

Newsletter

*Harambee
For Kenya*



No 42 Sept 16

We have had a busy time this summer but not alas with fundraising events except the Gilwell Reunion where we were astonished to sell more goods than ever before. Thanks to everyone that supported us. We had a bit of a scare before we went though! We had been given room in a container to enable us to bring a lot of soapstone into the country, not least 4500 woggles. The container was delayed in leaving Kenya and we were sweating as to whether it would get here in time, not helped by the fact that it missed the expected boat and was then delayed in another port for nearly a week. Helen, whose container it was, was brilliant in getting it out of the port very quickly. It was delivered to her on the Thursday (the day before Gilwell) and she arranged a courier to deliver it to Gilwell itself. It arrived 2 hours after we got there so we had the pleasure of Roger having to sort it all out before we opened our "shop" at the event. Talk about a close shave but may we thank Helen for everything she did to help us.

The boys in Kenya have had a busy time with 26 Scouts and leaders from Lewisham District visiting both projects and organising a camp for all the boys to attend. They did really well in what they achieved especially as the value of the pound dropped dramatically because of the Brexit vote just before they went. But they managed to complete a big program for which we are grateful.. The boys are still talking about it.

The devaluing of the pound has certainly caused the trustees concerns as of course the amount of money needed to feed and care for the boys is constant and consequently the equivalent amount received by the Kenyans has reduced somewhat. But they are doing an admirable job of making it work and there have been a number of donations of food, bursaries and discounts on primary school fees which have helped. Please pray for the fundraising as it is increasing difficult here as many of you will know. We are hoping that 2017 will be a better year and are trying to attend a couple of big Scout camps to do soapstone carving and have a small shop. If any of you would like to help us, please make contact h4kinfo@gmail.com

Six of us are doing an inflatable fun run on 26th November to raise money for our boys both for food and for Christmas. So if you could share what you know about the charity with your friends and give them the link perhaps they may sponsor us. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lesley-Dann5>

We have included details of our recent trip in October so you can see the fun we had with the boys. If any of you are interested in visiting the boys, just let us know as they really enjoy having visitors.

RACE NIGHT. 25TH FEBRUARY 2017. AT HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW. £10 ADULT, £7 CHILD UNDER 14YRS

PRICE INCLUDES PIE/FISH/SAUSAGE & CHIP SUPPER

*Trustees:- Roger Dann (Chairman), Lesley Dann, Patricia Musgrave, Jackie Cooper, Mike Wilding, Ben Vince, Bill Compton. 21 Cuckmere Rise, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8PG 01435 865502
www.harambeeforkenya.org Charity Reg. No. 1121597*

Project News Nyakoe

The Nyakoe boys were really calm this time we went which we could see was due to the love and care they are getting from Lydia, Andrew and Ken. The whole compound was so tidy and clean which we were thrilled about and commended them because all around them there is chaos and debris. We explained that we had always wanted the house to be a haven and tidiness helps them to be tidy in everything and they can teach other Kenyans that this is how it can be. All too often, because there is no refuse collection, people just dump what they don't want anywhere they see fit. The boys cheered when we told them they had the tidiest "shamba" in the area and should be proud.

They are all working hard at school and have now just finished for their long holiday. Two of the big boys, Carlos and Reuben, have taken their final secondary exams and we are awaiting their results as to whether they will go to University or not. Carlos wants to be a lawyer and Rueben a Doctor. So we wait to see how they have got on. Five other boys have just taken their end of primary exams and await the results to see whether they go to secondary school or the polytechnic. We have found sponsors for four of them but one has still to be sponsored. We are praying that he will do exceptionally well and get at least 350/500. He has the aptitude to do this and if he does we will be putting him forward for a Kenyan charity scholarship which president Kenyatta is involved in. IF he succeeds in getting accepted then he will be made!!! He will get full scholarships for school, boarding, pocket money, all educational costs and then if he goes on to university he will also get everything paid for and even have an opportunity to travel abroad for education and experience. So please pray that this happens as he is a VERY bright boy and deserves it.

The boys have each been given a chicken to look after and rear. Once big enough they sell them to gain a little pocket money. Andrew oversees this and it seems to be working really well. They ensure that they give the birds scraps that are over from their cooking and preparation. They have really risen to the responsibility.

The boys also do their washing every week and take out all their bedding to air while they clean the inside well. They take a great pride in cleaning the house. Some boys also use the shade of the trees

to sit under and play games once they have finished, while others go the river to swim or play football on the field nearby.

