

Operation Imprezza
 HELPING THE EDUCATION OF AFRICA'S FUTURE
www.operation-imprezza.org
 Registered Charity Number: 1113535

There has been a tremendous amount of work at both the bungalow and school site. At last the electricity at the bungalow is working fine and will enable us to get a fridge and a freezer when we can afford it. This will make a significant difference to food as we can buy meat and other fresh produce in bulk and freeze it, something which has not been available to us before.

Our thanks to John Davison, who donated his birthday money which has enabled Catherine to purchase a TV for the bungalow. This can be used for lessons which are broadcast and also keep them updated with the news. The school building now has a roof, and we are waiting the fitting of windows and doors and for them to be painted. An additional room in the latrines was added to be used as a urinal and we will look for another place to site the girls' latrines. The four latrines can be split for both girls and boys until we finish the other one which has been stopped until the heavy rains subside. The site should be inspected in September by the Local Education Authority. They are the people who grant the school the license it needs to operate.

Chris Hulme

Brian Hodge is over in Kenya at the moment and has been sending daily updates, one of which is included here;

It was a real sight at 6.45am driving, as the sun was just rising, along main roads bordered by hoards of colourful children walking and often running to school, mostly in bare feet. I will always remember a ½ mile straight road filled with students in green and yellow uniforms running away from me down both sides of the road. Everyone was running.

Many were only 4 or 5 and there was not an adult in sight!! All are sent off to school on their own as busy tankers and sugar cane trailers roar down the roads!!

No wonder Kenya wins so many middle distance athletics medals!!

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John Davison – Volunteering at Imprezza!

Before I left for Kenya, I thought I had a mental image of what it would be like. I had read some books and seen some DVDs. I had expected it to be very green, but dry as I knew it was the dry season. As we arrived in Kenya, my first impression was of the soldiers on the roof with guns, guarding the airport. We met Rose and Paul and went to the giraffe centre. I enjoyed the visit but did not like the feel of the giraffe's tongue as I fed it off my hand!!

We visited some Grandparents' homes. One lady had six grandchildren to look after in a house no bigger than an average room in the UK. Many Grandparents look after children because their parents have died.

During the first week we enjoyed singing songs with the children, and teaching them to play cricket. I started teaching Maths, English and Sports to classes 2, 3 and 4. I helped them improve their cricket skills and taught them tag rugby. They loved the tag rugby and had great fun playing it.

I found the Maths easier to teach than the English, because there was no language barrier. The methods that I used really helped the children understand the concepts.

I also enjoyed teaching English. Class 2 did not have very well developed English skills, but they were good at learning to write words. The older classes concentrated more on constructing sentences. I was fortunate to have Dave, Catherine's brother to help me in these lessons. I also taught a little Science with Dave. We demonstrated it with actions, or wrote it on the chalk board. I made good friends with everyone in the house, but particularly Nelson Okomba, who I went running with. Life was very hard for most; it was a struggle. The conditions they lived in were very basic. I felt very unhappy about this, and wanted to change it, but couldn't.



David, Bob, John and Catherine

This made me feel me feel helpless. However I did help to educate the children. They are the future, and hopefully my small contribution will help them to be better employed in years to come.

We went on a number of visits, which I enjoyed, but most of my time was happily spent in the village. I celebrated my 18th birthday while I was there. One memorable occasion was when I first went running with Nelson, in the dark, because it was too hot during the day. Another was when one of our goats ran away and Frank, Nelson and I had to look for it! Eventually we found it, some kind person had tied it to a tree!! I was enjoying myself so much that I decide to stay on for another 5 weeks, which became 7 because of the volcanic ash crisis.....

Finally I would like to thank Catherine, Dave, Phaustine, the teachers at the primary school, and everyone else who lives there for a wonderful experience. Since I have returned I have noticed how life is taken for granted here.

John Davison

Our thanks to John for all his hard work and blisters!, Visits have a huge and positive impact for all involved.

News Flash....

We recently had some intrepid walkers complete The BIG Walk again this year, from Okehampton to Teignmouth (37miles).

The money raised this year is for a classroom. You can still donate to the walk through;

lesley@operation-imprezza.org

A big thank you to Mary Prior and her team for a wonderful coffee morning, and also to Stuart, for a fantastic Acoustic Evening held at the Carlton Theatre Café. Any fundraising ideas...big or small are always welcome. Please get in touch if you feel that you would like to offer support in this area.

Meet Our Students



Peter

Peter is an amazingly intelligent young man; he has just taken his final exams and hopes to go to university.

As the oldest son, he had been caring for his mum and siblings for quite some time as she was dying from aids.

Unlike many of our other students, Peter was brought up in a family that had money, but after the death of his father they were left with nothing. This was a really difficult time for him, as he had to learn to adapt to merely surviving. He is always the first to volunteer to help with everyday eventualities and does so with the hugest smile. When I spent time with Peter I could see that there was a huge amount going on in his life that he had yet to articulate, so we spent quite a period of time just talking, which was the first chance he had to discuss how he was feeling. Peter is gentle and kind, but beneath that huge smile there is a lot of genuine sadness.

Melissa



The New School With Roof!

Our Mission is to enable students, both boys and girls, who would not otherwise have any access to secondary or decent primary education to succeed.

Some Urgent Needs

- We need to raise the money to complete and equip the first phase of the new school building. This will include four classrooms and a kitchen, toilets, showers and a dining room. As an indicator of the funding needed, one classroom will cost £4000.
- The primary school has grown to 150; food costs over £70 per week for one meal a day. With more funding for this we could provide 2 meals per day.
- We always need regular donations for the general running of school and always have individual students who require sponsoring.

If you feel you would like to get involved, maybe by organising an event, such as a coffee morning, then please get in touch. Every penny raised is important and all funds go towards Imprezza.

News from Kenya cont....

Beatrice and her neighbour came today at 11am and we went up to her house. They appeared here on Sunday. Beatrice (23) lost her husband (30) to liver failure in February. She has 2 girls and has effectively been turned off her husband's shamba (which he shared with 2 brothers).

As she only has girls currently under the constitution they don't count in terms of inheritance. We gave her some money at least to fix her roof in the heavy rain thanks to an additional donation. We can only stretch so far in this small community but the needs here are so great. This afternoon I visited the site and clearly there is still much to be done on the classrooms, but it has really moved forward. All the classrooms have lovely views of the Mrende Hills and the Nangani Hills. Each classroom is of a good size and the whole building is really good value compared with the single.....

Check out the NEW website for details of fundraising events
www.operation-imprezza.org



Inside one of the new classrooms.

...classroom I saw being built at a school yesterday where the cost to date at the same stage is almost as much. There are 7 months to go to the opening of the school hopefully all will go well. This will be an exciting and challenging autumn!

Brian Hodge

Steam Train Ride

in aid of

Operation Imprezza

Saturday 26th June

Buckfastleigh Train Station

Leave 7pm prompt
(return approx 9.30pm)

BBQ & musical entertainment
Bar at venue

Tickets: Adults £12.50 under 14 £6.00
Family (2A+2C) £32.00

Tickets available at:
Whistlestop Café; 01626 777835
Chris Hulme; 01626 777419