



Friends of Double Joy

Registered Charity No 1087172

**Double Joy
Children's Farm**

a home and school for orphaned children in Kenya

Newsletter Summer 2012

e-mail edition

Dear Friends of Double Joy

My editorial this time is very brief as there's so much positive news to pass on that I've run out of space! Having 'showered' while in DJ, in a litre or so of water, and having tried to sew with the old sewing machines, I'm thrilled to hear about the new water supply and new sewing machines. There are several visitors' reports this time, all of which make the most delightful and interesting reading, including one (below) from Chrissie Hinde; there are reports of successful fund-raising events - but of course the inevitable requests for further donations. Since we all know that the money goes exactly where it's needed most, and is never wasted or squandered, I'm sure that you will all give whatever you feel you can afford.

Hilary Hall

What we like about friends

When my friend is in trouble I can help her

I help her with homework;

Because we play together

We tell stories together

We worship together;

We cook together

I like my friend because she is polite

I like my friend because she is kind and honest

When my friend doesn't have pencil or bic

I can help her

by Cynthia Akinyi

It was wonderful to visit Double Joy this April and discover that not only that the much cherished rainy season had arrived, but also so had piped water!

DJ now has both electricity and water (piped from the lake). Whilst I was there a raised tank was being built to receive the water. The pipes and taps will follow.

Despite the many blessing the rainy season brings, it also causes numerous power cuts. These usually occur in the evenings, making care for the children problematic.

We are therefore now launching a campaign to raise money for new solar panels.

The current ones are old and need to be replaced. A donation of £800 has enabled us to provide solar panels for the education block and hall but **we now need further donations** for the children's houses and the office block. Once in place these will help reduce monthly expenses.

BIG THANKS to all of you who have sent money to cover the cost of replacing leaking roof panels.

The new panels are now in place and look splendid!

Chrissie Hinde



e-mail message received from Peter Atin (Manager of DJ) 2 July 2012

We are fine here at Double Joy and I am very happy to update you on our progress and the current situation at Double Joy. We are now experiencing long rainy season where most people are busy on their farms. We thank God for this.

Recently we have been able to make some significant improvements. **We have managed to bring tapped water from the lake on the compound which is treated and clean.** This will now save us from buying water brought by the donkeys. We built a tower for the big tank which supplies the water; this water supplies the guest house and the main kitchen for cooking lunch for the children. The construction of the tower and buying of the big tank was done by the donation we received from Merstharm Aid Project. Our grateful thanks to them.

We have also installed an **electric maize mill** which helps us to grind the maize for the children, and which they use in make porridge and ugali for their daily meals. This maize mill helps us to save money and we spend that money on other things for the children. The maize mill is only used for grinding the maize used by the children in the institution.

We have been able to **replace the old iron roofing sheets** on our major buildings - the education block, children's houses, our clinic, hall, admin building, and our main store. These buildings now have shining roofs, and we send thanks to our hardworking donors for all their efforts.

In the needle workshop, we have **10 new sewing machines.** The old sewing machines were sold to the staff. The girls are really enjoying working with the new ones.

Children and staff now have well equipped **libraries** for borrowing books which helps them to study and acquire more skills.

I should inform you that the solar panels we have are very old and no longer serve the institution well. We have managed to install **two new solar panels** on the hall and education building. This was done by the donation we got from Mary Myers. The children's houses, clinic and guest house are still seriously in need of new panels.

We continue with extra-curricular activities for the children, such as scouting, drama, music and sport which the children always enjoy and which has proved beneficial to them.

I hope and believe that all these achievements are brought about by the combined efforts of the donors, management, staff, children, and the community as a whole.

further message from Peter, 6 July 2012

I am very happy to inform you that everything is still going on well with the children and the staff in Double Joy. This week has been very good; we were visited by a very important person from the government, that was the District Forestry Officer who was impressed with us. He found out that almost 20% of our land is covered by trees which is beyond the government policy. Our dairy cows are doing well, we have two lactating cows, a heifer, two sheep (male and female), we also have two donkeys and a young male donkey. The children are really benefiting from these animals by getting milk, and also learning how to care for them. I would also like to inform you about our hens which are providing eggs for us, and this also helps to improve the children's diet. I will keep you informed on our progress.

