



CHADIK newsletter No 3

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On this trip to Kenya, I was fortunate enough to have two of our supporters with me when in Nanyuki. They were spending two weeks holiday in different areas so we arranged to spend two days together visiting the projects in Likii.

1. Omeja nursery school – Likii

Before travelling to Kenya, we had been very disturbed by a couple of things. First we had received a copy of minutes from the management committee saying that we could not deliver food to the school, we had to give money. They demanded around £750/quarter which was three times our estimated costs!! Also we should not pay the teachers supplements to the teachers directly. Our response to this was that all International Food Aid is given as food not cash.

Having pushed the school to get registered, we were then told that they had registered the school as Private. At a meeting of the Trustees of CHADIK in England, it was agreed that we would have to withdraw any further support as

the school was outside our charitable guidelines.

On my visit to the school, I was accompanied by Gilly and David Cowan and Josphat Gioche from our Likii support team. We had already put in hand the construction of the playground equipment donated by Linda Martin and this was now installed in Pete's corner. Although term was over, there were quite a few children there as well as teachers and Board members and the installation was greeted with great



joy.

First on the slide one of the little

Then we met together and I went through all that we had done to help the school in the last three years. This included the water supply with guttering, renovating the kitchen, decorating the school, providing books etc and finally the fencing. The school is in a very much better position to go forward alone following their decision.



The chairman and head teacher on the swings

The Cowans, Josphat and I then met the District Education Officer and learned from him that although there are many nursery schools in Likii, there is only one primary school serving 16.000 people. This opens up the opportunity to join forces with another nursery school that has not been registered private and look at the possibility of building it up on a private/public partnership. In this way we would have more control over developments. Building is very cheap in Kenya so we are looking into this exciting possibility.

2. LISHACG self help centre.

The installer of the new computers, Martin Muckle, and his technician joined us on a visit to the IT centre. I had heard shortly before arriving in Kenya that there had been problems over an excessively large electricity bill so that there had been no money to pay Joshua who had left. It turned out that

subsequently some damage had been done had been done to the equipment so the old computers had been reintroduced hence the large bill.

During this visit, the new computer circuit was repaired and the unit put in running order. Joshua has come back and fully funded for three months together with the very bright librarian Christine. The old computers have been removed and a number of points agreed. As the safety lights outside the building drain the batteries, these should be replaced by solar detector lights. Another battery and solar panel would extend the hours the computers could be used on solar power only. Most importantly, no untrained volunteers should interfere with the equipment and if a problem arose immediate contact should be made with Martin's technician.

The water heater for the dispensary has been installed though we are waiting for quotes to add a reserve tank and pump to compensate for the erratic water supply. Three major items of laboratory equipment are now being purchased to be followed by two more to achieve a fully operational lab.

A further meeting with Chief Joseph reinforced all these points of agreement.

3. Outreach clinics from Gertrude's Children's Hospital

I met Dr Carole Murithi in Nairobi and we went through the existing programme which is working extremely well. Carole is taking an MBA course to improve her management skills and using this to look at enhancing the programme. This involves more detailed analysis of the feedback to ensure that our funds are spent in the most profitable way. I am waiting for further details.

4. Agricultural/technological training for youngsters.

This programme is developing slowly. Preliminary discussions have led us to believe that an apprenticeship scheme is viable using a one day in five block release and perhaps starting off with a computer led training programme in the first instance. This would cover the basic understanding of the importance of the soil, water and nutrition in agriculture. We are investigating if such programmes exist as this could allow us to use the LISHACG IT centre.

I have been given an introduction to the Director of Plumpton Agricultural College in East Sussex to see whether there could be some joint activity. I have also met the Farm Africa project leader in

Kitale and hope to progress further ideas with her.

Future plans. Looking forward to more fund raising activity in the UK, our current income allows us to cover the outreach clinics and little more. Generous help from friends has helped fund much of the Likii programme but more will be needed to develop our ideas further.

Gary and Jason at the Buxted Inn, with its reputation for excellent food, have offered to host a Charity **evening** for us on March 6th. They would provide a three course meal plus welcome drink at little more than cost allowing us to sell tickets at £22.50, an absolute bargain. We would not have an auction and raffle, leaving that for the autumn event but have a tombola instead. The Inn seats 50 people so we would make a very useful profit for CHADIK as well as getting the publicity.

Would you be interested in such an evening and be able to bring some new potential supporters along???

Last but not least we have four new monthly donors which will really help ensure we can keep supporting the outreach clinics as well as do more for Likii

A Happy Christmas and New Year to you all

Gillian Bullock December 2012



Just to show you that I have an interest in all sorts of orphans, this one being from the Daphne Sheldrick elephant orphanage in Nairobi