

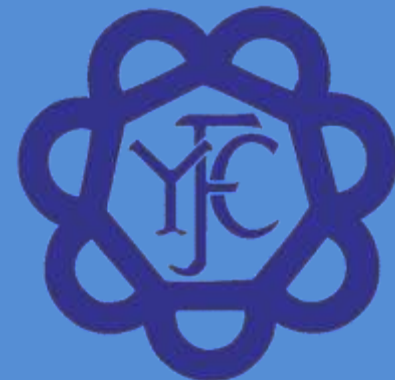


Kenya Team Travel Development with Discovery National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs

Helen Keenlyside

Kenilworth YFC

8 – 15 August 2010



Meet the Kenya Young Farmers team...

Me! AKA
Helen ↑



↓
Carwyn Jones!

Cath Jones! ↑

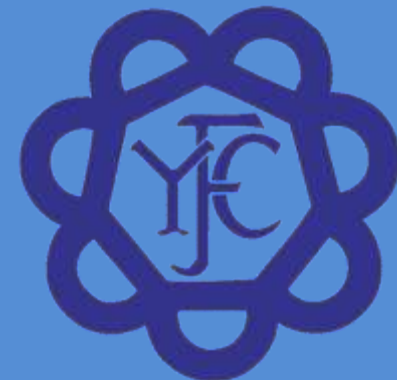


↓
Emyr Beynon!

←
Lizzy Hunt!



↓
Lizzie Watts!





Laura
Andrews!



Hannah Fox!

Christine
Parkinson!



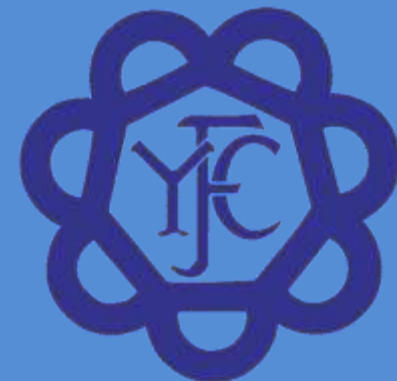
Harriet Wisson!



Anna Mayo!



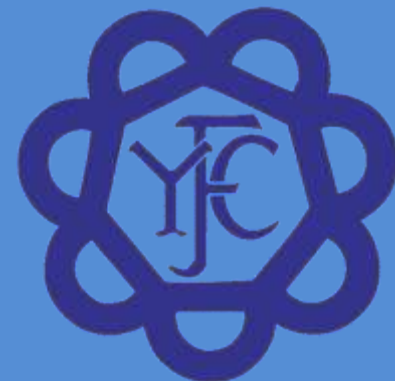
Joy Cornock!



After successful application and interview in December 2009 and a few vaccinations later, the twelve of us were soon jetting off on an eight hour flight in August to discover the lives and culture of villagers in Kenya.



Our destination for the next nine days, was the village of Kariara in the Aberdares (Central Highlands) region, two hours north from the city of Nairobi.



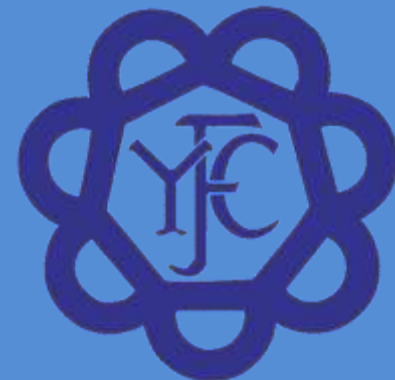
This being a homestay experience, I was paired up with Lizzy Hunt from Bedfordshire YFC and the Kamau family – Mama, Baba and one of their eight children, Solomon.

Mama Freshia being our surrogate mum for the week, kept us fed and watered and made us giggle even despite the language barrier!



Solomon who's 27, is their youngest child. As our Mama was the only one of the family who didn't speak English, Solomon was a great translator for us.

Baba Simon Kamau before retirement, was a farmer and served on the tea factory committee.



This trip was a once in a life-time experience for me and gave me the opportunity to experience our hosts families ways of life.



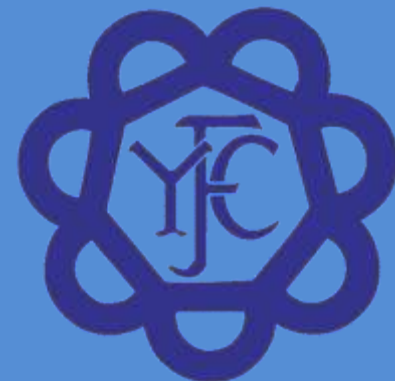
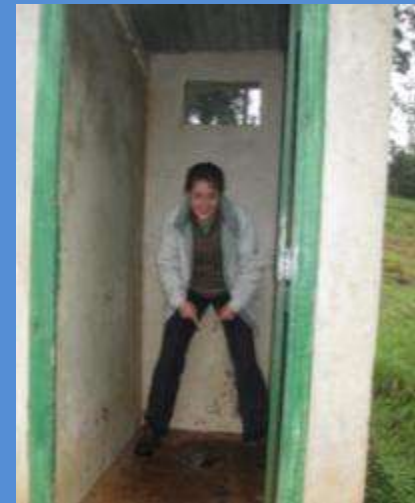
Jackie

The excursion was lead by Jackie who runs the tour group GSE Ecotours, which Young Farmers had organised the trip with. Each day we had activities planned by her and the villagers incorporating cultural, livelihood and sight-seeing events.

