

Plans for the future

Visit to Kisaki, September 2016

Today is very hot and I am setting out from Singida to visit the 45-acre site at Kisaki, which the Sisters of the Assumption have bought for a new secondary school and community centre. SHOCC has been supporting the project from the start. Singida is a tourist attraction in Tanzania – a neat town in the arid heartland, nestling beside a lake and dwarfed by monumental rocks thrown up several million years ago, and you don't have to go far to discover paleolithic rock drawings of stunning complexity and beauty.

We leave Singida on the new tarmac road. It looks like a strip of shiny, black liquorice rolled out on the orange-brown sand. I am being taken by four-wheel drive to see the new school site and we'll soon be off the road, indeed, making our own tracks across the barren land. More vast rocks come into view and if you narrow your eyes a little you can imagine a prehistoric Manhattan skyline, or a Lego set for Titans. Our driver has a secure job with the diocese – he is not going to risk exceeding the 50mph speed limit in spite of the smooth surface and the straight road ahead. But we are overtaken by a speeding bus and come upon the mangled carcasses of two cows and a goat that had wandered onto the unprotected highway – and a distraught child who had been minding them. About six miles south of the town the driver cautiously lowers his vehicle over the edge of the raised tarmac, negotiates a ditch and sets off in an easterly direction. I don't know what tells him we are in the right place. It looks almost featureless to me. Why would the Sisters want to build a school here? It is just sand, rock and blackened scrub; no trees, no water, no electricity... and no people!

We stop a few hundred yards from the road and get out. I have been warned to wrap up but nothing prepared me for the cold wind whipping across the empty land. We grip our jackets around us and begin to walk along the perimeter of the site. It is partially cleared of thorny black scrub. I enquire where the potential school population will come from. The Sisters walk me to the top of a slight rise and there are indeed houses in sight – largely traditional, mud-built, but several with shiny new metal roofs. And, yes, they tell me, there are other scattered villages beyond.



Sister Schola shows Elizabeth the Kisaki site.

I am reminded of the first time I visited Chekereni in 2004, the site of the now thriving St Marie Eugenie Secondary School in view of the snow on Mount Kilimanjaro. That patch of land was sparsely populated but the maize grew tall and strong. There was the distinctive silhouette of a baobab tree and not far away a noisy stream in a deep gully. The baobab is still there but otherwise it is difficult to recognise the place. There are houses all along the approach road and constant construction all around.

Kisaki will be a much greater challenge. It will first need a perimeter fence and, as soon as possible, a well. Only then can trees be planted and watered to grow up as a windbreak. Only then can the desert begin to bloom.

On the way back to our transport, I discover a tiny thistle, harbinger of the Assumption Sisters in their purple robes.

Elizabeth Byrne-Hill, SHOCC Trustee



A Tuyapei mother and child – a future pupil at the school? Levels of poverty are very high in the area and conflict between the Pokot and Turkana tribes over scarce grazing land is a serious problem.

St Kevin's infant and primary school, Marigat Kenya

On Monday 14th January 2013 Fr Peter Kway, Parish Priest at Marigat in the north of Kenya's Rift Valley, officially opened St Kevin's infant school at Tuyapei, a few miles outside Marigat. The 50 or so children who started their educational journey that day were aged between two and three-and-a-half. Most have since 'graduated' and moved on to the infant section and a moving ceremony was held in late 2016 to celebrate their achievements. SHOCC provided funding for the kitchen and toilet block and has supported the school with donations from its annual Lent jam jar collection and sponsored walk.

This has provided nutritious lunches of githeri (maize and beans) for the whole school for three months each year.

Arrangements are now well advanced for a primary extension block of eight new classrooms. The land donated by the National Irrigation Board has now been properly demarcated and funds are being raised. SHOCC has so far received donations totalling nearly £20,000 and is waiting to hear from the new Parish Priest, Fr Benedict Kisoi, as to when he wants to start the construction. SHOCC Trustee Dr Kevin Cook will be visiting the school in July and will report back on progress.

The school is being constructed in an area of Kenya known for the tribal disputes between the Pokot and Turkana. A major inter-tribal conflict occurred in February 2017, exacerbated by the continuing drought and the resultant lack of grazing land for the tribes' animals. Schools were closed and hundreds of police were sent to the area. Calm has now returned and the schools are open again, but tensions remain high. It is hoped that St Kevin's can become a Peace School, leading a generation of young Pokot and Turkana children to see dialogue and negotiation as the way forward, rather than conflict.

A final thought...

How about donating to SHOCC your old, soon to be discontinued, £1 coins. Whenever you receive new £1 coins in your change, you could drop the equivalent old coins into one of the collection boxes you will see around the campus – in the chapel, university reception, refectory and café.



