



# Kenya link update

ISSUE 4

APRIL 2013

Learn some Swahili

Hello : Jambo

Goodbye: Kwaheri

Thank you: Asante!

Yes: Ndio!

No: Hapana!

1: Moja  
2: Mbili  
3: Tatu

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## The Kenyan coast

The Kenyan coast was independent and people were living in harmony. Due to this, some of the groups could come to trade and explore its physical features.

It reached a time (1496) when the traders from all over the world discovered this and they were happy to trade with Africans in the West African coast. These included the Greeks, Romans, Persians, Chinese and Arabs. Their coming and settlement was facilitated with several factors such as the monsoon winds which helped them to travel across the Indian Ocean, the presence of deep harbours in the coast for their ships to anchor and their skills in marine technology, for example, boat

making and map reading with their compass to sail great distances from homeland.

For trade, several people including Seyyid Said and Vasco Da Gama, travelled along the coast and they invented the use of money for buying goods instead of trading objects. The trade also led to development of towns such as Mombasa.

As the trade expanded, the Arabs intermarried with Africans as they invented Islamic religion and culture. Due to this, the missionaries came to do away with slave trade and stopped the spreading of Islamic religion in the coast. This latter led Africans to read and write so that they can read and understand the bible.

Lastly the education spread to all parts of the country including western region where our school was situated in Siaya County



By Otieno Jared

## Haga centre

Haga centre is one of the thrilling churches in Siaya County, western region of Kenya. It was founded in 1995 by the late Joseph Abibo at his home town in Siaya County. Then it had eight members but due to western education it expanded to have several sections such as the Sunday school for children, choir members and the elderly group. Today it has twenty seven sub branches and many members.

At Haga church, they have competitions annually. One of the most important is the choir competition. It normally runs from the 12th November to 14th November each year. They do not compete for trophies but for position one and two, uniform for position three and the next venue for position four. They do have running competition and development competitions such as 'harambee'.

After the death of Joseph, his own son George took over for the church leadership and is nowadays considered a cardinal though he is only thirteen years old. He hosts some of the activities and at times produces the required documents for the rejoicement of his followers. He is a kind man and well behaved man whose activities are of successful standard. I wish the glory of lord to bless Haga headquarters.  
By Jared

## Celebrating culture through dance and food

Cultural nights have become so popular in Kenya that it appears each community is out to outperform the others. Interestingly, the night is not just for the community, Kenyans from other ethnic communities and all walks of life enjoy the offerings.

Perhaps it shows people are interested in understanding and appreciating communities' culture or the just want to have fun over weekends.



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culture or the just want to have fun over weekends. Whatever the reason, these are fun. Even those who don't understand the language can move their heads to the music and celebrate the diversity.

Indeed music is universal. The events during the various culture nights are important as they bring different aspects of culture to Kenyans in general.

The main purpose of organising such nights is to ensure that our culture is not polluted by foreign ideas. The nights which are held in major cities is the urbanites opportunity to keep with their

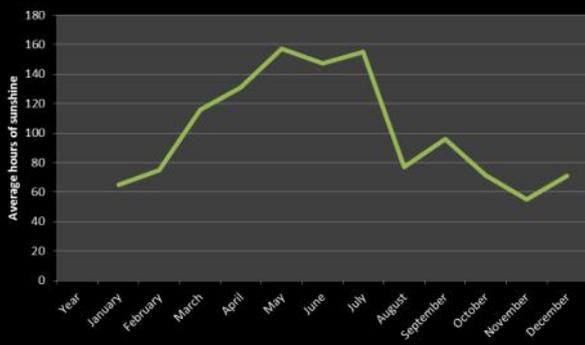
Such events that are organised in urban town are not one hundred percent original. There is need to take Kenyans to rural areas to witness and appreciate the real thing because what happens in towns is just forty percent reality. Besides showcasing, tradition offers a platform for people to interact.

By Loice Siangla



## Sunshine at West Buckland

West Buckland School: Average Monthly Sunshine since 2004



Over the last 9 years the month with the highest average hours of sunshine at West Buckland is in July with an average of around 15.4 hours of sunshine. January is our grimmest months with only a measly average of 6.4 hours of sunshine on average. The average amount of sunshine has a range of 9 hours! For us at school this isn't much fun when you're in the middle of a cross country.... In our

records the month with the lowest hours of sunshine (only 20 minutes) is August 2011. Yes that's right I said August—we suspect this was some kind of problem with the data but it is a possibility! Fortunately our highest was July 2006 with 60.5 hours. Where did the sunshine go?!

By Georgia Cope

## A poem about the Agoro Oyombe volleyball team

This team had been very weak.  
It could only go up to the divisional level.  
The year 2012 was a blessed year to them  
They trained and played every day.  
This year they went up to the semi-finals.  
The team started becoming strong enough.

