

SHIMBWE TRUST ANNUAL REVIEW 2004/05

Providing Empowering Tools.....

Once again Chairman and Trustees are very grateful for your continual generosity. Shimbwe Trust and Shimbwe Committee are gradually achieving their goals.

A special thank you to:

- All those schools and teachers which took part in the Music Marathon, their families for encouraging them and John and Jean Elliot-members of West Kent Volunterreing Group for the hard work of organising the event.
- The Skinners Boys, and Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School, for contributing towards the building of the much needed Chemistry/Laboratory/Physics Laboratory.
- Miss Joyce Matthews, for her tireless efforts of coordinating Fund-Raising Events.
- St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church Community.
- Britain-Tanzania Society & Tanzania Development Trust.
- John Wilkinson Opticians and www.cheapcontactlenses.co.uk
- The younger Teshas and their friends
- Wheldon-Shimbwe Charitable Trust

to mention just a few.....

Your support is enabling the community by helping to give hope and create a future.

THE SCHOOL VENTURE

The Community Shimbwe Secondary School pupils continue to excel. This school is run by the Government –but Shimbwe Trust and partner organisation Shimbwe Committee jointly raise the funds, keep accounts, make drawings and supervise the buildings, over seen by approved architects and other experts.

Past and present pupils of the school which opened in 1998, are gradually realising their dreams of achieving secondary and further education. The children thought their dreams far fetched, not any more, they can turn their knowledge into opportunities. This must be a good thing both for the children, the whole communities and in the longer term the whole country, as the education will enable the children to hopefully lead their societies into a better future.

The education will empower them to take part in the process that administers progress. By sharing their ideas and implementing them, for example, good governance, more productive and efficient land management... hence economic growth. It is giving them practical way to work themselves out of poverty. Your support is offering empowerment and brighter future, therefore transforming their lives for the better for ever and ever...

What's more the opening of the Secondary School has been an empowering and challenging, for the feeder primary schools in the area, since only the pupils who pass their year seven exams in flying colours get a place in Shimbwe Secondary School. This is due to the fact, that the Secondary school cannot accommodate all the year seven children.

Currently, we are in the process of furnishing the much needed Biology/Chemistry/Physics Laboratory and the Administration block. Also the construction of the much needed kitchen.

The Water Project

The daunting task of implementing the safe and clean water system is making good progress, as Shimbwe Trust and Shimbwe Committee continue to work in collaboration with the Moshi municipality, to ensure work is done professionally and to the highest standard. The Water Intake and the main Water Reservoir have been finished. Several Pressure Points have also been completed. At this moment in time, piping materials are being burrowed and tapes fixed. The active involvement of the local community will ensure the scheme is set up to last.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

This most basic service is essential to life, without it, vulnerable communities are trapped in the stranglehold of diseases and poverty. Fact... Worldwide 1/6 people live without the provision of safe clean drinking water....

In Shimbwe, women and children, particularly girls, are responsible for the formidable task of trekking to collect water. The chore of collecting water is not only hard and stressful but time consuming too...

Additionally, children's ill health due to water-borne diseases place increased burden on women and girls who are responsible for their well being, totting up to their already heavy workload.

This and the time spent collecting water can prevent women from earning much needed cash, which can in turn mean they are unable to afford to send their children to school.

What's more, whatever little hard cash is available is used to buy medication.

MAINTAINING LINKS

The two organisations continue to enjoy a very close relationship. Two supporters self financed a trip to Tanzania last summer, as can be seen inspecting one of the many Water Pressure Points.

Furthermore, a group of teachers and six formers from Wheldon School in Nottingham visited Shimbwe Secondary School. The following is a short summary of their experiences,

"In July of this year, myself, a work colleague, and five Upper sixth form students, were all very privileged to make the 17 hour journey, via Nairobi, to the Shimbwe Secondary School in Moshi-Tanzania.

