



# Uganda Humanist Schools Trust (UK)

Charity Registration Number 1128762



Isaac Newton High School students watching “The Jungle Book” on their new data projector

## First Annual Report 2009

## Origins of the Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

### *Introduction*

UHST was set up on the basis of a Charitable Trust Deed on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2008. The Trust received charitable status, with Charity Commission Registration Number 1128762, on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

A number of factors brought it into existence. The founders, Steve and Hilary Hurd, have had a life-long interest in Uganda since teaching there between 1970 and 1972 and are members of the South Cheshire and North Staffordshire (SCANS) Humanist Group. Steve's work as a teacher trainer and educational researcher with the Open University provided an opportunity to return to Uganda in 2005 to establish a large British Council funded professional development programme working with teacher trainers at Makerere University. The project has involved frequent visits to Uganda and afforded opportunities to become acquainted with the work of the Uganda Humanist Association (UHASSO).

Gradually a picture emerged of the efforts by the Uganda Humanists, inspired by an International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) Conference held in Kampala in 2004, to establish three community schools to help children from poor rural homes and provide a caring Humanist response to the educational needs of local orphans.

### *The Isaac Newton High School, Masaka*

A visit was made to the first Humanist school to be established in Uganda in 2005, the Isaac Newton High School. This had been set up by a well qualified and experienced teacher of Physics, Peter Kisirinya. The school is in Peter's home community near Masaka, on land which his family tenant as smallholder farmers. The first building was constructed by the local community, who cleared the land, made and fired bricks from the local soil, using Peter's own money from his salary as a teacher in a government school. The SCANS Humanists decided to help the school by buying books and we learned from Barrie Berkley, of the



North East Humanists, that his group was also providing scholarships to help needy children to attend the school. At this time, Peter had received no other money from external sources. In recent years, however, he has received grants raised through the IHEU Trust which have paid for the roof on the school hall and a fine new building that will house a science lab, once it has been furnished and kitted out.

### ***The Humanist Academy, Mpigi***

At about the same time we met Deo Ssekitooleko, who was then the Chairman of UHASSO. Deo had drawn up plans with the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) to create a flagship secondary school and centre for Humanism in Africa. An initial grant from IHEU allowed him to buy a plot of land in an attractive hill location on the edge of a forest reserve one and a half hours drive from Kampala, where there was a community whose children had no access to secondary schooling. The initial IHEU grant had allowed him, with help from the local community, to clear the land, lay the foundations and raise the walls of a three classroom block. However, by the time we met him, he had run out of money and the site was already becoming overgrown.



The SCANS group liked the vision that Deo presented for a school that would work with and for the local community and saw an opportunity to put Humanism into practice by supporting the work of IHEU and UHASSO. The group raised money to enable Deo to complete the first classroom block with a roof and to provide books and scholarships to allow some poorer children and orphans to attend the school. With this additional support, the school was able to take its first intake of 26 local children in February 2008. Since that time IHEU has provided a further grant towards building a staff room, and the UHST charity has provided the bulk of the funds required to meet the running costs of the school.

### ***The Mustard Seed School, Kamuli***

During 2008 we read in the *New Humanist* about a third Humanist school, the Mustard Seed School, near Kamuli. This was established in 2006 by Moses Kamyia, using grants from the magazine's readers. Our first visit to this school took place in February 2009, as part of a second IHEU East African Convention in Uganda. At this time the school was operating with four senior classes and a total enrolment of 160 students. The school premises had four classrooms and a small staff room.



Readers of the *New Humanist* continued to provide the main means of outside support up to the end of 2009. UHST provided its first grants to the school during 2009 for scholarships for

5 orphan children and for textbooks to help the teachers to develop a reading culture during the Senior 1 year.

### ***Establishing a Support Structure***

In mid-2008 Steve Hurd met the three school principals, Peter, Deo and Moses to explore ways of fostering formal collaboration between the three independent schools. They talked inspiringly about their ambitions to create schools, run on Humanist principles, which worked with their communities to provide a good standard of education to local children, including orphans and those from very poor homes. It was clear that all three schools were struggling to survive in their critical early years when they needed to service the full secondary curriculum with relatively small numbers of students and reliance upon part-time teachers on casual employment contracts. Each school received some outside money but the amounts were relatively modest. Even supplemented by some local money collected in school fees, from those few families who could afford them, the income was clearly too low to enable the schools to flourish. The schools had almost no books and learning resources, other than chalk and blackboards and they found it, and continue to find it, a constant struggle to pay teaching staff.

