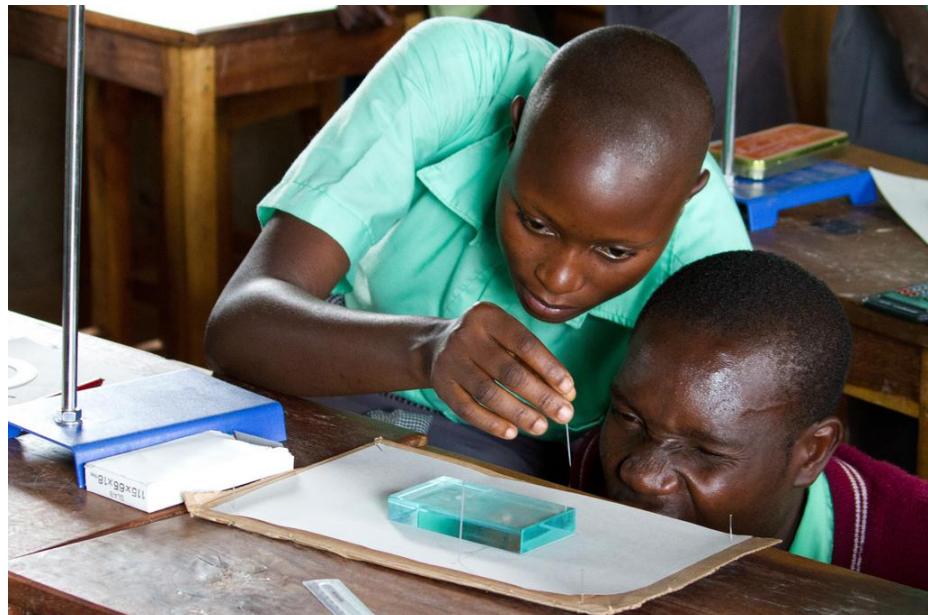


Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

2nd Annual Report for 2010



Girl and boy cooperate in refraction experiment in Physics at the Mustard Seed School

UHST Objectives

Object 1: To support the educational work of Humanist Schools in Uganda.

Object 2: To provide support to enable needy children to attend those schools.

The Charity supports schools providing a broad general education consistent with the Humanist principles embodied in the 2002 Amsterdam Declaration (<http://www.iheu.org/amsterdamdeclaration>).

Grant-making Policy

The Trust provides grants to help the Humanist schools in Uganda. We normally expect the schools we support to be charities, to be members of the Uganda Humanist Schools Association (UHSA) and to be affiliated to the Uganda Humanist Association (UHASSO). Our mission is to help the schools to provide a good educational experience for children attending them. A condition of support is that places are made available to disadvantaged children from the local community.

UHST offers funds for items that contribute to improvements in the education and welfare standards of children attending the schools. The Trust is willing to provide grants for learning materials (books, art materials, science equipment and consumables etc.), staffing costs, staff development activities and, from time to time, to improve school buildings and infrastructure or for additional buildings and such other items that meet the objects of the Trust. The Trust also gives money for scholarships to enable schools to offer places to children from families without the means to pay.

Trustees will consider applications for funds from (a) individual Humanist schools and (b) from organisations offering services on a collective basis to the schools (for example, to pay for professional development events for teaching staff). Applicants are invited to approach the Trust on an informal basis and to seek advice before they make a firm application for funds. Where bids exceed the funds available the Trust reserves the right to provide a proportion of the funds requested or to mount an appeal for additional funds to meet a need that has been identified.

From time to time, the Trust may offer grants to schools for specific purposes determined by our Trustees. The Trust may also announce a total amount of money available for a specific purpose and invite applications from schools either individually or on a cooperative basis.

In most cases, successful grants will go through the following stages: (1) initial enquiry and outline bid, (2) full application with reasonable and realistic cost estimates from suppliers, (3) on approval of larger projects, payments will be sent as each stage is completed, (4) recipient supplies evidence of completion with a list of outcomes, including photographs, (5) a final account with receipts are submitted.

