

# Kariandusi School Trust

*- building an educated future for Kenyan children -*

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**Registered Charity**

**no: 1101103**

## 2017 Newsletter

Dear Reader,

I am happy to tell you that much progress has been made by both KST and our sister charity ([www.langalanga.org.uk](http://www.langalanga.org.uk)) to help with the education of Kenyan children despite the doom and gloom one hears. The over-arching challenge is to know what to do with the Woodard Langalanga Secondary School. Standards are dropping in all educational activities. Financial support is intermittent. Disciplinary challenges abound. Outrageous staff shortages guarantee poor results and student unrest. Geoff Nield, my successor in working with Woodard, is aware and may have his own solutions and hopes for the future. It is clear to me that success cannot be left to him alone. The Kenya Government and the Woodard Corporation must play their parts, too.

Most of the brain-teasing issues about how Geoff plans to continue with the management of LLSF have been discussed and a way-ahead is developing. I plan to hand over to him the chairmanship of LLSF on 1 July 2018. In late February he is visiting Kenya again and will be the Guest of Honour at the charity's Founder's Day annual gathering to be held, as usual, in the Woodard School.

The appointment of a former Ardingly student, Rafe Clutton, as a KST trustee is another piece of good news for the future of the charity. He is some 50 years younger than me, has very similar motivation to help disadvantaged children as me and is highly IT aware (unlike me) and who knows his way about the City of London. Watch this space for interest and excitement in the years ahead! I plan to retain the school building responsibilities and need Rafe to help me.

The untimely death of Gesa Paulfeierborn who led Ardingly's 6th Form trips to Kenya was a stunning setback for us and all who knew her. However, under Joan Gall's leadership, the remarkable spirit of this year's trip was strengthened. It is likely that this gem of a school trip will be authorised for the foreseeable future.

TTS Group Ltd has been the backbone of our financial success, as usual. Another KST Dinner and dance in a smart hotel will take place on 10 November. In addition, some 15 past and present staff members are currently sponsoring Gideon Kuria through his tertiary education. TTS also sponsors other scholars. Thank you all.



*Geoff Nield meets senior scholars to discuss LLSF and KST affairs.*

The generosity and support to us of so many people always astonishes me when I sit down to write annual newsletters. We have nearly finished building our 16<sup>th</sup> primary school. The names of our major donors and decision makers will be commemorated on a marble plaque at the opening ceremony of Kamande PS in January.

*Harry Sharon Clark*

## ITEM 1

In February this year our Woodard School was given a welcome boost. Five students from King's College, Taunton, under the leadership of Rev Mark Smith arrived to carry out maintenance tasks. They re-painted four of the twelve classrooms one Saturday and were ably assisted by some willing pupils. It was a great way for all to develop mutual respect.



*Hard at work!  
Are there any more volunteers to do  
something similar in 2018?*

## ITEM 2

Ardingly College's visit to us in July was a huge success. I thought so, but so did they! The 22 students were aware that Ndogo PS had been financed by previous students and parents and seem to have made the school their own even before arrival. The welcome ceremony and all that followed were so meaningful that Joan Gall was asked to adjust her programme so that the Ardingly students could spend an extra day at 'their' school. Agreed!

*"We come to school because  
there is food for us.  
Delicious!"*

*Thanks so much, Ardingly.*



## ITEM 3 - Kamande Primary School.....

This year has seen the transformation of Kamande PS from a leaking and badly built school to a wonderful place for young Kenyans to learn. I am grateful to the local MP, Hon David Kiaraho for releasing Constituency Development Fund (CDF) money to enable the upgrading of Phase 3. Phases 1 and 2 were funded by KST with our Project Manager, Daniel Githinji, and long-term Site Foreman, Francis Mwangi, playing the leading roles.

Although we have, in the past, insisted that parents volunteer their help with certain labouring activities in the construction of their children's school, I cannot remember any school where there have been so many willing helpers. One Saturday, for example, 132 parents appeared with their own *jembes*, to dig Phase 1's foundations.

..... and wonderful photographs



*Most parents helped and the money saved has been used to buy cement, timber and other essential building materials.*



*Phase 1 consisting of 3 offices, 2 stores, staffroom, library and 2 classrooms nearing completion.*



*The great day of Ardingly's arrival caused a happy delay as the conga was assembled at the school gate. Musical instruments from TTS Group's 2016 donation were used to great effect.*



*Ardingly's major contribution of 40 desks and benches arrived without warning. Astonished students who had raised the money were on hand to unload and fill two new classrooms.*



*Knowing how much 17/18 year olds enjoy knocking things down (I was one, once!), we kept the demolition of the school's old HQ for Ardingly's pleasure! No tears, as I recall.*



*Finally, here are a few of the 480 children who will benefit. Completed Phase 3 is in the background.*

My sincerest thanks go to TTS Group Ltd, the Scott (Eredine) CT, Stephen Clark CT, Cosy Ltd, CDF OI'Kalou Constituency and literally hundreds of others, for making it all possible.

#### ITEM 4

Our policy to assist with so called ‘minor’ projects in the schools we have built in the past is best illustrated by what has been achieved at Murindati PS. With positive leadership by the school’s HT and the Kenya Government, we, too, were encouraged to help a bit.



*Astonished children can now learn  
using government-supplied tablets.  
KST re-painted the classroom,  
provided the tables and benches and  
connected the IT room to mains power.  
Is this the start of the  
end of ignorance?*

#### ITEM 5 - Bits and Pieces

1. Our policy of trying to maintain our ‘Portfolio of Schools (16 primaries, 5 nursery schools and 1 secondary school) remains our dream. We need about £5000 a year to do that to assist no more than three schools – see Item 4 above.
2. Rafe Clutton’s idea is to harness the undoubted goodwill that exists amongst Ardingly’s alumni who were lucky enough to go to Kenya while still at school.
3. Our dream is now in the capable hands of Rafe and our Project Manager, Daniel Githinji with the other trustees providing support. Perhaps there is one more major school building programme lurking in our hearts?
4. TTS Group is trying to organise, with another charity, to share space in a shipping container to bring appropriate second-hand *story books* to our schools. Text books are not wanted.
5. We estimate that at any one time during the term about 8600 children are learning in greatly improved surroundings. Over the 24 years we have worked in Kenya the figure is about 20,000.
6. No year should go by without thanking my greatly supportive trustees for their dedication and selflessness.

#### TRUSTEES

Trustees: Colonel HE Vialou Clark MBE, Ms SC Phelps,  
Mrs AJ Vialou Clark, Mr R Clutton  
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs R Pryce