

THE CHANGARAWE PROJECT

Registered Charity 1098215

Affiliated in Tanzania with The Childhood Development Trust Fund Network (CDTFN)

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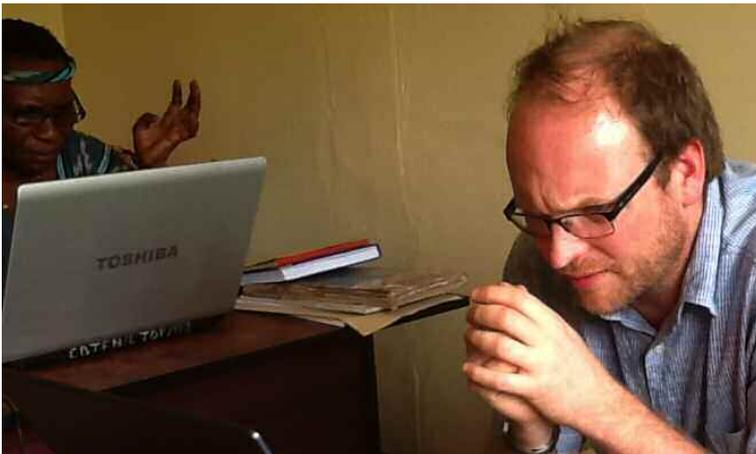
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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014

Dear Supporters

This year, in September, we will be marking 15 years since the opening of the first small building in Changarawe Village, which was to become The Zawadi School. Throughout the coming year there will be various events and activities including a big party in the Autumn to celebrate this milestone. Details of the party and the other events will be at the end of this annual Newsletter.

Our Director, Luke Edwards-Stuart paid his regular visit to Changarawe in February, and as always undertook a very thorough audit of all the Project's activities, working closely with our local Director, Felistas Kalomo and the rest of the Senior Management Team. An update of the last 12 months now follows.



Luke Edwards-Stuart, with Felistas Kalomo in the background, in the Office at The Zawadi School

English Teaching

In our 2013 Spring Newsletter, our main focus was on the poor educational achievements of the O Level students throughout the whole of Tanzania, with only 6% nationally qualifying to go on to A Level. We wrote of our own sadness that thanks to this national disaster, we are seeing most of our bright and intelligent students being forced to leave school without even achieving the results to undertake vocational training. What we witness in Changarawe is a microcosm of the whole country.

Our feeling was, and remains, that given that Tanzanian children are forced to learn all their subjects for these exams in English, and not their own language of Swahili, the way forward is to massively improve the standard of English teaching. To this end, we decided to try and set up a serious programme of English education in our own small Project and we put out a call for a teacher of English to come forward and help us.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that we had an immediate response, and at the time of writing Caroline Brown is in Changarawe, half way through her visit, assessing what needs to be done to help. She is a very highly experienced TEFL and EAL teacher and has worked around the world in her long career. She travelled out with Luke Edwards-Stuart on his annual visit in mid-February and had a week with him getting to know everyone before he left and she embarked on her challenge. We will have a full report from her on her return and will

then go forward with her recommendations. Felistas Kalomo, our Director, the staff and the students in the village have all welcomed her with open arms and she has thrown herself into the job with great enthusiasm. We are immensely grateful to her for undertaking this interesting but difficult task and for embracing life in a Tanzanian rural village.



Caroline and Felistas sitting on the swings in the Zawadi School Playground.



Caroline with students, and with Mary Fulgence, Project Secretary and Book-keeper.

Water

Our second focus for the year 2013-14 was rainwater harvesting, particularly at the new study centre. We were thrilled that within a few days of sending out the 2013 Newsletter, we received an amazing and very generous donation for the full amount from a supporter who wishes to remain anonymous. A huge building project has followed and a very deep reservoir was dug out and a giant tank on stilts erected along with a system of guttering for collection of water from the roof and a pump. The builders and our own project management team did a superb job. We now have a regular supply of water and are no longer reliant on an erratic mains supply which is regularly turned off.



The Nigel Lloyd Fund

This fund supports our orphaned and destitute children with all their educational and welfare needs throughout their education from 'graduating' from the Zawadi Pre-Primary School. into Primary and beyond, until they leave school.

