

Supporting Tanzanian

STOW

Orphans and Widows

STOW NEWS

July 2013

Issue number 13



Distributing school bags and uniforms

Dear Members

I hope you are all having fun during this wonderful sunny weather – I know I am!! I hope you enjoy reading about how your kind donations are spent in Tanzania.

February monitoring trip. We went out on our monitoring trip in February, the first time we have gone out at this time. I have tried to avoid it in the past as it is the hottest time of the year! However, with the price of fuel rising and the increased costs of supporting more children at secondary and vocational training, Schola (from TUMAINI) and I thought it would be good to come out and help with the distribution of the school materials, uniforms etc. and paying school fees. We save on costs and get to see exactly what the children get. The picture on the front page is just one of 19 schools we visited where we were able to give out school uniforms, socks, shoes, satchels, pens, maths sets, books etc.

Of course I should have realised when I planned the daily itinerary back in the UK that all this would take a bit longer. However, we only missed out on seeing 3 secondary schools and still managed to do 84 home visits. Sadly we didn't have time to go to some of the furthest homes but I hope to make up for some of this when I go out again in September.

Here are just two of the homes we visited.



The lady on the left is the older sister and carer of two girls we sponsor, who are now in secondary school. You may remember her as the lady who broke up large boulders into small stones, used to put on roads and paths.

STOW gave her a loan to start this off and with the profit she has now bought a sewing machine and has a contract to

make school uniforms for a nursery school where she now works. She said breaking rocks was just too hard to keep doing for the rest of her life!! She is on her way to becoming financially secure – thanks to STOW and your generous continued support.

Yusuph's bedroom doubles up as a kitchen and store room. He assured me that he uses his STOW net every night – “to keep the mosquitos away”. Because it is so dry the family were not able to do washing or have a bath as it is so far for them to go and collect water. A Water Seller comes by every day but they said it is quite expensive, so they prefer wherever possible to collect water from the river. This means it is also difficult to cook, with so little water available. We were all impressed with how clean and white Yusuph managed to keep his school shirt.



Yusuph's bedroom/kitchen/store room

Something that was much more noticeable on this visit was the lack of food in so many homes. Most families subsist on food they manage to grow themselves in their “shambas” (vegetable plots).

Many told us that much of their crops had failed and if the rains didn't come soon, there would be no food.

We bought food parcels every day for those families in most need. These consisted of :

- 2 kilos beans
- ½ kilo dagaa (small fish that are very nutritious)
- 5 kilos flour
- salt
- 1 kilo sugar
- tea

and when we had run out of food by the afternoon, we went shopping at small village shops – like this one.

You can't walk around these shops but they have just about anything you could want to buy – and in small quantities.



STOW stuck!

Despite going out at the driest time of the year, we still managed to get our vehicle stuck – this time in sand! Like last time we had help from a passer-by, but the car was out of action for the next 3 days!! Thankfully our STOW Treasurer in Tanga lent us her husband's car and we were able to carry on regardless – all part of a STOW monitoring trip!



Thank you to STOW

Thanks to Schola for arranging for us to meet Mrs Chicku, the new Regional Commissioner of Tanga. It is so important for small organisations such as STOW to be known by government officials in the region.

She thanked STOW very much for helping vulnerable children in her region. She was impressed that we had been involved in the area for 8 years and encouraged us to continue with our work.



Meeting the Tanga Regional Commissioner

Thank you *from* STOW

We always have so many people to thank that I can't name them all here, but I feel that mentioning some from time-to-time is the right thing to do.



Springfield's pictures on Mleni's wall

STOW is very lucky to have support from both Springfield Junior and Saxmundham Primary Schools. I always enjoy my visits to these schools as the children ask such searching questions. Many thanks to the staff, parents and pupils of both schools who have been incredibly generous with fundraising events this year. We took some wonderful pictures from Springfield to Mleni Primary School and “talked to” the pictures in one of Mleni’s classroom walls. Mleni were fascinated to see that

English school children also wear uniforms – just as they do! I also walked round the room with my laptop so that the children could watch a video of the pupils singing some songs.

Pupils of Saxmundham have been busy creating posters showing their way of life and I will take these out to Mwang’ombe Primary in September.

I’d also like to say a big thank you to Raksha and Bharat of Heritage Motels Ltd in Dar es Salaam. We always have to stay in Dar the night before an early flight back to the UK and for some years now they have offered Trustees of STOW a free night’s accommodation. The Heritage is right in the middle of the bustling town but inside it is relaxed and cool. We are so grateful for this support to STOW – thank you Raksha and Bharat.

You members are the backbone of STOW and you provide security of income and commitment to the work of STOW - something these vulnerable children often don’t have. Enabling this disadvantaged group of orphans to attend school is crucial for their future. Education can provide a safety net in the child's life and schooling can also help to break the cycle of poverty. Children can be empowered to regard themselves as active members of the community rather than as victims. As Trustees who have joined me on our monitoring trips have said – it is hard work! There is also quite a lot to do in the UK: reports to write to child sponsors, talks, fundraising events, newsletters etc. but when we go out and see the difference that we make to the lives of these children, we know it is worthwhile and we all have to carry on. So thank you again.

