

Together
we learn

HOOKE COURT IN MALAWI



UK Charitable Trust

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2024

SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME 2024

On returning to UK from this year's visit Sarah wrote the following account of the summer programme for the HCoM website. For those who may not have seen it, it is reproduced here with some photographs...



Our volunteer programme earlier this year was another incredible success story. Our group of volunteers worked enthusiastically with the children and teachers in both the Bandawe and Chintheche zones. Similarly, the Malawi children and teachers were extremely welcoming, happy to see and work with us.

Jo and Helen, assisted by Chris, both worked hard to help develop the local teachers' understanding of phonics as well as some measurement type activities in maths. Most days they taught classes of 100 or more children; just standing in the classroom proved a challenge! The teachers were grateful and were very interested to learn more out of the classroom. Jo, a Head Teacher from Weston Super Mare, also carried out a workshop with the Head Teachers and Deputy Head Teachers focussing on management and leadership. As a result, they are all very keen for similar workshops next year.

Ed, Alfie, Tilda and Tilly, our teenage cohort, set to work teaching much smaller groups of children English, Maths and Geography. They had all spent a great deal of time in the UK planning and resourcing their lessons which proved to be very popular with the Malawian children.

The afternoons, as in previous years, were spent playing football, netball and doing some craft activities. Their football and netball ability continues to impress me, and we all enjoyed watching them play shoeless and with great enthusiasm and determination.

Peter and Pete got very involved in maintaining the bikes which have been donated by Prodigal Bikes of Crewkerne. Every day they went up to the workshop to repair brakes, saddles, gears etc. Very quickly they became used to the Africa way and became adept at making do! Their reputation became so renowned that a little girl brought her pink bike for repair which they struggled with for days!

The big highlight for both Peters this year was the repair of a wheelchair for Uchizi. His teacher had come to say that he could no longer attend school as his wheelchair had a puncture. The bike ambulance was sent to get the wheelchair, both wheels were replaced, the seat given a foam base and back and once it was reunited with its owner the head rest and side panels were adjusted to fit his new height!



Fiona spent her time meeting with the sponsored pupils who are all succeeding in their secondary education and of course continue to be enormously grateful for the help they receive to be able to attend school. Whilst meeting with the Head Teacher of one of the secondary schools we learnt that Dorothy who is a sponsored child has been doing so well she is to be a prefect this year!

Fiona also visited the schools that are supported by English schools. Thanks to fund raising in the UK we were able to arrange to have 113 desks to be repaired at Mkundi School.



A big thank you must go to everyone who has been knitting squares – we took them all out and four local ladies sewed them into 22 blankets for the Hearing Impaired children who board at school; many of them sleep on the floor with absolutely nothing to lie on or cover themselves.



As usual, School in a Bag and Sustainable Sanitary Kits, Yeovil donated bags and sanitary kits to us to distribute. These are so important in helping girls maintain their attendance at school. (See newspaper cutting later in newsletter).

The biggest project we have so far organised also started this summer. Helen, one of the volunteers had raised over £6500 to build a classroom for Kapeska School. After many meetings with the village, tribal elders and various chiefs we had a plan to build the classroom, the bricks kindly being donated by the villagers themselves. They have finished building the walls and now onto the roof and plastering the walls – fingers crossed it will only be a few more weeks – just in time for the rainy season.



Using money raised from Mandy's funeral, the School for the Hearing Impaired are in the process of building a colourful new playground for their children. This school was always very special to Mandy and we thought it was a fitting way of using the kind donations we received.

As before, Sarah organised the purchasing of basic resources for all twenty-three schools- chalk, exercise books, pens, pencils, flip charts. News of national exam results came in soon after our departure; the Bandawe Zone achieved third place in the district, a great improvement on their sixteenth place at the start of our involvement with the schools.

PS. We are delighted to say that we currently have one, soon to be two students from the School for the Hearing Impaired who will be working as bike mechanics thanks to support from HCiM and Prodigal Bikes.



Wow! What a busy time the volunteers had and how lovely to hear about all the remarkable projects undertaken in only 2 weeks!

