

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020



Aussie Will is Cycling Back Home

William was born in Australia but his family moved back to Scotland when he was a baby.

He has always longed to go back to the land of his birth but has never had the opportunity. Now he is on his way – in his imagination while he keeps himself fit, dealing as he does with two disabilities; peripheral neuropathy and Parkinson's.

William has made other 'shorter' journeys on his bike – John o' Groats to Land's End and back and, from his home near Southampton, around the South of England to his old haunts. He started his ride to Australia in 2016 and has decided that now is the time for us to join him on the journey.

Will is cycling to raise money to provide a borehole at the Foundation's Resource Centre. He can be seen in this video, on his bike, and talking about his background, philosophy on life and the Foundation.

Fresh clean water will transform lives and go a long way to keeping COVID-19 at bay.

**WHERE THERE'S A WILL,
THERE'S A WELL**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vc7zVbGXII8&t=3s>

CLEAN WATER – WASH YOUR HANDS

Never was water more important than now, in these days of a pandemic. ‘Wash your hands for 20 seconds’. We do; we turn on our taps, reach for our soap and lather furiously. If we’ve been out and about, we stick our clothes in the washing machine, and jump into the shower. Mostly without a second thought.

In a country which has grinding poverty, malnutrition, and other diseases such as malaria, typhoid and cholera to contend with, coronavirus is a frightening spectre, especially given a lack of water.

Water stations have been set up at the Centre where the children can wash their hands regularly and many extra bars of soap have been purchased.

There is a borehole at the Chambo Health Centre which is just over half a mile from the Foundation’s premises and so water must be carried, and a lot of it.

BUT

The borehole is beginning to dry up; the water table is becoming too low in the dry season and until December when the rains come again, there will be no, or just a trickle of, water. Already the drop in water pressure can be seen in this very short video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFyK4w9EEgs>

It means that there will be no option but to use the river water, with not only the risk of dysentery, typhoid and cholera but the increased danger of COVID-19 too.

And so our UK sister charity Friends of the William Stewart Centre Malawi has launched a ring-fenced appeal to have a much deeper borehole made at the Centre.

Ideally, it would be a well with a solar powered pump, also able to be connected to the electricity supply, with tanks to allow for much easier irrigation of the Foundation’s crops and vegetables. The total cost is £8,000, which is a huge ask, we know; the initial fundraiser has been set at £5,000 which would provide a deep borehole with a submersible pump.

An efficient borehole will not only help to keep the children safe and prevent them from having so much time away from school because of becoming ill through water borne diseases, but will have a profound influence on the wellbeing of, and quality of life in, the whole community.

So, as Aussie Will pedals, and updates periodically on the crowdfunder, website and social media, please support him on his journey so that we can truly say to our tireless old soldier – ‘well done’.

It was a red letter day when the Centre received electricity. If we can provide clean water, too, the tears will be flowing in Ibuluma as fast as the water comes out – but, as my sister Jeannie always called them, they will be ‘happy tears’.

This is the link to the Crowdfunder:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/clean-water-in-ibuluma-1>

We will be back to our regular Newsletter in a month or so. There has been a lot going on. There are as-they-happen updates on the facebook pages and updates on our website.

I hope that everyone is keeping well and enjoying some of the lockdown release measures – and the sun!

Nasenje – Mary

www.williamstewartfoundation.org

<https://www.facebook.com/ibuluma.malawi/>

Malawian registered charity

<https://www.facebook.com/williamstewartmalawi/> UK registered charity



Children at the Chambo borehole