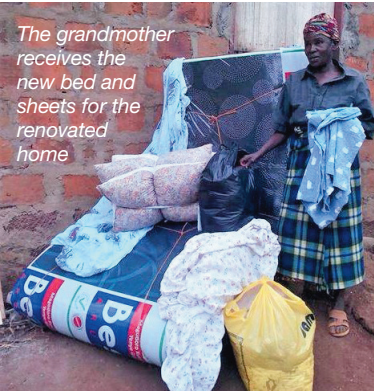


St Mary’s graduate asks for help with a project in Luangwa Valley Zambia

In September 2017 we received a request for funding from alumna Christina Carr (née Huggins), who graduated from St Mary’s in 1986. She and her husband now run a borehole project in the Luangwa Valley in eastern Zambia. Because of the clear links with St Mary’s and a wish to return to funding a project in Zambia (we provided funds for a school at Kabwe many years ago), we agreed to provide £1,000. Whilst this will not cover the £5,000 required for a borehole, it is a start and we hope to provide further funding in the future. The latest news (October 2017) is that additional funding has been found and the borehole is being drilled.

Undergraduate Sister Maria auctions quilt for desperate Grandmother



SHOCC often receives requests for funding from individual families and, whilst we much prefer to allocate our limited funds to communities, we agreed to provide funding on a pound for pound basis for this project. The request came from St Mary’s undergraduate Sr Maria Karama. She reported the case of a grandmother single-handedly supporting three young children. Their father tragically died in a fire a few years ago and their mother left the children and remarried.

The grandmother and children live in very poor conditions in a single room and live off what the grandmother can provide from her very small plot of land. They urgently needed a better house, beds and a toilet.

What impressed us was that Sr Maria had already raised £400 from the auction of her handmade quilt. Work has started on improving the house by adding a toilet and providing new beds, sheets and pillows. SHOCC has agreed to continue to fund this project up to a total of £2,000 on a pound for pound basis so that the house can be enlarged, a storeroom added and the toilets completed.

Innovation at Orkolili rewarded

On September 18th 2017, Orkolili Secondary School was given the national accolade of a visit from the Uhuru Torch. The torch symbolises freedom, hope and development and is toured around the whole of Tanzania annually. To merit a visit, a project must demonstrate a significant contribution to industry, agriculture or other important aspects of development, such as education.



Trustee Elizabeth Byrne Hill, Mama Yohana and Sr Schola visit the new technical workshop at Orkolili secondary school

The innovative Vocational Training Wing at Orkolili has generated interest both locally and nationally. In 2002 Mama Mcha opened an independent school very different from the usual model, which would expect high grades at entry and would focus on academic results. Orkolili School has no entry requirements and although the students attain excellent exam results in the four years they spend there, it has become evident that some students could make good use of technical skills alongside academic attainment.

The inauguration of workshops in tailoring, bakery, electrical engineering; auto repair and, latterly, machine tools meets these needs. Practical classes take place in the afternoons, after subjects such as Swahili, English and Mathematics in the morning. Now other schools want to follow this lead. SHOCC is proud to have supported this innovative initiative from its inception, finding donors and funds for many of the buildings.

Support for Student on Lourdes pilgrimage

In July 2017 we received a request from a St Mary’s undergraduate who is closely involved with the Handicapped Children’s Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT Group 142) in the local area. This takes children with additional needs and from disadvantaged backgrounds to Lourdes at Easter for a week of fun and respite. This not only benefits the children, but greatly helps the adults who care for them. We were delighted to be able to provide £500 towards the undergraduate’s travel costs for Easter 2018.

Future Projects

As this Newsletter testifies, SHOCC has had a very busy year helping disadvantaged communities, both in the local area and overseas. In addition to the small applications for funding that we regularly receive from past and present students, we have three major projects that we would like to see through to fruition over the next few years. These are:

- 1. Kisaki Girls’ Secondary school, Tanzania** This will require a considerable amount of funding and, whilst SHOCC will probably not be in a position to provide it all, we hope to help financially as much as possible. We will be approaching major donors for funding help.
- 2. St Jude’s Primary School, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania** The expansion of educational provision at St Jude’s is an exciting project that we would like to help. Thanks to the Cleveland scouts, the school now has two superb new classrooms, but needs another five over the next few years. Around £50,000 will be required.
- 3. St Paul’s Primary School, Marigat, Kenya** SHOCC has supported this school since it began as a single classroom infant school many years ago. The first classroom is now in a very poor state and needs to be replaced. Two new classrooms are needed to meet the new Kenyan National Curriculum requirements that include teaching all primary children Information Technology. SHOCC hopes to provide these new classrooms and, perhaps, help with funding for IT facilities. We estimate that these will cost around £25,000.

Situation vacant

SHOCC urgently requires the assistance of someone with funding application skills. We have several ongoing projects, including schools at Kisaki, Mto Wa Mbu and Marigat, and would welcome the help of someone with experience of writing funding applications. The amount of time involved would not be too demanding and would suit someone recently retired. Offers of help should be directed to Dr Kevin Cook at cook.k3@sky.com.

