

THE CHANGARAWE PROJECT.

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009.

2009 is a year of celebration for The Changarawe Project. In September we will be marking 10 years since the opening of our pre-primary school The Zawadi School. Quite a milestone!



The Zawadi School 1999



The Zawadi School 2009

This seems an appropriate moment to reflect on then and now.

In September 1999 we opened the new school with 2 small classrooms and an office and moved 22 children from the tiny room attached to Felistas Kalomo's house into one of the new classrooms. The other one still contained bags of cement and tools and the playground was full of bricks and rubble. It was a momentous day nonetheless and the cumulation of 18 month's fund-raising in the U.K. It was the start of fulfilling a dream that Felistas had told me about in April 1997 when my husband Martin, daughter Rose and I visited our daughter Eleanor, who was Felistas' neighbour for the best part of a year. Felistas had an idea that by providing nursery education for 4-6 year old children, too big to carry and too young for primary school, their mothers could improve the family income by being freed to work unencumbered for a few hours every day.

A friendship and partnership began and The Changarawe Project came into existence.

Now, in 2009, we have a school with 3 light airy classrooms, an office, a playground and a small caretakers house with a teachers' staff room and storeroom attached. We employ 12 local people and have a regular 100 children passing through the Zawadi School for 2 years. ('Zawadi' means 'gift'). In addition we provide the entire education for 108 orphaned children, increasing by a further 25 every year (The Nigel Lloyd Fund), help 28 grandparents who support their orphaned grandchildren with light employment and a club, run a micro-credit scheme for 150 people per annum and have an expanding textile project.

Although at times it feels like a drop in the ocean, when I looked around the village during my visit in March this year, and saw new homes being built and small businesses appearing, I realized that we *are* beginning to make an impact on one small community in a tiny part of a huge country.

You will have found 2 newsletters in your envelope this time, and we are hoping that you, an existing supporter, will help us by handing one to a friend who you think might be interested in The Changarawe Project.

The Stationers' Library.

I was accompanied during my recent visit by Tatyana Eatwell, who came with me last year, and by my niece Kathryn Lloyd, daughter of my late brother Nigel.

The big event during our trip was the opening of the new academic library, made possible by the generosity of **The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers** who raised money last year through the efforts of the then Master, John Waterlow. It is for the use of the supported orphans of The Nigel Lloyd Fund and it was particularly special that his daughter should be there to cut the ribbon. Kathryn found it a very moving experience and the excitement of the children at having a designated homework space and library was wonderful.

The library is in the largest of the Zawadi School classrooms and will be open every afternoon after the young children have gone home. It is for the use of the O and A level students and we will be providing a daily meal.



Kathryn Lloyd cutting the ribbon.



The Secondary School Bookcase

The Micro-credit Scheme.

Since September 2008, Sarah Konopka has been working on our behalf updating and streamlining the Micro-credit Scheme, which we originally started in November 2002.

Sarah, who originally came to Morogoro from America as a Peace Corps volunteer nearly 3 years ago, speaks fluent Swahili and had previously been working in micro-finance.

We continue to lend to 150 individuals per annum with 2 tiers of loans. The first is a start-up loan of 50,000tsh (1800tsh=£1) repaid with a small amount of interest over 3 months. After successfully borrowing and repaying that sum twice, the second tier is a Business Development Loan of 100,000tsh repayable over 6 months.



Sarah Konopka with some of the Zawadi children



This lady sells fruit in the village.



This gentleman has a kebab and chips café.

The success of those borrowers who really 'grasp the nettle' has resulted in more and more villagers being able to pay their children's secondary school fees or buying land and bricks and starting to build their own homes.

One of our most successful borrowers, who was in the original group in 2002 when the first loan was 20,000tsh, is Dudu. She has progressed from making chapatis on a small brazier to building a small shack and serving hot meals, to now having a big business buying chickens and supplying them to a hotel in Dar es Salaam every week. Her eldest daughter has just completed A levels and is waiting to hear if she has got into university and her second daughter is in secondary school.

We started with 10 borrowers in 2002. Since then over 700 loans have been made.

This year we have started a small credit scheme specifically for the younger, fitter grannies for pig production.



Sponsorship needed: there is a young man in the village who would like to be able to borrow from the credit scheme. He was paralysed in an accident and needs a bicycle wheelchair, which would enable him to get around without being pushed by other people. If he had one of these brilliant wheelchairs, he could borrow from our credit scheme and start a small business. They cost around £100. Can anyone help?

