

Supporting Tanzanian

STOW

Orphans and Widows

STOW NEWS

January 2014

Issue number 14



STOW students in Further Education

Dear Members,

A very Happy New Year to you all and may 2014 bring you lots of health and happiness. You make such a difference to so many vulnerable children by supporting STOW that you deserve all the best that 2014 can bring!!

October/November monitoring trip

As many of you will know from my report at the AGM, I had to delay my second 2013 monitoring visit. I was due to go out again in September but, a couple of days before my departure, Schola asked me to delay my visit as she was so unwell she would not have been able to accompany me on the visits. So I went out towards the end of October for just over 2 weeks.

In the event, Schola still could not come out with me during the first 10 days in Tanga but I had wonderful support both from Esther, who came out with me every day, and also from Dr Rose Laisser, TUMAINI's Chairperson who joined me for a challenging visit to St Mary's Vocational Training Centre in Mivumoni.



Solar-powered Mivumoni



*Our students at Mivumoni
with Esther*

A big misunderstanding had arisen about whether school fees had been paid by TUMAINI. We spent 2 hours talking with the Head with some millions of Tz shillings in cash in front of us, as well as receipts for previous payments, but we still could not reach an agreement! Sadly we are now moving most of our children from this college, which we had such positive experiences of in the past few years.

Help for TUMAINI

The Trustees had previously agreed that, if someone suitable could be found, STOW would fund expenses for a volunteer to help TUMAINI during the hectic months of November, December and January.

In Tanga I met Baraka Daniel, one of the students supported by STOW, who has recently graduated with an accountancy degree. I talked with him about the help that was needed – going round all the schools with Esther to do all the measuring for shoes and uniforms.

He would also have to check the Standard VII primary school results (which decide who can go to secondary school) and do some other office work.

He seemed a sensible and hardworking young man. He was very keen to take on this work as he felt that, not only was he giving something back to STOW, but it would also help him to get into a routine for future work and he would be able to put it on his CV!

Baraka came out with me and Esther to get an idea of some of the schools that we support and the work we do. He said he found it interesting to come shopping with us for food parcels—it gave him a more rounded view of the type of support STOW gives.



Baraka at Mwan'gombe



Baraka and Esther food shopping

Looking back over last year

We had a fun time fundraising last year and we were so fortunate to be able to use 'Thurstons' again for our mid-summer event – courtesy of John and Lindi Carrington – (see last newsletter) and Denny's Farm – courtesy of Sue and Rob Potter – for our AGM.

We are also incredibly lucky that Bryan and Jill Sedge have supported STOW again this year at their 'International Film Festival'. Bryan, Jill, Viv and Richard make everyone so welcome with drinks and nibbles and the evenings are a treat!

On page 11 are some dates for your diaries. Do put them in your social calendars – we'd love to see you all at these events. I know that 2014 is going to be a challenging year for STOW but with your wonderful support I feel certain we will continue to be able to help all these vulnerable children. Thank you all very much (*asante sana*) for your support.

Marie Adams - Chair and Founder of STOW



STOW AGM at Dennys Farm

Students Getting on in Further Education ...

Albert is in his 1st year of a 3-year carpentry course at VETA. He had just come out of the workshop so his overalls were covered in wood dust. He really likes the course and is looking forward to going on a placement next year to gain some work experience. He lives in the college hostel as his home is in one of the more remote areas of Tanga.



Albert is studying carpentry at VETA

teachers also participate in the various performances. Each year an arts festival is held in Bagamoyo during the last week of September – which I just missed!

We have two students here – Joseph and Felista. Felista is studying drama, dancing, media and filming. Joseph is studying films and drama. He proudly told me that he has been in many plays and also won an award last year.



Joseph, Katherine (Felista's best friend) and Felista at Bagamoyo College of Arts



Seleli at Kaole College of Agriculture

After Bagamoyo, we carried on for a few miles down a dusty, bumpy road and reached **Kaole College of Agriculture**. Seleli is one of 600 students here and he told me that he has really enjoyed his first year of studying animal health and production at this college.

I was quite impressed with the results of his first term's exams. Seleli has two friends from Tanga here. They all said how good the teachers were but told us that they were always hungry as their food vouchers have to be redeemed at the college canteen. However, more often than not, the food there is finished when they arrive, so they have to buy food elsewhere. We spoke to a teacher who told us that there was to be a meeting to try and resolve this.

