



Education Exchange in Kenya

Headlines

- We spent nine days in our part of Kenya
- We visited all the projects which Education Exchange is supporting
- We met lots of people who are benefitting from the generosity of our donors
- We discussed future plans and how Education Exchange can help even more effectively
- We know that Education Exchange is making a real difference to the lives of people in and around Wundanyi
- We need even more donors and supporters

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Update from Dave & Sue Shorten to all our donors & supporters

You are making a huge difference!

We have returned from our April 2012 visit delighted with the progress made on all our projects and determined to raise still more to support the work of our colleagues and friends in Kenya.

We were received with real warmth as we always are: but now we have a sense that we are at the start of a new and potentially very powerful phase in our work in Wundanyi and district

On this page and over leaf we've given a brief update on all four projects which we are supporting.

First exams passed at our new Training Centre

Eight students at the Kitukunyi Training Centre, only opened three months ago with Education Exchange funding, have gained their first IT qualifications. At a brief ceremony Dave & Sue presented the graduates with their certificates before sharing a lemonade with everyone and learning about their future hopes and ambitions. The Centre— now renamed the Upper Planet Centre— plans to offer more IT courses and to provide Cybercafé facilities for local people: no-one has a laptop or broadband at home.



The IT graduates with friends and supporters outside the Upper Planet Centre.

Mary & Marilyn's Hopton sales keep children in education

All the funds raised at Mary & Marilyn's two sales each year go to help pupils at Mwangeka High School in Mbauro. Sue and Dave met children who have benefited and learned how vital this funding is. One girl whom we met is pictured here, and we saw details of a total of 35 pupils who were helped



by the £1550 (206,000/=) raised in 2010. Mwangeka Headteacher Christine Mlemwa is so appreciative of Mary & Marilyn's efforts. Their next sale is on May 19th at All Saints Church— make sure you're there!!





Wilmot shows off his digital camera. He bought it with a TEI loan and has started his own photography business

Over the next few months Education Exchange will:

- ◆ Apply for charitable status
- ◆ Create a website and make a DVD
- ◆ Recruit more donors
- ◆ Stay in touch with all projects in Kenya
- ◆ Keep supporters informed

Education Exchange needs to recruit new donors to fund future developments with our Kenyan partners. Please tell your friends about us!

Enabling poor people to have a better chance in life

For two years Education Exchange has been supporting the Taita Environmental Initiative (TEI). In that time we have helped over 30 Kenyans with loans and Dave and Sue were so looking forward to meeting beneficiaries and hearing their stories. They were not disappointed! First we attended a TEI meeting, where we were formally thanked for our care & support

and then went on to discuss future plans. Then the next day we climbed high into the hills to visit a number of the projects which people have developed through TEI loans. A typical loanee was Irina, who has opened a kiosk stocking basic grocery products for her isolated local community. We were moved by the courage and determination of all loan bene-

ficiaries. They meet real hardship every day of their lives and yet they remain positive and cheerful.



Sue meets one of the rabbits that Grace bought with her loan. Now Grace breeds rabbits and sells them at a good profit. (photo taken by Wilmot: see opposite picture)

Towards a more personalised loan scheme

Part of Sue & Dave's discussions with the TEI management committee centred on a new loan scheme. Its main features are:

- * UK donors know the identity of the person they are helping
- * They know details of the project that the loan is funding
- * They receive regular updates on the project and repayments
- * At the end of the loan period, donors either get their money back or choose to fund another person and another project

Three Suffolk donors are in the first

Irina proudly shows off the stock in her kiosk

wave of this new scheme which will get underway during May

If you'd like to give a donation in this way and know precisely who you're helping and why, please get in touch with Sue & Dave (contact details on previous page)



The future is health!

We continue to support Dr Javan Maganga in his rural clinic a mile or so out of Wundanyi. After meeting him it was agreed that Education Exchange will send funds to enable him to stock a wider range of medicines and to offer them at discounted prices to make them more

available to poorer people. We also met Dr Selina Mwangala who runs the Mvono Clinic in Wundanyi. She has plans to expand her busy clinic over the next two to three years when she has finished paying for her own children's education. It is likely that we will support this project

and next year we will have detailed discussions with Selina. In the meantime we hope to build up some funds ready for work in 2013 or 2014. Watch this space!