Remembering SHOCC in your Will

Some years ago, SHOCC received 10% of the estate of past St Mary’s geography lecturer, Amy Hemmings. This represented the largest single donation we have ever received and it enabled us to complete several projects. The largest of these was the refurbishment of the three science laboratories at Muthetheni Catholic Girls’ Secondary School in Kenya. If you would like to remember SHOCC in your will, your solicitor might find the following words helpful:

‘I give all/% share of the residue of my estate to Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (SHOCC), RCN: 1120787 of St Mary’s University, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 4SX, to be used for its general charitable purposes, and I direct that the receipt of the treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.’

Legacies are usually what we term ‘unrestricted gifts’, allowing us to use the funds wherever we feel the need is greatest.



Newsletter Winter 2017

Dear supporter

As we near the end of our 46th year, SHOCC can look back on another fantastic period of helping the disadvantaged in our local area and around the world. We have continued to support projects in Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and are delighted with the response to Molly’s Smile, an attempt to raise £21,000 for an Assistive Technology Room at St Mary’s University. There is more about this and our other ongoing projects in this Newsletter.

Once again, I would like to thank our many supporters for their continued generosity. These include the hundreds who donated to Molly’s Smile; the alumni who attended the two Reunions held at St Mary’s this summer and who raised over £1,000 at their events; the families in the Northampton area who fund the education of 35 orphan children at the Outspan Schools in Uganda; the companies and Trusts (including Glencore who provided funding for our schools in Tanzania); the parishioners of St Winefrida’s Parish who donated so generously to our Lenten Appeal in aid of the year of famine in East Africa, and the St Mary’s staff who donate through the University’s Give As You Earn scheme.

Kevin Cook Chair of SHOCC Trustees

A look back at our 2017 achievements to date

For a relatively small charity, SHOCC continues to surprise with what it achieves. Almost every penny that is donated goes directly to our projects and our only costs are bank charges and our Just Giving membership. We insist on receiving reports from our projects and, whenever possible, Trustees make visits, at their own expense, to projects both in our local area and overseas. The welcome we receive testifies to the difference our donations make. This year so far (October 2017) we have provided £113,757.17 to 14 projects. This exceeds by some way our best year, 2014, when we distributed nearly £68,000, thanks mainly to Amy Hemming's legacy.

The projects we have supported this year:

Project	Amount provided	Where the funding came from	What the funding achieved
Outspan Schools Uganda	£15,536.86	Northamptonshire parents and SHOCC general funds	Education of 35 primary and secondary pupils. Land for school playing field
Kisaki School Tanzania	£20,500.00	The Hood Foundation and SHOCC general funds	Fencing of 70 acres of land and installing two boreholes
Nandom Secondary School Ghana	£2,160.00	Long-time SHOCC supporter – regular giving	Developing classroom facilities at school
Grassroots Tanzania	£5,659.35	Regular donors through our Just Giving site	Completing construction of Itumba Hill Primary school
Orkiliili School Tanzania	£13,238.00	Shepperton sponsored walk and Trust Fund	Construction of new technology facilities at the school
Chekereni School Tanzania	£15,131.31	Glencore International	Solar panels for classrooms, dormitories and grounds
Molly's Smile	£22,300.40	Individual donations via our Just Giving site	Assistive Technology Suite at St Mary's University
Santa Maria Hospice, Guatemala	£3,606.25	Regular donors through our Just Giving site	Hospice repairs and solar panel installation
Moshi house	£400.00	Pound for pound scheme for auction of quilt	Construction of house and facilities for a poor family
Water for Life, Zambia	£1,000.00	Donations made through our Just Giving site	Construction of borehole
St Jude's Parish School Mto Wa Mbu Tanzania	£1,850.00	Donations made through our Just Giving site	Greenhouse to provide vegetables for school lunches
HCPT Twickenham Group	£500.00	Donations made through our Just Giving site	Support student helper's transport costs on Lourdes pilgrimage
St Paul's Parish Primary School Marigat Kenya	£5,000.00	Donations made through our Just Giving site and £1,000 raised at summer 2017 alumni reunions	Towards construction of a new classroom at the school
Itumbi Primary school, Tanzania	£6,875	A single donation of £5,500 which is eligible for an additional 25% Gift Aid	Towards the completion of the village primary school at Itumbi in central Tanzania

Some of our current projects

Molly's Smile



Decorative balloons welcome the opening of the new Molly's Smile Assistive Technology Suite at St Mary's University

In our last newsletter we wrote about the dream of providing a memorial for Molly Burdett, a second year St Mary's undergraduate who sadly died after a short illness in July 2015. This would take the form of an Assistive Technology Suite at the University to help students with disabilities such as dyslexia.

We are delighted to report that the Molly's Smile team, led by Mrs Burdett, reached and indeed exceeded their ambitious target of £21,000 and the Suite was officially opened on 29th September. SHOCC is delighted to have been involved with this wonderful memorial project.

Kisaki school, Tanzania

'The land that was desolate shall be glad and the wilderness shall flourish like the lily.'
Isaiah ch.35

In the last newsletter when we wrote about a visit to the plot of land in Kisaki, near Singida central Tanzania, where the Assumption Sisters plan a school and Community Centre, we described the fierce wind and the desolate terrain.

