



Kanyawegi Newsletter July 09

Greetings to all readers of this newsletter, and particularly to sponsors and other supporters!



This newsletter brings you up to date with what's been happening in Kenya and shows just how important is your ongoing support for Kanyawegi Childrens Home. We're sorry that it's been a while since you have received a newsletter but, as you will see, the UK Committee have had much to deal with since the 10 year celebration event last autumn. Thank you to everyone who attended.

We want these newsletters to be both informative and encouraging.

Informative - to let you know what's happening, how things are done, what's changing, what the problems are and what the needs are. The *'What about.....?'* section in each newsletter will explain a different aspect of the Kanyawegi's work.

Encouraging - to see the good things that are happening, to help you see how donations make a difference, to emphasise the goodness of God in sustaining the work.

KANYAWEGI UK

Registered Charity No. 1106296

UK Committee (The Trustees):

Chairman:	Peter Skinner
Treasurer:	Sally Petit
Sponsor Coordinator:	Doreen Moxham
and..	Sarah Moxham

What about...THE KENYAN BOARD?

The work of Kanyawegi Childrens Home is overseen by a Kenyan Board. This is a group of local volunteers who are there to ensure that the Home is run well and to offer support to the Home manager. The Board is responsible to the trustees of Kanyawegi UK - the charity supplying most of the funds for the work, received from donors all over the UK.

It's not always easy in Kenya to find suitable and trustworthy nationals to head up this sort of work, and over the years there have been a number of times when the work of Kanyawegi has suffered through poor leadership from the Board. Trying to provide leadership from the UK is also not easy either. Earlier this year the Chairman of the Kenyan Board was forced to step down because of misappropriation of funds, and the Vice-Chair also left. This has been one of the difficulties the UK Committee (the trustees) has had to resolve.

We are grateful to Pastor Luke Owuor (formerly the Treasurer) for agreeing to be Acting Chairman until such time as proper elections can take place. Currently the Chairman is seeking to strengthen the Board by increasing the membership (currently 6). The Deputy Head of the local primary school is leaving the Board because she has recently changed jobs. The Home Manager, James Chiaga, is Secretary to the Board.

The Board works to a constitution for the Home, which from the beginning has provided the framework for how the Home should be run, based upon Christian principles. A couple of years ago the Home gained registration with the District Childrens Office and this introduced an additional set of requirements for the Home to follow.

GOOD NEWS....

The children's achievements

At the end of the last Kenyan academic year (which is the calendar year) quite a number of the secondary school children did very well. This is testament to their hard work and drive as conditions for learning are not ideal. On his trip to Kenya last year the Chairman of Kanyawegi UK visited classes of over 70 pupils crammed into classrooms that in the UK would hold less than 30! (a typical classroom is shown below)



Of particular note is the fact that one of the young people, Brian, has started his Engineering degree at Nairobi University.

Waterworks?

So often we take for granted the fact that we can turn on a tap and have good, clean water every day. At Kanyawegi they have to collect rainwater whenever they can and pump water from a nearby stream to supply water for toilets etc. Drinking water comes from 2 boreholes, one of which for a long time had a faulty pump (see picture). Money from the UK enabled a new, more powerful pump to be installed and this has been a great improvement.



'Boys House' is operational!

Thanks to generous donations (mainly from Ridgeway Church) a separate building was erected on the compound - intended for use by older teenage boys. The picture below was taken last year.



For various reasons it hasn't, until now, been possible to use it effectively. However, it now houses some of the over-18 year olds and has been fenced off from the rest of the Home so that it's a self-contained unit. The picture below was taken recently - showing the new fencing and the main Home in the background.



Charity Shop income rises

As many of you know, the Charity works in partnership with a company specialising in running charity shops. Unfortunately the original shops in Bath were not a financial success and the enterprise has been hit by the refusal of the local council to consider rate reductions for that period. However, the shop in Midsomer Norton has been more successful. Recently there has been a welcome increase in the income from the shop and in time it will be an even more important source of income for the charity. May we thank all those who supply donations to the shop and/or give of their time to help it run smoothly.

Fundraising committee launched!

We're grateful to a number of our supporters for forming 'Friends of Kanyawegi' - a group that will focus on raising funds for the charity. If you have any ideas for fund-raising events (or any contributions!) please let us know. May we say 'Thank You' for some recent unexpected gifts, which have helped so much.

Charity Paintball Tickets!

Do you know anyone who enjoys paintballing or would like to try it for the first time? Do you know of a group of people (teenagers and older) who would love to have a go at this exciting sport? For his 50th birthday the Kanyawegi UK Chairman was treated to a day of paintballing with 15 friends and they all had a great time! Kanyawegi UK has been given some paintball tickets that we can sell to raise money for the charity. (See www.charitypaintball.org.uk)



Each ticket is for a **group of 8** to enjoy a **full day** of paintballing. All equipment is provided, but participants will need to purchase their paintballs. There are about **35 paintball centres** to choose from. At £49.99 the group day tickets are only about **£6** per head. However, every penny raised goes straight to the charity, so folk are welcome to pay more! Contact Peter Skinner to buy tickets or to get more information on pskinner@tiscali.co.uk

MONEY £ MATTERS

We want to keep you informed about the financial affairs of the Home. Over the years kind donations, large and small, have helped to transform the lives of numerous children. At times there have been more than 85 children in the Home.

