



Annual Report 2017-2018

www.nickwebbertrust.org.uk

1 Apple Tree Walk, Climping, West Sussex, BN17 5QN

The Trust was set up in 2004 in memory of Nick Webber, who died tragically in a car accident at the age of 28 while working in Malawi as a volunteer Legal Aid solicitor. Had Nick lived longer, we know that he would have done much more good in the world. Our aim is to do some of that good in his name. Following the spirit of the work he was doing, our aim is to support some of Malawi's poorest and most marginalised people by funding projects in education, healthcare and community support, and access to justice.

The Trust became recognised as a charity in England and Wales on 30 May 2005, which would have been Nick's 29th birthday.

Achievements this year

School support

We continued with our project to support homeless children who could not be re-integrated into their families to go to boarding school, through the **Tikondane Centre for the Care of Street Children** in Lilongwe. We supported twenty-six children who were placed in state boarding schools: 10 in primary, including five new to the programme, and 16 in secondary schools. We pay for school fees and other expenses such as uniforms, bedding, transport, daily necessities, classroom equipment, and a small amount of pocket money. We are delighted that once again over 90% of these children successfully completed their school years. Of the four who completed primary school, all passed the Primary Leaving Exam and have been awarded places at secondary school. Two male students completed Form Four in secondary school, and passed the MSCE with results which, while not high enough to win places in Higher Education, should enable them to enrol on vocational courses. If they do, we shall do our best to continue supporting them, along with one female student who completed MSCE last year. This year, we also continued our support of one young man in higher education who we had previously funded through primary and secondary school. We are delighted to report that he recently graduated with a First Class degree in Engineering in Computer Science, finishing top of his class. He still returns frequently to the Tikondane Centre to help out, and is an excellent role model to the younger children. Another student who we supported through secondary school has now completed his first year at Mzuzu University with our support, with an above average performance in Hospitality Management.

We continued our school scholarship scheme in Usisya district in partnership with the UK-based charity **Temwa**, whose team in Usisya manage the project. The project pays secondary school fees for students from the most vulnerable households who have strong results from their primary education. In this school year, we funded seven students in boarding school and twenty-one students in day school.

We also continued our support of some female secondary school students in the **Kochilira** area, who had had their funding abruptly terminated by another charity which had decided to transfer its support elsewhere. Knowing the difficulties young women have in obtaining and retaining secondary school places (and how important educating women is for Malawi's development) we undertook to allow the students to complete their education, which in some cases will take up to 2019. It is not our usual policy to allow students to repeat a school year but, exceptionally, this year we agreed to allow three unsuccessful Form Four students to repeat their final year, as we recognised the disruption their education had suffered.

School building projects

At **Kainsa Primary School**, where we had previously constructed four classrooms, we agreed to complete a further block of two classrooms which the local community had started but were unable to complete from their own resources. Our contribution included the window frames, internal plastering, and storm drains. Previously, the villagers had moulded the bricks for the classrooms and were involved in the construction stage in a variety of unskilled tasks on a rota basis. This is overseen by the local headmen as a way of encouraging a sense of ownership of the school, and responsibility for it. With the completion of these two classrooms, Kainsa Primary will, from September 2018, be a Full Primary School, which pupils can attend for the full eight years of primary education. This is of especial benefit to the girl pupils as they will not have to face a six-kilometre walk in both directions to the nearest Full Primary. In order to further encourage girl pupils to stay in school, we supplied desks for the top classes.

In **Kasakanya Primary School**, where we had built two classrooms in the previous year, we funded the construction of a further two classrooms, and added improvements to the two previously built, in the form of storm drains. This school had always been designated a Full Primary since before our involvement, but this school year is the first in which all classes can be accommodated indoors in brick-built classrooms. Again, to encourage the retention of the older girl pupils, we provided desks for the top classes.



