



CHADIK newsletter number fifteen

Since my last visit to Kenya in November 2017, inter-tribal tension has risen considerably with the general election coming up next month. Many of you will have read about the problems of the invading Samburi in the north of Laikipia seeking new pastureland for their flocks. This has been accompanied by stealing, burning and even murder of both white and blacks. The drought has affected everyone with the very poor maize crop leading to grain being imported and rationing in some places. As usual it is the very poor who are suffering.

1. Gertrude's outreach clinics.

I met both Dr Carol Waweru (Foundation Manager) and Olivia Achieng (Project Manager) to discuss the current status of the different clinics. Carol is going to be spending more time in the US in the future so Olivia will be our main link. Olivia expressed real fear that there would be violence following the results so let us hope she is wrong.

All of the clinics are working well including the quarterly special HIV clinic. The request was repeated to have a video of an actual clinic activity for our website such as DoDol (see photo). This is promised for a



visit next month.

Since March, a laboratory technician has been working in Likii with the county paying both salary and diagnostics. A new contract is due to be agreed in July but the upcoming election has put that on hold.

A new activity being developed by the Foundation is the establishment of Telemedicine to enable contact to be made from far flung communities and a doctor in the main hospital.

2. Kisima mixed secondary boarding school

I spent two days in the school following a long and dreary drive escaping the Nairobi traffic. The brown fields all along the road gave testament to the drought.

Meeting our sponsored students was a very interesting experience. We sat together for some time discussing what they most enjoyed from



their classes and their special hobbies. We then spread out a map of Kenya and learned about the enormous distances some of the students had to travel when they went home for the holidays. Unfortunately the agriculture teacher is leaving for a state school so a replacement

is being sought.

We then visited the small farm, 20 mins away on foot (but not me) which was bought to replace the larger unit too far from the school. Again the drought had badly affected the growth of the maize and beans planted by students as part of their agricultural training. The contrast with the success of growing two crops of kale in the teaching poly tunnel was marked.

I stayed overnight with David (Principal) and his family (see photo of



David, Catherine, James and Sarah) in their guest house. The following morning I attended the very uplifting Sunday service, in the school hall, designed by the students with a mix of song and readings. The administration is doing a major fund raising activity amongst the alumni and local

supporters to buy a bus for outside visits.

We briefly discussed the proposed visit next year by agricultural volunteers one which is very much looked forward to by the staff.

3. IT and library

Since we had to inform the LISHACG community that we were unable to find funds to support the IT centre any more things have changed for the better. We approached a local NGO Mtutoweto joyhouse for help to get a new sponsor for the centre but luckily an offer was made by them to take over full responsibility. The centre fitted very well with the training courses for youngsters that were already running so it seemed an excellent fit. The NGO entered discussions with the LISHACG committee and agreement was finally reached. A very happy solution,

July 1st was the official date on which the NGO took over the running of the IT centre and library on behalf of the community. They, Doreen and Hezron, immediately had to find a replacement for librarian Christine who had left in April and I met with all three including newly appointed Faith in LISHACG. They had already received all the information as to how the centre was run by CHADIK and it was really more a matter of filling in the gaps. We will be kept informed of their progress as they have many ideas for the young in the community.

Any remaining funds in the CHADIK account were handed over to the new organisation with the understanding that our account would be closed. I expressed our gratitude first to the local team who had monitored the account and the activity in the centre for us and kept everything going. Then to the people in the UK who so generously supported the centre to reach the high quality of equipment.

4. Fundraising events

- a) **August 28th**, Bank Holiday Monday Classic cars and cream teas at East Holme Farm, Maresfield organised by the Friends of the Church.
- b) **Sunday September 3rd**. A showing of "Out of Africa" in Buxted Park Hotel, Buxted starting at 17.30

- c) **Sunday October 15th**. Our annual lunch at Hendall Manor Barns with special speaker Sir Hugh Orde speaking on “talking to terrorists and current challenges”

NB For further information on events contact

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Gillian Bullock July 2017