

NOTDEC “NEWS”

NEW WELL

Well done – all thanks to St Paul’s Leamington Spa whose Gift Day raised **£20,000** to pay for it. Here is how it happened.



Drill Rig On site

Left to right:
Captain Ezra
Chaplain

Gabriel
Estate Manager

Annah
Accountant

Hydro-geologist of
AKVO (in May he
found where to drill)

Canon Jehoshaphat
Director



Rig Ready to Drill



Drill Duty



Water!!!



After a 3-week hiatus, the hard work started. A pump was put down the borehole – flow rate 2,000 litres/hour (the Bowser hauls 10,000/day). A trench was dug by hand across the playing field to take water to our storage tanks. And 5 solar panels were installed to power the pump.

We still have to build a brick compound to protect the installation, but we have at last received the Ministry of Water's quality analysis & certificate. Biologically the water is fine, but with too much bicarbonate (very hard), magnesium & suspended solids. Before anyone can drink it we must discuss treatment with the Water Department. Please pray for a successful outcome.

NEW DIRECTOR

For some months now, NOTDEC Uganda (NUG) has been seeking a replacement for Canon Jehoshaphat as Director. After the Canon's contract expired, he agreed to continue until a suitable replacement was found, and he'd completed any necessary induction and mentoring.

NOTDEC UK volunteer Mark Wardle encouraged NUG to use professional recruitment agency **Brighter Monday**. They attracted better applicants than NOTDEC had previously managed. After short-listing and two rounds of interviews (including Zoom), NUG chose **Ms Editor Asaba**.



On 10th Oct 2023 in NOTDEC's Chapel, Canon Jehoshaphat handed over leadership of NOTDEC to Editor as the new Director. Also present were Jotham (standing left) Chair of NOTDEC Uganda Trustees and Ibrahim (seated) the secretary.



Editor's progress is interesting. First, she trained as a secondary school teacher and taught for 5 years. Then she went back to uni (UCU Mukono) to do a degree in Community Leadership & Devt followed by a certificate in Administrative Law. She's now doing a Master's in Project Planning.

So her career progression has been as follow:

- **2003-2008 Vocational Secondary School teacher**
- **2012-2015 Community Integ Devt Initiatives** – improving early Reading by supportive schooling & reducing gender-based violence.
- **2015-18 Foundation/ Urban & Rural Advancement** - Youth in Action project managing £220K+ pa budget for partner-implemented activities.
- **2018-23 Save the Children** – most recently in Kasese as Programs Officer for Education & Child Protection in Enabling Teacher project.

So it's been children, rural/community development, money, and children again! We wish her the very best at NOTDEC and pray that the Lord will guide all she does.

NEW TRUSTEES



At long, long last, NOTDEC UK has Ugandan Trustees. Philp & Faith Munaawa must have a better grasp of Ugandan needs and norms than us Brits. And they also fulfil another wish – that for younger Trustees.

Both Philip & Faith were born and raised in Uganda and have been married for 15 years. They came to the UK over 14 years ago to pursue Masters degrees and have since settled in Leamington Spa and have two children aged 5 and 8. My youngest is nearly 40. So – for Trustees – Philip & Faith are seriously young! Empty-nesters & retirees have oodles of spare time, but collectively we're prey to "group think". Philip & Faith should help sort that!

Philip has worked as a Software Engineer in various roles. And Trustees need someone IT savvy to get us sharing key documents using the cloud! Faith is an Electrical Engineer who's been working in Electricity Transmission Planning for 12 years. With NOTDEC seeking to improve its own planning, she couldn't have arrived at a better time. Having already had one Trustees' Meeting with them, I feel sure we will make a strong team.

Sadly, Trustees recently received the resignation of Mark Peers. Mark had served NOTDEC for 8 year as Treasurer, producing snappy financial summaries, and helping get Annah producing the monthly figures we need from Uganda. He also urged Trustees to think strategically about where we want to go and how to get there. We wish Mark well in wherever the Lord sends him next. We missed him immediately: no remaining Trustee felt able to act as Treasurer!

Chair Anthony Johnston therefore prayerfully used his connections to seek someone better qualified. And Trustees finally invited Roger Pitman to join them as NOTDEC UK Trustee and Treasurer.

Roger's picture is a dead give-away. He is retired, pushing our average age back up a bit!

However, Roger is retired from local government planning and so is very familiar with spreadsheets, accounts and budgets. He should be exactly what we need to keep NOTDEC UK's finances on track, and to support Annah as she learns how to adjust her budgets in the light of the latest expenditure figures. What larks eh Pip?



NEW VISIT

From 2nd to 25th January 2024, a party of five plans to visit NOTDEC in Uganda to provide help and support, and to monitor progress there. The party comprises 3 Trustees (Janet & Anthony Johnston & Kay Chapman) and 2 Volunteers (Guy Chapman & Pam Gibbons). All will be briefed on child protection and DBS checked.

Having been to NOTDEC myself, I know it is a wonderful experience – but undoubtedly very hard work too. Maybe that's why we all believe that younger Trustees has to be the way to go!

STOP PRESS:

On 17th October three were killed in a terrorist attack in Queen Elizabeth National Park (which has a border just across the road from NOTDEC). Two were British tourists. Current Foreign Office advice is against all but essential travel to QENP and the area SW of Kasese. Please pray about our planned visit there.

NEW PICKUP?

I wasn't going to tell you about this – well not till February 2024 anyway. But I think you should know what's in the offing.

NOTDEC needs a new Pickup.

The old one is now 9½ years old, it's done 235,000 miles on bone-shaking Ugandan roads, and it's knackered. We must replace it before it starts costing us a fortune!

But, all in, a new one will cost £38,000 – and the cost of living crisis hasn't gone away. Worse still you, our supporters, have just stumped up for the borehole & well and/or for the kids' Christmas presents. So, instead of troubling you, we've applied for grants from two Charitable Trusts which may be willing to help:

- The Edith Murphy Foundation, and
- The Beatrice Laing Charitable Trust.

By February we'll know what they've given us, and hence how much we still need.

So you can have a very good Christmas - and think about the new Pickup in February. We'll send you a reminder thereabouts once we know how much we need to raise.

But of course, if you'd prefer to donate right now, please feel free.

I've set up the [Pickup Appeal](#) on our website so you can decide what suits you.

Mark Shaw
Trustee