

Images of SHOCC projects



St Jude's Primary School Mto Wa Mbu, Tanzania
The new classroom funded by the Little Way Association



The 20 year old classroom funded by SHOCC at St Paul's primary school, Marigat, Kenya
We are hoping to replace it in 2019 with a new building



Searching for the queen bee. Sister Dee has 50 beehives near the Santa Maria HIV hospice at Coatepeque, Guatemala
The hives supply nearly 1,000 litres of honey each year



Outspan Primary School, Kampala Uganda
Pupil leads class in discussion

Newsletter Winter 2018/19

Dear supporter

One of the pleasures of being a SHOCC Trustee is that you can combine personal holidays with visiting SHOCC projects. This allows me, at no cost to the charity, to report back on funded projects and to ensure that every penny is used wisely for the purposes it was provided and is leading to positive change. It also enables me to assess visited projects in terms of their MEL. This refers, in the aid business, to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. SHOCC asks all its funded projects to monitor progress on a regular basis and to send us reports on project completion. Visiting projects allows Trustees to evaluate success and sustainability. Learning involves incorporating good practice into our future projects.

During 2018 I visited several of our Global South projects, spending Christmas 2017 and three weeks in the summer with Sister Dee in Guatemala. I visited the hospice and the HIV Centre in Coatepeque town and saw clear evidence of the marvellous achievements of the SHOCC funded 5-acre eco-farm.

In October, accompanied by fellow Trustee Elizabeth Byrne Hill and SHOCC supporter Valerie Booth, I visited our school projects at Orkilli, Kisaki and Mto wa Mbu in Tanzania. I then visited our classroom project at Marigat in Kenya.

As we near the end of our 47th year, SHOCC can reflect on another excellent period of helping the disadvantaged, both in our local area and around the world. We are a relatively small charity, but our work is much appreciated.

Once again, I would like to thank our many supporters for their generosity. These include the families in the Northampton area who fund the education of forty-two orphan children at Outspan schools in Uganda, the companies and Trusts who provided funding for our schools in Tanzania and the St Mary's University staff who donate through the University's Give As You Earn scheme. A special thank you goes to past Trustee, David Leen, who meticulously checks our annual accounts and verifies them before submission to the Charity Commission.

Kevin Cook
Chair of SHOCC Trustees

From Paul Waine a recently appointed Trustee

I received a copy of SHOCC's Winter 2017 Newsletter when I attended the Christmas Midnight Mass at St Mary's. The newsletter spoke of SHOCC's projects in Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. I read on and saw mention of "Glencore, who provided funding for our schools in Tanzania."

I knew the large, multinational commodity firm Glencore quite well, as I'd spent my career in the global commodity sector. I came to Teddington almost thirty years ago while working for Shell. Through my employment I knew many of the companies active in oil, metals and other commodities around the world.

The newsletter spoke of the successes of the projects SHOCC had supported, and will continue to support; they were all, obviously, good and important causes. Reading further in the newsletter, I saw a "situation vacant" notice. SHOCC was seeking someone with "funding application skills." The role would "suit someone recently retired." I was a recently retired accountant so, a few days later, I emailed Kevin Cook to learn more about SHOCC and offer my help.

There was a delay before Kevin and I would meet; he was visiting Santa Maria Hospice in Guatemala, one of the projects where SHOCC has provided significant support. I attended my first meeting with the SHOCC trustees in February and the second later in March. The trustees are dedicated and enthusiastic, all with a direct connection to St Mary's University. The overseas projects are also linked through alumni of St Mary's. The personal connections are rightly very important in the charity's aims.

Meeting agendas include reports on past and current fund-raising campaigns and planning for future campaigns: participation in the Shepperton 10km charity walk the first weekend in May; Lenten "spare change" collections and SHOCC's 2018 Christmas cards. Applications for the charity's support are also discussed alongside commitments already given. Decisions made always take account of the balance of funds available. Sometimes, funds raised are "restricted" to a specific project. Gift Aid records must be maintained. During the year the trustees must also address the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Though earlier in the year I was "recently retired", I'd been unexpectedly approached by one of my ex-colleagues, with a request to help out for a short period. This has now grown into a return to work, perhaps for several months. Fortunately, my employer actively encourages staff engagement in charitable activities, so I hope to continue my involvement with SHOCC, while fulfilling my commitments at work. Of course, I will be "recently retired" again soon.