Newsletter Spring 2017

Dear supporter

As we move into our 46th year, the SHOCC Trustees would like to thank all their supporters for their continued generosity. This, our latest newsletter, will tell you how your donations, again exceeding £50,000, were spent during 2016.

We continued supporting several of our old friends in the Twickenham area and in East Africa, and we have a brand new school project in Tanzania and St Kevin's in Kenya to see through to completion.

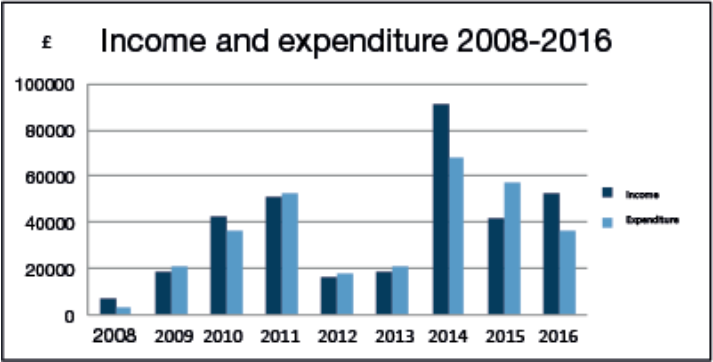
Kevin Cook  
Chair of SHOCC Trustees



## A snapshot of our 2016 income and expenditure

The total funds raised during the year amounted to £53,015, with over half (£28,435) being paid into our Just Giving site. Most of this was what the Charity Commission terms ‘restricted funds’, in that they were donated for specific projects such as the £11,740 given by 35 families in Northamptonshire for orphans at Outspan primary and secondary schools in Uganda. A further £9,026 was donated to support the work of Grassroots Tanzania (see details for the new classroom below). Unrestricted donations were used to fund our new project school at Kisaki in Tanzania (£3,500), to help develop the music in the parish of Mto wa Mbu in Tanzania (£3,250) and we sent a further £4,826 to St Kevin’s and St Paul’s schools at Marigat Kenya. We were also delighted to be able to continue supporting St Paul’s Youth Club in Putney (£1,800).

As well as the Just Giving donations, which attracted Gift Aid, we also received £6,250 from Trusts and £6,784 from individual donations. Our Lent jam jar collection and sponsored walk raised £1,126 and Give as you Earn a further £905. Our only costs were our Just Giving charges (£331) and bank charges (£167), meaning that just over 99% of our income was used to fund our projects.



## Some of our current projects

### Outspan – a star from the film ‘Queen of Katwe’ visits the school



Phiona Mutesi, one of the stars of the Disney film Queen of Katwe, joined pupils at Outspan to watch a showing of the film.

An increasing number of families and schools in Northamptonshire now support our Outspan project in Uganda. One university student, ten secondary pupils and 25 primary children are being sponsored, up from 33 pupils in 2016. Since we started supporting Outspan in 2011, we have sent £52,548 to the schools and have been able to obtain over £10,000 in Gift Aid.

A recent highlight was the showing one evening of the Disney film, the Queen of Katwe, to a packed school. A star of the film, Phiona Mutesi, turned up unannounced and joined the pupils, much to their delight.

Chess is to be taught at the school and a SHOCC donor has provided funds to purchase locally made sets and pieces.

Follow Outspan at [www.facebook.com/OutspanSchool/photos/a.993664570680149.1073741829.247217265324887/1406542879392314/?type=3](https://www.facebook.com/OutspanSchool/photos/a.993664570680149.1073741829.247217265324887/1406542879392314/?type=3).

### Proyecto Vida – funding obtained to take eco-farm ideas into villages

We have just learned that one of our longest running projects, the Proyecto Vida HIV/AIDS hospice and clinic at Coatepeque, Guatemala, run by Simmarian, Dee Smith MBE, has been awarded major funding by an international NGO to expand the eco-farm project. This will enable Dee to develop her vermiculture, natural pesticides and medicinal plants work with HIV+ families on the home gardens. She will then provide marketing facilities for their produce.

You may remember that SHOCC provided funding to enable Dee to purchase five acres of land that has become the hospice farm. Honey production continues apace and she harvested 500 litres in March this year. The waste coffee husks project continues to produce gallons of excellent ‘worm tea’ and work is continuing to dig the SHOCC funded new well that will make the hospice and farm water-secure. Trustee Dr Kevin Cook is visiting the project in June and will report back on his visit.

Follow SHOCC at [www.facebook.com/SimmiesSHOCC](https://www.facebook.com/SimmiesSHOCC).

To keep up to date with Dee’s work see [www.facebook.com/pg/Proyecto-Vida-764124167021745/posts](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Proyecto-Vida-764124167021745/posts).



