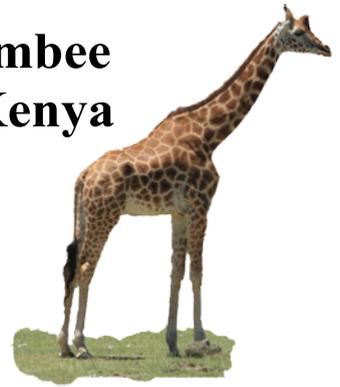


# Newsletter

## Harambee For Kenya



No15 April'10

*So what is new. you may ask?. Well from our perspective perhaps the question needs to be... where do we start?*

*Before we went to Kenya, we had been informed that a charity called Africa 2000 Network Kenya had written a proposal. On meeting with them we learned that they are supported by the United Nations, UNDP, which immediately reminded us that we had noticed that "UNDP" had looked at our web site, shortly before we left for Kenya. Not sure what this proposal meant or what it involved, we met them and were overwhelmed to find out that the Kenya part of the charity had been awarded 350,000 Kenya Shillings (approx. £3,500) This is the first amount of money that the NGO has been awarded which thrilled us. The money has been given specifically for training the volunteers working out there, in skills like counselling. But the majority of the money has to be used to train the older boys in skills like animal husbandry and any other skills seen fit to move the boys into work or further schooling. Some will also be used in supporting their families when and if it is appropriate to return the children to their homes.*

*We were also informed that there was a training day on the Friday that they really wanted us to go to, which was to do with Aids & HIV. It was an interesting time where we met a number of Kenyans who were either starting out or already involved working with less fortunate Kenyans. We learnt a lot about the numbers of Aids & HIV victims in Kenya and were quite surprised to find that the Nyanza Province, which is where Kisii is situated, had 14% of the people HIV or AIDS infected. The average age for life expectancy has dropped from 65yrs to 46yrs. It really made us determined to have our boys tested so that we could get the appropriate medicines for them if they prove positive. It is usually only adults who are tested for this but we were told that the boys in the safe house will be tested free of charge and that if they are infected then they will be entitled to free medicines. As yet we do not know how many of our boys are positive or negative and finding out would be a great help in knowing as to whether any of their sickness is related to this.*

*As if all this excitement wasn't enough, at the end of our stay with the lads, Irene and Aloice (from Africa 2000 Network) returned to meet with us again. This time they informed us that there may be more money available to help us continue the work. This has been a truly amazing time and if everything comes to reality then the project will be propelled onto another level. We were also told that Africa 2000 Network were really happy to be working with an established charity that did not have people working in it who were trying to meet their own needs. They said, "we want to use Harambee For Kenya as a flagship. We want to see Harambee For Kenya spread all over Kenya and with our help this can happen". To be honest, the Kenyan trustees were amazed at this declaration and if we are honest, nervous, scared and excited at the same time. But one thing we do know is that we, as a charity, will do our best to do the right thing for the Street children that come into contact with us. If this means building other safe houses, then so be it. But may we assure you that this will be done with as much care and consideration as the first, in order that we get it right first time.*

*While sitting in a hospital in Kisii with a sick Scout I saw these words in a book Roger lent me. They ring so true as we try and help the street boys of Kisii.*

*Poverty is...*

*Having to work illegally.....It's having to do whatever you can to stay alive, a thief of survival.*

*It's losing your family..... It's watching your father beat your mother, your mother beat you, and knowing inside that they lost your soul a long time ago.*

*Being hungry.....it's eating from the garbage but living on empty.*

*Being exploited....it's being a kid without a home or a family, without food, addicted to glue, being taken into the police station so they can rob you of your last few bob.*

*Needing escape, but there is nowhere to go.....finding solace in a bag of glue so that you can hide from life.*

*Knowing your need.... It's crying out to God because He is the only way to survive and live through life. You know this because there's never been anything else to lean on.*

*Never knowing a different reality other than the one you live in.... It's believing that there's no chance to dream, or to become, or to be working in a profession you want to work in, because life to you is only about surviving.*

*Not having....It is seeing life, living life, for what it is, without the "stuff".*

Extract from "Nothing but a thief" by Danielle Speakman.

