

January 2013

Issue number 12



Helping to start local enterprises

Dear Members

Happy New Year to you all and very best wishes for a healthy and happy 2013.

September monitoring trip Because there was additional work and meetings required for this visit, I went for two weeks this time instead of one. I learned on the very first morning of the trip that there was no project vehicle available from AFRIWAG. They had no funds to insure or tax the vehicle or for fuel and I took an on-the-spot decision that STOW could not undertake this expense with no guarantee that the vehicle would be available for future use by STOW.

We managed to hire an assortment of vehicles and one day I changed vehicles 3 times, which made life interesting!! Schola, from TUMAINI, was very inventive in making all the arrangements. Luckily the weather was dry and so the loss of the Landcruiser was not missed too much! There were several children I needed to follow up who had not been seen during our May trip. This was mostly achieved and I'll tell you some of the stories in the following pages.



This is one of the three vehicles we hired – bit of a squeeze taking four children and mattresses, pillows, sheets etc. to start at Mivumoni Vocational Training Centre. Everyone was very patient!

Registering STOW in Tanzania This was the most momentous event of the trip and it happened on the last day – though many days of preparation had gone before! Schola and I flew to Dar that morning from Tanga (via Pemba and Zanzibar!) and we spent the whole day at the Vice President's office going through forms with officials, photocopying, paying the registration fee and waiting outside office doors that were locked! It was all worth it as STOW is now registered as an international NGO in Tanzania! This enables us to have a STOW bank account in Tanga and we hope that this will make some of the administrative tasks a lot easier.

So STOW now has a Tanzanian branch with: an office in Tanga; Tanzanian members; and a Tanzanian Treasurer as required by the Government. Mrs Farhat Lane has agreed to take on this role. She has long been a friend to STOW and has hosted us on numerous monitoring visits. She also sponsors a young man at vocational training. We are very lucky to have her support.



Farhat — our Treasurer in Tanga



AFRIWAG

I met with AFRIWAG twice – once with their Executive Committee and once with their Board. There was much frank discussion at these meetings. On my return I reported these discussions to my fellow Trustees and, taking into account a letter from AFRIWAG outlining their future strategies, the Trustees decided that this was the right moment to cease our partnership arrangement with them. The STOW Trustees wish to celebrate and acknowledge the work undertaken by AFRIWAG on behalf of STOW during the past seven years. This collaborative work has enabled an increasing number of children and their carers to lead more positive lives and greatly improve their prospects and life chances for the future.

Thank you all *so* much for your continued support of STOW. We are coming up to our 8th year of supporting orphans and vulnerable children. I once tried to count how many STOW has helped over the years and gave up as it took too long to track all the children who had left school and all the new ones coming in! All I know is that it is several hundred – thanks to your generous support.

Marie Adams – Chair and Founder of STOW

Front cover photo — Elizabeth and Margaret's mother's shop

The cover photo was taken on a home visit to Elizabeth and Margaret. Mum had received a loan from STOW and told us that she had set up a shop which was doing really well. As well as vegetables, they sell cakes (made by Mum), charcoal and kerosene at 100/- a cup (about 0.04p).



Toilet almost finished!

Elizabeth carefully measured out, cup-by-cup, 1,000/- worth of kerosene into a plastic water bottle. We bought this and some vegetables for another very vulnerable girl who lives nearby. I always think this has a double benefit to both parties!

The girls were at home as they had two days off school because the national Form II exams were taking place. I asked them what they were doing on their days off, playing or studying, Elizabeth proudly said: "Studying". Margaret then showed us her school report.

When we visited in May, Elizabeth and Margaret had whispered in my ear, asking if we could help finish the outside toilet that Mum had started building. This trip Mum was proud to show me the almost finished building—just a bit more roofing needed. The girls said that it was wonderful to have this privacy.

