

## May 2011

Once again, as we arrived in Kenya, found our room at the hotel, it was the usual, straight to CHink school not only to see the children, but to admire the new toilet block. What a disappointment, the building should have taken 2 months to complete but after 6 months all we had were some blocks cemented together. No drainage or holes in the floor for the toilets. The building contractor was nowhere to be found.

Luckily for us, we made friends with an English builder called Keith on our previous visit. We arrived in Kenya on Friday, Keith and his merry men were on site Saturday morning, rectifying the numerous errors and organising the men and the build for the next 2 weeks. The Toilet Block, complete with terrazzo floor was finished within the month, as a registered Charity Keith kept the costs down to the bare minimum, Labour and Materials only.



All the usual events took most of our time up, luckily for us, a young couple from Edinburgh, Gerry and Paula, were very interested in what we were doing in Kenya. They were with us most of the time shopping for books and other

school necessities, kitchen equipment, paying the doctors bill, 8 desks were ordered and made, this took longer than anticipated due to the desk height, 4 had to be reduced and re-varnished.



CHink owns 3 plots of land and of course there is a council tax to pay, the council office is in Kilifi north of Mtwapa, when we get there and after a long wait, they want proof and plot clearance receipts before the council tax can be paid. The next day it was to see the Lawyers in Mombasa for the clearance receipts then back to Kilifi, a whole day wasted on our already tight schedule.

As the top class had done so well in there exams they were rewarded with a trip to the hotel for a swim in the pool with sausage and chips for lunch. The day went well with the children singing for the hotel guests who were very impressed. This led to further discussions about the school that evening and 10 of the guests paid a visit to the school the next day. It was praises all round for what has been achieved in such a short time. This visit by the hotel guests means that four more poor and needy children can now attend our magnificent school. Gerry and Paula, who were grateful for the experience of Kenya that they have also sponsored a needy child and upon

their return home have raised over £200.00 for the building fund.

### CHink Charity Shop

On Saturday June 11th, the new CHink Charity shop on Newcastle Street was opened. This was performed by District Councillors from Tuxford and Trent Ward, Shirley and Keith Isard.

Every penny from the shop goes Direct toward the building project, to complete the toilet and shower block and extend the existing school by building more classrooms. Of course this will depend on the donations we receive, but over the years we have always been amazed by the generosity of the public and their kind donations. The shop sells good quality clothing, accessories, bric a brac, toys, bedding and almost anything else you can think of. The shop has proved to be very popular and hopefully it will continue to succeed. The shop is



open 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm and run solely by volunteers,

The Novembers visit to Kenya was over far too soon, but fortunately all tasks that were planned before the visit, were completed. Our arrival at the hotel was short lived as all we could think about was meeting the children, staff and teachers at CHinK school, but most importantly the children, whose welcome songs made an unforgettable noise to our ears.

When we first arrived at the school, we were pleasantly surprised at how the new school building had developed. Keith our school contractor, gave us an extensive tour around the new classrooms and an update of what had been done. By the time we left Kenya, the 3 new classrooms are close to completion.



The following days were filled by visits to the doctors, to pay for the medical care the children had received, taking photos of sponsored desks that were made to order by local carpenters. Every child attending CHinK school was to receive a mosquito nets, which were ordered together with uniforms for all children. Most of the children were in need of shoes and clothing; so many visits were made to the market in Mtwapa with children, to buy the essentials they needed. It is an interesting experience, taking them shopping, buying the gifts, however small is

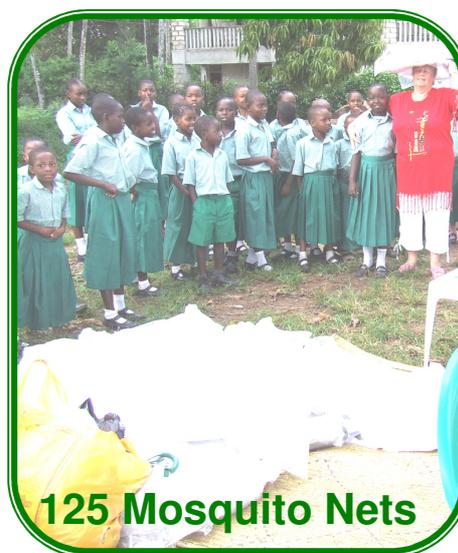
very rewarding especially seeing their smiling faces.



Important visits to homes of new children were done and many very needy children are awaiting sponsorship. A morning was spent checking the accounts with our Kenya Administrator, Felister.

All children who attend CHinK school were given a new uniform, as usual, some were not the right size and had to be altered, and then had their photographs taken. The photographs, together with school reports and letters are sent to the sponsors.

A fascinating trip to Kilifi, to start the process of registering the school was also completed on this visit. Time flew by quickly and soon it was time for the annual prize giving morning and parents meeting. Children were presented



with their prizes for their achievement in school and every child was given their mosquito net together with a bag of maize flour, their staple diet. Later in the afternoon a teachers meeting was held, which went well and teacher Peter Kahindi was promoted to deputy headmaster, who was delighted with this promotion. The interviewed for a new teacher to start in January took place, the successful applicant, Linette, was appointed and hopefully will prove to be an asset to the school.

The highlight of the 'holiday' was the annual outing, a trip for all the children to the beach at Jumba ruins. After playing games, searching rock pools and splashing about in the shallow water of the Indian Ocean, the children enjoyed a small picnic, before going back to school for lunch.

Sadly the last day arrived to soon and everyone was overwhelmed by emotions, as it is always a sad farewell until the next visit.

We wouldn't be able to do any of our work without your support and although it may seem like a drop in the ocean when you read about the problems in Africa, our project, CHinK School, has made a huge difference to the community, the children and the individuals we have been able to reach.

CHinK trustees would like to thank all the Sponsors, supporters and volunteers, for their kindness, generosity and support in looking after all the children attending CHinK School.

**THANK YOU**