### **Our Thanks go to the following for their support.**

Lydia Chaplain and all her "supporters"  
Kim & Stella Allfrey, Bill Compton, John Bell, Silas Tye, Miles Geldart, Phillip Davis, Tom Baker, David and James Parker, Beth Moore, Elliott White, Alan & Gary Owens (and Carlos!) Janice Hall.

Irene Agate. Rachel Walker.  
Marje Ellett

Africa 2000 Network.

## **100 Club**

**March 2010**

**£15 Roger Dann**

**£10 Frankie Crusciel**

**£ 5 Simon Deeprise**

**April 2010**

**£15 Joe Wilding**

**£10 Woyciech Marchewka**

**£5 Greg Dann**

## **Marathon**

**A message from Rachel Walker who completed the marathon.**

**2010 London Marathon**

I did it! I completed the Marathon in a time of 6 hours 14 minutes and 1 second. It was a very long way, it was painful, it was daunting, it was tiring, it was emotional, it was a challenge and I guess it was a tiny bit fun! The crowd and atmosphere was just incredible and the support from the spectators and other runners was just amazing.

Thanks to the generosity of my family, friends and work colleagues I managed to raise around £1000 for Harambee for Kenya, which I am so pleased with. I also hope that by carrying around the charities name on my running top I have helped to raise the profile of the charity.

You still have a chance to sponsor her. It's not too late, so follow the link to log in to her Just giving page and consider sponsoring her.

[www.justgiving.com/Rachelsmarathon2010](http://www.justgiving.com/Rachelsmarathon2010)

**Well Done Rachel.....we're proud of you**

## THE HARAMBEE EXPERIENCE

What can I tell you about the Harambee experience in Kenya? Should I tell you about the beautiful scenery? How about the kindest people I have ever met? Or about how inspiring a group of young street kids can be? What about the friends I have made? Would you like to hear about the impact our visit had? I'm sure I could report to you enough stories and tales to fill several newsletters, I promise I will not though.

This Easter I travelled to Harambee house in Nyakoe with a group of scouts and explorers and their leaders. I have travelled the world through scouting but this was my first experience of Africa in a Scouting capacity. I cannot thank the scouts and the adults enough for the friendships that were forged, the experience was made all the better for being there with them.

All the talk and reports before departure cannot prepare you for what you encounter in Kenya. You are unable to comprehend the stories until you see it right there happening in front of you. The image that was painted in my mind of Harambee Safe House was so grand, a building of such importance that was warm and welcoming. I can ensure you my expectations were not tarnished upon arrival at the house and during my time there. The house seems to have an aura pouring out of it which provides protection and love for so many suffering souls, nurturing those souls and turning them into young men. The house seemed to have a mothering instinct within it. It cared for the boys and provided an environment for such amazing events to take place.

If the house was special its inhabitants went far beyond that description. There is no superlative for the boys and Elijah's family that can truly show how you feel about them. Their passion, enthusiasm and love combine to show us young men who have had to grow up very fast but thanks to the love of others they are able to enjoy a childhood again. They still have responsibilities that our children cannot contemplate at the same age and they have worries that their slim shoulders have to carry but they now have others to share that burden with. They once again have a family who supports them and cares for them when they most need it.

The boys at the house are what make the trip though. They are the reason so much hard work is channelled in one direction. It is often difficult to forget why you do voluntary and charity work and get wrapped up in it too much but you can't do that when these boys are always in such close proximity to you. It is impossible to allow yourself to feel sorry for yourself and be downbeat when you are greeted each morning with a Cheshire cat grin and the warmest welcome. The boys have such a talent for making you feel special without even trying, they exude friendliness and love pours from them in your direction. When you talk to the boys and hear their stories it just staggers you even more how these boys have turned their lives around. If you were in any doubt of how important some love and care can be to a child's health then spending time with these boys or seeing the smiles on their faces will banish those doubts.

