

# Under The Mango Tree

## Newsletter February 2018



### Headlines:

 [Thank you](#)

 [2018 Visit Report](#)

 [There is still more to be done](#)

 [Thank you](#)

During 2017 over £30,000 was sent to the school by Under The Mango Tree !

This was only possible because of the donations made by many generous individuals and groups.

It is not easy to properly express in a newsletter the gratitude of Trustees and, much more importantly, the gratitude and appreciation of the school and community. However it is important to say that all the teachers, parents and community leaders that we met repeatedly asked us to pass on their very real appreciation to everyone who supports them through Under The Mango Tree.

The final accounts for 2017 are not yet formally scrutinised and signed off by our accountant but the £30,000 has supported:

The school feeding programme  
A new classroom  
More desks  
New books  
Teachers  
New security doors and windows  
Educational day trips  
And other smaller items

 [2018 Visit Report](#)

A party of eight friends visited the school and community over the first two weeks of February. Five of these were first timers and their fresh eyes and new insights will be invaluable as we move forward.

The visiting party was made up of:  
Lorraine and Shaun Dunne, Davenham,  
Karen and Noel Owens, Hartford,  
Angela and Gordon Atkinson, Northwich  
Jean Ball, Morecambe  
Denver Shaw, Warrington.

There are some key messages to report:

- 1) We all enjoyed our visit – very much.
- 2) The school is progressing well. 2017 standard 8 year-end examination results were good. The Kenyan Ministry of Education officers we met are pleased with the school's progress and are very supportive. All of standard 8 pupils were offered secondary school places at the end of 2017. Two additional teachers, funded by Government, were allocated to the school during the time we were in Kenya.
- 3) There are issues to be worked through. In January the Kenyan Ministry of Education announced significant restructuring arrangements for both primary and pre-primary. Timboni, along with most schools, are still struggling to cope with these changes. But they will.
- 4) Different sub groups from the team had various meetings with teaching staff, community leaders and also potential contractors. The output from these meetings is still to be distilled.
- 5) As a group we are building ever stronger links with the teaching staff and some of the community leaders. It was a privilege to once again spend some time with Christopher and Lennox. Mamma Sarah, the elderly lady who was right at the centre of getting the school first started under that mango tree, was sadly missing as she was away attending the funeral of a second daughter. Life can be so fragile. We were able to spend more time with Head teacher Agnes and Nursery Head Jane, this all leads to us having a greater understanding of procedures, processes and priorities. Some of the team visited the rural homes of children and again this gives us a greater understanding. We also visited a ex pupil at her new secondary school.

One of the highlights of our visit was the official opening of a new classroom that had been funded by Under the Mango Tree supporters. The community came together to show displays of local dance and music; there was singing and acting from the pupils and speeches from school staff, village leaders and the local education department.

Once the ribbon was cut and the door unlocked, 30 pupils swarmed into their new classroom, shouting with joy to take a place at their new desks. We, the UK team were amazed to see children so genuinely and spontaneously happy to enter a school classroom! It shows just how important and valued access to education is for this community.

Another highlight was the presentation to Rev Makonde of a certificate recognising his important role as Ambassador for Under The Mango Tree charity. As we all know, without Charles' vision, dedication and relentless effort with the support of Joyce, this community would not have a school and the Under The Mango Tree charity would never have been launched.

One of the encouraging aspects was seeing the school using more than twenty Government supplied computer tablets. Children were using these for topic learning and the school has a rather unstable web connection – but all moving in the right direction. Two of our group took five high specification but older Apple Mac laptops which the teachers were delighted to receive and over coming months these will add new learning opportunities. (The laptops certainly made a dent in their luggage allowance !!)

We are exploring the possibility of using some of our hundreds of photographs and hours of video to create a potential promotional story book of our visit. We will keep you posted of progress.

## Other news:

Please take a look at our web site [www.underthemangotree.org.uk](http://www.underthemangotree.org.uk) This is currently being updated. Lorraine, one of our first timers in the trip party, has generously agreed to take on responsibility for looking after the web site.

We brought back lots of craft items which we can sell to raise extra funds and we may be able to show some of these on our web site in future. In the meantime, Jean, Angela and Gordon will have items on display at various events over coming months.

## There is still more to be done

As mentioned above the team collectively spent many hours at school meeting various representatives of the school and community. We also spent time just exploring, looking around and speaking to children.

As a consequence of this effort we have a long list of needs, some urgent projects and some aspirational projects.

These are being developed by trustees, in some cases more information is needed and all this work is in progress. Over the next couple of months the charity trustees will evaluate the various requests and decisions will be made as to what can be funded now and what needs to wait a little longer.

As a charity it is our long term aim to assist this school to become self-sufficient. We know there is still some way to go.

The 'list' includes, but not exhaustively:

- ✓ Tables and chairs for the very young children
- ✓ Improvements to the Head Teachers offices and the rooms used by the Nursery Head and her team.
- ✓ The establishment of a day care initiative (baby class prior to the pre-primary classes formally known as nursery)
- ✓ Improvements to hand washing and general sanitation.
- ✓ Improvements to water supplies.
- ✓ Better facilities for teenage girls.
- ✓ Two new rooms above the two new classrooms.
- ✓ A playing field







## The adverts

### Riviera Travel

Please remember to mention Under The Mango Tree to Riviera Travel if you book a holiday with them or even order a brochure. At NO COST to the travellers Riviera will make a generous donation to the work of Under The Mango Tree.

<https://www.rivieratravel.co.uk>

### Illustrated Talks

If you are part of a group or organisation that would like a talk about the school, community and Under The Mango Tree then please let us know. If it is practical to travel we will be please to meet you.

**\*\* Don't forget that 100% of all donations go to the school.**

Please take a look at Give as you live. You can raise free funds just by registering with Give as you live and selecting Under The Mango Tree as your charity of choice

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