A year on and with a number of generous donations received, including £10,000 from SHOCC, the picture is transformed.



Sr Schola talks to the workmen who are erecting the wire fence around the new school compound

On the day in July 2017, when two Trustees visited, the sun shone, the wind had dropped, and work had begun on a huge fence. Seventy acres will be protected against marauding animals by a metal mesh fence, firmly secured to concrete posts and bedded deep in concrete to prevent burrowing. The land is being cleared and volcanic rock in the line of the fence has been blasted away by bonfires.

What splendid news to learn that two bore holes have been sunk, have reached aquifers and are providing excellent quality water aplenty. It won't take long to grow climbing plants, or perhaps a bougainvillea hedge. Although the fence is only half complete, enthusiastic nuns have already planted 200 saplings they were given and surrounded each one with bundles of thorny scrub. Goats still managed to munch a few, but it was exciting to see the possibilities already taking shape. A trial plot of cassava has amazed the locals who had deemed this arid area barren.

The project is well underway. Local people are taking an interest and offering support. We hope that by the next Newsletter we will be able to tell you about the first buildings. When we remember that Chekereni was just a field until 2006 and is now a splendid school with over 400 girls, including a thriving sixth form – then we have great hopes.

Electrifying News for St Marie Eugenie Girls' School, Tanzania

First here is a little history

St Marie Eugenie Girls' Secondary School at Chekereni has been a pilot project in many ways. SHOCC has supported it since the very first acquisition of land in 2001, through to its opening in January 2011 and the addition of a Sixth Form in 2015.

The Sisters of the Assumption had opened a Girls' Secondary School in Tanzania in 1963, shortly after Independence. It was to be their flagship. President Nyerere sent his daughter, Elizabeth, to be educated there. Dr Asha-Rose Migiru, deputy to Ban Ki-Moon at the United Nations, was a pupil there. Many leading lights, including members of parliament, CEOs and our two very dear Head Teachers, Sister Schola at Chekereni and Mama Mcha at Orkolili, also attended the school.

But, alas, government policy in the 1970s dictated that all independent schools were to be taken over and Assumpta College went rapidly downhill and the Sisters moved to Kenya. When government policy changed, the Sisters of the Assumption were eager to try again and St Marie Eugenie School was born.



One of the disabled ramps fully lit by solar power as it climbs to the second floor classrooms

The latest news about the school

The global commodity company, Glencore, has given a most generous \$20,000 for solar panels to illuminate the whole school. This won't just save every year on the electricity bill, for now, when the grid fails (which unfortunately happens all too often), Chekereni will be a beacon of light and the girls will continue their studies uninterrupted long after 6pm dusk.

Trustees, Kevin Cook and Elizabeth Byrne Hill, were invited to visit the school in the summer of 2017. After a guided tour of the installations, the lights were switched on, much to the joy of the assembled pupils, Sisters and ourselves. Asante sana. Thank you so much. This is wonderful news.

Santa Maria Hospice in Guatemala gets reliable, clean water at last



Maryknoll Sister, Dee Smith, inspects the new well on the hospice farm. Funding for both the well and the farm were provided by SHOCC

Proyecto Vida Director, Sister Dee Smith, is thrilled. She estimates that having a reliable source of good clean water close to the Santa Maria hospice will eliminate the need to buy water during the dry season and will greatly reduce health risks. It should also reduce the water bill.

Trustee Kevin Cook visited the hospice at Coatepeque, Guatemala in June 2017, representing SHOCC at the official inauguration of the well. SHOCC had provided the £3,350 to dig the 60 feet deep well. Kevin also visited the 5 acre home farm (£15,000 funding provided by SHOCC) and the honey project. The farm is providing the hospice with a wide range of fruit and medicinal plants. The ecological principles involved include avoiding the use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides. On the basis of the farm's success, a grant of \$30,000 from an international agency has enabled Dee to take the farm approach to 60 HIV+ families and to develop a 122 metre kitchen garden. Each family has been given a starter-pack consisting of compost and worm tea and seeds. A representative, usually the mother, attends classes on cultivation. One year on and all 60 of the families are still involved. Kevin also visited the 50 hive bee project that is producing 1000 litres of honey a year much of it being used in the diets of the hospice patients.

A new project for St Jude Thaddeus School, Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania



A young pupil learns how to count to ten, using local materials

One of SHOCC's newest projects is located at Mto Wa Mbu, near Lake Manyara in Tanzania. In summer 2016 SHOCC arranged for 60 Cleveland scouts and their leaders to spend a month with Fr Peter Kway in St Jude Thaddeus parish. The scouts have completed the construction of the first two classrooms for the primary school and SHOCC has agreed to provide Fr Peter with help to find the £50,000 required for the construction of five additional classrooms.

Trustees Kevin Cook and Elizabeth Byrne Hill went to stay with Fr Peter and were

able to visit the SHOCC funded new greenhouse project. This will produce tomatoes and other vegetables for infant and primary school lunches and for sale locally.