The three school Managers are friends from university but the need to raise funds for their schools was forcing them to apply on a competitive basis for the relatively small amounts of available funds from international sources, most notably from IHEU which faces calls from many countries on its limited funds. It was clear, however, that with a relatively modest annual injection of funds the schools could be made to work and establishing a dedicated charity to help them seemed an obvious way forward. After discussions with the North East Humanists and, through them, with IHEU, we gradually evolved a plan for supporting the schools which had the following elements:

- In order to give the schools a clear structure of long term governance and to safeguard donor investments into them, they would be formally established as charitable “not-for-profit” companies with independent boards of trustees.
- The schools would come together to form the “Uganda Humanist Schools Association” (UHSA) so they could share good practice and cooperate in securing and distributing resources among the schools.
- We would set up the Uganda Humanist Schools Trust (UK) to raise money to support the schools and cooperate with other interested bodies with an interest in the schools’ future, most notably IHEU, the Rationalist Association/New Humanist, the British Humanist Association and regional and international groups.

Establishing the schools as “not-for-profit” companies has been taking some time, but clear progress is being made. At the same time IHEU is working to secure titles to the land on which the Mustard Seed and Isaac Newton High Schools stand. The articles to establish the Uganda Humanist Schools Association were signed in November 2008, and the Association is going through a formal registration programme so that it becomes recognised in Ugandan law. Finally, the Uganda Humanist Schools Trust (UK) was established in November 2008 and has become a registered charity. We started to raise funds in January and transferred the first funds to Uganda in April 2009.

### **Management and Governance Arrangements**

As a number of Humanist organisations share an interest in the schools we have been anxious to reflect this in the composition of the Board of Trustees of the Uganda Humanist Schools Trust (UK). While the Trust has a discrete identity and is responsible for its own

policies on fund raising and grant making, we felt it important to bring around the table the main organisations that are helping the schools. We recognise the desire for groups to maintain established links with particular schools, while using the UHST meetings to share information on the funds being raised and transferred to the schools. UHST trustees encompass the following organisations (see separate list of trustees):

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

Our intention is to hold one Trustees meeting each year although, during the setting up period, while we have been establishing our policy framework and mode of operation, the Board of Trustees has met on a six monthly basis.

UHST is administered on a day-to-day basis by its Chairperson, Steve Hurd, and by Hilary Hurd, who takes care of the Scholarships programme. Sarah Kelt is the minutes secretary, Chris Wright is legal adviser, and Dan Hurd is financial adviser. Steve Hurd, Chris Wright and Josh Kutchinsky give publicity and fundraising talks to regional groups about the Ugandan schools and the work of the Trust. Liaison with kindred organisation is conducted by Barrie Berkley (IHEU), Jean Berkley (North-east Humanists), Josh Kutchinsky (BHA) and Caspar Melville (RA)

## **Formal Objectives of the Trust**

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

Object 2: To support the education of needy children attending Humanist Schools in Uganda.

The Charity will support those schools which the Trustees consider to be providing a broad general education while supporting Humanist principles.

The Humanist principles which the Trustees uphold are those in the 2002 Amsterdam Declaration of the World Humanist Congress (<http://www.iheu.org/amsterdamdeclaration>).

## **Procedure and Policy for Grant-making**

The Trust's *main* concern is to provide grants to help the Humanist schools in Uganda that are members of the Uganda Humanist Schools Association (hereafter known as "The Association") to provide a good educational experience for the children who attend them and to provide scholarships to allow access to the schools for children from poorer homes who are able to benefit from the education the schools provide.

As well as scholarships for students, funds may be provided for learning materials (books, art materials, science equipment and consumables etc.), contributions to staffing costs, staff development activities and, from time to time, to improve school buildings, infrastructure or for additional buildings and such other items that meet the objects of the Trust.

