 girls) July 2022 £403

Food for children's home (20 girls) Sept 2022 £460

Food for children's home (20 girls) Jan 2023 £403

Other:

Enhanced Salaries, April 2022 £746

Enhanced Salaries, June 2022 £756

Enhanced Salaries, Jan 2023 £757

Gifts, Sept 2022 £280

Awards, Nov 2022 £47

Comparison with previous year

Income

	31/3/23	31/3/22
Sponsorship	£18,346	£14,630
Donations	£5,654	£10,657
Membership	£1,664	£1,734
Sale of Crafts	£401	£425
Gift Aid	£2,957	£2,459
Total	£29,148	£29,904

Expenditure

Sponsorship	£17,307	£10,838
Capital Projects	£9,949	£13,813
Membership	£1,664	£2,254
Enhanced Salaries	£2,259	£2,108
Gifts & Awards	£327	£97
Office Expenses	£0	£75
Craft purchases	£0	£0
Community Support	£0	£214
Total	£31,507	£29,399
Bank Balance	£18,694	£21,052

Forever Friends of Uganda 2022-2023 Expenses by Month

April 2022

Sponsorship:	£4,478.59
Enhanced Salaries	£746.40
Food for Girl's Home:	£398.09

July 2022

Sponsorship:	£4,104
Enhanced Salaries:	£756
Food for Girl's Home:	£403

August 2022

Foundations for Dormitory	£2,688.17
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September 2022

Sponsorship:	£1,452.13
Food for Girl's Home:	£460.03
Gifts:	£279.99

November 2022

Sponsorship:	£2,595.97
Awards:	£47.39
Dormitory:	£4079.78

January 2023

Sponsorship:	£2,988.84
Enhanced Salaries:	£757.07
Food for Girl's Home:	£403.77
Dormitory:	£1,940

February 2023

Sponsorship:	£1687
Dormitory:	£1,241.37

TOTAL	£31,507.57
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FOREVER FRIENDS OF UGANDA FUNDS SINCE 2018

YEAR	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	BANK BALANCE
2018	£17,309	£15,011	£9,788
2019	£27,277	£23,105	£13,960
2020	£25,830	£26,509	£13,281
2021	£28,717	£27,450	£20,548
2022	£29,904	£29,399	£21,052
2023	£29,148	£31,507	£18,694

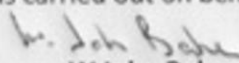
Forever Friends of Uganda

Receipts and Payment Account for the Year to 31 March 2023

	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
Receipts		
Sponsorship	17,796	14,630
Donations	6,754	10,657
Membership	1,239	1,734
Sale of Crafts	402	425
Gift Aid	2,957	2,459
	*****	*****
Total Receipts	29,148	29,905
Payments		
Sponsorship	17,307	10,838
Capital Projects	9,949	13,813
Enhanced Salaries	2,259	2,108
Membership & Girls Club	1,665	2,254
Gifts and Awards	327	-
Donations	-	97
Community Support	-	214
Insurance	-	75
	*****	*****
Total Payments	31,507	29,399
 Surplus (Loss) for the Year	 (2,359)	 506
Bank Balance	18,695	21,054

I have examined the Forever Friends of Uganda Accounts for the year to 31 March 2023 with the books and vouchers relating thereto and have obtained all the explanations that I required.

I certify that in my opinion the Receipts and Payments Account accurately reflect the transactions carried out on behalf of Forever Friends of Uganda by its Officers.


W John Baker

19 January 2024

Accounts

Coordinator's Annual Report (April 2021-March 2022)

I found it very strange putting this report together, ranging as the period did from the final months of the Covid-caused lockdown to the first few and tentative months of the reopening of the Ugandan schools, with our colleagues working to pick up the pieces and rebuilding both the children's lives and fully functioning education establishments.

Of course this affected the way that we had to approach what we were doing.

First of all, the work situation in Kampala (or rather the massive diminution of employment possibilities) meant that village people could no longer rely on their families in the city to help support them. This situation was a major reason for the exacerbation of children being abandoned in the villages by parents who could no longer afford to keep them. We helped a little on two occasions by providing food for those most in need.

An additional problem sadly came to light during this period, which was that the amount of female abuse and teenage pregnancy grew dangerously. We did our best to support our colleagues with a survey of need and a weekend course with trainers on the subject of Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights. This was followed up with an introductory course in the newly completed skills centre and regular weekend training at Bulumbu.

As you know, I was concerned about keeping the level of sponsorship going during periods when the children were not attending school. It is gratifying to be able to report that not only did the sponsors stick with the girls and boys during lockdown, but another eleven of them came on board during the 12 month period.

