

**Charity number 1124195**

**Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

**Trustees' report and financial statements**

**For the year ended 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

# Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)

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## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

### Legal and administrative information

#### Trustees

Lorna Brown  
Valerie Talbot  
Emyr Owen  
Barbara Maycock  
Cordelia Weedon  
Nick Christoforou  
Tim Smith

#### Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc  
23 Broad Street  
Welshpool  
Powys  
SY21 7RN

#### Independent Examiner

Thomas Ojo  
PPS Accountants  
11 Farnes Court  
Worksop  
Nottinghamshire  
S81 0LZ

#### Registered Address

10 Regent Court  
Roft Street  
Owerstry  
SY11 2BU

#### Charity Number

1124195

## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

### **Report of the Trustees**

**For the year ended 29 February 2020**

The trustees present their report and the financial statement for the year ended 29 February 2020. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date in this report are set out on page 1.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Dolen Ffermio is a registered charity with 7 trustees making up the management committee.

Potential trustees are members who have had a substantial involvement in Dolen Ffermio already. They are invited to become co-opted members of the Executive Committee for 12 months before putting their name forward at the AGM. Induction would take place at a meeting of trustees.

Trustee selection is by members at the AGM (with 3 weeks' notice given before the date of the AGM). Post holders are similarly elected at the AGM. In 2020 Dolen Ffermio was unable to hold our usual AGM because of the restrictions on meetings imposed by the government during the Corona virus crisis. The Executive Committee decided to hold a virtual AGM by means of email and post. We asked members to approve this decision and also to approve the business we would have conducted in person: that is, the Minutes of last year's meeting, the Accounts, the Annual Report, the re-election of the existing Executive Committee and the appointment of two new trustees. We had 13 responses, all of which were in agreement and which amply formed a quorum.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The first objective of the organisation is the relief of poverty in two rural areas of Eastern Uganda (Kamuli and Ngora) in particular, but not exclusively, by the provision of education and training and other such services so that they may become self-supporting and their conditions of life improved.

The second objective is raising awareness in the UK of world food and farming issues.

The main activities for the relief of poverty in Kamuli, working with the Dolen Ffermio Environmental Farming and Health Organisation (DFEFHO) are:

- Goat breeding programme
- Agro-forestry programme

The main activities for the relief of poverty in Ngora, working with Farming Link Uganda (FARLU) are:

- Goat and sheep breeding programme
- Project to support orphaned and vulnerable children in the care of their extended families
- Solar energy project
- Energy and construction social enterprise company
- Agro forestry project
- Income generating projects

The main activities for awareness raising in the UK are:

- Conference for sixth formers
- Public meeting for the farming and wider community
- Stands at agricultural shows, exhibitions
- Press releases to local newspapers, publicity and twice yearly newsletters to all supporters

## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

### **Public Benefit**

This is to confirm that the trustees of Dolen Ffermio have studied the guidance provided by the Charity Commission and take it into account when making decisions to which the guidance is relevant. The trustees consider that the charity's activities provide public benefit to the communities in Uganda where projects are located.

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### **In Kamuli:**

##### **Goat Breeding Project**

- A pedigree Boer goat breeding project was moved to Kamuli in 2017 under Moses Kitimbo's care and in his compound.
- The aim is to improve productivity of local goats by cross breeding with Boer breeds, which will benefit smallholding farmers in the local community.
- In the last year the small breeding unit has suffered serious setbacks in the deaths of both bucks from diarrhoeal diseases.
- Fortunately we have retained frozen semen from them.
- A decision has been made to develop a dairy goat unit at the Kamuli compound as it had been observed that local community farmers were keeping less meat goats, because dog attacks were frequent. Dairy goats are kept in housing and zero grazed which would be much safer, and there are the major nutritional benefits for families.
- Local herdsmen are employed to take care of the goats.