Management and Governance

A number of Humanist organisations share an interest in the schools and we were anxious at the start to reflect this in the composition of the Board of Trustees of the Uganda Humanist Schools Trust. While the Trust has a discrete identity and is responsible for its own policies on fund raising and grant making, we felt it important in our first years to bring around the table the main organisations that are helping the schools. We recognised the desire for each funder to maintain the links they have established with particular schools, while using the UHST meetings to share information on funds being raised and transferred to the schools, thus avoiding duplication. During 2010 UHST trustees were drawn from the following organisations:

- South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Humanists (SCANS)
- Rationalist Association/New Humanist (RA)
- British Humanist Association (BHA)
- Keele University School of Life Sciences
- International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU)
- North-East Humanists

The trustees meet once a year, with additional meetings as required.

During 2010 UHST was administered on a day-to-day basis by an Executive comprising, Steve Hurd and Hilary Hurd. Sue Wright acted as Chairperson. Paul Gubbins was the minutes-secretary, Chris Wright acted as legal adviser, and Dan Hurd was

the financial adviser. Steve Hurd, Chris Wright and Josh Kutchinsky gave publicity and fundraising talks to regional groups about the Ugandan schools and the work of the Trust. Liaison with kindred organisations was conducted by Barrie Berkley (IHEU), Jean Berkley (North-east Humanists), Josh Kutchinsky (BHA) and Caspar Melville (RA)

Fundraising activities

In 2010 funds were raised in a variety of ways.

Existing supporters

The largest single source of funds during 2010 was additional donations from supporters who had contributed to the Trust in 2009. Some supporters send periodic donations by cheque. Others have set up standing orders to provide regular donations or scholarships to enable needy children to attend the schools in Uganda. In December 2010 34 supporters paid regular donations by standing order and 38 provided scholarships that way. This ongoing support is very important as it ensures a basic level of core funding for the schools.

Website



During 2010 there were over 60,000 hits on the UHST website, www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org. People visit the website for general information about the Trust and to view our growing photo archive. Many supporters regularly download reports on the schools and we know, from emails received, that they appreciate their honesty. We make an effort to publicise the real progress that the schools are making, but also to share with supporters the challenges they face. The reports also identify the schools' immediate resource needs. New supporters download donor forms and standing orders, and PayPal donations made through the website are becoming an important source of new income from within the UK and

worldwide. We experimented with setting up a UHST blog but this has been abandoned for the time being. The flow of new information from Uganda was too slow to sustain the blog and opening it up to others created the time consuming need to moderate contributions.

Other fundraising activities

UHST trustees hold meetings, fundraising events and give talks to Humanist groups and other organisations throughout the country. These raise awareness of the work of the schools in Uganda and of the Trust and have become a major source of donations from both groups and individuals. We are grateful to all of those groups who have invited us to speak to them and welcome invitations from other groups. Below is a list of the events and meetings that we have contributed to during the year.

| Date | Event and Group involved |
|-------------|--|
| 8 February | Fundraising Indian Meal: Keele University School of Life Sciences + South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Humanists |
| 10 February | Greater Manchester Humanists |
| 11 February | Edinburgh University Humanists |
| 2 March | Newcastle under Lyme College - Senior Management |
| 13 April | The Marches Humanists, Ludlow |
| 14 April | Liverpool Humanists |
| 20 April | South-West London Humanists |
| 21 April | Madeley High School |
| 11 May | Birmingham Humanists |
| 12 May | Cambridge Humanists |
| 24 May | Rationalist Association AGM |
| 7 June | Newcastle under Lyme College - Faculty Heads and Students' Union |
| 8 June | Madeley High School |
| 15 July | Coventry and Warwick Humanists |
| 11 October | Stoke City Football Club |
| 25 November | West Dorset Humanists, Dorchester |

We are also grateful to the following organisations that provided significant support during 2010:

- The Rationalist Association/New Humanist transferred £10,000 for developments at the Mustard Seed School.
- The British Humanist Association helped by including a UHST fundraising leaflet in the March issue of BHA News. This raised £2,600.
- The Pink Triangle Trust gave £1,850 for a computer network at the Mustard Seed School.
- The staff and students at Keele University School of Life Sciences raised £1,827 for science education in the Ugandan schools.
- South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Humanists (SCANS) continued to raise money and fund 12 scholarships.
- Stoke City Football Club donated two more sets of football strip for the schools and promoted the charity through their match day programme and website.
- We have also received substantial generous donations from individual Humanist donors.

Grants made to the Ugandan Schools

In April 2010 IHEU's Uganda Schools Advisory Committee, of which UHST is a member, agreed that organisations that had been supporting the Humanist Academy should withhold further funding until specific issues had been resolved at the school. The slow pace of progress towards establishing the school as a charity has been a major source of concern. Under UK charity law it is very difficult for UK-based charities to provide support to what was in effect a private business. To compound the problems the Humanist Academy failed an inspection in July and education department officials asked the managers to close the school. IHEU, which set up the Humanist Academy with UHASO (the Uganda Humanist Association), is in the process of negotiating a possible rescue package for the school, which has been re-launched by its management board as Fair View Senior Secondary School. To help IHEU and give the school a breathing space to sort out its problems, UHST trustees agreed to carry forward 32 scholarships already allocated to the school. This enables students we have been supporting to continue their education while the school is finding its feet. Any additional resources required to bring

the Fair View School up to the standard, will come from the IHEU International Trust Fund. While there is uncertainty about the future of this school, UHST has determined that future funding will be conditional upon the school (a) becoming a charitable trust which fully owns its land and buildings and (b) showing sustained progress toward meeting the national standards required for official registration.

During 2009 the Humanist Academy was the largest recipient of funds from UHST. The implications of the setbacks at the school during 2010 are that our efforts have been redirected to the other two schools, which are both properly established as charities, are officially registered as meeting minimum government standards and demonstrate effective governance.

Scholarships

Many UHST supporters set up standing orders in 2009 to provide scholarships. All of these have continued and, with new ones, we were able to offer 63 scholarships in 2010 allocated as follows:

| School | Number of scholarships |
|--------------------------|---|
| The Humanist Academy | 42 (mainly continuation scholarships from 2009) |
| Isaac Newton High School | 13 (the school also received 16 from NE Humanists) |
| Mustard Seed School | 10 (the first time UHST scholarships have been allocated to the school) |



This is Derrick, one of the sponsored students at Isaac Newton High School. He's 14, in his first year at the school, and lives half an hour away. The school gives him clean water, two meals a day, and malaria treatment if needed. Derrick is the first in his family to go to secondary school. He was one of the first students to use the new computer system, browsing the encyclopaedia and learning how to use a mouse by assembling a Mr Potato Head.

Scholarships pay the school fees of bright but needy students, and by boosting general funds

they benefit all students in each school. The larger number allocated to the Humanist Academy was on account of the need to continue scholarships provided for Senior 1 students in 2009. In this year the majority of UHST funds went to the Humanist Academy, which was the newest school and desperately needed support, since expected funding from IHEU had not been forthcoming. During 2010 the Rationalist Association asked UHST to manage the allocation of funds they raised for the Mustard Seed School. Now that UHST is supporting three schools we are gradually working towards a more even allocation of scholarships among them.

Learning Resources

During 2010 UHST bought £6,000 worth of books for the schools. Priority was given to helping those students preparing for their O-level examinations. We put £1,200 into each of the three school accounts at the main bookshop in Kampala to furnish every O-level student in Senior 4 with a textbook in each of their main subjects. The remaining money provided textbooks for Senior 2 students. This enabled a continuation of the book culture developed with these students as part of the Foundation Literacy Project which operated during their Senior 1 year.