The boys struck up fantastic relationships with the scouts and the scouts rose to the occasion and embraced the Kenyan boys. Friendships were definitely made and how many people can say they have a best friend on another continent? Undoubtedly this was an experience anybody in Harambee House for those two weeks will ever forget.

All this is thanks to some very special people and it was my absolute pleasure to spend the time in the company of such inspiring people, both Kenyan and English. The trip really helps you to take stock of your life and approach it in new ways. I hope this has given you an insight to my views on our trip and Harambee for Kenya. Unfortunately to tell you more would be impossible as I don't think I would ever stop writing, such was the scale of my experiences with these amazing people.

Asante Sana

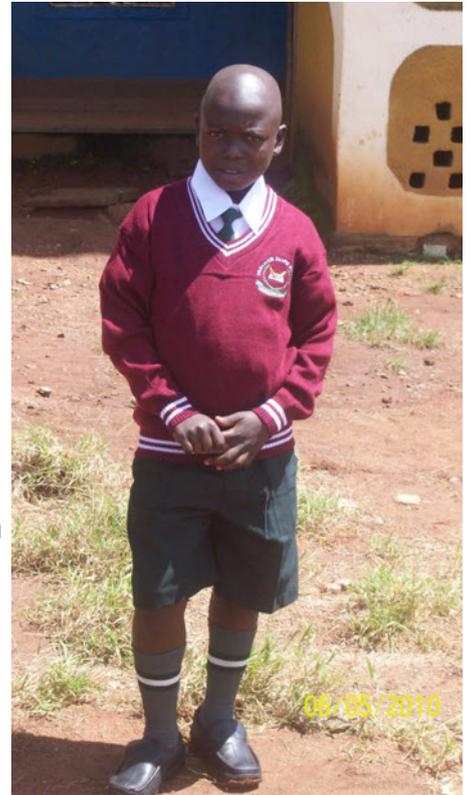
Alan Owens

## TRIPS COMING UP

**16th to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010.**

Roger and Lesley will be going back again on these dates. If you would like to go with them, then let us know now as we will be **booking flights in May.** email [lesley@harambeeforkenya.org](mailto:lesley@harambeeforkenya.org) for more information.

Julius, as many of you know, is a very bright boy who wants to be a judge. While in Kenya this month, a sponsor came forward to pay for him to go to a private boarding school.



Andrew, a Kenyan Trustee and teacher, felt that he would benefit from this opportunity and found out where the best place was. Precious Hope School has an excellent reputation and before we had even left the country, Julius had visited the school for an interview, which he passed. He is very excited at starting at the school on 6th May. We hope that he enjoys his time at the school and achieves well. Who knows! He may even achieve his dream. This picture was taken on his first day - 6th May.

## MEET THE BOYS



**Malack Obati** arrived at the project in October 2008 when we were building it. His stomach was distended, he had worms and jiggers in his feet. He was in a sorry state. We were told that his father was a drunkard and his mother had eloped. Malack had been staying with an uncle who beat him. So he ran away. He fled to Nyakoe where he was found picking food from the dustbins. A lady took him in but found him hard to deal with. Having taken him to the medical centre for medicines we took him into the house. It was felt that he should be

fostered because he was only about 8yrs old. But unfortunately this did not work out and he stole from his foster carer. The foster carer was happy to try to continue but Malack rebelled and wanted to stay at the house. Last year he ran back to the streets and in July we found him again, totally intoxicated through glue. But after a few difficult days of him detoxing (Oh boy was he horrible!) he became the mischievous, but lovable Malack we knew. He loves being at the house and is enjoying school too. At his young age he says he wants to be a doctor or a driver when he grows up.



**Brian Orina** was abandoned by his mother. We don't know why but he was the youngest child (his siblings are adults) and his father had died, so this is probably the reason. He is about 10yrs old and was on the street for about one week, which was fortunate that we found him when we did. He used to eat scraps from the bins having helped the hotels dispose of them. He says that he would like to be a driver when he

leaves school. He attends a local school and is doing well.

# Gallery

Pictures taken from 1st Heathfield Scouts Trip. April 2010



Yes. They were white socks!