We maintain regular contact with **Kochilira Community Day Secondary School**, in Mchinji District, where our hostel for female students makes a significant contribution to the

retention of female students. We are delighted that in this school female students now outnumber male students in the final two years, a reversal of the national trend, which senior staff attribute to the safer atmosphere our buildings have created for young women, and that results in national exams continue to improve. We have funded several projects at this school in a relationship that began in 2010, and has included the construction of a science and a computer laboratory, the construction of two more classrooms, and the construction of a teacher's house, to aid staff recruitment and retention at this much improved school. Last year we were thrilled to be able to link the school with a charity promoting female hygiene and sanitary protection, thus further enabling young women to remain in the classroom, and this link is continuing.

Community and Health



We funded two five-month training courses for **Tidzuke Orphan Care** in Kochilira village, one in tailoring and one in carpentry. A condition of our support is that the recruitment of trainees should pro-actively target young women. This project is part of our ongoing relationship with this fantastic community organisation. In 2011 we funded the building of a children's centre for the project, from which they run a feeding

programme for orphans and vulnerable children, a nursery school, a library, and provide other facilities for use by the wider community. In 2013 we funded the construction of indoor and outdoor toilets at the centre, and in 2014 we funded the construction of a kitchen to assist with the feeding programme. Last year, we funded the construction of the Vocational Skills Training Block in which the courses took place, and the first five-month training course in tailoring for thirteen unemployed school leavers. We are delighted to see the growing contribution that this centre is making to the local community and several villages around, and hope to increase our support when funds allow.

We continued our support of the Malawian health care charity **Ndi Moyo** by continuing to make the house known as "Nick's Place" available rent-free for use by the Ndi Moyo clinic. It continues to be used extensively to house volunteers and trainees at the clinic, and our land is used for a model vegetable garden and to grow medicinal herbs. A training centre has also been built on our land, for use by the clinic staff.



Challenges

We discovered the construction of two classrooms at **Chadabwe Community Day Secondary School**, started in the previous financial year, had not been completed as the second tranche of funding, £3000, had been stolen by a member of school staff. Following legal advice from our Malawian lawyer (working for us pro bono) the matter was reported to the education authorities and the police. £400 has since been paid back and a court case is pending. When the money is fully repaid, we hope to be able to complete the classrooms.

Our existing procedures were robust enough for the theft and thief to have no chance of escaping detection, but the episode enabled us to identify further ways to improve our procedures. We have adopted these new ways of working, and have adopted a new anti-fraud policy which we send to every grant recipient. Although, the theft was too small to warrant reporting to the Charity Commission, we wanted to include it in this report in the interests of transparency.

We also experienced some unforeseen difficulties with our Secondary School Fees project in the Usisya district, in partnership with **Temwa**. Our agreement was to support a total of 24 students, eight in boarding school and sixteen in day school. Due to accidental error on Temwa's part, bursaries this year were offered to more than the 24 students in total that we had agreed. Following discussion, we agreed to correct this for future years without disadvantaging any existing beneficiary by ensuring we fund every current recipient until their schooling is complete.

Temwa's managers of the scheme reported some disappointing results with not all students progressing as hoped. They have this year initiated a programme of complementary support, including the provision of mosquito nets and sanitary towels, which they are confident will lead to improved results next year.

We are still unable to continue our **Bursary scheme for law undergraduates** at the University of Malawi due to complications involving the reorganisation of both Legal Aid provision and the training of lawyers in Malawi. We continue to maintain contact with the new Legal Aid Bureau and remain hopeful of supporting the provision of Legal Aid services when this becomes practical and is requested.

How we work

The Trust makes no expenditure for travel, communication, staffing, office overheads, or other running costs. The costs incurred are met by the Trustees personally. This enables us to ensure that every penny donated is spent directly on our projects in Malawi.

Structure, Governance, and Management

This year, one of our founding Trustees, Chris Holmes, stepped down due to pressure of work. We will miss his thoughtful and sensitive contributions to our decision-making, and thank him for many years of service. Seven Trustees remained in post: Pauline Webber (chair), Jane Abood, Timothy Ingle, Mary Marvel, Judith Scott, Jonathan Webber, and Timothy Webber.

