Dear Friends of Oxted One World Group,
Welcome once more to the news of our fund-raising activities (see pages 2-3), and news of the projects that the Group has supported recently (pages 4 -7). We continue to receive excellent feedback from the projects that OWG has funded recently and can confirm that the money has been used correctly and conscientiously. In many cases the feedback includes photos which confirm the success of the project supported.
Since our last newsletter we have been pleased to welcome Jane O'Hare to the committee. Jane had spent a family holiday in Tanzania where she had seen a lot of poverty as the family had travelled around. On her return she found that OWG’s Christmas Appeal was for eye equipment for a hospital in Dar es Salaam so she decided to join OWG. Jane brings to the committee a variety of organisational skills and an enthusiasm for fund-raising.
The number of households where at least one person is a member currently stands at about 430. New members continue to join the group but sadly we have lost several members as they have moved away or passed on. Recently the subscriptions of members have not quite covered our small administrative costs so in order to cut down on postage costs which have risen enormously, we are thinking of setting up an email address so that those willing can receive their newsletters and other letters electronically.
If you have not yet paid your subscription of £5.00 for the year it is not too late – our Treasurer would be happy to receive it. We would also welcome new members so ask around amongst your friends!
The committee would also welcome any ideas and/or offers to run, new fund-raising activities.

COMING EVENTS TO BE ORGANISED BY OWG

EVENING MEAL AT THE GURKHA KITCHEN, OXTED, 30TH April 2013
The owner of the Gurkha Kitchen has kindly agreed to sponsor this evening which will not only be a fund-raiser but also a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of Oxted One World Group. Please see the separate enclosed letter for more details.

OPEN GARDENS – Monday May 27th 2013, 2.00pm – 6.00pm.
Six gardens of all sorts of shapes and sizes in the local area will be open for people to look round. Teas will be available at two of the gardens and plants will be on sale at one of them. Tickets giving admission to all the gardens and including a map of their locations will be available from any committee member beforehand priced at £6.00 each or from several of the shops in the local area or on the day priced at £7.00 each. Contributions of cakes and/or plants for sale will be gratefully received as will offers of help in manning the gates at the gardens for an hour or so, serving teas or selling raffle tickets at one of the gardens. Offers to David Stafford please (01732 866327).

COLLECTION AT MORRISONS IN OXTED – 14TH July, 8.00am – 6.00pm
HURST GREEN FAIR – 21st September, 2013 Bottle Stall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 23rd October 2013, URC, Bluehouse Lane,

STREET COLLECTION – 23rd November 2013 in Oxted, 9.00am – 4.00pm

Please put these dates in your diaries – help from members will be needed at all of them.

PAST EVENTS AND FUND-RAISING

HURST GREEN FAIR – Bottle Stall – 17th September 2012
On a gloriously fine sunny and warm day this made a net profit for the Group of £783 after a percentage had been given to the Hurst Green Fair Committee. Although this was slightly down on last year’s total it is still an excellent amount. Thanks are due to Maureen and Keith Mayers who sorted and labelled the bottles, to those who helped to run the stall on the day and to all those who so generously donated bottles. Of the 427 bottles donated some of the better quality ones were kept back for the Silent Auction with only 15 left over at the end of the day.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 24th October 2012
There was a very good turn out for the AGM -- thank you to all who came. In his speech the Chairman reported that in 29 years of existence up to the end of August 2012 the Group had raised £566,000 and in the one year ended 31st August 2012 the Group had raised £45,952 – a 17% increase over the amount raised in 2011/12. From this £43,808 had been sent to 16 projects in 8 developing countries, including five in Africa which received 87% of the funding, along with Nepal, Cambodia and Pakistan. The projects supported, some of which were new and some of which receive a regular donation, covered a wide range of needs including agricultural, educational, health care, training, business start-ups and the care of orphans. Some larger single donations were made this year which reduced the number of projects receiving funds but it was felt that sometimes a larger donation can enable a project to be completed in one go rather than having some money in hand and having to raise further funds.

After the business part of the meeting Dr Donald Sammut, gave an illustrated talk on his work with sufferers from leprosy, particularly in Nepal. More details of this project later.

STREET COLLECTION – 3rd December 2012
Thanks are due to the 42 volunteers who collected £817 – well up on the £678 collected in 2011, despite what seemed to be a lack of people in the high street. Thanks are also due to Boots the Chemist for allowing the Group to have a collecting point and a table with information leaflets outside the store. The money has been made up to £1,000 by the committee and sent to DIFN Ipaja Community Link, Lagos, Nigeria. More details on this project later in the newsletter.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL – December 2012


The total collected by the end of February directly from the Appeal was £7,477. This included the £35.00 raised for OWG at the Christmas Tree Festival which was held at the URC in Oxted in December. Thanks are due to Anna Burrage, Karen Nicholls and Jane O’Hare for providing and organising the OWG tree at the Festival.

