



CHADIK Newsletter number 9: December 2014

In spite of concerns in the UK, both Nairobi and Nanyuki were both quiet while I was there recently. The major problem is still the Somali border but even so several coastal areas such as Malindi are safe to visit and well protected. The weather has been as crazy as elsewhere with heavy rain falling in the wrong places i.e. not in to the reservoirs.

On the recommendation of a Nuffield friend I was invited to visit Real IPM in Thika, on my way to Nanyuki. This enterprise was set up ten years ago by an English couple, Louise and Henry, with considerable experience in horticulture who sold up in the UK and then set to building up a centre devoted to developing new ideas for small farmers. Much of what they showed me is very relevant for our proposed Ag/tech programme especially rabbit rearing and irrigation systems. They promised us any support we might need and the project Chairman will be visiting there very soon.

Gertrude's Children's Hospital



I had an informal meeting with Carol, the Foundation Manager, to get an update on the clinics. Posters had been put round the town in Rumuruti where patient numbers had been lower than in the other clinics and these had produced a significant increase in attendance. Our trustee, Dr Charles Darley, monitors the performance of the clinics closely and we are still very happy with the collaboration

LISCHACG

Following discussions with Gilly and David Cowan, I visited both the IT centre and the library armed with a list of points to be clarified/updated. At the time of my visit the internet was down and the new big printer had suffered minor damage. Both of these problems have now been rectified. The manager, Peter Macharia, has now had training on the Sage accounting

programme as I found it had been totally updated since I used it. Now all the IT and library income and expenditure is being entered and printouts can be sent to CHADIK regularly. This will make budgeting and cost control much easier at both ends.

The librarian, Christine, has been keeping excellent paper records of income from adults and children and the area was being used heavily being the school holiday. The extra benches and chairs are much appreciated. In term time, when the pressure is off, we have suggested that a printing enterprise be developed for the community producing wedding invitations etc that could increase the income considerably. She is already having training locally on the Publisher computer programme. More educational books were bought locally through CHADIK and a donation of encyclopedias has been received from a local businessman.

We are now looking into other ways the LISHACG management could make money for the community and not only focus on the IT/library centre. A big problem lies with the site Chairman in that he has a job elsewhere now and



is rarely on the site. Also more effort is needed to make the community aware of what a great facility they have. One area we are revisiting is blockmaking. The equipment on the site is no longer modern enough as interlocking blocks are widely sought. Our team is looking into the cost of buying a new machine and if funds can be found then encouraging volunteers to swing into action.

UMEJO nursery school

Each time I visit Kenya I hope to hear that the ownership of the school has been handed back to the community for them to register it public. The last hurdle put in the way is establishing the title of the land the school stands on. Unfortunately the matter lies in the hands of a new Land Commission so yet again it could be months before it is resolved.

In spite of this, the headmaster Gilberto Mwas has been enthusiastically building up the morale as well as increasing school numbers.

Ag/tech project

While we wait to find out whether we have succeeded in raising the start-up money for the project in the UK, the College Chairman and I went to visit two

local banks to plead our cause. We had a good reception at the Equity Bank but heard that their Foundation does not support newcomers but could well help with the running costs for the later years. Something for us to work on. The Family Bank asked us to put in a proposal for support for transport and meals for the students who are



extremely poor. Finally Jane Ngigi from the Kenya Flower Council has been unable to seek funds on our behalf this year but will move in the New Year.

So all in all, we have moved forward again and look forward to hearing that the internet installation is bringing its rewards. The Cowans will be visiting Nanyuki and I will go back again in July.

On the home front, we have lost a couple of Donors for personal reasons but gained four new ones. Also don't forget the sponsored dinner at the Buxted Inn on **Thursday March 12th**. More details in the New Year.

Gillian Bullock