Despite a chronic lack of lessons, PLE, UCE and UACE exams took place at the end of 2021. Seven sponsored pupils took their PLE and all but one were successful. Vocational training was arranged for the girl who failed. Three additional students are being supported in further education whilst a 4th gained a scholarship to study for a degree in Taiwan.

Normal schooling was resumed in January 2022 even though initially take-up was slow to get moving. Children and parents had become too used to staying home.

Remedial work on buildings (for government inspection) was necessary before the reopening, including at the Children's Home. We helped with this, as well as by providing emergency funding for additional desks, and purchasing beds, bedding and food for the Children's Home.

Before the end of the financial year, a start had been made on the construction of the perimeter wall at Bulumbu - another government requirement.

I must not finish without saying a big thank you to Danny and Rogan for their fund-raising efforts in running the Hatters Half Marathon.

Keith

October 2022

Forever Friends of Uganda
Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2022

	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-21
Receipts		
Sponsorship	14,630	12,155
Donations	10,657	8,940
Membership	1,734	2,877
Sale of Crafts	425	468
Gift Aid	2,459	4,277
	-----	-----
Total Receipts	29,905	28,717
Payments		
Sponsorship	10,838	9,940
Capital Projects	13,813	6,160
Enhanced Salaries	2,108	2,166
Membership & Girls Club	2,254	1,540
Craft Purchases	-	278
Donations	97	728
Community Support	214	638
Bank Charges	-	-
Insurance	75	-
Equals Money	-	6,000
	-----	-----
Total Payments	29,399	27,450
 Surplus for the Year	 506	 1,267
 Bank Balance	 21,054	 14,548
 Equals Money	 -	 6,000

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I certify that in my opinion the Receipts and Payments Account accurately reflect the transactions carried out on behalf of Forever Friends of Uganda by its Officers.

W. John Baker
W John Baker

16 January 2023

Accounts



Forever Friends of Uganda

Registration Number: 1167629

Mail: foreverfriendsofuganda@gmail.com

Blog:

<http://friendsofuganda.wordpress.com>

Annual General Meeting By Zoom Sunday 26th September 2021 Minutes

1. Opening the Meeting and Welcome

Gill Partridge as Chairman opened the meeting at 4 pm and welcomed those present.

Members present: Keith Mills, Gill Partridge, Andrew Partridge, Felicity Jones, Rogan Mills, Alexander MacGregor, Nigel MacAdam and Danny MacGregor.

Apologies for absence were received from Martine Acoulon.

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM.

These were agreed without amendment.

3. Proposed modification to the Constitution

The Constitution currently required that a Trustee who had served for three consecutive terms must stand down for a year before serving a further term. This was not appropriate in the case of FFOU and would unduly disrupt FFOU's business. It was therefore proposed that Item 4 para 122 (3) be modified from "A charity trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be appointed for a fourth term but may be re-appointed after an interval of at least one year" to "A charity trustee can be re-appointed for as long as the Board considers appropriate." This modification was agreed unanimously.

4. Presentation of the Co-ordinator's Annual Report.

Keith Mills had circulated his report before the meeting. Particularly pleasing was sponsors' willingness to pay for classroom extras and not a single sponsor had dropped out of the programme. We have provided 3 solar batteries for the Children's home and school hall, school books and 50 desks and progressed the fruit trees and shade area. The new classroom block has been painted and the teacher accommodation is well used. Computers have been purchased now that electricity has reached Bulumbu. We support 22 girls in the Little Angels Children's Home at Bubebbere.

5. Presentation of the Financial Report

Fil circulated her report prior to the meeting. Although a difficult year, we raised £28,717 and spent £21,450 on children and the wider community. There were few fundraising opportunities but still managed to sell some crafts brought back from Uganda and had two sponsored events. Most of the year the schools were closed, building work was halted and expenditure down. However, we continued to pay the enhanced salaries to teachers, provide food for the children's home,

purchased 3 computers, 50 desks and solar batteries and planted more trees. We paid for work on the teacher's quarters and kept our promise to help towards secondary school exam fees and PLE fees. We also gave money to buy food and supplies in the villages. When the exchange rate was particularly good, we forward purchased £6000 from the Equals Account. The finance report was accepted.

6. Election of officers

Re-appointment of Gill Partridge as Chairman.

Keith Mills proposed her re-appointment and Fil Jones seconded

Re-appointment of Keith Mills as Co-ordinator

Gill Partridge proposed that Keith Mills be re-appointed as co-ordinator. This was seconded by Felicity Jones and agreed unanimously.

Re-appointment of trustees

Keith Mills proposed the re-appointment of three Trustees whose term of office had expired, namely Rogan Mills, Martine Acoulon and Alexander MacGregor. This was agreed unanimously.

Re-appointment of Felicity Jones as Treasurer

Nigel MacAdam proposed that Felicity Jones be re-appointed as Treasurer. This was seconded by Danny MacGregor and agreed unanimously.

