

# Newsletter

## Harambee For Kenya



*No 32. Oct & Dec '13*

*We are at the end of what has been an eventful year. The last few months have been particularly manic in Kenya as well as here. The building at Meru is progressing well but getting the boys in the house is not happening as fast as we had hoped. The main reason is that the Kenyan Directors are having to work with the authorities and they are insistent on a few things to be in place first and on top of that are a bit slow!!! But the boys are still excited. More about that later.*

*We were fortunate to have Sandie Potts and John Savill on the latest trip. They were real stalwarts and for the "many" of you who helped load the container, well they were two of about 15 of us who unloaded the container and then only 9 of us who loaded two other lorries to go to both projects. Thank you guys.*

*Our chairman, Roger, has asked that we mention that we need some extra help with fundraising. Specifically, doing craft stalls during this year selling the soapstone and other artefacts we bring into the country to sell. This is one of our main sources of income, but he is getting very tired now and would like help. So if you can assist, please contact him on [chairman@harambeeforkenya.org](mailto:chairman@harambeeforkenya.org) If you have any other fundraising ideas that you can organise, wherever you are in the world, again, please contact him and tell him what you will be doing and when.*

*We are organising another race night on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 with tickets being £10 per adult and £7 per child under 14yrs, both including a fish and chip supper. We are limited to space and would ask you to contact us to book your places. We have had so much fun when we held one in October and would hate you to miss out on another fun evening. There will be a bar for drinks too so don't miss it.*

*We worked hard in July and August getting the container ready for the long trip to Kenya. We had expected to see all the goods safely ensconced in their appropriate projects. But that was not to happen. It took quite a while for it to be released from Mombasa to Nairobi and then to clear it through customs. But albeit a nuisance, it meant that we were there to see it delivered and unloaded. Again, there is more about that later too.*

*Finally, we would like to thank you all for your continued support and interest in what we are doing and more importantly, how the boys are doing. We would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year and hope that 2014 is a good year for all of you.*

*Trustees:- Roger Dann (Chairman), Lesley Dann, Patricia Musgrave, Jackie Cooper, Mike Wilding, Ben Vince. 21 Cuckmere Rise, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8PG 01435*

# THE CONTAINER

*We had a pretty difficult time getting the container out of customs in Kenya and it cost us more than we wished - thank goodness for gift aid. But one thing is for sure, that the contents were worth a lot more than we paid and the Kenyans are really grateful to all of those people who have helped us.*



*It was really exciting to see it coming up the hill on the back of a really rough lorry....well rough by British standards! We had not been to the house where it was being unloaded and it was quite a surprise to see the road it had to travel along. In fact with it being so narrow and the container being so long, the lorry could not be turned into the drive. So we had to unload it and carrying it up the long drive.*



*There were a number of local men who appeared from nowhere. We were not sure about allowing them to help as it would have been easy for things to go missing. But as we started we realised this was going to be a big undertaking so Andrew (on the right above) negotiated a price with them to help. They agreed on a price of 200KS per person for the day. They were very happy with that and did a good job. In English? They got £1.48!!!! It's a different world isn't it? They were a great bunch and did a really good job so we gave them each a teeshirt too. It was so nice to see that we had made there day,*

*It took us about four hours to unload and put into three main piles for each of the projects. Then we reloaded the tables, chairs, filing cabinet and school uniforms that were going to Hadassah school in Nakuru and the driver took the lorry there to unload it on his way back to Nairobi.*



Andrews cousin has a beautiful house just outside Nakuru. We were given permission to store everything there until we could send it to Kisii and Meru. The container was unloaded on the Saturday then on the Sunday we the lorry for Kisii was loaded and on the Monday the lorry for Meru left.



Loading took about 4 hours on each lorry and as you can see from the pictures, it was an extremely hot day. It was all clearly labelled, as those of you that helped to load the container would know. This made transferring everything so much easier.



Customs insisted that the clothes were fumigated so unfortunately they had to be removed from their boxes in order to do this.

It is such a shame as it was all sorted in boxes according to type and size of clothing. So we will have our work cut out when we get there in March, sorting it out again, never mind!

What has turned out to be invaluable is the fact we were there when the container arrived.

We were frustrated but the timing worked out to be perfect. We felt really satisfied that we had been able to see this through from start to finish and know everything was there.





# *Project News* Nyakoe

*You saw in the last newsletter how well the boys have done at school. It is also great to say that they have also done well in the local town. Let us explain.*

*On 1<sup>st</sup> December the boys took part in the World Aids day parade in Kisii wearing their Scout Uniforms. A man who knew the boys suggested that he could train them to march properly so that they could parade with the armed services at the Independence Day celebrations. So he met them at the stadium and started the hard work. He then went down to the safe house to do more work and then they went to town to finish their training with the armed forces before the big day on 12<sup>th</sup> December.*

*It was during this time that one of the county ministers who had seen the boys at the World Aids day celebrations asked Andrew to go and meet him to discuss the project. From this the project here was recognised by the governor who included the boys in the "Christmas Tree Gifts" given out each year.*

*We were given one bale + one packet of meal; one bale + four packets of wheat flour; 8 litres of cooking oil; 90 kg bag of maize; 30 kg Beans; 8 kg sugar; 30 rolls of toilet paper; 1 kg detergent; 50 kg rice; 2 bars of washing soap. (The soap bars are about 1ft long and have to be cut up) Having had this should cut our food bill down for the month which is brilliant.*

