

July 2016

Issue number 19



Mattresses are always welcome!

Dear Members

It has been an interesting experience trying to find out what is required to visit Tanga on behalf of STOW. We have had two visits to the Tanzania High Commission in London and Schola travelled to Dar-es-Salaam to visit the Labour Office. The information she was given there is the same as we got from the Tanzania High Commission – that is – I don't need a work permit but will need a Business Visa which I can get from London. Hurrah!! So I have booked airline tickets for Jem and me to go out in October for 2 weeks (these tickets are not funded by STOW).

I reported to you in the February newsletter that we had had a roller-coaster year regarding funding. Sadly we have lost yet another corporate funder: Ifftner. The company has been taken over by new owners and they have not yet decided whether to continue their support of STOW. Thanks for the continued support from our wonderful members and to the events we have had this year, all is not lost!! STOW carries on we are into our 12th year!!

Just to continue with evidencing how well our students do with support from STOW, I have had the wonderful news from Tanga that our 3 A-level students have passed their exams and 2 out of the 3 have passed with Division II—well done **Mussa** and **Haruna**!! They are now starting to apply to join University or Colleges and I await further news with bated breath!

We have been funding Haruna and Mussa since 2005 and they have worked hard to get this far under very difficult circumstances.



I mentioned in the February newsletter the 5 new children that STOW now supports in primary school. What I forgot to tell you was that 20 of our primary school children got good enough grades to progress to secondary school in January. This is such a good result! Life is always very difficult for the children STOW supports.

They very often have to walk miles to get to school in whatever the weather throws at them. They will often have arrived at school without breakfast (which is why STOW is now funding a basic lunch at school for all our sponsored children) but still try their hardest to do well.

Raphael is one of the children who has gone on to secondary. He is a small boy for his age (he was 13 years old when I took this picture last year) but has bags of character. He lives with his aunt as both his parents have died, and there are 6 boys

being looked after in the extended family 'compound'. When I saw him last year, he told me he loved his new red school satchel as it is the colour of his favourite football team—Simba—based in Dar es Salaam. I asked him how he thought he would be doing in his end-of-year exams and he replied in a loud and confident voice : "I will pass the Standard VII exams!" Well, he was absolutely right!!



Another child who has worried me over the years because of the unpredictability of care that she has been given but who has—in spite of all this—managed to get into secondary school is **Rehema**. Even when I saw her in October last year—just before she was due to take her end-of-year exams—she was unwell. She had been

to the hospital the day before and diagnosed with malaria. She was coughing and had a bad headache and had not eaten that morning.

She had been living with her grandmother for some years as her mother had gone away. Her mother is now back but still life is difficult for them all. Rehema told me that they could not afford to buy water so she had been drinking from puddles. Of course we immediately bought food and water for the family and left them with some extra funds to help them get by for a while.

I am constantly amazed and humbled when I meet children like her who continue to go to school, take their exams and get results good enough to enable them to go to secondary despite such difficult living conditions.

Can't resist telling you

..... about some of our GCSE students who have moved on from school to colleges or have chosen to carry on with school to do A-levels. I'd love to tell you about all 14 of them but not enough space!!



Mariamu and **Salimu** have gone on to study at A-level. Mariamu—on the left—is such a quiet girl. I first met her in 2011 when she was just about to finish primary school. She was living with her two older brothers, both of whom were at secondary school. There were no adults about and Mariamu slept at the house of one of her teachers. None of the children had eaten that morning. She and her brothers were extremely polite and very grateful for the food parcel we gave them. We spoke to the head teacher at Mariamu's primary school and he proposed that she be moved to do her secondary education in a boarding school as it would be safer for her. Mariamu was thrilled with this idea. We were on our way to Maramba Boarding school so managed to negotiate a place for her for 2012. Great news that she is now going on to study at A-level!!



Mariamu



Salimu

When I saw Salimu last year he told me that if gets to Form V (Sixth Form), he would like to study English, History and Geography. He is now at boarding school quite far away from Tanga. All A-level schools are boarding and most of our students who have managed to go through this route have had to travel far in order to achieve this ambition. STOW has increased their pocket money to help pay for the bus fares to and from school. I look forward to hearing how he is getting on.

After much discussion with her family, **Amina**, who was going to study A-levels, has decided to study to be a Clinical Officer at Teule Hospital in Muheza which is about 50 km from Tanga. It is a pre-medical course so Amina may end up studying to be a doctor. I hope to be able to see how she is getting on when I go in October. I know Teule Hospital quite well as when I was doing VSO, 3 other VSO volunteers were working there, one was a doctor and the other 2 were nurses. I was able to go round the wards and see how everything worked and when I myself had an accident in my first few months, I was able to go and get First Aid there!

Four of our young men have started at Tanga Technical College to study electronics. Given the growth of electricity being installed into homes and businesses in the Tanga region they are sure to get good jobs—as have the students who graduated last year.

FUNdraising

Since the February newsletter we have had great fun raising money to support our vulnerable children.

In March I gave a talk to Saxmundham Primary School to update them on how things are going in Tanga with STOW. As always they had some wonderful questions! The talk was just before they were due to do a sponsored book read. The children raised the amazing amount of £367 which will go a long way to supporting those 42 children we still have at Primary School. The children know that Jem and I are going out in October so they plan to write some messages to the pupils of Mwang'ombe Primary School. I hope to be able to bring back some videos of the Tanga children reading these and show them to the pupils of Saxmundham Primary. Many thanks to Mary Liggett, who has raised the profile of STOW at Saxmundham Primary School over so many years and has organized fundraising events there. Best wishes on her retirement. I just think it is so great that children can stretch out and communicate with others across the world. Long may STOW's association with Saxmundham Primary School last!