However, as the children have grown and school fees have increased, and the exchange rate has declined and the recession has hit, and prices have risen - the Home has faced significant financial difficulties.

DID YOU KNOW....?

- The minimum cost of keeping a child in the Home (and providing their education) is about **£35 per month**.
- As the children grow up the monthly cost rises to **£60 +** for those at boarding school, which is many.
- There are about **75 children and young people** in the Home, supported chiefly by gifts from 50 sponsors.
- We are very grateful for the regular income from sponsors, but in total it is currently not covering all the costs. The Home requires in excess of **£36,000 per year** to keep up its valuable work.
- Every penny donated is sent out to Kenya and there are currently no cash reserves.
- The changes in tax rates will, in the near future, reduce the benefit that charities receive from Gift Aid tax reclaims.
- The successful registration of the Home with the District Childrens Office was a welcome 'stamp of approval' on the work of Kanyawegi. However, as a consequence of this change all over 18 year olds have to be accommodated elsewhere - which has increased costs.

In the light of these financial pressures upon the work the Kenyan Board have had to make some difficult decisions to try to reduce costs. The Home is committed to covering the school fees for secondary school pupils (and those at college) until December, so after Easter the Board decided to arrange for many of the primary school children to return to stay with their relatives for a while until a resolution could be found. The Home is still supporting these children and the majority have continued attending school. The aim is to bring them back into the Home as soon as funds will allow. In the meantime the Board has made 4 members of staff redundant. They are considering an additional package of support for the children who are currently staying outside of the Home.

The UK Committee has been working hard to work closely with the Kenyan Board to gain a full understanding of the financial situation in the Home.

Future Plans:

A major priority is for stabilisation of the financial and management situation out in Kenya. This will enable the early return of the primary school children to the Home and all of them to benefit from their education. A key to the cost-effective support of each individual is the development of specific plans for each child, which include robust educational targets. These are important to help ensure the best options for their education and training are followed and that money isn't wasted.

The Home has entered a new phase where it is catering for a much wider age range of children and your people than it was a few years ago. This means that new strategies will be needed to address the new challenges.

Current needs:

- **Increased income** to cover running costs but also the 'peaks' created by demands for school fees. For example, an extra £3000 is needed in September to cover fees until Christmas.
- **Additional sponsors** for the children and young people. Any regular giving is welcome. Folk don't need to feel they have to cover the whole monthly cost of a child or young person, because sponsors can share in the support of individuals, as some already do.
- **Donations for the charity shop.** Although only a small shop, there's always a need for donations of bric-a-brac, clothes, DVDs etc. It's always good for the shop to receive some good quality items that will attract a premium price.
- **Friends of Kanyawegi.** If you would like to be officially recognised as a 'Friend of Kanyawegi' please let us know. It means that you want to organise or get involved in local fundraising events on behalf of the charity.
- **Prayer.** For those of you who are Christian believers we can never underestimate the value of your prayers over the years. Please pray for wisdom for Pastor Luke and the Kenyan Board, for James (the Home Manager) and his staff, and for the UK Committee as we all work together to discover the best way forward for the Home.

Want to know more?

Let us know the sort of things you'd like covered in future newsletters and/or forward your questions to us. We will do all we can to keep you informed.

Contacts:

Sponsors/donations: Doreen Moxham (01761 437256) or timcoxham@aol.com

Friends of Kanyawegi: Ronnie Coomes (01761 418973)

General enquiries: Peter Skinner (01761 417014) or prskinner@tiscali.co.uk

KANYAWEGI UK

Standing Order

To the Managerp.i.c.

Address

Please pay the account of Kanyawegi U.K. at:
Barclays Bank, 37 Milsom Street, Bath BA1 1DW
Sort Code 20-05-06 Account No. 93390446

The sum of £.....

In words:

On the(day) of(month)(year)

and thereafter on the same day of each month until
further notice.

Please debit my Account No.

Sort Code:

In the name of

Signed:

Print name:

Date:

✂

Gift Aid Declaration

**Send to Kanyawegi UK, Mayfair House, 21
Ashgrove, Peasedown St John, Bath. BA2 8EB:**

*I want Kanyawegi UK to treat all donations I make as
gift aided donations until otherwise notified.*

Signed:

Date:

Full Name:

Address:

Kindly remember to notify Kanyawegi UK if you no longer
pay an amount of income tax or Capital Gains tax equal to
the tax on your donations

Pictures from the 10 year celebration at Kanyawegi Childrens Home last year

Below are some of the local officials who attended
and spoke at the event.



There were quite a number of guests, who were
made very welcome by the children and staff.
Some of the guests were invited to make speeches
– which extended the proceedings considerably!



The children contributed by reciting poems and
presenting a dance, and some of the older young
people who had left the Home spoke about how
they had been helped to progress. Afterwards,
there was a chance for a good meal, enjoyed by
everyone, including the children!



(All the costs were covered by a specific donation.)