

Harvest *Barn Dance*

Saturday 19th October 2024, 7.00pm - 10.00pm

St Helen's Church

in support of Mutanda Island Medical Centre

near to Potters Village Medical Centre



School on Mutanda Island

Tickets £20 (includes fish and chip supper) available from Phil Godfrey 07770 406 870

Please buy your tickets early, in order that Phil can order the food, in advance.

Mutanda Island is situated on Lake Mutanda, near Kisoro in southwestern Uganda. In 2023, the Children's Medical Centre in the nearby Potters Village received several generous donations: 18 baby cots from the Solihull Rotary Club, a CPAP machine from St. Helen's Church in Solihull, and four IV pumps from friends and family.

“ There is so much to do in the Potters Village and Mutanda area, and we anticipate returning to Uganda, sometime in the near future.



**PHIL GODFREY
VICCI HORNSBY**



I visited Potters Village to present the donated equipment, with a friend, Vicci a paediatric nurse.

Our visit was a humbling experience, to In the Children's Medical Centre, we witnessed tiny babies utilising the donated and cleanable cots and others in incubators, being cared for by 9 skilled nurses. The Children's Crisis Centre cares for around 30 babies, some orphans and some whose mother was too unwell to currently care for her child, expertly nurtured for by dedicated Potters Village staff.

The 9 nurses, who are currently certificate level trained are required by the Diocesan Management Committee, to be upskilled to a higher Diploma level qualification by 2033. Vicci and I came away determined to raise the £9,000 for the training over 10 years, which has now been achieved, so the training costs are now secure. We learnt through Ezra Ndagije, a Rotarian with Rotary

Club of Mgahinga Kisoro that on Mutanda Island, where Rotary (involving 4 Ugandan Rotary Clubs) have built a school, for some delightful children and very committed teachers. Mutanda Island is approx. 6 miles from Potters Village, with whom there are close links.

Plans are now being developed for a Medical Centre on the Island, which is the next Project we aim to support, This will cater for some 270 people on the Island, very much subsistence farmers. This proposal seeks to improve maternal and child health through establishment of Maternal Child Health Unit. The maternal child health unit project will aim at improving the health status of women and children through improved access to reproductive and child healthcare services in the area. Many women and children die due to failing to get access to associated services. For example, from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

According to various sources, the direct causes of maternal deaths include excessive blood loss, infection, high blood pressure, unsafe abortion, obstructed labour; and the indirect causes include anaemia, malaria, pneumonia and heart disease. The timescale for the project is over 3 years, at an estimated cost of £27,000. Vicci and I will do our best to fund part of the project, and Ezra will be seeking a Rotary Global Grant. The need for a Medical Centre on the Island is heightened due to high costs of getting from Mutanda Island to a Hospital, for medical treatment, approx... some 15 miles away.

In addition, whilst in Potters Village, we met Laban, a safari tour guide, indeed we went with him on a short safari, magnificent. Laban, is a Rotoract President, and is working with the local Batwa people, (a pygmy race), and is trying to educate the Batwa children, as many of them have never seen a book! We anticipate trying to help Laban with this Project.