The profile of the charity continues to grow, not least through partnerships with 2 charities local to Hooke who also undertake amazing projects - Sustainable Sanitary Kits (Yeovil) and Prodigal Bikes. Here are a couple of articles published recently showing the power of joint venture...

5,000 sustainable sanitary kits are made

A SMALL group of people in the Yeovil area have reached a milestone in helping young women around the world with sustainable sanitary kits.

The range of hygiene materials available for young females, who are of a menstruating age, to use when they have their monthly cycle is virtually non-existent in many countries.

Add in with this the fact that, tragically, there is still a real stigma associated with menstruation in the developing world and girls are faced with missing school to protect their dignity.

So step forward Yeovil woman Anna Shutler who has mobilised a small team which makes sustainable sanitary kits, consisting of five washable pads and one liner housed in a clutch style bag, which are distributed around the globe.

Anna is now delighted to report that the 5,000th sustainable sanitary kit has been handed over to a grateful recipient – a young girl in the African nation of Malawi.

“These bags provide girls with comfortable, reusable equipment during their time of the month that help to keep them in education,” said Anna.

Donations of money or material are always welcome for Anna and her team to continue

the work of making the kits.

Anna said: “Things we need include curtain material, duvet covers or similar cotton material in darker colours, cotton thread, shower curtains or nylon tent material and towels of any colour. All donations are gratefully received.”

For more information please contact Anna at anna.shutler123@gmail.com or via the group’s social media Facebook page at Sustainable Sanitary Kits (Yeovil).

PHOTO: Girls in Malawi with their sustainable sanitary kits – including the person who received the 5,000th kit produced by Anna Shutler and her team in Yeovil.





School in a Bag

16 Sep · 🌐



🇸🇩 We've been working with Hooke Court Malawi since 2016, to provide SchoolBags for their programme of work in Chintheche, Malawi that has **13** schools.

☀️ Every summer, a team from Hooke Court Malawi spend **6** weeks in the villages providing teacher training, maths and English lessons to children in and out of the classrooms, advice and resources to the children to help improve the standards of the primary education.

🎒 This is where we come in! Sourcing good quality rucksacks is very difficult in this region so the Hooke Court in Malawi team take **100** of our empty numbered rucksacks with them and fill them with locally sourced educational resources with money we provide.

🌀 This hybrid model proves very successful as our SchoolBag rucksacks withstand the harsh dry and wet conditions throughout the year.

✏️ Trustee Sarah McConnell, from Hooke Court in Malawi, write: "Many thanks again - the SchoolBags as usual were a tremendous hit. Some children from a school only accessible by walking up a hill for an hour and a half received them this year - they were so happy!"


🌟 These 100 SchoolBags, numbers 155,715 - 155,814 are looking for donors - if you would like to fund one (or more) please contact hello@schoolinabag.org and we will provide you with your SchoolBag number/s 🌟




And so to the future... what can we all be doing to support the wonderful work that Hooke Court in Malawi is doing?

Could you undertake to support any of the following with a donation this Christmas?

£5 provides treatment for a child with malaria 


£10 provides a month's apprenticeship for a student to train as a carpenter. You may feel you could make a monthly donation for this 

£20 buys a mattress for a child to sleep on at the School for the Hearing Impaired (currently the youngest children are sleeping on the floor of the dormitory with just the blankets made from knitted squares) 

Knit a square for the aforementioned blankets - or buy some wool to give to a friend who knits! 

Use **Easyfundraising** when purchasing items online—it costs you nothing but the retailer gives a donation to HCiM. **How?**

- **Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk**
- **Search for Hooke Court Malawi**
- **Select 'Support this cause'**
- **Register and follow the easy instructions given.** 

Don't send a Christmas card! Maybe you have a friend who would be happy to receive a message, phone call or email from you at Christmas while you donate the price of the card and stamp to HCiM. 

All these little things add up... and will make such a difference to the work of Hooke Court in Malawi.

Thank you xxx

**Wishing all our supporters a very
Happy Christmas!**