That year they went to up to the provincial level.  
That year they were strong enough to win.  
They held friendly matches every month.  
This made them have the nickname "ADUI, UA!"  
The school was proud of this improvement.  
They decided to do something to this team.

They celebrated a party with this team.  
They also added enough balls to this term.  
Most of the students joined this volleyball team.

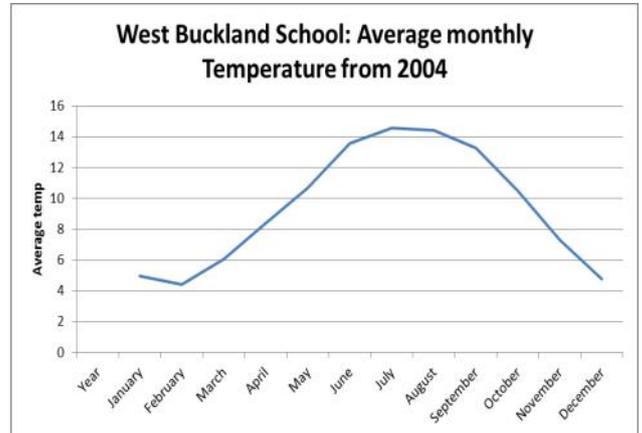
By Violet Atieno

# Temperature at West Buckland School

Between January and December from 2004 the highest temperatures were in July and the lowest temperature in December. In July the highest temperature average is about 15°C. The graph shows that from January to February the temperature decreases, from February to August the temperature increases quite rapidly and then from August to December to temperature begins to decrease again.

The highest temperature (18°C including day and night) was recorded in July 2006 during a heat wave. There was also a very cold spell in December 2010.

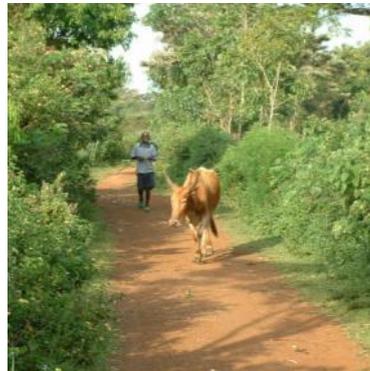
By Harry Cobby and Olivia Prentice



## Kenyan Student Profiles - Violet

My name is Violet. I live in a small village in Siaya County called Mur. I love animals such as cows, sheep, goats and chicken. In my family I am the eldest and I live with my mum Helen and my sisters Mercy, Milly and Eve and my brother Moses.

I am in the school choir and I sing soprano. This is my first year at Agoro Oyombe secondary school. My best friends at school are Juliet and Lauren. I am currently taking seven subjects. I am looking forward to meeting you next year.



## Beryl

My name is Beryl and I am 15 years old. I live in Siaya County in a village called Masumbi which is approximately 6km from Agoro Oyombe secondary school and currently in form two. Our home is next to president Obama's home.

I love being in school because I can chat with friends and study as well.

I am in a family of twelve children but three have died together with my father. I live with my mum who is a

farmer and loves education.

When I am at home I help my mum to do the house chores.

My favorite subjects are sciences and geography. I am going to study physics and geography for KCSE in form four.

I would like to be aviation engineer when I grow old. I like travelling to new places and being exposed to new things. I am looking forward to meet you in July 2013.





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This newspaper is to be published on a monthly basis. The articles will be written by students from both West Buckland and Agoro Oyombe Schools, principally those involved in the exchange program.

Articles from other contributors are most welcome. Please contact the editor using the contact details opposite.

The intended audience is varied: students, teachers, parents, governors and the wider community in the catchment areas of both schools: North Devon and Siaya District.

# Leadership in Agoro Oyombe

One of the most interesting stories in Agoro Oyombe is about the criteria used to find the new prefects. It has been the duty of the teachers to appoint new leaders year in year out. It was around the month of March 2012 that both the students and the teachers made a covenant that the prefect should no longer be appointed but elected by the students themselves.

This agreement was highly welcomed by the students as they could elect leaders of their choice.

There are a total of twenty six leaders in the school with each post

having two prefects except for the time keeper who has one post and the dining hall that has three. The school has also formulated rules governing the election processes for example; the candidates are to submit their letters of application to the deputy principal within a specified period of time.

The candidates are also allowed to campaign for their various seats within the recommended period of time. There should be no bribery or advertisements made by the candidates, for example having their pictures or writing on pieces of papers or walls as this will make the school

dirty hence you if you are found out to be doing anything of this nature you are no longer allowed to run for that particular post.

By Kevin Ouma