Re-appointment of Andrew Partridge as Minutes Secretary

Gill Partridge proposed that Andrew Partridge be re-appointed as Minutes Secretary. This was seconded by Felicity Jones and agreed unanimously.

8 & 9 Consideration of the current situation in Uganda and its implications. Discussion of proposals for action in the coming 12 months

- **£5 increase in sponsorship charges for primary school children**

Keith Mills proposed that the voluntary £5 increase in sponsorship for primary school children be made permanent and the annual figure should be £75 instead of £70. This was agreed unanimously.

- Schools in Uganda are now in their second year of closure and some children have been

without classroom teaching for 18 months. The funding we send for the teacher's salaries has helped to maintain the teaching staff who have been visiting children and the community. The Government has said that schools will re-open when all teachers are vaccinated although many schools have been made bankrupt

- **Discussion of Proposals for Expenditure for the coming 12 Months**

It was agreed that the secondary school fees should now be fixed at £250 per annum. The sponsorship account is fairly healthy and it was agreed that we can raise the amount sent for secondary school students in 2022 to 450,000 UGX per term. If the account continues to be stable, we can finally send 500,000 UGX per term which will mean that we have attained the desired amount.

- The aim is to make the Skills Centre self-sufficient is for those in need e.g. school drop-outs and young mothers and the plan is to sell the products produced during training i.e. soap, cakes, crafts, sanitary pads. Tailoring and hairdressing courses are to be arranged.
- The Government has announced that all schools must be inspected before they re-open and

some remedial work may be necessary. The Ministry of Education is including the need for children to be taught in an enclosed area and a boundary wall will need to be constructed. The doors to the Skills Centre need to be widened to give better ventilation.

- Bulumbu. Carried forward from last year is the need to build a boundary wall and the dormitory, which have both been priced. At the moment we do not have sufficient funds for all this and need to raise more.

10 **Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

Coordinator's Report - April 2020 to March 2021

What a horrible time it has been for Ugandan children - and sadly it is not over yet. Ten days after Jeanette, Fil and I departed from Entebbe Airport in March 2020, the country went into lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Its effects continued throughout the year.

Some children have received no classroom education in the past 18 months.

Others, slightly more fortunate, were able to go back until another lockdown (in June this year) closed the schools entirely once more. Children in P7, S4 and S6 classes were able to take their exams but as yet have been unable to take advantage of their successes.

A large number of sponsors paid for classroom extras, school uniform and other gifts for their boys and girls. An early decision was made to pause this programme for 2021 as few pupils were able to receive their gifts.

Despite this, we have been able to make considerable progress in securing the long-term viability of Little Angels. We paid for 3 solar batteries for the Children

Home and the school hall, bought school books and 50 desks and made progress with new shade and fruit trees in the move to green the environment.

There have also been pleasing advances on capital projects. The new classroom block was painted and is ready to go; the new teacher accommodation is already being well used; computers were purchased now that electricity has reached Bulumbu; and a start was made on the construction of the new skills centre.

We continue to support 22 girls in the Little Angels Children's Home and to augment staff salaries in order to encourage motivation and teacher retention.

The great news is that during the 12 month period, not a single sponsor dropped out of the programme. Not only that - 8 new sponsors signed up to support more girls and boys.

At last year's AGM, we agreed to ask sponsors (at all levels) to pay additional fees in support of secondary school students for whom we had learned that what was being paid was insufficient to keep them in school without great hardship. To date, not a single sponsor has declined to pay the supplement and several have sent us more than we asked.

On a personal level, I was delighted when my Marathon walk brought in almost £1,800; far more than I ever dreamed possible. Many thanks to all the family and friends who gave support during the week.

Even though these achievements are very well worth heralding, the downsides for the village communities in general and most particularly for the children cannot be overstated. Girls and boys have lost a far too long period of their childhood both in social and educational terms. I wonder: can that loss ever be made up? We know that children in more affluent countries have lost out, but not to the same extent as those in poor villages. We rightly applaud home school education by television and internet. Neither of those are available to the children that we support. They don't have either. In Bubebbere and Bulumbu, the only option available has been for teachers to walk from home to home distributing projects and correcting previous efforts. That it is something is all we can say.

The greatest upside is that Little Angels Primary School will survive. Some 80% of Ugandan schools are, like ours, privately administered. A large number of these will go to the wall and never reopen. Many have gone into massive unrepayable debt. Teachers who were not being paid have found alternative employment and will never return to the classroom. A whole generation of children will be permanent victims of Covid-19 and lockdown.

