

What a difference a year makes!



Because of this



No more of this



And lots of this

This time last year Judi's February trip to Kosele began with three rather nasty surprises. The first unpleasant surprise was to discover seriously full and 'bubbling' latrines (the French experience just does not compare). The second was to discover that, because there had been no rain for more than three months and the tractor and bowser had been off the road for six weeks, there was absolutely NO water on the compound. The third problem came the following morning when we had a 'surprise visit' from our District Public Health Officer, Mr Kisimba, who took one look at the situation and threatened to close us down!

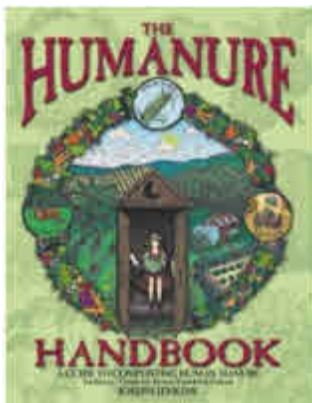
As you will know from our last newsletter, we not only survived this trip but also had the chance to make important connections with the people who drill bore holes and a new project promoting 'Ecosan' latrines! Having done this Judi passed it all over to Terry and the team and stayed in England for a year!

But, like the title of this story says 'what a difference a year makes!' Thanks to a lot of hard work and answers to seven years of prayers, this February

Judi and her visitors were able to enjoy 'luxury' in Africa! Abundant water/ abundant life! We may still have to walk across to the big tank and carry the jerry can back to the house but now the tank never runs dry. We always have enough to drink, to cook and to wash with and enough to give away to our elderly and/or sick neighbours. We even have enough to enjoy the luxury of a 'foot bath' at the end of a busy day in the heat and the dirt (though next time we will remember to add the vital ingredient, recommended by Annie and Pastor Robin, a little drop of tea tree oil!) On top of this treat came the equally appreciated new Ecosan latrines. Judi had seen the photographs listened to the descriptions but failed to believe in an African latrine with NO smell and NO flies! Fortunately she doesn't currently own a hat otherwise she would have had to eat it .. It's OFFICIAL! Judi has witnessed and confessed that Ecosan loos have no SMELL and no FLIES! She will however, pass over the details of how it all works to our 'humanure' expert Terry.....

“.....Terry, there aren't any flies!”

In our October 2007 newsletter I wrote an article about a plan to turn the 'solid' waste from latrines into compost. Two and a half years later I am pleased to say that this dream has been turned into reality.



I had first been inspired to attempt this ecological miracle by a book called "The Humanure Handbook", (and have bored my family, friends and anyone who will listen, with it ever since). It's a strange obsession BUT we are now a major step closer to producing our own fertiliser for our crops. I guess it's a bit of a peculiar part of the "teach a man to

fish" philosophy but it works.

We have always had a problem with our latrines, (up until now). In our last newsletter Judi wrote about the problems they had caused at the start of her visit in February 2009. To add to the problems of full latrines we experienced a fairly spectacular toilet disaster in October 2009, during Terry's last visit, when heavy rains led to the collapse of one of our latrines. (Shown in the picture below). Fortunately nobody was in it at the time!



composting bin beside the latrines (shown on the left of the picture above). Nothing is wasted. The urine is mixed in a ratio of 1 litre of urine to 10 litres of water and used as a 'top dressing' for the crops on our farm. The faeces will be composted for 18 months before being used as a fertiliser.



The children are very proud of their farm, where they grow spinach, kale, tomatoes and onions. We have big plans for the farm, and hope to be at the forefront of developing new farming techniques to increase productivity and food security. It has been a long wait but well worth it. (And there really aren't any flies!).



After much research and enterprising enquiries 'on the ground' in Kosele we have finally managed to build a new Ecosan latrine block in Kosele. (The first 3 door Ecosan in Kenya according to Wycliffe, the local expert who helped us to build them). Building started during August 2009 and was completed by October, when I was last in Kenya. The Ecosan latrines are beautifully simple. Urine is directed via a pipe into a small plastic water container and 'the rest' is collected under the latrine. A small plastic scoop full of ash and soil is put down the latrine after every 'deposit' and the faeces is collected underneath the latrine, where it dries before being transferred to a



ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR - OUR FIRST CLASS 7!

Thanks to Diageo for the text books

It's hard to believe but our very first Nursery Class are now in Class 7 (they will take their KCPE exam at the end of Class 8, in October 2011!) Every year we have to believe in faith that someone will make a donation to cover the costs of the new set of textbooks as this class progresses through the school curriculum. Each year the books are bigger and correspondingly more expensive! It was, therefore, with great relief and thanks that we received a gift for £580 from Diageo the 'drinks' company. This is not the first time that their employee Duncan Fisher has literally 'got on his bike' to raise money that Diageo have then matched. Our sincere thanks and 'best smiles' go to him and to his colleague Mike Baldwin who made it possible for us to be the beneficiaries of this very generous donation..... "ASANTE SANA"



The Incredible journey!

'Uncontainable Joy and Excitement'

Some of you may remember a feature in our October 2007 Newsletter about a container that was donated to us by Safeguard Doors in Wednesbury. Many of you will have donated items which turned this empty box into a treasure trove of clothes, books, games, computers and school furniture. Some of you will have helped us on the occasions that these goods had to be packed/ repacked and inventoried.

Some of you have prayed with us for an 'affordable and trustworthy passage' to transport it from Astwood Bank to Kosele! But no one has worked as diligently or as hard as our friends Jean and Tony Pratt who



have stood on a market stall, three days a week, all through a very long, cold winter, selling donated items to raise the

£4000 it finally cost to ship the container 5,000 miles to Mombasa, 400 miles by rail to Nairobi and finally 200 miles by road to Kosele.

Forgive the pun but this has been an incredible journey. It ended with a 10 day battle with the 'authorities' in Nairobi but the container finally arrived in Kosele on the 10th of February, just three days before Judi's arrival. During her two week visit it was impossible to properly unpack it all but many of the children are already enjoying sitting on their own school chair - instead of a shared bench - and, once it has been properly logged, the school will have its own library funnily enough the children (and the grown ups) were very quick to spot certain items that were quickly unpacked and put straight into use!



The May's 7 Day House

Our friends the May family had quite a trip to Kosele last October. Having raised the money before their visit they built a house for our long suffering friend Jared.



The first step in building a house in Kenya is carrying the timber up to the building site.



It's always good to get a bit of help. Building the house was a popular activity with the local children!



The interior walls were quite tricky! Nimble fingers required.



And applying the "filling" was a very muddy job. We'd have called this wattle and daub in the "olde dayes". Done properly this is a very strong structure - later strengthened by cow dung (but luckily not on this day). The water was carried to the site by donkeys. All mixing was done by hand!



John, Fiona, Jessica, Juliet and Nathan worked really hard to get the house ready in a week. Jared was 'made up' by his new house. The picture below shows the house he had been living in with his wife and children.



Thank you Annie



Annie Austin, who first visited Kosele in January 2007 and 'believed for' and then 'worked for' the fundraising efforts that brought us our bore hole, made her return visit this January. Annie really understands and appreciates the vital role that water has to play in enabling people to live better lives.

Her latest campaign is to provide local homes with 500 litre water tanks with gutters and down pipe,

some basic farming tools and vegetable seeds. It costs approximately £55 to put one of these packs together. Thanks to Annie's continued hard work and the support of the members of Riverside church in Bewdley, sufficient funds have already been raised to help more than 30 homes with this special gift. Nyasye ogwedhu Annie (God Bless you!)

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