Santa Maria Hospice, Coatepeque, Guatemala
Patient receiving treatment in the new hydrotherapy pool

Kilimanjaro Project 2018

Orkolili



Orkilili School Tanzania. Headteacher Mama Yohanna shows Trustee Elizabeth Byrne Hill and Sister Schola around the new mechanical workshop

The plane from Nairobi, travelling south into Tanzania, flies above the clouds. In the distance Kilimanjaro peeps through, rising white above the grey blanket. Then the plane swings east between the volcanic peaks of Meru and Kilimanjaro and touches down at the beautifully renovated airport with its garden of palms, jacaranda and flame trees. Mama Mcha is waiting to greet us and whisk us off to the grandly-named Rainbow Executive Lodge where one can take a rest before visiting Orkolili school.

Orkolili is a delight. Many of you who have read earlier versions of our Newsletter will remember how this school has grown from a barren patch of dry scrubland to host a most interesting and innovative secondary school. Mama Mcha, the founder, dreamed of offering education to the very poor. She includes young people who have often reached seventeen or eighteen without receiving any secondary education and she welcomes entrants from the Maasai peoples who, up to this point, have been living as hunter-gatherers.

The academic success of this school has been outstanding, particularly given that there are no entry requirements. Mama Mcha's new initiatives recognise that, in order to gain employment after school, some will need technical skills – from tailoring, to brick-laying, to car maintenance. Impressive workshops are springing up around the compound, with fine iron-work doors and beautiful window protectors all made by the pupils.

SHOCC is delighted and privileged to be part of this splendid enterprise. We plan to continue supporting the new developments.

St Marie Eugenie Girls Secondary School, Chekereni

Elizabeth Byrne Hill, Trustee

The school at Chekereni began about the same time as Orkolili. Both schools are independent and, while they are fully inspected and appraised by the Department of Education, neither receives help from the government. Beyond that there are few similarities.

St Marie Eugenie was founded by the Sisters of the Assumption as a Catholic secondary school to give girls opportunities more often afforded to their brothers. It is highly academic and, very successfully, puts emphasis on aiming for the best exam results in the region.

SHOCC has been involved since the first acquisition of land, through the official opening in 2011 and the opening of a sixth form three years ago.



The entrance to the SHOCC-funded St Marie Eugenie Secondary school at Moshi, Tanzania

Our visit in October this year revealed surprises, even though it is only eighteen months since we last came. Saplings have grown into fine trees, in colourful bloom at this time of year. The splendid new science labs were in use for a mock-exam and we were allowed to take a peek inside – what was that interesting experiment they seemed to be doing with a pendulum? The concentration was palpable – and we tip-toed out. Also of special interest: the generous shower and toilet blocks attached to each dormitory. Funded by a grant that SHOCC is proud to have raised, they replace the use of unbelievably limited facilities and a scary run across the compound in the dark.

My impressions of Tanzania

Valerie Booth is a long-time SHOCC supporter who accompanied Trustees Kevin Cook and Elizabeth Byrne Hill when they visited projects in Tanzania in October

I have three main impressions of Tanzania – the people, the landscape and the wildlife. The people are wonderful, so warm and generous. The landscape is stunning, and very varied. I loved driving across extensive highlands with scrubby bushes and beautiful trees surrounded by hills and escarpments, with extinct volcanoes and dried up river beds. Away from the towns, it still seems a very simple, although obviously poor, lifestyle with individuals herding small numbers of cows and goats between shanty settlements of very basic dwellings. Bicycles are everywhere, and individuals suddenly emerge from the landscape, often with a large load balanced on their heads.

