



# STOW NEWS....

Summer 2010

....is good news

Issue number 7



*On the road again! Project car being loaded up with mattresses and bikes for the STOW children who live in the villages around Tanga.  
Thank you so much. We could not have done it without you.*

Dear Members

Well it's now just over 5 years since STOW was founded and support for the work we are doing remains strong - thanks to you members! We have gone from supporting 100 children at primary and 10 at secondary to 200 children, including 1 at university and 3 at vocational training - seeing them all the way through from primary to secondary schooling. In our 1st year STOW sent out £6,300 to Tanzania, this year we have sent out over £21,000.

We had a very hectic 2 weeks in May on our annual monitoring trip. We did over 120 home visits and delivered 80 mattresses & bed sheets and over 50 mosquito nets. All these visits were made so much easier this year with the large project vehicle that has replaced the original one we bought a couple of years back. We had as many as 5 adults and 7 children in the vehicle sometimes, to do distant home visits, as well as a loaded roof rack. The front and back pages show you this vehicle in action.



*Here we are at Ally Shabani's home delivering a mattress and a mosquito net.*

We visited 8 primary schools, and 5 secondary schools. We also visited VETA (vocational training college) and met up with some of our students there. They are doing really well. With extra funds raised for us we have again been able to buy textbooks for some of the schools. These have been much appreciated. We also bought some more footballs and Jem took some great videos of them in use, which we have used in talks and presentations to members, friends and supporters.



This is Petro who is studying masonry and is a day student at VETA. He is in his first year on a 3-year course. If he does well - and his teacher expects him to - he will be paid to go on field work to gain experience. Looking to the future he says he will work anywhere but knows that there is a lot of building work going on in Mwanza, which is Tanzania's second largest town and the economic heart of the Lake Region. This young man has vision!

As last year we again had a meeting with those widows (and child heads of families) to hear how things were going. This year the group consisted of those already in receipt of a loan and some of those wishing to receive one. It turned out to be a really good combination as those who had done well and were able to pay off their loans were able to encourage future participants and those few still struggling. Here is Fadhili Ali's older sister - Habua - telling us all of her clothes-selling business successes and how she has managed to pay off all her loan. She says that it has made such a difference to both her and Fadhili Ali's life - I would definitely encourage her to go into local politics - what an orator!



We also visited Batuli Mohamed at her house to see how she was getting on with her business. She showed us the fridge that she had bought with the loan and told us that she had found a very good market selling ice lollies to school children during their break times. Batuli is the older sister of Teresa Hams and when we did a home visit to see how Teresa and her mother were faring - her mother is slowly recovering from a severe stroke she had last year - Batuli insisted we looked inside the fridge. She told us that she uses some of her profits to pay for Teresa's transport to school and also for medicines for her mother.

We now have 169 members and 98 children are individually sponsored which is fantastic news, not only as an ongoing commitment to STOW's work, but to the children themselves. Every time I visit, the children tell me that there is something special about an individual person wanting to make sure that they get a future by having an education. Each year when I come back I write a report for each sponsor updating them on how "their children" are doing. Some people have had several years of these updates! This year, whilst looking through my notes (gathered from Pam's and Jem's notes each day whilst we were out there), I have realised that there are many things needing to be followed up. Many of these are to do with children's health needs and others to do with the loan scheme. I feel these just can't wait until next May so I am going out again in November for a week (self-funded) to progress some of the most urgent issues. When I proposed this to AFRIWAG, they felt that this would be very helpful.

Earlier this year Jem and I were privileged to be invited to the London residence of H.E. Mwanaidi Majaar, the Tanzanian High Commissioner. Mwanaidi has been a good friend to STOW over the years we have had contact with her and told us that "it is grass roots organisations such as STOW that make such a positive difference to the



lives of vulnerable people in Tanzania". She thanked us, and our Trustees and members, for all that we are doing in her country. Sadly for STOW, but not for her, Mwanaidi is taking up a new appointment as Tanzanian Ambassador to the USA. She is the first woman to hold such a high office on behalf of Tanzania. STOW wishes her well and hopes to meet her successor in London when appointed.

We didn't manage to get this into the last newsletter but wanted to tell you that Deborah's daughter Elizabeth has once again donated money from her birthday party. Here she is writing out the cheque - thank you again Elizabeth. I've shown your picture to some of the children in Tanga and they are most impressed!



David has been a supporter of STOW for many years and he and Zoe sponsor 2 children. This year he has run that extra mile for STOW. He told me that he really enjoyed the London Marathon and felt good being able to help people less fortunate than himself - thank you David for raising huge amounts of money for STOW.

