

Emma's library opens its doors in Malawi

Legacy of teenager with love of reading



Much loved Emma Buchanan died from cystic fibrosis in 2013

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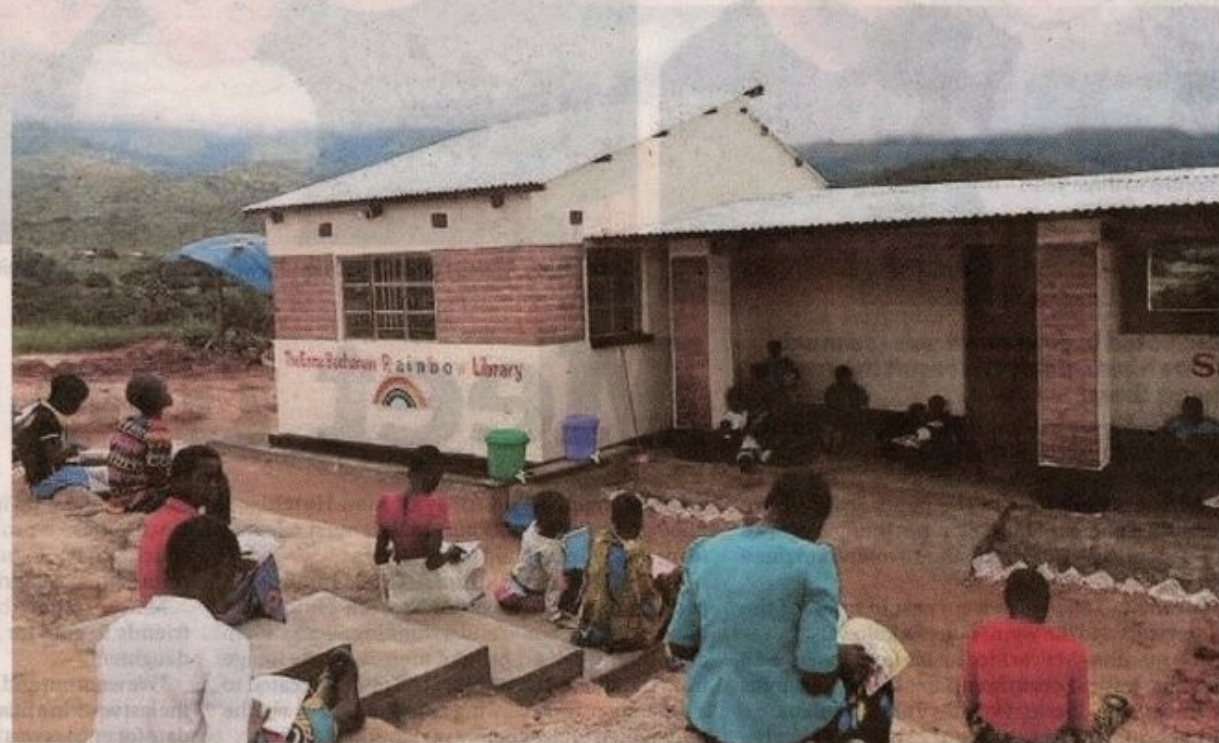
A library has opened in Malawi in memory of a Balfon schoolgirl with a love of reading.

Emma Buchanan passed away from cystic fibrosis aged 15 on Boxing Day 2013 after a lifetime battle with the illness.

But mum Tracy, dad Johnny and big sister Jordan wanted to keep her legacy alive through a library at the William Stewart Foundation in Malawi.

Based in Ibuluma, Chitipa, Northern Malawi, where co-founder Levison Mlambya lives, the foundation - which is coordinated by supporters in west Stirlingshire - helps Malawian orphans and the elderly.

Emma was a keen reader and had hoped to visit Malawi someday.



Tribute The Emma Buchanan Library has been established in Malawi

Local foundation spokesperson Mary Young said: "The opening day wasn't as the foundation or the Buchanan family, who had helped to sponsor the new building, had imagined it to be. Social distancing meant that the library could not be opened by the chief or with a huge gathering of adults and children as would usually happen.

"Nevertheless, the children came and

were spread about - in the library, on the verandah, in Sophie's Skills Shed, outside - and spent happy hours reading the books which had been sent for them.

"The pandemic is having an impact on Malawi and the fear of people, many of whom live in poverty and hunger, is palpable."

Last November 400 children marked what would have been Emma's 21st

birthday, even singing Happy Birthday and creating banners.

The foundation has currently altered the way it operates there including introducing social distancing, more handwashing facilities, mask-making by the older girls and, above all, raising awareness of Covid-19.

Anyone who wishes to donate to the charity can go to shorturl.at/bgqJ9.



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