The trees are amazing: baobab, acacias, banana trees, and all varieties of palms. The jacaranda trees are beautiful, particularly in large groups. Amazing flowers everywhere. I knew we would see animals in the game reserve, but the birds were also very special. I took binoculars and a bird book, and we spotted at least thirty-eight varieties. Although we saw a good variety of wild game in Manyara reserve, sadly, we didn't see the famous lions sleeping in the trees.

Another fascinating day was visiting rock art, involving a long drive, partly on an amazing new dual carriageway snaking across the plain, to Kolo where we collected a specialist guide, and then a steep hillside climb – which we only managed with help from our guide – but well worth the effort. We saw three sites with a wide range of images, some up to 20,000 years old, depicting many animals, people doing various activities, patterns and symbols.

Because I was travelling with two Trustees from SHOCC, we visited several educational establishments, schools and training colleges. I was impressed with how they manage to make a small amount of money go a long way. We saw developments in various stages – including a large scrubby area at Kisaki, now protected by a fence, with a water supply installed, so that eventually it will become an amazing green oasis offering education to the local population – like those at Orkilili and Iguguno.



Kisaki School Tanzania. Sister Schola inspects the new pipeline

Everywhere the students welcomed us, usually in English – from small, five-year olds in classrooms with dusty floors and few facilities, to impressive science labs for sixth form students aiming for university.

Another impressive visit was to a Maasai community, way out in a difficult landscape, where we were welcomed to a Mass in celebration of the circumcision of two sons of the chief catechist – and

to celebrate that his daughters were not being circumcised. The parish priest is working to counteract this local practice by encouraging local leaders to set the example, obviously with some success.

All in all, this was a marvellous introductory trip to Africa, and I am so impressed with the support that SHOCC is giving to local education in Tanzania.

From James Bertrand, a current student at St Mary's University

My name is James. I lost my leg when I was 18 months old – my twin, Tom, and I were born prematurely and we developed a condition called 'twin to twin transfusion' – where one twin feeds from the other so, in our case, I fed from my brother. I was therefore overloaded with nutrients, oxygen and blood and Tom was deprived. As a result of this, Tom was born grey, because he had such little blood, and I was purple, because I had too much. As I had so much blood, this led me to get blood clots in both my legs. I was also showing signs that my vital organs were failing.

At first it seemed that I was going to lose my right leg to my thigh, and my left leg to just above the knee. However, after treatment at Great Ormond Street, I lost my left leg below the knee, but they managed to save my right leg which, nevertheless, was left very severely damaged – no main artery and such bad circulation that my foot was constantly cold. I had lost all fat and muscle tissue from the knee down and, as a result of this, I found it very difficult to walk on hard surfaces without shoes on. My foot was in a fixed position and I have had corrective surgery twice on my toes and lost half of my big toe. Apart from that it was a perfect leg!

I just want to put in perspective how ill my brother and I were, and how unlikely it is that we are both here today. I've had over thirty operations in my life, due to these several problems with my legs. My right leg has caused me pain throughout my whole life and, as it was only going to get worse, I finally elected to undergo a procedure called 'osseointegration.' This procedure, which was only available in Sydney, Australia, involved amputating my right leg below the knee, hollowing out the bone and inserting a metal implant to which is attached a prosthetic limb.

It is still early days since the operation. I'm unable to comment too much on how it has changed my life, but what I do know is that I no longer get any pain from it. I'm also saving a lot of money on socks and I never have to worry about stubbing my toe again! I was able to change my height and shoe size, so I am now 6ft (the same height as my brother) and have gone up three shoe sizes to a size 8. There is always that silver lining!

It took me five weeks to take my first steps and now I am doing many things unaided, however, it may be another month or so before I am off crutches. In order to have the operation, I needed to fundraise £65,000 and, with the help of SHOCC and their very generous donation, I managed to reach my target within the year. I am extremely thankful and appreciative for what they have done for me, their donation really helped me on my journey to change my life – I'm so grateful.