

# Newsletter

*Harambee  
For Kenya*

*No 44 Mar & June 17*



Once again we are behind with our newsletter for which we apologise. Hopefully some of you have seen some of what has been happening from our Facebook page. For those of you who have a Facebook account you are welcome to join. Just go to our page "Harambee for Kenya" and ask to join.

We have had a really busy time. The trip to Kenya went well with new visitors joining us. It was a pleasure to have Amy and Susannah come for two weeks visiting Meru and Kisii. They had raised money to buy badly needed replacement mattresses, shoes and slippers (flip flops) for the boys and many other things. The boys thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

A week after they went home we had two others visit, Neil and Chris. Neil represented Sackville school who sponsored Carlos through university and wanted to meet the young man himself as well as see the Kisii project, while Chris wanted to come and do a PR video about the charity, which can be found on our website and our Facebook page. It was wonderful having them with us and the boys had a lot of fun with both of them. If any of you would like to make a visit, just contact us.

We have been busy since our return including meeting supporters, assemblies at schools and fundraising events. It never stops. So if any of you would like to help us with some fundraising to give us a chance to have some "us time" then please contact us. One date for your diary though.....

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2018.** We have booked the local community hall to hold a race night. £10 including fish & chip supper. Book early by contacting us. Next week a small group of us are going to a Scout Jamboree in Kent where there will be 4500 scouts! We are not only having a little shop but we will be doing soapstone staining with many of the scouts. Let us hope for dry weather and some terrific sales.

Our website has been updated too, now with the donation buttons working well. So if you know anyone who wants to make a one-off donation or donate on a regular basis, please tell them to visit [www.harambeeforkenya.org](http://www.harambeeforkenya.org)

So we hope you enjoy this newsletter and here is a short message from the UK Chairman.

"Our thanks go to all our supporters in England and Kenya. Our thanks also goes to all those who work tirelessly in Kenya as Directors and those who are employed. Without you, there is no Harambee. God Bless you all".



*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](http://www.harambeeforkenya.org) *Charity Reg. No. 1121597*

# Project News Nyakoe

We have an update on Carlos. He is going to Kirinyaga University to study HR. The Uni is between Embu and Meru. So he may well be able to visit the boys in Meru sometimes which will

be encouraging to the boys there. Hopefully it will also help to inspire them to work hard and achieve their dreams. Every one of the boys talk about having an education and how important it is. I am sure that he will go home to Kisii during the longer holidays too.



We have just heard that Reuben has been offered a place at Karoka Technical training institute to study "Diploma in Supplies Management *Business* Department"...whatever that means! He really wanted to do something in science but the lads don't get a choice in Kenya. The government look at their exam results and see where they would be best suited and which University. Good luck Reuben. Hope you enjoy the course.

All the boys are doing well at Nyakoe. We were privileged to be with them at a time that they have a presentation of awards. Andrew tries to include most of the boys but they all have to work hard to earn it. Neil, who is Deputy Head of Sackville school, found it incredible at how please the boys were with their prizes, saying that UK children/young people would expect so much more. The prizes were for those who did well at school in the different year groups and those that had improved. These boys were given things like Kerosene lamps and matches to light them, tee shirts, pencils or crayons. Other boys were rewarded for behaviour and improvement in that area. They were given things like flannels, soap and a towel, while others who did well in the art competition got colouring pencils. But they were all thrilled with their prizes. One lad, Wilfred who was awarded two prizes for different things, was elated and jumping up and down as if he had won the lottery. It was delightful to see. What our children would consider to be worthless was worth a fortune to the boys.

We were thrilled that a number of the boys had done so well at school. We are waiting for the reports to be sent but quite a few were in the top 5 in their classes. But one lad excelled. That is Hudson (below). He has been number one for the last three terms. He has really risen to the challenge and could go far.



He is being sponsored by four young ladies

who decided that to share the cost would make it easier to find the money each month especially when they were students. Their thought process made us realise that we could ask families or work colleagues to club together to help a lad through school. We have had a few groups choose to do this. So if you and your friends, family or colleagues want to help a lad, contact us.





