

THE CHANGARAWE PROJECT.

registered charity 1098215.

Affiliated in Tanzania with

**The Childhood Development Trust Fund
Network (CDTFN)**

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016

News from Luke Edwards-Stuart, Chair of Trustees

Dear Friends of Changarawe,

My five-day visit to Changarawe in February was my seventh visit in as many years but the first with my wife Dorothy.

We had a great time and return with much exciting news....



Felistas Kalomo with Dorothy and Luke Edwards-Stuart at the Zawadi School.

The Nigel Lloyd Programme

Alex Lukoo, our first ever Nigel Lloyd student to pass his O-levels back in 2012, successfully completed his A-levels in June 2015, achieving B+, B and B in Biology, Chemistry and Geography respectively. and has just started an Education degree at Mirian University in Bagamoyo, having secured a student loan directly from the government. **Alex is our first supported student to get a university place and we are absolutely delighted with his success.**

Agape Mgana, who followed in Alex's footsteps with O-level success in 2013, is currently in her second year of A-levels and is due to finish this July - after a difficult first year, she transferred to a much better school (Iringa Girls) for her second year and is much happier. Results for Agape are expected in September. We are keeping our fingers tightly crossed.

The three students (**Erick Mdachi**, **Robert Mwazige** and **Augustino Evarest** who passed their O-levels in 2014, have now started their A-levels at different schools around Tanzania and are due to finish in July 2017.

In addition, three other students, **Alicia Simon, Margaret Astery and Stella Anthony**, who achieved Division 4 passes the same year, have won places at the Montessori Teacher Training College in Dar-es-Salaam and have just started the two year course.

To our great joy, academic success amongst our orphans is now becoming almost normal. In 2015 three more students passed their O-level exams with sufficient grades for A-levels and are waiting to be allocated a school. The chair of the local branch of the Commercial Bank of Reconstruction and Development, who was the guest of honour at our recent orphan induction ceremony, was so impressed with their achievements that she has opened bank accounts for all three of them and deposited 50,000/= into each account!



Students studying in the Nigel Lloyd Study Centre, and with the English teacher.

It should be mentioned here that the very beginning of our big push for increased academic achievement started with the building of a small library, followed by the Study Centre. These were started thanks to the support of The Worshipful Company of Stationers, who in 2008 with the support of the then Master, John Waterlow, initiated the process of raising the funds to get

these projects underway. We all remain extremely grateful for such a terrific contribution. It is truly changing lives.

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. With so many of our students now meeting the academic requirements for further study, we have moved to individual sponsorship arrangements for these students, starting with the class of 2014.

We are extremely grateful to four of our long-standing and generous supporters for agreeing to sponsor our first wave of students in this way.

We are now seeking sponsors for the successful students from our class of 2015 - Ratifa Omari, Nyanda Mussa and Samwel Thomas - if you are interested please contact changaraweuk@gmail.com

The Wall

Our **Nigel Lloyd Study Centre** now has a wall round it! Not only will this lead to significantly enhanced security for future assets such as computers and solar panels, but it has also created more privacy for staff and students, increased the value of the site for commercial lettings and given protection to the land so it can be used for agriculture. The CDTFN management also built three small shops into the wall, which are for letting to retailers as soon as the construction is complete - The Changarawe Project is well and truly open for business!



The three small shops and one already open for business.

The Computer Centre

After a careful sustainability analysis, we have agreed to proceed with the installation of computers at the centre but on a smaller scale than had been previously planned.

10 computers will be purchased locally and installed, we will set up a good local internet connection and use the **Whizz Mathematics** software to give the students an enhanced experience in learning Maths - currently a major area of academic weakness both locally and nationally. The centre will also serve as a local IT training centre and internet café to pay for the costs of setting up and running the project. Work on this is expected to start later this year.

Peer Educators

As the reputation of the peer educators continues to grow, and their performances are more widespread, we have donated a laptop and camcorder so they can start recording their work, with a view to it reaching an even wider audience. We are looking forward to seeing their work on our website! All of our Peer Educators have had training in counselling for HIV/Aids and as well as performing their superb

plays and skits about health education in an increasingly wide area around Changarawe, they also visit sick children and young people.



Peer Educators performing during the November 2015 Graduation Ceremony



and at Langali Secondary School, and Ndoli Village

The Zawadi Pre-Primary Schoolhas opened for its 17th year and has enrolled 110 children this year; last year's graduation was spectacular and highlights are on the website.

The traditional stories regularly told to the Zawadi School children by a rotating team of Bibis, have now been translated into English.

Rumours abound that our founders, Caro Walford and Felistas Kalomo and friends are working on creating accompanying illustrations and

turning them into a bilingual children's story book. It is expected to take at least a year!