It is so lovely to see how settled they are.



Sponsorship.

We would like to thank the sponsors that came forward to support the boys who will go on to secondary education, Dennis, Emmanuel, Bernard, Alex and Wilfred. Without your help we, as a charity would not be able to afford to give them this opportunity. It is not a lot in the scheme of things but multiplied by the number of boys needing the chance, it would be impossible. Thank you and if anyone else would like to help one of the next group, who will be taking their exams next November, please get hold of us on h4kinfo@harambeeforkenya.org If you do this as a group, family or friends, it would cost each individual a lot less each month.

The amount to pay depends on how bright the boys are and which school they are advised to attend. SO for the brightest boys it could cost around £600 per year down to £300. Sounds a lot but in UK terms it is not so serious especially if a group of friends or family club together. To give you an idea, we have one lad who is supported by four friends who when they started were students and each pay £6.25 per month This young man is top of his class and doing really well. We also have a small school, whose children raise the cost of a lad through the year. In a number of big schools that could amount to one mufty/dress down down a year. We will keep you up to speed with how they are doing and send you letters from the boys when the Kenyans get them for us. So get in touch if you think you can give a boys a chance.



On 26th November at Brighton Race Course as explained on page 1 SIX of us, Lesley, John Savill, Lucy Kanya, Glynis Sands, Hayley and Steve Kindleysides will be doing this event to try and raise some money for our boys. Have a look at the course we will be doing <https://www.ukrunningevents.co.uk/Inflatable-5k-Santa-Run-Brighton> We start our "run" at 11.30 but think it may be more of a quick walk for some of us or we will never get over the obstacles.

Come and cheer us on if you are local!!!!!!

Just a couple of the inflatable obstacles!!!!



Should be fun!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our Thanks go to the following for

their Support.

John & Hazel Savill	Lewisham District Scouts
Emily Pritchard	Graham & Joy Barton
Staff at Integrated Continuing Healthcare Team	
Glynis, Pete & Chantelle Sands	
Hayley & Josh Kindleysides	
Ana and Andrew Taylor	Joyce Shaw
Sarah Pawley	Steve & Jan Johnson
The Moore Family	Rob & Jan Kendall
Cobnor Activity Centre	

And all our regular supporters

Meru

The boys in Meru are in fine fettle and all are doing well at school. We had two new boys arrive who were separated from their brothers. I wrote about it on the Harambee facebook page. But for those who are not on facebook or the Harambee page, here is their story....

Four little boys were found on the streets in Nyeri in August (10, 9, 7, 5) The Kenyans made a bit of an error and sent two to Meru, one to Kisii and one to Jimmy's village as they thought he may be a problem!!!! When I caught whiff of this I explained to the Kenyans that the boys MUST be kept together. My reason being that they had experienced bereavement yet again -once when their mother was widowed, twice when she could not look after them because she is alone and HIV+, three times when they were rejected on the street begging (going back to the slum to sleep while mum went on the game - the only way she could make any money!) and lastly by pulling them apart. The Kenyans had acted in good faith believing this to be the best way they knew how to accommodate them and only now appreciate what exactly has happened to these kids and agreed to re-unite them at Meru where the two little ones are. The 9yr old, Peter did not want to leave Kisii which was probably because he liked it and perhaps thought he was going to something worse, not realising the home he would be in was just as nice. He arrived with Andrew and we kept him hidden until we were armed with cameras at the ready and the little ones, Brian and Anderson were together. Initially they looked and giggled. then they all shook hands! Then after about 10 mins were sitting on Anderson's bed giggling and chatting which later followed with shrieks of laughter as they played together. Having seen the house and his brothers, Peter then announced that he wanted to stay!!! - Just as well really!



The boys from left to right, Anderson in the red, Brian and Peter in the yellow. They have settled now although it took Peter a while. But we are sure that once back at school in January he will be fine.



As for all the other boys they are doing really well. We are just waiting for their school reports so hopefully we can update you in the next newsletter.

The boys enjoyed going to a camp near Nyeri with the Kisii boys which was organised by Lewisham District Scouts this year. But before they went, they helped Lewisham to paint the walls in the safe house and got in a delightful mess. Good job it was emulsion paint and washed off.



Lewisham District Scouts visited the project in August and not only worked at each project but also ran a camp for all the boys. They also took them to B-P's grave where they invested the Meru boys into the Scouts. They had a wonderful time and here are a few pictures of their trip. May we take this opportunity to thank them for their input into the boys and both projects. I hope we may get some feedback for the December newsletter.

