

THE CHANGARAWE PROJECT

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2006

Dear Friends,

The last year has been a very exciting time for The Changarawe Project. I returned in February from a hectic visit with much to report to you all. The project goes from strength to strength with a new classroom, UNICEF support, an extended credit scheme and more aid for orphans.

However, before I start on the update I want to draw attention to our website which is under construction as I write and should be live by the time you read this. The web address is www.changaraweproject.org and gives a good flavour of what it's all about. Please look and tell your friends.

UNICEF

We were recently visited by members of UNICEF, who were directed to the Zawadi School by the Director of Education in the regional capital, Morogoro. They were very impressed by all we are doing not only in the school, but with the feeding of the children and orphan support. As a result of their visit the school has been selected as one of two in the whole of Tanzania to pilot a scheme on 'Integrated Child-care Management' which UNICEF has been running very successfully in Malawi. This is basically trying to combine traditional and modern attitudes to child care especially with reference to HIV/AIDS. Felistas Kalomo, the Tanzanian Project Director, is to be sent on a course in Malawi and will first implement the system at Zawadi and then teach other schools. We are all thrilled and excited that our little project has been selected in this way.

THE DOMINIE SCHOOL

The Dominie School in Battersea has formed a close relationship with the Zawadi Pre-Primary School. An amazing fundraising auction was held last June which resulted in enough money being raised to build another classroom at Zawadi!

One purpose of my recent visit to Tanzania was to see and open this superb classroom. The rest of the building has also been enlarged, almost doubling the size of the original school. We have increased pupil numbers from 60 to 90 of whom at least 30% have lost one or both parents to diseases, mainly HIV/AIDS and malaria.

The children attend the school free and those families who can are asked to make an annual contribution of maize. This is the basis of the protein enriched "porridge" which the children have every day at school - often their first, and sometimes only, meal of the day. I am so grateful to Anne, Leslie and all the parents at The Dominie.



Joan Lloyd, Caro's mother, cutting the ribbon to open the Dominie Classroom



Inside- teachers Helena, Mwanahamisi and Nazaeli, the headmistress in the foreground.

THE DROUGHT

As I'm sure you are very aware from newspaper reports, there is currently a serious drought in East Africa. Last year in Tanzania the rains were too little too late and the crops were greatly reduced. While I was there in February, there were serious food shortages in the villages and regular electricity cuts, even in the towns. The proprietor of my hotel in Morogoro (Michelle at the New Acropol) was increasing the meals for her staff and sending food to their families. Since my return electricity rationing has been introduced in the whole country. Electricity is vital for businesses great and small and this can only contribute to the serious hardship that the people are already suffering. Email communications for our project are difficult now, as the electricity tends to be on only at night and it is dangerous for Felistas to go late into Morogoro to visit an internet café. We are still able to phone each other but that is much more expensive.

Hydro-electricity, which the country largely depends on, needs water, so no rain = no electric power = poverty = hunger.

THE ORPHANS

The Nigel Lloyd Fund was started in 2004 in memory of my late brother. This fund is aiming to help the poorest families by supporting orphans through the rest of their education after they leave Zawadi School. An orphan in Tanzania is defined as a child who has lost one or both parents. There is no pension for widows and a desperate situation can be made even worse as a husband's family has the right to claim all his property on his death, including the house. A widow and her children can be made homeless as well as destitute.

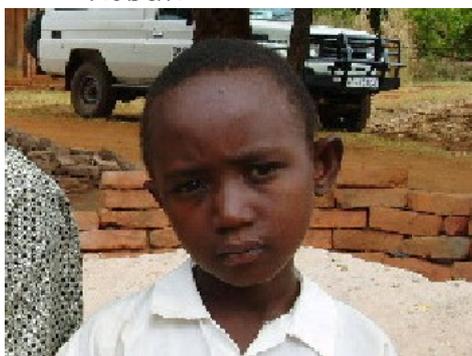
We were able to take on the first 10 children in June 2005 and during my visit this year, I evaluated the first six months of the programme. My mother, Joan Lloyd and sister-in-law Karen Lloyd came with me and it was very moving for us all to see what is happening in Nigel's memory.

