Trustees and others visit to WADU from 27th July to 12th August 2025

The team:- Colin & Sue, Mike Peachey, Mick Lloyd, Janette Lloyd and Charlotte Lloyd, plus Dr Mike Dobson.

Report for Trustees

This is a brief summary of our visit:- summary of events, brief comments, and some discussion points.

1. Dr Mike Dobson began his visit a few days before us, joining us the day after we arrived in Kabale on 29th July. Some of the time he was with a colleague at Kabale referral hospital, but he also spent time with Marion and Phiona at WADU and his objective was to advise and help them with maternal health amongst the Batwa women, a big area of need. He was able to enlist advice from a local obstetrician, and he also was able to visit the Bwindi Community Hospital , a well established hospital with valuable work amongst Batwa from the Bwindi forest, and seek advice there, and has given WADU some useful connections. He has written up for WADU some notes on maternal health, with some very useful and practical tips and advice on the use of “Mama Kits”. His notes are available to read if interested.

2. Our mornings always began with a time of devotion together at WADU HQ. The WADU team ,plus Colin, Sue and Dr Mike all shared in leading a short bible study. All studies taken from the gospel of Luke.

3. Our first full day was based at WADU HQ. The team welcomed us. We exchanged gifts . We had also brought a variety of useful items for WADU:- a quantity of knitted items, a quantity of clothing, (largely childrens,) sports stuff, games for the Rising Stars,children`s reading books, a DVD player plus a quantity of DVDS for use in the boarding house and Rise and Shine School. Also Good News Bibles and note books for all sponsored students plus some other gifts. The Lloyds has brought a large quantity of art & craft related goods for use in activities during the visit and to leave as gifts for WADU to use in schools.

4. Also on day 1 , in the afternoon, the 4 trustees and WADU team had a meeting with the WADU Board of trustees. This was extremely useful. There will be some separate notes on this for trustees.
   There was also time allowed on other days for 1 on 1 chat with individual WADU team members which have been extremely valuable, especially Colin with each of Precious and Stephen and Mick with Precious on accounting.

5. Daily activities:- We visited 6 of the rural primary schools in which WADU support Batwa children:- Mukitojo, Kinyarushengye,Kaato Annex, Kavumaga, Ncundura and Rwaburundi. Visits were combined with the WADU half termly distribution of food, hygiene and other educational supplies. At five of these schools Janette and Charlotte led an amazing art project:- the children drew, coloured or painted and then cut out floral and plant designs and Charlotte engaged a group with origami butterflies which were all mounted on a pre painted landscape and the finished picture placed on a wall in the class room. The concentration and enjoyment of the children was a joy to see. We noted the poor state of all these school buildings, with the exception of the one at Rwaburindi, which is in a better state as the government has recently rebuilt this. The play equipment at Kinyarushengye is still giving much

pleasure and the wooden equipment at Rwaburindi has recently been repaired and is much enjoyed.The latrine at Kinyarushengye is still in excellent condition.

6. At Kinyarushengye we also visited Gilbert`s family and Gilbert`s grandmother. We saw the repairs to Gilberts parents home---they are very obviously only repairs, not a rebuild. We also saw the bedroom extension WADU have added to the grandmother`s house , with beds, so that she can give a better home for the children. WADU is also helping the grandmother plant her garden in order to feed the children.

   We visited the community here and the women and children plus some of the men came to talk. There was a very new baby and mum whom Marion had brought warm clothes for. This young mother also had two others, also under two, one of whom had been a twin ,but the twin had died. This quick succession of children is common and means the mother cannot properly look after any of them and herself will lose strength. Hence the real need for WADU to be involved in maternal care.

7. We visited the 6th school at Kavumaga on the first Sunday and attended a lively service in the church with the communities, some of whom were Batwa but others Bakiga. The church is right by the school. This was a centre day for the WADU supported children so they had their hair cut and we prepared nutritious porridge which was welcomed by many others and not just the children. We presented a water purifier which had been funded by children from St Peters Primary school near Witney.