It was an experience none of us will ever forget, and all would hope to revisit again privately if we found the chance! The drive through to Moshi held panoramic views and sense of the vastness of the landscape, with gently changing scenery as we neared our destination. From Moshi the road led us into dense, lush vegetation and exotic flora to Shimbwe itself, a world away from Nottingham.

And what a welcome! The warmth and hospitality of everyone we met was overwhelming. Our hosts Valeria Kinyaiya, Adolf and his family made us feel instantly at home for our stay, and whenever we walked the locals bid us cheery greetings and waved, curiously yet friendly, a close-knit community in which we felt comfortable and safe

And what a welcome! The warm and hospitality of every one we met was overwhelming Initially the school was a culture shock to our students, but they were quick to see the spirit of Shimbwe above mere bricks and mortar: enthusiastic, well motivated pupils who clearly value their education, spoke with us of their ambitions and proudly showed their immaculate work. It was particularly good to meet Ester, now a fully-fledged teacher, and Mathew, whose progress Wheldon had closely followed through letters.

Reports and photographs; we carried to them both the well wishes of hundreds of pupils back in Nottingham who feel as if they know them.

From information from previous Wheldon party visits passed on, we clearly see the advances made within the school over the three intervening years, and our students could identify totally with the optimistic for Shimbwe's new build and the science lab construction, paralleling our own hopes and anticipation of completion of Wheldon's re-build after 2002 fire. Pride and positive approach excludes from Shimbwe's gracious Head teacher, Thomas Mashauri, as he showed us describing his five year plan over tea and biscuits.

It was a sobering realisation, evidently also noted for correction by the Tanzanian government in their legislation, that so few Tanzanians have the chance to see their own National Parks and have first hand experience of the amazing wildlife, and we only wished we could take more Shimbwe pupils with us to the Tarangire National park; we shared the excitement and sense of adventure, though, enjoying the three day trip immensely.

However, by far the most memorable experience for all our party were the welcoming and farewell assemblies by the whole school, which moved us deeply.

The pupils' singing, dancing, and individual speeches are never to be forgotten, and had an emotional effect on us all, cited as the highlight of our whole trip, safari included (!), by everyone, as we looked back on the trip of lifetime later in the summer.

Wheldon's link with Shimbwe are certainly mutual beneficial on several levels. Our update assemblies and photographic displays, as well as fundraising activities, spread interest, respect and culture awareness amongst Wheldon families, and allow us that invaluable culture perspective. Long may these links continue."

Moreover, as advertised on the Shimbwe Website, two teachers from Wheldon School went to climb mount Kilimanjaro last summer to raise funds, towards the teacher training sponsorship programme in Shimbwe which has benefited Ester, the three teacher trainees and of course Shimbwe community in general.

. "In the summer of 2004, two staff from Wheldon visited Shimbwe, and then went on to climb Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa. Sponsoring from colleagues at Wheldon, along with family and friends, resulted in my personal total of £ 600=00 going to the Trust.

We did the six day Marangu route. For four days, this was a very pleasant walk, gaining approximately 1,000 metres per day. Altitude sickness is a serious concern and begin from 12,000 ft (nearly 4000 metres) onwards.

Although even medical opinion is not 100% clear on the whole area, certainly drinking plenty of water and gradual acclimatisation helped to minimise the effects of altitude for us.

At the last hut (Kibo) we prepared for the climb which began at midnight .

Our two guides accompanied us for the final effort. With only half as much oxygen as normal, progress was slow ('pole pole') but with constant support and encouragement from our excellent guides, we made it to the crater rim(Gilman's Point) just at dawn.

An hour and half later, we arrived breathless at the summit and stood at over 19,300 ft (5895 metres).

The glaciers were amazingly wonderful creaking and shimmering in the early morning sun.

For everyone, there has to be a great sense of achievement and a glow of satisfaction-but not for long, as you still need to get down quickly!

In all, it was truly brilliant mountain experience as part of a fabulous trip to our partner school.”

This can be seen on the satisfied faces.



Please join us in the process of trying to Make Poverty History....