##### **Agro forestry project with DFEFHO**

- The project began as a small agro forestry project in 2012 in Kamuli but could not expand because of lack of land for a mother nursery. In 2018, thanks to very generous donations from individuals, we were able to acquire 28 acres of land at Nakyaka, outside Kamuli and on the banks of the River Nile.
- This land will become a demonstration and training resource for good methods of agro forestry, emphasising organic, sustainable permaculture principles as well as a source of good quality, appropriate planting material. This will be a great benefit to the local community and beyond when it is fully developed.
- There are six team members, all of whom are volunteers and have been heavily involved from the very start.
- The tree and bamboo nursery, funded initially by the grant from the Welsh Assembly in 2019 and donations from Dolen Ffermio, is thriving under the direction of Charles Mugarura, our Permaculture consultant, and supervised by Paul Musenero and other members of the team.
- The valley dam gives a continual supply of water, which can now be pumped to the 10,000 litre reservoir water tank beside the nursery. Funds to dig the dam and swales and to buy the tank, water pump, piping and hoses were all funded from appeals by member Tom Paddon at the last two AGM's, to irrigate the nursery and other crops.
- The team has set very ambitious targets for fruit trees (10,000 avocado, 10,000 jackfruit, 5,000 mango, 10,000 passion fruit, 10,000 pawpaw) and timber trees (5,000 musizi, 10,000 moringa and 3,000 calliandra for animal fodder and 1,000 bamboo). 10,500 trees are being distributed through 9 schools and 30,000 to households assisted, on a voluntary basis by the teachers who attended the 2018 permaculture course. Training has been carried out in the community on permaculture introduction, bamboo cultivation, organic pest management, with shorter trainings on bee keeping and honey making.

## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

- All these individuals, the schools and the wider community will greatly benefit from the project, along with considerable benefits to the environment in the whole area.
- At the Nakyaka land there have been harvests of maize, cabbages, aubergine, coffee (small, since there has been drastic pruning on the old bushes, with plans to plant more). Oranges are starting to flower, and look promising as they recover from drought and black spot disease which has been widespread in Uganda.
- The team is considering joining the local Citrus Co-op to give an assured market and access to the proposed government juice factory.
- Beans have not done well but soil tests have been done to find out why this important crop is failing and the team is considering taking part in a government bean project once this is resolved.
- The cassava is looking particularly healthy but won't be harvested for a year. Most of the revenue from the crops is still having to be returned to the land for clearing new areas and buying seeds etc.
- There are two paid workers on the land, together with Dorine, a very efficient assistant manager, all under the supervision of Paul Musenero.
- Accommodation units are being constructed along the lines of those constructed by Jude Howells in November 2018, both for the workers and the eco volunteers and visitors whom Charles is working hard to attract.

### **In Ngora:**

#### **Goat and sheep breeding project**

- A goat breeding project was set up in 2007 under the leadership of Moses Ekoi, a livestock specialist, on his land at Kobwin, outside the small town of Ngora. This unit is of great benefit to the whole community.
- The aim is to improve the productivity of local goats by cross breeding with Mubende Elite or Boer breeds. Improved bucks are distributed to the communities as well as surplus females. Households build up their herds to enable them to become self-supporting and improve their quality of life.
- The goat unit has the advantage of solar power and piped water from an underground rainwater catchment tank, thanks to a grant from the Welsh Assembly.
- Moses Ekoi is in the process of reorganising the goat compound with fencing so that fodder can be grown there. We are hoping to get some more female stock there and new bucks and develop the sheep component, including crossbreeding with Dorpers, whose meat is more acceptable to Ugandans than the local fat tailed sheep.
- The vet lab is developing and now has a fridge with a freezer compartment and a centrifuge. Moses has improved the lab by tiling the floor, installing electricity and creating a wash room with basin and shower.
- Edson, the animal health assistant helps to supervise the herds. In August he completed a lab technician course by the District Veterinary Officer in Mbale, which he passed with flying colours.
- There are two local herdsmen employed at the unit.
- Moses has had visiting study teams from Ngora and Bulabuli Districts as well as students from Kumi University.

#### **Orphan and Vulnerable Children Project**

- The project was set up in 2012 by Moses Ekoi and a committee of 6 people. They drew up the terms of the project, using a holistic approach. Funds are raised through gift catalogues and donations from individuals and organisations, particularly churches, chapel and schools.
- Children in this part of Uganda do not go into orphanages but are cared for by members of their extended families.

## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

- For the first 2 years 40 children were chosen for one year of support and in 2018 the committee asked us to extend the period of support to 3 years, which meant that we had to reduce the number of new children recruited each year to 30.
- Detailed budgets are submitted twice a year, which sometimes have to be adapted to fit the amounts raised in a particular year. The accounts are audited annually by a qualified accountant.
- The total number supported by Dolen Ffermio is now 260, providing great benefit to the children and the families who care for them. These children have benefitted from school resources (uniforms, shoes and stationery); a mosquito net, gifts of livestock and maize seeds, together with high quality skills training in a very wide range of income generating skills which have stood them in good stead while on the project and will continue into the future after they have left.
- The project did not recruit any new children in 2020 in view of the plans to adapt the project in order to benefit the wider community in view of the large number of families who ask for places and who have had to be disappointed. The Ngora team is also very keen to offer support to youngsters at secondary school who have dropped out because their families cannot afford the fees.
- The children in their second and third years on the project continue to receive support.
- Moses has purchased a suitable plot of land using money raised by trustees and from his own money with no funds having been taken from Dolen Ffermio. He is now consulting on plans to build a Resource and Training Centre which will be open to all members of the community and this has the potential to be of great benefit to everyone.

## **Ngora Community Solar Project**

- This is part of TECCO (Teso Energy and Construction Company), set up as a social enterprise in 2017.
- The aim of the solar project is to light up as many community homes as possible to replace smoky, dangerous, kerosene lanterns and candles, and to install solar power in local institutions. Ugandan national grid power is extremely expensive.
- The solar lanterns for school students (many of which are given to the children on the NOVC project) are extremely popular, enabling them to work when the sun goes down early in the evening.
- The climate change campaign is raising awareness in schools and the wider community and attracts buyers, as does the showroom and advice centre.
- Everything is offered at the lowest price possible and those who cannot afford to pay straight off are given hire purchase terms.
- This social enterprise solar distribution project continues to supply small scale solar items such as lanterns for safe lighting as well as small solar panels for household use, for example refrigeration, phone charging, radio and TV. At present they are sold from the Ngora workshop and there are plans to establish another outlet on the main road to attract more customers (and possibly outlets in other districts).
- There are 4 workers employed full time apart from those hired on contract and it is hoped this number will increase, providing income for the project and much needed employment in the area.
- The construction side of the company has completed the construction of 2 Stance VIP pit latrines for Ngora District Local Government and a security house for Ngora District Health Centre. As part of their partnership with Ngora District Local Government on solar supply and construction, they are making contract bids for 2020.
- This is already providing much needed employment in the area and, as it grows, will provide more, though it will have to be on a smaller scale than was hoped.
- They are marketing affordable solar energy to other children's projects such as Compassion Africa. They are also involved with the Solar Water Pumped Wells initiative of the Ugandan Government to improve access to clean water, as well as health and sanitation in the communities.

## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

- They are making plans to embark on a concrete business to construct concrete blocks, poles and pavers amongst other things. This would enable TECCO to fence schools, hospitals and domestic homes, which will not only generate income but also provide much needed employment for young people.

### **Ngora Agro forestry project**

- The project in Ngora has progressed slowly due to lack of funding in the past and the demands of the other projects here, but it is nevertheless very important to our partners and to us.
- Deforestation is a huge problem in Ngora with all the consequences for the environment and water retention.
- We have been fortunate in receiving a generous donation from an individual recently which will support a tree and bamboo nursery beside the Goat Unit. The donation has enabled Moses Ekoi to build a perimeter fence around the land and to develop animal fodder trees, as well as all the varieties of fruit and timber seedlings needed by members of the community. He has planted a field of forage sweet potatoes for the goats on his own land and has also raised hundreds of orange tree seedlings for the children's gifts on the NOVC project, as well as a good crop of pineapples.
- Moses hosted the first permaculture course in Ngora in December, organised and run by Charles Mugarura. There were a total of 43 trainees, all secondary or primary teachers from all parts of Uganda, including 15 from Ngora District whom Dolen Ffermio funded. We consider permaculture to be the way forward for food security and smallholder farming in Ngora and Kamuli with its ability to maximise production, while protecting the environment. The District Commissioner and District Security Officer were invited to the final day of the course and they pronounced it a success and of great benefit to schools and the whole community. A permaculture garden has been set up, with a greenhouse and partial fencing, and seedlings are being raised. They are now developing a plan for how the project will be carried out in the identified schools and the permaculture gardens be established.

