

NEWS

Safe Hands

At the beginning of February the volunteers and staff at The Old Boot Factory, Chesham, were very pleased to welcome Adrian Hatch as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Adrian comes to Workaid from his previous position as CEO at Safe Child Thailand but is no stranger to aid/development work in Africa. Earlier in Adrian's career he spent six years at Build Africa developing projects that improved the education and career prospects of young people in Uganda and Kenya. Adrian will be visiting projects in Zambia and Uganda in May to see at first hand the positive impact Workaid has in communities there.

Adrian's arrival sees Rob Levine take a step back from day to day involvement but he has kindly agreed to continue to support Workaid by raising funds to support our projects in the UK and Africa.

We would like to thank Rob for all his hard work seeing us through a difficult time following the loss of John Fox.

Another person to whom we are most grateful is Tom Campbell who, like Rob, is stepping back but not leaving us. After 19 years as Head of the Knitting Machine section Tom has decided to relinquish the reins and take life a little easier.



Adrian Hatch, CEO



Adrian in the workshop

SURVIVORS

The Magnificent Seven



Sheku

Every now and then Workaid is approached to help small groups in other parts of the world. On this occasion we were able to play a part.

The Magnificent Seven are a group of polio survivors living in Freetown, Sierra Leone, a country where prejudice towards the disabled makes an already difficult life almost impossible. Workaid was asked to provide hand tools for a variety of skills, so that they could set up businesses to support themselves and show how a disability should not exclude you from being an active member of your community.

Through the combined efforts of several individuals and organisations in both the UK and Sierra Leone a consignment of equipment was delivered shortly before Christmas. Already we have heard how this hard working group have begun to make and sell a variety of products ranging from sandals and rucksacks to bedspreads for a



Abu



Kadie

local hotel. They have been so successful that repeat orders are being made, a great sign for the future.

If you would like more information please have a look at www.peterbates.org.uk/home/development-work-in-africa/seeking-support-for-sierra-leone/

"We have changed that community ideology about disabled people. Our neighbours and people who pass by admire us so much because we are dedicated and hardworking."

Kadie, Marie & Samantha

MORKISWA Community Skilling Institute (MCSI)

NO LONGER a man's world



In recognition of International Women's Day, which was the 8th March, we wanted to highlight the achievements of a group of women trained by the Chichetekelo Outreach Partners (COP), Zambia.

COP are based in Kabwe, north of Lusaka. They offer skills training in knitting and tailoring as well as electrical, metalwork, carpentry and masonry. In May 2015 COP received a consignment of equipment from Workaid. Receipt of this equipment enabled COP to almost treble the number of trainees enrolled with them across the range of subjects.

A group of five women participants have now come together to form an officially registered company and have been

awarded two contracts. The first is with the Zambia Electricity Supply Company (ZESCO) Kabwe Branch to construct five power supply transformer sub-stations. The second contract is with DACANA Home Based Care to supply 26 window frames, eight grille doors and carry out some minor welding jobs.

Billy Sichamba, Director of COP, commented "We are extremely excited by these women's achievements because these are trades which are commonly done by men here in Zambia, but they have proved that females can embark on male dominated trades."

We at Workaid are also very proud of their achievements, congratulations to everybody involved.



Francis Okech, Kisoko

In December 2016 Workaid shipped over 90 boxes of equipment to MCSI. This project provides both formal and informal training to over 350 students in one of the most deprived areas of rural Uganda. As a fully registered training institution the majority of their students sit certified courses leading to much stronger employment opportunities. With over

60% of the students sponsored by other international charities MCSI work very hard to maintain high standards of training.

"We are training very rural poor youth who cannot afford to pay school fees and cannot afford the simplest and cheapest tools like screwdrivers. That is how desperate we can be as far as tools are concerned."



Chichetekelo Outreach Partners

MUTANDA Christian Life Students, Uganda



The group has wasted no time in putting the tools and equipment sent from Chesham to good use.

By the end of January they had already taken on many new young people as students in a wide variety of practical skills training courses.