Marie Adams – Chair and Founder of STOW

Money Matters - Reflections from the Treasurer

You will have read elsewhere in the newsletter some of the heart-warming success stories from the 185 very vulnerable children STOW now supports throughout their education.

When STOW started some 7 years ago, 110 children were supported—most of them at Primary school. However, for the past 5 years, STOW has undertaken to support each child for as long as they remain in education.

As STOW became more established and funds increased, STOW was able to increase the number of children it supported to around 200 about four years ago, but this year we could only manage 185 as so many are now taking vocational courses which are more expensive.

STOW keeps enough money in reserve to enable us to continue supporting our current children if our income drops significantly. It has become clear over the past year that financially there has been a very understandable squeeze both in our spending in Tanzania and on the income coming to STOW in the UK .

An increasing number of our Primary school children have progressed to Secondary school or to Vocational Colleges (and this will continue). This is great news for their education and resulting life chances but poses a longer-term funding challenge. As many of you are aware, a child attending Secondary school and especially Vocational Training is much more expensive to support than a child in Primary school.

Part of STOW's real success is that a higher proportion of our supported children now continue for longer in education and so cost more each year to support. Although exchange rates with sterling have remained reasonably stable,



Damiano receiving his certificate and driving licence after his Vocational Training course

inflation in Tanzania runs at over 15% and this eats further into our budget.

STOW fund-raising, due to the generosity of individual sponsors and donors, had until recently kept pace with our Tanzanian commitments. However, the ongoing squeeze here, and much reduced interest received from our deposits, means we really need to increase our annual income by about £5,000 if we are to continue supporting a similar number of children.

The good news is that this is, in large part, a problem of STOW's success but one which the Trustees are determined to resolve. In view of this, the Trustees are exploring a number of ways of increasing income and are specifically looking at applying to a number of grant-making Trusts to supplement the money which continues to be donated so generously by members and supporters.

Any ideas for, or assistance with, further fund-raising would be most welcome.

Martin Stevens Hon. Treasurer July 2013

Receipts and payments 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013 (draft annual accounts)

RECEIPTS

Members' subscriptions	£1,605.00
Donations	£12,774.83
Child Sponsorship	£7,074.96

Fundraising Events

Carrington's Barn 2012	£1,467.00
Carrington's Barn 2013	£87.50
Cheese and wine	£250.00
Gift Aid	£2,756.38
Bank interest	£259.10

Total receipts **£26,274.77**

Excess (deficit) of receipts
over payments (£5,371.10)

Balance brought forward
from 1 June 2012 **£47,720.69**

**Funds in hand at 31st May
2013** **£42,349.59**

Account balances:

HSBC Community account	£5,778.86
CRDB Bank Tanzania	£2,000.00
HSBC Community savings account	£13.50
Scottish Widows savings account	£3,557.23
Virgin Money savings account	£31,000.00

PAYMENTS

Grant to AFRIWAG (2nd 2012)	£5,315.00
Grants to TUMAINI (2nd 2012 + 1st and 2nd 2013)	£19,125.00
Grant money spent in Tz on Sept 2012 and Feb 13 trips	£3,140.00
Tz NGO registration fee	£179.53

Total Tanzania payments **£27,759.53**

Bank transfer charges	£150.00
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 2 yrs	£742.00
Collecting boxes (10)	£57.50
Printing 2 newsletters	£516.00
Envelopes and stamps	£28.56
Website	£53.92

Total UK payments **£3,886.34**

Total payments **£31,645.87**

Note: On 18th June, after these accounts were drawn up, an instalment of £6,000 was sent to TUMAINI.

Martin Stevens
Hon Treasurer 10th July 2013

Monitoring trip, February 2013

"So how did you find the monitoring trip?" asked Schola during our final meeting together. It was impossible to sum up in a few words.

Nothing could have prepared us for the experience of actually visiting the homes and schools of the families that *STOW* supports.

While we know **about** the work of *STOW*, having been trustees from the onset, we didn't know how the intense heat would feel, or how the extent of poverty would take our breath away, or how it would feel to look into faces where smiles of gratitude were overwhelming and where, sometimes, despondency would overshadow us with sadness.

Stepping inside numerous small mud huts with mud floors and often gaping holes in the roofs, was an eye opener again and again. There was usually order in the few items a family owned: little bags of belongings hung up to avoid ants, one or two cooking pots stood near to 3 big stones within which a fire was lit for all the cooking, and always there were scraggy chickens inside and out.



The schools have huge numbers of children in each class, 60, 70 and more. They sit 3 and 4 to a desk made for 2, as well as on the bare dusty floor. There are very few textbooks; chalk blackboards are used and walls are bare and in poor condition. Most disturbing of all was that few teachers were in evidence in some of the primary schools. And yet the youngsters, keen to be at school, **will** (and **do!**) learn. Extra tuition is often needed for the 14/15-year-olds to achieve the grades for secondary school, and we aim to fund this for our children.



The story of *STOW* continues to tell of growing numbers of young adults deeply grateful for the opportunities that we have given them.

