



# ZOA NEWS

*Zambia Orphans Aid supporter newsletter*



We welcome ZOA's newest grassroots partner, **Twatasha Community School**. The centre was set up because there were insufficient state school places in the peri-urban district of Kafue which were accessible to children with disabilities. Twatasha is an inclusive school which provides an opportunity for disabled pupils to learn alongside their non-disabled peers. This breaks down the shame and stigma around disability whilst ensuring all children can access an education that will provide them with the skills they need to thrive.

Twatasha has about 750 students enrolled, and encourages children with disabilities to attend alongside orphans and children of parents with disabilities, as well as those from single parent homes, child-headed households and other highly vulnerable young people. A high proportion of malnourished and HIV+ children are referred to Twatasha. At present, ZOA is supporting Twatasha with an appeal for 200 new desks and chairs to help improve the quality of the learning experience.

## Inside...

New trustees.....	p 2
Solar lamps are go...	p 2
Lubushi update.....	p 2
Africa Day event.....	p 3
The Big Give.....	p 3
Ways to help.....	p 4

**Don't forget to use  
smile.amazon.co.uk  
to support ZOA-UK  
every time you buy  
online!**

## Welcome...

It has been a busy start to 2022, with a new partner joining the ZOA family and two new British Zambian trustees being appointed to the ZOA-UK board.

We warmly welcome Mwelwa (Rumbi) Mukwashi and Florence Bili, who both bring considerable experience and enthusiasm to the board.

**Rumbi** is a British policy professional with Zambian heritage, working in the UK civil service. She



hopes to contribute to supporting the increase of opportunities open to youth in Zambia, while encouraging young people in the diaspora to get involved in giving, governance and nation building. Meanwhile,

**Florence** is a British Zambian lawyer and leads on children's safeguarding for a local authority.



*And there **WAS** light...*

**We shone a spotlight on the need. You generously responded. And now hundreds of orphaned and vulnerable children across Zambia have received solar lamps from ZOA, throughout our network of grassroots partners. Thank you for your support.**

It's all part of ZOA's goal to remove barriers to education. Because of unreliable (or non-existent) electricity supplies, our students told us that they were struggling to complete their homework at night. The unpredictable power situation was exacerbated by the chores that many young people are expected to do after school and by Zambia's proximity to the equator, meaning it is usually dark shortly after 6pm, regardless of the time of year.

We can't move Zambia (!) but the lamps – simple and effective – are now making a real difference to young people like Janet from **Hope & Faith School**, pictured above, who is studying to become a nurse.

## So far, soap good...

The water supply to **Lubushi School**, Northern Province, has been improved, thanks to the installation of a new borehole, solar pump and 10,000-litre storage tank. The more reliable water supply is also helping the school to ensure their 1,200 students are regularly washing their hands. We are providing soap to every school child to help reduce the spread of infections such as COVID-19.



## Thank you

### Geoffrey Croome

As well as the 'hellos', we also say some heartfelt goodbyes in this issue. We were very saddened to hear of the the death of our recently retired Trustee, Geoffrey Croome, who passed away in April.

Geoffrey lived in Zambia for many years and was a founding trustee of ZOA-UK in 2006, acting as Secretary,



and only stepped down last year. He was a much loved and highly respected member of the ZOA family. Our thoughts are with Geoffrey's family at this sad time. We will miss you, Geoffrey!

### Tony Atcheson

Born in Mufulira, Tony moved to the UK with his wife Jill in the early 1970s, but remained proud of his Zambian roots.

Jill writes that she 'crammed his funeral service with fabulous music to emphasise all the things he loved in life: *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* for the rugby he loved, *O When The Saints* for St Stephen's School in Balla Balla, Bulawayo. 'So many people wrote afterwards "that is the best funeral I have ever been to!"', she adds. The retiring collection for ZOA raised an amazing £3,774. Thank you!



With the current sunny weather, Christmas may seem a long time ago now (or sneaking up again too quickly, depending on your perspective). We'd like to give a huge ZOA pat on the back to all of you who supported The Big Give – you raised an outstanding **£8,213.15!**

### Africa Day ZOA supporters evening

We were thrilled that so many of you were able to join us on Zoom for our virtual celebration of **Africa Day**. Held on 25 May, we reflected the Africa Day theme of Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security and explored how ZOA is addressing these issues across Zambia. The informal evening was hosted by ZOA-UK chairperson Garnet Mulomo, who also reminded us of the wonders of nshima!



### Are you LinkedIn?

We have launched a new presence on the professional social networking site, LinkedIn. We hope this will help keep you informed of ZOA's activities between the publication of our newsletters, which will continue. Sharing our posts on social media helps ZOA reach new audiences, so please do look us up and **like/share our content** with your friends, colleagues and connections.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter – just search for ZOA-UK!

We get it. Times are hard. Just as we are learning to cope with COVID, there's an horrific war in Ukraine and a global cost-of-living crisis. This affects us every time we go to the supermarket or (sharp intake of breath) top the car up with fuel.

While ZOA relies on donations from generous people like you, we also recognise that discretionary giving is under pressure like never before. With that in mind, we present a few ideas for supporting ZOA even if you are unable to give as you usually would.



Hold a **coffee morning** and gift the proceeds to ZOA. If you like doughnuts with your brew, did you know that you can buy a 'fundraising dozen' from Krispy Kreme at a specially-discounted rate, so that more of the money can go to ZOA? See [krispykreme.co.uk](http://krispykreme.co.uk).

Talk to your **employer** about any charitable giving schemes they offer, which may include match funding or tax-efficient salary sacrifice. Or talk to your colleagues about ZOA and consider clubbing together to 'twin' fund a desk, an office chair or blackboard, for example (see front page).

Sporty? Musical? Funny? Why not run your next race as a **sponsored event** for ZOA? Or hold a concert? Or a comedy evening? Have fun as you raise money!

## News in brief...

ZOA has helped **BBC Africa** in the production of two new podcasts released in June 2022. 'I was scared of the night' is the subtitle of Vasco's story, whose life was transformed when his parents died in a car accident. Search for #TheComb to listen.

We have been receiving glowing reports as some of our supported **tertiary students** reach milestones in their learning. We are proud of all their accomplishments!

All the best to **Steve Andrews** who is running the London Marathon for ZOA in October. Thanks so much!

## Indicative costs

A few ways that ZOA uses your gifts:



A new **laptop** for one of our supported tertiary students – £260

A locally-made **desk** to help our Twatasha pupils learn – £25



Two new **seats** to accommodate students currently learning from the floor – £50

A term of nutritious **school meals** to help a young person focus on learning with a full stomach – £7



## If you'd like to make a gift today, please donate by:

- visiting [www.zoa.org.uk](http://www.zoa.org.uk) to donate online
- sending a cheque for 'Zambia Orphans Aid UK' to ZOA-UK, 2A Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham, Cambs, CB21 4ES.
- calling Katy to discuss other ways to help on 01223 901 006 or email [katy@zoa.org.uk](mailto:katy@zoa.org.uk)

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