Part of the cost of our trip goes to the community where we stayed. Through tourism in this way, we help the villagers with their economic development.



The biggest challenge we faced straight away , was the lack of comforts we accept and take for granted as part of Western life. By this I mean having electric, toilets and running water . A couple of the homes were fortunate to have electric which were powered from solar power or a generator for two hours in the evening, but this was not the norm in the village. Most houses were made of wooden shacks but some of breeze block. Loo's were primitive being a hole in the ground, but it's all part of having the real experience I suppose! Water was collected from the water tank gathered when it rained, although a walk to the local river and carrying water with Jerry cans is still how some manage.



As part of their self sufficiency lifestyle, we helped with the planting of various seedlings and trees.



Before...



...after...



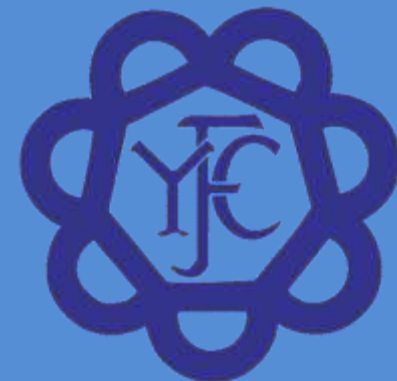
... and the bits in between.



We were taught how to weave mats from strips of banana leaves and also make Kiondo baskets from string.



A completed Kiondo basket made by one of the villagers, takes many weeks to finish.



Due to the high altitude and climate where we were staying, the region is known for its tea plantations. We experienced the entire process from tea picking, to visiting the tea factory and finally tea tasting.

The fields are picked on a cycle of once every seven days



The weigh-in of our pickings



What took us all 1.5 hours to pick, would earn us a total of about 30 pence!



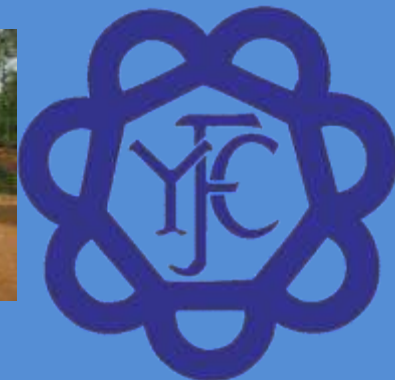
We pick the two leaves and one bud for the freshest cuppa!



NGERE TEA FACTORY CO. LTD PRODUCT FLOW DIAGRAM



Education is valued highly in this area of Kenya, however the school facilities are extremely basic.



Other activities included:

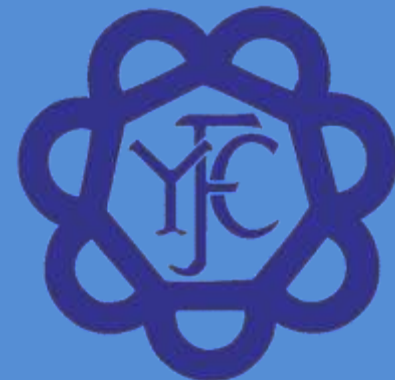


We had a go at churning milk into butter.

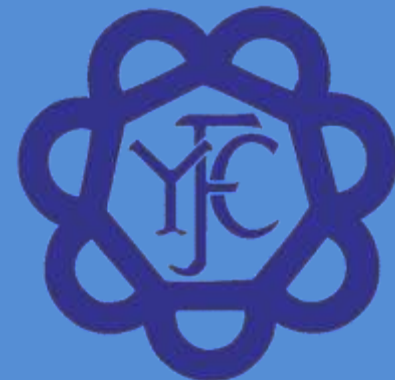
At the local Health centre dispensary in Karangi, we saw how basic conditions are with limited medical supplies and equipment.



On our long trek down through the forest to the river, we were accompanied by guardsmen (in case of elephants), who also made fishing rods from trees so we were able to do some fishing.



We went on a days safari to Hell's Gate National Park in the Rift Valley. Seeing wild zebras, giraffes, antelope and warthogs was amazing!



Kenya Fact file:

Estimated population of 32 million.

Governed by a Presidential Republic.

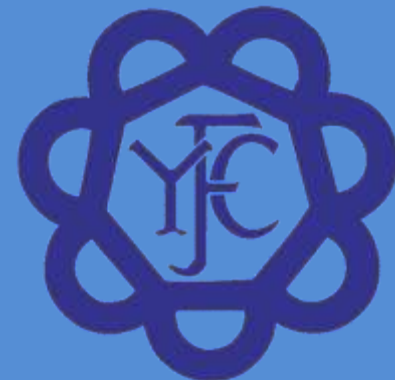
Language: Swahili and also Tribal. Our village was part of the largest tribe known as Kikuyu.

Currency: Kenyan shilling.

There are four main geographical zones: mountains, dry plains, savannas and high plateaus.

4/5ths of the workforce is in agriculture.

Producer of: tea, coffee, and sugar-cane for export.



A good time was definitely had by all!
Thankyou NFYFC.