The Trustees will consider applications for funds from individual Humanist schools and collectively via the Association, where the latter is judged to be more appropriate. 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 the Trustees (e.g. books or learning resources). The Trust may also announce a total amount of money available for a specific purpose and invite applications either from individual schools or cooperatively through the Association.

Further details for applicants are on the Trust's website:  
[www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org](http://www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org).

## Fundraising activities

In its first year UHST has raised funds in a number of ways.

### Website

The Trust has created a website:  
[www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org](http://www.ugandahumanistschoolstrust.org).

In its first year, the site attracted over 30,000 visitors. Fund-raising appeal forms can be downloaded and, in this way, the website has attracted donations from fellow Humanists, but also from people who are not members of national organisations such as the British Humanist Association. There have also been international donations from countries such as Belgium, France, Spain, the United States, Japan and China.



The website also contains information on how people can make bequests to help the schools in Uganda.

### British Humanist Association

The BHA helped us enormously by paying for the printing and distribution of a UHST fundraising leaflet that was circulated with the February edition of "BHA News". This generated interest and donations from over 100 BHA members.

### Humanist and Other Groups

Three UHST trustees have been travelling out to talk to local Humanist groups in different parts of the country. This raises awareness about the work of the schools in Uganda and of the Trust and has helped to generate donations from both groups and individuals.



We have received donations from two local Rotary Groups and, in January 2010, we are speaking to Edinburgh University Humanist Society in what we hope will be the first of many talks to university groups.

### ***Keele University School of Life Sciences***

This university group has adopted our charity as the focus for their fundraising over the past year. Students and staff raised a substantial sum of money in a variety of innovative ways including sponsored football tournaments, an orange day, selling snacks at functions, fining students who have forgotten their lab coats, showing films, sponsored runs and so on.

The money raised by Keele has been used to promote science in the schools. It has bought science books and equipment and paid the salary of Biology and Chemistry teachers.



### ***South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Humanists (SCANS)***

This small local Humanist group has collected money at meetings, held specific fund-raising talks on the Uganda schools and organised meals, including one at an Indian restaurant. As a group they have also provided scholarships for 12 children at the Humanist Academy.

### ***Sponsorship from Commercial and other Institutions***

As well as raising money for the Uganda schools the Trust has approached a number of organisations to provide assistance in kind.

**Michelin Developments** – supplied refurbished Dell laptops to the Humanist Academy and Isaac Newton High School.

**Josiah Mason College of Further Education in Birmingham** – made available science equipment that was being discarded during a move to new premises. These included 12 binocular microscopes, measuring cylinders, pipettes, dissection kit and large numbers of wall charts.

**Stoke City Football Club** – donated two full sets of football strip and a large number of match balls to take to the Friendship Week at the Humanist Academy and Isaac Newton High School.



**OSG Records Management China** – Florian von Oppenheim donated £1,000 towards the construction of a secure building to store books at the Isaac Newton High School.

**Quality Communications and Productions Seychelles** – Andrew Rourke has provided £1,500 for rain water collection and storage at the Isaac Newton High School.

## Grants made to the Ugandan Schools

In the first year of the Trust the main focus of our work has been to help the schools to recruit needy students and to help them improve the quality of the educational experience for all students. We have done this in a number of ways.

### **Scholarships**

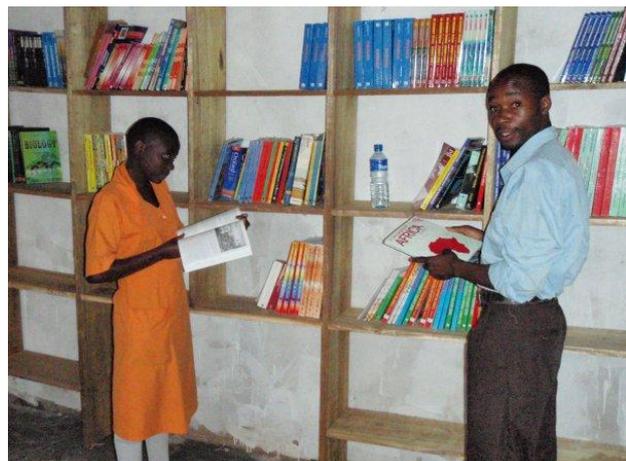
Donations to the Uganda Humanist Schools Trust during 2009 have provided scholarships for the schooling of 57 children. 42 of these went to help the newest school, the Humanist Academy, which was struggling to attract students who could pay fees. 10 went to needy students at the Isaac Newton High School and 5 to students at the Mustard Seed School. The latter two schools also attracted scholarships from the North East Humanists and readers of the “*New Humanist*” magazine. Scholarships serve a dual function. They allow students from cash-starved homes to come to school and also provide the schools with money which they can spend as they wish to meet the basis running costs.

