

Footsteps



New Classrooms for Rae and Kobeto Schools

Our programme of upgrading and improving the schools that we support continues.

January saw the completion and hand over of four new Footsteps-funded classrooms. There are now eight pristine classrooms at Rae and two at Kobeto Primary School. The work doesn't stop there - we have funds in place to build two more classrooms at Rae and to complete six existing partially built classrooms at Kobeto.

Work is expected to start in the second quarter of 2014 and we hope be ready in July when our Rafiki Programme takes place.

Since 2006 Footsteps has built 8 schools and over 50 classrooms giving over 4,000 children access to education.

Footsteps Cinema Club

The Footsteps Cinema Club's very first private screening event at the Curzon, Wimbledon, proved a successful and very enjoyable morning.

Guests enjoyed pre-film coffee and croissants in the cinema's café as they looked forward to seeing Robert Redford and Meryl Streep in the classic movie "Out of Africa" in luxurious and private surroundings.

The £500 raised from ticket sales and raffle has purchased 4 new beds for the Children's Ward in Kisumu.

The next Cinema Club screening is "The Constant Gardener" on Thursday 19th June, we look forward to seeing you there.

Full details on the back page.

Save the Date!

Tennis

23rd May

Join us for social tennis and lunch at Coombe Wood Tennis Club.
£25

Cinema Club

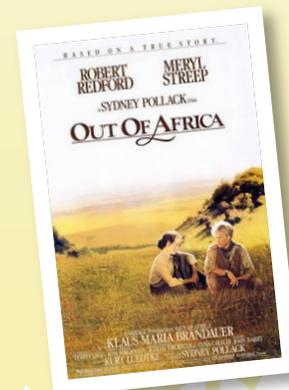
19th June

"The Constant Gardener" at HMV Curzon, Wimbledon
£15

Dinner

16th November

Enjoy dinner with friends at Lighthouse in Wimbledon
£75



Rokeby School kits out Rafiki Sports Day

Boys and parents from Rokeby School in Kingston upon Thames donated their old sports kit to be used during Rafiki Sports Day 2013 at Obingo and Rae Primary Schools.

The Kenyan school children were delighted with their professional looking kit. The schools have very little sports or art equipment and all the pupils enjoyed the opportunity to enjoy the fun during Sports Day as well as the arts and crafts skills they learned throughout the Rafiki programme.

Linda Huxley and Pat Murphy, both teachers at Rokeby, joined our Rafiki trip in 2013. They were impressed by the standard of organization on the day and how much the children enjoyed taking part and meeting new people.

Inspired, they returned to school in September with ideas for fundraising and by the end of the Autumn term had raised £1,000 towards this year's Rafiki Programme.



Back to Work At Obingo

We first came across Obingo School over five years ago when it was in terrible condition. Since then it has been transformed by the work of Footsteps. We have built four classrooms from scratch and completed the building of a further two previously unfinished classrooms.

Last year's Rafiki programme undertook the long and uncomfortable road journey to reach the school much to the appreciation of the local community who were overwhelmed by such a show of support. Equally our Rafiki volunteers were moved by the experience of working in such a remote and neglected community. As a result our volunteers decided that the profits from the 2013 Rafiki programme should be invested in a nursery block. The work is about to start!





Rafiki 2014

In just a few weeks, at the end of July, 31 excited volunteers will travel to Kenya ready and eager to run a programme of sports, games, art and general fun. This year we will be based at Kobeto and Obingo Primary Schools. After a couple of days spent visiting some of our projects we will launch into a full schedule of activities culminating in our popular Sports Day which has become the highlight in the calendar for the Footsteps Schools.

Over the last few months the volunteers have been raising money to go towards their travel and to fund a specialist project which they will decide upon whilst in Kenya.

Fund raising initiatives have included cake sales, dinners at home and cycling and running events.

The build up culminated with a frantic weekend of fundraising at the beginning of March.

A movie themed Quiz Night on Friday night attracted teams of Dalmatians, Doctors and Men in Black.

The following Sunday evening the Lighthouse restaurant in Wimbledon hosted a dinner for 80 more traditionally dressed diners.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported these events raising a wonderful £20,000.



The Study School Supports Footsteps

The Study School in Wimbledon donated their old school uniform to Rae School last year. They then went on to hold a Christmas Fair where staff parents and girls raised enough money to provide 134 desks for the children in Katito.

Thanks to all the parents and teachers involved, especially Mrs Gay and Mrs Farr.

Thanks also go to the following, who have supported us over the year - West Glamorgan branch of BAECE (British Association of Early Childhood Education) who donated money raised to Footsteps, John and Beryl Barnsley for their kind donation from their 60th Wedding Anniversary, the Ibstock Baptist Church for choosing Footsteps for their Annual Gift, the Charles Hayward Foundation and the ED Charitable Trust, Monika and Roland Klein for a gift of £600 raised during their Pearl Wedding Anniversary at Warren House and many, many more.....

A TRIBUTE TO SARAFINA



For those of us in Footsteps who travel to Kenya often, and even for those who come only once on a Rafiki programme, the experience over there is always a positive one. We know that life is hard, we see the difficult living conditions, and even use the “interesting” toilet facilities. These things become little anecdotes and stories to tell our friends about back home where we experience consistent access to affordable food, free health care services and good quality education for our children.

So, none of us could live in those conditions we visit and probably none of us would even try. Life expectancy in that region of Kenya is around 40 years. Yet, this is just “statistics”.

Sadly, the statistics mask real experiences of life and death for those who live there.

Such a tragedy was recently experienced by our beloved Monica who lost her 15 year old daughter, Sarafina, to sickle-cell disease on Christmas day, 2013.

Sarafina, was a loving and caring child. She loved to be around the Rafiki volunteers and got involved in all the activities that were going on. She sang and danced at every opportunity. Many of you, who have travelled with us will remember her enthusiasm, brightly coloured braids and big smile.

Monica knew for years that this day would come because sickle-cell disease has no cure but she left no stone unturned in trying to ensure that Sarafina had every opportunity for a normal and healthy life. She spent the equivalent of thousands of pounds on medical bills knowing that it would all be in vain and she never complained to us of the burden.

We take this opportunity from Footsteps to put in writing this tribute to Monica and to Sarafina, who, despite no longer being with us, is still in our thoughts and the feeling of warm joy we experience when we remember the times spent together.



footsteps
Striding towards better health and education for Kenyan children

Thursday 19th June 2014
HMV Curzon, Wimbledon

*Doors open at 9:00am
with refreshments
available from the bar*

Film commences 10:00am
Tickets £15

**THE
CONSTANT
GARDENER**

**To book tickets for
The Constant
Gardener or any other
Footsteps event
please contact**

info@footsteps.org.uk