

# Newsletter

**Harambee  
For Kenya**



*No 27 Aug '12*

The summer is nearly over and the children in Kenya are enjoying a school holiday, just as our children are. To get discipline in the house the Kenyan trustees have now formed a discipline committee chaired by the local assistant Chief, Ambrose. Ambrose has become a wonderful friend to us, personally and as a charity. He takes pleasure in seeing our children develop well and is becoming more actively involved. The committee is made up of staff, trustees and young people. It appears to be working and we hope and trust that it will continue as the discipline has certainly improved.

Lewisham District Explorer and Network Scouts went out in July and arranged for the Kisii boys to go to Rowallen Scout Camp site, Nairobi and camp for three days. The boys had a fantastic time not only camping for the first time but seeing the Elephants at the orphanage, feeding the Giraffes at the sanctuary and going on Safari in Nakuru. They were so grateful to the UK Scouts for the experience and will be talking about it for a long time.

We had sad news at the start of July that little Benard had run away because he had burnt his new shoes. We were very concerned about his welfare and various people searched for him. But we had fantastic news recently that he had been found and had returned to the house. He had got his shoes wet and tried to dry them near the fire but they got burnt and he ran away because he thought he would be beaten.....something our staff and trustees NEVER do, but this would have been the treatment he would have had if he were not in our care. It takes a long time to instil in the children that they will not be beaten if they do something wrong. Of course there are consequences but usually chores and being made to go without a treat does the trick.

Anyway, please note the dates for your diaries as some have changed and we would love you to be able to come along and support us in what we are doing. I have also enclosed an application form and sponsor form for the swimathon. Do get a team and join us....non swimmers are also welcome - with floats.

Those of you who wish to come to Kenya with us at Easter should confirm their interest as we are looking to book flights very soon. The dates are,, flying out on 28th March and landing back in UK on 13th April. So please get hold of us as soon as you can and we will see if we can get a good price for the flights.



# Nyakoe

We have had some really good results from the children's school work. In particular it was great to see that Rueben and Carlos, both in year 8 and about to take their final primary exams, are 1st and 4th respectively, in their year. They are both candidates

which means that if they do well in their exams, they will get assistance from the government to attend a good secondary school. Long may this continue as both boys want to go to University. Reuben wants to become a Doctor and Carlos, an engineer. Let us hope that they do well. The older boys are trying hard too. It appears that they have struggled with the standard of work required for secondary school, but they are working hard to improve.

We were informed by someone that statistics show that street children are generally fairly bright and that this is often why they survive. It is noticeable that with the exception of only one or two, our boys are all in the top half of their class and when you consider how many of them are having to play "catch up" they should be congratulated.

Those that remember the group from Linnet Clough, going to work on the project last year. Well they sent us a wonderful wind vane to put up on the roof of the house. Finally, last week, we received a photograph of it in situ. The whole thing has been made by copying their logo. It looks really good and I think it is fair to say that it is the only weather vane in the area. They are very few and far between.

Once again, thank you Linnet Clough for your support.



Lewisam Scouts not only took the boys to Nairobi on a camp but they also managed to fit in some work on the project. In fact they worked really hard in blistering heat. Mending the guttering on Rafiki House was a godsend as they put a large water tank at the end to harvest the rain water. They also put up a shelter over the BBQ area and mended the fence to the chicken runs, replacing chickens as well. They have also left enough money for us to complete the guttering at the back of Rafiki house too with a matching water tank. Well done everyone for all your hard work and thank you.



You can see photos of the children enjoying their trip on another page.

It is great to have people visit the children and spend time with them as well as doing work on the project. They consider all their visitors as family and gain so much from the interaction.

So if you want to take a group or just visit yourselves, please contact us.