Mary Buteese is an example of a student who has been helped through gaining a scholarship. Mary lives with her mother and sister. She has no father. The family have a plot of land, a shamba, on which they grow food and the only source of cash income is when they have a small amount of surplus food to sell. Mary was the first student to be enrolled at the Humanist Academy. She keeps the key to the school and opens up the classrooms each day. Her daily routine is very demanding. She rises at 6am each day, washes and then does chores around the house before going to open the school. After a full-day in school she walks home, arriving at 5.15pm. Her first job is then to collect water for cooking and washing. This involves a half-hour walk each way to the nearest well. After fetching the water she goes off into the woods to collect firewood. This takes another hour, but this provides the fuel for cooking her evening meal. She helps her mother and sister with the food preparation and cooking. After her evening meal she does some school work by the light of a paraffin lantern before turning in to sleep. A tough day by anyone’s standards!



### **Learning Resources**

During the course of the year the Trust has bought £4,800 worth of books for the schools. Many of these to support a Foundation Literacy Programme being developed for Senior 1 students, but also books specifically for science and to help teachers’ preparation. At the Isaac Newton High School a donation received from a

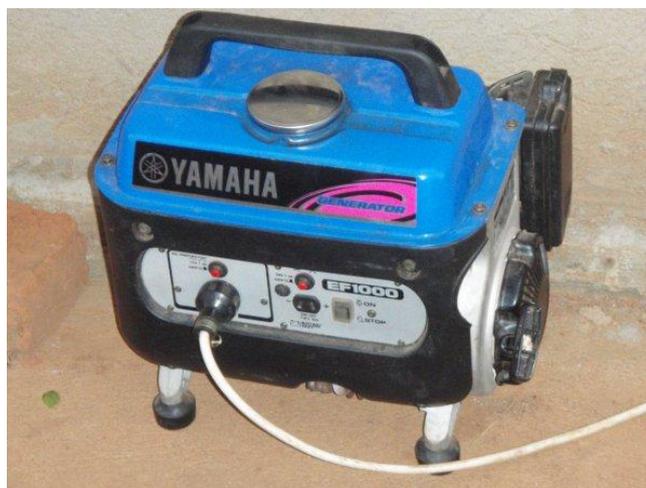


company has made it possible to build a secure storeroom for books and other learning materials.

A further £2000 has been spent providing science equipment and this has been supplemented by large amounts of donated equipment, including over a dozen microscopes and calculators.

To allow computers and audio-visual equipment to be used the Trust has bought a generator and a data projector for Isaac Newton High School.

At the Humanist Academy there was a pressing need for £2000 to improve the access road to the school. This allows teachers and students to get to the school more easily.



### **Teachers**

Meeting the cost of teachers is a major challenge to all the schools. The Trust helped in an *ad hoc* way at the end of 2008 when the Humanist Academy ran out of money to pay its teachers before the Christmas break.

We have also helped the school by providing money to employ Biology and Chemistry teachers. The impact of this has been an immediate increase in the amount of practical science work being conducted.



### **Grants Made During 2009**

The decision was made at the start of the year to focus our efforts on the newest school, the Humanist Academy. Unlike the Mustard Seed School, which is supported by readers of *New Humanist* and the Isaac Newton High School, which receives support from the North-East Humanists, the Humanist Academy had no other significant source of external funds. The funds were allocated as follows:

Humanist Academy	£10,782
Isaac Newton High School	£ 4,720
Mustard Seed School	£ 1,600

The specific grants made are listed over the page...

