



Tadworth & Walton Overseas Aid Trust

NEWSLETTER NO 77

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Autumn 2019

In last year's Summer/Autumn Newsletter I wrote about John Allinson who had passed away earlier that year and on this occasion sadly I have to tell you of the loss in January of this year of John Buckoke another previous Chairman of TWOAT. Both he and his wife Doreen, who pre-deceased him by a few months, had been supporters of TWOAT for many years. Both of them left generous bequests to TWOAT which will be a great help to us in the uncertain environment we face given the current volatility of the pound and the commitments we already have to fund ongoing projects.

Our Christmas Appeal last year related to two projects and thanks to our supporters' generosity we were able to fund both of them. The first was a health camp in Kenya to treat children against the Jigger Flea parasite - this was run in Spring of this year. (see picture below) The second project was the establishment of an Epilepsy Clinic at Berega Hospital in Tanzania. The Clinic is a long term commitment for us and initially involved funding the recruitment and training of a specialist nurse. We were very lucky that one of our local supporters is a retired consultant who specialised in epilepsy. He has played a major part in both the initial funding needed for the project and using his knowledge and contacts to establish an appropriate training programme for the nurse. Our ongoing commitment will be to fund the nurse's salary, the drugs needed for the long term care of patients, travel associated with outreach to the rural community and any further training needed.

Last year we told you that we had started to fund one school lunch per week at a school for children of refugees from Myanmar but that we would really like to increase that number. I am delighted to tell you that as a result of increased donations and bequests we were able to increase the funding to provide two lunches per week this year and this will rise to three lunches per week in the next academic year.

I mentioned exchange rate issues above. We were recently sent an analysis of their impact on one of our projects that sends money from the UK to fund an orphanage in Peru. The orphanage's running costs are \$11,000 per month. In April this year it cost £8,577 to send this amount but in August the cost was £9,279!



Children in Kenya being treated against Jigger Fleas

COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 8th SEPT, 3pm – 4.45pm: Teas & Talks in Christchurch Hall, Walton Street, Walton. Drop in and enjoy Tea, Cakes etc. whilst hearing a series of short talks about our projects. Admission £5.

THURSDAY 17th OCT, 3pm – 4.45pm: Teas & Talks a similar event in Kingswood Village Hall, Waterhouse Lane, Kingswood to help introduce Kingswood residents to TWOAT.

Wednesday 6th NOV, 7.15pm: The Annual Social Meeting at St John's Hall, The Avenue, Tadworth. Dinner plus reports of our activities - no charge (donations only). We would be delighted if you are able to bring friends or neighbours with you but for catering purposes please tell us how many will be in your party.

NEWS FROM A SELECTION OF OUR PROJECTS

SAN ANDRES HOME, CHOSICA, PERU

We have continued to support the Home for orphans and abandoned children which is located near to Lima in Peru. We maintain regular contact both with their UK based fund raiser Ray Spencer and via occasional visits to the UK by Betty Atwell who runs the home. The weather still causes occasional flooding near the school but was less severe than last year. The orphanage has recently started helping some refugee families from Venezuela who are in urgent need of food and clothing. We sent our usual £900 earlier this year.

ST JOHN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, THE GAMBIA

As the school is the only one specifically catering for children with hearing impairment in the country it attracts many children from outlying areas and now has around 300 pupils. It has been running a few 'ageing' buses to transport these vulnerable deaf infants. A Danish charity helped them to acquire one newer bus a year or two ago but the lady who was the driving force behind this charity is now herself seriously disabled following a car accident. The headmaster wrote to us saying that only one bus was still running with two in the garage awaiting funding to carry out repairs. The school project was one of John Allinson's favourites and we determined that we would continue to support it using proceeds from the two Memorial Walks which we are organising each year as a tribute to him. This year's proceeds enabled us to set them a donation of £1,500 to help with the costs and we will try to at least match this sum in future years.

THE 'KAKAMEGA PROJECT' (RUSH), KENYA

We sent the project £1500 in January to be used for a "Jigger" flea medical camp and other needs as determined by our original UK contacts Elizabeth and Joan who had founded RUSH UK. We heard from Elizabeth that she and Joan were retiring and handing over their administration role in respect of RUSH's African employees to International Needs, a charity operating in several areas of the world. We had a meeting with Joan and a representative from International Needs in June together with two RUSH employees visiting from Kenya. We have decided to provide £1,000 funding for next year with half to sponsor students and half to go towards health camps which will continue to be run in Kakamega. We will decide our longer term support based on the level of feedback that we receive from International Needs during next year.