### **School Links**

- School links are of great mutual benefit to pupils and teachers both in Uganda and in Wales.
- Links between schools in Wales and Uganda have been formed since Easter 2008. Trustee Barbara Maycock obtained funding from the British Council for teacher exchange visits to Llanfyllin High, Llanfechain Primary and Llansantffraid Primary Schools.
- We continue to encourage links between Llanfyllin and Busoga High Schools, and 6 local primary schools with 6 in Kamuli district. In Kamuli, Connie Kauma our DFEFHO member and teacher at Busoga High School continues to lead on school linking and is also developing a wonderful permaculture food forest with help of a student team.
- During her visits to Uganda, Lorna always ensures that she visits schools in an endeavour to foster and develop their links with schools in Wales.

### **Awareness Raising of World Food and Farming Issues**

- This is the second objective in our Constitution and a very important part of our work.
- We were not able to organise a conference last year because of the amalgamation of Llanfyllin High School with Llanfyllin Primary School. However, there was a very successful climate change discussion at the high school with speakers Lorna Brown, Dr Ben Jones of the University of East Anglia who has done a great deal of research in Ngora District, and former pupils Lloyd Davies, who visited in October 2018, and Iwan Vaughan, now head of dairy technical services at Wynnstay Farmers.
- Dewi Owen, the head of the two Llanfyllin schools is very keen for us to organise another sixth form conference and we shall combine it, as always, with a public meeting.



## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

- As a first for us, Emyr Owen organised a very well attended and received Dinner in Oswestry, at which the guest speaker, Dr Ben Jones, gave a very interesting and illuminating talk on rural village life in Eastern Uganda.
- We again attended the agricultural shows in Llanfyllin and Llanfair Caereinion.
- Trustee Cordelia Weedon regularly exhibits her own photographs and the photo diaries of the children at a number of venues.
- Regular articles about our work have been printed in local newspapers and our twice yearly newsletter is distributed to all our supporters.
- Treasurer, Nick Christoforou designed our website and keeps it up-to-date ([www.dolenffermio.org.uk](http://www.dolenffermio.org.uk)) as well as our Facebook page (Dolen Ffermio) and Twitter feed (@dolenffermio)

### **Financial Review**

The financial position of the charity remains stable and consistent with previous years.

Total income for the year was **£61,155.81** and total expenditure **£63,553.44**.

We are completely volunteer managed have a very low base of costs and have modest funding commitments in Uganda.

### **Reserves Policy**

We do not hold reserves as such as our policy is to send the funds we raise to Uganda to support the projects there and to remit small allowances to some partners. We hold small amounts back to meet essential expenses in the UK. We ensure that we have enough to cover the commitments made, both on project spending and other expenses.

### **Risk Management**

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks the charity is exposed to. Where appropriate, procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

### **Statement as to disclosure of information to the Independent Examiner**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

There is no relevant information which the charity's Independent Examiner is unaware of; and

The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity not will continue in operation.

## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, of the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with section 130 Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board

.....

Val Talbot

Secretary

13/May/2020

## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Dolen Ffermio.**

I report to the trustees on the accounts of Dolen Ffermio for the year ended 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 set out on pages 4 to 13.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- \* accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- \* the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....  
**Thomas Ojo (BA, BSc, FCPA)**

**Independent examiner**

PPS Accountants

11 Farnes Court, Worksop

Nottinghamshire S81 0LZ

Date: 14/05/2020

## Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)

### Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

	£	£	£	£
		2020		2019
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>61,156</b>		<b>63,253</b>
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>				
DFEFH	22,144		12,501	
NOVC	8,964		10,502	
Sponsorship	1,900		2,600	
WHOVC / FFTYO	3,000		2,477	
Evening events	1,450			
FARLU	20,190		16,741	
Goat Project	850		4,149	
Permaculture	2,950		5,261	
Tilling	0		350	
Text books	100		0	
Mt Elgon Coffee	0		4,518	
Printing and other running costs	864		2,305	
		62,412		61,404
<b>Other Expenditure</b>				
Accountancy and Bookkeeping	494		469	
Bank Charges and Interest	648		752	
		1,142		1,221
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>63,554</b>		<b>62,625</b>
Net Receipts for the year		-2,398		628
Bank Balance at 29/02/2020		6,103		8,636
Net Surplus / (Deficit for Year)		3,705		9,264

## **Dolen Ffermio (Farming Link)**

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### **1 Accounting Conventions**

The financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention on a receipts and Payments basis.

**2** Income is made up of mainly donations and is completely unrestricted.

**3** All receipts and payments relate to general unrestricted funds.

**4** Charity Trustees are only paid to cover out of pocket expenses.

**5** There is no reason to suggest that the charity will not continue as a going concern.