

THE CHANGARAWE PROJECT

Registered charity 1098215

Affiliated in Tanzania with

The Childhood Development Trust Fund Network (CDTFN)

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Spring Newsletter 2017

News from Rose Baylis, Chair of Trustees

Dear Friends of Changarawe,

2017 has already given us great cause for celebration. In 2016, we were delighted with the fact that 3 of our students had managed to get onto A level courses, following on from 1 in each of the 2 previous years. **This year we have no less than 13 students who will be studying for A Levels!**

As you can imagine, we are overjoyed by their success, and immensely proud of the hard work that they, their teachers and our own tutors at the Study Centre have put into this great achievement.

The costs of education in Tanzania post-Form IV rise sharply - it costs £500 to get a student through a two-year A-level programme, and £1,500 for one student to attend a two-year vocational course such as Montessori training. We are so very grateful to several of our long-standing and generous friends for having sponsored students during the last 3 years and already we have sponsorship in place for 10 of the new group. We are therefore still looking

for support for 3 more A level students and 1 Montessori student. **There will be more about sponsorship later on in this Newsletter.**

20 Years Ago, in March 1997, Martin and Caro Walford and their youngest daughter Rose went to Changarawe to visit their eldest daughter Eleanor, who lived in Changarawe for approximately 9 months while volunteering with SPW (Schools - now Students - Partnership Worldwide) . They met Eleanor's neighbour, Felistas Kalomo, and The Changarawe Project was born!

Caro has just returned from visiting Changarawe for 8 days, staying with Felistas in the village. Alongside carrying out the serious business of the annual review, they celebrated 20 years of friendship with much joy.



Caro and Felistas together in the Study Centre meeting the Lloyd Fund supported children and the the Bibi Babu Club grandparents

Caro's Report

It was a huge pleasure to return to Changarawe after an absence of 4 years, and to find so many things reassuringly familiar, and others amazingly different. I was overwhelmed by the warmth of my reception. It was wonderful to catch up with all the staff who I have known for so long, and who continue to work so hard for the welfare of all and the success of our various schemes. There were 2 seminal moments for me.

One was during the meeting with the Bibi Babu Club, when we asked them about how they feel things are going and what problems they have. One of the grandmothers, who I have known for many years, stood up and said that without The Changarawe Project her grandchild would have had no education at all, and that she is one of the 13 who is going on to take A levels.

The other very moving moment was at the Social gathering which takes place monthly, and where, in the photograph I am standing with Felistas. In front of me were 150 children who we are supporting throughout their education, 65 grandparents of our supported children who we help with light employment, food and welfare, and our 17 wonderful staff. I had been with the 85 children in the Zawadi pre-primary school in the morning.



Sometimes, the task of keeping all this going, with the constant battle to keep up the funding, feels like walking up a steep hill on a pebble beach! But seeing everyone together under one roof, all there because of The Changarawe Project, made me feel that, although it is a small pebble in that vast beach, we are doing something very special, and I allowed myself to feel proud of everyone who has helped this to happen over so many years.

MathsWhizz

Our other cause for celebration and great optimism in 2017 is that after 2 hard years of raising money, the much anticipated MathsWhizz programme has been installed.

This has involved building a large wall round the acre of land that the Study Centre stands in, installing a satellite dish, purchasing and fitting 15 reconditioned computers and building a special area for them, increasing security and taking on a new member of staff. To keep it running we will need to produce a daunting extra £8,000 per annum.

When I arrived, the staff training had taken place and the children had begun learning just 2 weeks earlier. None of them have ever encountered a computer before, so the teacher has to start by showing the children how to turn on a computer, type and use a mouse. The children we are targetting are now having their schooling in English. This is very hard for them as until they start their O level course, they study in kiSwahili. They then suddenly switch to all their textbooks being in English and all their lessons in English. MathsWhizz teaches Maths, using animation, in English, so as well as sharply increasing their maths skills, their English rapidly improves, and they have the added bonus of learning basic computer skills.

I have never witnessed such an excited group of children learning maths in my life, and I feel really optimistic that this huge endeavour on our part will be life-changing for the students.



MathsWhizz in action

The Zawadi School

The Zawadi Pre-primary school and Day Care Centre has 84 children this year, 47 of whom are new arrivals, 21 boys and 26 girls. This is a slightly lower number than we have normally had up until now, and the reason is that the government has introduced a rule that all state primary schools have to have a pre-primary, and all children have to compulsorily attend the state pre-primary. This means that many of our children are leaving earlier in order to fit this in. There are now 3 state pre-primary, plus 6 new Day Care Centres in the village.