Back cover photo — Fatuma

The left-hand picture on the back cover shows Fatuma and her family. She was in Form 1 at Kiomoni Secondary School when I took the photo in September and will have moved up to Form 2 this month. She is so determined to get to school and to study hard. She says she is really grateful that STOW has given her a bicycle - which she shares with another sponsored girl, Verian. Even by bike it takes them an hour to get to school and of course there is always the hour getting back home! Here she is again, home from school in her uniform which she keeps so immaculately clean.



Back from school

Receipts and payments 1st June 2012 to 18th Dec 2012

RECEIPTS

Members' subscriptions	£1,058.00
Donations	£9,000.01
Child Sponsorship	£2,905.81

Fundraising Events

Carrington's Barn 2012	£1,467.00
Cheese and wine	£250.00
Gift Aid	£2,756.38
Bank interest	£234.73

Total receipts **£17,671.93**

Excess of receipts over payments £5,112.37

Balance brought forward from 1 June 2012 **£47,720.70**

Funds in hand at 18th Dec 2012 **£52,833.10**

Account balances:

HSBC Community account	£17,286.70
CRDB Bank Tanzania	£1,000.00
HSBC Community savings account	£13.50
Scottish Widows savings account	£3,532.86
Virgin Money savings account	£31,000.00
Total	£52,833.10

PAYMENTS

Grant to AFRIWAG (2nd 2012)	£5,315.00
Grant to TUMAINI (2nd 2012)	£2,625.00
Grant money spent in Tanzania on Sept 2012 trip	£1,300.00
NGO registration fee	£179.53
Total Tanzania payments	£9,419.53

Bank transfer charges	£90.00
3 return flights to Tanzania for Sept 2012 and Feb 2013 monitoring trips	£2,134.67

Carr.'s Barn 2012 expenses	£203.69
Public liability insurance	£371.00
Collecting boxes (5)	£28.75
Printing newsletter	£258.00
Website	£53.92
Total UK payments	£3,140.03

Total payments **£12,559.56**

Note: On 21st December, after these accounts were drawn up, a first instalment of £13,000 was sent to TUMAINI.

Martin Stevens
Hon Treasurer 8th January 2013

Thoughts and Preparations for our Trip to Tanzania



It seems a very long time ago that Marie first talked about her desire to be more involved with the children in the Tanga region of Tanzania, following her VSO placement there in 1998-2000.

She approached a few friends who caught a glimpse of her vision and became excited about it too. 'Supporting Tanzanian Orphans and Widows' was formed soon after, the name reflecting the intention to support women as well as children.

As members know, two people are specifically funded annually to carry out detailed monitoring trips. Due to her fluency in Kiswahili and extensive local knowledge and contacts, Marie heads up each trip but she always wants trustees to see for themselves what STOW is really about on the ground. To date five other former and current

trustees have been to Tanga with her. This year, she is getting two trustees for the price of one as Richard is funding himself!

So, how are we feeling about the trip? Slightly anxious, but excited and looking forward to it all very much. Jem has helped with getting our visas; we've had a couple of jabs and start anti-malaria tablets soon.

As a retired teacher, I am especially interested in the school visits, and look forward to spending a bit of time in schools. But equally I look forward to the home visits — meeting the children and their carers about whom Marie always speaks so movingly.

Richard and I feel honoured to have this opportunity to experience first hand what up to now we could only guess at.... we just hope we don't get in a muddle with the photograph-taking and recording, which is our main assigned task!

