



CHADIK newsletter number eight – July 2014

It is difficult to believe that it is already three years since we amicably split off from the Kijani Kenya Trust and started to form our own charity. It took nine months to complete the registration of CHADIK and we haven't looked back. With two new trustees on the Board and an active Management Group, we feel better equipped to face the future.

Unfortunately, problems still keep surfacing in Kenya although many local people feel they have been very much exaggerated in the UK press. Still, where we are working is quiet.

Update on our projects

The outreach clinics organised by Gertrude's Children's Hospital Foundation. These are still running smoothly and, while I was over in Kenya this month, over 50 children were seen at both DoIDol and Likii. I travelled with the team to DoIDol but was concerned to find that the new hospital was completed but totally empty. Funds have not been made available for equipment for the maternity unit and the head nurse, Sarah, said they were hoping to approach NGO's. I persuaded her to draw up a list of what was required with all items priced before going any further. This predominantly Masai region is very very poor and has had little rain for months.



The Foundation is looking in to the possibility of including another clinic in Solio, much nearer to Nanyuki, where seven villages have been established for charcoal burners displaced from the forested

areas of Kenya to save the destruction of more trees. The villagers live in shacks and tents and there is only one bore hole.

Likii OMEJO nursery school.



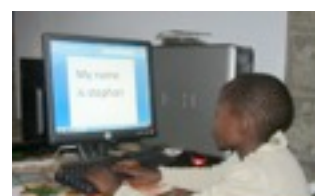
This begins to feel like “watch this space”. I visited the school one morning and had the pleasure of giving him pens, pencils and exercise books, gifts from my grandchildren. They had also donated volley balls and a net in the spring and the team can be seen in

the photo showing their new sports gear.

It seemed that there was a rumour going round the community that a group of white people were trying to buy the school and this was being strongly resisted. The Chief was thought to be involved so when it turned out that there was going to be a community meeting or barazza the next day I was invited to attend. I explained to the full hall, mostly attended by the older people, how we had first been invited to Likii, all we had done to help over the years, culminating in building the fence round the school with the aid of the community itself. CHADIK has no interest in renting the school or buying it and that, once the school was registered as a public school, would help it to become a primary school eventually. Peter Macharia translated my words into Swahili so there was no chance of any misunderstanding! Registration is being pursued along legal routes and getting ever closer!!.

LISHACG self help centre

I visited both the **library** and the **IT centre**, the latter still not fully functional despite all the efforts of the Cowans to move things forward. Peter Macharia, the IT manager, had worked out a way to



use the existing computers by upgrading the server and installing Microsoft. The funds for this and also installing the old server with music downloading capability were then approved by the Management Group. Provision of internet to the community is also essential but the existing modem only takes a SIM card with limited capacity. It will have to be replaced by one capable of holding large data bundles. Safaricom, the major supplier, seems to have a stranglehold on the period over which these bundles hold their value.

The photo shows 7.5 year old Stephan from Likii village, one of the kids hoping to benefit from IT training.

The library is extremely well used by kids and now adults. It becomes so crowded at weekends and in the school holidays that two more benches and chairs are needed to provide seating outside the room but in the same building. More books were purchased for the educational section.

Agricultural/technological training.

I met JudyLeah our project leader, together with her father, to discuss the next stages now the course brochure was approved. We agreed to approach the Equity bank and the Safaricom Foundation for support and asked Jane Ngigi to push on with approaches to Nakumat (supermarket chain) and others. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), based on the one CHADIK has with Gertrudes, is being drawn up to enable the Mt Kenya College to open a bank account for the new course.

The aim is to get the funding by November to advertise the course then. This would give sufficient time to start the course in January. It would be too risky to start without full funding as the first year will be a learning one for the organisers as well as the students. Sponsors are badly needed to get this off the ground.

And in the UK

The good news here is that CHADIK has been accepted by the American Fund for Charities as a bone fide organisation. This means that Americans can make donations to us through our website and the Funds website and claim them against their income tax. They get a 50% reduction in tax compared with our 25%. If you look on our websire (www.chadik.org.uk) you will see the new donation button.

The Party with a Purpose took place on August 3rd. We had a fairly good take up by local families, despite several already being away on holiday, and laid on lots of activities including the bouncy castle and heated swimming pool. The weather was on our side, a really lovely day and ideal for picnicking. There was considerable interest in our CHADIK display and in buying the t-shirts with our logo. At the last count we raised over £700 for our IT project in Kenya including some very generous donations.

Have you got the date for the autumn lunch in your diaries yet??
Sunday October 5th at Hendall Manor Barns again. Tickets will cost £35 each ncluding a welcome drink and a three course meal plus coffee and chocolates. This will include a £10 donation to CHADIK providing we get at least 50 guests.

Tables seat ten so please get together a whole or part of a table and let me know your plans.

Best wishes to you all

Gillian Bullock

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