

Who Says AGMs are Boring?



This was the happy scene at the STOW AGM in September, held at the home of Robin and Sue Potter. The business was swiftly concluded leaving plenty of time to enjoy a delicious buffet and to chat with fellow members. Minutes of the meeting are available from the Secretary and will be distributed at the next AGM. If you did not attend this meeting do please try to come to the 2008 AGM in September. You and your comments would be welcome.

It Couldn't Happen Without You

Thanks to everyone who has supported STOW in any way.

If you would like to help us (for example, by organising your own coffee-mornings, book sales etc. or by lending a hand at our own events), or if you have any comments to make about STOW's activities please write or email. We would be delighted to hear from you.

We have a new information leaflet which incorporates a membership form. Copies can be obtained from Marie. Contact details below.

NEWSFLASH! At their meeting in late January, the STOW Trustees decided to allocate funds for up to an additional 30 primary school places. More news next issue.

STOW is a registered charity No. 1112424. Its address is Acorn Cottage, Kelsale, Saxmundham IP17 2QY. Contact number 01728 603348. www.stowcharity.org
Email: info@stowcharity.org



STOW NEWS....

Winter 2007/8

.....is good news

STOW ON THE ROAD!



The new vehicle supplied to our AFRIWAG partners by STOW has enabled the school monitoring visits to take place more efficiently. Here we see the STOW students at Mleni Primary School taking delivery of their regular supplies. Previously these visits had to be made on foot, by bicycle or in hired minibuses.

Look what STOW has achieved, with your help:

When STOW started operations in 2005 we were able to support 100 orphans at primary school and 10 at secondary school.

In 2008 we are supporting 120 orphans at primary and 42 at secondary school together with 2 others in further education. This reflects the fact that our children are getting older and moving through the educational system.

STOW also provided funds for the AIDS Orphans Open Day which organised races, games and a picnic for the children.

A new promotional and membership leaflet (funded by a VSO grant) has been produced and is available from Jem and Marie.

A new STOW Christmas card designed by an 8 year-old pupil at Saxmundham Primary School sold out well before Christmas. Packs of plain notelets with the same design are still available.

STOW IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE. MORE DETAILS INSIDE!

Forthcoming Events:

- March 15th** St. Patrick's Night at Kelsale Village Hall. An Irish stew and Guinness evening with music, a limerick competition and a quiz. Tickets £7.50
- May 24th onwards** Jem and Marie's monitoring trip to Tanga to visit the schools where our STOW orphans receive their education.
- June 28th** Grand Summer Event at Carrington's Barn
- Later in year** Barbecue at Bryan's Barn
Wine Tasting at Saxmundham Market Hall
AGM and members' get-together

Further information will be sent to members nearer the time or can be obtained by phoning 01728 603348.



STOW IN ACTION

This is Fadhili Ali. He had broken his jaw several years ago in a childhood accident and STOW was negotiating with his guardian to fund an operation. Matters were accelerated when, at the World AIDS Orphans Day, Fadhili was taken ill and rushed to hospital in Dar Es Salaam. The opportunity was taken to carry out the major surgery needed to rebuild his jaw and STOW paid the medical costs of £188. We are currently awaiting a report on his progress.

Checking on your money!

Jem and Marie Adams will be flying out to Tanzania on 24th May to join our AFRIWAG colleagues in visiting all the schools attended by STOW supported orphans. They fly overnight to Dar Es Salaam and have asked AFRIWAG to bring the STOW vehicle from Tanga to collect them for the 5 hour journey north. On the return journey they will fly back to Dar in the little local aeroplane via the islands of Pemba and Zanzibar. Baggage restrictions prevent them from taking gifts to the children but if any members or sponsors would like to contribute cash they will ensure that it gets to the right place and will bring back a receipt. There is dedicated money for the airfares for this visit from a STOW donor, the balance being paid for by Jem and Marie themselves.

What have we been up to? Fund-raising activities have continued to take place since the last News. Here are Trustee Joan Craighead's reports on two events which took place recently.



WINE-TASTING

On Friday November 30th STOW stole another march on the wine-bibbers of Saxmundham at the Market Hall. On arrival each of the 50 guests was given a glass of bubbly, donated by Jem and Marie. The evening was well supported and Peter Roberts introduced a tasting of three white and three red wines from Threshers. His perceptive comments were appreciated and warmly received by the cognoscenti. Biscuits, crackers and cheese were provided to titillate and cleanse the palate.

Marie gave a talk on the development of STOW and how the charity provides for the orphans in Tanzania, illustrated

by some attractive slides. Many people in the Hall that evening had sponsored the children and appreciated the personal attention which Marie always displays to her supporters. Coffee and mints ended the evening and restored sobriety to the occasion.

