



36 Adelaide Road, Bramhall, SK7 1LT.

www.rowleyprojects.com

February 2013



Eunice's 18 year old daughter died inexplicably last year. These are her grandchildren. Far left is Breezie, daughter of our librarian.

This was one of our more eventful visits not least because we had two accidents on the roads. The first in Kisumu at a large roundabout was totally the truck driver's fault and the company admitted liability. We weren't injured and the vehicle was fastened together with wire as it was the only vehicle available. The second was more mysterious as it involved hand-break failure. We got out to investigate a lorry stuck on the path in front of us. I walked behind the vehicle to take a photo of one of our university students working in the long holidays. The vehicle suddenly set off backwards and would have flattened me but for Kennedy's swift action. The vehicle hurtled backwards into a ditch. Again no one injured but a sorry-looking vehicle. Needless to say, our camera is irreparable.

Our trip was as packed as usual and we managed to tick off almost everything on the list. In Kisumu we did our usual banking and buying, this time chemistry equipment for the High School – gas canisters, biology charts and a model brain! Thankyou Loreto 6th Form Chemistry Dept.. We also sourced solar panels for the high school and dispensary and bought internet access from Safaricom. It was fascinating to see Lake Victoria again covered in a raft of water hyacinth miles wide which meant no fishing or pleasure trips or car washing. It's a devastating phenomenon.



We had two particularly moving occasions. One was handing over goats to 8 widows at Kadie, the poorest part of our community. There was such excitement, much hollering and clapping. Each woman had to have a receipt with the colour of her goat on in case she was accused of stealing it as there was no way she could ever afford to buy one. The deal is that two kids will be given away to other widows and the rest can be kept. The goats, and some 20 more, were wedding gifts for Becki & Matt Pennington so when I was asked to name them they were given family names including Granny and one was called Ruth as three were Silver Wedding gifts for Ruth and Steve Burr.

The other was taking part in an harambee, fundraising for an 8 year old girl who had just had surgery to remove a cancerous brain tumour. Her hospital bill was way beyond affordable and family and friends were pitching in. It was a case of the 'widow's mite' as old women came forward to give the equivalent of 20p, probably all they had at the time. I texted church and there was a huge response which the community saw as God's hand making the impossible possible. One of our women went to the hospital near Nairobi and offered two thirds of the required amount which was accepted. The alternative would have been the mother working in the hospital until more had been paid. Renish was brought home on a bus and then from the road on the back of a motor bike, two weeks after brain surgery. She is still blind and needs chemotherapy but she is such a lovely, bright little girl.



Education

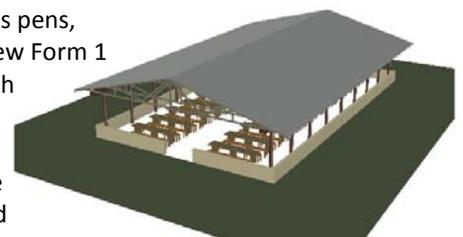


The 'Eyesore' has been renovated and is in use as a pre-school classroom and storage. That means Kolweny Kingsway Primary School is now completely rebuilt.

We handed out uniform which we had taken from two local primary schools here and the usual pens –thankyou individuals and Just Pens - and toothbrushes.



The cosmetic work at the High School has been completed and looks very smart. We spent time discussing the proposed football pitch and dining area. This work will be done this summer when the students are on holiday. We also handed out dozens of pairs of knickers as well as pens, pencils and toothbrushes. We took photos of the new Form 1 sponsored students. We also discussed at length with both headteachers the proposed application to Connecting Classrooms sponsored by The British Council which, If successful, will pay for an exchange



visit for two teachers from each school in 2014. The two teachers in Kenya were selected and talked through their side of the procedure.



We visited Lwanda High School to inspect the new science block funded by Moorside , Swinton. Steve noticed on the quotation last year that the number of roof sheets was twice what was needed and the money saved on that paid for doors and windows. It's being used for exams and has a great space for storage. It still needs tables and stools but it's a huge asset to the school already.

Water

We had planned to visit a priest in Homa Bay whom Steve met here in Stockport but he proved elusive so that gave us a little extra time for other things. The tanks and gutters are functioning well apart from one which needs a tap! How does it go? 'For the want of a shoe the horse was lost.....for the want of a horse the battle was lost'? We're hoping to have gutters and tanks on all ten of our feeder primaries by the end of the year.

Health



We have yet another Health Practitioner at the dispensary. A nurse, Japheth, was working there from September but he only has a certificate. In order to continue to be registered we need someone with a diploma. A charity offered to place a lady named Lorine 3 days a week at a good rate of pay and she started last October. She liked it so much she worked the other two days as a volunteer but to date the charity hasn't paid her a shilling! The charity is part of US Aid so we have to get onto that one quickly as we don't want to lose her.

We took out with us the usual thousands of paracetamol, ibuprofen, aspirin and cocodamol capsules/tablets, useful prescription medication, gloves, bandages, plasters, small instruments, syringes, spectacles and the requested laxatives and multivitamins and germolene. We again gave gloves, toothbrushes, toothpaste and medicines to Kennedy and Doreen, two of the dental students Jon Robinson trained in 2009. Doreen has a small clinic in Sondu some 20 miles away in a dusty marketplace but her clinic is as clean as new pin.

Small Businesses

Mary's sewing business is hectic at this time of year, new uniform time. The washable sanitary pads with waterproof linings are such a good idea but people are not willing to buy them for what they're worth so I'm applying to a trust to get funding to subsidise them

Ladies –the knicker collection for the girls was a huge success! They were given out at four different schools and at one primary school parents said they would send their girls to school if they were being so well looked after – just one pair of knickers has an amazing effect!



Karowley What a blessing the bats seem to have gone for good as has the howling dog but oh dear! This time it was the mating call of what must have been toads! Hard to tell how many but they were having a whale of a time. Steve and Elisha at last sorted out the new toilet drain. We hung the beautiful banner which our church banner group ladies had made for us and it was much admired.



When Steve went through the accounts with Ayugi he noticed that when some £2,000 had been withdrawn last June it didn't appear on the statement and hadn't been debited from our account. We called in on Duncan at Barclays on our way to the airport and informed him but he checked on the computer and simply said, 'These machines cannot lie' so the money remains in our account. Thankyou Barclays.



Thankyou ...a repeat paragraph.... for making this work possible by your donations, interest, prayer and insights. Thankyou from everyone in Nyandiwa and indeed many miles afield. We attempt to be culturally sensitive in everything we do and our watchword is sustainability. Please feel free to contact us with any ideas or potential solutions to challenges.

Please, if you are receiving this by post and now have an email address, just send me a message to let me know the address angelarowley@ntlworld.com and we can save on postage. If you no longer want to receive the report please let me know that too. 0161 440 9091