

Uganda Networks Update

Charles Woodd



www.ugandanetworks.org

The past year has seen further improvements in the facilities and resources offered by the Uganda Networks website, as well as a major new initiative in the form of practical *How to...Guides*, which are only accessible to Uganda Networks members. Titles so far include: *How to ...Support Community Development, Get About, Avoid Fraud, Open a Bank Account, Acquire Land, Register a CBO or NGOin Uganda*.

Visits to the site have remained steady at over 10,000 a month, although interestingly a growing proportion now comes from Uganda. The site has continued to receive generous financial support from the Jerusalem Trust, the St Clare and St Francis Trust, and the A S Charitable Trust, and this has enabled us to continue to operate.

The continuing challenge facing the Management Group is how to build the Uganda Networks community by attracting a growing number of new members and retaining existing members, as this is ultimately the litmus test of both the site's value and its financial viability. We continue to rely on all our members and contacts to spread the word that the site exists and is a valuable resource, and to encourage any organisation working in Uganda and/or with Ugandan partners to join the site.

In the coming months, in order to raise awareness through face-to-face contact and information-sharing, we plan to hold a number of regional seminars to bring together existing and potential members. If any UCA members would like to become involved in helping to organise or host such a seminar, or just attend, please let me know. Possible initial venues are Oxford, Salisbury and Manchester

Our first Website Administrator, Revd Sally Robertson, left us in July to take up a full-time incumbent's post. We are hugely grateful to Sally for all she put into operating and improving the site. For the last 6 months, her role has been taken by Mick Haselden. There have also been changes in the Management Group: Roger Marsden stepped down, to be replaced by Martin Carr and Florence Nassali. If you, or anyone you know, have marketing experience and time to give to the Group, please get in touch.

Any comments, ideas or queries to me please – see my contact details on the inside front cover of this Newsletter.