

Dear Friends,

I should be writing individual thank you letters to you all after the incredible support and generosity you have shown in the last few months.

I started the year with around £2000 in the project account and the daunting prospect of trying to build an endowment fund of a minimum of £12,000 to act as a cushion for the Zawadi School when it becomes self-sufficient in September this year. The fund-raising was to be a two-pronged attack starting with Rob Watkinson running the London marathon in April, followed by a mega cabaret party in June. My expectation was that we might raise £500 from the marathon and if I was very lucky, £5000 from the party. I wasn't sure what on earth to do about the rest!

Well..... Rob recruited his friend Nick Wright to run too, the spring newsletter and sponsorship forms went out and the money started rolling in! We were amazed at the response and the astounding total raised from the huge effort of the two boys was £4600!!So suddenly my target of £12,000 was looking a little more possible!

Next was the arrival of Felistas Kalomo for a visit of 2 weeks and the Supper and Cabaret Party on June 5th. It was a wonderful evening, and the atmosphere of goodwill on the night was palpable. It's almost impossible to describe what I felt standing in front of so many long standing and enthusiastic supporters as well as several new people. My legs were like jelly and Felistas didn't know how she would get through her address, but the warmth around us gave us the strength and somehow we managed. Felistas spoke so movingly about what you have all helped us to achieve in Changarawe and of her gratitude. She hadn't realised until she saw for herself what has gone into the project and I think she was quite stunned. She was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet so many of you and to thank people herself and I was pleased that you were able to see and hear her and perhaps to understand why I and my family became involved. The evening has raised **more** than £7000 and we have received several other incredible donations on the back of it!

As far as the project is concerned it is completely transformed! The endowment fund stands at £15,000! Not only that, we are able to buy a second-hand pick-up for about £3500 to help with the self-sufficiency projects and there is also money in the kitty to subsidize the school with an extra £1000 next year as there has been a drought and a consequent shortfall of income.

The project itself is also expanding. The little acorn is turning into a sturdy sapling with a few small branches! The youth seminar scheme is going to develop beyond a health and sex education project into HIV testing and micro loans to help the young people develop their own small businesses. It is hoped that the pick-up will be used to transport them into town for the HIV tests and also to the youth centre. One of the very substantial donations we have been given is contributing £330 (500,00tz shillings) into this scheme to help get it off the ground.

The same donor is putting a similar amount into the completion of an enlarged poultry unit to accommodate 500 layers as well as broilers. Apparently layers are very profitable. The pick-up will make a huge difference to the poultry project, as the transportation of as many as 60 chickens (dead or alive!) to the customers in the hotels and restaurants in Morogoro 20 miles away has been one of Felistas' nightmares. The local transport of 12 person mini-buses with 20 plus passengers has been very far from ideal!

The micro loan scheme for women is also receiving the same amount from the same donor which again will give it a huge boost.

The very exciting piece of news is that we have been awarded **charity status** and you will see our registration number at the bottom of the page. I am absolutely delighted that this has happened and it means that if you make any further donations to **The Changarawe Project** and fill in a Gift Aid form we will be able to claim the tax back. All the schemes described are part of the registered project.

As a consequence of this new found status, we are hoping that some of you might feel able to donate us a small regular sum at some point in the future. I have prepared a Standing Order form (enclosed) for the purpose and also a Gift Aid form. A very small amount goes a long way in our project and for your interest I have listed some of the costs to help you decide how much to give, should you wish to.

The head teacher's salary is £45 per month.

The assistant teacher earns £40 per month.

The caretaker/handyman/earns £25 per month

£30 will enable a village woman to start her own small business.

£150 will run a 3 day seminar for the young people.

If you would like to specify which project your money should go into, that is possible, as each section will have its' own bank account and will be managed separately in Changarawe by different members of the committee.

I would very much appreciate it if you could return a signed Gift Aid form anyway so that we have it in hand.

And finally.....I haven't said any of the thank yous that this letter is all about. There are so many of you that I can't possibly name every-one, but I have to start with my immense gratitude to QAS of Clapham for being very generous sponsors of the party. As a result of their contribution and Russell Abraham's donation of the wine, the entire running costs of the event were covered. Very special mention has to be made of Rob and Nick for running the marathon, Shaughan and all the FABULOUS entertainers on June 5th, my wonderful team of ladies who spent a hectic day helping to prepare the food, decorate the room (especially Camilla) and lay the tables (in the face of challenging problems every step of the way!), and the fantastic young who waited at table, not to mention the stoical washers-up who had to do it all in cold water! The Tombola Team of Janey and Helen did an amazing job and I am so grateful to all the friends and neighbours and the shops, bars and restaurants of Clapham who contributed to it. I'm sure you will all agree that the raffle prizes were exceptional and a big thank you goes to the Butterfields, Irene Knight and the Martins for the donations of their boat, villa and bed and breakfast respectively. Gary Moen the butcher once again came up trumps and a big mention must go to Michael Robarts for wrestling with Charity Commission Forms. Last but definitely not least, Martin, Eleanor and Rose for being there every step of the way.

With so many thanks and love to all of you for being so fantastically generous and supportive for so long,