Zawadi School children in a classroom with illustrations by former supported Art student Paolo Mlagi, and the colourful Zawadi School Graduation Day 2015 in the Study Centre.

The Babubibi Project

..... will be expanded this year to include all elderly carers of Nigel Lloyd orphans. This should increase membership of the programme to 65 - 70 and will constitute a significant milestone in this popular scheme. They receive welfare support from our dedicated member of staff and as well as light employment where possible, attend the monthly gathering at the Study Centre where they join with the Nigel Lloyd supported children for a meal and entertainment from the Peer Educators. They are given a contribution of flour, sugar, soap and oil every month.

With the building of the wall, the garden at the site, run by the Bibis is now expanding without the possibility of marauding goats! This is providing them with extra income and their produce is used in our meals service for both the Zawadi children and the students at the Study Centre.



Bibis in the garden growing spinach with a backdrop of the Study Centre and our magnificent rainwater harvesting.

The Micro-Credit Scheme

.....enjoyed a profit for an eighth successive year - we have decided not to increase the fund any further, and from 2016 all profits from the credit scheme will be used to support our other initiatives. Our borrowers have educated their children, bought land, installed electricity, and the list goes on. Suffice to say that when it is successful, livelihoods are altered in an amazing way.

Textiles

Redina Mtei, one of our very first borrowers when the Micro-Finance Scheme started way back in 2003, continues to make us the most lovely and colourful textiles. Her standard is very high and as well as the ever popular and practical fully lined Cook's Aprons, we still have a regular supply of various cotton bags, including a superb Art and Craft bag which has many hidden pockets for paint-brushes or knitting needles. Our latest production is Oven Gloves. All the textiles are machine washable.

If you want to purchase any of these items contact
carowalford2012@gmail.com.



Craft Bags on the left. Standard fully lined and gusseted Shopping Bags Oven gloves and Cook's Aprons

None of these achievements would have been possible without the excellent work of our partner NGO, The Childhood Development Trust Fund Network under the excellent leadership of Felistas Kalomo, Executive Director, who is also the co-founder and a trustee of the Changarawe Project. CDTFN now have their own website:

www.cdtn.net.

We are also grateful for the work of its ten most senior members of staff, all of whom have given over seven years of faithful service to the project. We very much appreciate the stability and continuity which this loyalty has provided. There has been only one change to the staffing this year - we welcome Niwaeli Mgonja as our new Nigel Lloyd caretaker to replace the outgoing Daudi Shabani.

Money Matters

Michael Robarts, Treasurer, Reports....

"The academic successes being recorded by our orphans do inevitably come at a certain cost. Whilst the salaries of the local team continue to represent roughly 50% of our local spending, the costs of running the orphan project have risen inexorably for seven straight years from the equivalent of £6,500 in 2009 when the library was built, to just under £15,000 in our most recent full year.

Whilst donations have held up astonishingly well through what by any standards have been difficult economic conditions, they have grown only marginally over the same period and we are thus highly dependent on fund raising events and occasional grants from other charitable trusts to square the financial circle. Despite our best efforts, the last three years have seen a gradual but relentless net cash outflow that has to be addressed in the long term interests of the project.

In recent months we have run three successful events and have been delighted by the number of our donors who have found the time and energy to participate. **The Croquet Tournament, Grand Bazaar** and, more recently, the **Quiz Night** between them generated net income of well over £7,000 and a further £10,000 has been raised through

donations specifically directed to the Whizz Project. Your collective generosity has been nothing less than astonishing!

However, as Luke has pointed out in his report, it is clear that attempting to use our regular income fund our orphans' course fees into A Levels and later still their undergraduate courses would put an intolerable strain on other elements of the project such as the Zawadi School and the Babubibi programme - hence our appeal for direct sponsorship and we are delighted by the early response to this initiative.

As a result of the recent fund raising efforts, our current financial position is stable and the net cash outflow noted above has been substantially addressed. This has given us the platform on which to press forward with the Whizz project, which offers enormous hope for the future academic success of our students. It will also, very importantly, provide the opportunity for meaningful income to be generated locally, with the long term effect of relieving the relentless pressure on our loyal donor base."

If you shop online, a very simple way, that you can *all* help us generate funds is through "Easy Fundraising".

It's very simple to sign up - just go to easyfundraising.org.uk create an account and select The Changarawe Project as the charity you want to raise money for. A 'donation reminder' button will then be installed on your toolbar and every time you buy something online, if it's one of their participating retailers, a message pops up to turn on the donation tool. *Almost every retailer is on there, and you can also book flights, train tickets, holidays, car hire, etc.* Every time you turn on the donation reminder or visit a website through their site and make a

purchase a certain amount is donated from the retailer to the charity. Sometimes it can be as little as 50p, or as much as a £5 or more depending what you buy. *Every little helps and it soon adds up.*

A footnote to the Quiz Night.