Viv Wills-Crisp
STOW Trustee

Living with disability in Tanga

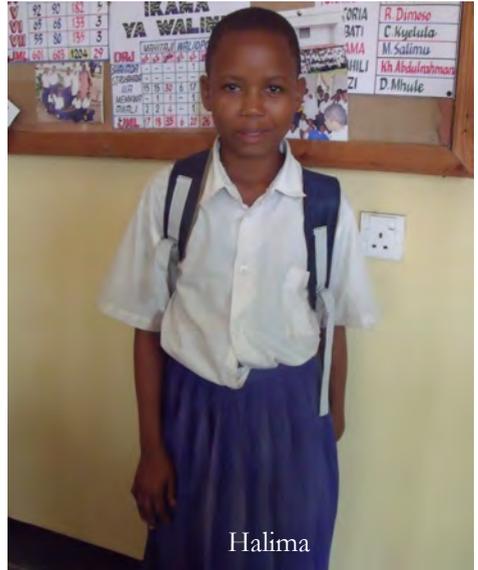
Halima's father was, until a while ago, a car mechanic earning money and providing for his family. One day when he was working under a car the jack broke and the car fell on top of him and crushed his spine. He is now paralysed from the waist down. His younger brother has bought him a wheelchair which he uses to get around the house a bit but he says he can't go far as all the tracks and roads around his home are not tarmac so it is difficult. He said during the rainy season it is impossible for him to get out of the house as the roads are muddy and slippery.

Halima is 10 years old and goes to Mwan'gombe Primary School, as does her younger sister. She is the eldest child and the family wait for her to get back from school so she can cook the main meal for 6 people. She showed us the beans and vegetables that she was cooking the day we visited

All the family were sleeping in the same room, boys on the floor, girls in a separate bed. We talked to Halima's father about the girls needing to be in their own room. There was another room in the house which was in need of

repair. A kind neighbour who was visiting said he would arrange for repairs to be made. We gave him the funds to do this and two days later we went back with mattresses and sheets for the two girls to have in their new room and for the boys who had been sleeping on the floor. The family were so grateful – it was very humbling.

Marie



Halima's house

Connecting Schools across Continents

Mwang'ombe Primary School, linked with Saxmundham Primary School, was in the midst of preparing for the national Standard VII examinations in September. All children have to pass these in order to be able to progress to secondary education. I was interested in the spectacle that greeted us (see picture left).



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The Head Teacher explained to me that 136 children were to sit the exams that week — 56 boys and 80 girls. All the desks to be used in the exams had to be scrubbed clean so that no writing or notes could be left on them!

Mleni Primary School is also about to be linked to Springfield Junior School in Ipswich. I will be spending some time in the school before I go out to Tanzania at the beginning of February talking to the pupils about how they want to communicate with their new friends.

Mleni children are keen to learn English as this is the language of secondary school teaching, so we thought making some bright posters with English explanation words might be fun and would cheer up the bare walls of the classrooms.

Jem and I attended Springfield Junior's Harvest festival in the autumn of 2012 and listened to some beautiful and moving singing in both English and an African language — it brought tears to our eyes. We have taken a video of them and will show it to the pupils at Mleni — a school which also loves its singing and I have shown videos of them doing this in several talks I have given.

I find it heart-warming that children can reach across the world in this way to learn from each other. Both schools have raised funds for STOW. When we are on our monitoring visits we make sure that these funds are put to good use.

Marie





Springfield Junior School

In other news...no frills travel comes to Tanzania!

A new airline called ‘Fastjet’, modelled on easyJet, was launched in Tanzania on November 29th. The famous entrepreneur Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, who started easyJet, has joined with Lonrho’s airline to establish the new group. Significantly, Fastjet chose to begin in Tanzania and Dar es Salaam airport will be its first African hub. It has already leased two planes, has 15 more on order (all Airbus A319s with a capacity for up to 156 passengers), and plans to build up to a fleet of 40.

The Citizen newspaper reported that the launch had taken the country by storm, as the airline transported 900 passengers in

eight flights from Dar to Mwanza and Kilimanjaro and back on its first day!

In slightly over a week, Fastjet had recorded 8,000 bookings for its first two routes and the Fastjet.com website had received over 20,000 hits in its first four days. Fastjet sells air tickets as cheap as \$20 one-way pre-tax, although most tickets are expected to sell at around \$100. This is significantly less than its main competitor, Precision Air.



