

Supporting Tanzanian
STOW
Orphans and Widows

STOW NEWS

August 2018

Issue number 23



Some of the businesswomen helped by STOW

www.stowcharity.org
Charity registration no: 1112424

Dear Members

Phew! What an amazing hot summer we have all been having! Reminds me of my times in Tanga, but thank goodness it's not as humid here!

Fundraising

We've been busy with three fundraising events since I last wrote to you. The Beetle Drive in March was again such fun, all my years before STOW and I'd never played the game – as many others had not – now we can enjoy this every year!! Our Summer Event was held in a different venue from all our previous ones. I must confess I was nervous about how it would work, not having any of the lovely outside spaces that we have enjoyed at Thurstons for so many years. But guess what? – it was a sell-out and everyone seemed to have a really good evening. We have to thank 'The Peasenhall Butcher Brothers & The Westleton Whistle Women' who were on guitar & vocals and 'The Wednesday Men' – a fabulous jazz group from Ipswich – for



The Wednesday Men at Kelsale Village Hall

providing such wonderful music.

The applause was re-sounding for both sets. Lots of positive feedback from the audience. A big Thank You to all who came and supported STOW. Last, but not least, Bryan's Barn is open again to raise funds for

STOW. We have enjoyed three film shows so far and have one more to come – hur-ray!! Great venue and thanks to Bryan and Jill for allowing us to use the barn again.

Monitoring Trip

Pam and I went out again in January/February to help with the distribution of school materials. We managed to visit 11 out of the 12 secondary schools where we have sponsored students, the 12th is out of area as Mwajuma is doing her A-levels and not many schools in Tanga provide these courses. We also visited all the 9 primary school children. I managed to take a video of a Headmaster telling us what a difference STOW has made to the future chances of so many children. Those of you who came to the Kelsale event will have seen this. We also visited 3 technical colleges where we support 6 students studying tailoring and electrics.

It was so good to be able to take on more youngsters for STOW to support thanks to your generosity. Eleven new children in all: ten at primary and one at secondary. Here's just a few stories about some of them.

Abdulkakari

We were visiting students at Mwapachu Secondary and, as always, met up with the

Head. Mwapachu school is in the middle of nowhere – at least that’s how it feels when you are trying to get there, along dusty, bumpy roads.

The Head Teacher told us about a boy who got 7 A grades in his Form II exams (students have to pass these to get into Form III and the O-level courses) despite having poor home circumstances. Abdulbakari is 16 years old and told us that he does casual labouring to get money to feed himself. As always with potential newly supported children, we did a home visit. We met some the family including his grandparents, with whom he lives. There are six children in the household.

This is the corridor where Abdulbakari sleeps, on the mat you can see. There is no door and no water or electricity in the house. Nor is there any place to study but luckily the school has been assisting him by allowing him to stay behind after school to complete his homework. I noticed that half the house has not been finished with incomplete walls and no roof. Grandfather told us that he had started building the house a long time ago but cannot finish it now as he is too old and weak. We gave the family a food parcel and some money to help them out.



Abdulbakari and his family

Fatuma

We visited all the other new children at their homes but I thought I’d just tell you about a couple more. Firstly, a girl called Fatuma who goes to Saruji Primary School. It’s quite a trek from the school to her house which belongs to her grandmother and is still in the process of being built. I was amazed at how smooth their mud floor was – almost like concrete and no dust!! There was no electricity or running water in the house. Mum and the 3 children sleep in one bed.



Fatuma's house



Communal bed

Fatuma's mother breaks up rocks into small pebbles which are then used for walkways and driveways for big houses. Many of the ladies we have supported over the years have taken on this back-breaking work. The workers sit on the ground and pound the rock into gravel-size chunks with a small hammer. It is really hard work and sitting in the dirt all day, breathing the dust, doesn't help with their health. Fatuma's mum told us that the price varies with size and type of stone. She also said that at the moment the rocks for breaking up are in short supply so she isn't earning much. Mum also told us that she walks to the site where she does the rock breaking which is a long way away.

Fatuma had not had anything to eat that day, so we gave her some biscuits – we always try to have some snacks in the car to give to the children who haven't had anything since the day before. We also gave the family the usual 'food parcel' of flour, beans, dried fish, sugar, tea and salt. Fatuma's mum is so pleased that STOW is now going to be helping the family – "What a difference it will make!" she exclaimed.