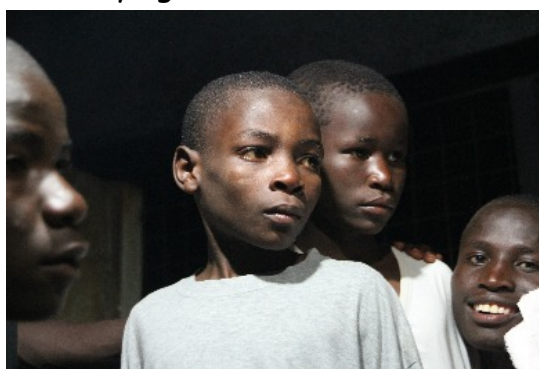
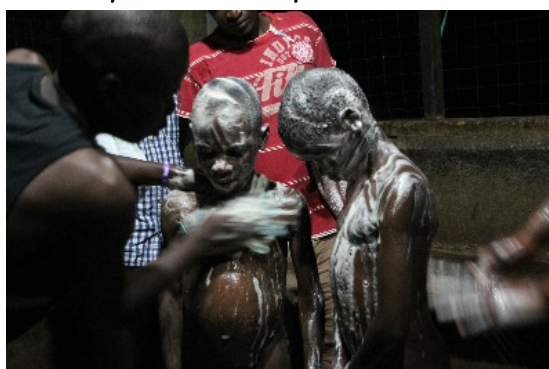
Chris came out as explained, as he wanted to take photos and do a video to promote the charity. Both he and Neil were touched by the plight of the boys on the street and thrilled at how the boys in our house had progressed. Chris did us really proud and produced a wonderful video which can be seen on our website at <http://www.harambeeforkenya.org/films>. The 30 minute documentary is called Umoja (Unity) and tells you about the boys plight, from their perspective. So get a cup of tea/coffee and sit down and see how far our boys have come in their short lives. Chris remained with the boys for two weeks after we left and taught them how to make a Rocket stove which will help to save money as it is costly to buy wood. Reuben, who helped build it later built one for an extended family member. We try to teach the boys skills that they can use in their lives. Certainly rocket stoves will help them to save money when they move out of the house.



While Neil and Chris were with us, we took them on the streets at night to see how the street boys were living. Chris took some footage that you can see on the video he made. In the video, initially things seem very sad, which they are, especially when you see the boys on the street. But we have to look forward to the potential these boys have in our care. Andrew told us that a few weeks ago he had 20 street boys crying to come to the safe house. Andrew said "what could I do? It was so upsetting". But unfortunately we could not help them. We have to sustain the project and funds would not allow us to expand any more. One of the boys, Calvin, said in the video that Chris made something along the lines that when he is employed he wants to "build many Harambees for Kenya". We have always wanted to empower the Kenyans to help sort out their own. Perhaps Calvin will be the one to do it!

Having visited the streets, we brought two 10yr olds back with us, Vincent and Brian. We texted ahead that we had two coming into the house and Lydia asked Jackie to boil water for washing. It is a slick system here!!!!

The big boys all take the new boys in hand, chatting with them to reassure them as it is quite frightening for them. They scrub them top to bottom and check them for lice and jiggers, while Jackie and Andrew are looking for sleeping clothes for them. Then two other big boys got two of the old mattresses from the store and two old blankets (they may run away and steal them if we gave new ones) Then Lydia gave them some rice and a drink and they are sent to bed in the house (separate from the boys although they all go to say hello). They were given flip flops too as neither had shoes and were staggered that they had a mattress and a blanket EACH, as they prepared to huddle together on one! Brought a tear to our eyes when Jackie told us of their reaction which consisted of big smiles. Then Chris told us that while he was with them in Lydia's one whispered to the other "it's OK here"....how sweet. Nearly forgot to mention we burn their old clothes because they are so dirty and torn and also in case they are carrying lice.



A Message from Neil..