I am happy to report how well the scheme is running and how very important it is for the families concerned. We met 8 of the first 10 children with their carers, several of whom are grandparents who have had to take on three or four children. We have now added

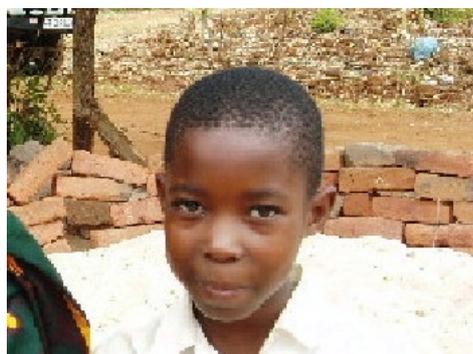
another 20 children to the scheme bringing the total to 30. This is just a drop in the ocean.

Four of the children.

Robati



Abdu



Magreth



Alex

At the present time we will fund their schooling until the age of 14, the end of primary school. I would dearly love to be able to continue and support the rest of their education and training for employment. However, first of all the fund must be secured so that a promise made is a promise kept. To this end we are building an endowment fund to be invested in the UK which will produce enough income to guarantee this support even if all donations and standing orders were to cease.

The basis of the endowment fund has been made possible thanks to the huge efforts of a parent from the Dominie School. He initiated substantial donations from two companies which have interests in East Africa, **D'Amico Shipping Group** which donated \$10,000 U.S. and **Addax and Oryx Group** and **Tanzanian and Italian Petroleum Refining Group** which between them donated \$5000 U.S. I would like to thank **Cesare D'Amico**, **Maurizio Bergamaschi**, **Giuseppe Nestola** and **Mr O. D'Costa**. This is a fantastic start to the fund and I am immensely grateful to all concerned.

JOJOMAMANBEBE

This excellent childrens' clothing company has been a regular donor to the Zawadi School for the last three years. Currently, 5% of every gift voucher sold in the shops (nearest one in Clapham is in Northcote Road) comes to us.

On completion of the security fencing around the school grounds we will be constructing and equipping a super playground, paid for by Jojomamanbebe, to be called the Jojo Playground. Thanks so much to Laura Tennyson for her terrific support.

LONDON MARATHON

Sarah Fawcett is running the London Marathon again this year in aid of **The Nigel Lloyd Fund**. Please support her if you can. Last year she raised the best part of £2000. Let's try and make it even more this year!!

NB: there was a mistake in the leaflet sent out recently - the party is APRIL 20th NOT the 6th!!!!

COTTON BAGS

Last year, I initiated a scheme producing washable cotton bags that can be used for shopping, the beach, laundry etc. They are made by two women in Tanzania from colourful fabrics and look very decorative.

Gary Moen, of **M. Moen and Sons**, the butcher in Clapham, has always been a tremendous supporter of Changarawe and has now taken it even further. He sold the cotton bags plus baskets over Christmas and New Year and has now commissioned and subsidised his own bags which will shortly be for sale in the shop. If this project is successful it will mean regular work for the tailors in Tanzania. Please support him with this generous gesture..... and buy some of his delicious meat while you're there! Thank you Gary very much.



This is Anna displaying one of the 100 bags she made and some of the chickens she bought with the money. These bags are always available from me at £5 each.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Rosy and Michael Squire once again lent their beautiful home in Clapham as the venue for the Christmas Bazaar. This year's bazaar was the source of some very unusual, decorative and inexpensive Christmas presents and raised over £2,500. So thank you to all stall holders, everyone who helped on the day and Rosy who helped for weeks! Rosy is a tower of strength in the background of the Changarawe Project, always ready to help with whatever is going on and one of the dear friends that I rely on far too much.