Keith Mills
September 2021

FOREVER FRIENDS OF UGANDA FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR April 2020 to March 2021

Income

Sponsorship	£12,155
Donations	£8,940
Membership & Girls' Club	£2,877
Sale of Crafts	£468
Gift Aid	£4,277
Total	£28,717

Expenditure

Sponsorship	£9,876
Capital Projects	£4,356
Membership & Girls' Club	£1 ,359
Enhanced Salaries	£2,166
Donations	£3,400
Office Expenses	£15
Craft Purchases	£278
Total	£21,450

Bank Balance at 1/4/2020	£13,281
Bank Balance at 31/3/2021	£14,547

Equals Account at	£6,00
31/3/2021	0

Total held in both accounts at 31/3/21 £20,547

Comments on Income:

2020/2021 was a difficult year for us as, for every other charity, but although our income in some areas went down, we raised £28,717 and spent £21,450 on the children and wider community in the two villages.

Keith worked tirelessly to keep our sponsors on board during a year when many faced financial difficulties. Where sponsors had to drop out they have been replaced and no children were cast adrift.

There were few fundraising opportunities, but Keith's birthday walk and Keith and Danny's Zoom call with Tolu on the radio raised over £1,700 and £1,000 respectively. We also received some generous donations from individuals.

We had visited Uganda just before Lockdown and bought crafts for sale in the UK. Despite the lack of craft fairs during the year we raised £468 from crafts sold during the year.

We now receive a small regular income through PayPal Giving, and using Equals to transfer money to Uganda has meant a much better rate of exchange with no transfer fees, so our money goes further these days.

Despite the difficult circumstances, our income went up by £2,887 in the year 2020/2021 largely due to our receipt of Gift Aid in June and January amounting to £4,277.

Sponsorship was down by £678 on last year.

Donations were down by £631 on last year.

Membership/Girls Club income was down by £583 on last year.

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Sponsorship:	£9,876
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Capital Projects:	
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50 Desks, April 2020	£656
3 Solar batteries, April 2020	£558
Teachers' accommodation, Oct 2020	£4,356
3 computers, Nov 2020	£519
Trees for planting, Jan 2021	

Girls Club:

Food for children's home (20 girls) April 2020	£394
Food for children's home (20 girls) July 2020	£393
Food for children's home (20 girls) Sept 2020	£394
Food for children's home (20 girls) Jan 2021	£364

Other:

Enhanced Salaries, April 2020	£739
Enhanced Salaries, June 2020	£739
Enhanced Salaries, Jan 2021	£689
Textbooks for 2 Schools, April 2020 -	£383
Contribution to school fees, Nov 2020	£725
Community Appeal, June 2020	£430
Food for the village community, Sept 2020	£208
Food for Namatovu family, Oct 2020	£15. 50
Blankets for children, Jan 2021	£57

Comments on Expenditure:

Because Uganda was in lockdown, for most of the year the schools were closed, building work was halted and expenditure was down by over £5,000 on the previous year.

However we continued to honour our sponsorship commitments which meant that our schools survived the pandemic when many others did not. We also continued to pay enhanced salaries to the teachers and to provide food for the girls in the Children's Home.

There were new expenses incurred during the year:

We paid for work on the teachers' quarters.

We bought new textbooks for both schools, 3 new computers, 50 desks and 3 replacement solar batteries and we planted more trees.

We kept our promise to try to help towards the payment of secondary school exam fees and PLE fees.

As a result of the devastation caused by the pandemic, we also gave money to buy food and other supplies for families in the village communities on several occasions during the year.

The Equals Account

In January, when the exchange rate was particularly good, we purchased UGX 29,694,000.00 at a cost of £6,000. This was to be

held in a Nat West account to be spent when the exchange rate was less favourable.

£3,000 was taken from the Sponsorship and Membership/Girls' Club Funds and £3, 000 from the Unrestricted Fund.

Equals do not charge us for this service and there were no costs associated with this transfer.

Forever Friends of Uganda

Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2021

	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-20
Receipts		
Sponsorship	12,155	12,833
Donations	8,940	9,571
Membership	2,877	2,294
Sale of Crafts	468	427
Gift Aid	4,277	705
Total Receipts	28,717	25,830
Payments		
Sponsorship	9,940	9,987
Capital Projects	6,160	11,473
Enhanced Salaries	2,166	2,201
Membership & Girls Club	1,540	1,774
Craft Purchases	278	-
Donations	728	1,065
Community Support	638	-
Bank Charges	-	9
Equals Money	6,000	-
Total Payments	27,450	26,509
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	1,267	(679)
Bank Balance	14,548	13,281
Equals Money	6,000	0

I have examined the Forever Friends of Uganda Accounts for the year to 31 March 2021 with the books and vouchers relating there to and have obtained all the explanations that I required.

I certify that in my opinion the Receipts and Payments Account accurately reflect the transactions carried out on behalf of Forever Friends of Uganda by its Officers.

W. John Baker
W John Baker

13 December 2021