



# Tadworth & Walton Overseas Aid Trust

NEWSLETTER NO 79

Autumn 2020

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has of course been an extraordinary one dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has had a major impact both on our ability to raise funds via events and of course on all the projects which we support. I have to add that it has also been extraordinary in terms of the generosity of our supporters so much so that we ended our financial year (Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept 30<sup>th</sup>) with a small surplus on the funds that we received as compared with donations that we paid out to the projects we supported. I do, however, have to qualify this by saying that without the events we had staged in the first half of the year, before the virus struck, we would have had a deficit over the year of about £3,000.

In recent years we have been making promises to projects of ongoing financial support for up to 3 years ahead. This has enabled schools to take on extra teachers knowing that their salaries will be paid and in some cases to initiate the provision of school lunches knowing that the investments they have made in food preparation equipment and eating utensils will not be wasted. We also enabled Berega Hospital to set up and staff an Epilepsy Clinic knowing that we will cover the cost of the drugs needed and the clinician's wages. We adopted a prudent policy of maintaining a year-end surplus that would enable us to meet all the promises we had made even if our future income had dropped by a substantial amount. As the year just ended was more or less in balance we have, where appropriate, been able to renew our promises of ongoing support for up to 3 years. However, we will be relying on the continuing generosity of our supporters for us to be able to take on any new projects and to continue to support projects where we have not made any specific commitment.

I am very pleased to tell you that the two events that we have been able to run since March – our fortnightly auctions and our John Allinson Memorial Sponsored Walk taken together have so far generated over £3,000 with hopefully more to come. We are very grateful to those businesses and supporters that have donated items to our auctions. In consequence we have felt able to offer support to a new project, "Let it Grow". We first heard of this project at the memorial service for Betty Dutton, a popular member of the Tadworth Mothers' Union and the Good Shepherd Church, who passed away in her 90<sup>th</sup> year earlier this year. The project was the beneficiary of the collection at Betty's service and had been founded by her grandson Ed Deakin. "Let it Grow" is the name of the fundraising activity in the UK which is still quite small raising only a few thousands each year. It was established by Ed who was working in Malawi a few years ago where he saw famine and starvation after the expected rains had failed to materialise with farmers' crops dying in the fields despite being within a few miles of unlimited freshwater in Lake Malawi. Ed helped to set up and fundraised for a local venture managed by the community in Malawi that has laid pipelines from Lake Malawi with solar powered pumps that are now irrigating fields for 19 families. TWOAT is sending £480 so that 8 more families can join the scheme and we have agreed to allow "Let it Grow" to use TWOAT's VirginMoneyGiving online donation facilities so his other supporters can Gift Aid their contributions to the project which is not yet registered as a UK charity.

One positive side effect of the pandemic has been the much more widespread use of video conferencing facilities with platforms such as Zoom. We have been able to hold Zoom sessions with several of the projects we support including two links directly to Africa. Our Annual Meeting cannot take place physically this year but Antony Hawker and I will be available via Zoom and ordinary landline to answer any questions

you may have on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> between 8 and 9pm. We also have another Zoom session with one of our projects, Papua Partners, on November 5<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm in which you are all welcome to participate.

As part of our successful appeal to raise £1,000 for The Little Sapphires School in Madagascar to help parents who could no longer make their usual £3.86 monthly contribution, we issued a request to our supporters to see if they could interest one of their children or grandchildren to help raise some of the funds. The school is run by the local branch of the Mothers' Union whose leader we first came to know some years ago when she visited the Good Shepherd Church in Tadworth. Leila, the nine year old granddaughter of one of our supporters was given £10 by her grandfather and challenged to use this money and her own talents to raise even more. She purchased ingredients and baked cakes for her family and friends and increased the initial £10 by more than eight times. When we told the Little Sapphires what she had done and that she was having her tenth birthday in October they sent her a special photo of greetings.



We will be arranging our traditional Quiz in the New Year most probably utilising Zoom. If you have any other good ideas for fundraising please let us know. In the meantime please monitor our web site [WWW.TWOAT.org](http://WWW.TWOAT.org) for details of auctions or other fundraising events we are able to organise.

#### COMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY 24th OCT, 8 - 9pm: The Annual Social Meeting via Zoom or telephone 01737 350452**

**THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> NOV, 7.30pm: Report from Papua Partners via Zoom**

#### NEWS FROM A SELECTION OF OUR PROJECTS

##### **THE 'KAKAMEGA PROJECT' (RUSH), KENYA**

This project is now administered by International Needs a larger charity that took over from the two Surrey based teachers who had founded it. The school and associated activities in Kenya, which we have previously supported, had continued their activities much as they had before. We sponsored two children this year – Princess Natasha who will reach age 7 in November and Valentine Lubanga who is 16. When the Kenyan government ordered schools to close our two children had family members able to support them whilst some of the other children had to stay on in the school premises. During a Zoom link to Kenya we heard from the project that the lockdown had caused a big rise in domestic violence as families are often living with as many as ten to a room. The RUSH school is not expected to reopen until January but teachers have been distributing learning materials to pupils' homes using bikes and the school motorcycle.