We then made our way back to the main road into Dar es Salaam and turned off on a muddy bumpy road, full of holes, and eventually found our way to the **Institute of Land Management** where Richard is studying. He said studying was going well but he was worried that all their assignments have to be typed. He asked if it was possible to have a laptop as there are many students sharing computers in the college. We will take him a second-hand one, donated by a member, when we go out later this month.



Richard at the Institute of Land Management



Mary at Tanzania Public Service College

The **Tanzania Public Service College** (TPSC) is a new campus, opened in February 2013. Mary is one of 1,200 students there and is studying records management. One teacher told us that the students do field work as part of the course which gives them good practical experience. Also some employers come to the college to ask if teachers can recommend students.

We were very impressed by Mary's approach and how keen she was on the course. The teacher told us that, in her 1st test, she scored 30 out of 100 but in her 2nd test 85 out of 100! The teacher said that she is improving so much he thinks she will do well.

Mary showed us her hostel, where six students share one room. They buy their meals at the campus restaurant and she told me that the allowance STOW gives her enables her to eat three meals a day!



Hassani is studying electrics at VETA

Hassani started studying to be an electrician at VETA in January 2014. In November we helped him enrol and look round his new college.

We have three students who have just completed a tailoring course at VETA and they will be helping TUMAINI's tailor to make the school uniforms for our supported children. This will give them valuable experience and we will get feedback from the tailor as to how they have got on. If all goes well we will discuss giving them a loan so that they can start their own tailoring business.

They may even decide to go into the school uniform business for STOW! Tailoring is quite a good way of earning a living in Tanga. People still have clothes made and other items such as sheets, tablecloths etc.

Marie



Lucy at VETA showing me her completed shirt



New sewing machine

Support with equipment

Thanks to the generosity of two of our members, we were able to buy a sewing machine in Tanga in November. We always try to buy locally as this helps the local economy. Also, if anything goes wrong, we know where to go back to!

The younger ones ...

I've talked a lot in previous pages about our older students but - just as a reminder - we start helping children to get to this stage by supporting them through primary school first!



Emelia and Shabani

Emelia and Shabani are supported by STOW at primary school and live with their grandmother.

Grandmother's house came down in the last rains so they are now living with relatives. It's a very big household, with only two bedrooms so Emelia and grandmother live in the entrance space on a mat.



A big household

We bought them mattresses, sheets, mosquito nets and a food parcel. They were all so pleased. As a special treat we also bought Shabani a pair of proper football boots as he is mad keen on the game and wants to play professionally when he finishes school. (As his grandmother told me on the quiet!)



New football boots

Ali is also supported to go to primary school. We worry about him as he lives so very far from school. He walks the 6-kilometer round trip with two friends.

They don't have ready access to water at home, where he lives with his father, so his uniform is not often washed. He had not eaten the day we saw him but it wasn't practical to give him a food parcel as he would have to carry it all the way home.

Instead, we gave him something to eat straight-away and some money to buy food nearer home.

We plan to keep a close eye on him.

Marie



Ali

Money Matters - Reflections from the Treasurer

As you know when STOW began over 8 years ago it supported some 110 mostly primary school children. From early on, STOW gave a commitment to support each child for as long as they remained in education. STOW therefore developed a long-term and cautious reserves policy (agreed with the charity commissioners) to ensure it could continue to honour this commitment.

Thanks to both the educational and additional wide-ranging social support from STOW, many more of our children are now in much more expensive secondary and vocational education. For the first time in our 8 years of operation, we have had both to call upon our reserves in order to fund this year's budget **and** to restrict the number of new children we can take on for the coming year.

STOW fund-raising, due to the generous support of members and income generated from events, has until now kept pace with our increasing commitments but this looks to become more of a challenge in the foreseeable future. We estimate that STOW will need to increase its income by about £5,000 per annum if it is to continue providing educational support to 200 children, particularly where increasing numbers are being supported in secondary, and further education, and in vocational training.

In light of this, the Trustees agreed to explore applying to national grant-making charities for additional funding. To date we have been unsuccessful but will continue our efforts!

