



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS.

The Whitehawk Inn was delighted to find a wonderful surprise in its stocking this Christmas when the country's favourite crime novelist, Peter James agreed to become the charity's first patron.



The Whitehawk Inn has been the birthplace for many creative writers since it first opened its doors some twelve years ago and they will be even further inspired by the appointment of this great British writer. Peter's patronage will offer support and encouragement for everyone involved in the ongoing work at the Centre and will aid the anticipated success of the charity's 'Learning for Life' Appeal. Peter said "I am thrilled and honoured to have become patron of a charity so very close to my heart. I have found so much solace, joy and education through creative writing throughout my life—both as an author and a reader. This is a great opportunity for me and I will do all I can to further the progress made at The Whitehawk Inn". Peter's first standalone novel in 10 years, 'Perfect People' a thriller about 'Designer Babies' was published in Oct 27th 2011.

STAFF MATTER..... TO UGANDA AND BACK AGAIN.

Frances Duncan, Director of the Whitehawk Inn joined a team of volunteers to make her second visit to Uganda at the end of last year and experienced again the overwhelming poverty and the effects of it. Here Frances speaks about her recent experience: "I

suspect my eyes were on stalks as I walked through Banda slum that first morning – as the minibus drives along, children of all ages appear from spaces between the shacks and run alongside until we come to a



stop. They clamour for attention, for a hug and to hold a hand, their need for love and affection is shocking and reflects the abuse and neglect that they experience. As we weave our way through the slums, past streams full of sewage, dodging the dripping washing strung between the houses, women call out 'Good morning! How are you? You are welcome here'.

I was struck by the warmth openly expressed between the residents and the team members and the close relationships that are being built as part of the supportive and sensitive project approach. My three short



weeks in these slums opened my eyes again to the harsh reality of a life where disease, starvation and abuse limit people's capacity to improve their situation and for many bring premature death. There is still so many more who need help."

THE WHITEHAWK INN

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