## UHST Grant Disbursements January to November 2009

<b>Date</b>	<b>School (Route)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
16 January	Humanist Academy (UHASSO)	8 scholarships @ £960 + £40 Donation	£1000
30 January	Humanist Academy (UHASSO)	£800 for Biology/Chemistry teaching + £200 general expenses	£1000
30 January	Humanist Academy (Aristoc bookshop)	Science textbooks	£1000
30 January	Isaac Newton High (UHASSO)	Books for science teachers' preparation	£300
February	Humanist Academy & Isaac Newton High	Science equipment and chemicals	£150
21 April	Humanist Academy (UHASSO)	£2000 for road + £1680 (14 scholarships)	£3680
21 April	Isaac Newton High (UHASSO)	10 scholarships	£1200
21 April	Mustard Seed School (UHASSO)	5 scholarships	£600
21 April	Humanist Academy (Aristoc bookshop)	Arts subjects books	£1500
4 June	Humanist Academy (UHASSO)	18 scholarships	£1680
4 June	Isaac Newton High (Aristoc Bookshop)	Books to support Foundation Literacy Project in Senior 1	£1000
4 June	Mustard Seed School (Aristoc Bookshop)	Books to support Foundation Literacy Project in Senior 1	£1000
4 June	Humanist Academy (UHASSO)	Science equipment	£700
19 June	Isaac Newton High (UHASSO)	Building of storeroom for books	£1500
21 July	Peter Kisirinya	Registration fees for Uganda Humanist Schools Association (UHSA)	£200
13 October	Isaac Newton High School	Purchase of Data Projector	£299
14 October	Isaac Newton High School	Generator and bookshelves for new book storeroom	£700

### ***Work with Third Parties (via the Uganda Humanist Schools Association)***

The Trust has worked with Peter Kisirinya, the Chairman of the Uganda Humanist Schools Association, to secure help for the schools from other organisations. Some of these include:

#### **Foundation Literacy Project**

The Trust helped UHSA to secure support from Bookaid International to provide a starter collection of 50 books to establish a starter library in each school.

We have also met the Uganda Director of Voluntary Service Overseas to discuss the possibility of sharing an experienced volunteer teacher from the UK between the three schools and the ELATE teacher education project at Makerere University. If appointed the person will help the staff of the three schools to implement the Foundation Literacy Strategy and also to incorporate Job-related skills into their teaching.

#### **International Friendship Week**

– We organised the first week of activities involving guests from the UK coming to work in the schools with the teachers to undertake educational and fun activities. The first one in November raised £200 for the Humanist Academy and Isaac Newton High Schools and led to the gifts of learning resources including simple and scientific calculators.

**Power Supply Project** – We helped to secure an agreement from the Norwegian Humanists, HAMU, to fund an electricity Power Supply Project in the schools, starting by putting mains electricity into the Mustard Seed School.



# Uganda Humanist Schools Trust (UK)

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

## **Chairperson**

Steve Hurd

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## **Board of Trustees**

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

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

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

Chris Wright, B.A., LL.M., PGCE (Legal Adviser)

Susan Wright, B.A., LL.M., DipCE (South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Humanists)

Dr. Sarah Kelt, MBChB, MRCP (Minutes Secretary)

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)



Charity Name		No (if any)	
Uganda Humanist Schools Trust (UK)		1128762	
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	12-Dec-08		31-Dec-09

**CC16a**

**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
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	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>18,677</b>	<b>17,356</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,033</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales,</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>18,677</b>	<b>17,356</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,033</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
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	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>7,684</b>	<b>9,846</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,530</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>7,684</b>	<b>9,846</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,530</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>10,993</b>	<b>7,510</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,503</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>10,993</b>	<b>7,510</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,503</b>	<b>-</b>

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Balance of general donations	10,993	-	-
	Balance of student scholarships	-	7,510	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>10,993</b>	<b>7,510</b>	<b>-</b>
	account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which	Cost (optional)	Current value
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which	Cost (optional)	Current value
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which	Amount due	When due
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf	Signature	Print Name	Date of	