

## Summer Newsletter 2017



Welcome to the latest update from The Kindu Trust! Summer is now drawing to an end but we have had a great season in Ethiopia, continuing the amazing work your donations have made possible! We do hope you enjoy finding out more about what you are making possible, and pass on our newsletter to friends, colleagues and family members.

**Best wishes from all of us at The Kindu Trust UK and Ethiopia**

### Activities at the Kindu Trust

#### Kindu Trust Founder visits the UK Office

In February we were delighted to meet up with Kate Fereday Eshete, founder and Honorary President of the Kindu Trust, when she visited the Trust's UK office. Kate was in the UK getting treatment for a rare condition called Leishmaniasis, which is a parasitical disease transmitted by certain infected sandflies, and very unusual in north Ethiopia. The treatment is going well and she is staying in the UK for a while to rest. Kate retired from active involvement with the Kindu Trust in 2010 and now lives in the Simien Mountains with her family where she runs a school.



It was fascinating to learn more about how she set up the Trust and her early pioneering work in Ethiopia. You can learn more about how she set up the Kindu Trust on our website or read her interview from 2008 in the marvelous Africa Trek II book, available on Amazon. You can read about her school in Ethiopia on her website at [kateferedayeshete.net](http://kateferedayeshete.net).

#### Homes Rebuilt for Families Devastated by Fire



In the last Newsletter we reported on the fire in the market area of Gondar which destroyed some 165 homes. We are pleased to report that re-building work is now well underway, some 30 houses have now been built with wooden frames and tin sheet walls which are much sturdier structures. The Kindu Trust staff visited the site in April to see the construction and visit the families. Two of our sponsored families were directly affected by the fire and, with the extra donations that you generously gave, we have been able to furnish the homes of both and even install water taps – a rare facility on the site. We were pleased to meet with the families who are both well and who entertained us with coffee and popcorn in true Ethiopian tradition.

#### Kindu Trust in Virgin London Marathon

We were delighted to have a runner in the Virgin London Marathon this year. The event was the first of a series of challenges for the runner – see Gav's Challenge overleaf. The UK team was out on the day to shout our support and watch Gav come in to complete in just 4 hours 15 minutes. Thanks and well done!

### Projects

#### New Project prevents Girls from Dropping Out of School

The Kindu Trust's sponsorship is designed to enable disadvantaged children to go to school and continue their education to their full potential. Puberty, and starting your period, is difficult for girls anywhere in the world. For the girls we support this phase is even harder as many cannot afford disposable pads. Even when they can, many schools do not have toilets, so there is nowhere to change during the school day. This leads to girls choosing not to go to school while on their period, and their education suffers.

The Kindu Trust is poised to start a major new initiative to tackle this problem in partnership with Link Ethiopia and Days for Girls. Days for Girls is an international charity that provides re-usable menstrual hygiene kits to thousands of girls across hundreds of countries. In the first phase of the project we will distribute kits to our sponsored girls through the Kindu Klub and other school clubs.



Each kit includes two pads, 8 liners to change the pads, soap and flannel for cleaning the kit, knickers, and Ziploc bags to store the liners once changed, until they can be washed. The kits are all made in brightly coloured, patterned fabrics so that girls can hang them out to dry and carry the container bag around with pride! We now have 60 kits piled in our UK office (see photo left) which will be taken to Ethiopia and distributed this autumn!

In the second phase of the project we will set up a social enterprise in Ethiopia to produce the period kits locally. We will provide women with the tools to make the kits, training to source the materials and run the activity as a business. By reinvesting part of their income to purchase the next batch of materials, women can create a sustainable local source of hygiene products as well as generate an income for themselves and their families.

If you would like to support this project to help girls stay in education you can make a donation online or by cheque. Each kit costs around £5.50 and £105 pays for a trained leader to distribute kits locally to a girls club. Read more about the project on the Kindu website blog and at [daysforgirls.org](http://daysforgirls.org).



## Biogas Project establishes income generating business

In 2015 the Kindu Trust began work on our second and third community biogas sanitation facilities – toilets and showers with a biogas converter that converts waste into gas powering a community kitchen. Our UK staff visited the new facilities in April. One is located in a busy market area and another in a forested area on the outskirts of Gondar. We were delighted to see the toilets and showers being used by the local community and visitors to the market.

A kitchen cooperative has also been set up which invested in bright plants and a dividing wall between the sanitation area and the kitchen to set up an outdoor café providing tea, coffee, doughnuts and lunches cooked in the biogas kitchen. The second biogas site is taking longer to progress due to staff changes in local government, eventually the slurry from the biogas digester here will provide compost for a garden where flowers will be grown for sale.



## Fantastic Fundraisers!

**Myrtle Park School** Their summer fair fundraising enabled the Kindu Trust to buy bright, cheery tables and chairs for the children at the Kindu Klub and Playgroup and gave the staff the chance to buy a wide range of varied and essential equipment for the youth clubs.

**Gav's Challenge** Our stalwart fundraiser Gavin Walker has begun a challenging programme of events to raise money for the Kindu Trust. These have already included the London Marathon and holding local events like a Half Marathon Relay. He still has the Ethiotrail ([ethiotrail.com](http://ethiotrail.com)) and his ultimate challenge, the Bob Graham Round to come. Follow what he's doing and support at [www.gavschallenge.com](http://www.gavschallenge.com). Thanks Gav!

**Rawlins Cyclists** The cycle team supported the Kindu Trust again this year with their challenge cycling from Belgium to England which has so far raised a fabulous total of nearly £3,000 – Well done and thank you!

## Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who goes out of their way to support the work we do. As you know, we are a sponsorship organisation but all of our Education Clubs and Community Livelihood Projects are separately funded and we are very grateful for all those who donate to help us continue.