

NOTDEC IN PICTURES



In late April – May 2023, three trustees and two volunteers visited NOTDEC Uganda.

These photos show you what we saw – scenes of everyday life on site at Kabirizi, and shots further afield when visiting NOTDEC children who now live with their wider family.

Let's start by following the sign to the new Nursery School Playground.



The fence may channel Colditz – but it does help keep the kids safe!
And the playground is a huge hit: everyone *loves* playing there.



At half time, they all need a nap. In Ugandan heat, you would too! That's why God made shade.

The Ugandan Government insists that all older children go to live with any family willing and able to have them. (It stops them becoming institutionalised.)

This is why most of the kids on-site at Kabirizi are very young.

That means a very large nursery and lots of work for all the housemothers.



So it's good to see housemothers relaxing in the shade when they can. These two (left) are making baskets.

To improve the children's diet, they now have fish each week – more work for the housemothers, but they're still smiling.



Children who live on-site:

- Davis, Michael, Benon, Naume, Miracle Johnson & Simon sitting on a bench.
- 27 off to Sunday School at a local church. 27 in the pickup...? Don't ask!



About 60 children now living with family came on site (with their carers) to see Kay or Janet, to write to their sponsors, and to have their photo taken.

One group had composed a song – with dancing – to welcome their “visitors” and they performed it for us in the chapel. All go to the same primary school where they had rehearsed it. It was a wonderful ‘thank you’ to NOTDEC UK and, through us, to sponsors that most of them have never met.



Aggrey

Enock

Andrinah

Goodluck

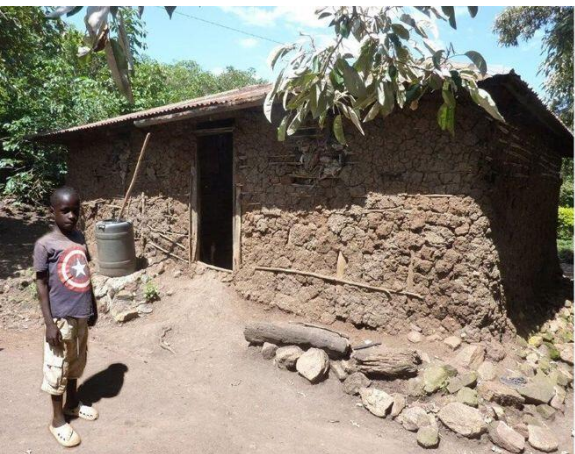
Everyone was wowed by volunteer Guy Chapman's **face painting**. The children loved it: some had 3 or 4 turns. Choosing these pictures, it was surprisingly difficult to recognise the same face with a different design.



Visiting Children Living with Family

One trip was to the grandma of 6 year old Precious. As an Income Generating Activity (IGA), she was given money to buy the sewing machine and now makes a living.

Not all visits were so easy. Volunteer Mark Wardle is pictured in front of a broken-down vehicle, holding up what seemed to be a broken fan belt. In fact it was for the air-con! And it took so long to fix that the planned visits had to be abandoned.



Some of the team visited Abraham (left) and his family. Abraham's father has been ill but is now more comfortable following surgery. Their house is very basic and awaits urgently needed improvement.

In the right-hand picture, Social Worker Barbra (in blue) seems to be the life and soul of the gathering!



Trustee Kay Chapman sponsors a girl named **Fortunate**. Kay visited her with volunteers Guy & Mark. But the rainy season had turned paths into mud slides. When leaving, all three fell over.

Un-fortunate-ly, Kay fractured her fibula (lower leg). Not quite what the doctor ordered, but all in a day's work. Kay is now fine.



Bored Meeting?

Meetings are a waste of time: right? Wrong!

NOTDEC Uganda's Board discussed the need to recruit a substantial and experienced Director to follow Canon J who retires in 6 months' time.

With Mark Wardle's help, they agreed a job description and decided to engage a Ugandan recruitment agency to support the search. Mark Wardle has undertaken, if possible, to attend the interview of suitable candidates in due course.

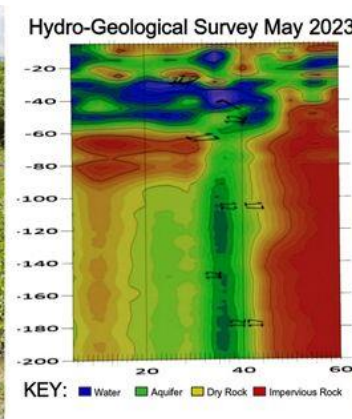
Is this Boring?

At the meeting, we also learned that a neighbour 2km from NOTDEC had recently commissioned a Hydro-Geological survey and drilled a 100 metre

borehole yielding 2-3,000 litres of water/hour – though, as yet, he has no tank to put it in!

NOTDEC currently uses 10,000 litres of water/day – which has to be hauled in from the river by tractor and bowser. Last year that cost £5,000 in fuel, servicing and tyres alone. In 2010, looking for a cheaper alternative, NOTDEC UK had funded drilling for water. In those days it was guesswork. Our advisors tried in 3 places, found nothing, and said there was no water under NOTDEC land – just granite! We had believed them.

But if our neighbour can get a Hydro-Geological survey, surely we can do the same. So we did!



Our neighbour's water

Our Survey Results: Yes!!!

What our borehole might look like

Seizing the opportunity while we were in Uganda, we paid 3M UGX for a surveyor to come from Kampala and do a Hydro-Geological Survey of all NOTDEC's 30 acres. This showed only one small sweet spot with water at 30 metres and below (blue & green in the chart). There, 3 aqua-flows meet, making water highly likely. We've been advised to drill to 120 metres, where there should be water even in the dry season. Yields might be 1,500 - 5,000 litres/hour (= pumping 2-6 hours/day).

Besides the borehole, we'd need:

- a brick compound (for borehole, pump & solar panels) to deter theft & elephants
- a 1.5 metre trench taking the pipe from the borehole to our water tanks

Being on hand, Anthony was easily able to visit a similar installation and get indicative costings.

Costs:

Drilling borehole	£7,000
Pump & solar panels	£5,000
Site work	£3,000
TOTAL	£15,000 (Hopefully not a sting in the tail at the end of this Newsletter! Payback c3 years.)

So a plan that should save NOTDEC £5,000 per annum plus staff costs. **And all because we went to that meeting!**



Even in the rainy season, and with a few set-backs along the way, it was wonderful to be back at NOTDEC – working with people we love, working for a purpose we share.

After the sun, the rain,
After the rain the sun;
This is the way of life,
Till Thy work is done.

Anthony, Janet, Kay, Guy & Mark