SEURR SANG'HIDA TRUST - ENTASOPIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, NKURUMAN, KENYA

This year we were able to send £750 to pay for redecoration materials and dining room furniture at the boarding unit of a school for young disabled pupils in Kenya. Our contact Gee Pulei, a friend of Mo Atkins, visited in March and sent a detailed glowing report of the many different ways that the Trust is helping improve the lives of people in a very poor area of the country.

THE PASTOR'S (EVANS') SCHOOL, SIERRA LEONE

We are continuing to support teachers' salaries and are receiving feedback through the web site WWW.SWATS.CO.UK which is the fund raising UK operation and the charity's Facebook page. We have heard from the project that the school now has around 150 children and employs 7 teachers as opposed to the original 5 when we started supporting them. This increase in pupils and staff and the fall in the value of the £ means that our £1500 annual donation now only covers about half the teaching costs. However SWATS are raising sufficient funds in the UK at present to cover the extra teachers' costs. They are also building up other funds to purchase a new site and building for the school. We will maintain our current level of donations but consider an increase if the project needs to use its current surplus to fund their expansion plans.

RAINBOW AFRICA, ZAMBIA

The Rainbow Africa Operations' centre is based in Livingstone, Zambia close to the beautiful Victoria Falls and the Zambezi River. The King's Primary School on this site currently provides high quality education for over 400 children in 9 grades of 2-form entry and has been running for 16 years. The school is consistently achieving some of the highest results in the Southern province, and so it comes as no surprise that there is great demand for places. TWOAT is sponsoring 3 pupils Tapiwa, Joshua and Blessing at the school. As well as an education they get a meal a day and health care. We receive regular reports on the children's progress.

AMBONDROMIFEHY WATER & NURSERY SCHOOL PROJECT, MADAGASCAR

Ambondromifehy is a small village whose adults mostly worked in nearby small scale and unofficial sapphire mines in the north of Madagascar. In 2010 TWOAT helped the local Mothers' Union to establish a small nursery school and subsequently supported it. Last year we started to help funding school meals.

With

additional financial support promised by TWOAT they will increase the teachers' salaries to £33 per month when the new school year starts in October. They have 2 teachers and one helper. Our MU contact, Laurette Totomarovario says: "My worry is as usual the number of children. Despite the fact that we have decreased the primary level fees to £0.85 per month instead of £1.30, we still have few children. We actually had 37+2 children this year but towards the end of the year, a lot of children have left because parents could not pay in time. The fact is that people's main income comes from selling charcoal or digging precious stones. Both activities are now officially prohibited by the government. However, people do not have any consistent source of income and therefore cannot afford to send their children to school. The government may be right to act that way in order to protect the environment and prevent nature destruction, but there is no alternative solution to help the villagers. In the end, the children are the ones to lose. I have looked at the monthly income from parents and found out that only 19 children have paid regularly. That represents half of the enrolled ones. The rest still attend school but they can't pay."

BREAD, BEREGA, TANZANIA

Working with the charity BREAD we established the project to set up an epilepsy clinic at Berega Hospital described in the introduction to this newsletter. Feedback on the project will be given at our ASM in November by a doctor who is a trustee of BREAD and visiting Berega in October.

MTANDIKA, St AGNES VOCATIONAL TRAINING COLLEGE, TANZANIA

The founder of the trade school, Sister Barbarina, was sadly killed in a car accident last January. She was an amazing leader and tireless worker who has been replaced by a team of three nuns from the Italian Terasina Order! Naturally they have experienced a few difficulties, particularly since an ambitious expansion programme had been instigated after government registration took place last year. Together with their other sponsor lead by Michael Agius, our speaker at the 2018 ASM, we have helped them with additional funds for student fees and teacher salaries. A poor nationwide harvest due to droughts and more mouths to feed has put a strain on the finances since January but it looks as though they are now working on sensible plans for the future. We are confident that our continuing support will help to further Sister Barbarina's amazing vision to give young people vocational training and a means to support their families.

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, LUDHIANA, INDIA

The colleges, medical, dental, nursing, continue to train students for work in India and around the world, and the hospital provides medical care in many specialities. Some of the patients are unable to pay for ongoing treatment, and are supported by the Good Samaritan Fund -we send £500 annually for this.

CALCUTTA CATHEDRAL RELIEF SERVICE, INDIA

CRS staff work in many of the small slums in and around Kolkata. The speaker at TWOAT's Indian Day in March had just returned from a visit. Anita Matthews gave us news of the community centre extension in the village of Mahamaya, which we had supported in 2018. The second and third floors are almost completed and will be used for the school, a medical centre and a workplace for women. She also described a new CRS project, among people living in shacks right along the railway by a station called Brace Bridge. They have started an education programme and training for women in needlework and health care, and hope to develop a community centre. TWOAT raised £400 for this project at the Indian Day, which has been sent together with our annual donation of £1000.