The photographs show our Orphan Welfare Officer, Lucien Chamkulu, and Paolo John Mlagi painting at the Zawadi School. Paolo has been supported since 1991, and always showed a talent for drawing. Although he didn't achieve the right marks for continuing to A level, thanks to the efforts of Felistas Kalomo, Gaspar Ngulwa and Caro Walford, he was accepted to go to a college specialising in the Arts and is studying a 2 year Diploma course in Art and Design, including silk screen printing. During his holiday he painted pictures and letters in the Zawadi School.



The Lloyd Fund has a rolling 150 children who are looked after by Lucien and Nurse Susan. Their health is regularly monitored, those on anti-retroviral drugs are taken to the clinic, and their living conditions inspected. On entering the Lloyd Fund programme, they are all given mattresses, mosquito nets and bedding, uniform and schoolbags, plus all they need for daily attendance at school. School fees and other allowances are paid. They attend a monthly Social with the Bibis where they all receive soap and the girls, sanitary towels. Once a year they are given new uniforms, shoes, and exercise books, plus any other requirements for the new school year.

We are very happy to report that this year another of our supported children, Agape Mgana, has succeeded in Division IV and will be going on to take A Levels. We've only had her under our wing for a year and she has been at boarding school where she has been lucky to have a science teacher. She plans to study sciences for A level and we are truly delighted with her success. Congratulations Agape!



Agape Mgana



Deputy Gaspar Ngulwa with a student

The Education Programme has been carefully reviewed by Caroline Brown together with Felistas and the rest of the Senior Management Team and we are planning to change our focus from a position of concentrating on academic success to widening it to offer a more practical focus for those who are unlikely to achieve the necessary requirements for A levels.

We lose around 20 Lloyd Fund children per annum through a change in their circumstances, and so we replace that number to keep up our target of 150 supported students. From now on, we will be offering 10 places per annum to the most needy children at Standard 1 (first year Primary) and the remaining 10 or so places will be offered on merit to academic children who would otherwise be unable to continue their studies.

For the last 2 years before they take their O levels, based on continuing assessment, those children who are unlikely to pass their O levels will be taught life skills to enable them to earn their living. They will continue to receive after school teaching of English and Maths in the study centre, but we will be setting up tailoring, woodworking, computing and many other skills to give them a more practical education. Meanwhile, Caroline is working with the Academic Officer of our local school, Mongola Secondary School, which has seen a big improvement in the last 12 months. It is now offering after school classes every day and the children are also being given a school meal. Friday afternoons are now dedicated to sport. This is a great change and has meant that we are able to reduce the Library feeding programme. We are planning to be more flexible with Library hours to accommodate these changes and are also undergoing a major restocking of our library books, identifying key curriculum books, which we will buy. This will ensure that the library is stocked with the most useful textbooks - and in particular priority will be given to Physics and Chemistry, subjects for which there are still no teachers at Mongola. Every child studying in Forms 3 and 4 will have a solar desk light.

The Peer Educators go National!

This outstanding group of young people, who are supported by our Lloyd Fund, continue to flourish with their wonderful short plays and comedies, through which they communicate important social messages. They are renowned throughout the region and have given countless outstanding performances in schools and villages. They have become a key flagship feature of the Changarawe Project and the plan is to increase their exposure nationally.

They write everything themselves and big thanks are due to Jonas Mbwila, who is also our Bibibabu welfare officer, and who gives dedicated and inspiring help with training them. We have provided them with extra funds for more costumes and they receive an allowance to go round local schools and community groups giving their funny and lively performances. We are very proud of them.



Performing at a local Secondary School, and to their fellow students in the Lloyd Study Centre.

This year, we have agreed to fund two trips per annum to National Drama Workshops, giving them an opportunity to showcase their talents to a wider audience. We have recently sponsored a drama workshop given by a famous Tanzanian actor. We have also supplied them with a video camera, TV and DVD player so that they can record their performances and increase their marketing and self-promotion and we are very much hoping to get 1 or 2 each year into Drama School.

Credit Scheme expands!