May the Almighty Father bless you abundantly.

Finances and Fund-Raising

Treasurer's Report

Since the last newsletter in December, we have managed to pay for the buildings at Double Joy to be re-roofed. This was done quite quickly due to a large donation but we thank everyone who gave smaller donations as well.

There have been regular donations large and small, with the regular standing order donors, making funds look quite healthy. We have had eight new standing orders since October 2011. We also had a large amount £15,467.41 from gift aid, so if that is feasible (ie if you are a UK tax payer) it is worth doing.

A funding bid was put in for new sewing machines for Double Joy, to St Paul's Church in St. Albans. They donated enough money to buy five sewing machines for Double Joy and five for polytechnic leavers, starting up business as tailors or dressmakers. The girls have written letters, which have been sent to St. Paul's. They write about how pleased they are to have new sewing machines, and how they will benefit the young women who decide to take dressmaking and tailoring courses, and set up their own businesses. We have been able to fund the connection of piped water to Double Joy, which is going ahead now, and the building of a raised water tank. This will greatly benefit the children, as the water is treated.

Our next project is the replacement of the rather inadequate solar panels with larger more efficient types to generate more electricity, especially for lighting as during the rainy season the mains power is frequently interrupted.

We have increased the amount we send monthly for the running of Double Joy to £6000.00, and money, which is donated for a specific need, is sent as soon as possible because of the high inflation rate of about 17%.

More children are doing well enough at Primary School leaving exams to go to Secondary School and higher education. This has a cost implication for which, sometimes it has been difficult to find funds.

FoDJ still remains the main financial supporter of Double Joy, so thank you for all your hard work and generosity.

Susan Hilliard [Treasurer]

All donations for Double Joy should be sent to the Treasurer:-

Mrs. Susan Hilliard, 40 Downside Close, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7SD. Tel: 01258 454415

Ready to print **STANDING ORDER FORMS** for making **regular donations** to DJ and the Residence for the Elderly are attached as separate pages.

Don't forget that even small amounts of money make a difference in DJ, and no more than 3% of all donations is taken up with administration charges. If you feel unwilling or unable to commit to making regular donations, one-off gifts are also always very gratefully received. (Ed)

Fund-Raising Event Reports

My name is **Cameron Redpath** and am in Year 5 at Christ Church C of E Primary School in Lancaster. Last year our Class were learning about Africa and my teacher phoned Eric Roseden, to come and talk to us about Double Joy. Neither I nor any of my classmates had heard of Double Joy before, so our teacher explained what it was about, and then we found out so much more once Eric had been into class. I was intrigued and fascinated at all Eric had to say and couldn't believe Eric's mother started Double Joy up, and how much she had done for the orphans and the love she had shown them all.

We were all so amazed at what Mary Hinde had done, that we all wanted to help in some small way, so our class made friendship bracelets, handmade pencil cases, and much more, which we sold at our Double Joy Bring and Buy Sale. We managed to raise £382 and this was presented to Eric on his next visit to School.

Just because our topic of Africa has now stopped, I haven't forgotten about Double Joy, and have written to some of the children there, and love getting a reply with details of how they are getting on, and what they are doing! If anyone is looking for a pen-pal, then they should definitely think about Double Joy; you would both get something so positive from it.

Hopefully, I will be able to raise more money for Double Joy soon!

Our Trustee **Mary Stone** continues to offer her **beautiful silver brooches, pendants and earrings** for sale and donates **ALL** profits to Double Joy. A brochure showing Mary's designs is attached as a separate page. Please call her on 01539 534443 to place orders, or discuss any special projects.

Fund-raising concert in Lancaster by Bob and Hilary Blythe January 2012

When we heard that Bob Hall and Hilary Blythe (stage name for our very own Newsletter Editor) were ready willing and able to do a gig for Double joy in Lancaster, we couldn't believe our luck! We knew Bob's style from his playing with the Blues Band so off we went. It was up to expectations and more so; lovely informal atmosphere but professional music. We were all singing along and attempting to add a rhythm section with clapping and 'shaky eggs'. The more energetic were dancing round the tables. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment, from Hilary's heart-tugging vocals to Bob's splendid Boogie Woogie. Great to know that at the same time we were supporting Double Joy.