QUIZ EVENING

A successful quiz evening was held in the Market Hall the very next day, kicking off the Christmas month with a festive air. There was a great number of participants making up tables of six. It was a well-run evening organised by Ron Howarth and ably assisted by Robin Potter. Bob Lawrence was an excellent quiz-master and kept everyone's mind working overtime. As the competitive instinct rose there was a break for a splendid supper and coffee. The second half was completed and everyone waited for the result, which marked a great achievement by the Middleton Morons who are well-known for carrying their high standard of quizzing to many parts of Suffolk. One of the STOW-member tables came a close second. The proceeds of the evening were divided equally between the Saxmundham Children's Holiday Club and STOW.

Earlier, in our apology for a summer, STOW staged a Woolly-Racing Day at the home of Peter and Jenefer Roberts. Despite grey clouds and intermittent rain many brave souls turned up and were rewarded with an afternoon of mud, cream teas and hysterical laughter. The sheep ran in all directions except where they were meant to run, there was a collie and guest-dog race, a children's race, a clue-hunt around the garden for which the prize was a pink parasol (put to immediate use as an umbrella) and Honest Jem cleaned up at the bookie's table.

Treasurer's Note: these three events between them raised about £840 for STOW funds. If you would like to put on an event for STOW we will be very pleased to help you with the organisation. Please phone and discuss your ideas on 01728 603348 or 01728 603772.

LITTLE ONES OR BIG ONES?

One of the issues which has seen much debate at Trustee meetings of STOW is the question of how we should divide our available funds between primary and secondary schoolchildren.

This is important because, put simply, it costs almost seven times as much to support a child when he/she moves on to secondary school. Many of our children are ambitious and want to go on, but if STOW were to fully-fund all the children who are progressing to secondary school, our budget would soon become top-heavy. This would, of course, be detrimental to the orphans who are still hoping for sponsorship so that they can start to receive a primary education.

Tough decisions need to be made. We are currently supporting 120 orphans at primary school, 42 at secondary level and two in higher education. AFRIWAG, our Tanzanian partners, estimate that 21 of the primary schoolchildren will sit exams this year with a view to going on to secondary school. If they all succeed and need our sponsorship, this would cost us over £2500. For the same money we could ensure that another 100 children could enter primary school. All figures are approximate due to cost and currency fluctuations, but we think you will appreciate the dilemma.

It would be wonderful if STOW had enough money to support all "our" orphans right through the educational system. But we are not there yet, so we have to try to be fair to everyone. What we have told our AFRIWAG partners is that, for the time being, we can support ten new secondary places each year and no more. This, we feel, maintains a fair balance between ensuring that the best students are helped by STOW while more little ones get the chance of a primary education.

Do you have views about this? If so we would be interested to hear them.

This is a STOW news item and not an appeal for money - STOW members do plenty already. However, if anybody wished to sponsor an additional secondary student (over and above STOW's own ten) we would of course be pleased to arrange this.

Peter Roberts - Treasurer



STOW Christmas card & notelets

Happily the Christmas cards sold out but the same design has been used to produce packs of plain notelets. At 50p each they can be purchased at any of the STOW events or by contacting Marie on 01728 603348.

Email: info@stowcharity.org

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Here is Elizabeth, who lives in Saxmundham, getting details from Marie of the children she has sponsored. She had her 5th birthday in the summer of 2007. Most children of her age would like their friends to bring presents to a birthday party but Elizabeth had other ideas. She and her mother Deborah had heard about STOW and how they supported AIDS orphans in Tanzania to go to school. Elizabeth enjoys going to primary school and wanted to help other children to be able to go too.

So she asked her friends to come to a birthday party and, instead of bringing presents, she asked them if they would kindly bring some money to help STOW's work. With the money her friends brought Elizabeth is now sponsoring 3 girls - Theresa (8 yrs), Amina (10 yrs) and Tumaini (10 yrs) - to go to school. What an amazing thing for a 5 year old to do!

Her kindness has spread and other friends of hers are also supporting 4 children to go to primary school. 2008 is going to be a bright year for 7 AIDS orphans in Tanzania!

Marie Adams - Founder of STOW

Browsing the web? Please use Everyclick: Come on you lot! In the last newsletter we told you about Everyclick. This is a way in which you can help STOW every time you use the web, with no extra cost to yourself.

Everyclick.com is a search engine that lets you search the web and benefit the charity of your choice. All you need to do is select the charity you would like to support and then search the web as normal. Everyclick allocates 50% of its gross revenue to charity each month. Back in August there were 2 registered STOW users and we had made the princely sum of 22p! To date there are still only three registered users and the funds raised have reached the dizzy heights of £5.22

So come on! Put Everyclick onto your list of favourites and make it your first choice when you go surfing! STOW will benefit and you will feel no pain.

