



STOW NEWS....

Winter 2008/9

....is good news

Issue number 4



Mwang'ombe Primary School

This school is twinned with Saxmundham Primary School. It is in the Tanga Municipality and 25 of our sponsored children attend classes there.

STOW'S FIVE YEAR PLAN

Over the past three-and-a-half years of operation and experience in Tanzania, the trustees have developed several guiding principles. Our first and main one is that the children we support are known to us by name and seen every year. This individualised approach is popular with members and distinguishes us from some of the larger charities.



A second one is to see each individually sponsored child on a one-to-one basis, preferably at their home as well as at school. The number of these children is increasing every year thanks to the generosity of our members and currently stands at 48.

This therefore limits the number of children we can support. Given our one 2-week visit a year (nearly every day of which is spent visiting the children in schools and homes), we estimate this limit to be 200 orphans.

Advice we have had from Tanzanians, including the High Commissioner to the UK and Oxfam Ireland's local representative, is that, since a child has to pass an exam to go to secondary school and has to go from learning in Swahili to learning in English, it is very demoralising to have qualified and then be unable to progress to secondary school through lack of money. Also, it is increasingly the case in Tanzania that a secondary education is needed to get a paying job. Therefore once we have begun supporting an orphan we should continue supporting them through their primary and secondary education.

Taking into account these principles, and bearing in mind also that whereas it takes about £25 a year to keep a child at primary school, it takes £168 a year to support them at secondary, we have developed a 5-year plan up to 2013. This takes us from a budget of £12,000 in 2008 to roughly £19,000 in 2009, to a peak of £23,000 in 2012 and stabilising at about £20,000 a year thereafter.

Our past three-and-a-half years have also shown us that, thanks to incredible support from our members, this is an achievable ambition.

Jem Adams, Secretary

Forthcoming Events:

16th May: Concert in Saxmundham Church (see Marie's letter on facing page.)

4th July: Carrington's Barn event, *this year with a difference*.
Details later on in the year.

A BIG thank you to STOW members

Dear Members

Thank you all so much for renewing your STOW membership. I can't emphasize enough how important membership is to the success of STOW and to supporting these vulnerable children - it offers a security of income and commitment to our work. This commitment is something AIDS orphans often don't have.

Members are now organizing their own fundraising events. Just to name a few:

Christine, a teacher at Springfield Primary School, Ipswich, asked me to talk to her pupils. Parents and pupils - as part of their Harvest Festival - raised £327-37 for STOW.

Elaine gave a great talk at Benhall Church for Harvest Festival as I wasn't able to be there. The generous people of Benhall raised £100

Paul is trekking to Everest base camp in celebration of reaching his 60th birthday and hopes to get sponsorship which he will donate to STOW. If anyone wants to sponsor him, do let me know.

Mark will again be running - this time the London Marathon - on the 26th April and will donate half his sponsorship to STOW (with hopefully matching funding from his employers, State Street, again)

Karen - Raised £107.50 by raffling a Gingerbread House, made by her, in her shop window at Elizabeth. It was the most exquisite and intricate house I have seen! Karen says she is already planning her next gingerbread 'castle' for the shop window next Christmas so with good luck and generous customers she'll be able to raise at least as much this coming Christmas!

Two members are arranging for The Abbey House Singers to give a Concert in Saxmundham Church on 16th May 2009 in the evening. There will be a retiring collection and the proceeds will be shared 50/50 with the church. Do put this date in your diary as it promises to be a really good evening of music, wit and repartee! No tickets required, donations on the day.

And finally, Jim Marshall, MD of Ifftner Solutions Ltd, says: *'We have had our year-end charitable donations meeting and would like to make a contribution of £200 to STOW. I hope it will be the start of a long relationship between Ifftner and STOW. The management team take corporate responsibility very seriously and would really value the opportunity to work with a charity where we have greater visibility of funds really making a difference.'* Here I am receiving the £200 cheque at their office, having given a talk to the staff about STOW's work.



Thank you all SO much! Fantastic support, what a difference this makes to our 200 children.

Hope you all have a good 2009.

Marie Adams - Chair and Founder of STOW

Going to School in Tanzania

"You have to educate yourself to get work, to get a job. Without education - there's nothing." Zeenat Hassan, 17 year old student from Dar-es-Salaam.

The Tanzanian education system has come a long way since the mid 20th Century, when over 80% of the population lived in rural areas without electricity, laid-on water or schools. In Tanzania now, primary school education is widespread, and a significant number of large primary schools have been built to serve their surrounding villages. The government education budget does not cover secondary education however, and it is the communities' responsibility to apply for scarce government grants to set up and run secondary schools.

Of course, not all villages are lucky enough to share a large modern primary school, as this recent extract from The Washington Post shows: *"The one-room elementary school in a poor village in Tanzania was little more than a rusted shed. There was no electricity, running water or plumbing. Some students sat on benches, others on the dirt floor. There were no desks. On one wall hung a chalkboard, but the teacher couldn't afford chalk."*

And sadly, children's ability to learn from their educational opportunities, however restricted, are often further limited by their home circumstances.

"I eat nothing until I go home when I have ugali, a porridge made from flour and water. I would like to eat more but that's what I get so that's enough. I eat the same thing every day with seven of my friends." The words of Kasim, a 9 year old who sleeps on the steps outside a shop. Kasim receives a bursary from a religious charity to pay his school expenses but, at the end of a long day, a lack of energy catches up with him, and he is too tired to do any homework and has nowhere to do it anyway. Kasim is unlikely to pass the examination to enter secondary school and, at the end of Year VII, will have to look for work.

