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SCO 33311

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The Container

The main achievement for this Autumn has been the packing and shipping of a 20 foot container to Dar es Salaam. The container is filled with goods donated from a wide range of individuals and groups. Much of the load had been stored at Roughlands Farm for well over a year and we added to those contents with a very large donation of goods given by Tayside Recyclers in Dundee. This included 20 more computers, two lap tops, children's books, blackboards and white boards, storage units and 18 dismantled bunk beds for the dormitory. On the day of the container's arrival, a small team gathered at Roughlands Farm near Carronshore with the task of getting everything inside as quickly as possible.

In the event it took us over four hours and the container was packed tight from floor to roof. The Johnson family were all roped in either with actual loading or in the supply of regular food and cups of tea to keep the energy levels high. It was with relief and a real sense of achievement that we finally waved the container away to Grangemouth where it would sit for over a fortnight while it was fumigated and then checked before setting sail for Dar es Salaam in early October.



The container took longer than expected for the poison of the fumigation process to disperse and so unfortunately it had to spend an extra week at the quayside. It is now heading for Dar es Salaam and we are still trying to ensure that all the necessary documentation will be with the clearing agents in order to ease its passage through customs. We were only recently informed that the regulations have changed and that more detail about the contents is required and this meant that the original inventory had to be amended. We are also collecting letters from the individuals and groups who gave the goods to demonstrate that everything on the load was gifted to the school.

Near the anticipated arrival date Baraka or Ntimba will travel to Dar es Salaam so they can be on the spot to oversee the container's transport from Dar down to Songea. It is impossible to know how long the clearance process at the port will take, but all being well, we would hope that the container could be at Namanditi within a week of its arrival at Dar es Salaam.

Update on the Namanditi School

Meanwhile Baraka and Ntimba have been helping the builders to paint the school building inside and out and it is looking very smart. The cream paint of the walls contrasts well with the orange tones of the roof tiles and will make the school stand out clearly when seen from the road. The ridge tiles on the roofs have all been fitted and it is hoped that the bricks required for phase two can be fired before the rains begin in earnest.



We are set to meet the opening date of early January, the four classrooms and the toilet block are completed and one of these will be used as a dormitory. The local joiner will be able to put together the bunk beds we are sending in the container and he can make more as and when we need them. The water tank from Magima has been transported to the school site where it can be raised on a tower and will provide running water for the toilet block, shown on the right below.



The bamboo has been cut ready for the fence and will be erected in time for the opening of the school. The quotation from the Electricity Company to supply the school has come through, but is too expensive for us to go ahead with just now, in the interim we will consider using a generator while also investigating the possibility of building a windmill.

Fundraising

We will be holding a meeting at the end of November to discuss ideas for future fund raising activities and events. If any of our readers have good ideas and would like to be involved please get in touch with a member of the group.

Sponsorship

Sponsors have been confirmed for 19 out of the group of 20 of the poorest children from the surrounding villages, leaving just one child for whom I still hope to find a sponsor. The sponsors are being sent a pack with photographs and information about their particular child soon and will be kept informed of the child's progress at school.

If you know anyone who might like to sponsor the remaining child, please ask them to contact Louise Johnstone by e-mail at: l.m.l.johnstone@dundee.ac.uk or by phone: 01382 561 282