SILENT AUCTION – 9th March 2012, St. Peter’s Hall, Limpsfield
As usual there was a huge variety of ‘Lots’ on offer including holidays, a case of wine, paintings, toiletries, offers to help with gardening and several trips to the airports. The Lots also included several services and goods from local businesses and eating establishments. We are very grateful that these concerns felt able to support us and would ask that you try and give them your custom. They included :- Bletchingley Golf Club, Cucina Italiana, Gurkha Kitchen, Oxted Oxfam, Chris Evans, Senior Professional, Tandridge Golf Club, The Old Bell, Oxted, SMS Creative Photography, The Royal Oak, Staffhurst Wood and Turnstyles (men’s hairdressers). At the time of writing it is not known how much the event raised and Lots were still being promised.

DONATIONS AND INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES -- In November St. John’s Church, Hurst Green generously donated £1,152 which has been sent on to FOCI – the Foundation for Orphan Care Initiative. FOCI offers education and training to teachers, parents and adolescents to enable them to cope more easily with health problems, particularly those associated with HIV/AIDS
Also in November St. Mary’s Church, Oxted donated £323 from the Harvest appeal and the sale of surplus Harvest produce.
Mrs Lorna Edser, one of our members, has kindly agreed to auction any surplus goods that members may have on Ebay. She will give 20% of the money raised to the donor with the rest going to OWG. Contact a committee member for details.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED

LALGADH HOSPITAL, SOUTHERN NEPAL.
Lalgadh Hospital caters primarily for people suffering from Leprosy which is still endemic throughout Nepal. Sufferers are often ostracised by their local communities and find it difficult to find employment and even to get married. Mr Donald Sammut, a UK based renowned hand surgeon visits the hospital for three weeks per year and has been voluntarily training local doctors and surgical support staff in the reconstruction of hands that have been badly damaged by leprosy. Once patients have undergone reconstructive surgery they are able to rejoin their communities and to find work, thus regaining their dignity. In 2011 over 7,500 leprosy patients were cared for by Lalgadh Hospital. The money raised from the Christmas Appeal has been sent to the hospital to enable it to purchase several specified items of equipment that are needed in the operating theatre for this work to continue.

ALL EARS, RUKHAKIRI N.W CAMBODIA
Following a visit by one of our members who recommended further support for All Ears, Cambodia, the Committee agreed in January to send £2,500 to help fund a new project in the Rukhakiri District. Here, in what is one of the poorest areas in Cambodia that has been ravaged by war, the prevalence of ear disease is so common that it is almost considered normal.

Screening clinics held at 7 local primary schools identified ear problems in up to 60% of the children met. With little or no access to medical support, treatable infections of the ear and nose are being left unmanaged, leading to distressing symptoms and to permanent, disabling hearing loss. This limits access to education and hinders the children’s development. All Ears Cambodia which is the only organisation offering specialist services in the area, has opened a Community Ear Clinic to address the problem of widespread hearing loss and the need for primary ear health care and education, including lessons on hygiene and sanitation. The money sent by OWG will enable All Ears to provide improved clinical services at the clinic as well as education within the community on the prevention and identification of ear disease. The people at the clinic will work closely with local schools and community leaders. It is anticipated that more than 2800 children will visit the clinic in one year.

GETHSEMANE TRUST, IOS, PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA.

Ios is a commercial and mining centre in Nigeria. In 1998 the Gethsemane Rehabilitation Centre was established in Ios to give a better life to poor orphans and widows and to give them some dignity. It particularly helps the families of soldiers killed while on peace-keeping duties – Nigeria carries out many peace-keeping duties in Africa. Education and technical training is provided to people in the surrounding community with those who can afford it being asked to pay while those too poor to pay are given free help. Courses in knitting, hairdressing and tailoring have been provided for the women and teenage girls and courses in technical subjects including the production of earth made blocks, for the teenage boys. There is also training in support services such as catering and first aid and the project has set up a nursery and a primary school to cater for the younger children, with 218 pupils and 12 teachers. To serve the school the project has built a library but had no money for books. In January 2013 OWG agreed to send the project (which is known to one of our committee members), £500 towards the cost of library books.

