

Thandazga 2011

Nursery School

In 2009 this nursery was the first rural project that the Trust tackled hence the reason Reay and Chrisanne often refer to it as "our school."

Their arrival in Malawi in 2011 coincided for the first time with the arrival of a consignment of banana boxes that they and some local helpers in Inverness had packed and shipped via the Raven's Trust.



This was an emotional moment for them as they could now personally deliver the boxes they had packed back in Inverness.

It was also encouraging to see signs of previous deliveries of boxes of hand knitted clothes from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The picture above shows the nursery school as it was in 2010 and the lower one has it in the background after the improvements made to it that year.

Primary School

This primary school is almost next door to the nursery school (formerly called the "Widows' School") which the Trust has been supporting since 2009. When Reay and Chrisanne brought back news of the deprivation in the primary school the Trust agreed in 2010 that support be offered in the short term, bearing in mind that we were already committed in the longer term to the support of 3 nursery schools. The half-finished building on the right lay unfinished until the girls' visit in 2011 when they promised to pay for a roof for the school if the rest of the building could be completed quickly. Given incentive and purpose the men set to work and within 2 weeks the building was complete and the promised roof was in place.



This meant that because the school now had a kitchen, the children could be given porridge on a daily basis. Plastic goods for the kitchen were also purchased by Reay and Chrisanne, together with two huge pots that had to be specially made.

This was something really special. With the promise of a regular daily meal, attendance and attainment should now improve in the school.

The porridge is a mix of maize, soya, sugar and dried milk: money was sent by the Trust shortly afterwards for the purchase of ingredients, sufficient to provide meals for over 200 children, daily from July to Christmas 2011.



The school had also received a number of banana boxes (e.g. from Airidhantuim School in Lewis).