

Linda's Fund

ISSUE 3

Newsletter January 2020

**Celebrating 14 years
and 29 bursary students**

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

Message from the Trustees

This is our third Newsletter to everyone who has helped us or expressed an interest in the Charity. Linda's Fund was set up in 2006 to improve educational provision for the 600 pupils of Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School in Malawi, through bursaries and school projects. Girls and boys have equal access to the funds. Mulanje School is partnered with Fortrose Academy on the Black Isle in Scotland.

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.

Charity News

It is 14 years since the Charity started and in that time we have had 7 streams of bursary students. 3 new students commenced their courses in 2019. There were also 3 students completing a 3 year course giving a total of 6 students being sponsored in the year. Three new students will commence courses in 2020.

Since the start of Linda's Fund in 2006 29 students have been awarded bursaries for the following subjects.

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

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



"My name is Alice Chisannga from Mulanje Mission. I would like to say thanks to Linda's Fund now I am a real plumber and working at one of the big companies. I am able to install plumbing, service and maintain it."
Alice completed her course in June 2019.



**Paul Thomas at Nasawa
Technical College**



**Simon Williams is running a
project training youths and
vulnerable women as an
instructor.**

**Our website is
www.lindasfund.org.uk**

Bursary News

Students receive payments towards accommodation, course and exam fees and were appropriate an initial allowance of up to £80 to help with safety equipment, stationary, text books and course equipment. With many courses now requiring computers we have also started to part fund computers for some students up to £150.

Most courses run for 2 years (4 terms) and some have an additional year when the students are given practical training in a company. Occasionally students take a further year of the subject to a higher level. In any one year we can be funding up to 8 or 9 students. On finishing the majority have paid employment or have started their own businesses. Some videos of the students are available on www.lindasfund.org.uk

Students starting in 2019

Two Gweta	Auto Mechanics
Joanna Manyozo	Human Resources
Austin Chalimba	Welding Fabrication

Students completed in 2019 (all in 3rd Year) are

Alice (Stella) Chisannga	Plumbing
Paul Thomas	Motor Vehicle Maintenance
Timothy Kasimidwa	Electrical Installation

Project News

Fortrose Hall, opened in 2014, continues to be well used by the school and the community. Due to the school's largest enrolment in 2020 the hall is used regularly for teaching.

Teachers houses which we have co-funded with others are still not completed due to finances not being available from various sources. We provided some further funding of £1000 and that together with other funding of around £5000 from other sources should make the houses habitable in 2020. The total project was about £35,000 for 2 houses but has taken 2-3 years due to lack of finances. No government money has been provided and all funding has come from either the local community (in the form of sand and gravel) or outside sources similar to Linda's Fund. The project now has roof and windows, concrete floors and internal plastering and is awaiting the internal fitout of plumbing and electrical wiring in early 2020. The provision of housing is seen as a major way to recruit and keep the best teaching staff.

The school is looking for future funding for classrooms and further teachers housing.



**Teachers houses under
construction.**



Business Start-ups and Tools

In the past we have obtained funds and also had tools donated to help bursaries start-up their businesses.

All students that graduated in 2019 have benefitted from tools left during our 2018 visit and we hope to take more tools on the next visit.

If you would like to donate tools or money specifically for tools or computers, or to find out other ways you can help, do please get in touch with the Charity. We can also provide a list of required tools for various courses.

The students undertook to try and pay back the cost of tools into the fund over 5 years after starting work.



Our local community Newspaper Chatterbox carried an article on the Fund in the Summer of 2019.

Fundraising

Fundraising events in 2019 included a stall at the Black Isle Gathering event showcasing the charity and raising £210

A bucket collection at the Ross County/Kilmarnock Football game raising £380



2021 Malawi Trip

Fortrose Academy pupils visited the Mulanje Mission school in 2018 and intend to visit again in 2021. Each pupil is currently raising funds in the community both for the trip and also for Linda's Fund bursaries.

Videos of two of the bursaries are included on the website at www.lindasfund.org.uk



Fortrose students in Mulanje in 2018



Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School

Student Profile

Simon Williams

Simon went to Mulanje school but was unable to attend college after completing his secondary education in 2014. With a bursary he studied Brick Laying at Mintengo College graduating in 2016. He was so highly thought of by the college that he stayed on at the college as an instructor. In 2019 he was running a project named Hope for youths to train both men and women in carpentry, joinery, plumbing, bricklaying, electrical installation, steel fabrication and welding. The project ends in April 2020 but he is very confident that he will get another job. With his salary he has been able to purchase a motor cycle which allows him to travel to different villages as an instructor.

"I am living a happy life all because of Linda's Fund grant. My thanks to all members and supporters of Linda Fund.." Simon Williams



Simon Williams one of our 2014 bursaries.

Finances

Course and accommodation fees have increased from approximately £250 a year in 2008 to currently £700 a year. All UK funding goes to Malawi with no costs in UK (apart from bank charges).

Our yearly expenditure in 2018/19 was £5,585 and income was £825. The balance came from our reserves. The fund maintains reserves to allow students to complete courses but we are close to that figure now as costs and demand have grown. Linda's Fund is run by a small group of volunteers including teachers and family in Fortrose. A Malawi committee, which disperses the funds, includes the Headteacher as Chairperson, teachers and parents. The Fund has charity status in the UK and over the years has distributed over £67,000 between projects and bursaries. This money has been raised by generous donations from individuals, sponsored events, pupils fundraising and company donations. The long standing link between Fortrose Academy and Mulanje Mission continues to flourish and be supported in both communities.



The link between Fortrose Academy and Mulanje Mission continues to flourish

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 its students.

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

Or by post to

The Treasurer

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Academy Street

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