As repayments exceeded 98% for the fourth consecutive year, the scheme has been grown to accommodate 100 loans per annum, and the amount of money circulating has increased from 11 to 13 million Tanzanian shillings (T/=). £1 = approx 2,500 T/= . First time borrowers who repay the initial loan of 50,000 T/= promptly are fast-tracked for a second loan and regular borrowers have been allowed to increase their limit up to a maximum of 300,000 T/= . There must be a minimum of 10 new borrowers per annum. All the interest received goes into the General Fund of the Changarawe Project, and since its' major relaunch in 2009 has made the charity 3,000,000 T/=.

The Bibi Babu network

For several years now we have been offering support to the grandparents (Bibi = grandmother, Babu = grandfather) who are the sole carers of some of our orphaned children. These wonderful elderly people, often very frail themselves, have in some cases as many as 6 children to look after.

We formed The BibiBabu Club and have a dedicated welfare officer who visits them at home on a regular basis. They meet once a month at the Study Centre for a social day together, sharing the day with the Nigel Lloyd Fund supported children too. They are all given lunch, watch a performance by the Peer Educators and often join together to sing and dance especially if there are visitors. This lovely day provides them all with a chance to have some fun together and for our wonderful staff to be aware of any other problems they may have too. Around 200 young and old enjoy sharing this day with our dedicated staff and the cooks somehow manage to produce enough food for everyone to have large plates of rice, beans and vegetables. At the end of the day, they go home with a food allowance and soap. Very sick children also take away 'power flour' as additional nutrition.



Our fittest grandparents are also helped with light employment to supplement their income. 16 are regular story-tellers at the Pre-Primary Zawadi School, where they visit on a weekly rota of 4 to tell traditional stories to the children. Some garden and sell their produce to the project to contribute to the meals and others help with light tasks.

A book of the traditional stories told to the children is in the pipeline, to be written in Swahili and English. It has been translated by Felistas, and Caro Walford is hoping to paint the illustrations. A joint effort by our 2 Founders.

In the last 12 months a complete review of the living arrangements of our 150 orphans has been carried out, and has identified that we now have a total of 65 elderly grandparents who currently care for orphans in the programme. 46 are already members of our BibiBabu Club, and the 10 most vulnerable of those who remain will join us this year, with the rest to join next year.

The Zawadi School



This lovely photograph on the left is of one of our Story-telling Bibis talking with an enthusiastic little girl during one of the weekly sessions. Right – Teacher Mwanahamisi and little ones at mealtime.

The Zawadi School is bursting at the seams this year with an intake of 122 children and we welcome them into the Changarawe Project. We take a mixture of children, targeting 50%-60% orphaned or destitute. It's a bit of a squeeze with over 50 in PP4 (the youngest class) but head teacher Nazaeli couldn't bear to turn any orphans away! We've recruited an additional storyteller and if numbers are as high in 2015 we will recruit an additional PP4 teacher - the class will be split and half will be taught in the play area, rotating each day!

The school is staffed by 3 wonderful teachers, Head, Nazaeli Mwambo, Mwanahamesi Gwebwa and Helena Nicholas, and along with the '3 Rs' at a basic level, there is a big emphasis on singing and performing (several budding Peer Educators among them every year!) as well as playing. They have a daily meal of fortified local porridge (Uji) with fresh fruit or vegetables.

It is mostly, but not entirely, from the Zawadi School that we find the orphaned and destitute children that we continue to support throughout their school lives via The Nigel Lloyd Fund. Our teachers rotate to attend an annual Montessori training week, and the Welfare Staff have training in counselling. The Peer Educators are also all trained in counselling, with a special emphasis on young victims of HIV and pay regular visits to their friends and other children in the village who have acquired this dreadful condition.

The Project Office

.....is in the Zawadi school grounds making it the hub for all other activities. There's a total Changarawe Project staff of 16, comprising cooks, caretakers for our 2 sites, a driver and a general helper alongside welfare officers for the orphans and the elderly, the Project nurse, the teachers and the Senior Management team, so it's a busy place! Felistas takes regular work-experience volunteers from nearby Mzumbe University, or Dodoma University, who come in their holidays. They are students of Management and Social Policy and help out across all aspects of the charity as well as with IT problems etc when required. They have mostly been a great success and everyone enjoys having them around.