The Zawadi children, their teachers and Programme Officer in the grounds of the Zawadi School

We are very happy that the standard of the Zawadi continues to be high and we have the biggest attendance out of all of them. Many of the Zawadi children are moved straight out of the pre-primary and into Standard 1 when they arrive at the state school. Among the 13 students who are going into A levels this year, are several children who started schooling at Zawadi School.

The Bibi Babu Club

We now have 65 members who care for their orphaned grandchildren, all of whom are in the Nigel Lloyd Fund for their educational support. We help the grandparents with light employment where possible, a monthly food and soap package and there is a dedicated welfare officer who visits them very regularly. When they join the scheme, they are given a mattress, bedsheets and a mosquito net.

20 of the grandparents are our Zawadi School Storytellers. 5 come every Friday and take the children in small groups and tell them traditional stories. Caro, along with Petronilla Mwakatuma in London, and illustrator Moses Mlowe in Tanzania, is now coming to the end of preparing the first of several of these stories for possible publication as a bilingual children's book.



The Bibi Babu Storytellers

Another group garden in the grounds of the Study Centre and they are paid for their produce which is then added to the morning enriched porridge (uji) given to the children of the Zawadi school, or given to the students who have a meal when they come to the Library at the Centre after school.

The Lloyd Fund

The Nigel Lloyd Fund is the arm of The Changarawe Project which takes on the orphaned and destitute children - mostly after they leave the Zawadi, and occasionally from elsewhere - who need support to enable them to go to school. Although the basic cost of Primary education is now free, the fact is that the greatest cost is all the contributions that families are asked for on a very regular basis, and which are not state-funded. If we take a child into the Lloyd Fund, as well as the cost of these contributions, the first thing that they are given is a mattress, bedsheets and a mosquito net. They also receive uniform, shoes, school bag, pens and pencils, notebooks and anything else the school requires.



A new member of the Lloyd Fund receiving her mattress and bag of uniform etc.

We have a running 150 supported children, and they stay with the Lloyd Fund until they leave school, provided that they play their part too, and take their schooling seriously. Very rarely, we have removed someone if they fail to attend school, but only after trying very hard to persuade them to stay. They are looked after by our dedicated Welfare Officer Lucien, and their health is monitored by nurse Susan, both of whom have been performing their roles since we started the Fund in 2005 with just 10 children. They are all visited in their homes regularly, and Susan keeps a record of their height, weight and muac (measurement of upper arm circumference). If we find a child who is, or becomes, underweight, we give their family an extra of 'power flour' which is a very enriched form of the basic food, ugali. We are also going to start giving the Zawadi children a regular piece of the highly nutritious baobab fruit, as all these children are on the light and small size. There is a serious drought in East Africa and although Tanzania is not as badly affected as the countries to the north, nevertheless the harvest has been bad and the subsistence farmers and villagers are finding it difficult. One of the BibiBabu grandfathers told us that the monthly food package they receive from us is vital, and that they would be in a serious state without it.

We are absolutely delighted with the success of our 13 Form 4 (O level stage) children who will be going to take their A levels in boarding schools around the country.

However, now that we are starting to see this success, we are turning our minds to those who fail to get the required points for A level and have to leave school after O level. The rules have changed, and now they are unable to go into government vocational training courses, or Montessori teacher training either. This leaves a large group of bright, intelligent leavers with absolutely no further education at all.

Asking young Swahili speaking people to study for their O levels in English is rather like asking an English child to work towards all exams in French! They

have to be exceptionally clever and motivated to pass their O levels. The added problem is that no science is taught in the local secondary, so they can't complete that part of the exams and have to gain almost top marks in all the other subjects to make the grade. We have English tutors in the study centre, as well as maths, and this has definitely contributed to this year's excellent results. Nevertheless, we still see many very bright children falling through the net.

So what to do? Frequently they leave home and disappear as soon as their results come out, and before our staff have had a chance to help. We are therefore looking at establishing our own vocational training using the facilities we already have, and we hope that not only our own Lloyd Fund leavers, but other Form 4 leavers within the community will be able to take a course. We are hoping that the headmaster of Mongola School in Changarawe will join with us in encouraging them to enroll.

Firstly, now that we have our computers, Kenneth, who is supervising the WhizzMaths is going to start giving a computer course. Having basic computer skills will hugely add to the ability of these young people to get a job, and we will be offering a one month taster course, followed by a 6 month course if they want to proceed.

Redina Mtei who is the wonderful tailor who makes the lovely textile products that we sell in the UK, is going to give a 6 month tailoring course taking 8 pupils at a time. This is a very useful training and good tailors can make a really good living.

