

Helping out in Uganda



Hi, I'm Charlotte Haigh and I'm 17 years old. Last summer, I travelled out to Rukungiri in south-western Uganda. For a month I worked with deaf and disabled children in partnership with the Chillii Children Trust, as well as teaching in local schools and visiting Kisiizi Hospital. Alongside this I assisted with building a rehabilitation and physiotherapy centre.

The main focus of my trip was to assist with the work of the Chillii Children Trust. This project seeks to find children with disabilities and help them in a variety of different ways.

Upon arriving in Uganda we were informed that there were two abandoned babies at the local hospital. A girl, Esther Emanuella, had been left at the hospital gates during the night, and a boy, David Emanuel, had been born prematurely and found in a pit latrine by the police. When we arrived at the hospital, we were greeted by these two very ill babies. Because David had been found in a pit latrine, he had maggots coming out of his ears. Both babies became very ill as the hospital had insufficient funds to be able to provide formula milk for them. Fortunately, kind donations were sent from the UK to fund this milk for the babies until they could be transferred to the orphanage.

The Project Team helps orphaned and disabled children in four districts, bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Regular surveys are carried out in remote areas to help identify disabled children and provide them with life skills, surgery, medical outreach and education. A critical part of work of the Chillii Children Trust is the support that is given to families as unfortunately, disabled children are seen as second-class citizens and shunned in society. The life skills clinic is held once a month to provide support, skills and encouragement for parents and caregivers. Children get the opportunity to play and interact with others while parents are provided with support and a lifeline.

The Chillii Children Trust gets its name from encouraging the families it supports to grow chillis, chosen because this is a very easy crop. They can be planted anywhere from seed, grow fast and are exported and, because they are not eaten in Uganda, they will not be stolen. Every month the families come for a 'weigh in' and are paid by weight for the crops they've grown. On average they are paid £2 per full sack of chillis. The income from this is then used to send their disabled children to school. It also pays for transport to and from clinics for surgery or rehabilitation and school materials.

The Trust supports the Kitazgurukwa School, which has its own special needs unit. It opened in March 2013 and now provides education and accommodation for over 30 children with various special needs and also has a deaf unit. It is gradually being transformed from a mainstream school to one of the first schools in Uganda to accept deaf and disabled children. Over the summer I had the opportunity to teach and play with these extraordinary children who never failed to amaze me. Their enthusiasm about wanting to learn and how respectful they were while being taught truly humbled me, not only in the special needs unit, but the main school as well.

This July I will return to Rukungiri to continue my ongoing work with the Chillii Children Trust, interacting with the children and supporting the parents, as well as visiting the new rehabilitation centre I helped to build. Alongside this, I shall be assisting in building classrooms at a local school and supporting teachers in class.

As part of my fundraising, I am hoping to take resources to help equip the new rehabilitation centre. Donations of mosquito nets, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and medical supplies such as bandages, plaster, dressings, etc., would be gratefully appreciated.

If you wish to help, a donation box will be available at: The Bank, 137 Ford Road, Upton, Wirral, CH49 0TE or you can contact Charlotte via Heswall Magazine

M Ball (Plastering)

All internal and external plaster work undertaken including

- Plasterboard fixed and skimmed
- Rooms overskimmed
- Hand turned coving
- External rendering
- Pebble dash

Clean and tidy workmanship
with a quality finish

Tel: 07736 711222



Caldy Open Gardens 2018

Sunday 27th May 2018, 1pm – 6pm

After taking a year off, Caldy Open Gardens is back. This year, we're supporting Hoylake Cottage with all monies raised going towards the creation of a reminiscence village, a groundbreaking initiative in dementia care.

So come along and wander round 12 beautiful private gardens, all different styles and sizes to inspire and entertain you. Caldy Church and Caldy Manor Care Home will also be opening, making it a truly community event.

Tea and cake is back by popular demand (but not the waitress service), plus barbecue sausages and lots of other delicious treats.

Whether you're looking to stock a brand-new garden or fancy a specimen plant, make sure you visit the central plant stall before everything goes.

We're doing more for children this year too. With free entry for under 16s, there will be a display of owls of species native to the Wirral, from 1pm – 4.30pm. A great chance to have a close-up view while learning lots about these amazing birds. The I-Spy Owl Trail starts here too.

Another new initiative is a select group of Wirral Artisans who will be showcasing their work. So whether you fancy commissioning a garden sculpture, or buying a picture, greeting card, or candle, they'll be something to suit every taste and pocket.

Entry £6 in advance till 25 May, and £7.50 on the day via a full colour programme. Programmes will be available from early April from retail outlets across the Wirral, including the West Kirby, Heswall, and Chester branches of Bradshaw Farnham & Lea, proud sponsors of this year's event.

For more information, please contact Rachel Summers on 625 7604 or caldyopengardens@gmail.com