Felistas's NGO, The "Childhood Development Trust Fund Network", of which The Changarawe Project is the main part, has affiliation with other organizations all over Tanzania on matters concerning education and childhood health and welfare. The principal one is "Children in Crisis", which is funded by Unesco and it has made The Zawadi School office its' regional headquarters. Two people from CIC are seconded to the office, swelling the numbers even more, but also contributing to costs. Felistas therefore spends some of her time working with this organization as well as being in overall charge of the Changarawe Project. She is well supported by our Deputy Director, Gaspar Ngulwa and Secretary and Book-keeper, Mary Fulgence.

Money Matters

An Update from Michael Robarts, our Treasurer

"Our challenge remains daunting, if by now familiar. Our income from standing orders from individuals, which covers around 30% of our annual expenditure, has remained remarkably stable and we cannot overstate our gratitude for it. Sadly, however a trust which donated £6,000 annually on an anonymous basis over several years, ended its support early in the current financial year. As a result, at a time when our commitments show every sign of increasing, our regular income is running £3,000 below last year's total at the nine month stage. One off donations, which are by definition unpredictable were also down by over £2,000 but (as is their way) appear to have caught up during April.

The varied timing of fund raising events makes direct comparisons very unreliable since the nine month totals last year were boosted by the successful film evening, whereas our plans for a 15th anniversary celebration on which we set great store, will not generate significant income in this financial year which ends in June.

On the expenditure side, Luke has done a marvellous job in exercising control over costs on the ground in Changarawe, cutting out waste in the food budget in particular, but inflationary pressures mean that a slow but steady overall increase is almost inevitable and, if we succeed in launching an effective TEFL programme, this alone will be likely to add a further £5,000 to our annual fund raising target, taking it close to £60,000 compared to "only" £40,000 just two years ago.

These stark figures do not make comfortable reading and underline the need for the Trustees to identify other ways of generating support. Approaches to charitable trusts are the most obvious ways of achieving this and could easily resolve the problem in short order. However, experience tells us that many well established foundations tend to favour UK causes and have important existing commitments. Applications are time consuming and all too often turn out to be fruitless.

We remain confident that our efforts will be rewarded and that, one way or another, the money we so badly need will be found. There is certainly no immediate cause for concern as we hold reserves which are sufficient to tide the Project over perhaps two or three lean years. To date, we have never had cause to dip into them despite the challenging economic times we are, with luck, now emerging from.

We hope to see you at one of this year's events, and if you can't support us in person, we would be so grateful if you could find a way to support us through sponsoring one of them, - no donation is too small and all helps. As you know, every donation goes into the work we do and no expenses are taken from donated money. We have a finite amount of Gift Aid money every year, and that is our operating budget, including travel annually to Tanzania. No Trustees are paid and all 8 are busy people with fulltime work who give a considerable amount of spare time to the running of The Changarawe Project.

Thank you all once again for your generosity".

The Year Ahead

As already mentioned, this year is the 15th anniversary of the opening of The Zawadi School, and thanks to the help of our Auditor, Robert Stedal, our main event is to be a big party on October 22nd in The Ironmongers Hall. This magnificent building is in the heart of the City area of London where our guests of honour will be Felistas Kalomo and her deputy, Gaspar Ngulwa. It will be a celebration of an amazing collaboration between a small village in Tanzania and a small group in England, and of all we have achieved together so far and we hope, will continue to do for the foreseeable future. Please mark this date in your diary NOW as numbers will be limited.

Several fundraising events are also happening throughout 2014, the first of which is **The Kili an The Ben**. This

has been set up by our Founder Carolyn Walford's son in law, Mark Baylis and he explains it here.....