ST.LUKE'S HOSPITAL, HIRANPUR, INDIA

Last year we reported on the efforts of two doctors to re-open an old mission hospital in a remote part of India. TWOAT helped with the renovation of an old building, to be used as an Eye Hospital by staff from Maida Medical College in West Bengal. After a delay in starting, they run a weekly outpatient clinic. Now they have held their first Eye Camp. Staff and equipment were mobilised, food prepared, and 70 patients and their relatives came. 20 were successfully operated on, mostly for cataracts, and stayed overnight for follow-up. See their interesting newsletters at www.stlukeshiranpur.com. We hope to support another of their projects in due course.

NEPALESE SCHOOL TEACHER, KERUNG, NEPAL (in the foothills of Mt Everest)

We have continued to pay the salaries of two teachers at this primary school in the foothills of Everest. Our contact, Rudra Magar, a Sherpa who Dick and Rosie Shelley met ten years ago whilst trekking, is regularly in touch using a new cell-phone. His last message of 30 July said '.. hope all going well with TWOAT friends. The school is running very well with first term exam these days. I had problem getting back to village from bank collecting your money with so many landslides and floods. Many thousands made homeless and 200 killed by monsoon.' How hard are some people's lives!

PAPUA PARTNERS, WEST PAPUA

For the last 9 years via Papua Partners TWOAT has been paying the salary of Yepina Matuan. She started her career as a midwife but is now responsible for a wide range of health programmes in Yasumat, a locally established charity whose name stands for Social Foundation for Isolated Peoples. The Papua Partners project is run by a couple, one of whose family home was in Westcott Surrey and who visited and spoke at our last year's ASM. In addition to healthcare and education the project is heavily involved in developing social cohesion and female empowerment amongst peoples who have only recently moved on from Stone Age technology. Read more about their work on their web site www.papuapartners.org

EMMANUEL SCHOOL, MYANMAR (BURMA)

Details of how we are funding lunches for the refugee children at this school located on the Thai border with Myanmar are included in the first article in this newsletter. The refugees are mainly from the Christian Keren tribe who fled persecution during a protracted civil war.

OTHER PROJECTS

We are still in touch with Jamie Coutts who was our contact in El Salvador for the COMUS project but he has not proposed any further project for us after we helped set up an activity at a school to **show pupils how to use organic compost**. Jointly with the Church of the Good shepherd we provided £500 to the **Mamong Babies Home** in Ghana. We provided £55 towards the cost of a children's **summer camp in Albania** via Light Force International.

We have supported a **local Gap Year student**. Two loads of old tradesman's tools have been taken to "**Tools for Self-Reliance**" in Carshalton. After they have been refurbished these are then shipped abroad as tool kits for workers overseas - please contact Dick Shelley if you have any such tools.

FUND RAISING

Full details of our fund raising will be given during our ASM but we would like to thank organisations, individuals and many local businesses who have supported us via our Auction of Promises or by donating money. A list of those contributing promises to the Auction is available on our web site in addition we were supported by Walton-on-the-Hill Primary School, Tadworth Cubs, Walton Open Group, the local churches and The Mothers' Union. Many of our projects entail some degree of commitment of financial support into future years particularly where we are funding ongoing items such as teachers' salaries. The current commitment list into 2020 has identified expenditure of around £30,000. In order to plan for this expenditure it greatly assists us if regular donations are provided by means of **Standing Orders** – forms for this can be obtained from John Tedder. It also helps us if we can communicate with supporters via email. If you now have access to an **email address**, please let us know via the chairman's email below. You can be reassured of course that we will only use your contact details for the administration of TWOAT.

A useful contribution to our funds this year came from TWOAT supporters donating weeks of **HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION** for us to auction – please contact Mike Fox as soon as possible if you could donate this type of holiday opportunity in 2020. A list of the holiday opportunities currently offered is published on our web site. If you cannot access the web but might be interested in a holiday in a cottage in southern France, a flat in Poole, a house near Norwich or a static caravan in West Wittering please contact Mike Fox on 01737 350452.

During this year we have been delighted to welcome two new members from Walton-on-the-Hill to our committee – Shirley Gladman and Rebecca Paul.

COMMITTEE

We are still seeking volunteers to join our committee especially from Walton-on-the-Hill or Kingswood.

Alan Corrigall Social Secretary

Adrienne Elliott, Minutes Secretary, 1 Orchard Place, Miller Smith Close, Tadworth 669739

Mike Fox, Chairman, 49 Shelters Way, Tadworth 350452

Shirley Gladman, 25 Greenways, Walton, 338899

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