8. We spent much time at Rise and Shine school which is where our sponsored primary Rising Stars attend. Our first day was Friday when,in the morning, we attended their Sports Day. This was a most entertaining event held on a nearby playground to the school. All the children were there and took part in a whole variety of fun events, with an audience of parents and friends including all of us. We met all staff and all the children. It was a joy to see all the children and especially the Rising Stars all thoroughly enjoying themselves.

   We retuned to the school in the afternoon and with the Rising Stars children plus a few others Janette and Charlotte began their textile bag printing and sewing project. This amazing project was planned over the several days we were with the Rising Stars. Charlotte also worked with the boys on a separate project to produce a Protect Mother and Baby poster (connected with Dr Mikes Maternal health project) and also origami boats which were displayed on a sea picture.
   The textile project involved designing , making a print of some kind of flower, printing with their print on fabric, sewing the front to back of their bag, including making a proper T base for the bag, and then attaching the handle. Their concentration and determination to complete was amazing and the finished products gave them much satisfaction.

   One afternoon we presented all Rising Stars at the school with a Good News Bible and notebook from their sponsors.
   There was also a chance for fun sports activities in the playground---skipping ropes and bean bags and hula hoops were a hit.

9. We visited all the other sponsored students.One is a primary Rising Star, Amlet, who is in P7, a class not yet provided for at Rise and Shine school. We visited her at her boarding primary school in Kabale where she is doing well . Next year Rise and Shine will have a P7 class so all the Rising Stars can progress through to secondary stage. Three of these were at Rock High School:- Gordon, Nelson and Davis. All three looked very happy and were doing well and ambitious to do well in exams. We also visited Expert, a student doing journalism and radio at African College of Commerce and technology(ACCT) This is the college where vocational students may progress to in future. He is happy and doing well.

Dt Mike visited his previous student Moreen, who now is running her own sewing and knitting business. She makes uniform for WADU for their students. He was also able to connect with Gilbert, his Rising Star, before he left us to return home.

10. Mike Peachey with Mick, Precious and Benjamin completed the build of another latrine, following the same plan as last year. Preparatory work had already been done. The location was at Nyakera ,to serve a scattered community in the area near Mukitojo and Murubindi. Unlike the two latrines completed last year, this did not appear to be situated close to many dwellings, but all the WADU team seemed satisfied that it was going to serve a need. Two fine days ensured the completion of the project.
    The hand over of the latrine was scheduled for a final visit and centre day at Nyakera, where the children from Mukitojo, Ncundura and Rwamburindi would, and did, gather . Sadly the rains had arrived by this time. We all made it to the location---high and remote----but in the pouring rain the centre day did not really happen. It was a very useful experience, bringing home the challenge of ministering to these communities in all weathers. The children cheerfully sang and welcomed us but the cold and wet prevented hair cutting and other activities. We visitors abandoned the day; the children did get their warm nutritious porridge, but then the team had to walk them all home and then return by bus themselves a the WADU truck got stuck. It was rescued on the following day.

11. We spent our last Sunday with the team and the Rising Stars and Rise and Shine community at Stephen's church, which is located close to his house. We joined together with various visitors for a joyful service followed by a wonderful lunch with everyone. We enjoyed being with the children and Charlotte made book marks for the Bibles with them. They then presented Sue with a birthday cake and the whole team with a cake to celebrate 40 years serving Uganda.
    In the evening we joined the WADU team for a farewell meal at a local hotel.

    This is a factual record of our visit. It was an encouraging and productive time and there was much to learn. We shall all have reflections, thoughts and things to follow up on. I will share a few photos /videos to go with this, but will compile a different report for supporters and hopefully we can produce a newsletter soon reflecting upon the visit.
    We give thanks to our gracious God for His protection and guidance throughout the visit and continue to hold WADU in our prayers.