Our brilliant **Peer Educators** who perform wonderful plays and skits under the wing of Jonas, who trains them, (alongside being the BibiBabu welfare officer), are frequently among those who fail to go onto the A level course. We are all very sad when this happens, they are so talented. So - Jonas is planning to form a group from the Form 4 leavers who have been peer educators and hopes to find a career for them as performers for hire! They

would be terrific fun as entertainers at parties. They are also trained as counsellors and visit the homes of children with HIV to offer help and support. One of their very powerful dramas about not stigmatising people who have HIV, was performed, with great humour as well, at the social day during my visit. It was superb.



The Micro-finance Scheme

This has been running since 2003, and has provided an amazing opportunity for very many people. Each person is allowed to borrow an initial £30, over a period of 3 months. They receive a tutorial about business, saving and expanding, and are mentored throughout their time as borrowers. Providing they repay on time and with interest (which goes into the General Fund) they can borrow £30 twice more before moving on to £100 for further business expansion. Successful businesses range from market stallholders to small cafes to tailors; school fees are paid, land purchased, electricity installed. It's very exciting to see how enterprising and hard working our successful borrowers are and how lives can be dramatically improved.

Textiles

While I was in Tanzania, I spent some time working with Redina, showing her some new ideas and choosing lovely fabrics for them - always a fun outing!

While continuing to make our regular and very popular cook's aprons and bags of various shapes and sizes, we are introducing some special extra protective craft aprons, both adult and children's sizes, insulated cafetière sleeves and cosies, pot holders and trimmed hand towels. These are all under manufacture at the moment, and will go onto the Changarawe website when they arrive.

Sponsorship

As mentioned earlier in this missive, **we are looking for sponsorship for 3 A level students**, which is a cost of £500 each for the 2 year course. We also still need help for 1 Montessori student, which costs £1500 for the 2 year training.

We are also hoping for **sponsors for the Lloyd Fund Form 4 leavers** who will be taking the computer and tailoring courses. We envisage 8 people at a time on the tailoring course, and 12-15 on the computer course, and each course will cost £200.

It costs £1000 per annum to run **the BibiBabu Club**, providing the monthly food and soap package, paying the story tellers and gardeners, and the welfare officer, Jonas. Without our support, they would be struggling to look after their grandchildren.

If you would like to help in this very personal and particular way, it would be wonderful.

We are trying to improve the link between the sponsored students and their donors, and will include the vocational students in this once it all gets going. Contact Luke Edwards-Stuart if you want to take part at mwalimuluke@hotmail.com and he will organise it, and liaise with you and Michael Robarts who runs the finances. Finally, again, a huge thank you to those who are sponsoring someone already. You know who you are, and we are so grateful for this very special help.

Money Matters

A financial update from Michael Robarts

Our newsletter provides the opportunity to announce a significant change in our funding policy, prompted by the steady increase in the sums of money we are sending to CDTFN, our local partners. The increase is in many ways to be celebrated, since it primarily reflects the growing success of our orphan support efforts. However, it does mean that we are currently spending beyond our income and consequently eating into our reserves. The position is entirely manageable in the short term, but does clearly need to be addressed, in order to head off the potential for a funding crisis to develop at some future point.

The decision reached by the Trustees, after careful analysis, is to start the process of transferring to CDTFN the responsibility for financing the local administrative costs (over 70% of which are accounted for by salaries and staff welfare generally). Over time, we expect this to free up a growing proportion of our UK revenue in order to fund the actual development programmes, namely Orphan Support, the Zawadi School and the smaller (but locally vital) BibiBabu and Peer Educator schemes.

Starting in July this year, we have agreed to fix the amount we send each year to cover administration costs at its current level of £25,000. We have committed to continuing this level for the next three years, to give CDTFN plenty of time to organize and make a start on their own local fund raising. Thereafter it will be reduced gradually until such time as CDTFN are entirely self-sufficient for this element. We do not underestimate the challenge this represents for the local team but they accept the need for the change and, whilst apprehensive about it, they are excited by the opportunity.

We see two major advantages flowing from it, apart from the obvious benefit of matching spending to our means. First, it enables us to maximize the extent of our funding of the development projects and to continue to

support them on a sustainable basis as they grow; secondly, it makes a start in addressing a concern we have always had at the back of our minds that completely open ended support for all aspects of Changarawe's local activities risks encouraging a culture of dependency within the local community. *Moving to a joint funding model will create a truly shared partnership and, in the long run enable CDTFN to take the lead role.*

It is absolutely clear to us that this vision will not be achieved overnight and that considerable flexibility will be needed, as CDTFN will be embarking on this from scratch. We are however confident that increasing our funding focus on actual development schemes will be welcomed by our donors, as it will build on our tradition of avoiding the use of donor money to fund UK administrative costs. We know that this has been key to the donor support we continue to receive. Local administration is in a rather different category in the sense that it makes a very important contribution to the local community, but we are in no doubt at all that donors like to feel a direct connection to project work.