Dee receives her MBE.

### Grassroots Tanzania – the classrooms have a new roof

SHOCC has been supporting the work of Grassroots Tanzania since it began in 2013 and we are delighted with the progress achieved with the new Itumba Primary school. The village of Itumba Hill, home to over 400 youngsters of school age, is located in one of the most remote regions of Tanzania.

The villagers have tried to raise the money to build the minimum two classrooms, but attempts always failed to meet strict government regulations. Itumba is a part of the country that is ‘off grid’ with no basic amenities such as electricity or running water, and boys from the age of 12 herd cattle and the girls are married. Grassroots Tanzania decided to help, and the roofing of the classrooms is a wonderful achievement. For more information about the work of Grassroots Tanzania, see [www.grassrootstz.org/education](http://www.grassrootstz.org/education).

### Mto wa Mbu – Cleveland scouts visit to construct classrooms

2017 will be an important year in the life of Spiritan missionary, Fr Peter Kway and St Jude’s parish of Mto wa Mbu in Tanzania. Every four years, scouts from Cleveland in the north of the UK spend a month in a Global South location. In 2013 they visited Marigat and built a classroom and kitchen block at St Paul’s School, a long-standing SHOCC project. This year (2017) they will be visiting Mto wa Mbu near Lake Manyara National park to repeat the work.

They have raised all the necessary funding and have been trained in bricklaying and other construction skills. They will camp at the school and will link up with local scouts. SHOCC recommended the school for development and is delighted to continue to support its work and that of the community at Engaruka a few miles away.

Trustees Kevin Cook and Elizabeth Byrne Hill will be visiting in July and will report on progress via Facebook.



Workmen in front of the newly roofed classrooms and office block at Itumba Hill Primary School in March 2017. SHOCC has provided funding to this excellent project to move towards completion.

### Muthetheni Girls – exam results, plaques

In 2014 SHOCC was able to provide the funding to renovate three science laboratories at Muthetheni Secondary Girls’ School, north of Machakos in Kenya. We were able to do so, having received two generous donations from the estate of Amy Hemmings and Antony Kenney, both past members of staff at the University.

Two years on and we have just received the results of the girls’ 2016 Kenyan secondary examinations. Marking was felt to be particularly severe this year as the government attempted to reduce cheating.

Overall, the school slipped slightly from a score in the 14 subject curriculum of 7.249 (B-) achieved in 2015 to 6.89 (C+) in 2016. In the sciences, however, the overall score showed an upward trend with physics improving from 8.36 (B-) to 9.393 (B) (the best result of any subject in the school) and biology showing a marked improvement from 5.87 (C) to 6.826 (C+). Chemistry declined from 5.87 (C) to 4.503 (C-).

Plaques detailing the generous donations were presented to the school in 2015 when the laboratories were opened. These outline the donors and their links with science education.

### INS Twickenham

In 2008, when we established our own, independent charity, we added another ‘C’ to our name to reflect the projects we supported in our local community. In November 2016 we received a request from the Twickenham-based Integrated Neurological Services for a small amount of funding. The funding bid came from a past sports science student employed by INS as a rehabilitation officer and was to be used to support patients with long-term neurological problems. We could see an obvious link with the University and were delighted to be able to help, if only in a very small way.

### Molly’s Smile – a new assisted learning suite for the University



Molly’s tree on the University campus in February 2017, ready for another awareness raising and Fun Day in aid of Molly’s Smile.

On 1st July 2015, Molly Burdett, a student at St Mary’s, died after a short illness. Diagnosed at the age of 15 with dyslexia, Molly’s family have ensured that her memory lives on by setting up Molly’s Smile. They are raising the £21,000 required to develop an assisted learning suite at the University and are over half way to achieving their target. SHOCC was asked to help and we are providing a link through the project’s Just Giving site. We are covering all the JG costs and will be able to add a further 20% of Gift Aid to all donations.

For more information on this wonderful project see [www.facebook.com/pg/mollysmilefund/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/mollysmilefund/about/?ref=page_internal).

### St Paul’s Youth Club Putney

SHOCC has supported the Putney-based St Paul’s Youth Club for several years since Robert Hyland, a member of St Mary’s staff and Cassandra Evans reported the loss of crucial funding following local authority cuts. There was a danger that the weekly safe haven for visually impaired, severely disabled or mentally challenged young people between the ages of 11 and 19 would have to close. St Paul’s is the only youth club in the area catering for these severely disadvantaged young people.

SHOCC continues to support Robert’s work with an annual grant of just over £2,500. This pays for the premises’ rent and insurance, and this year has funded the purchase of music equipment, drinks and snacks. It also enabled the youth club to establish a tuck shop where the children can purchase sweets with the small profit made going back into the project.