If anyone has any ideas as to who we might approach for additional (preferably longer term) funding be they

A typical long-term commitment



Primary school



Secondary school



Vocational training

In 2007 Fadhili's jaw did not heal properly after a break. STOW paid for it to be mended in hospital in 2008. Better able to eat, in secondary school he became more confident. Now, 2013, he is in Vocational Training, studying electrical wiring.

individuals , businesses or other grant-making bodies we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Marie or any of the other Trustees with ideas in the first instance.

Once again many thanks for all those who continue to assist STOW in it's work with donations or in raising funds in such interesting and amazing ways.

Martin Stevens Hon. Treasurer Jan 2014

Receipts and payments 1st June 2013 to 18th December 2013

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Members' subscriptions	£1,729.00		
Donations	£10,546.78	Grants to TUMAINI (2nd and 3rd instalments 2013 and 1st instalment 2014)	£23,004.00
Child Sponsorship	£3,760.81	Grant money spent in Tz on Oct 2013 trip	£3,000.00
		Total Tanzania payments	£26,004.00
		Bank transfer charges	£90.00
		2 return flights to Tanzania for Feb 2014 monitoring trip	£1,064.50
Fundraising Events			
Carrington's Barn 2013	£2,217.00	Carr.'s Barn 2013 expenses	£21.00
Gift Aid	£3,998.88	Printing June newsletter and new leaflets	£327.00
Bank interest	£12.56	Envelopes and stamps	£39.00
		Total UK payments	£1,541.50
Total receipts	£22,265.03	Total payments	£27,545.50
Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments	(£5,280.47)		
Balance brought forward from 1 June 2013	£40,349.59		
Funds in hand at 18th December 2013	£35,069.12		
Account balances:			
HSBC Community account	£499.33		
Scottish Widows savings account	£3,569.79		
Virgin Money savings account	£31,000.00		
Total	£35,069.12		

Note: After these accounts were drawn up, an amount of £5,000 was transferred from the reserves held in the two savings accounts to the HSBC current account.

Martin Stevens
Hon Treasurer

5th January 2014

On being a Trustee ...

I've been a STOW Trustee from the beginning over 8 years ago. I've seen Marie take the organisation from a personal vision to do something for the most disadvantaged people she knew, to a charity practically and effectively supporting a broad range of vulnerable children, and some adults, whose lives have been devastated by loss and poverty.



Why do I support an organisation like STOW which, on the world scene, is minute and can ever only make a difference to a few hundred families?

My take on this is that, while the world may need the 'Big Battalions' to solve some problems, they often end up as wasteful and bureaucratic and unfortunately on occasions even breed or promote corruption with the immense assets at their disposal.



STOW-supported children at Mivumoni Primary in 2013

STOW is my way of making a personal difference to individuals who I feel I know. What's more I know that the money we raise is not only targeted 100% at those individuals but is used effectively to support their greatest need. It may sound hard but I would rather give a child an education for a lifetime than alleviate their hunger for a few months.

STOW makes a massive difference to a comparatively few individuals but it **does** make a difference and that's what really counts for me.

Rob Potter

Dates for your Diary

Beetle Drive!

Friday 4th April 2014 at 6 pm



Hotdogs, wine, beer & squash, followed by the Beetle Drive with a break for ice cream, cake & coffee!



St Johns Church Hall, Saxmundham
(Parking available up the church drive or Waitrose)

Adults: £5, Children: £2
(minimum age 6 years)
Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £12

To book tickets phone 01728 663583 or pay on the door.

Midsummer at the Barn!

Saturday 28th June 2014 at 7.00 pm



Welcome drink, supper, Broadside Boys,
Sketch, auction, raffle
News of recent trip to Tanzania

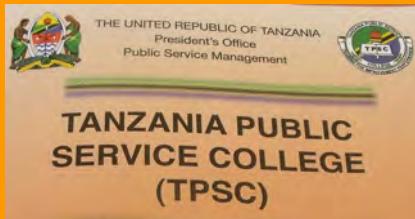
Thurstons, Rendham, IP17 2AR

Tickets £12.50 per person
available from:

STOW, Acorn Cottage, Kelsale, Saxmundham, IP17 2QY
Tel: 01728 603348, email: info@stowcharity.org



Further Education colleges where we have students



ANIMAL HEALTH & PRODUCTION



We are on the BT MyDonate website to help our fundraisers and to enable people to use a debit or credit card to donate to 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.

To register as a fundraiser or donor, go to 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.