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# STIRLING Observer

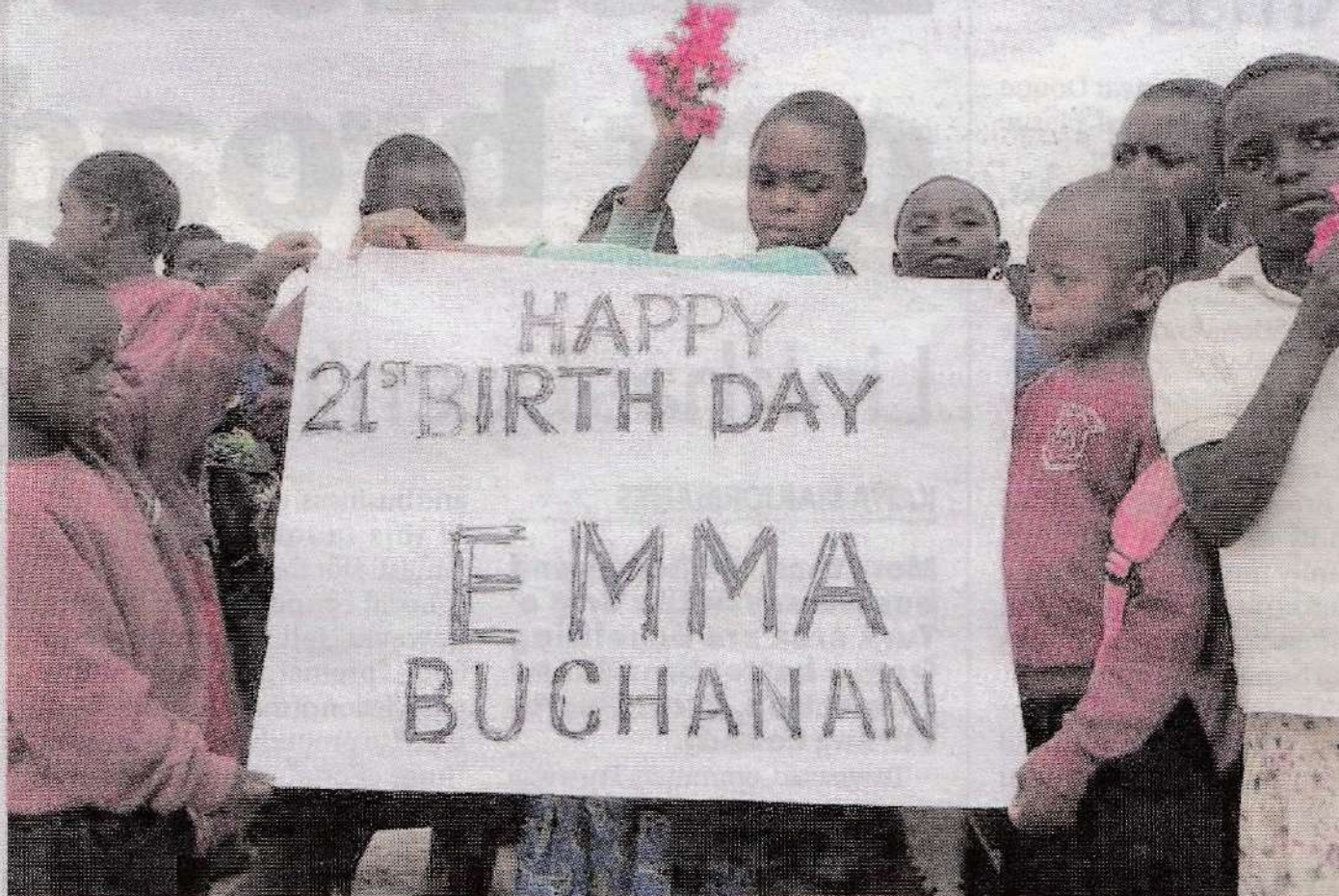
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## Messages from Malawi

Hundreds of children in an African village gathered to mark what have been the 21st birthday of a Balfour girl.

Youngsters in the village of Ibuluma in northern Malawi gathered to mark the birthday of Emma Buchanan, who died at the age of just five. Emma's friends are hoping to collect enough money to buy books to open a library there in her memory. See the full story on page five.



**Special occasion** Children from foundation in Malawi mark what would have been Emma Buchanan's birthday

## Happy heavenly birthday Emma, say Malawian kids

**CHRIS MARZELLA**

Youngsters from a school in Malawi marked the birthday of a young Balfron schoolgirl who died at the age of just 15.

Last week the Observer told how the family of Emma Buchanan were launching a bid to collect books for a library at a school in Malawi on what would have been her 21st birthday.

Emma passed away from cystic fibrosis on Boxing Day 2013, at Robin House Hospice in Balloch, after a lifetime battle with the illness.

Now mum Tracy, dad Johnny and big sister Jordan want to keep her legacy alive through a library at the foundation in Malawi.

Based in Ibuluma, Chitipa, Northern Malawi, where co-founder Levison Mlambya

lives, the William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation helps Malawian orphans and the elderly.

Emma was a keen reader and her family have told how she had hoped to visit Malawi someday.

Sister Jordan last week told how Emma's love of books is one of the reasons why they now want to help the foundation in any way they can.

Sunday, November 17, would have marked Emma's birthday. Hundreds of youngsters in the village of Ibuluma came together to celebrate.

The charity posted details on its Facebook page about the gathering. In a post they said: "Today, over 400 children came to the Resource Centre and heard from Levison about Emma's life.

"They split into three groups

and all took turns in holding up the banners wishing Emma a happy heavenly birthday.

"Some of the children went to collect hibiscus flowers for her. They had a party and a special treat of doughnuts and juice, as well as their main meal, and they sang happy birthday to Emma.

"The children were saddened to learn that Emma had died at such a young age, but they dried their tears when Levison told them that he was sure that Emma knew about how her friends in Malawi were celebrating her special day."

Anyone who wishes to donate books to the charity can do so by contacting the Friends of The William Stewart Centre, Malawi - SCIO Facebook page. To donate funds to the charity go to [shorturl.at/bgqj9](http://shorturl.at/bgqj9).