Trustee Visits.

Michael Robarts and Kate Willoughby, our finance team, made a visit to the village in October 2008. Michael was able to meet Mary Fulgence, his counterpart in Changarawe, face to face for the first time. They appreciated being able to work closely together, streamlining their accounting and budgeting procedures, and the result is a clear and simple system which is easy to understand, even for a number-phobe like me! Michael was so pleased to visit the village for the first time, and Kate, on her second trip, really noticed the changes and improvements that had taken place over the year since her previous visit.

As already mentioned, I returned from my annual visit a month ago and am delighted to report that after a long break last June and another shorter one over the Christmas period, Felistas is in good spirits and all aspects of the charity are running smoothly and very happily. We have a wonderful and dedicated team of staff who all work very well together.

Felistas now has a new Deputy and Programme officer, Gaspar Ngulwa who joined the team on probation in January. His appointment has been confirmed following Tatyana and I meeting and interviewing him while we were there. He will be supporting Felistas in her role as Director and supervising the day-to-day activities on the ground. He is a trained auditor who has lived in London for 6 years and we are delighted that he is joining the charity.

Health Matters.

1). A recent survey in Morogoro region showed that many families do not even receive one meal a day. For the last 2 years, the harvests have been poor due to drought and we have become concerned about the frail health of our Lloyd Fund children. During a recent full medical check-up we were relieved to find that out of the 108 children, 'only' 5 are HIV positive, and we have 2 with AIDS. As the majority of the children have lost their parents to AIDS, this was better than expected. However, this has led us to the conclusion that the poor health of the others is therefore due to poor nutrition, which *can* have causes other than lack of food. For example, anaemia and hookworms (the latter frequently causes the former) can also lead to poor nutrition. Sadly, another reason is probably that while they attend the Zawadi School the children are given uji - fortified maize porridge - twice every morning. Once they leave and go to primary school, that feeding stops and no food at all is given to pupils either at primary or secondary school.

We have been trying, in conjunction with the local staff, to think of how we can address this issue. They are at 5 different primary schools scattered over quite a

wide area and asking them to call into Zawadi every day for a meal is totally impractical if they have to walk a long distance there and back.

Our solution is to give a greatly enriched meal fortnightly at the Nigel Lloyd Club lunches. This will comprise rice and beans with the addition of an egg, groundnuts, a green vegetable, a piece of fruit and milk to drink. In addition, the O and A level students using the library will be fed a simple meal every day as they may miss the family meal if they attend the library. We are hiring 2 cooks to feed the library children.

2). Changarawe is in a very high-risk area for malaria, which is the 3rd biggest killer of young children in Africa. We are therefore planning to extend our mosquito net distribution to include all the Zawadi children. At the present time we give nets to the Lloyd children and to 'our' grandparents.

All this adds up to a considerable extra expense and we are in real need of help with the funding.

- It costs £5 to buy a good quality impregnated mosquito net that will last.
- £1 per day will feed 1 'library' child.
- The enriched fortnightly meal for the Lloyd children costs £2-50 per child.

There are 100 children in the Zawadi School needing nets, around 40 'library' children and 108 in the Lloyd Fund.

We would be so, so grateful for donations towards these ends and will ensure that they go to the requested 'pot'. £5 would buy a net; £5 per month through a standing order would buy 5 library children a meal every month.

These sums may seem high, but with high inflation in Tanzania combining with a 30% devaluation of the £1, everything we do is now much more expensive.

The Grandparents.

Under the umbrella of the Lloyd Fund comes the support we are trying to give to the many grandparents in the village who have orphaned grandchildren to care for. We are thrilled to have been donated one year's support for these splendid people this year.

We give employment to 16 who tell traditional stories to the Zawadi children every Monday on a 4-week rota. Another 4 are employed as 'gardening grannies'. They cultivate vegetables, which are sold to raise money for the school and we have recently constructed a comprehensive water collection system from the roof of the school into 2 large tanks which will benefit the garden. We have replaced our egg production with the gardening scheme.

Recently, we included a few grandfathers and hold a monthly 'Bibi and Babu Club' when the grandparents come together, joined by a further 8, to share a meal and have some fun together - usually including singing and dancing which they all love and is the source of much hilarity! All the staff at the project, including the teachers, help, and we all love and admire these wonderful grandparents who, having lost their own children are giving a future to their grandchildren.