Trustees are appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees of which there cannot be fewer than three. There is a Board of Advisers, to which appointments are made by the Trustees. There are currently three active members of the Board of Advisers.

Decisions are made by a majority of Trustees, with the Chair of Trustees having the casting vote in the case of an even split. Decisions are usually made at meetings, which may also be attended by members of our Board of Advisers. There were two meetings in this financial year. Minutes of all meetings are circulated to all Trustees and Advisers.

No project is adopted without first being thoroughly researched by Trustees and Advisers.

The operation of the Trust is governed by the Trust deed, (to which two Supplementals have been made), an Ethos document, a policy on the selection of partner organisations, and a policy governing the adoption of education projects. These can all be downloaded from the Trust website, along with our annual reports.

Fundraising

Most of the funds were raised through personal donations and proceeds of events organised in support of the Trust but not by the Trust itself. However, the Trust did organise a Garden Party in Sussex to thank our supporters, at which we ran a raffle, a tombola and a bring-and-buy sale, with the costs met by a Trustee.

We sold our own Christmas cards again, with the initial outlay covered and recouped from sales by one of the Trustees, and all profits going to the Trust.

We held over the Gift Aid claim until the following year.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation of all who have supported it by making donations or by using their time and talents to help us.

Risk Management

The Nick Webber Trust is aware that aid and development projects can have inadvertent negative side effects. To minimise this risk in the area of our education projects, we have adopted a policy on sourcing and assessing such projects, which must now derive from the

democratic structure of Malawi or have beneficiaries within the government of Malawi's stated priority groups, and will be assessed along our general project selection guidelines of democratic accountability, community contribution, demonstrable impact, and long-term sustainability. This policy operates alongside our existing policy on the selection of partner organisations.

Our strategy of retaining sufficient reserves to ensure that projects can be completed means that we are able to absorb cost increases resulting from currency fluctuation. To protect against any future such alterations in the financial landscape, we cost all of our projects, both new and existing, directly in Malawi Kwacha and make all agreements in that currency. We also ensure that our reserves can cover all of our commitments for three years into the future before making any new commitments, taking account of our basic income from standing orders on the assumption that this will not decrease by more than 10% per year, and that our other income will not decrease by more than 25% per year.

Representatives of the Trust regularly visit NdiMoyo clinic, the Tikondane centre, as well as our many educational projects in and around Kochilira, Kainsa and Kasakanya villages. Similarly, we keep in regular contact with UK officials of Temwa. A representative of the Trust paid several visits before, during, and after all construction projects, and monitored all payments and receipts. The Chair of the Trustees also regularly meets with the two Malawian members of the Board of Advisers.

Financial Review for 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

The Trust started the year with £17,406 in hand.

Total income for the year was:	£25,930
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Of which:

Raised by supporters and regular donations:	£23,566
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Garden Party:	£2000
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Sale of Christmas Cards:	£356
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Bank Interest:	£8
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Total expenditure for the year was:	£ 38,469
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Of which:

Tidzuke Orphan Care: Tailoring course and School fees	£4,283
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Tikondane Care of Street Children	£9,676
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Kasakanya Primary classrooms, improvements and desks	£17,296
Kainsa Primary classroom completion and desks	£6811
Nick's Place Town Rates	£109
Congoma Subscription	£294

We ended the year with £ 4867 in hand, including £60 equivalent in Malawi Kwacha

The currency fluctuations of the Malawi Kwacha make it difficult to know for sure the future cost of our commitments for the next three years, but we currently estimate them to be in the region of £56,000. Assuming a decline year on year of 10% on our regular Standing Order donations and a decline year on year of 25% on our other income, we expect to receive a further £80,000 in the next three years. This is a conservative assessment, as our annual income has actually never experienced such a decline.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the report set out above.

Signed on their behalf

Pauline Webber (Chair of Trustees)