We offered all three schools resources to pay for additional tuition for O-level students in their final examination year. The Isaac Newton High School responded to the offer and we allocated them an extra £900 for additional teaching time.

The Mustard Seed and Isaac Newton High Schools asked for materials to help them to introduce practical work in science. Keele University School of Life Sciences donated some equipment, including optical microscopes, pipettes and flasks, which we took out to the schools during the International Friendship Week that UHST runs with the schools. In addition, we opened an account for each school with a Ugandan laboratory supply company. Putting £500 into each account enabled



Isaac Newton School students determining the sex of mosquitoes using microscopes from Keele University Life Sciences.

them to buy a range of equipment including prisms for studying refraction in Physics, and retort stands, chemicals and stop watches to time rates of reaction in Chemistry.

Computer and audio-visual facilities

The schools have shown an interest for some time in having computers. Many schools in Uganda are acquiring computer facilities partly because they are seen as essential to prepare students for the modern world and partly because families want their children to attend schools with such facilities. International research evidence on the factors that promote effective learning show only modest benefits from computers, compared to the high returns which come from access to and use of textbooks. However, we have been persuaded by the work of U-Connect, an NGO working in Uganda, that with the right software, low-cost refurbished computers can make a valuable contribution to extending educational opportunities and learning for Ugandan children. U-Connect supplies networks which, as well as containing standard software tools for word-processing, spreadsheets, graphics and presentations, bundle a host of other software which has been carefully selected for educational use. Included on the network server is a typing tutor, the Rachel (Remote Areas Community Hotspot for Education and Learning) repository, a large off-line encyclopaedia providing a vast non-fiction e-library, a large selection of 800 books encompassing the best in world literature provided through Project Gutenberg, and many on-line videos of feature films, including Shakespeare plays. They also include the ELATE materials developed by Makerere University and the Open University to support secondary school teachers in Uganda by providing guidance on curricula, preparing schemes of work, lesson plans, and containing many sample lessons and student activities in the main secondary subjects.

UHST has entered into a commitment with U-Connect to make computer facilities available in the Humanist schools. This is a major challenge for us since, at the time we made it, the schools had no access to electricity. However, we are making good progress. In July 2010 the Isaac Newton High School organised an official opening, for staff, students and 200 members of the local community, of its new computer lab. Money raised by UHST supporters paid for a free-standing computer laboratory, with a network of 8

computers, a central server and laser printer, powered by 8 solar panels on the roof of the building. At a total cost of just over £11,000, including benches and stools, it is our largest single investment to date.

The computer lab made an immediate impact on the standing of the school in the local community. Families that had fallen behind with school fees queued up to pay. The school employed an I.T. teacher and started giving lessons in computer studies for staff and students. Teachers have started to use the online resources to update their lessons and give students access to up-to-date information and pictures e.g. of blood circulation in Biology (students so rarely see pictures of the



Boys (above) at Isaac Newton High School watch a DVD film of Romeo and Juliet. Girls take advantage of a rare opportunity to view visual images.



things they are studying).

After the success of the computers at Isaac Newton School we moved on to making preparations to help the Mustard Seed School to acquire similar facilities. We had already worked with HAMU, the Norwegian Humanists, to connect the Mustard Seed School to mains electricity, so the challenge was to create a suitable space for the computer network. Using a substantial grant from the Rationalist Association we helped the school to refurbish buildings and re-allocate space to create a computer room within the area previously used for staff offices. We plan to help the school to install a computer network early in 2011, using funds donated by the Pink Triangle Trust.

In the meantime, UHST has helped the Mustard Seed School by providing a data projector. This allows audio-visual aids and DVDs to be shown in lessons and during whole school events.

Water

Before 2010 none of the schools had water on site. It had to be carried from a distance in jerry cans by students taking time out from lessons or, in the case of the Humanist Academy, by a paid water carrier. The scarcity of water made it very difficult for students to wash their hands after visiting the toilet, to have more than a small ration of drinking water each day and made things difficult for food preparation and cooking and for general cleaning around the schools.