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

We heard from Gill Pulei our contact in Kenya via a Zoom meeting. The school for disabled children has had to close as per the government directives in Kenya and the teachers have been making efforts to distribute food to the families as the meals provided to the children at the school are an important part of their diet. We were delighted to receive over £500 collected by Walton Open Group as donations for soup and other food they had been distributing locally in Walton. This donation will help us to increase the money we donate to this project to £1,000 for this year.

### **BREAD, BEREGA, TANZANIA**

In addition to funding the Epilepsy Clinic at Berega Hospital, following a Zoom presentation from Dr Curnock of BREAD, we were able to send an additional £500 to help the nursing school associated with the hospital to expand the range of courses they are able to provide.

### **MTANDIKA TRADE SCHOOL, TANZANIA**

We had a Zoom presentation from our UK contact Michael Agius who has been assisting the nuns running the school with planning their financial affairs following the very sad death in a traffic accident of the previous Head, Sister Barbarina. Things are more stable financially but COVID has had an impact on the ability of some families to contribute to the costs of their children learning a trade and some have had to drop out. We continue to sponsor a number of teenagers and will review with Michael whether we can help some of those who have had to leave.

### **CALCUTTA CATHEDRAL RELIEF SERVICE, INDIA**

India has been very hard hit by COVID and CRS became involved in bringing food relief to some of the very poor communities with which they were already working and used some of our funding for this. Fortunately the Indian government is now being more proactive and taken over this aspect.

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

We have heard from our contact in Nepal that the school we support re-opened at the beginning of October but COVID cases are now increasing in Nepal following the end of the lockdown. Our contact himself has no work as he is a mountain guide and the tourist industry has currently collapsed.

### **EMMANUEL SCHOOL, MYANMAR (BURMA)**

We are now sending funds to pay for three school lunches per week for the children as food is in short supply in the refugee camp generally as the government wants the refugees to return to Myanmar. Our UK contact wrote this "The lunches are so much appreciated and the children so much healthier and fitter for their work because of them." She also told us that fortunately there is no COVID yet in the camp.

### **AMBONDROMIFEHY WATER & NURSERY SCHOOL PROJECT, MADAGASCAR**

We have heard regularly from Laurette, our Mothers' Union contact for The Little Sapphires School. They are preparing to reopen on 26<sup>th</sup> October after the summer break and the school year will be extended by the government to July 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 in an attempt to catch up with lost teaching time.

### **OTHER PROJECTS**

You will see from the financial report that we have continued to support most of the projects that we helped in 2018/19 but have had less news from some due to COVID. In other cases, such as the summer camps we have supported in Albania, we will add our 2019/2020 support to next year's donation.

## **COMMITTEE**

*Mary Heath 7c Walton Street 814345*

*David Northway (Hon. Sec) 23 Waterer Gdns 354674*

*Bob Gunn, Kingsdene, Furze Hill, Kingswood 360035*

*Rebecca Paul, Tudor Cottage, Hurst Drive, 338722*

*Shirley Gladman, 25 Greenways, Walton, 338899*

*Dick Shelley 5 White Beam Way 817930*

*Sally Nethercott 6 Station Approach 813600*

*Adrienne Elliott (Mnts. Sec) 1 Orchard Place, 669739*

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***Antony Hawker (Treasurer) The Holt, Alcocks Lane, KT20 6BB, 358097***

**Registered Charity No 286076 [www.TWOAT.org](http://www.TWOAT.org)  
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## TWOAT Commitments

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Likely</b>	<b>Optional</b>
Oct-20	Child Aid Lanka, Well Project in Sri Lanka		1,000	
Oct-20	Let it Grow, Project Malawi		480	
Oct-20	Ethiopia School		250	
Oct-20	The Rush Project, Kenya (International Needs)	1,000		
Nov-20	Subutini School, Tanzania		1,200	
Nov-20	Rainbow Trust Africa (Zambia)	1,080		
Dec-20	Mampong Baby Centre, Ghana		330	
Jan-21	Papua Partners, Indonesia	1,520		
Feb-21	Ambondromifehy School, Madagascar	1,500		
Mar-21	Ludhiana Hospital (Samaritan Fund), India		500	
Apr-21	Shree Namuna Jyoti School, Nepal	3,300		
Apr-21	Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, India		1,000	
Apr-21	Ethiopia Heart Project		500	
May-21	Mtandika School Project, Tanzania		1,000	
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May-21	Seurr Sang'ida Trust, Kenya		1,000	
May-21	Chosica Orphanage, Peru	1,000		
May-21	Light Force Summer Camp, Albania		110	
May-21	Berega (BREAD) Epilepsy Project, Tanzania	1,500		
Jul-21	St. Lukes Hospital, Hiranpur, India		1,000	
Jul-21	St John's School for the Deaf, The Gambia		1,500	
Jul-21	Gap Year			250
Aug-21	Motivation, Tanzania			500
Sep-21	Berega (BREAD), Tanzania		500	
Sep-21	Mtandika School Project, Tanzania		1,000	
Sep-21	Mtandika School Project, Tanzania		500	
Sep-21	SWATS, Pastor's School, Sierra Leone	1,500		
Sep-21	Ambondromifehy School, Madagascar	2,300		
Sep-21	H4FA Burma Refugees School, Thailand	3,000		
Sep-21	El Salvador Compost			500
	<b>Total Rolling Year</b>	<b>£ 17,700</b>	<b>£ 12,370</b>	<b>£ 1,250</b>