During one of the home visits, a grandmother rolled up a circular mat, which had taken her weeks to make, and gave it to Marie by way of saying 'Thank you' for what *STOW* had done for her family. Through Schola's translating, she told us that she prays for us all at *STOW* every day and will continue to do so. We assured her of our prayers, and indeed for all the families we were privileged to meet.



Marie receiving mat

These are an amazing people, children and adults alike. They have so little in terms of material belongings,

they are often hungry and yet they are strong and kind and welcoming. They laugh readily and often. Many have low aspirations, but many have dreams. With our help many are moving towards fulfilling their potential.

We want to assure all you kind, generous people, who financially support *STOW*, that your charity is in good hands. We were full of admiration for the efficient and effective way that Marie and Schola deal with the ongoing needs of our orphans and widows.

With Marie's two visits a year, and Schola's and Esther's additional home and school visits, the value of your gifts are multiplied many times.

Richard and Viv Wills-Crisp

NOTICE of STOW Annual General Meeting

This will be held at 3 pm on

Sunday 29th September 2013

at

Dennys Farm, East Green, Kelsale,
Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 2PH

The AGM will be followed by a bring-and-share afternoon tea (please let us know what you are bringing on 01728 603348)

Summer Fundraising Evening June 29th 2013

The evening began on the terrace of Thurston's Barn with over 60 guests enjoying a glass of wine as they drifted amongst the luxurious roses and flowers.

The Barn, beautifully hung with kangas and with African artifacts set between the ancient timber beams, was the setting for our annual Summer party. The coolness of the evening brought everyone in to take their seats, where Richard opened the event with an amusing, sharp account of his and Viv's visit to Tanzania.

He then introduced us to Eric Sedge of the Broadside Boys, well known on Radio Suffolk and many other venues. Although Eric was on his own this time, he delighted everyone with his full rich voice and inspired us with wonderful lyrical original Suffolk folk songs, playing several instruments like a troubadour of old – not only a musician but a poet!



The Barn and a Broadside Boy!



Elly Tree

For those who have never been to Africa, (and even for those who have!) Marie (our founder) gave a real cinematographic report of life in one small corner of that great continent and told us of the personal case histories of four of the 185 children we are currently supporting in Tanzania. The presentation ended with video of a scratch choir of Tanga schoolchildren singing “A big thank you from Tanzanian hearts”.

All eyes then went to the gorgeously laid supper table. Plates of delicious finger food were carried protectively out to the garden or round the bar in the courtyard, while some guests mischievously hung around for seconds. The strawberry tarts were a sellout!

We were privileged to obtain the services of the Auctioneer from East Green who, with wit and cajoling, drew bids like pennies from heaven. Thank you Peter, it was a record.

The evening came to a close with a rousing send-off from local folk band Elly Tree - a bombastic rendering of disaster and floods, again on a Suffolk theme, a foot-tapping entertainment. Babies and young mums danced I am glad to report.

Our thanks must go to Lindi and John Carrington who for several years through their generosity and support have given STOW the freedom of their beautiful grounds and barn. This has contributed everything to the success of our fundraising evenings of Summer Entertainment and this June 29th was definitely an Evening to Remember with over £2,000 raised!

Joan Craighead STOW Trustee

STOW Member – born 1909

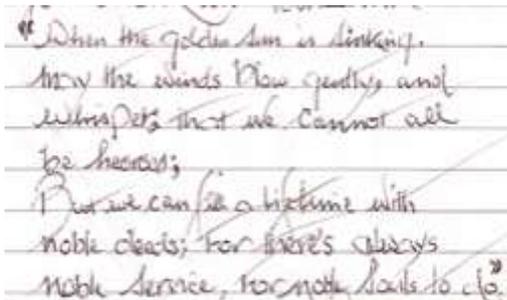
I just wanted to pay a small tribute to Alfred Hardy who was our oldest member and sadly passed away earlier this year. I heard the news when his daughter sent me a cheque for £50, payable to STOW, which he had made out but had not got around to sending.

Here is a picture of him a few days after his 103rd birthday.



That same year (2010) I received a beautifully handwritten letter with

a donation “to help with your work in Tanzania” and the following quotation from his autograph ‘Book of Yesteryear’:



“When the golden sun is sinking, May the winds blow gently and whisper That we cannot all be heroes; But we can fill a lifetime with noble deeds; For there’s always noble service, for noble souls to do”.

Thank you Alfred for your inspiration.

Rest in Peace.

Marie

STOW means long-term support



Left, Hamisi at Primary School in 2007 and, **right**, in Secondary School in 2013 and about to move to boarding school—STOW has managed to secure him a place. He is looking forward to having 3 meals a day!





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.

Every penny of the money donated (excluding credit/debit card charges) is paid into STOW's bank account and BT collects any Gift Aid due on our behalf.

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!



Children helped to go to school



Widows helped with start-up loans

STOW : Supporting Tanzanian Orphans and Widows

Special thanks to 'Christian House and Church Swap' which has sponsored the printing and distribution of this newsletter. www.ChristianHouseandChurchSwap.co.uk