

2019 SPRING NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM ROSE BAYLIS,
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

THE
CHANGARAWE
PROJECT

Dear Friends of Changarawe,

It is with great sadness that we start this year's annual Spring Newsletter with some very tragic news.

Last December, the Head Teacher of The Zawadi School, Helena Nicholaos, died very suddenly and unexpectedly. She was 43 years old, and had worked at The Zawadi Pre-primary School since she was 25, first as a teacher and then in recent years as Head Teacher. She leaves her husband and three children aged between 7 and 13. We were all completely shattered by her death and we are pleased to be able to help by supporting her children's education through The Nigel Lloyd Orphan Support Programme. Helena's eldest started at secondary school in January, and the other two are still in primary. She is greatly missed by all, not least for her lovely personality and beautiful singing voice.

There have been other changes of staff recently and CDO has a new Programme Officer, Sifuni Msemo who is in charge of the smooth operation of our various

activities as well as a new Head Teacher, Mary Mkengasi.



Helena Nicholaos

THE ZAWADI PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

This was our first initiative, opening with two tiny classrooms and a small office, way back in 1999. The project started with 25 orphaned and destitute children, rapidly rising to 60. There are currently 115 children in the greatly expanded building, roughly 50/50 boys and girls, attending every morning. CDO ensures the children receive a fluid Montessori-based education in reading, writing and numbers, all interspersed with a great emphasis on learning through play, craft and music. A group of 16 elderly grandparents (The Bibis and Babus) rotate to visit four at a time, every week, telling the children traditional stories in small informal groups.

THE NIGEL LLOYD FUND

This has been running since 2005 and has a rolling 150 of the most needy orphaned or destitute children, whose education from leaving the Zawadi School is supported. CDO provides the

children with uniform, shoes and school bags to mattresses and bed sheets and they are looked after by a dedicated team of Welfare Officers to monitor their health and wellbeing. CDO also takes in older children from the area who are bright and needing help, and without this support could never achieve their potential.

We are currently grappling with the very bad news that two children on the Nigel Lloyd Programme have been thrown out of school for being pregnant. They are very young (around 13) and almost certainly wouldn't have chosen this. The law in Tanzania is, however, draconian on the issue of pregnant schoolgirls and they are no longer allowed any education. We hope we will be able to give them some vocational help so that they will have a future. It's a delicate situation.

Examination results for this year have been encouraging, with three students meeting the requirements for A-level



Nigel Lloyd students

study. We are looking for sponsors for these three students at a cost of £500 to help fund them through the course. Please contact Kate Beveridge katelloyd741@gmail.com if you are able to help.

WHIZZ MATHS

CDO has now been using the Whizz Maths system for teaching children maths online, with mentoring, in English for 18 months. This is covering a lot of ground in such a very poorly served area as Changarawe, where access to computers and the internet is rare. Even the village Secondary School only has two laptops! Nigel Lloyd Programme students are not only learning maths, but also improving their very poor English, whilst learning to use a computer. It is a challenge for those who haven't grown up with technology at their fingertips, however we are keeping our fingers crossed that slowly and steadily we will see an improvement in results with more children going on to some kind of higher education.

THE PEER EDUCATORS

These are a group of teenagers who have training in drama and counselling, and they write and perform skits on



Peer Educators

all aspects of health education: from unplanned pregnancy to HIV, to non-stigmatization of HIV+ people and much, much more. They are a lively and very clever bunch who write hilarious but also very intelligent scripts, which they perform in schools and villages in the area, while continuing with their education.

THE BIBI-BABU CLUB

There are now 65 grandparents who are members of the Club, and all are primary carers for the Nigel Lloyd children. They have their own dedicated welfare officer. They are a wonderful bunch of frail elderly people with huge responsibilities to deal with, having lost their own children, mostly to HIV or Malaria. They join up with the Nigel Lloyd children and the whole staff for a monthly social gathering in the Study Centre where a hot meal is served – to over 200 people! – and the Peer Educators provide entertainment. It's a great day for them all and eagerly anticipated as a rare opportunity to socialize with each other, with welfare staff on hand to see to any problems.