THE CREDIT SCHEME

This continues to be an important part of The Changarawe Project, and is now starting its' 4th year. Around 250 women and young people have been lent small amounts of money at a

low interest rate during this period, with 60 people (40 adult women and 20 young people) borrowing at any one time, for up to six months. We have now expanded the scheme with Business Development Loans available for 10 people at a time for a further six months. This grass roots project makes a great difference to the whole community and the enterprise shown in using (and repaying!) the money is remarkable.



Some of our current creditors.

SHAUGHAN SEYMOUR

Once again Shaughan gave us a memorable evening's entertainment for the project last November. We were all reduced to helpless laughter by 'The Mayor of London Rap' and 'The Plumber's Tale' among many hilarious numbers. He was joined by the highly entertaining cabaret performer Jane Webster and they were brilliantly accompanied by Margaret Lyons. Stage management was by Jane Seymour and Francesca Greatorex helped by the students of Mountview Drama School who also painted the set. **Huge thanks to all.**

CALENDARS AND CARDS Many of you bought the beautiful calendar made from oil paintings by Steve Whittaker. We have now produced sets of 12 postcards from the same paintings.

Buy a set now...only £5 for 12 cards...and you will have paid for a mosquito net for an orphan in Changarawe. Thank you so much to Steve for a labour of love.



THE BRIDGE CENTRE

This newsletter is only possible thanks to the sponsorship, now in year three, of The Bridge Centre for Fertility, Gynaecology and Genetics. Each colourful newsletter costs around £1,000 to produce and mail and we simply would not be able to do it otherwise. Jaki Grudzinskas, whose husband is Medical Director of the clinic, is a valued trustee of this project and another good friend who is always there to help when I need her.

THE TRUSTEES

The committee of trustees in London meets several times a year and provides an invaluable contribution to the project.

Eleanor Walford has now left the committee due to the pressures of her new career (currently in training as a Primary School teacher). I will miss her steady input and backup on all occasions. The project would never have started without her nine months' stay in Changarawe Village in 1997 - so much to thank her for!

Michael Robarts is a banker and worked hard to help the project achieve charitable status in 2003. He has since found himself up at 5a.m. at times trying to sort out the Caro-induced complexities of book-keeping! He organises all the money side of things, and most valuably reclaims the **Gift Aid** which has added over £2000 to funds in 2 years! (**see note**)

Jaki Grudzinskas is another physiotherapist and Africa-phile and now gives two days a month as Caro's P.A. and general organiser. Absolutely vital!

Rose Walford travels from Oxford and a busy nursing career to attend as many meetings and events as possible and is always full of positive ideas.

Robert Watkinson is a public affairs consultant for Africa and volunteer for Students Partnership Worldwide with Eleanor in Tanzania in 1997. He provides excellent creative input and is currently involved in the building of the website with his friend David Stallibrass.

Sarah Fawcett is also a physiotherapist and the new recruit to replace Eleanor. She is running the marathon as reported earlier and has been a stalwart supporter of the project for several years. We are delighted to welcome her aboard.

Carolyn Walford and **Felistas Kalomo**, the joint **Project Directors**, work together to run the project, Caro fund-raising and managing in London and Felistas implementing everything in Changarawe. They make a good team!

We must also thank **Roger Lawson** very much for auditing our accounts for the Charity Commission and for his kindness over many years.

Note re: GIFT AID

If you have made a donation since June 2003 and haven't filled in a Gift Aid Form, please do so, dating the start date of 1st June 2003. It makes an incredible difference. (forms enclosed with this newsletter)

AND FINALLY

This project would be nothing without the financial support over so many years of all of you. You attend events and bazaars, make standing orders and send unexpected and extremely generous donations. Please continue.....!!

Felistas is visiting in **November** and there will be several small occasions for you to meet her. She is very much looking forward to seeing as many people as possible.



Nazaeli, Felistas and Caro with Barnaby, the Dominie School bear in the new classroom.

Thank you all for all you do.

Carolyn Walford. March 2006.