

---- **Building an educated future for Kenyan Children**

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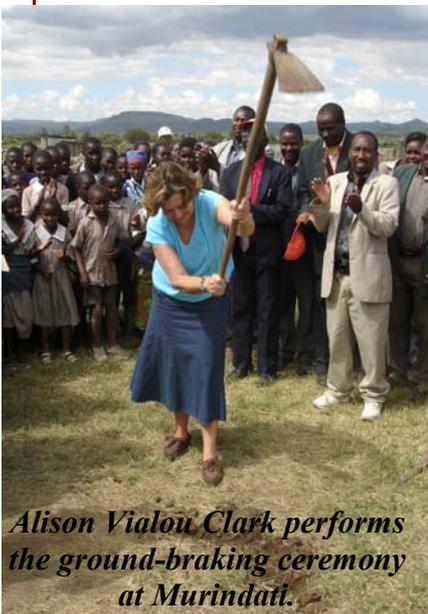
Dear Reader

I am aware that many folk are not compulsive website readers where our thanks to our generous supporters is clearly recorded. So, here is our chance to send hard copy, to thank you in a very personal way and to tell you how your money is being spent.

Since Kariandusi Primary School was handed over in what feels like an epoch ago (in February 2005, actually) the charity has totally renovated Langalanga Primary School. This dilapidated 'double stream' school with over 500 pupils was based on an old British Army barracks built in 1940. In 1956 the buildings were given for use as a school and from that date very little maintenance had been carried out. Some buildings were positively dangerous and required demolition. In September 2006 we handed over the new school at a ceremony lasting well over five hours and witnessed by about 3000 delighted parents, children from surrounding schools and many senior representatives of the Kenya Government.

Even this major project now seems like old history such is the rate of work being done on a number of other sites since then. Two more enormous projects are being tackled as I write. Simba Primary School, started in September 2006, is also a 'double stream' school built on a green field site close to the existing rough-and-ready existing classrooms. We are hoping to have the library, staffroom and two classrooms ready for occupation by the end of 2007 and completion in mid 2008.

Murindati Primary School is paid for by an anonymous corporate donor. Work started in January 2007. The extraordinary generosity of that company will ensure that hundreds of children from desperately poor families will, each year, learn in clean, well-ordered classrooms. We will fill the library with many hundreds of books for all ages, offer scholarships, through our 'sister' charity the Langalanga Scholarship Fund to the brightest and provide extra teachers when necessary. The climate is so harsh here that most families often fail to harvest their crops before their efforts shrivel in the sun. As part of our project we will build large water tanks to harvest any rain that falls for use as drinking water for the children.



Alison Vialou Clark performs the ground-braking ceremony at Murindati.

Thank you, on behalf of thousands of young Kenyans, for your most wonderful support and generosity.

Harry Vialou Clark

Newsletter 2007

1. WHAT NEXT?

My old school, Ardingly College in Sussex, is raising the money for a beautiful new school to replace Ndogo Primary School's mud huts. In 2008 Ardingly celebrates 150 years since its foundation. Originally intended for the sons of the poor in Victorian England, I cannot imagine our founder, Nathaniel Woodard, would be anything but delighted that destitute children in Kenya will be given the gift of education. A group of young Ardinians will perform the 'Ground Breaking Ceremony' in February 2008 during their half term holiday.



Celebration at Ndogo as the Headmaster of Ardingly College tells the school community about their new school.

2. DRAGOMAN'S MAJOR CONTRIBUTION



Dragoman passengers erect new goalposts at Langalanga Primary School.

I cannot thank Charlie Hopkinson, co-owner of Dragoman Overland and trustee, enough for his magnificent support. Dragoman, brings passengers to our schools, leaves money for highly desirable 'extras' e.g. foot scrapers, hot water boilers for staff tea breaks, flag poles, fencing materials, footballs, pens and dozens of other 'luxuries'. Charlie is also the driving force for fundraising events and has a highly successful team of helpers in Suffolk who provide most of the money for the remarkable successes outlined in this newsletter. At the risk of stating the obvious, very little of the good news outlined here would have been possible without him. Charlie also produces the website. It is a masterpiece! We also have a great team of trustees to whom I extend my thanks. **Please see www.kariandusi.co.uk.**



Progress at Simba, July 2007 — what a remarkable difference!

3. FOOTBALL COMES TO LANGALANGA

One of Charlie's passengers and neighbour, Steven Johnstone, is a football enthusiast. He saw the need for a Langalanga Township football team and immediately offered sponsorship. Playing in Steven's company's colours his team in Kenya was placed second of 16 entrants in their first year in the local league. Until then the entry fee had defeated the sixteen players. Now the team has over forty members and is a force to be reckoned with.

Steven's team shares a pitch with Langalanga Primary School. An 80-seater grandstand, toilet block and tapped water source have been paid for partly by Dragoman passengers. At last there is a wholesome way of absorbing the energies of boys and young men and giving them something in their lives to look forward to.