Teachers Mwanahamisi, Nazaeli and Helena serving the Bibi Club lunch.



Sponsorship needed: there is an elderly lady in the village who is destitute. The project staff in the village clubbed together and paid to roof the shack she was sheltering in, and what she badly needs now is medical care. She has a fistula as a result of childbirth many years ago. The child died and she was abandoned and has been destitute ever since, shunned because of her condition. She is now attending the Bibi Club monthly lunches, although strictly speaking she isn't a bibi. Unfortunately, it is not in the remit of the Changarawe project to provide medical care for the elderly. However, I believe that fistula can frequently be successfully operated on and wondered if anyone would be prepared to sponsor this treatment. It may be too late, but is well worth a medical opinion.

It would totally change her life if it could be treated.

The Florida Connection.

Stephen and Marguerite Saker have continued to raise money for Changarawe in Orlando and held a second party for us in November in the home of their friend Rev'd David McDaniels and his family, once again raising a generous amount of money. I am so touched by their continuing kindness and we are all pleased that Marguerite, accompanied by her friend Kirsty Chadwick and Kirsty's daughter Nicky, are visiting Changarawe in July. Nicky and another young friend, Katie Hall, have been selling Changarawe bags in Orlando.

Kirsty has made a special donation in memory of her brother Willie McCool who died in the space shuttle disaster and will be taking a small plaque in his memory to be placed in the Zawadi School.

The staff are all very excited about this forthcoming visit.

NB: The American contact details are c/o Stephen Saker, 2217 Cove Court, Longwood, Florida 32779.

The Website.

I want to draw your attention to our lovely website which we have just updated. We are starting a monthly "News from Changarawe" section, which will be written by the local staff and will include a topical photograph. You will also find a section with details of our beautiful textile products, which you will be able to order via the website and pay for through 'Paypal'. Donations can also be made this way.

If you are ordering textiles, please title your email "Textile order", to avoid it being accidentally deleted along with the junk mail that comes through!

The Textiles.

These now include, as well as our lovely fully lined and gusseted shoppers and large cook's aprons, a simple bag in the same fabrics, a double sized and zipped beach bag, a padded laptop bag and several other designs which you will see described on the enclosed leaflet. Redina Mtei who makes them now has an assistant and they both work extremely hard.

We are hoping that if we can expand this project, we will be able to provide more employment for the Grannies.



Redina choosing fabrics in Morogoro.

Redina is now able to pay for her children's secondary education and soon hopes to have enough money to put electricity into her house.

Trustee News.

This year we have said goodbye to David Stallibrass who was a Trustee for 2½ years.

Sadly, he found that pressure of work made it too difficult to manage the large amount of voluntary work that is required of a Trustee. I am very grateful for all that he did for us, especially building our web-site.

I am absolutely delighted to welcome in his place Tatyana Eatwell who has visited Changarawe twice with me. She was with Robert Watkinson and my daughter Eleanor in Tanzania in 1997, and nowadays, after many working and volunteer trips to Africa, is a human rights lawyer. We are all thrilled that she is joining us.

It requires an enormous amount of commitment to be a Trustee of this charity as it is so busy, and I am eternally grateful to them all for giving up so much of their spare time. For the record, the rest of our team comprises Michael Robarts, Finance Director, Kate Willoughby, Rose Walford, Robert Watkinson and Luke Edwards-Stuart. Annelies Waite helps me regularly with secretarial work and now Kathryn Lloyd will be helping with the marketing of bags.

Farewell.

I am very sad to be reporting here the deaths of 3 of Changarawe's loyal friends. **Norman Marsh** who died last autumn was a very distinguished lawyer and well known local Clapham figure. He was one of our regular donors and I am proud to have known him.

Mike Strange also died last year. He was a lover of Africa, having grown up in Kenya, and had also been a regular donor and friend for several years. We were generously given a large sum of money from the collection at his funeral. This enabled us to run a very comprehensive HIV/AIDS peer training programme last autumn, led by volunteer Loren Triesman.

David King was a very dear personal friend to me and my family and a tremendous supporter of the charity and of Felistas herself. He lived in Tanzania for many years and spoke excellent Swahili. In 2005 he accompanied me on a visit and as well as enjoying revisiting old haunts, was a great help during our working time in the village.

