

News from Kisoro

Despite the ongoing political problems in the Diocese of Muhabura, the Kisoro School for Deaf Children continues to thrive. The school is currently catering for 52 deaf children in four classes, and has four qualified teachers to teach them, plus one deaf instructor, 5 support staff for the boarding unit and 2 night guards.

The deaf children continue to follow the same curriculum as their hearing counterparts and sit the same examinations. They are also encouraged to take part in the various extra-curricular activities and sports. The school volleyball team has five deaf children among its six members, and the team is doing well. The deaf children regularly join their hearing friends in marking national and international day celebrations; last term, the children performed songs, poems, stories and dances to mark World Women's Day.

A particular highlight this term was a visit by Hon Alex Ndeezi, the MP responsible for people with disabilities in Western Uganda. He said that he was very "impressed with the activities of the deaf children."



Recent developments at the school have included computer training for the staff, and a programme has been put in place to enable those who teach in the mainstream primary classes to learn sign language. This will ease communication between the deaf children and the other teachers, and will help to grow a more positive attitude towards the deaf children in the community at large.

"We are grateful to the Kisoro Trust Scotland and all their supporters, without which our work would have been impossible".
Ephraim Mbabazi, Director, Kisoro School for Deaf Children



News From Edinburgh

Elsie Inglis Nursery in Edinburgh held a Family Fun Day at the end of July and raised £50 for each of their chosen charities, one of which was the Kisoro Trust. The children enjoyed a bouncy castle, face painting, guessing the name of the teddy, pinning the tail on the donkey, ... and the highlight of the day – a visit from the local fire brigade! Not only were the children allowed to climb into the cab of the fire engine and try on the helmets, but they even had a chance to try out the hoses. It was a great day, so a big thank-you to the firemen, all the staff, and the mums and dads who helped out and supported Kisoro in this way.



Future Plans

We are currently planning a number of fundraising events for the coming months. If one or more of these takes your fancy, why not put it in your diary now – further details will be available nearer the time.

The Kisoro Ceilidh III

It is time for the next biennial Kisoro Ceilidh! Two of these have been held over the last four years, and have been thoroughly enjoyed by the sell-out crowds who attended. One again we have **Sandy Brechin** and the **Sensational Jimmy Shandrix Experience** ... as our band, and we'll be dancing the night away on Saturday 22nd January, from 8pm - 11.30pm, in the Thomas Morton Hall in Leith, Edinburgh.

The Great Scottish Walk

The Great Scottish Walk 2005 takes place in Edinburgh on Sunday 19th June 2005, and this time you will be able to walk for Kisoro! The event has been taking place for the last 7 years, and has raised over £3m for charities. There is a choice of a 6 mile route or a 12 mile route, and for children there will be a The Great Wee Scottish Walk – a 2 mile route – taking place on 10th or 17th April – final date to be confirmed by the organisers very shortly.

We hope many of you will think about taking part in one of these events – will we certainly be there. All you have to do is get your entry form from us, collect sponsorship money, and all the money you raise will go to Kisoro. And of course you will also have a great time, and get plenty of exercise into the bargain.

The Kisoro Plant Sale

We are planning to hold a plant sale in aid of Kisoro in the spring of 2005. The date and venue are yet to be confirmed, but this will be a great opportunity to pick up some bargains for your garden, and support Kisoro at the same time.

We'd be delighted to receive donations of plants for the sale. Everyone with a garden will have a favourite plant that is getting a bit too big for the border. Either now or in the spring, it is quite likely that you can dig it out, divide it, and pot the new plants up. If you are able to let us know in advance what plants you plan to donate, that would be really helpful. Simply email us at info@kisoro.org

To Make a Donation

I would like to make a donation to the Kisoro Trust. I enclose a cheque for £.....

Please send me a standing order form.

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your gift by nearly a third, at no extra cost to yourself, by completing the Gift Aid Declaration below:

Please treat as Gift Aid Donations all donations made by me to the Kisoro Trust from 6th April 2001. I understand that I must pay sufficient tax each year to cover the amount to be reclaimed.

Signed:.....

Thank you!

We are hugely grateful to everyone who has supported Kisoro since the very beginnings of the project some 5 years ago, and particularly those who continue to support the school through regular giving and standing orders. Special thanks must also go to the pupils of Larkhall Academy whose signed carol singing in a shopping centre last Christmas raised £900 for Kisoro.

