

In 1998 EU funded Daventry Council to develop a link with Iganga in Uganda. The link built up strongly with EU funding. When funding from the council ended in 2002 there were enough people involved in the link to sustain it at which point the charity "Daventry friends of Iganga" was formed [www.friendsofiganga.org](http://www.friendsofiganga.org). Many members went over on public health and community related projects and then more local people wanted to go and since then over 140 people have visited Iganga in the last 6 years.

The Association of Commonwealth University schemes have enabled Commonwealth Fellows to come over for Environmental Health capacity training. A Fellow who was a Ugandan public health assistant is now training to be an environmental health officer. One has become the Chief EHO for Kampala City, and in 9 years, 15 Environmental Health Officers have successfully obtained Commonwealth Fellowships, hosted by CIEH, in the UK. Another has become the first District Health Officer breaking down barriers to widen work in Public Health.



Two people from UK who have worked in Iganga have had their lives changed, one is a nurse and is now taking a masters and is working for WHO. Another, a young man, is now working for MSF. While professional development has been key the link has also been addressing the MDGs and social cohesion. Wilbert who was a driver in Iganga who befriended so many visitors, came to UK and is now back home having learnt so much and is working to become a transport manager The experience has shown him what he could do for himself back in Uganda.

The link continues to grow, with teacher visits under Global Schools and the dispatch of school books, developing links with a Hospital in Daventry, and sending an Ambulance and Hospital equipment so badly needed by local health clinics improved by visitors from UK.



Water related projects have been supported in Iganga District by using the experience of Water for Kids a Charity set up by Environmental health Officers. [www.waterforkids.org](http://www.waterforkids.org). In 6 years more than 40 water sources have been protected, 2 new boreholes installed and many repaired, and more recently water harvesting projects have not only provided further sources of badly needed water but have given visitors the chance to learn how this method of water provision is a valuable further source where water is scarce.

The Partnership between Daventry and Iganga Friends who have formed their own NGO in Uganda grows continually and with further partnership with Water for Kids, the CIEH, and their Ugandan equivalent the link can only thrive helping more people to develop their personal skills while involved with such worthwhile projects.

Phillida Purvis of Links Japan ([www.linksjapan.org](http://www.linksjapan.org)) approach Daventry Friends of Iganga with a Japanese school looking to form a link with a school in Africa. Within days a Japanese visitor to the UK representing the Japanese school was taken to Iganga by Phillida where they were welcomed and given a thrilling short visit and encouraged to link with the Iganga High School which is linked with William Parker School and Humanities College in Daventry. Visits have now also been made by representatives of the Japanese School to Daventry and from this regular 3 way communications have developed between the 3 schools including Skype conversations and exchange of information. It is hoped this can further develop into a very successful triangular link.