THE MICRO-FINANCE SCHEME

Started in 2003, CDO has been lending



The Bibi-Babu Club

money and mentoring small businesses ever since, to an annual intake of 75 people. It's a fascinating and worthwhile project which has seen some great examples of young women, and a few men, who have grabbed the opportunity with both hands and made a real difference to their lives.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

With the appallingly low rate of children being able to achieve enough points to be able to take O levels, never mind A levels, and leaving school at anything from 14 upwards, we are trying to start up some vocational courses using our own facilities.

To this end we are now running a Tailoring Course, thanks to the donation of six sewing machines from Singer and Tools for Self Reliance, and also a computer course, teaching young people the basics of using a computer – from switching it on to typing! So far, five students have graduated the sewing course and are working and three more are currently attending.

MONEY MATTERS

The various development programmes covered by the Nigel Lloyd Fund are currently soundly funded, thanks principally to the highly successful sponsorship of individual students.

The key challenge, and it is a big one, facing the Trustees is the yawning shortfall in funding of the General Fund, which is responsible for covering our local administrative costs. The quarterly commitment amounts to just under

MONEY MATTERS

We are looking for sponsors for our three students meeting requirements for A-level study at a cost of £500 to help fund them through the course.

If you are planning a challenge or would like to fundraise for Changarawe then please do let us know and we can organize a fundraising page or send some event ideas.

katelloyd741@gmail.com

£6,500 on average and recurrent income from standing orders covers only half of that. Income from this source is falling slowly but surely, due to the demographic profile of our donor base.

The Project's long-term sustainability depends on our ability to meet this challenge.

Fundraising initiatives of all sorts make a difference, but cannot really substitute for cash in hand or predictable regular income. One idea that is attracting the attention of many charities is to appeal for our donors to consider a legacy in their wills. At least one of our Trustees has researched and implemented this simple, cost effective and painless way of providing financial support.

Any legacy to a charity is exempt from

inheritance tax and can result in reducing the percentage rate at which inheritance tax is charged. Anyone considering the idea should clearly take legal advice, but the key attraction is that, by amending a will in this way, your chosen charities can benefit by £4 for every £1 reduction in the after-tax estate that you leave to your heirs. Anyone interested in pursuing this idea can contact Michael Roberts robartsmichael@gmail.com for more details on how this works.

RECENT SUPPORT

We would like to say a huge thank-you to Karen Lloyd and Carol Popplewell for walking all 100 miles of the South Downs Way last October and November. They raised money jointly for Changarawe and the St. James and St. Peter Hospice with over £1,500 being raised in total.

Chair of Trustees Rose Baylis held an extremely successful whisky and food matching evening in Lymington in January. 26 people attended to taste five whiskeys matched with five small courses and raised over £600.

On Easter Monday, personal trainer Wilf Harrington undertook to have his training sessions turned on him by his clients and has raised over £500!

If you are planning a challenge or would like to fundraise for Changarawe (we urgently need donations!) then please do let Kate Beveridge know and we can organize a fundraising page or send some event ideas.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Weds 26th June: Organic Wine and Food Matching Evening in Clapham, London, tickets £50

Wine expert Christina Rasmussen will host this gourmet evening where guests will be served five organic wines, which will be matched to five small dishes. Christina will explain each wine and discuss what makes the ultimate food and wine match. The event will take place in a private home in Clapham. Spaces are limited so contact Kate Beveridge katelloyd741@gmail.com to book your place now.

Pub Quiz in the Autumn: Our ever-popular pub quiz will return this Autumn! Keep an eye on our social media channels and in your inboxes for more details.

BIG CHALLENGE NEXT YEAR

Our next big challenge is still being decided, however it looks like it will involve the Isle of Wight and Zanzibar... the timing of our big event is usually during the late May bank holiday, so keep this in mind before booking any holidays!

LIKE US

On Facebook [TheChangaraweProject](#) and follow us on Instagram [@changarawe_project](#) to keep up with all our news.