

KYRLE PROBUS 2 FEBRUARY 2017

The flourishing link between Ross-on-Wye and Namatumba is helping to transform the beautiful but poor African town, Kyrle Probus Club members were told on Thursday 2 February.

The link was launched in 1993, since when reciprocal visits have taken place annually between the two towns

Students from John Kyrle School and 15 primary schools from Ross have joined churches and charities, among other groups who have participated in the partnership.

Former geography teacher, Gareth Hughes, who has made numerous visits with school groups, spoke of the many positive changes and benefits which have seen a steady improvement in Namatumba's quality of life.

Ongoing projects include the building of a new library and a new technology block at Kisiki College, which has 1,400 students. Computers and laboratory equipment have been installed; the quality of water supplies is still a problem, but improving; mosquito nets have been distributed, and special funds found for disabled students.

Education and literacy standards have also been given a successful boost through foreign aid from the United Kingdom.

Gareth said: "The staple diet features rice, goat meat, maize, sweet potatoes and green bananas."

Uganda, situated on the equator, is the same size as Great Britain. "It is part of the East African bloc, with very green hills and valleys, bordering the spectacular Rift Valley, with game parks, snow-capped mountains, crashing waterfalls, and some desert to the West."

"They are a happy people, and you will always get a lovely welcome," said Gareth. "Now is a good time to go!"