We had such a good time that we are organizing a similar 'do' in Hull in October.

Pauline and Rob Stannard

For more details contact robin@stannard.net

Visitors' Reports

I only requested this particular report earlier this year when I met Pauline and Rob Stannard for the first time. Though their visit was made nearly two years ago, I felt it still worth including for their observations and comments. Ed

Because of my brother, Alan Nowell's, connection to Eric [Mary Hinde's son] we had the privilege of a visit to Double Joy during 2010.

An adventure for us and a chance to learn about a project we were keen to support. After the trans-Saharan flight and a short stay in Nairobi we flew up to Kisumu. We got big hugs from Rose Beatrice and George [our appointed cook] at the airport and went to collect some supplies. Then away we bumped in the van to Double Joy. We were met by a singing, cheery group of youngsters and shown around the compound. We were amazed at the friendliness, busy people with smiles to spare and orderliness, everyone knew their jobs, even little 'butter wouldn't melt' collected firewood twice a day. The older children were learning family skills with the younger ones, concepts of sharing and supporting friends were constantly demonstrated. We were able to teach a lesson each, myself

Geography, making a map of the compound and Rob did Maths with calculations of the dimensions of a football pitch. We took part in Sports sessions and did some extra creative play with the little ones. It was totally rewarding and great fun when 20 children took off around the yard with their paper birds flying behind them. The support they have ensures that they feel safe and they can grow up to face the world with skills and self reliance. After our week we realised we had not seen a child cry or complain. Mary keeps a careful eye on everything and is highly respected in the compound and the local community. We have every confidence that donations go straight to where they are most needed.

Pauline and Rob Stannard

Rosie Carnall visited Double Joy with her 19 year old son Stanley. They went to Kenya because Rosie was a British representative to the Quaker World Conference which took place in Kenya in April this year. It was their first trip to Africa.

Rosie says:

When we went to Kenya I had been thinking a lot about what it means for a child to lose a parent because of the recent death of a friend with young children. The timing was such that we went straight from her funeral to the airport.

It was striking then, to fetch up 24 hours later at Double Joy. To be given the vision of children who have lost both their parents and yet are happy and thriving. It comforted me to be amongst their joy and to see that hope can prevail. And yet it was challenging too, to witness the hardships of the local life and to understand the basic privations which makes Double Joy such a valued resource for the community.

We received a warm welcome and were treated as honoured guests. Entertainments were laid on for us but, even better, we were invited to visit with children in their homes and classrooms; to join in with games and learning sessions. As we became more familiar to the children they grew in confidence to ask us what they wanted to, and to touch our fascinating white skin with the blue veins showing through and stroke our strangely straight hair.

We walked to the market with the oldest children when they went to do their shopping. The heaviest bulk is delivered direct to the site but there is still a weekly shop to do. The market was huge and Stanley and I went for a wander round while the shopping was completed. Two of the children came with us for a while to 'help show us round' but it seemed it was a treat for them to venture more widely than usual. A small local child of about 3 took one look at the strange white giant (Stanley is very tall) and turned to run away, fast.

Walking back from the market I got chatting with one of the girls about what she had been buying. 'Tea, flour, sugar.' She listed a number of standard items and then asked me what I bought when I went shopping. 'Tea, flour, sugar,' I said, 'and milk.' 'We don't have to buy milk,' she told me 'because we have a cow.'

Life in Kenya is very different to here. You know that of course, and so did I, but being there was so different to hearing about it. We don't measure our wealth in cows. On a tour of the school buildings we were shown the children's houses. Four girls and four boys live in each house; in two bedrooms, with one bunk bed in each room. In the small living space area there are low tables with benches for eating at.

'Every child has their own cupboard for their things,' we were told on this tour. A sobering thought that your entire personal belongings will fit in a cupboard about as big as two shoe boxes. The children get to choose their own clothes on their birthday (from the many stalls at the market selling western second hand children's clothes). They have clothes for best as well as everyday clothes and it was good to see their individual tastes shining through. We were told that these clothes, along with everything else, are becoming more expensive to buy, not least because of an increase in the tax on them.