In April we had the Beetle Drive—even more people came this year. News has gone out that it is a family event not to be missed! This was followed in May with a new event held in the lovely Kelsale Village Hall. A wonderful '*a capella*' choir from Ipswich called Voxy Ladies came and did a benefit concert for STOW. What a lovely evening it was! We raised (after hall hire costs) £565!!

Our last event was Midsummer at the Barn—again at the beautiful Thurstons Barn. We'd been having mixed weather of sunshine and rain but the evening turned out to be a lovely one. We were wonderfully entertained with folk songs and a sea shanty from Two's Company and tales and songs from Neil Catchpole the 'Warbling Woodsman'. We raised over £2000 that evening and, as importantly, everyone said they had had a great evening.



Voxy Ladies

Thank you everyone for your marvellous support which enables STOW to carry on supporting vulnerable children and their families.

Lastly I'd just like to draw your attention to the item on the back cover notifying members of our AGM on 1st October 2016.

Marie, Chair & Founder, STOW

Treasurer's Summer thoughts: financial implications for STOW in the longer term.

The STOW Trustees meet 3 to 4 times a year as well as at the AGM. In April we thought it timely to look at STOW's likely future finances and to project, given the numbers of children that we currently support, what our commitment to them would be over the coming years.

We all agreed that our experience has been that the long-term educational support for fees and other essentials that STOW has provides; alongside advice, moral support and individual troubleshooting provided during the year by TUMAINI, are essential ingredients in providing a springboard for our children towards a far less impoverished adult life.

As we currently have no children in primary school lower than standard III (primary school ends after standard VII), it seemed sensible to make this a basis for our plans. STOW Trustees felt that we should "guarantee" (as far as anyone can) that these children will be supported at least until they have completed secondary school and taken their GCSE in 8 years' time – that is until the end of 2024. .

Our next question was "do we take on any more children?" This is a hard question but the Trustees recognised that the cost of educating more and more children (with their secondary and further education costs) increases every year, as our primary students move on. The Trustees did not wish to say "no" to supporting new children but it was agreed that we would only consider this for children in Standard IV or above so that we can remain within our timeframe.

We recognise that we – the Trustees – are not getting any younger!! We felt that having a plan for the next 8 years gives us a solid foundation to go forward. This plan will be reviewed every year.

Projecting forward financially, using our 12 years' experience, it seems likely that

the next several years will require a similar level of funding to this year's to ensure continued support to all our existing children. We expect most students will continue to progress successfully through their secondary education and many will then go onto to even more expensive technical and higher education.

We know from our many success stories that remaining in education for longer massively improves the children's chances of living independently and getting out of life-long abject poverty.

At present, STOW's reserves amount to about one year's projected expenditure which we have been slowly dipping into. We will need to keep our reserves under review as Tanzanian 'affairs' have a habit of catching us financially unawares.

So how does this affect our members and donors? Well, in short, it looks as though STOW will still need to raise a similar level of funding to continue to support existing students for the next several years. Please continue to provide your very kind support to 'our STOW students' for the foreseeable future as you have done so generously in the past.



Martin Stevens, Hon Treasurer, July 2016

Receipts and payments 1st June 2015 to 31st May 2016 (Draft full year's accounts)

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS		
Members' subscriptions	£2,461		
Donations	£31,921.96	Grants to TUMAINI (1st, 2nd & 3rd instalments for 2016)	£30,000
<i>(including:</i>			
<i>Thurston's Barn 2015</i>	<i>£1,709</i>	Cash for grants Oct 2015 trip	£1,500
<i>Windsurfing round Britain</i>	<i>over £2,000</i>		
<i>Ifftner</i>	<i>£2,000</i>	Total Tz payments (94%)	£31,500.00
<i>St James's Place</i>	<i>£2,500</i>	2 return flights to Tanzania	£773.82
<i>Beetle Drive</i>	<i>£234</i>	for cancelled Feb 2016	
<i>Concert</i>	<i>£496</i>	monitoring trip	
<i>Saxmundham Inner Wheel</i>	<i>£100</i>		
<i>Saxmundham Primary</i>	<i>£367</i>)	Thurston's Barn expenses	£271.00
Child Sponsorship	£6,928.96	Public liability insurance	£265
Gift Aid	£3,436.45	Jan 15 & Aug 16 newsletters	£516
Bank interest	£233.09	Stamps and envelopes	£81.42
		Total UK payments (6%)	£1907.24
 Total receipts	 £44,981.46	 Total payments	 £33,407.24
Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments	£11,574.22		
Balance brought forward from 1 June 2015	£27,455.83		
Funds in hand at 18th May 2016	£39,030.05		
Account balances:			
HSBC Community account	£11,834.01		
Scottish Widows savings account	£579.01		
Virgin Money savings account	£26,617.03		
Total	£39,030.05	Martin Stevens Hon Treasurer	31st May 2016

Since STOW's founding in June 2005 we have funded about 2,000 annual school places, helping well over 300 individual children to get an education.

NOTICE of STOW Annual General Meeting

This will be held at 3 pm on

Saturday 1st October 2016

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)

The printing and distribution of this newsletter was sponsored by 'Christian House and Church Swap'. www.ChristianHouseandChurchSwap.co.uk



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.

Supporting Tanzanian Orphans and Widows (STOW)
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