**Just a few of the photos taken with the Lewisham Scouts.**

### **A note of thanks from the Kenyans to Lewisham.**

On behalf of Nyakoe Safe House and the entire Harambee for Kenya the Kenyan side we really want to appreciate all that you did for all of us especially to the boys. The treat you gave us to Rowallan Camp for three days where we not only enjoyed the so much and variety of foods, games and the comfortable sleeping in the tents on new mattresses, but more exciting was the visit to the two animal orphanages i.e the elephant orphanage and the giraffe centre. The boys did not only get excited to see these animals plus many others at close range, but they even managed to feed the giraffes and worthogs. They enjoyed site seeing of Nairobi as a city that many had yearned to see. The comfortable travel in the large Kisii School bus. The many tourist sites that the boys had been hearing about but they had to see them including the Lake Nakuru national park which many Kenyan children's parents cannot afford to take them. We cannot forget to thank you for the very many things that you brought us - clothes, so many pens and fountain pen with a lot of ink, pencils, special pens (with Lewisham logo), so many special gifts that I cannot mention them all. Some are featuring in the accompanying photos. Special thanks for the water tank that is helping a lot in water. Please pass this note to all those that came with you in case you can reach them all. Let them know that we shall always remember them for the special treatment and gifts that we received from them. At this point I want to remember Bill Compton, Lawrie and Lindsay Smith as part of you team leaders that made the whole trip very exciting. We hope to see many of the young people who visited or country, Kisii- Safe House to get chance again in life to be here. Otherwise we hope many more other scouts visit us and interact with our boys. This gives our boys hope from hopelessness. Attached are some photos that will remind you some of the things you brought us. Every boy in the photograph is and the staff are wearing at least a T- Shirt from the stock you brought us.

Be blessed



## A Lewisham District Leaders perspective

Speaking as a first time traveller to Africa, I would have to say my experiences on this trip ranged from the moving and emotional to the novel and comical. As soon as the plane flew over the streets of Nairobi I could see, what felt like, two completely contrasting worlds; one the typical city skyline with tall buildings, lots of glass and quirky designs; the other, only a few miles away, wooden shacks with tin roofs. It was then that I realised this was going to be an experience I would never forget.

Meeting the street children for the first time in Rowallen, the first thing I noticed was how happy they all were! I had preconceived ideas that they would all be like the adverts you see on TV and the stories on Red Nose Day and to my surprise I was met with the total opposite, smiley faces and lots of kids “high-fiving” and hugging everyone! As the camp went on I got to know some of the children and the realisation that they were all one big family made me realise that everything H4K is doing means so much to these children who have nothing but each other.

Then I was in for a shock. I went with the “shopping party” to get the food for the following few days and we drove through Kibera. I then found out that 1.65 Million people lived in 4 square miles in conditions that are, to be honest, indescribable. To really experience the emotions you have to see first-hand how these people live. True poverty is hard to take when in comparison most of us live in luxury. Mud huts, wooden shacks and tin roofs, mudding alley ways and nothing in terms of utilities and facilities, that we all take for granted. Many of the families were trying to sell a few bits of fruit or veg, just to scrape a living. “Seeing is believing” is the only way to describe what I saw.

We got the opportunity in Kisii to travel out into the town in the early evening. We were on the lookout for street children who were often seen alone or in groups of two or three, sometimes larger; many of them sniffing glue! We stopped to talk to some of them and to learn more about their story. Most seem to have run away after a family breakdown for various reasons and although many of them didn’t seem to mind being on the streets there were a few that clearly didn’t want to be there, in fact were desperate to go back to school and had dreams and aspirations. One boy had walked a very long way to Kisii because he had hoped that H4K would find him and help him back into school. It makes me think that we have children in the UK who have everything and many don’t seem bothered whether or not they go to school, yet these children have nothing and are desperate to get back into school to get them out of the cycle of being stuck on the streets of Kenya. What motivates them? Could we inject this into our school children?

That night we came back with two of the boys from the streets. When we got back to the safe house I watched as the other boys welcomed them with open arms, cleaned them, fed them and got them new clothes before settling them down for a comfortable night’s sleep. It was incredible to watch and see how these children become a big family and look after each other. To say that it was emotional would be an understatement. I will never forget those two boys and the feeling that their lives were about to change for the better.