Earlier this year I was invited by one of our members to talk at the AGM of the Voluntary Help Centre in Southwold. Jem and I went there after work one sunny June evening and had the pleasure of meeting and talking to an inspiring group of people who give their time to help others in need. They were very generous to STOW as was the VHC too. Many thanks from the children and families STOW support

I also went to give a talk to a very small childrens' home. I was very touched when one of the young boys gave me his football and asked me to give it to someone in Tanzania. They have taken STOW to their hearts and now sponsor 5 primary school children. Here is Athumani - one of them - clutching his new football.



Every year Bryan, Jill, Viv and Richard put together 10 summer evening gatherings at Bryans Barn. Each one is very different and everyone of them enjoyable. There is no charge but always a donation bucket for kind people to use! This year Bryan has said that all monies raised will be donated to STOW. We are truly honoured. Bryan says that this is because STOW always gives very personal updates about the work going on in Tanzania and so he really knows how the money raised is being spent. A proof that being a small and personal charity works.

STOW is also very lucky to have, once again, the production costs of our Newsletter covered by one of our members. This is the second time he has kindly supported us in this way. As you know I am always keen for as much/most of the money we raise to go out to Tanga to support the project work. Having this sponsorship means more money goes directly out to Tanga. The same applies to the very kind and generous

sponsor who pays for 2 airfares a year so that we can do our annual monitoring trip. Thank you also to John and Lindi Carrington for letting us use their lovely barn each year for our main fundraising event. It's such a wonderful venue and we have a great time there each summer.

Dear Members - so much to tell you and so many people to thank. If I haven't mentioned someone it is because of lack of space, but I really do appreciate every single bit of support and help that members give. Thank you all ever, ever so much

Marie Adams  
Chair and Founder

## NOTICE OF AGM

*STOW's AGM will take place on Saturday, 11th September 2010 at Denny's Farm, East Green, Kelsale, IP17 2PH at 12 noon (by kind permission of Rob & Sue Potter).*

*The business part of the meeting will be followed by the Annual General Mingling with buffet so we do hope you will be able to come. All members are invited to attend and it would be great if you could bring a plate of food to share.*

Tanzania will be holding national elections in October so we thought you might be interested in some general knowledge about the political system there.

Tanzania has a Chief of State who currently is President Jakaya Kikwete. The President is elected by popular vote to serve a 5 year term and is also the Head of Government. President Kikwete is standing for a second term. Business is conducted through the National Assembly (the Bunge) which has 274 seats.

The population of Tanzania is 36,766,356 (July 2005 estimate) Overall, it is expected that the number of registered voters will increase from 15.9 million to 21 million.

Parts of President Kikwete's election manifesto are promises for greater primary school enrolment and for greater representation of women in decision-making.

STOW details: website: [www.stowcharity.org](http://www.stowcharity.org)  
Charity Reg. No. 112424 email: [info@stowcharity.org](mailto:info@stowcharity.org)

*Support from Saxmundham Primary School*



Saxmundham Primary School teachers, staff, pupils and parents have been supporting STOW for some years now. Each year they hold fundraising events and have already raised considerable amounts of money. This year, as well as raising money for STOW, they produced a wonderful booklet with photos and text showing what life is like for school children in Saxmundham. Here is Marie showing their book to Mwang'ombe Primary School children supported by STOW and then later coming back to tell Saxmundham Primary School all about the trip and how they have helped children across the world have a better life. Thank you all at Saxmundham Primary.



### *Support from Saxmundham Middle School*

This year Saxmundham Middle School asked Marie to come and talk to their students and they had a dressing-up day in May and raised funds for STOW. Their International School Coordinator, Catherine Godet, wrote thanking Marie for coming to the school. She said, "It is not easy to captivate an audience of nearly 300 children but you managed this beautifully by drawing a close parallel between their school lives and those of the Tanzanian children you support. As a result, pupils were interested, focused and engaged and I know that, for a majority of them, it was a thought provoking revelation to learn how teenagers live in developing countries."

Says Marie, "I have always been impressed by the wonderful questions that the children ask when I have been to Saxmundham Primary, always keen to learn about different places and different lives. Saxmundham Middle was no exception and they raised pertinent issues and asked mature questions - a learning experience for all. Thank you Saxmundham Middle for your support."

