

Newsletter

**Harambee
For Kenya**



No 23 Oct & Dec '11

Firstly, we must apologise for the newsletter being late. Since getting back from Kenya in October we have not stopped. One issue after another as well as having stalls at Craft Shows and of course the swimathon. (more on this later). But we got through.

The container arrived in Kenya while we were there but due to problems at Mombasa. So we were unable to receive it ourselves while we were in Kenya, which was a shame. We then had a problem with the charity that was getting the container through customs for us. Then there were more problems and it wasn't until four days before Christmas that we got everything safely into our hands. Our patience has really been tested over the last two months. But more on that later.

You will be pleased to hear that the boys at the projects are doing well. It is with sadness that we have now stopped assisting the feeding program in Nakuru. When we got involved we knew it would be for a period of time but did not know exactly for how long. The children are still fine but the Kenyan trustees felt that we had reached a time to stop, as Matthew was not co-operating with them. Matthew sent us a lovely message thanking all the sponsors for their help and wished everyone well.

Now we are concentrating on fundraising the money to build the new safe house in Meru District. We now have a real sense of urgency because of the difficulties the boys have been facing on the street. Tony, below, was beaten up by a man in the town. He was so badly beaten that he had to have his left eye removed.



We were all quite encouraged to hear that the Police were actively looking for the male as all too often the Police seem to do very little to help these young people. In fact John (NGO Chairman) was very encouraged by the help he had received from the authorities to try and catch the man. Even our Kenyan friends get very discouraged at the lack of help they receive.

We have also had the results for the boys at Nyakoe who took their KCPE exams. More of that on the next pages. Now we need to seriously look at sponsorship for them as secondary school has to be paid for. So please

read about it later and consider if you can help in any way.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and on behalf of the Trustees and children, we hope you have a good 2012.

100 Club

Sept 2011

£15 Jenny Turner

£10 Luke Lafferty

£5 Fiona Crook-Smith

Oct 2011

£15 Martin Kendrick

£10 Babs Dann

£5 Kevin Brown

Nov 2011

£15 Greg Dann

£10 Simon Deeprise

£5 Evelyn Watson

Congratulations everyone.

Our Thanks go to the following for their Support.

Sarah Tildsley, her mum and friends

Sally Di Fabio

Brenda Rankin.

East Grinstead Quilting Ladies

Skippers Hill School.

Cobnor Activity Centre

John & Hazel Savill

All those involved in the swimathon

Ashdown Park Hotel.

Jen & Iain Tunmore

Arnold Maughan,

Peter Sanderson

Liz Wilson

Lynne Owen

Emer Murphy

Skippers Hill School

And all our regular supporters



Dec 2011

£100 Frankie Chrusciel

£50 James Parker

£25 Megan Cutter

Congratulations to the winners. Don't forget to sign up to next years 100 club. Contact Jackie Parker at jackie@octoberhouse1.idps.co.uk

As you know we had been involved with Kenya. Rick was sending Medical among other things for the children in both charities..

Rick Sharpe International (RSI) in sending a container to supplies while we sent clothes, books and games. projects as well as other items to help other

The Container

The container left the country safely and well laden. It docked in Mombasa safely too but was delayed due to there being 1500 containers to distribute. Mombasa became flooded and then there was industrial action. So it arrived in Embakasi, Nairobi, just after we left the country in November. That was a shame because we were all ready to start doing the major job of an inventory and distribution.

Everything started to move but then we were let down by the charity who were helping to take it out of customs - they pulled out!! So Kennedy (a very good supporter, and friend in Kenya) spent the next couple of weeks trying to sort things out along with a British friend of Ricks who was in Kenya at the time.

We had one miracle after another whereby they were able to get all the correct paperwork together and the container was finally released.. But then Someone made a spurious accusation that Kennedy had stolen the container and the contents. The Police arrested him. It was a ridiculous situation as obviously the container and half the contents were owned by RSI and Harambee owned the other half of the contents. Kennedy had been given permission to help recover everything, by RSI, and H4K. Many people prayed for the situation as of course this would cost us money better spent on the children if it went on for too long. After 5 days the



case was dropped and we got our items out of custody four days before Christmas.. The UK trustees would like to publicly thank the Kenya Trustees and supporters for their strength and tenacity in making sure that justice was done and the container was released. Without their hard work we may not have achieved the result we got in the short time it took..



We held the first Swimathon on 26th November. It was deemed an enjoyable event by all those who took part and we plan to hold it again next year.

Swimathon

We had 12 teams take part and a number of individuals who swam throughout the night so that we could ensure there was someone in the pool for the whole 12 hours of the event.



It started at 9pm and ended at 9am. **ASHDOWN PARK HOTEL and Country Club** sponsored the event by allowing us to use their facilities, They also put in a team of swimmers.

The idea was for each team to get sponsorship and raise as much money as possible to help towards the cost of building the safe house at Meru.

We have estimated that we should have raised about £2500. But some people have raised more than they estimated.

There were personal achievements by many throughout the night. A disabled Scout managed to swim over 120 lengths of the pool while another Scout and Leader each managed 500 lengths and all the scouts managed 2500 lengths in total during the 12 hrs



The Scouts stayed the night sleeping on and off in the Aerobics studio while other supporters dozed on chairs. It was a real family atmosphere with Bacon butties, cakes and snacks were the order of the evening following each of the teams efforts. Two swimmers even got up at "silly o'clock" to get to the pool in time to swim at 3am. Then they went back home to bed. Each team was set a target to swim as far as they could in their one hour slot, each team competing to swim the furthest. The length of the pool was 12 metres and the teams managed to swim 7795 lengths in total. There was also a team from Somerset who could not attend on the night so they swam in their local pool during the week before the event, Well done to 1st Buckland St Mary Brownies.