The proud team in their new kit.

Thank you Steven and thank you Dragoman pax.

4. LET'S READ! LET'S COMPUTE!

Widening young minds is all part of the job but how can we help to expose young Kenyans to the written word? By remarkable chance, after an absence of twenty-six years, I met an old Army friend. He now owns transport aircraft that fly to Nairobi to collect Kenyan produce. Would I like to send stuff for my charities to Kenya?

Wow! – what an offer!

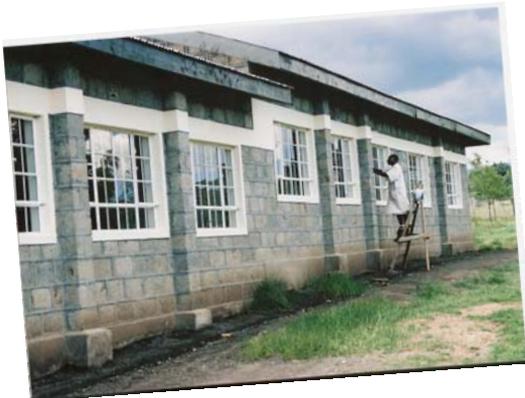
Since that fateful meeting Andrew has taken 82 large boxes full of children's reading books, sports equipment and teaching materials.



The VCs load up the boxes bound for Kenya.

In addition, through the company our son Max worked for, my friend has taken 50 serviceable desktop computers. I have given them to other Kenyan charities with whom I work and to two provincial secondary schools where we have had many Langalanga scholars over the years. Both these schools now offer Computer Studies as examinable subjects.

Welcome to the modern world!



Finishing touches at Langalanga Primary School



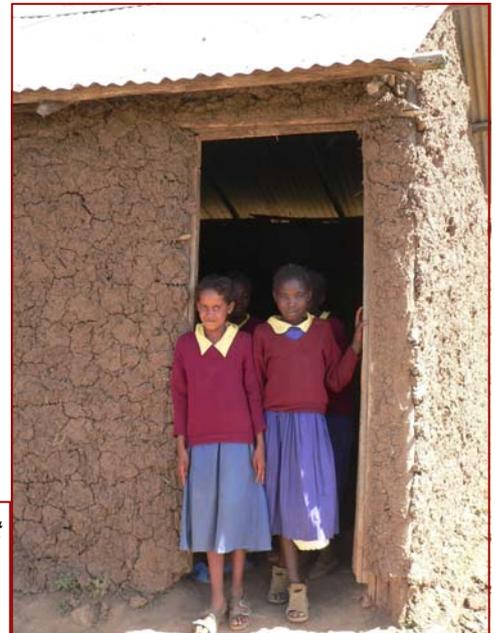
5. IS IT WRONG TO DREAM?

There are so many unfulfilled dreams remaining!

I suppose there always will be.

We are in the planning stage for the almost total rebuild of three other schools. Drawings have been produced and rough costs calculated. Time and money we do not have at present but.....we will have both in the end!

At that point some 2750 children will be learning in our schools at any one time.



*Pupils at
Ndogo
Primary
School*

6. BEWARE OF TRAPS

Inevitably there are dangerous traps for dreamers. The most obvious is that it would be all too easy to think “job done” when we hand over a magnificent completed school, move away and leave them to it. Who will maintain these schools? Parents? Government?

Poverty, being all embracing, will ensure maintenance effort is put on the backburner. To guard against this our trustees have agreed to allocate some money in the annual budget to attend to such matters.

How can a teacher be expected to teach successfully with class sizes of 70 or 80 children? The Government cannot, or will not, pay for about 30% of the vacant teacher posts. The parents often refuse to pay, or cannot and, all the while, the children suffer. The trustees have agreed to pay for half the salaries of teachers for three years in the schools we build provided the parents pay for the other half. Four such young teachers are in post in Langalanga Primary School where all our new classrooms are now in use and no class has more than 35 pupils.

7. DEATH TO HOPELESSNESS

If feelings of hopelessness exist at school and at home, progress will be slow and painful. This year above all others, I am beginning to know that hope is alive again and many parents are more willing to make the financial sacrifice to educate and encourage their children.

The Langalanga Scholarship Fund (see www.langalanga.org.uk), our sister charity, works in harmony with KST. Together the two charities are far more valuable than the sum of their individual parts.

Competition is now so fierce to win a scholarship that there is a realisation that pupils are unlikely to succeed if extra tuition is not given during the holidays and on Saturday mornings. Many parents will now pay for this if they see a chance of their child winning the jackpot.

Patrons: Sheila Ravenscroft, Sarah Beeny

Trustees: Colonel HE Vialou Clark, The Hon CHK Hopkinson, Ms SC Phelps,
Mr NC Farthing, Mrs AM Owen, Mrs AJ Vialou Clark.