*Then we received a request from the boys that some of the Christmas money sent could be used to buy sweets to take to their friends who are still on the streets. They also chose to have fish for their Christmas dinner too instead of meat. It is lovely to hear that the boys are included in such decisions. They are certainly rising to the idea of listening to each other and decision making.*

*We also had some wonderful news about one of our lads, Samuel. He proudly announced that he had been picked to play for the Harambee All Stars. This is the national under 17 football team. All being well he is going to Sweden in January to train and play. Here is his story in his own words....*

*"Born of a drunkard family, I stayed long hours without food. My ever drunkard father used to beat mother time in time out. Mother used to brew liquor by then and they all used to drink terribly including my brothers.*

*At 6 yrs I decided to go to the streets, where I met some boys who encouraged me to play football. We used to practise at Kisii stadium and indeed formed a team. This is when Osoro Juma spotted my talent and thereby encouraged me to pull up my socks and cautioned me on hard drugs because he insisted to me that they don't go hand in hand with football. Luckily enough I was brought into Harambee for Kenya Safe house later on - a safe house that has moulded me all round development. Praise be to God the Almighty - Amen.*





# HADASSAH Mission School

The school is continuing to support about 250 children and we received these pictures showing the children with the uniforms they received. Some of the tables can also be seen.



*We enjoyed helping to serve the children's lunch and wash up so the others could use the same plates as they had too few for everyone.*



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

Jeanette Miller  
The Moore family. Ben Murray- Brown  
Jan & Rob Kendall,  
Holy Cross Ladies Fellowship.  
Skippers Hill School.  
John & Hazel Savill Margaret Harris  
Gill Rogers and Peter Gilks  
Sarah Kendrick Liz Walters.  
23<sup>rd</sup> Bromley Scout Leaders  
Lewisham Manor District Scouts  
Wallis Centre, East Grinstead  
Bob Broadway Cobnor sailing centre  
The Benson family The Barham family  
John Sharpe

And all our regular supporters



# Meru

The building is progressing but some of the costs seem to be rising so we are hoping we can get the work finished without too much

hassle. The cost of wiring it in has just come through and is more than expected. So we may have to hold back on some parts in order to make it comfortable for them. Lights are important not only for safety but also because the nights are long and very dark. It tends to get dark just before 7pm and then light at about 6.30am.



While we were there in October we found the living area to be nearly finished. It is looking very nice and the building for the sleeping accommodation was well on the way. The picture on the left will be the day room. Below is the dining area, looking through to the kitchen.



The walls have been plastered, windows and doors painted and now the kitchen has to be put in....no it won't be from the local kitchen studio!!! It is going to have an open fire in a concrete surround a bit like a barbeque. I will show you pictures in another newsletter when it is completed. The sleeping accommodation is further on than this shows but we have not received any pictures yet.

The accommodation consists of 6 bedrooms and an apartment with two bedrooms for the carer who will live on site. We put out an appeal to raise funds for the metal bunk beds we needed in the house and we have been really blessed with the response. Those are being made at the moment.



We are also waiting to see pictures of the banana plantation which has been planted now on the bottom half of the land. Oathall school in Haywards Heath raised money for this and it is intended to raise money from this to help supplement some of the costs of running the house.

The sponsor who raised the money for the building was asked to name the house. This will be known as Harambee For Kenya, Hope House, which we think is great as it is "hope" that we are trying to give these boys.



## *Meru Continued.....*



*We were with the boys at lunch time one of the days when we really appreciated how much they need to be in the safe house. John and Tom take the food to them wrapped up in little packages. You can see this in the first picture. They were given Ugali on this occasion. This is maize flour, mixed with water and salt until it fills out a bit like a dumpling. It is full of carbs, fills them up and keeps them sustained for quite a few hours.*

*John and Tom dished out one parcel per boy and there was some over to distribute. At the moment the younger boys are still with the older boys who can become very animated and quite intimidating. We witnessed those boys following John and even pushing him to try and get the remaining food. This went on for about 5 minutes with John almost getting pushed to the floor at one point. Roger became quite angry at what they were doing. It takes a lot to make him angry and when he is, everyone knows it. He stepped in between them and shouted at them to stop and told them in no uncertain terms that if they do not show respect to John and stop pushing him, the feeding program would be stopped. There was stunned silence followed by apologies.*

*It was quite frightening to see these boys as they turned into animals. We have seen this before in other places but it is a strong reminder about the care that we have to take with dealing with the lads. In fairness the younger ones did not get so animated and stayed well back and this showed us that the Directors decision was right to take the younger ones into the house so as to try to prevent them from going down the same path as the bigger lads.*

*Left;- the bottom of the land where the plantation is being placed. Right;- Derek is one of our boys who cut his finger badly so we administered first aid.*



# RACE NIGHT

**HARAMBEE  
FOR KENYA**

**Raising funds**

**1st HEATHFIELD  
SCOUT HQ**

**← for →**

**\* Tickets \***

**£10 per Adult**

**£7 per child.**

**Includes Fish & Chip**

**Or sausage & chip Supper**

**7.30 - 10.30pm  
Sat. 1st Mar.  
2014 at Heathfield  
Community Centre**

**A fun packed evening for all to enjoy.**

**Bar available**

**Bring money for a raffle as well as your 50p's  
to bet on the 8 races throughout the evening.**

**Sponsor a horse for £5 and win £20 if  
it wins the race. Contact us to choose  
your Nag/Champion.**

**Book your place now to avoid  
disappointment**

**Lesley 07941041616 or Jackie 07941313781**



# Gallery

