

Chairperson's report AGM 2018

I would like to say a huge thank you to our colleagues in Kamuli, Moses Kitimbo, Daniel, Paul, Connie, Wilberforce, Racheal, and Moses Ekoi and Ruth and the NOVC committee and teachers in Ngora, who work so energetically on our projects for the good of their communities. And many thanks, too, to Charles Mugarura, our new permaculture consultant to the projects in Ngora and Kamuli districts.

I must pay tribute to Jane Owen who died on 19th April, who was a strong supporter and inspiration to us. Our condolences to Emyr and all their family.

A year after the severe drought in Uganda, the country is still recovering, there has been rain, but not enough to restore the water tables, and climate change continues to make the seasons uncertain. Water conservation and Irrigation are therefore major priorities in our plans. Food storage for people and animals should also be high on the list. Unfortunately our funding application to Hub Cymru Africa for tree and bamboo nurseries and water conservation/irrigation failed, but our colleagues in Uganda are starting in smaller ways with minimal funding.

All charities in UK are experiencing more difficulty in attracting funding primarily because of austerity in UK, but overseas charities are likely to suffer more because of the recent scandals involving large charities, firstly Oxfam, in abuse of women in the vulnerable communities they are paid to help. This can be capitalised on by factions here, who want overseas aid money to be diverted to the needs of UK. The shocking revelations of racism in our Immigration service, revealed by the Windrush Generation scandal, and the recent reminder of institutional racism by the 25th anniversary of Stephen Lawrence's murder make it all the more important that we press for equality and justice in global affairs. Education in these matters is vital, and reminds us that we should do more to promote Dolen Ffermio's original aim of raising awareness of world food and farming issues. Realisation of our dependence on other countries for our food, must help to improve international relations. This time of Brexit negotiations is a good time to raise these issues.

My grateful thanks to all our members and supporters whose financial and moral support make everything possible. Many thanks to the trustees team, particularly Val and Nick who do so much to maintain Dolen Ffermio.