AFRICAN PROMISE. KASIGAU, S. E. KENYA

African Promise is a small UK based charity dedicated to transforming a group of village primary and nursery schools in the isolated and backward rural community of Kasigau. In 2003 Kenya aiming for free universal education introduced free primary education for all children. However resources are very thinly spread and in the poorer areas the children often find themselves being taught in dilapidated classrooms with 60 pupils to a class and hardly any textbooks. As a result in these areas there is a high degree of absenteeism and children often leave school illiterate and innumerate. African Promise was founded in 2008 to try and overcome some of these problems. Since 2008 it
has constructed or renovated over 30 classrooms, built and stocked five dedicated libraries, developed five nursery schools with playgrounds and provided thousands of books for schools. This has had a dramatic impact on improving academic standards and has reduced absenteeism as pupils are keen to learn in the new classrooms. In January 2013 OWG agreed to send £1,000 to African Promise to fund the purchase of individual desks or twin tables, as well as chairs for a spacious classroom. The furniture will be made mostly of steel to make it long lasting and will be sufficient for up to 40 pupils which is the average class size at the smaller village schools supported.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN (CAFO) MWANZA, TANZANIA, CAFO works with widows and abandoned mothers (mostly teenagers) who drop out of school with no skills to support themselves. CAFO has encouraged the mothers to form groups for sewing etc. with the idea that they should become self-reliant through income generating projects. Last autumn OWG agreed to send £1,500 to fund a 3 day training workshop for 90 mothers, teaching credit schemes, sewing and small agricultural projects etc. In February this year we received a report telling us that training had been successful and six young abandoned mothers’ groups have been supported. One of the big successes has been the purchase of 60 goats of a local breed which provide food for the babies and young children with surplus milk being sold to provide an income. Using the help of a local government organisation any baby goats born are passed onto other members of the community and more training in care for them is given.

PROMOTING EQUALITY IN AFRICAN SCHOOLS (PEAS)
PEAS was founded in 1999 by a teacher from London who wanted to set up an African School to give poor African children a proper education. In November 2005 OWG sent £1550 to help fund a sanitation block in the St. Janam Luwum secondary school in the Kampala region of Uganda. A year later £1,200 was sent to the same school to fund a kitchen and equipment. Following the success of this school the Onwards and Upwards School was set up at Buloba, Uganda, in a very rural area where teachers had to stay on site. In December 2007 OWG sent £1,800 to fund an accommodation block for teachers for the school. Since then the organisation has continued to grow, building more schools and expanding their activities. In June 2011 OWG sent £500 to help fund a vegetable growing project in one of the PEAS schools so that the children could receive some fresh nutritious food. At the end of 2012 PEAS launched a ‘Back to School Appeal’ which was officially supported by the UK Government who matched the funding raised. OWG sent £1,000 to this Appeal which successfully raised £1,276,901, sufficient to enable 16,000 more Ugandan children to have a quality secondary education over the next three years Having opened 8 new schools in February 2013 PEAS now runs 22 schools in Uganda and Zambia, educating over 7,500 children and employing 400 teachers.
DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FOR NIGERIA (DIFN), IPAJA COMMUNITY LINK
LAGOS
DIFN and its Nigerian partner Ipaja Community Link works with schools in a very poor part of Lagos and also runs projects helping orphans and vulnerable children. The girlfriend of the grandson of one of our members, is working in the area teaching young children to read and brought this project to our attention. She is a highly qualified primary school teacher (rated as outstanding by OFSTED), and has a passion for teaching vulnerable children basic literary skills through a phonics programme. DIFN has employed a Schools Engagement Officer who has been meeting with publishers to select and order appropriate level books for the phonics programme. A selection procedure is being designed so that teachers and community workers have guidelines to help in the ordering of language and level appropriate books in the future and DIFN is running workshops in training teachers to use the books properly. The £1,000 sent by OWG will enable DIFN to purchase books for the 14 schools that they will be working with in 2013. Without this there would be no money for story books for the children.

ANASI FARMERS, KASESE, UGANDA.
This women’s group was started in 2008 with the aim of promoting economic and social development. The group was keen to improve nutrition and education for their families along with income generation and wanted to start vegetable growing. In May OWG sent £1,500 to the group which, combined with the £1,273 raised by the group themselves, was sufficient to fund this. Recently information has been received giving details of how the project has achieved some success in its objectives of training women on vegetable management, marketing and soil management, training women to generate income to support their families economically and helping women to find ways of preventing domestic violence in their homes. The money sent was spent on the purchase of necessities such as seeds, fertilisers and simple equipment such as wheelbarrows as well as paying the trainers. The training which was carried out through a series of workshops, discussions and the establishment of a demonstration vegetable plot was attended by 35 women from the 3 villages of Rwembio, Kisanga and Kiburara. The women grew a variety of vegetables including tomatoes, onions, cabbages, dodo, eggplants and water melons with high yields expected and improvements to the environment. Difficulties encountered during the training included the high level of illiteracy amongst the women, the rise in the cost of the training materials and the huge demand for the training. For the future the group would like to start mushroom growing as there is a high demand for this nutritious product in local hotels and across the border in the DRCongo.

GENESIS SCHOOL, KISUMU, KENYA
OWG has been supporting this project which gives free education and food to very poor children since 1999 and we receive frequent feedback of the school’s progress. This January we heard that the school had started the new academic year with an extra 50 new children, all needing new desks and chairs etc.
**OXTED ONE WORLD GROUP COMMITTEE 2012/13**

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