I was impressed with how the set up at Double Joy is grounded in the local culture and promotes positive relationships. We were almost relieved when we saw some signs of dispute between children – for a while we thought they just never disagreed about anything! This is somewhat unnerving when you're used to the argy-bargy of a typical UK school playground. The house groups mean that older children look after the younger ones, as they would in a family home and the care that they showed to each other was generous and kind.

All in all Double Joy was a wonderful place to visit, and more than that everything I saw showed me a place of positive nurture and sustenance for children to grow up in. Being there provoked a strong urge in me to give more financial support so when I got home I doubled my standing order. Double not very much is still not a great deal but it felt like the least that I could do.

cont

Stanley says:

I went to Double Joy naively confident in my worldliness. I'd been to poorer countries before and had witnessed poverty and seen people living lives which greatly contrasted with my own. However, to spend an extended period of time getting to know individuals on a more conversational basis was more challenging than I had anticipated. I don't imagine myself a talented enough writer to be able to communicate my experiences well enough to give an effective overall impression of what I felt so I shall instead attempt to provide little snap shots of moments which I carry away with me from the visit.

- During one of the assemblies conducted in the hall it was the turn of those who had a birthday that week to receive their individual presents amongst the more general (but eagerly received) gifts of a pencil and toothbrush per person. Upon returning to his seat on a bench towards the left of the room a small (but almost certainly older than he looked) boy sat folding and refolding his second-hand Topman vest with wide-eyed pride.
- As we sat in the DoubleJoy-mobile making our way along one of the many long straight, fairly bumpy, roads which strike out from Kisumu into the surrounding countryside I fell asleep. I awoke half an hour later to a view almost indistinguishable from that to which I had drifted off to. I found the sheer number of lives being lived in seemingly identical small holdings served by a social security system comprised only of community support and projects such as Double Joy to be astounding.
- Our walk to the market with the house 'elders' (in reality 15 or 16 year olds) took a rather long time. And I didn't have to carry the shopping home. On my head.
- We were given a lift back to Kisumu and shared the car with an enthusiastic young ex-Double Joyian who was completing his studies in wildlife management in order to become a park ranger. As you might imagine, he was very enthusiastic about Double Joy.



Stanley with some of the children, including some wearing football shirts donated by our friend and supporter, Chris Woolhouse.

Lancaster District YMCA Double Joy Project August - September 2011

- In November 2010 I was working at Ridge Community Centre for Lancaster District YMCA as a volunteer Coordinator and Community Youth Worker. I mentioned to a group of young people that I was hoping to go overseas to volunteer for a month the following year, although I had no location in mind at that time, and that was the start of an 8 month project which led to myself and 2 young people, Daren Andrews (20 yrs) and Shaun Ferguson (17 yrs), flying out to Kenya for 1 month to stay with Double Joy Children's Farm.
- The aim of our trip was to deliver an arts project to the children, involving us making a patchwork silk painted wall hanging, to make a short promotional film for the orphanage and to play games and sporting activities. We treated this visit as a pilot project with the aim of taking a further small group over to volunteer in 2014.
- Staying with the staff and children at Double Joy was an experience we will never forget. We were woken each day to the sound of singing and laughter in the grounds as the children prepared for the day. The work that the children created, sewing, drawing, writing and painting was beautiful and it was a real pleasure for us to spend our time getting to know people at the orphanage, the Board of Trustees and Mary.
- We need to say a big thank you to Ridge Community for supporting our fundraising. For 6 months young people and their parents helped us to bag pack, hold fun days, raffles and cake stalls to raise money for both the trip and for the Charity. As well as paying for our flights and stay we were able to make a sizeable donation to the charity which helped to set up an health insurance policy for staff and children.
- We have achieved much through participating in this project. We have raised awareness of AIDS and HIV, of child poverty and child exploitation. We have mobilised groups of young people, supporting their ideas for fundraising and enabling them to make a real difference to the lives of other children and we have made an amazing piece of art and a film which continues to support the charity.
- We continue to fund raise for the charity today.

Lou Andrews

Friends of Double Joy (Reg Charity No 1087172)

supports Double Joy Children's Farm, a home and school for children orphaned by AIDS:
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Newsletter: Hilary Hall, 5 Prospect Place, Totley Rise, Sheffield S17 4HZ

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Cheques should be made payable to 'Friends of Double Joy' and sent to:

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