I know that not every boy the H4K rescues from the street will stay in the house, stick to the rules and go on to better their lives and some of them do return to the streets, but if just one child’s life gets better as a result of the work that H4K do then it is all worth it. I feel privileged to have been part of the Lewisham Scouts Expedition and to help in the little way that I can, I want to continue to support H4K and hope to travel back to Kenya in the future.

William Burt (GLS 16<sup>th</sup> Lewisham South)



# Race Night

*February 2nd 2013*

*Tickets available now*

*£10 adults*

*£7 under 12's*

*Price includes a fish & chip supper*

*Book NOW to avoid disappointment*

**Our Thanks go to the following for their Support.**

Peter Gilks                      Rehema School

Sackville school              Lilly Davis

Bedes School

Liz Walters

Oathall School

All those who supported us at Gilwell

Lewisham District Scouts.

Babs Dann

Jenny Turner

And all our regular supporters

# easyfundraising

.org.uk

*We need you to sign in to easy fundraising so that when you do any online shopping you go to the store through easyfundraising. Then they will give our charity up to 7.5% commission. This means you can make your shopping work for us!!! So please sign up as soon as you can - every penny counts! Also if you sign up to "sign & remind" then you immediately earn us 50p and every time you search the net through this it earns us money.*

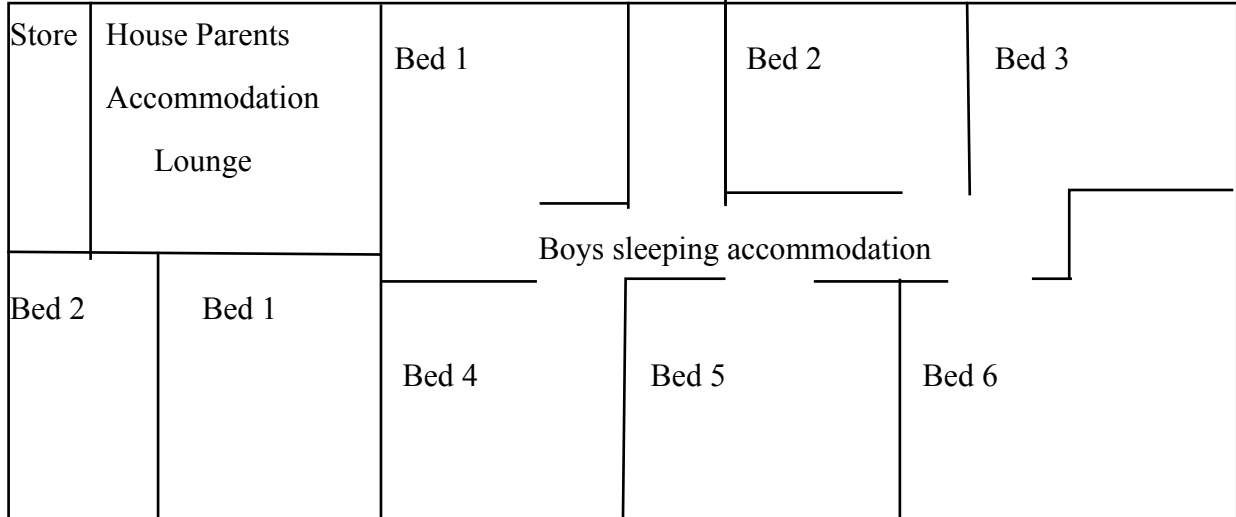
**GOOGLE ADS** *ALSO.... If you go to our website you will see Google Ads down the Side of the pages. If you click on them and maybe look at two pages, they will pay the charity money. So whenever you have a minute to do this, make your time turn into money, for the benefit of the Kenyan children.*

*With both of these simple fundraising ideas you can help us raise the funds needed for the new safe house and food.  
Take care evryone.*

# Meru

*We have not had much news from Meru other than the plans are being drawn up ready for planning consent to be acquired.. As you saw last time, the building will be quite impressive. We have now drawn a basic plan for the sleeping accommodation, which the architect is now preparing.*

*It will look something like this. (not drawn to scale)*



*We plan to have the house parents home adjoined to the sleeping area for the boys. There will be a couple of bedrooms that are slightly smaller so the rooms will house 6 boys while the others will house 9 boys. We will use triple bunk beds the same as are used at Kisii.*

