

# Richard Long & Co

INSOLVENCY · INVESTIGATION · ASSET RECOVERY

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*The new girls' dormitory at Enkereri Primary School*

## “CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”

After two and a half years it was wonderful in June to touch down on Kenyan soil, and even more especially so in the Masai Mara. Pola and I were accompanied by Nigel, a fellow trustee, and his wife Alison.



It was challenging for me to travel but Governors' camp made this possible with many adaptations; to our tent, our vehicle and even removing seats from their aircraft to accommodate my wheelchair. I was lifted in and out of the plane in my wheelchair by hand. A time of complete trust! It was my 40<sup>th</sup> visit and we were welcomed by our friends with hugs and tears.

It was a delight to visit Enkereri School and especially to see the newly completed girls and boys dormitories. The majority of this large-scale project was managed during lockdown by Nigel and me from our tables at home in England. There were almost daily video calls between Nigel, who is a building surveyor, Ambrose the builder and Julius our community worker. We were pleased with the quality and very colourful finish, chosen by the school! Our immense thanks go to the very generous family who funded these. It was wonderful that they were able to join us for the opening.



*Jacqueline and Thomas, former and current head teachers, in front of the boy's dormitory*

These dormitories will make a big difference to the education of these precious children. As I have mentioned before, their home environment is not conducive for studying. By not being at home it will also provide some level of security for the girls by avoiding the possibility of early marriage or even worse.

We feel very proud of Enkereri School. Thanks to Thomas, the head teacher, and his dedicated staff, the school is well maintained and efficiently run and the students are achieving good grades. The school's main need now is accommodation for teachers. We feel for the teachers living in their very sparse and basic accommodation whilst the boarding pupils have relative luxury. It would be wonderful to have teachers living on site alongside the matron.



*Jonathan & William, two former students*

On Sundays we go to the churches in Mara Rianda. This allows us to meet much of the community. We were very warmly welcomed, we had not seen each other for 2½ years. Several of our past sponsored children, now adults and married with children of their own, had travelled many miles just to come to see us. We were prayed for by the community, it was very touching and emotional. We really felt their love and gratitude.

We would like to pass on the community's thanks and appreciation for your support during covid. Over eighteen months we were able to send in excess of £32,000 to supply food and hygiene parcels for about 160 families. Heartfelt thanks for this was mentioned to us so many times by so many people. We could not have done this without your generosity. Thank you.

As usual we were able to deliver school supplies to four schools. It wonderful to be able to spend time with the children and for some unknown reason they like to spend time with me



*Mara Rianda Primary School*



*Enkereri Primary School*

I was very envious of Nigel and Alison who went and visited the students, principals and bursars at the three secondary schools in Narok. I decided that it would not be conducive to my health to leave at 6-30 am and spend three hours in a wheelchair bouncing in the back of a Land Cruiser, predominately on mud roads, travelling there and then to do the same on the return journey, usually arriving back around 7-30pm. Wheelchairs have no suspension and not only would it not be the most comfortable of journeys but due to my motor neurone disease it would have been exceedingly exhausting.

We visited Kennedy's school. Sadly since the death of Josephine, one of our former secondary school students, he has been teaching the children alone. We are pleased to say that Sylvia, also a graduate student has agreed to assist Kennedy. It is good to see our students supporting their own community.

During our visits to Mara Rianda Primary School there is always lots of singing and dancing by the pupils, followed by speeches of thanks from Peter, the head teacher, teachers and members of the school committee. Nigel and I also have to speak with the entire school.

Following this we then have a meeting with the school board. We discuss the current needs of the school as well as its progress.



*Nigel and I meeting with Peter, the head teacher, and school board.*

On this occasion there was a request for the school fence to be replaced. You may remember that back in 2004 the charity paid for a wooden fence to be erected around the school. Over the years termites have enjoyed eating it and elephants never saw it as a barrier. We agreed to fund the installation of an electric fence, which is now the normal thing in rural areas.

The fence has now been completed but unfortunately I couldn't encourage Julius to place his hand on it to show me that it works. 😊

We continue to sponsor children at secondary school. It is always moving to meet or hear from school graduates. Pola was contacted by a past student who is now at medical school. He is achieving excellent grades but was struggling with fees. As a charity we have always felt it would be especially beneficial to sponsor a medical student. The only student so far sponsored at university was funded by a very generous supporter.

You may recall that Denis, one of our former secondary school students, was shot during an armed robbery at his place of work. It left him paralysed from the waist down and permanently in a wheelchair. The charity paid for a concrete flooring to be laid inside and outside his home to make it easier to access. We visited his family home and met his parents. We were showered with gifts of thanks by his parents. Your support really is life changing.



*Denis' home and parents*

We thank you also for your continued support for secondary school education. It is always wonderful to hear from past students as they are so grateful for you for changing the course of their life



I was very surprised and delighted to be awarded the British Empire Medal by the late HM The Queen in her June Birthday honours. The citation read “*Services to the Masai people in Kenya through education and healthcare.*”. It was presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. I was informed that an invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace will be made next year. I would never have received the award if it was not for all the enormous help and encouragement you have provided over the years. Thank you.

Support is always welcome and greatly appreciated. There is always a need for new books, sports equipment and general school supplies as well as assistance with capital projects. Should you wish to give any support please make cheques payable to The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust or contact me for bank details.

With Gift Aid your donations will be increased by 25%. If you are interested in providing support or assisting a child with secondary education, please let me know and I shall send you a Gift Aid and Standing Order form.

Whatever your faith or belief, Christmas is a very special time of year. Pola and I are constantly encouraged by your interest, support and prayers and this we will never take for granted. May I conclude with my personal Christmas greetings and thank you once again for your interest and support, it is literally life changing. As usual I do apologise if you feel this letter is an intrusion and should you not wish to receive any further letters then please do let me know.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Long**  
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*Dancing at Enkereri outside the new dormitory*

*And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6 v8 (NIV)*