The first school we were able to help was the Isaac Newton School. The preferred solution of a borehole was not feasible due to cost and the fact that the local drilling rig had been taken away to help people in Northern Uganda, who were suffering a severe drought. However, we were able to provide money for roof-top water collection into two 5,000 litre storage tanks. These have not



eliminated the need to carry water for long distances, but they have reduced the number of journeys that need to be made by students. We are now looking into the possibility of funding the digging of a conventional well – if the drilling rig does not return in a reasonable time.

The situation at the Mustard Seed School was even more acute. Although there was a water pump close to the school, it stood in the grounds of the Catholic Church and the school could only draw water in the evenings when the well was not being used by other people. The grant we received from the Rationalist Association made it possible to fund the drilling of a borehole and installation of a lift pump to supply water within the grounds of the school.



Now the school pump enables members of the local community to draw water in the school compound. This has strengthened bonds between the school and the local community. Since the pump was installed life in the school has become much easier. One of the tangible gains is that lunches now appear on time, so there is less disruption to lessons.

Land and Buildings

Towards the end of 2010, using the grant from the RA with additional funds from our supporters, we helped the Mustard Seed School to:

- buy (jointly with IHEU) the remaining plot of land and buildings that was being rented by the school;
- purchase land that will be developed into a playing field for sports;
- complete building work, paint and furnish the new science laboratory and additional classroom;
- refurbish buildings on the previously rented land to provide offices for senior staff and a staff room for teachers;
- convert the old administration rooms into a room for computers.

Buying the land has secured the future of the school and relieved it of future rental payments. Securing land for a playing field, improving the general infrastructure and increasing the number of full-time qualified staff in the school has enabled the school to be recognised by the local education authority, which has confirmed the school's formal registration.

Outcomes

2010 saw real progress in both the Isaac Newton High and Mustard Seed Schools. During the year the schools have taken ownership of the bulk of

their land. There has been substantial improvement in the quantity and quality of buildings on the two sites. They have each seen substantial improvements in their access to water and electricity. In all but one year group, the students have a textbook they can use in each of their main subjects. They also have their first science equipment. Isaac Newton High has a fine solar-powered computer lab with a network of 8 computers. Mustard Seed School has a room prepared for computers and funding has been secured to install their computer network early in 2011. Furthermore, each school, in different ways, has improved its teaching staff. The Isaac Newton relies on part-time teachers, but it now has 18 teachers on its books and the general level of qualifications has improved. The Mustard Seed School, in contrast, has only 8 teachers, but four of these are fully qualified experienced graduate teachers who work full-time for the school.

Both schools have seen substantial improvements in the standard of education they offer. Talking with and observing students during the International Friendship Week, that we organised with the schools in July, made us aware of remarkable improvements in the standards of spoken and written English. Peter Kisirinya at the Isaac Newton High School states:

"The textbooks have greatly contributed to the improvement in examination grades. It is the first time for the school to have an O-level candidate passing in division one and the rest of the candidates passing without any failures. The A-level results showed that, out of the five students who sat the exams, four scored at least two principal passes to enable them to be admitted for university courses. The best candidate, who has been supported on a UHST scholarship, scored 15 points in the following subjects (A-level grades in brackets): History (B), Economics (C), CRE (C), Geography (O), General Paper (C)."

Moses Kamya, at the Mustard Seed School, reported that:

"...our students performed very well with two first grades, eight second grades and twelve third grades. No failures. These good grades have been achieved due to the new textbooks and science lab equipment."

These successes were sadly not repeated at the Humanist Academy. However, we very much hope, for the sake of the students and the local community, that IHEU's re-launch of the school as Fair View Senior Secondary will succeed in the coming year.

Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

People and contacts

The UHST (UK) is a charity which raises funds to support education in Humanist schools in Uganda.