Sir Stelios has taken the African grey parrot as the airline’s mascot. It is renowned for its intelligence and therefore the perfect personification of the smart way to fly.

Hamisi—man of many parts

I never cease to be impressed and amazed at what our sponsored children achieve. Hamisi's grandmother proudly told us that he had built the little house where he sleeps all on his own. He has two lights which he powers off a small solar strip on his roof. One shines on the desk he has made so that he can study. He demonstrated to me how the wires run from the "solar panel" to his batteries and then to the light switch.

He is in his first year at secondary school and I asked him how he had come up with this technology. His answer was "Well you paid for me to go to secondary school and I learned about this in my physics lesson".

As if that wasn't enough to make a person feel proud of Hamisi, we later came across him when we



Scholar, builder and electrician

were visiting a home in a nearby village. He was driving a cart with two donkeys, loaded up with large plastic water containers and several children. Out of his school uniform he looked very grown up, I very nearly didn't recognise him!



Businessman

The children were having fun and also getting a free ride to the river. Hamisi was collecting water to sell on to various customers. This was his contribution to the family income! No wonder his grandmother was so very proud of him.
Marie

TUMAINI and STOW

We spoke in the July 2012 Newsletter about the likelihood of our relationship growing with Tumaini – Human Relief for Widows, Orphans and Vulnerable People (TUMAINI for short).



STOW has been very impressed with the quality of financial recording and reporting that we have received from TUMAINI but mindful that this has been for a small number of children.

A considerable amount of time was spent during my visit in September discussing with Schola whether this young organisation would be able to take on supporting **all** the STOW-supported children.

Schola and I worked on a strategy for future partnership working. One of the outcomes was that we would change the timings of our monitoring visits, hence our forthcoming trip in February. Fuel prices in Tanzania have risen sharply and we thought that, if we could combine our trips with the necessary visits needed to schools and homes, that would reduce costs. We also talked about the need for a good computer for regular email communication between TUMAINI and STOW.

The second-hand laptop we gave TUMAINI has insufficient memory so Schola spends a lot of time at an Internet Café. Jem and I have donated a new laptop which I will take out in February. Hopefully this will make working arrangements go more smoothly.

We also decided that for the first year of this new arrangement STOW would not add any new children. We wanted to make sure that TUMAINI was given a chance to bed down its working practices with the larger number of children they would be supporting. We will review the situation during the second monitoring trip later this year.

We are still waiting for the final examination results for the national Std VII (primary) and Form IV (secondary) exams. Until we have them we will not know the final numbers of children STOW will be supporting in 2013. We are definitely supporting 166 but this is likely to grow. We will know the full details during our February trip. We would like to get the numbers back up to 200 as soon as we can safely do this.

Marie





STOW is registered on the
MyDonate website
(www.btplc.com/mydonate)

Our regular reminder that we have joined BT's online MyDonate service to help our fundraisers and to enable anyone who wants to use a debit or credit card to donate to us.

Mark used this service very successfully for his London marathon fundraiser for STOW.

One issue we have discovered is that one-off donations by people who have not registered with MyDonate are anonymous. We like to thank our donors so, if you use this service and want us to know who you are, please email us separately.

To register as a fundraiser or donor go to the MyDonate website (www.btplc.com/mydonate) and click on the 'Log in / Register' button (found near the top right of the screen), choose the 'Personal' tab and follow the on-screen instructions. Once you have created your personal account, you will then be able to log in and start fundraising, or sponsor a fundraiser, or donate directly to STOW.

Tip: to find STOW easily on the site once you have logged in, enter "Supporting Tanzanian" in the 'Enter a charity name' box and leave the 'Also search descriptions' box ticked. If you just enter STOW, you will have to scroll through several other names before you find STOW, but don't worry we are definitely there!



Fatuma with family members



Break time at Magaoni primary school