### Neil Feist helps celebrate Sackville's links with 'Harambee for Kenya'



I first met Lesley when she was our Community Police Liaison Officer for Sackville School in East Grinstead in 2004. For years she kept me updated on the progress of the charity with increasing pride and ambition. She also constantly badgered me to visit them out there!

For four years, one of our year groups, now in year 12, sponsored Carlos through his secondary schooling.

We were therefore delighted this year to hear that Carlos had performed extremely well in his end of school exams and has been offered a place at university. His friend Reuben was also successful. The first boys to leave the streets and get into higher education!

So their success, and Harambee's tenth anniversary, seemed the perfect time for me to get out there and finally see the house and the boys for myself and to celebrate our links together

I had the great privilege of travelling out this Easter. It was an inspirational trip. Education is not taken for granted and the boys work extremely hard to escape the poverty and harshness of their early childhood.

They could not do this without sponsorship by friends and family of Lesley and the students here at Sackville.

I was struck by the feeling of brotherhood amongst the boys and the care and compassion Lesley and her teams out there show them.

Every day brought a new adventure, full of laughs and some tears; Kenyan football was unforgettable (a pitch full of craters and the spectators getting up-ended by the tackling players), a visit to the streets of Kisii one night, that ended up in us bringing two new boys back to the safe house and watching the boys delight at prize-giving day on receiving towels and colouring pens as rewards, plus their bemusement at how to eat a Cream Egg!

Whilst I was there, Carlos recorded a video message, thanking the students and staff here for their generous support. Lesley and Roger played this in assembly on our return to the UK. Not dry eye in the house!



Simon (on the left) and friend Josphat.

Our admin. staff have been so touched by the stories I brought back that they have decided to change the life of another boy and take part in the sponsorship and our year 7's have also started to sponsor another boy. I met Simon and he spoke so warmly of Sackville's support in his ambition to become Kenya's first astronaut or space engineer!

I am sure it'll continue to be a great relationship that will show our students what life in Africa is like for those children far less fortunate than themselves and hopefully Simon will become another success story for this incredible charity.



Date for your diary.

20<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Race Night at Heathfield  
Community Centre,

£10 inc. Fish & Chip Supper.

Save the date

NOW

More information to follow.

Our Thanks go to the following for  
their Support.

Bourne Community School.

Aunty Julie, Uncle Alan and Nanny Bixley

Jane Stodart      Kate Rowlingson

Nanny Byles (a phantom knitter!)

John & Hazel Savill      Amy Selby      Susannah Cole

Andy Shaw and Associates.      Phil Doolan

Ben Vince      Glynis & Pete Sands.

23<sup>rd</sup> Bromley Scouts.      Judy Chittenden

Sackville School and support staff.

Neil & Jo Feist.      Chris Dade

Hugh & Maureen Saunders      Sandie Potts

Dolphin ladies swimming club.

And all our regular supporters



Brian Mose is the big boy in this picture.

He is going to Secondary school and is doing very well. The reason he is going to secondary school is that he is being sponsored by a group of 33 people who have clubbed together and paid £10 each for the whole year to pay for his schooling. Yes only £10 each! Of course we don't all work in offices with that many staff but you could consider clubbing together as a group of friends or family to pay for another lad to have the same opportunity. So for instance 5 people could pay just £5 per month to make up the £25 per month to send another lad to secondary school. If you think you can do this, please contact us at [h4kinfo@gmail.com](mailto:h4kinfo@gmail.com) and we will send you our bank details. Without your help, the lads cannot get a complete education.

**THANK YOU**

*PLEASE PRAY*

*For the elections that are happening on 8<sup>th</sup> August in Kenya. It is not expected that there will be any trouble this time but we hope that will be the case.*

*Also, the price of food has rocketed partly due the political situation but mainly because of the drought that hit Kenya. Some rain has fallen but crops, especially Maize, which is a staple food, have doubled in price. This obviously has a considerable effect on our budgets. Of course if families are struggling too, then this can and probably will lead to more children running to the street and so it goes on.*

# Meru

Meru is doing quite well at the moment with about 31 boys. We say "about" because every time we say a figure we seem to have had a few more added to our number. The boys in Meru are much younger than those in Kisii. We have quite a few

under 10 years old. This can make it difficult for Dennis who cares for them because the younger ones need more nurturing, as do our own children at that age. But all the boys are doing really well and are healthy although there has been a bit of a cold going round!

