

Newsletter

Harambee For Kenya



No.7 Aug 08

Well it's that time again. Time stops for no man!

We have all been busy raising sponsorship for the new building. There has been a sponsored Abseil, with people travelling from Somerset to support it. The event happened because of the Support of East Sussex Fire and Rescue personnel at Bexhill - thank you guys. We had a great time and there were many personal achievements especially for those scared of heights.

We have collected many things ready to take with us to Kenya and all participants are getting very excited about the trip. It is not long now and the building is on the way to being erected so that we can finish it and have an official opening. We are hoping that the minister for Foreign Affairs may do this.

Thomas has sent us some pictures of the start of the building and we eagerly await further photos of the progress.



This was where they cleared the land of tea plants to make room for the building. It may seem a waste but tea is a time consuming commodity with small rewards. Also, we have children in the house and it would not be right to expect them to work the plantation. They will learn how to grow edible crops which can be used to feed them.

The following pictures show the groundwork which has been carried out for the house.

We have our four oldest lads working on the site, gaining work experience which will be part of their training.

As you can see the soil is good so their crops should grow well.





The first picture shows Elijah on the right who is helping to oversee the progress. (He doesn't stand there like that all the time!!!!) The right hand picture shows the hole being dug for the water. They will then put a pump in to pump the water up to the house. We last heard that they had reached 56ft below ground to get the water. You can also see in the background, the village of Nyakoe. We are close to the shops and market which should make life a little easier. Many Kenyans live miles away and have to walk for hours to get the basics.

Hopefully we will receive more photos for the next newsletter so that you can see the next stage. They are a little behind with the work but we have been promised that we will be able to finish off the living accommodation as expected.

We have been very fortunate and are grateful for all your help and encouragement, to help us reach this stage. This is something that a year ago, was a bit of a dream. It is fast becoming a reality. The boys are all extremely excited too. As Trustees, we can only thank you all for your help to make these children's lives so much better.

Now let us look at what has been going on over the last few months.



Shirley (pictured) and Dave Prout, are coming to Kenya with us in October. They come from Somerset and on many weekends over the season can be found doing boot fairs to raise money for the project. Dave said that people even give him stuff they have over so that he can sell that to raise funds. Thank you guys for your continued support.



The Meads C.P. School at East Grinstead had a fun afternoon to raise money for the project. There were fun activities to do and some of the children made things to sell. Then we all went into the hall and learnt some African dancing. The afternoon was then finished off with a fantastic rendition of "We Will Rock You" performed by their school band. We

visited and had a wonderful afternoon with them. Thank you everyone and well done. They raised about £600 during the summer term and are sponsoring two of the boys who are in Foster Care. We thank you for your fantastic efforts.



ABSEILING We organised this event for those who were travelling to Kenya in October and wanted to raise money for the project.

The East Sussex Fire and Rescue gents from Bexhill Fire Station helped us with this, ably led by Graham Hobden. Many thanks guys. They rigged everything up and all that our volunteers had to do was to attend and take part.....after climbing up 4 ladders to reach the top floor of their tower. For those that had never done this before this was in itself a feat of determination. They were steep.



From left; Rachel, Janine and Roger. None of them had abseiled before and the smiles on two were in fear - which two though?

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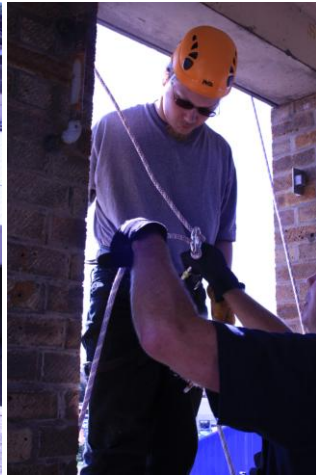
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Left to right. James, David, Patricia, Jackie. Below left. Matt and Christopher



We do not have the final figure yet but the total sponsorship was in excess of £1500. Well done to everyone.

If any of you wish to do a sponsored fundraiser, just let us know and we can send you the official charity sponsor form.



Our Thanks go to the following for their support.

Charlie Skinner & Louisa Hurrell (Beavers)
 Ashdown Park Hotel,
 Speedwell Methodist Church
 The Meads School, East Grinstead.
 Oathall School, Haywards Heath
 East Sussex Fire & Rescue.



While at Gilwell Scout Leaders Reunion we met Peter Duncan not only of Blue Peter fame but also the Chief Scout. This was a pleasure and he was very encouraging of what we are doing. If only it was on video as he suggested the photo above and promptly said "donate, donate, donate" as if he were! We invited him to come to Kenya and see what we were doing..... He said he would love to and..... he didn't say No!