

### **Posh Frocks, Handbags and Hats sale 7th September**

This event in the Downley Community Centre was very successful. Sales were over £1,100, and all had a great time looking for bargains, enjoying a chat and having tea and scones.

A follow-up sale has also taken place in conjunction with Scanappeal in Amersham; and we hope to have a final event in Wendover in early 2020. Thanks to everyone who donated all the wonderful outfits, hats and handbags, and to all who helped get it set up on the day. More photos on the back page...



### **Private Benefactor for BkB**

A private benefactor has granted us over £250,000 for specific community development work in 3 villages over 2 years and towards our administrative costs during 2020. We offer our heartfelt thanks.

### **UK-Uganda School Engagement Programme**

High Wycombe Church of England Combined School have made BkB their school charity from September 2019. They have already had a collection at their Harvest Festival Service, at All Saints Church in High Wycombe on 3rd October, and are planning other fundraising events. They also want to make direct contact with the school in Uganda and encourage the pupils/ classes to write to pupils in Uganda and for them to reciprocate.



## NEWS FROM UGANDA

### Staff Party Celebrating 21 Years of Bega kwa Bega (Conche McGarr)

We have 32 staff members. Some work at BkB Farm / Head Quarters at Nalugala near Entebbe. Teachers and support staff work at Gogolo Play and Learning Centre School a mile away from the farm. Our medical team works exclusively in the field at Kakiri and Namayumba which are over 30 miles away from HQ and the farm. Regional coordinators are scattered in districts where we have community programmes. Many of our staff have never met or don't really know what other staff do for BkB or the people we serve.

Since the founding of BkB 21 years ago we have always insisted on using comprehensive strategies that address people's basic needs: Water, Agriculture, Nutrition, Education, Health and Family Finance. We realised that in order for us to improve our service and the impact of our work, our teams need to get to know



*Conche giving a cake to a member of staff*

### Professional Development for In-Service Teachers (Conche McGarr)

Held at Gogolo Play and Learning Centre: 26th August-29th August 2019

For many years it has been our ambition to offer teachers professional development so these 4 days were a real landmark. Two volunteer trainers were recruited from US; two Ugandan trainers were hired. Teachers from Gogolo Demonstration School supported the training team by demonstrating best practice. Nursery school teachers and Primary 1- 4 from all over Uganda were invited to participate resulting in 100 teachers registering. Many more teachers desperately wanted to



*Cutting the Cake*

one another and acknowledge and celebrate individual contributions to our common goal. So we compiled a booklet with names of each staff member and their specific job.

On August 30th 2019 we had a staff party at Missed Call Beach Resort near Entebbe. All BkB staff were invited. Because we believe in the importance of family support everyone was encouraged to bring one guest to the event. 33 staff and 32 guests attended the party.

The agenda included a brief summary of our history, our core principles, 'thank yous' to staff and supporters and a sketch of the road ahead.

Each department manager introduced members of their team. I thanked, shook hands / hugged each member of staff and gave them a boxed cake to share with family members back home.

The celebration included plenty of food, cakes, fresh fruits and beverages. Music, dance, games, sports and swimming were available. We have received requests for this to be an annual event.

participate even after registration closed at full capacity. (Teachers from the Islands and from the far South West near the border with Rwanda were accommodated in the Training Room on the farm.)

Feedback from teachers was very positive. The programme was a huge success and many teachers said they learned more in four days than they had learned during 3 years at teacher training college. Many wanted to register right away for next year's workshops. They begged us to offer more training during the school holidays.

Challenges: Unregistered teachers kept on sneaking into workshops swelling numbers to over 110 trainees





which strained our budget and caused shortages of workshop materials and supplies. Trainees had to be divided into two groups because we do not have a hall large enough to accommodate over 100 people. Trainers had therefore to repeat each workshop, resulting in consultants being paid twice for each topic. Training rooms were packed and there was limited space for teachers to make instructional materials. My biggest disappointment was that scheduling issues limited time for practical work.

**Now we need a volunteer, an experienced primary school teacher, a woman, possibly retired and looking for an exciting challenge: to set up this Centre on a permanent basis, devising with the university and teachers a programme of workshops to be held at weekends and holiday periods. Later outreach programmes will reach teachers country-wide. The volunteer will train two Ugandans to take on this work.**

### **The Family Garden Project, funded by the Vibrant Village Foundation USA (Conche McGarr)**

The pictures show the celebrations following a year's work in the villages of Ngandwe and Kaziba. This story is about one woman living in Kaziba, Christine Luwedde, a single mother living with her family in her mud house. Many years ago Luwedde's husband abandoned her and the family of 7 children. The older four are now adults and live away from home. Her three younger children live with her. Poverty, hunger and ill health have been the norm for this family for a long time.

Last year, the community invited Bega Kwa Bega to bring the Family Garden Project to their village.

Together with her friends and neighbours Christine registered and participated in the weekly workshops. She diligently followed instructions and meticulously replicated in her home garden whatever the trainers taught her. First she planted carrots, cabbages, kale, okra, beets, onions, sweet potatoes and pumpkins in the garden next to her house. Then she planted coco yams

in the swampy plot in the valley next to the well. Her hard work and determination paid off. By the end of the year Christine had planted several beautiful, vibrant, all season family gardens. For the first time in her life she grew more food than the family could consume.

Revenue from the sale of surplus crops inspired her to go commercial. With the help of three full time farm workers Christine planted several acres of tomatoes. She sells the tomatoes and other vegetables to hotels and supermarkets in Kampala.

There is now year round food and financial security for the family who are able to eat 3 nutritious meals a day while the children attend school and have uniforms and equipment. A brick house has been built. The family owns 2 goats and 3 pigs. Christine's hard work and financial success together with her readiness to help others are turning her into a confident leader.



*Preparing the feast for the Celebration*



*Conche with some children*



*Conche addressing the villagers*



## More photos of the Posh Frocks, Handbags and Hats sale...



For those new to our Newsletter, we are following one particular orphan through her school years. Angel is now 12 years old and attends Shammah Junior School. Her fees are paid by her sponsor. She lives with her grandmother quite far from the school, about 10k, but is very regular in her attendance. She is a healthy young girl and the teachers report that 'her performance is promising'.

Angel writes in a letter to her sponsor: (Remember that all children in Uganda learn everything in school in a foreign language as do the teachers teach in a language which is not their own.)

"I am writing this letter to thank you for the things you did to support me. I am very fine and humble and missing you. And my grandmother is sick. I am in Primary 5 class. I want to be in boarding school next term. A uniform is red and white and there is sportswear. The best teacher is teacher Sharon and the best subject is mathematics and I love my school. I wish you a good nights."



## Sponsored Run Saturday 13th July

Marian Foot and Dee Harvey joined a 5K run at Dorney Lake in aid of BkB.

JustGiving was used to collect the donations, and they raised over £800! Grateful thanks to all who donated so generously!



## BkBUganda.org now secured with SSL

The BkB web site is now secure, you will see a padlock symbol next to the url. So smartphones won't be blocked from the site, and people can donate with confidence.

## BkB UK Committee Members

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