As those of you who attended this fun evening in February will have noticed, the organisation at this event was somewhat chaotic. We sincerely apologise for this and are very grateful to Greg Stern, Area General Manager for The Railway, on behalf of Mitchells and Butler, who was extremely upset and accepted full responsibility. He has refunded the total cost of the food served at the Quiz to The Changarawe Project. This act of generosity has boosted our income from the event by a further £345, and has certainly gone a long way to making up for the disorganisation on the night. We are very pleased with this outcome.

We hope that you won't let it put you off, and that you will come again to another event and help us raise money.

Exciting News!

Scholarship Programme

We have recently met with trustees of a small UK charity, Just 1 Life, who have offered to provide a number of scholarships to academically able and motivated students who are part of the Changarawe initiative and who are looking to go to university or technical college in Tanzania. The purpose of the scholarships is to support students to obtain access to the life changing benefits of university-level education. The scholarships will cover the funds needed for university or technical college fees, and will also provide support for subsistence expenses where necessary. We

hope that this will encourage and inspire our students to continue to invest in their education, and to seize this fantastic opportunity to obtain professional qualifications.

In the light of this amazing step forward for us in our determined efforts to improve the prospects of our many supported orphaned and destitute children, we do hope that some of you will help with the necessary sponsorship to get them through A levels to this key final stage. If you are able to help you will be changing a life forever.

We are extremely grateful to Just 1 Life Trustee Leona Powell for putting us all together, and Andrew Green QC, the Founder, and Trustees Pushpinder Saini QC and Tom de la Mare QC.

Call for redundant laptops

Do you have a laptop that you no longer use? Well the hugely improved Mongola Secondary school is looking for spare laptops to issue to its teachers, to assist with lesson planning and the efficient collection, storage and analysis of data. Ideally the laptops should be restored to factory settings first but we will arrange for collection and delivery.....contact us through changaraweuk@gmail.com

Future Fundraising Events.

We will be holding an event in the Autumn, but as yet have no details ready for announcing here. However, in the meantime, if you would like to support us by running a Marathon, cycling a challenge, cooking for friends, organizing a party, selling textiles at a coffee morning, or anything else creative that you can think of please ask for an information pack, textiles etc and we will be delighted to help and participate if possible. We are a small charity doing a lot for very

little and any amount you can raise, however small, makes a big difference. Keep an eye on our website for details of our Autumn 'do'. If you would like to help us in any way, contact Kathryn Beveridge, our Trustee with special responsibility for fundraising:-

kate_450@yahoo.com

Finally, I would like to announce that after six enjoyable years as the Changarawe Project's Chair of Trustees, I will be stepping down after the next trustees' meeting. Caro's younger daughter **Rose Baylis** has kindly agreed to take up the reins and I wish her every success! I hope to remain an active trustee, wherever in the world I am, and I will continue to visit Changarawe as often as possible.

Welcome to Rose Baylis.

Rose has been a Trustee of the Changarawe Project for many years, and as a Nurse Practitioner in the UK has had a special interest in the health and welfare of our supported children. She first visited Changarawe in 1997 when she was 16 and her sister Eleanor was working as a volunteer in the village, so The Changarawe Project has been part of her life ever since. The charity was founded by her mother, Caro Walford, with Felistas Kalomo, and became a registered charity in 2003.

Rose writes "I am looking forward to looking closely at the project with a health perspective. Luke is continuing to support me with his fantastic educational knowledge, and Michael Roberts with his financial expertise. With the rest of the Trustees we have a well-rounded UK base, and I am excited about taking it over"

We will all work hard to support her as she juggles her life in Hampshire, with her family, husband Mark and two boys, Bear and Archie, and her work as a Macmillan Nurse at Oakhaven Hospice in Lymington, while also chairing the charity. Thank you Rose!



A Word from U.K. Founder, Caro Walford.

Luke has played an outstanding role in the academic successes that are beginning to be achieved in Changarawe. He has worked tirelessly, giving up his Sundays very regularly on Changarawe 'business' while working unbelievably hard as Head of Sixth Form at Paddington Academy in London, a more than full time job in itself. He has enabled me to see the very small acorn that was planted in 1997 turn into quite a small, but definitely flourishing tree, and I will never forget the role he has played in trying to turn a dream into a reality. I wish him and Dorothy every happiness in their new life together and offer him an enormous thank you and my love for all he has done and will continue to do.

Board of Trustees

Founders, Caro Walford and Felistas Kalomo, Chair, Rose Baylis,, Board, Luke Edwards-Stuart, Michael Roberts, Robert Watkinson, Tatyana Eatwell, Kathryn Beveridge, Sarah Konopka.