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Board of Trustees in 2010

Susan Wright, B.A., LLM, DipCE (Chairperson and South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Humanists)

Steve Hurd B.Sc., M.A.(Econ), FRSS, FRSA (Chief Executive)

Professor Hilary Hurd , B.Sc., Ph.D., FRES, FRSTMH, MIBiol (Scholarships Executive)

Dr. Anne Loweth, B.Sc., FIBMS, FHEA (Keele University School of Life Sciences)

Chris Wright, B.A., LLM, PGCE (Legal Adviser)

Paul Gubbins, B.A.(Hons), M.A., M.A.,M.Ed.,Ph.D. (Minutes Secretary and SCANS Humanists)

Barrie Berkley, M.A.(Oxon) (International Humanist and Ethical Union)

Jean Berkley, B.A.(Hons) (North-East Humanists)

Caspar Melville, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (Rationalist Association; New Humanist)

Josh Kutchinsky (British Humanist Association)

Dan Hurd, B.Soc.Sci., ACA., MABRP (Financial Adviser)

Grant allocation 2010

| Allocation of Grants by School | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | Isaac Newton High | Mustard Seed | Humanist Academy |
| Scholarships | £1,420 | £1,200 | £5,040 |
| Books: Senior 4 | £1,200 | £1,200 | £1,200 |
| Books: Senior 2 | £1,200 | £1,200 | - |
| Science materials | £500 | £500 | - |
| Data projector | - | £310 | - |
| Computer lab | £4,520 | £822 | - |
| Computer network | £1,780 | - | - |
| Electricity (solar + mains) | £4,741 | £400 | - |
| Teachers' pay | £350 | - | - |
| Water pump/storage | £1,750 | £3,000 | - |
| Building work | £1,000 ¹ | £3,144 ² | - |
| Land purchase | £350 | £8770 | - |
| TOTALS | £18,811 | £20,546 | £6,240 |

¹ Work towards finishing school hall.

² Completion work on science lab and refurbishment of school offices.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|  | Charity Name Uganda Humanist Schools Trust (UK) No (if any) 1128762 | | | | CC16a |
| | Receipts and payments accounts | | | | |
| | For the period from | Period start date | To | Period end date | |
| | | 12-Dec-08 | | 31-Dec-09 | |
| Section A Receipts and payments | | | | | |
| | Unrestricted to the nearest £ | Restricted to the nearest £ | Endowment to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Donations - general | 14,061 | - | - | 14,061 | - |
| Donations - specific purpose | - | 3,726 | - | 3,726 | - |
| Donations - student scholarships | - | 13,630 | - | 13,630 | - |
| Gift aid | 4,495 | - | - | 4,495 | - |
| Other | 120 | - | - | 120 | - |
| Interest | 1 | - | - | 1 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Sub total | 18,677 | 17,356 | - | 36,033 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 18,677 | 17,356 | - | 36,033 | - |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Humanist Academy - general donations | 3,764 | - | - | 3,764 | - |
| Humanist Academy - student scholarships | - | 4,320 | - | 4,320 | - |
| Humanist Academy - specific donations | - | 2,726 | - | 2,726 | - |
| Isaac Newton School - general donations | 2,699 | - | - | 2,699 | - |
| Isaac Newton School - student | - | 1,200 | - | 1,200 | - |
| Isaac Newton School - specific donations | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | - |
| Mustard Seed School - general donations | 1,000 | - | - | 1,000 | - |
| Mustard Seed School - student | - | 600 | - | 600 | - |
| Mustard Seed School - specific donations | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bank charges | 101 | - | - | 101 | - |
| Other | 120 | - | - | 120 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Sub total | 7,684 | 9,846 | - | 17,530 |
| A4 Asset and investment | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 7,684 | 9,846 | - | 17,530 | - |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 10,993 | 7,510 | - | 18,503 | - |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cash funds this year end | 10,993 | 7,510 | - | 18,503 | - |