

Educaid Africa

NEWSLETTER

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Kenyan Trip 2013

It really does not seem like two years have passed since we last went to Kenya but here we are again packing our suitcases, making sure vaccinations are up to date and taking the malaria tablets. This year a party of ten intrepid travellers; Linda and Martin Maxfield, Jenni Kitson, Cliff and Lorraine Armstrong, Angela Robson, Angela Cloke, John and Karen Handford all led by our chairman Ian Carnell flew out of Gatwick Airport on a cold February day. For John, Karen and Angela Cloke it was their first visit to Kenya. We had so much luggage you could have thought we were going for six months instead of two weeks but the airline had allowed us four charity bags which were full of gifts for the schools in Mombasa thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Over the next few pages please join us on our journey which was a very memorable and fulfilling trip.

A group attended church on our first full day. They took part in the service passing on good wishes from their churches in England. We presented books and children's Bibles to the Sunday School. Solihull Methodist Church and Barston Church funded these gifts

After a day's relaxation following the long journey we embarked on a very full agenda visiting schools, nurseries, St Luke's hospital and the Wesley Community Centre in Mombasa.

Community Centre

We were given a very warm welcome on arrival at the Community Centre. A Key priority for us was to visit the courses sponsored by Educaid. We were disappointed that the woodwork class was not running due to lack of support, however furniture was still being made for the schools. It was a very different feel in the dressmaking classes which were popular with young women learning the skills of pattern making and sewing. The same interest was evident in the cookery school with young men and women learning hotel and catering skills. The fruits of their hard work were sampled at the end of our visit when a two course meal was served to us prepared and cooked by the students.



Dressmaking class



Cookery school

The highlight of this visit to the Community Centre was visiting the nursery class. As on previous occasions the young children entertained us with their singing which always brings a lump to your throat. We presented the teacher with books and equipment for the class which were gratefully received and the children enjoyed the glove puppets which had been donated by Christine Doncaster's team of knitters. The children's delight can be seen in the photograph



Nursery pupils playing with the glove puppets

Sponsored pupils

It is always a pleasure to visit the sponsored pupils. The gratitude of these young people certainly is evident when we talked to them. As on previous occasions we visited the four secondary schools namely Ribe Boys School, Ribe Girls School, St John's School and St George's School. This year we spoke to 54 pupils in the four schools. This is the highest number of pupils we have supported. It was a delight to talk to the students who are often keen to talk about life in school although some are very shy. I think some British pupils would have a shock if they had to attend a Kenyan School. The day starts at 4.30am and ends when they go to bed at 10.00pm. They do get time out for meals and an hour for games each day. They work very

long days with lessons six days of the week. We gave all the students a gift from EducAid of pens, pencils, notebooks and a wind up torch. All the gifts were donated. In addition we gave the schools books purchased with money raised by Soft Cat.



Ribe Boys School



Ribe Girls School



St Georges School



St John's School

National School

Ribe Boys' School has now become a National School. The status was achieved due to sustained high examination results. For this status it does receive additional funding from the government but the down side is that they have doubled their fees. This has resulted in some pupils having to leave the school. However the Trustees have decided to continue to fund our existing pupils but in the future we will seriously consider supporting the school as we can educate two pupils at the other schools for the price of one pupil at Ribe Boys School.

Primary Schools

Our visits to the primary school are always exciting as to get to them we have to leave the main roads behind and journey across country. The roads are bumpy and the scenery shows the poor conditions that the local people endure. When we enter the schools it is to the sound of children singing "Welcome welcome". At M'Bungoni School we were warmly greeted and after visiting every class and meeting all the staff and children the whole school gathered in the open air under the shade of a mango tree. Here we presented the school with books donated by Solihull Beavers and in usual tradition the school choir sang to us. The event was concluded with Ian taking the children on a "Lion Hunt" We are all sure that Ian is famous throughout Kenya as we often hear children sing the song as we journey around the area.



M'Bungoni School presentation of books



Ian's famous Lion Hunt!

At Mwarakaya School the welcome was just as moving with the chanting of "Welcome" Pupils, staff and parents all gathered outside the classroom and we were pleased to present the school with books, pens, pencils, crayons and equipment. Afterwards the children sang to us and the mothers were persuaded to sing to us in their local dialect. They had us all tapping our feet. Before we left, the children all enjoyed their "Lion Hunt".



Presenting books at Mwarakaya School (Money donated by Streetsbrook School.)

When we first visited Malau many years ago the school had 14 nursery children who were taught in the church. When we arrived this year we were greeted by 500 children. The development of the school has been a real community project. The women make the bricks and the men build the school rooms and EducAid has helped with roofing the buildings. They were keen to show us all the new building work and the new perimeter fence to keep the school secure. (The perimeter fence was paid for by Softcat.)

One of the highlights of this visit was meeting one of the teachers who had been an EducAid sponsored pupil. It made it all seem so worthwhile.

Books were presented by Ian having been donated by Streetsbrook and the children were entertained and joined in with great gusto as Ian took them on the famous "Lion Hunt" assisted by John.

This school is keen to develop and they informed us that their next project is to put electricity into the school so that they can make more use of the school buildings in the evenings.

We all left Malau School feeling very happy that the work of EducAid was having such an impact. It may be a "drop in the ocean" but for this small community near Mombasa it really matters.



Malau school new developments

Malau Primary School has a special place in all our hearts



Presenting books at Malau School

Kibarani School for the Deaf.

It is a long drive to Kibarani School as it is situated in Kilifi which is north of Mombasa but we were keen to make the trip as Stratford upon Avon Rotary Club had given us over 200 hearing aids for the school. The Head Teacher was very appreciative of our donation to his school. It was also an opportunity to meet Baraka Kalama, a deaf boy from Janet's village who is sponsored by EducAid. We all enjoyed the journey as it gave us the opportunity to visit new areas of Kenya.



Presenting hearing aids to Kibarani School

Past Pupils

One of the things that the Trustees are keen to develop is the mechanism to keep in touch with pupils who have completed their education. With the development of email, even in Kenya, we are hoping this will be possible. During our stay we were privileged to meet some of our past pupils. Felix Mwachinga now employed, and Nathaniel Nzao in his last year at university made the long journey from Nairobi. For John and Karen it was especially memorable as they have sponsored Nathaniel for many years. To meet him made the whole process of sponsorship so meaningful. Beatrice Shauri who is sponsored by Educaid made the long journey from her placement on the Tanzanian border where she is in her final year of her training to be a nurse.



Felix



Nathaniel

St Luke's Hospital

We were pleased to meet the newly appointed doctor and some of the board of directors. The hospital is meeting many of the needs of the community. However it is not in the same league as a British hospital. This was bought home to us when we visited the maternity ward and saw a premature baby - no life saving incubator for this new baby. It was fighting for life.

The St Luke's Day which Educaid supports had been very successful this year with a record number of patients receiving free medical care and medicines.



St Luke's Hospital

Message from the Trustees

The Trustees of Educaid would like to convey their thanks to Stephen and Janet Arome and Jonah and Agnes Arome for all their hard work. Without their support Educaid would not be able to function. We would particularly like to thank Stephen for organising our visit and for all his work selecting pupils, purchasing their uniform and equipment and visiting the schools on our behalf every term. Stephen has been associated with Educaid since the beginning.



Beatrice



The Kenyan Team

The Trustees would also like to thank all their sponsors for their generosity which helped to make our trip so successful



Jenni's bed laden with gifts for schools

Some photographs from the trip to conclude

