

# ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams (UK)



## ABCDreams (UK)

John de Ronde, Operations Manager

### AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR...

As we stride into 2014 we have many uncharted waters ahead. This applies to ABCDreams (UK) as much as to everyone of us. Last year was our first year of operations, the results of which we saw this month (February, 2014) in benefits to three schools in Lyamungo Sinde.

I started the project thinking that I would support the children of the whole village here and of course, that includes children attending the other two schools in the village apart from Lyamungo Sinde Primary.

At the start of this year I first met with Pastor Nickson, the village pastor at the Lutheran Church to discuss the children we should support. He is familiar with all the children and has been very helpful to ABCDreams (UK). We then arranged a meeting with village officials and the three head teachers to agree the lists of



children in need in their respective schools. The results of these consultations have meant that we now support 65 children and their families with payment of the majority of school fees for these children.

Last week I met with the head teachers at L.S. and Mwowe Primary Schools to facilitate payments. This week I visit the third school - ARI, standing for

Agricultural Research Institute School - very exiting times for the village!

### MARTHA AUSTIN

Standard 7 pupils at L.S. Primary (pictured) have now met their new volunteer English teacher, Martha Austin. Martha has been with us in Tanzania since January 31st and has already visited L.S. and Mwowe schools. She will concentrate her



**HANMINA LEMA AND KELVIN:** Kelvin was 6 months old when he was orphaned. Hanmina is his grandmother



**HEAVENLIGHT A. LEMA:** Yes, that's his real name! He was 11 when this picture was taken and is in STD 6 now. He is NOT a she as I thought earlier. Sorry, Heavenlight!



**ERICA FRED:** Erica was also 11 years old when this was taken. She is also in Standard 6 at the moment and hopeful of an academic future.

# ABCDreams (UK) Objectives: 2014 Q2

efforts at L.S. Primary but will also teach part-time at Mwowe -



and possibly ARI, although this school, considered as part of the village is quite a hike from village centre. It is located on a government plot near to the coffee growers research station, TACRI (Tanzania Coffee Research Institute). Both L.S. and Mwowe Primary Schools are nearly the equivalent in size while Ari school only has 100 pupils. The picture here is with the head teacher of Mwowe School.

## ROXWELL SCHOOL

Meanwhile, during our December visit to London, my wife and I visited Roxwell Primary School in Essex with which, if you remember, we began twinning events last year. We were very happy to see a Lyamungo Sinda bulletin board at the school with the pictures that L.S. students painted and including photos of L.S. primary children for their Roxwell

counterparts. It was lovely to see this display and I hope it will be of benefit to Roxwell pupils.

During our visit we also exchanged calendars - one developed by the Roxwell children showing monthly events at the school and one consisting of the paintings done by standard 7 pupils at L.S. Primary. It is my hope that we might be able to arrange a fund-raising event this year at Roxwell where we can exchange art works by both schools and raise funds for L.S. Primary at the same time. By the way, we found through enquiries that the difference in pupil allocation grants between the schools runs at approximately £1 in Tanzania for every £215 in the UK!

## ABCDREAMS (UK) ROADMAP

Judging by the very good start to this year then, 2014 promises to be a busy year for us. With the school events mentioned above, with Martha's teaching in the village for the next 6 months, with the continuation of the Art projects begun last year with both standard 4 and 6 (now std 5 and 7 respectively), we remain with a good deal of work to do to enhance the education of students not only here in Africa but also hopefully in Roxwell.

Until next time.....

1. Picture exchanges - L.S. Primary to Roxwell School

2. Letters and penpals project at L.S. Primary

3. Complete Std 7 painting project for fundraising

4. Collate Std 5 work and prepare for exchange

5. Pay school remaining school fees to ARI

6. Set up email dialogue between schools

7. Prepare 'penpal' exchange art works

8. Set up exhibition stalls at Morden Fun Day and Wimbledon Village Fair

## OUR NEWSLETTER

This is my 5th ABCDreams newsletter. This is a quarterly update to keep you in touch with our work. My time in Tanzania will, in this quarter be hopefully very fruitful for both Roxwell Primary and her L.S. counterpart. I'm looking forward to meeting the challenges...

*John de Ronde*

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## NEWSLETTER



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