

Kisoro Newsletter

The Kisoro
Trust

January 2007



News from Kisoro

A Happy New Year to all our supporters from everyone at the Kisoro School for Deaf Children.

During the current school year there have been some new developments in the curriculum, in particular the introduction of Integrated Production Skills, or IPS. IPS comprises technical/art & craft production skills, home management/economics production skills, and business/entrepreneurship production skills. The introduction of this new component into the curriculum has enabled the deaf pupils to gain skills which will go some way to preparing them to lead independent lives in the future. In the last few months, the children have woven mats, made school bags and other craft items using local materials whenever these are available.

The children have been encouraged to observe business skills through visits to the market place in town, as well as to the post office, bank and petrol station. The pupils had the opportunity to ask questions to help them learn how people do business.

In July, one teacher for the deaf as well as two deaf pupils were among a team of 71 people, including students from Makerere University, who set out to climb the Mountain of Muhabura, whose summit is around 14,000 above sea level. Both deaf pupils were among the 40 people who successfully reached Crater Lake, at the top of the mountain, and it is hoped that more deaf children may be able to join the expedition in 2007.



Save the Day!

We hope that all Kisoro supporters will keep the evening of Saturday 21st April free for our next fundraising event, a concert to be held at Portobello United Free Church, Moira Terrace, Edinburgh, at 7pm. Ian White will be headlining, with support from Impromptu and other groups.

Ian White is well known for setting the ancient Psalm lyrics of the Old Testament to modern music. Over the last 20 years, he has travelled the world, and produced more than 16 albums. Ian & his wife Carol have a Scottish based recording company called Little Misty Music (www.littlemistymusic.com)

Tickets for the concert are priced at £7.50 (£5.00 concessions) and will be available from Louise - tel: 0794 070 5333; email: loopymo@tiscali.co.uk.

A tasty evening of Jazz



The last Kisoro concert, *Tastes of Jazz*, held at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, raised over £300 for the Kisoro School for Deaf Children. Those who attended were treated to a delightful evening by Louise Holden and Friends. Hearing people in the audience as well as deaf guests found that the signing of the songs in the second half only augmented their enjoyment of the evening.

Sincere thanks go to Louise and to the Royal Lyceum Theatre for putting on this concert for us, free of charge.

The Kisoro Trust

Recognised Scottish Charity No. SC 029384

91 Restalrig Avenue, Edinburgh, EH7 6PN, Tel/Fax: 0131 661 1930

www.kisoro.org

Craigentinny Primary School

Following the fantastic fundraising efforts on our behalf by the pupils of Craigentinny Primary School, three of the Kisoro Trustees were invited to take part in a school assembly in December and accept a cheque for over £3000.

Prior to receiving the cheque, the Trustees staged a 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' - style quiz, with Mrs Wallace, the depute headteacher in the hot seat. Mrs Wallace successfully answered questions about Uganda, with a little assistance from her 'life-lines' of '50/50', 'phone a friend' and 'ask the audience' - who were of course the school pupils. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion, the pupils seemed to thoroughly enjoy the chance to participate, and we were delighted at the end to accept Mrs Wallace's 'winnings' in the form of a cheque for £3097.

The pupils at Craigentinny are continuing to support the school, and are currently collecting pencils and rubbers as a gift to send out to the children in Uganda. Letters have been exchanged between the pupils of the two schools, and it is hoped that this link will continue, to the benefit of everyone involved.



Kisoro Trustees receive the cheque from Mrs Wallace



A big thank you to the pupils of Craigentinny Primary School

Future Challenges

The Kisoro School for Deaf Children has now been running successfully since 2001, and we are frequently taken aback by the generosity, in terms of both time and money, of the many individuals and groups who have supported us over the years, and made this whole project possible.

But we are also aware of the challenges which constantly face both the Kisoro Trust here in Edinburgh, now committed to raising £12,000 per annum to support the school, and the Kisoro School for Deaf Children itself.

Many of the pupils come from extremely poor families, who can barely afford even to contribute the 5 kilos of dry beans per child per term which is expected of them. Some children have had to drop out of school owing to desperately hard family circumstances.

The pupils who were part of the very first intake back in February 2001 are now in Primary Six, and another challenge is to plan for their future, once they complete their primary education next year. There is no secondary provision for deaf children in the area.

Ultimately we would like to secure the future sustainability of this project by purchasing land to grow food for the school, thus making it much more self-sufficient. Obviously this will be entirely dependent upon the availability of land and whether or not we can afford to purchase it whilst continuing to honour our annual commitment to the running costs of the school.

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:.....