So if you sponsored anyone, please make sure they receive your money. And to those who swam, please get your money in as soon as you can. Once again, thank you all for your support. Next one - 13th October 2012- hopefully.





Nyakoe

Three of our lads in Standard 8 (Yr 8) have recently sat their KCPE exams, All three were considered bright and were expected to pass with good enough grades to get help from the government to pay some of the fees for better schools. Unfortunately they did not get the required 350 marks/500. So they will go to a local secondary school. Secondary education has to be paid for and it will cost around £150 per year, each. We will have the figures

confirmed very soon when their places are confirmed.

We need to find sponsors to help get them through their schooling. It is amazing what these boys have achieved so far because not only have they been on the streets uneducated but they had been unable to attend school for quite some time before we helped them. So they have had to catch up with their work to even be able to sit these exams. Can you help them to achieve more through their secondary education. If you can please contact us.



Naftal scored 253/500



Victor 221/500



Brian 200/500

They were all disappointed but we know that they tried hard and poor Brian's Dad died about a week before his exams which probably didn't help. So if you would like to support one of the boys through school email us.

More news.....

The boys had a wonderful Christmas this year. Andrew said that he had never seen the place decorated in such a lovely way. They killed a goat and had other special things to eat as well as playing many of the games that we had taught them in 2010. The pictures tell the story...enjoy! Thanks to the sponsors for this.



Dennis Ondieki is being sponsored to go to Polytechnic to train to be a motor mechanic. He is enjoying his course and has been doing work experience before returning to college for the next term. To do this we had to provide him with overalls, tools and tool box.



You can see him here with Andrew choosing his tools to go into his tool box. He is extremely proud of what he is doing and is our first boy to go through college.

We are so proud of all the boys who are now really aiming to achieve at school to give them a chance to get good jobs at the end of it and then to help others once they are earning themselves.



Meru

We were able to visit the land we purchased in Meru District while we were there in October. It is about 0.2 acres and is on a slight slope but the views are beautiful. The fencing is almost complete and there will also be a gate put in. The ground is very fertile and already has established trees including avocado and banana trees. We plan to start building the toilets soon and then a semi permanent building so that the boys have somewhere safe to sleep.



John's son Tom has been a real asset to the project. He has been on the street with friends to work with the boys when he can. He has a very good way with them and they respect him. He is a youth worker in his church which of course gives him an advantage. He certainly seems to be able to relate to them well.

The boys were also treated to a Christmas celebration too. They had a lovely time. The price of food went up quite a lot this year. It will be so much easier once we have them under one roof because we will be able to buy in bulk and store it. This should make it cheaper when buying the extras for Christmas in the future. So please help us raise the money for the building.



Christmas Celebration pictures



The boys enjoyed their special food and sodas. They all met at the local church where the members regularly feed them and care for them. The land is about 1.5km from the church. So they will still keep in contact when they move in.

We, the UK trustees, would like to thank the Ladies of the church who, without fail, turn up to feed these boys during the week. Without their help the children may miss out on being fed.

The cost of food in this area of Kenya has risen so dramatically we had to give Pastor John 50% extra to that which we normally give for Christmas. We have already agreed to rent some land in the area where crops can be grown to help this situation. It is very fertile land so hopefully it will make a big difference to our budget.

Just thought you would like to
has just received and order for SIX 14" plates of the Ark.

Extra! Extra!

hear news we have just received. Denilson
Let's hope that this is the start of
many. The three plates were done as samples for a chain of hotels in
Kenya. They also have three hotels in Uganda. So this first order is a real
test to see how they sell and hopefully they will. Denilson had to copy their
logos and did them very well. He should be pleased with his achievement
so far



Our next trip to Kenya, which is open to anyone to join us, is 18th October to 3rd November 2012. We, Roger and Lesley, will be going and you are most welcome to join them. The estimated cost will be £1200 for the fortnight dependant on flight cost and whether you stay at the local hotel or self cater with us at the project. Contact us if you are interested in joining us. Lesley@harambeeforkenya.org This is not an organised charity trip, just an offer for you to join us and pay your way, sharing in such costs as transport.

Fundraising

We need your help!

We are looking for more people to help us fundraise.

At the moment we have a small but happy band of helpers who do craft sales and boot fairs to help us raise funds to care for the children. Can you do one or maybe two boot fairs a year to raise money. We will give you I.D. so that people can see you are recognised fundraisers. Or can you come and help us do ours. Contact us now before the season starts.



Ideas

Can you run a quiz night or race night to help us raise funds. What about a fork supper with friends and have a raffle? If each friend does a dish as a donation to the evening and everyone donates say £5 for a two or three course meal. Then you can send the donation to us for the kids.

What about a Kenya evening with Kenyan recipes?

Maybe you have a better idea. Share them with us and better still, run it and let us know how it went. Send us pictures and we can share your idea.

There must be many ideas that you have. Share them with us. You may even be able to think of more ideas that people can do in their own homes with friend. We can let you have pictures, videos and slide shows as well as leaflets so that you can share our work so that your friends/colleagues can know where the money goes. What about a mufly day at work or school? What about a group of 10 work colleagues putting in £2 PER MONTH to sponsor a child? It's over to you.

Gallery 2011 in pictures



Linnet Clough service crew



Chickens donated by Linnet Clough



Big boys leave home



Denilson working



The big boys set up in business



With the children in Nakuru



Dennis gets tools for college



Junior and senior football teams



Meru Boys



Meru feeding program



Boys enjoy the newsletter



New Houseparents employed



Relaxing in Rafiki House



Sally Teaching in school



Meru Street boys



Meru lads



Haircuts ready for school



Happy to be brothers

On behalf of the children and the trustees, thank you for your support and Happy New Year