



VISIT TO THE UK BY OUR VISITORS FROM SOUTH SUDAN!...

Our April Newsletter brings further exciting news and details of:

- Opportunities to meet with Bridget Nagomoro from Ibba, during her visit to the UK between May 11 - 27
- The programme of our seminar on the challenges of girls school in South Sudan, in central London on Wed May 15
- Speakers include Margaret Sentamu (wife of the Archbishop of York); Bridget Nagomoro; Hon Pia Michael, Minister of Education for Western Equatoria State, and others from South Sudan
- The programme for the FIGS Annual General Meeting in London on Wed May 15, with progress reports from Ibba and the UK, and a chance to discuss and shape our future strategy, together with Bridget, Pia and the UK Trustees
- The appointment of additional FIGS Trustees - with more women; more African people; and more young people
- Progress in the building of the first school classrooms in Ibba

MEET BRIDGET NAGOMORO IN LONDON ON WED MAY 15

The vision and drive to establish Ibba Girls School came not from the UK but from Bridget Nagomoro, who was the only girl from Ibba to have had schooling beyond the age of 10. Bridget has since returned to live in Ibba village; has been appointed as the local government commissioner; has donated a large plot of land for the school; has mobilised a broad base of support for girls education from the local chiefs and elders; and chairs a local steering committee to lead



If you feel you're able to contribute please do so through our link [HERE](#) to Virgin Money Giving! Every contribution counts and anything you do will make a huge difference to our cause! Thank you, from all of us.

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the development of the school.

We have invited Bridget to come to the UK in May to tell us of progress in the building and development of the school, to meet UK friends and supporters, and to visit UK schools to study how they are governed and managed.

We have also invited Hon Pia Michael, the young Minister for Education for Western Equatoria State to join her on this UK trip - so that we can try to ensure longer term support from the South Sudan government for this local community led venture.

Come and meet and talk with Bridget and Pia Michael and others at the FIGS AGM and seminar in central London on Wednesday afternoon and evening May 15. See below for details of the programme and other speakers.

FIGS SEMINAR AND AGM ON WED MAY 15 IN CENTRAL LONDON

Seminar 2pm - 5.30pm; Drinks 5.30pm; AGM 6pm till 7.30pm

Come for both the afternoon and evening or just one or the other.

Venue: CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London WCI (near Charing Cross station).

Directions : Starting on the Strand just beside Caring Cross station, turn south down Villiers St, left up John Adam St and then right into Robert St.

Programme (drop in or out at any time you can)

2pm – 5.30pm SEMINAR ON CHALLENGES OF GIRLS EDUCATION IN STH SUDAN

Speakers include:

- Margaret Sentamu, Diversity Management Consultant (and wife of the Archbishop of York)
- Bridget Nagomoro, Commissioner of Ibba County
- Hon Pia Michael, Minister of Education, Western Equatoria State
- Michael Saki, First Secretary (Education), South Sudan Embassy (TBC)
- Members of the South Sudan Diaspora, living and working in the UK

5.30pm Drinks

6pm

FRIENDS OF IBBA GIRLS SCHOOL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 1) Welcome and apologies
- 2) The context, the challenge and the vision:
 - Bridget Nagomoro, Commissioner for Ibba County
 - Pia Michael, Minister for Education, Western Equatoria State
 - Lord Michael Bichard, formerly Permanent Secretary, Department for Education, UK government
- 3) Progress reports :
 - Overview: Chair
 - Building development: Hugh Paget
 - School development: Bridget Nagomoro
 - Finance: Eric Shepley
 - Fundraising: Michael Bichard and John Benington
 - PR and Communications: Felicity Broom and Melissa Patel
 - Membership and Diaspora: Jean Hartley and Edith Galliers
- 4) Appointment of additional Trustees
- 5) Developing the short, medium and long term strategy – Plenary discussion
- 6) Any Other Business

THE UK STUDY TRIP - May 11 to 27

In addition to the above meetings in London on Wed May 15, we have organised for Bridget and Pia a full programme of visits to schools, churches and local authorities, and meetings with Trusts and Foundations in Belfast, the Cotswolds, Coventry, Nottingham, and York – plus a private meeting at the House of Lords on May 22. Do contact us if you'd like more details.

RAPID PROGRESS IN BUILDING THE FIRST CLASSROOMS

Our architect Malcolm visited Ibba again in mid March to supervise the next stage of the building programme for the school – the first classrooms, kitchen, toilets,

solar and generator block.

Malcolm sent us the following progress report from Ibba. His photos will be posted on the website as soon as possible.

- The foundation trenches are now complete for all buildings: the Classroom Block, the Generator Room, the temporary Kitchen, and the Toilets
- The hole for the septic tank will be finished today
- The buildings have been aligned to take advantage of the larger trees, and to provide shade. The builders commented favourably that this is "unlike how we normally do it in South Sudan; we cut down everything, and the school is dusty and hot!"
- They are starting work on the foundations today, bringing in aggregate to place in the bottom of the trenches, prior to pouring the concrete 'footing' by the end of the week
- The foundation walls will start to be constructed in about 7-10 days, once the concrete has cured
- The septic tank construction will start by the end of the week
- All the necessary mud-fired bricks (10,000 of them!), sand and cement are already on site for the foundation walls and the septic tank
- The perimeter fence should be completely installed by the end of next week
- The water tanks for the borehole are currently being stored at Bridget's compound, and will be placed once the fence is completed, and the solar panels, pump and equipment will then be installed

Local Jobs and Skills Training

Malcolm writes :“There is a very impressive complement of around 50 workers on site under the direct supervision of the Anisa site foreman (the same person who was in charge of the building of the gate house and entry road for the school, etc.), along with the skilled Anisa crew, who include block layers, welders working on the fence posts, crew chiefs running each work crew

There are over 40 local people from Ibba working at the site under Anisa's supervision, as part of the local community 'skills training programme' we planned at

the start of the project.

RAISING THE FUNDING TO COMPLETE AND OPEN THE SCHOOL

Over the next few months we aim to raise additional funding to build the dormitory block and teachers accommodation for the school, and to set up and train a Board of Governors for the school, to recruit the head-teacher and try to get the school open to its first 40 ten year old girls in Feb 2014.

See our website for how much we need to raise and how to donate.

Above all come and meet Bridget and the others from South Sudan to catch the vision for how to make a really worthwhile practical difference.

There are basically 3 ways to make a donation:

1) By cheque made payable to Friends of Ibba Girls School and sent to our Hon Treasurer at Ashlar, Icomb, Cheltenham GL54 1JE

2) BACS transfer for the credit of Friends of Ibba Girls School, Co-operative Bank; account no 65525782; sort code 089299. Please add your name as reference.

3) Via our website and Virgin Money Giving (although in this case there will be a charge to the charity of 2% plus credit/debit card fees)

Please also sign the gift aid declaration form (click on the image below to download the form) if possible, as this will increase the value of your gift to us by 25%.



Volunteering. We are currently looking for volunteers to get involved with:

- Support to the FIGS fundraising sub committee
- Grass Roots Fundraising
- Research and Draft a Volunteer Protocol
- South Sudan Diaspora
- School Liaison
- Logistical Support for the visit of Bridget Nagomoro

If you are interested in getting involved please contact londonfigs@gmail.com to register your

interest and find out more.

DONATE

With our best wishes and thanks, John Benington
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You are being reached out to as a personal friend or
supporter of the Friends of Ibba Girls School charity and it's
cause!

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