Breaking rocks

Baraka



Baraka with his family

We now sponsor two more children at Kisimatui Primary. Here's a little about one – Baraka. At first I was a bit surprised that the Head had asked us to support this boy as he seemed quite well dressed. However, Chande – another lad we sponsor there – said that a previous student, who had left last year, had given the uniform to him.

Anyway, off we go on a home visit. We learn that he lives with his aunty, who is struggling to support him at the moment as she has not been able to work for a few weeks due to stomach problems.



The family home

She does casual labour which is very hard work and needs a lot of stamina!!

His aunt told us that she is behind with the rent – she pays 8,000/- a month (about £3.50). His aunt also has two children of her own and a very elderly mother who is blind – you can see all of them in the photo on page 4.

We gave the family a food parcel and enough money to pay the rent for some months. As always we'll be keeping an eye on how things are – we definitely don't want

them evicted due to not paying rent. Thank goodness we can help out.....

October monitoring trip

I am planning to visit some of our other college students in Morogoro and Dodoma when I got out in October. Both towns are not too far from Dar-es-Salaam where I fly into and it would be good to see first-hand how they are progressing – also gives me material to draw on when I write my reports to their sponsors! We'll first go to a College of Agriculture in Morogoro. Then on to Dodoma (the administrative capital of Tanzania) to two more Colleges of Agriculture. We will also visit DECCA College of Health and Allied Science, where we have a student studying medical sciences. Below is TRACDI – a College of Agriculture in Dodoma .



The Tanzania Research and Career Development Institute (TRACDI)

Best wishes, Marie, Founder and Chair of STOW

Treasurer's Corner



Looking back over our summary of the 2017/18 (to 31st May) STOW draft accounts (see page 8), we have seen, I think, a little less drama than in some previous years. This past financial year we were able to 'Stay Calm, Carry On, and Drink a Little Tea' whilst cautiously taking on a few new longer-term commitments to the ongoing education of some additional vulnerable children in rural Northern Tanzania.

Our financial 'bottom lines' for the STOW year ending 31st May 2108 sees our income and money spent being almost equal at around £43,000, with about £300 being added to last year's money 'in hand' and reserves of some £21,000.

Our reserves represent somewhat less than a year's STOW expenditure. This 'cushion' we have agreed with the Charity Commission so as to smooth out the previously experienced, unexpected and unpredictable 'bumps' in such things as exchange rates, Tanzanian inflation and interest savings rates in the UK.

As before most of our income continues to come from well-established sources, and again I can only say that members' and supporters' ongoing generosity continues to be most thankfully received by the STOW Trustees, our trusted Tanzanian partners, TUMAINI, and not least our supported children and young people benefitting from an ongoing education they would not otherwise receive.

So, at a risk of sending you off to sleep, here are just a few words as to how we try keep on top of the finances and flag up any monetary issues here and in Tanzania as soon as we can.

- We balance the books each month cross-checking in detail our current account with HSBC.
- A detailed and current financial report is made to, and examined by, the Trustees at each committee meeting (approx. quarterly).
- Annually, our accounts are externally independently examined, a report made to the AGM each Autumn, and a submission made to the Charity Commission.
- In addition, the annual draft budget submitted to us by TUMAINI about each and every child we support is scrutinised, sometimes challenged and then agreed by the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and then reported to the rest of the Trustees. The more difficult decisions being agreed by all Trustees using email between meetings.



Schola and Esther of TUMAINI



Loaded up and ready to go!

This has meant we can be as confident as we can in keeping our promises to continue educational support for the longer term to our individually named and visited (during the monitoring trips) children.

So, to sign off as I started, where you are able to, please Stay Calm, Drink Tea and, where you can do so, continue with your generous support.