He was tireless in his efforts to introduce new people to the charity, raising thousands of pounds in donations and was also a very wise head when advice was needed. In 2007 following the terrible fire at Felistas' house and the deaths of the 2 boys, David flew out with me 6 days later to see what could be done to help. He was a wonderful support at that dreadful time, calm and practical as well as deeply compassionate, and Felistas joins me in mourning his passing.



David with Lucien Chamkulu our Orphan Welfare Officer in 2005, working on the original protocol for The Nigel Lloyd Fund.

Thanks.

I would like to extend many thanks to **Roger Lawson** for his help over several years as the Changarawe Project auditor. He is a very busy man and it was kind of him to help us for so long. He has now stepped down and been replaced by **Robert Stedall**.

I am most grateful to him for taking on this task.

Many thanks are also due to **Garry Moen** at **M. Moens and Son**, the superb butcher on The Pavement in Clapham, London, who has given us a window in his lovely shop to display and sell our textiles, and has been a staunch supporter for many years.

North Street Potters in Clapham, another of our long-term supporters, commissioned, and are now selling, our simple unlined bags which are strong enough to carry their beautiful pots. They also have our cooks aprons and will soon be stocking smaller unlined aprons too.

Also in Clapham, the unlined bags can be found at **Clapham Books and Today's Living**, both in Clapham High Street.

Fair Trade at St. Michael's in Oxford are also continuing to sell our bags.

Please support us and these *excellent* shops and buy their wonderful meat, sensational pots, great books, healthy products and original gifts! **Thank you all.**

More Thanks.

And last but most definitely not least, we are eternally grateful to **British Airways** who continue to support The Changarawe Project with return flights between the UK and Dar es Salaam. We have just heard the wonderful news that they are sponsoring us for the next financial year. This means that this year we are not only able to bring Felistas to London for our anniversary celebrations, but we hope that our head-teacher, Helena Nicholas will be coming too. As well as that we can send 2 Trustees to visit again next spring.

The value to the charity of enabling us to afford twice-yearly Trustee visits to Changarawe is almost incalculable and goes a long way in helping us to forge such a good working relationship between London and Tanzania. A very big thank you is due to **Mary Brew, Keren Lovett** and the rest of the team at **Waterside House** for not only awarding us these tickets, but looking after us so well on all our trips.

The Last Word.

Felistas and Helena will be visiting from the 20th to the 29th September and our **10th Anniversary Party** will take place during this visit.

This should be a memorable evening of good food and music with an African flavour, and I do hope that many of you - our loyal friends - will be able to come. Details to come shortly.

Felistas is anxious to be able to meet and thank those of you who donated to the rebuilding of her home, and she will be hoping to do so that evening.

Thank you all for your tremendous support throughout the last ten years.

**Please join us for a milestone event
and a
great party!**

Carolyn Walford. April 2009.

Picture Gallery.



the school gates



the Zawadi School and project office



Felistas Kalomo
Tanzanian Director



Gaspar Ngulwa
Deputy Director and
Programme Officer



Mary Fulgence
Project Secretary
and book-keeper



Carolyn Walford
U.K. Director

The Zawadi School children performing -

"When I grow up I want to be....."



a farmer



a doctor



Miss Tanzania



a nurse



a teacher"

The Changarawe Project

Registered charity 1098215

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Standing Order Request Form.

To my Bank:.....
Address:.....
.....
.....

Sort Code:..... Account Number.....

Account Name.....

Please make a monthly/quarterly/annual/one off payment of £.....

Commencing

to the following account:

Account Name: The Changarawe Project Nigel Lloyd Fund

Sort Code: 40-52-40. Account Number: 00014158.

Signature.....

Print name.....

Address.....
.....

Email.....

Please send this request form to your bank, with a note of confirmation, plus the gift aid form below, to The Changarawe Project, c/o Michael Robarts, Priory Farm, Balscote, Nr Banbury, Oxfordshire OX15 6JL

Gift Aid Declaration.

Name.....

Address.....
.....
.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

I would like the Inland Revenue to treat all donations I make or have made since 1 June 2003 and until further notice as made under the Gift Aid Scheme.

Date.....

Signed.....

Notes.

- 1) You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for every £1 donated)
- 2) You can cancel this declaration any time by notifying the Charity Commission
- 3) If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax equal to the tax the charity reclaims (see note1) you can cancel your declaration.
- 4) If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your self-assessment tax return. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief ask the Charity Commission or ask your tax office for leaflet IR 65.
- 5) Please notify the charity if you change your name and address.

