

# Linda's Fund

Newsletter February 2026

**Celebrating 20 years and  
38 bursary students**

**A Fund for Education in  
Malawi in Memory of  
Linda Nelson 1954 – 2006**



**New students Thandie and  
Patrick started Motor cycle  
maintenance courses at  
Milonga College**

## Message from the Trustees

This is our ninth Newsletter to everyone who has helped us or expressed an interest in the Charity. Linda's Fund was set up 20 years ago in 2006 to improve educational provision for pupils of Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School in Malawi, through bursaries and school projects. Girls and boys have equal access to the funds.

**The aim of this Newsletter is to show what has been achieved with your help over the last year and what current activities are taking place. Please do let us have any feedback through the website at [www.lindasfund.org.uk](http://www.lindasfund.org.uk).**

## Charity News

We had sufficient funds to start 2 new students in 2025. A further 2 students will be started in 2026 and we hope to reach 40 students in our 20<sup>th</sup> year.

Since the start of Linda's Fund in 2006 38 students have now been awarded bursaries for the following subjects.

Teacher training	1	Hairdressing	1
Electronics	1	Motor vehicle maintenance	10
Bricklaying	4	Plumbing	6
Electrical Installation	6	Accounting	3
Agriculture and Rural studies	2	Public Health	1
Welding	2	Tailoring	1

Details of past bursaries are available on [www.lindasfund.org.uk](http://www.lindasfund.org.uk)

### Students starting in 2025

**Thandie Goweni – Motor cycle mechanics**

**Patrick Mark Maliko - Motor cycle mechanics**

**Geoffrey Kamwendo** who started in 2025 is undertaking an industrial placement in 2026

**Madalitso Musewu** is taking a year off but intends to continue her course after that.

### Students completing in 2025

No students completed their studies in 2025. We try to assist each student with some start up tools at the end of courses.

Videos of two previous bursaries are included on our website.



## Typical Course Costs

### Student costs

Medical, safety and equipment	£45 - £150
Computer (2 <sup>nd</sup> hand if required)	£300
Course fees per term	£175 - £350
Boarding Fee per term	£80 - £150
Exam fees per term	£25 - £50
Startup grant if appropriate	£20 - £70
Tools at end of course	£0 - £75



**Teachers houses**

## School News

The current Head Teacher Lovemore Manjola is due to retire in 2026. He has been a great help to Linda's Fund and done all the organising of placements to colleges and companies. We thank him for all his work for the students and wish him a long and happy retirement. Pupil and teacher numbers at Mulanje School have grown under his leadership and several students have had great success in their exams and achieved University entrance.



**Fortrose Hall**

## Malawi

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. The estimated population of 22 million (2025) and is growing at 2.5% a year. The economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, which employs over 80% of the population. Malawi's economic situation remains challenging. A severe drought in 2024 has exacerbated macroeconomic imbalances and added to successive poor harvests and high food prices. An election and change of Government took place in September 2025.

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**Our website is**  
[www.lindasfund.org.uk](http://www.lindasfund.org.uk)

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## Mulanje Mission Hospital

Mulanje Mission Hospital is a close friend to Linda's Fund and on all our visits we have toured the hospital, joined the Youth Club visits to the community and seen first-hand the fantastic work they do. Further details of their work can be found at [www.mmh.mw](http://www.mmh.mw).



**School Classroom**



## Fundraising

We remain dependent on individual donations plus using the funds from the Pignatelli Trust awarded in 2023. With the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the bursary fund in 2026 it is hoped to carry out some additional fund raising during the year. We also hope that Mulanje school will be able to celebrate all the hard work put in by their teachers and the local Linda's Fund committee. We are able to maintain sufficient funds at the bank again to enable all students who have started to complete their course.

## Student Stories

*We try to keep in touch with our bursaries. Here are some of their stories.*

### **Phyllis Kagola Studied Plumbing in 2020**

"I am fine and working with Government as a teacher at Sanjale Primary School, Mulanje."



### **Louis Mbingwani studied Electrical Installation in 2014**

Working with a poultry company in the capital of Malawi, Lilongwe, as an electrician.

"Let's celebrate together 20 years of Linda's Fund bursaries of working with Mulanje Mission. Thanks for building Malawi by educating youths with different programs".



### **Simon Williams studied Bricklaying in 2014**

Simon studied bricklaying and also learnt skills training others. He is now running a music recording business in Blantyre.

### **Bright Chipembere and Portia Kunchiwa studied Electrical Installation in 2021**

Both students used their initiative and enthusiasm to gain part time work after their courses, buy tools and gain practical experience. Bright decided his interest in medical engineering would lead him to study at nursing college and is now in his final year. Portia decided that her goal is to apply for a university course after finishing further exams.

Although it is sometimes the case that students change career the chance to learn new life and work skills and transition from school to employment, which the Fund helps with is seen as critical by them.



*Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School*



## Finances

All UK funding goes to Malawi with no costs in UK (apart from bank charges).

Our yearly expenditure in financial year June 2024/25 was approximately £1900 and income was £700 including Gift Aid. This has allowed us to cover work experience costs and we still have sufficient funds to allow 4-6 bursaries a year and ensure there are reserves to allow existing students to complete their courses.

Linda's Fund is run by a small group of volunteers. The Fund has charity status in the UK and over the years has distributed over £78,000. This money has been raised by generous donations from individuals, sponsored events, pupils fundraising, company donations and The Pignatelli Trust. Without this support and the help from the Mission School committee we could not continue to support our bursary students. The link between Fortrose Academy and Mulanje Mission continues and is supported in both communities.



*Current Bursary Geoffrey  
reconditioning motor bikes.*

## Finally

Thank you for your interest in the charity, and its work in Malawi that is helping to improve education in one of the many community schools and giving opportunities and hope to students and their families. We can only make small steps but for each individual it can be life changing.

If you wish to make a donation to the Fund this can be done from the Donations page on our website at [www.lindasfund.org.uk](http://www.lindasfund.org.uk)

Or by post to

**The Treasurer**

**Linda's Fund**

**Fortrose Academy**

**Academy Street**

**Fortrose**

**IV10 8TW**

**Left over holiday Currency?**

Donate it to Linda's Fund at

<https://www.leftovercurrency.com/charity/lindas-fund/>