



Linda's Fund

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

Newsletter January 2018

**Celebrating 12 years of
the Fund and 23 bursary
students**

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

Message from the Trustees

This is our first Newsletter to people who have helped or expressed an interest in the Charity and we hope you find it of interest. Linda's Fund was set up in 2006 to improve educational provision for pupils of Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School in Malawi, through bursaries and school projects. Girls have equal access to the funds as boys.

The aim of this Newsletter is to show you what has been achieved with your help since we started and what current activities are taking place. Please do let us have any feedback.

Charity News



**Symon Williams and
Geoffrey Sagawa graduate**

It is 12 years since the Charity started and in that time we have had 6 streams of bursary students

Since the start of Linda's Fund in 2006 23 students have been awarded bursaries for the following subjects.

Teacher training	1	Hairdressing	1
Electronics	1	Motor vehicle maintenance	5
Bricklaying	4	Plumbing	2
Electrical Installation	4	Accounting	3
Agriculture and Rural studies			2

All the courses have entailed the students living away from home.



Bursary News



2016 bursary students

Students receive payment of accommodation, course and exam fees and an initial allowance of £80 to help with safety equipment, stationary and books and course equipment.

Most courses run for 2 years (4 terms) and some have an additional year when the students are given practical training in a company (at little or no cost to Linda's Fund). So in any one year we can be funding up to 8 or 9 students. We are updating information on current employment of students but the majority have paid employment or have started their own businesses.

We have been able to meet the majority of students over the years during our visits to Malawi with Fortrose Academy.

2017 was our busiest year for bursary students so far.

Students who completed a course in 2017 are

Rabecca Kalinda	Agriculture
Miriam Lepele	Agriculture
Loveness Paseli	Hairdressing
Concern Brighton	Building and Construction

Continuing students are

Alice Chisangam	Plumbing
Paul Thomas	Motor Vehicle Maintenance
Timothy Kasimidwa	Electrical Installation
Emily Botolo	Teacher training



Exams in the School Hall.

**agreed to co-fund
some teacher houses.**



**The School Hall completed
in 2015.**

Project News

In past years we funded a school/community hall (£33,000), but these projects have proved difficult to fundraise and control from a distance. We therefore have concentrated mainly on bursaries and occasional small projects or part funded projects.

We have recently co-funded some teacher houses with Belfast Royal Academy and other sources. This will be managed by the Mission hospital. Mulanje school has also found a funding source for a girls hostel at the school to help encourage girls to attend school rather than have to walk up to 10miles a day. Both these projects should be completed in 2018 when we visit.



Malawi News

2016-17 was our busiest year with 10 students at college or work placements. We were also pleased to see the graduation of two students, Symon Williams and Geoffrey Sagawa, in November. Symon Williams was also successful in being asked by the college to be an instructor for new students.

We were very sad to hear of the death of teacher Phyllis Malata in December. Phyllis and Linda had both been close at the start of the link and both had visited each other's family in Scotland and Malawi. Phyllis (45) leaves a husband, Sammy, and children Innocent, Vanessa and twins David and Daniel. Phyllis would have been appointed Head teacher at the school at the end of December.



2018 Malawi Trip

In 2018 Fortrose Academy will be leading a school trip to Malawi and visiting the school. This gives us the opportunity to meet existing and potential bursary students and take part in the interview process as well as identify any problems with managing the fund locally. The school Head teacher has recently changed and we will be able to meet up with his team and help them with the management and governance of the fund in Malawi. We are indebted to the Malawi committee who carry out all the work of identifying bursaries, courses and payment of fees and expenses as well as all their own school work. As part of the 2018 trip Fortrose pupils raise money specifically for Linda's Fund.



Fortrose students in Malawi



Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School



Finances

Over the years, course and accommodation fees have increased from approximately £250 a year in 2008 to currently £500 a year with some courses eg teaching being up to £750 a year. All UK funding goes to Malawi with no costs in UK (apart from bank charges).

Our yearly funding in 2016/17 was £5400 and our income was £2800 the deficit coming from our reserves. We have asked the Malawi committee to consider the mix of number of students and courses accepted in future years to try and balance costs and funding.

Linda's Fund is run by a small group of volunteers in Fortrose and a local Malawi committee including teachers and parents. The Fund has charity status in the UK and over the years has distributed over £58,000 between projects and bursaries. This money has been raised by generous donations from individuals, sponsored events, pupils fundraising and company donations. In 2017 Total Oil generously donated £1250 as a result of one of their employees putting the charity forward. With the increases in fees and exchange rate fluctuations the Fund maintains a sufficient balance to ensure that students starting courses can complete them. There are sufficient funds currently to achieve this but in future years we may need to reduce bursary numbers or offer partial funding to maintain the long term viability. The long standing link between Fortrose Academy and Mulanje Mission continues to flourish and be supported in both communities.

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 schools and giving opportunities and hope to its students.

The fund helps to improve educational provision for pupils of Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School. This includes raising money for further education bursaries to help students find employment and also helping raise money to provide school facilities. It can be used for children who have started education and would otherwise be unable to finish or for those who cannot have education because their families cannot meet the costs. Girls have equal access to the funds as boys.

If you wish to make a donation to the Fund this can be done on-line at
<http://www.charitychoice.co.uk/lindasfund>

Or by post to

The Treasurer

Linda's Fund

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Emily Botolo, Rabecca Kalimba and Miriam Lepele our 2015 bursaries.