*This building will be on the opposite side of the land to the main hall area as shown in the last newsletter.*

*So please help us with our fundraising events, the swimathon and the race night in particular, as we will need to furnish the new home and of course our main objective is to feed and care for these boys. The building work is starting now with the digging of the pit latrines. We hope to see more when we visit in October and will have more news in the next newsletter.*





# SWIMATHON



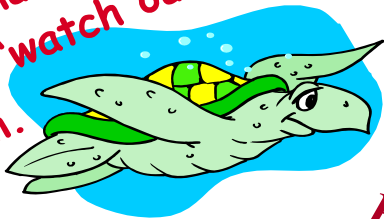
*Non-stop sponsored swim at  
Bedes School, Upper Dicker.*

**Join the fun. Help us to swim **4500**  
**miles** to Kenya and raise money to help  
us care for the street children.**

**COME AND JOIN US  
for the day or a couple of  
hours on**



*Teams of up to 6 in choice of  
three groups. Under 14yrs.  
Mixed age & Adults (14+)  
Each team must also bring a  
"spotter" to "watch out" for  
their team.*



**Saturday 13th October 2012**

**Between 8am to 8pm.**

**EACH TEAM raises sponsorship  
for each mile and has ONE HOUR  
to swim as far as they can.  
1 (25m) length of the pool  
represents ONE mile.**

**Prizes for the most money raised  
and the most lengths swam in  
One Hour by the **WHOLE TEAM.****

**Entry is free, but we need  
your team to raise as much  
money as they can.**

**Sponsored by:**



**BEDE'S school**  
**Upper Dicker,**  
**Nr Hailsham**

**For More information and  
application form contact  
[lesley@harambeeforkenya.org](mailto:lesley@harambeeforkenya.org)**

## Application Form.

### Swimathon on 13th October 2012

To book your team in please complete this form and return it to:-

*Harambee for Kenya. 21 Cuckmere Rise, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8PG. By 1/10/12*

The entry per team is FREE but on the condition that you raise sponsorship for the charity. NO MORE THAN 6 swimmers in a team. (plus one person to be the “spotter” and length counter) Non swimmers CAN take part using floats or armbands. You may bring supporters with you as there is room for spectators.

Please tick against a team type and time you would like. Each team swims for **1 hr ONLY**.

☐ Children team (up to 14 yrs)

☐ Family/mixed team (adults and children)

☐ Adult team

*Book your lane early to avoid disappointment.*

8.30am

☐

2.30pm

☐

9.30am

☐

3.30pm

☐

10.30am

☐

4.30pm

☐

11.30am

☐

5.30pm

☐

12.30pm

☐

6.30pm

☐

1.30pm

☐

7.45pm

Winning teams announced.

- Arrive in plenty of time to get changed and be ready to swim on the hour. If you miss any time you will not be able to make it up.
- There is to be no diving into the water.
- Each team will be given a lane in which to swim so you may choose if all swimmers follow each other or swim individually
- Each team will vacate their lane one hour following their start time.
- All sponsorship should be listed on an official form or through a page you may set up on Just Giving, under the Harambee For Kenya Account.
- The number of lengths swum will be a total of the team effort, not individual achievement.
- There will be prizes in *each team category* for furthest swum and most money raised.
- When you have completed your swim you may stay, watch and support the other teams.
- You may enter your team more than once. Each entry will be considered separate from the other. i.e. you cannot amalgamate the lengths into one total.
- NON-Swimmers can take part with floats.

**We would like to “swim” 4500 miles (1 x 25m lengths=mile) to Kenya. So we need your support to achieve this.**

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR APPLICATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



If you would like to sponsor this persons team please complete the form below.

## Charity No. 1121597



# SWIMATHON

*Non - stop sponsored swim*

If you are a taxpayer then please fill out this form if you would like to help us further. You have paid the government a lot of money in tax and they will give us some of that back if you sign this form. In fact for every £5.00 you donate, they will give us an extra £1.00 at no extra cost to you.

[illegible]