The Tanzanian school year runs from January to December. Primary schools have three terms and secondary schools have two semesters with half-term holidays. Primary school begins at age 7 and lasts for 7 years. The day is divided into two sessions with different children attending morning and afternoon classes. State primary schools do not charge fees but there are other expenses, including compulsory school-uniform and stationery. Secondary schools charge fees.

At primary level children are taught in Kiswahili (not every child's first language although it is in the coastal area around Tanga.) In Year VII children take an examination to see if they can go to secondary school. The teaching here is in English and students follow a syllabus similar to the UK's, with four years to O-level then two years to A-level.

There is also a flourishing private sector with both primary and secondary schools.

The Further Education sector has Dar-es-Salaam as its one main university. The other FE institution is VETA (Vocational Education and Training Authority) which offers courses in a wide variety of trades and crafts. Examples are house-building, carpentry, plumbing, tailoring.

Jem and Jenefer

Supporting Tanzanian Orphans & Widows (STOW)

Receipts and Payments 1 June 2008 to 18 December 2008

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Membership	890	Insurance	367
Donations	7348	AFRIWAG	412
Sponsorship	898	Flight tickets	1082
		Mosquito nets	324
		Textbooks	66
Carrington's Barn	2011	Licence	21
Springfield Primary	327	Food & drink	130
Sponsored walk	75	Rotary Club share	44
Bank interest	252	Bank charges	25
Notelet sales	5	Newsletter printing	120
Gift Aid claim	3326	Market Hall hire	37
Winetasting	650	Wine	133
Marathon matching	377		
		Excess of receipts over payments	13398
	16159		16159

<i>Balance brought forward 1 June 2008</i>	£16835
<i>Excess of income over expenditure this period</i>	13398
<i>Funds in hand at 18 December 2008</i>	30233

Note: £28000 of the total funds were on deposit at accounts date

Peter Roberts

Hon Treasurer

5 January 2009

Thanks to Peter

After 3 years Peter is standing down as Treasurer, whilst remaining a Trustee. STOW Trustees would like to say a BIG thank you to him. As our first Treasurer he has established STOW's financial reporting on a firm basis and has kept such good records that our Independent Examiner and the Charity Commission have always accepted our accounts without any queries.

Marie



A few words from our new treasurer Martin Stevens

Just a few words to introduce myself as the incoming treasurer of STOW, so taking on the finance baton so well held and passed on in good order by Peter before me.

I live in Laxfield Suffolk having moved here from London in 1982 with Pam (who will be assisting me with the books), and our now 3 grown up children. Our older two have now flown the nest while the youngest is still away at university.

In the past I have been a parent governor and also chair of our local primary school PTA. I was also treasurer for some years of the Friends of Laxfield Museum.

Pam and I sponsor Agnes - one of the Primary school children in Tanzania and look forward to the reports we receive of her progress.

Pam and I look forward to meeting more of you at STOW events during the coming months.

Bicycle News

Although primary schools in Tanzania are fairly well distributed (though even primary school children often have to walk far), secondary schools are not so numerous. When I ask our sponsored children what they would really like and what would make the most difference to their school day - they tell me it is a bicycle! When I've visited these schools I've often seen 3 children to a bicycle (I'll try and take a photo of this when on our monitoring visit this year!) making their way to school.



Last year Saulati's grandmother told me how difficult it was for Saulati to get to school. She has to walk miles and miles and this means that she has little time to help her frail grandmother. Here she is - the proud owner of her own bike - thanks to her sponsors Sue and Rob. AFRIWAG have asked us to supply 10 bicycles for pupils - with 2 supported children sharing one bike. We will look into this possibility during our monitoring visit May/June and will let you know. *Marie*



I am one of the STOW trustees and am looking forward to accompanying Jem and Marie on their 2009 monitoring visit. I've never been to Tanzania before and, although I have had several holidays in Africa, I've never been there on a work-related basis so this visit will be a totally new and eye-opening experience. (Neither do I know any Kiswahili but I'm trying to learn a few phrases off a website; enough I hope to say hello, well done and goodbye)

Having recently re-read Jem's diary account of their 2008 trip I realize it is going to be pretty hard work fitting in visits to 4 or 5 widely spaced schools each day as well as the many home visits I know we'll need to make. One of the things that has struck me in the Adams' photographs has been the bars of soap - the longest and orangest bars of soap I've ever seen. Perhaps I will be able to go with the ladies from AFRIWAG on one of their soap and stationery distribution visits. .

I wonder what the trip to Pangani will be like this year. Two years ago Jem and Marie could not make it as the road (an unmade up track through the bush) was washed away. I know it's well over an hour's drive so we'll be pretty shaken up by the time we get there, to see our 22 orphans.

STOW purchased 100 bednets last year, so hopefully there will be less absenteeism from school because of malaria. It was planned that the nets would be distributed through an income generating arrangement. It will be interesting to see if and how this is happening.

There are one or two other things that I look forward to finding out about. How is the vegetable garden at the back of the AFRIWAG office getting on? Has the Head Teacher at Pongwe Secondary School managed to get any more text books for his pupils? (a year ago the ratio was one book to twenty pupils); and has Cosmo (striker in Eckenforde Secondary School football team) beaten his record of seven goals scored last season? Answers to all of these questions will, I hope, be provided in the STOW summer newsletter.

Kwa heri! Jenefer Roberts

Note from outgoing Treasurer: as members will know, STOW sends at least two trustees to Tanga each year on a monitoring visit. The international air-fares for two people are paid for out of dedicated funds provided by an individual sponsor. All extra costs of travel and accomodation in Tanzania are paid by the trustees themselves.

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Progress of Widows' Project

In our last newsletter we told you about STOW's new support to the widows by providing loans to start up small businesses. Here they are learning how to manage this process. You can see they are taking it very seriously! We plan to bring back pictures of their enterprises following our monitoring trip this year and look forward to telling you more about their progress.