### *Fashion Show for STOW*



*Deborah and Sarah - co-owners of The Store in Saxmundham - persuaded members of our community of all ages to stride along the catwalk in aid of STOW (and St Elizabeth Hospice). On 26th March 2010 we were treated to nibbles and some pink fizz and all enjoyed watching clothes, bags and houseware being shown by members of our community.*

*A very big Thankyou to The Store*

## News from the Tanga Office

In the last newsletter we told you about the new AFRIWAG Programme Officer, and here she is. Fortunate is at the new AFRIWAG office, getting ready to go on home visits with us, sporting a STOW T-shirt. She said that she learned so much from coming out with us as she had not had the opportunity to do home visits before. She was so touched by the children's stories that she ended up sponsoring one of the children to go to secondary school.



The Trustees have decided that the Tanga Office needs extra support to provide us with feedback on how the children are doing. We have therefore appointed Philip for a trial 1 year period to undertake this role and he is thrilled about this. Philip has been working as a volunteer with AFRIWAG for over a year and has proved invaluable on many occasions in supporting us during our monitoring trips.



Draft Annual Accounts: our year runs from 1 June 2009 to 31st May 2010

**RECEIPTS**

**PAYMENTS**

Membership	1655	AFRIWAG (2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment 09 + 1 <sup>st</sup> 10)	17930
Donations	16769.38	Bank charges	60
Sponsorship	6145.81	Tanzania 09 trip	224
		Tanzania 2010 trip flights	1843.20
		Tanzania 2010 trip purchases	1000
<b>Events</b>			
Carrington's Barn	1890.80	Carrington's Barn expenses	124.04
Wine tasting	339.5	Wine tasting expenses	93.59
Other events	1144		
Gift Aid	4406.20	Printing	449
Tax refund on deposit	7.67		
Bank interest	181.54		
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>32539.90</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>21723.83</b>
Balance brought forward from 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2009	£27,242.96		
Excess of receipts over payments	£10,816.07		
<b>Funds in hand at 31st</b>	<b>£38,059.03</b>		

Note: the second instalment for 2010 was paid to AFRIWAG in June after the period these accounts cover and amounted to £8,298. We are therefore carrying forward almost £30,000 for 2011, most of which is currently deposited with Scottish Widows at 1.75% pa – the best deal we could find. We estimate the budget for 2011 will again be of the order of £22,000.

Martin Stevens

Hon Treasurer

## Pam Stevens in Tanzania

*Pam is the wife of Martin Stevens, STOW's Treasurer, and she accompanied Jem and Marie on their inspection visit this year. Here are her thoughts on her visit to Tanga.*

It is difficult to know where to begin to report back my experience of joining Marie and Jem on the annual monitoring trip on behalf of STOW. We fitted so much in to our timetable and every visit was a new experience. May is what they call the cold season; but as the temperatures were often around 30C it was more than warm enough for me. It was also the end of the rainy season, so the vegetation was lush and green.

My biggest surprise was how much I saw which was familiar to me as a social care worker who has worked in areas of the UK with high level of social needs. Children and families having to deal with bereavement, health problems, poverty, relationship problems and abuse have a lot in common wherever they live. The difference in the Tanga region is that there is little welfare support available other than that offered by organisations such as AFRIWAG.

As in many societies one of the groups struggling most was adolescents. Some were struggling on their own; others were also trying to assist with younger siblings or having to cope with the practical and emotional issues of having a sick mother. This highlighted for me the importance of these orphans we are sponsoring to be able to contact an AFRIWAG field worker for advice and support. A greater use of boarding places may be an option for some of our sponsored children. Many caretakers are able to grow much of their food on their shamba. Food is available in shops or local stalls - as long as there is money to pay for it. Regular food aid is not a policy because that can easily develop a dependency culture, but we did suggest that fieldworkers should have access to a small emergency fund to address immediate need.



*Pam and Marie comparing notes during a visit to one of the villages near Tanga.*

All the primary schools we visited had a good atmosphere and we saw enthusiastic children and teachers. The children we sponsor were clearly very proud of their uniforms and shoes. The teachers who accompanied us on home visits were keen to engage with families and were trying to ensure that all children are registered at a primary school. The teachers we spoke to at the secondary schools were also very aware of the social problems many of their children face. Our sponsored young people clearly appreciated the assistance they were receiving and as the Head of one school commented 'I have never had to discipline any of your sponsored children'.



I also spent time in the AFRIWAG office looking at their record keeping both regarding individual children and finances. They are starting to create a database of individual children and the fieldworkers make their own notes. Hopefully these will be able to provide useful information prior to home visits next year. They are now using Excel to record their budgets, but this is yet to be clearly linked to their paper records and many of the transactions are done in cash, including payments to the secondary schools.

The whole experience was both interesting and enjoyable and I am very grateful to STOW for giving me the opportunity to make this trip.

*ABOVE: Pam with Agnes - the child that Pam has been sponsoring for some years*

*BELOW: project vehicle in action*