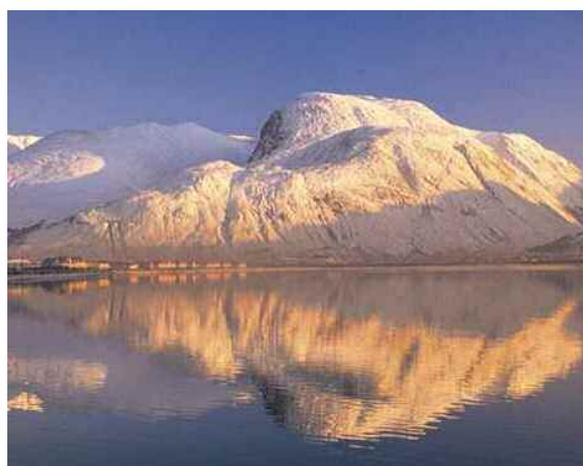
"I am delighted to be raising cash for The Changarawe Project – a charity close to my heart. I have been moved by the work The Project does in the village of Changarawe in Tanzania. It has supported literally hundreds of families over the years providing education for children who would otherwise have nothing. We hope **the Kili on The Ben** challenge will raise enough money to make a real difference to the charity. In the spirit of The Project, every penny raised will go directly to the charity.

We aim to climb the height of Mt Kilimanjaro (the highest mountain in Tanzania and the African continent) 20 times without leaving the UK! Together this will mean climbing Ben Nevis (the highest mountain in the UK) a total of over 90 times.

(ie: 4½ ascents of Ben Nevis equals the distance of 1 ascent of Kilimanjaro, and this is a Kili on The Ben!) And for each 'Kili on The Ben' we aim to raise £1,000. I have completed several endurance challenges in recent years, but this one is a little different.....

Please join us on Ben Nevis on the weekend of 31st May/1st June to raise awareness and cash for The Changarawe Project. You can hike/run/walk as much or as little as you wish, or form a group and go up once as a team; every single step will count towards our total! See you there. Mark"

If you can't make it please sponsor us via
www.virginmoneygiving.com/kiliontheben



Secret Cinema

Sadly, at the time of writing, this event still has to be confirmed. However, the details so far are that following the pleasure felt by those who attended the Film Night in November 2012, former Trustee, Jaki Grudzinskas is planning another film centred event to raise funds for Changarawe.

The Secret Cinema/Mini Film Night is planned for the near future, for a maximum of 70 people in an interesting London location. More we cannot tell you at this stage, but if you are interested in finding out about it, email Jaki on:- grudjak@gmail.com with the subject 'Changarawe', and Jaki will give you the details. It sounds like a lot of fun!

Ride London

Trustee Kathryn Lloyd and her fiancé John Beveridge are unable to take part with the other UK based Trustees in the Kili on the Ben as they are getting married shortly afterwards, and wanted to be in one piece for their great day!

However, on 10th August, John is taking part in Ride London, a 100 mile bike ride from Stratford Olympic Park, via Surrey Hills, finishing up at Buckingham Palace. If you would like to sponsor John on this epic one-day challenge, he too has a page. All donations to encourage John on his way are welcomed.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JohnBeveridge1>

Read about us!

Our Facebook page is updated weekly with news from the UK and Tanzania, so if you are a follower of Facebook, do keep up to date and in touch with the village and 'like' us. The web-site is also regularly updated and has previous Newsletters and details of all the different arms of the charity over the last 15 years.

How can you Help?

There are several ways that you can help us to continue with our work, and we do need your help.

- Set up a standing order – no amount is too small, and regular known income is the backbone of the charity and enables us to forward plan. See form on the back page of this newsletter. Please post it to your bank and email robartsmichael@gmail.com to tell him so that he can check in the accounts.
- Donate us your Air Miles to help us with our annual visits.
- Attend our events and invite your friends who don't know the charity to come with you.
- Hold a coffee morning and spread the word to new friends.
- Sell our lovely textiles for us in your local area – they are a great advert for the Changarawe Project and we can arrange delivery and collection.
- If you want to send a cheque, please post it to Michael Robarts, Priory Farm, Balscote, Nr Banbury, Oxon OX15 6JL.
- If you don't live in the UK, and want to donate you can do so via our website where Amado will accept other currencies.

A big thank you to you all for all the help you have given over many years and we hope to see some of you during this, our 15th year.

Luke Edwards-Stuart. April 2014