All the boys have done well at school last term. John treated those who came 1<sup>st</sup> in their class to an outing at the local hotel where they had fun on the swings, slide, roundabout and pool. They were taken to the Heritage Hotel which where we often go to have lunch. We had no idea there was a pool there.



When we were there in March we were given a whole roll of fabric. So we set-to making pyjamas for the boys. They were over the moon with them. Amy and Susannah visited the boys and bought the fabric for us to make sheets for their beds. And new mattresses. So you can imagine the excitement when they had these three new things. There were squeals of delight!

As you can see all the boys had to be involved with carrying all the mattresses in. Even the smallest ones took part. The same with cutting the fabric for the sheets. I had quite a little posse helping. Some laying the fabric out, others holding it as I cut and lastly a team folding them neatly.



The boys love being involved in what we do. They see it as a "family" thing to do. They are always eager to please.



Work was also had to be done on the kitchen area as the shelter was rather dilapidated. The authorities also insisted that they had a washing up area. Sometimes it is a little difficult to understand their thinking! John spoke with them because if they were at home they would be



washing up in a bowl or even a river. Yet they insisted a wash stand was built. After we had left a fundi (builder) built it all. It may look like a shelter but there can be a lot of smoke so it is best left open with



Mesh to stop the youngsters climbing in when others are cooking, The picture on the right shows the wash stand.



We also arranged for all the top half of the walls to be painted as unfortunately they had been painted with a cheaper paint and the boys washed them a little rigorously causing all the paint to come off. So they have been glossed in order that they can be washed without issues arising.

We also receive a donation which meant sofas could be bought for the boys to use to relax on. They were commissioned to be made in time for us to see them in situ. But unfortunately the wheels turn slowly in Kenya so John (Chairman) took some photos of them for us. It was hard for John to get a reasonable photo



of them in the house, so he had them moved outside for the purposes of a photo. It's a shame they were not smiling but often when photos are posed, the lads remain serious. Once they relax they smile enormous smiles,

We are looking for a sponsor for Edward (below left) who is extremely bright and has been top of the class. He wants to study to be a Doctor and with the way he has performed may well succeed. He is very strong in science, scoring 84% in his last exam. So if any of you would like to help him through secondary school, please contact us on [h4kinfo@gmail.com](mailto:h4kinfo@gmail.com) He is the second boy at Meru to go to Secondary school and all the boys are really looking up to him.

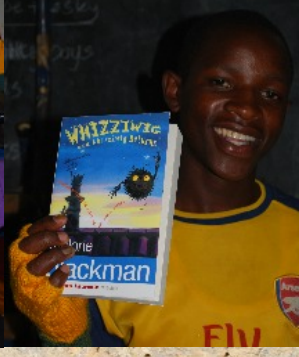


We are starting a new project at Meru to try and raise money to help pay the costs of looking after the boys. We have a piece of land which had coffee on it but unfortunately came to nothing, although we have had crops from the avocado trees, banana trees and Macadamia nuts. So we aim to make it more profitable by planting fast growing trees. They need very little care but the lower branches have to be removed to make sure they grow straight. Those branches will be used as fuel for the fire to cook for the boys. Then once they grow tall enough they are sold and the purchaser has to pay to have someone fell them and take them away. SO once the saplings are bought there is little or no cost involved. Johns brother has "farmed" trees and it can be lucrative. So please pray it all comes together.

We were very impressed this year when we saw a man with a chainsaw fell one of our trees and then with the same saw. Sliced it into lengths of 2x2 which we used for the kitchen frame work. It was amazing to watch.



# Gallery





# Gallery.