Delivering school materials

Martin Stevens, Hon Treasurer, July 2018

Receipts and payments 1st June 2017 to 31st May 2018 (Draft full year)

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Members' subscriptions	£1,742		
Donations	£27,934	Grants to TUMAINI for 2018	£36,000
<i>(including:</i>			
<i>Thurston's Barn 2017</i>	<i>£1,372</i>	Cash for grants (Trips Oct 17 and Feb 2018))	£2,300
<i>Voxy Ladies Concert</i>	<i>£195</i>	Total Tz payments (94.5%)	£38,300
<i>St James's Place</i>	<i>£2,500</i>		
<i>Benhall Parish Church</i>	<i>£131</i>	2 x flights to Tanzania for Jan/Feb 18 monitoring trip	£658
<i>Australian Rotary</i>	<i>£15,408</i>	1 x flight for Oct 18 trip	£708
<i>Beetle Drive</i>	<i>£150</i>	2 Business Visas	£360
		Fundraising expenses	£101
Child Sponsorship	£8,282	Public liability insurance	£280
Gift Aid	£3,345	Printing 2 newsletters	£511
		Stamps and envelopes	£87
		Total UK payments (5.5%)	£1,514
Total receipts	£41,303	Total payments	£41,005
Excess of receipts over payments	£298		
Balance brought forward from 1 June 2017	£34,342		
Funds in hand at 31st May 2018	£34,640		
Account balances:			
HSBC Community account	£13,900		
Virgin Money savings account	£20,740		
Total	£34,640		

Martin Stevens, Hon Treasurer, June 18

Date for your diary!

NOTICE of STOW Annual General Meeting

This will be held at 3 pm on

Sunday 30th September 2018

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)

Solar power in action!



Monitoring trip February 2018

This was my fifth monitoring visit to Tanga region and many of the people we meet and tasks we undertake have become familiar to me. Thanks to our Tanzanian friends who assist us with the arrangements for accommodation and travel, it was the most hassle-free trip I have experienced. Even the weather was kind to us. There was a nice sea breeze and it only rained at night.

It was noticeable that Tanga region has experienced an economic downturn and many of the homes we visited still had no electric or water supplies. Teachers at Marungu Secondary school explained to us how difficult it was to teach physics without running water and electricity.

It was lovely to meet two of our past students, Mary Wilson, who was very happy and positive about her government job and Osmond, who is working as a junior doctor in the neonatal unit of a teaching hospital in Dar-es-Salaam. However, both were experiencing delays in receiving their salaries.



Mary Wilson with Schola and Esther



Boarding school kit in trunk ready to go

Shopping is always a feature of these monitoring trips and this year was no exception.

We bought 22 food parcels, three bicycles and two 'boarding school kits' which include bedding, crockery, cutlery and a trunk with a padlock in addition to the uniform and stationery.

For the first time at Zingibari boarding school, we were asked to provide a wooden chair for our new pupils which resulted in some interesting visits to local furniture workshops. From our discussions with our secondary school students it became apparent that many were needing assistance with bus fares and we agreed that this would be included in future budgets.

Discussing the budget is a significant part of the monitoring trip and understanding how our Tanzanian partners have to manage the expectations of those we support. It's especially difficult when students don't pass an exam and they need support to explore other options as they still have achieved a higher level of literacy and numeracy skills than those who have not had a secondary education.

The IGA scheme of giving small loans to carers to set up small businesses is continuing successfully. At this year's meeting we were presented with a live chicken which had travelled by bus from one of the villages, where one of the women had used her loan to secure a water supply which enabled her to keep chickens and grow vegetables on her small plot of land.



Present of a live chicken

Although STOW and our Tanzanian partner, TUMAINI, are both small charities, these visits show how much the lives of those we support are improved in both the short and long term by our donations.

Pam Stevens

Since STOW's founding in June 2005 we have funded over 2,500 annual school and further education places, helping well over 350 children to get education and training with many going on to paid employment.

STOW contact details
Email: info@stowcharity.org
Tel: 01728 603348

Date for your diary (see p9)

STOW Annual General Meeting

**This will be held at 3 pm on
Sunday 30th September 2018**

at

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

The AGM will be followed by a bring-and-share afternoon tea



We are on the BT MyDonate website (www.btplc.com/mydonate) to help our fundraisers and to enable people to use a debit or credit card to donate to us. Just enter 1112424 or STOW in the MyDonate search box to find us.

Every penny of the money donated (excluding minimal card charges) comes to STOW including any Gift Aid due. We like to thank our donors so, if you use this service and want us to know who you are, please email us separately at info@stowcharity.org with your name and the amount you've donated.

Supporting Tanzanian Orphans and Widows (STOW)
Registered charity no 1112424