

# NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

## REDEARTH

### February 2008 Visit to Masindi

Lynne, Ronnie and Di travelled to Masindi for the February 2008 ½ term week. Our purpose was to monitor the progress of the trainees since our previous visit in October 2007.

Schools had just recently opened again after the long, dusty, windy, hot summer months. (It seems strange to us in the UK that November to February should be the hottest days of the year, as it is in Equatorial East Africa. It certainly was a bit of a shock to the system).

The three of us 'shared out' the 12 cohort 2 schools and trainees and visited them all. We spent time with each of the trainees, discussing their achievements and challenges. Where appropriate we suggested solutions to difficulties.

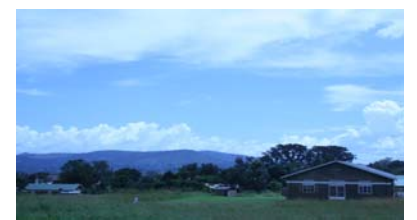
On the whole, we were all very pleased with the progress we saw in the schools, and the enthusiasm of the trainees to continue the REDEARTH programme. They claimed that the strategies and systems they had learned and put into practice had significantly improved the teaching and learning experiences of pupils and teachers.

These meetings are very helpful to us as trainers because our knowledge of the local context continues to grow with each visit, meeting and discussion. They enhance our ability to match the training we deliver to the actual needs of the schools and pupils.



It was good to meet old friends and some teachers from the cohort 1 training. Isaac, a teacher whom we invited to the UK to make a TV programme in December 2008, celebrated the birth of his first child, and we know that two cohort 2 babies are due! We really enjoyed the welcome and hospitality extended to us by our friends in Masindi.

Barbara Harvey of Link Community Development chaired a very useful meeting in Masindi for a number of organisations that are working in schools. The outcomes of the meeting have made it possible to operate in the district without overlapping our functions in the schools we visited.



The District Education Officer met us to discuss the progress of the plans for the construction of the Education Centre that we will build when the funds have been raised.

Another important part of our visit was to collect video and photographic material for the REDEARTH EDUCATION Website, which was launched in March 2008.

Karen Bhamra has designed a website that is accessible, informative and really attractive to the eye. We hope it will raise awareness of what we do in Uganda and enable us to raise sufficient funds to build the REDEARTH EDUCATION CENTRE and keep REDEARTH EDUCATION going for years to come.

We ended the week negotiating the seemingly endless paper trail that will ultimately lead to being awarded NGO status by the Ugandan Government.

After quite a full week, we boarded the day flight back to Heathrow on Saturday before returning to work on the following Monday.