Thanks to our sponsorship initiative referred to elsewhere in this newsletter, we are managing to keep abreast of the immediate financial demands. The revised approach outlined here makes us confident of being able to keep it that way over the longer term, but please do keep your donations coming!

We have previously mentioned one last way donors might consider supporting us, namely via legacies.

Very briefly stated, a legacy to charitable causes of 10% of an estate (net of the £650,000 nil rate band for a married couple) reduces the rate of inheritance tax from 40% to 36%. As a simple example, an estate of £1 million for a married couple would currently incur IHT of £140,000. A legacy of 10% to charity would amount to £35,000. The IHT bill would then fall to just over £113,000 and the amount available to beneficiaries would only reduce from £860,000 to £852,000 - just 1%. There is a mathematical

curiosity about the legacy mechanism which I think is quite compelling. It is that, whatever the size of the estate, the 10% legacy to charity is ALWAYS 4.2 times the monetary cost to the beneficiaries.

The trustees are aware that at least one donor has amended their will to take advantage of this, naming Changarawe as one of the charities to benefit. If any readers of this newsletter have an interest in exploring this further, please contact Michael Robarts (robartsmichael@gmail.com) who can provide further details.

Easy Fundraising

A reminder that if you use the www.easyfundraising.org.uk website when you shop online, you can authorise small donations from most of the major retailers for The Changarawe Project. It costs nothing to the purchaser, but tiny amounts from 50p upwards from the retailers all add up.

A Watery Challenge! Set by Rose and Mark Baylis.

The Changarawe Project introduces The Vicky on the Wast!

In 2014 we set a challenge. A group of Trustees and their friends attempted to climb the height of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro without leaving the UK!

How did we do this? 4½ ascents of Ben Nevis, Scotland's highest mountain, equals 1 ascent of Kilimanjaro, and "Kili on the Ben" was born. We completed the equivalent of 5 ascents of Kilimanjaro with a team of 19 people in 48 hours!

With tremendous support from so many generous friends, our team raised £15,000, helping to ensure that the valuable work in Changarawe village continues.

We have a new challenge for 2017...

On the 27-29th of May 2017, we are attempting "The Vicky on the Wast".

Our target is to cross the diameter of Lake Victoria, in Tanzania, as many times as possible in 48 hours. Once again we can achieve this without leaving the UK. Our solution is the "Vicky on the Wast"!

Wast Water, in the heart of the Lake District, is the deepest lake in the area. The diameter of Lake Victoria at its widest point on The Tanzanian border is 160 miles, Wast Water is 3 miles long so $53 \frac{1}{3}$ lengths of Wast Water = one Vicky.

We have set no boundaries to this challenge except that the rules of the Lakes prohibit unlicensed craft on the water. We are therefore planning to kayak in locally sourced and licensed craft, swim, run/walk around the edge or climb the nearby Scafell Pike; *all distances covered in whichever way chosen will count towards our Vicky total.* The age range of participants so far is from 5 to 73!

We are staying in the Woolpack Inn and have also rented their Boot School Bunk House, which has 26 beds, in bunk form, plus a kitchen. Caro, with her Kili Katering Krew (now known as the Vicky Victualers!) is planning a big cook up of food to fuel the team.

If you are interested in joining us - and it should be fun for all ages - contact Mark Baylis at - mbaylis79@googlemail.com

If you want to support us, look for the donation page on Virgin Money Giving:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/vickyonthewast>

We are marking the 20 years since Caro Walford met Felistas Kalomo by trying to raise £1,000 for each of those 20 years - an ambitious £20,000 this time.

All donations, great or small, will help and encourage us in our challenge.



Wast Water

And Finally, Thank You.

We are so very grateful to all the friends of Changarawe who have, in many cases, supported The Changarawe Project for the best part of 20 years. It is so much appreciated when we see familiar faces at our various events, continue to receive regular donations or standing orders, or find sponsors for our students. Please don't give up!

Tell your friends how a very small charity with good governance can truly make a difference. We only work in one small place, Changarawe village, for a very good reason. With minimal UK overheads, and no UK salaries, we can focus all donations on the work we do on the ground. We maintain close contact with the Senior Management Team of Director, Felistas Kalomo, Treasurer, Mary Fulgence and Programme Officer, Gaspar Ngulwa, visit annually, and have slowly and steadily, in a sustainable way, made a real difference in one small place.

Rose Baylis, Chair of Trustees. April 2017.