They have also opened up these resources to the wider community to maximize the benefits. Local people who already had the skills are able to bring their own timber to make furniture for use at home or to sell. Items made by students are being sold to generate funds to help repay the loan that was initially used for start up capital. Even the sawdust generated by the work is gathered and can add nutrients to the soil in the school garden.

HARPENDEN Spotlight on Africa (HSoA)

It is lovely to occasionally hear that the work we do and the support we give to projects has benefits beyond those we expected.

A good example of this was recently told to us by HSoA who have been awarded a very significant amount of money from Proctor & Gamble. The grant has been given to fund a new Design Centre for tailoring and carpentry workshops for the Musoto community in Eastern Uganda.

Wendy Howson from HSoA wrote to us to say, "You have made this all possible. Before you supplied the sewing machines and carpentry tools, the needy community of Musoto had no access to skills training in tailoring and/or carpentry."

Chairs and desks made by students of the project are now being sold to other schools in the region generating some much needed funds for learning materials for the HSoA project.



Graduation Day for the tailoring class



Container Henry VI's Toolkit

Our 9th container of 2018-9 left Chesham on 31st March, bound for the Vwila Foundation in Lusaka, Zambia. Workaid was lucky to secure funding for shipping from the Eton Action Committee at Eton College. The boys from Eton chose the container's name to reflect the founding of the College during Henry VI's reign in 1440. The tools and equipment will provide many starter kits and will be sent to 37 projects, including youth empowerment projects, disabled care training centres and correctional facilities.

Emmanual Zulu, Workaid's co-ordinator and representative in Zambia, will be overseeing the distribution of tools to projects, which will enable so many students to learn new skills.

HELP US, please

One of the biggest challenges faced by any charity is securing regular, predictable sources of funds. Workaid is no exception. Without this it is much more difficult to plan for the future or maximize any unexpected opportunities.

Over the last ten years Workaid has made huge progress in its efforts to generate as much of the funds needed as possible through development of the Workaid Shop, eBay sales, Forecourt & Craft

sales and workshops. However we have identified an area where we hope you can help...

By signing up to be a Workaid Friend you can give us the ability to help add to the tens of thousands of people we have already helped.

Whether a large or small amount, it all helps and is very easy to do. Just go to our website and follow the instructions on the Make a Donation page or fill in our Donation form.

YOU REALLY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- **£5 per month could provide two large carpentry sets for a training centre.**
- **£10 per month could pay for skills training for 20 people per year.**



Have a look at our new crafts booking page. You're bound to find something you want to do and booking online is very easy!

Here are examples of a recent floristry workshop held in the Hive at Workaid. Workshops in May include Block Print and Hand Embroidery, Pop-up Box Cards and American Block Patchwork. The crafts sessions are led by excellent tutors, they are fantastic value for money, and they are a great way of having fun and exploring one's creativity while making a contribution to Workaid.



www.workaid.org/workshops

10 YEARS at The Old Boot Factory

In November 2008 Workaid moved into The Old Boot Factory in Chesham. Here are a few facts and figures on what we have sent to Africa in the ten years:

- **71 containers shipped**
- **10,000 sewing machines**
- **1,700 knitting machines**
- **2,500 carpentry kits, consisting of 120,000 individual components!**
- **1,800 typewriters**
- **800 horticultural kits**

Plus 2,800 other skills kits from electrical & plumbing to masonry & leather work. Over 48,000 boxes packed.

Most importantly... over 3,000 projects have been helped in ten years.

All of this could only have been achieved because of the phenomenal number of hours of work given by our volunteers.

We are very sad to report that our Chairman Keith Irvine passed away peacefully on 6th March 2019. Keith had been suffering with cancer but despite the sometimes evident pain he remained remarkably uncomplaining, continuing to come in to Workaid to help out with IT and other issues until very recently. We hugely valued Keith's compendious IT knowledge as well as his wisdom and judgement on a range of issues – he will be much missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Margaret and their delightful family.

Trevor Bartlett will be acting as Chair until the AGM in July. As the finance expert among the trustees Trevor has a detailed understanding of how Workaid works, so we are sure he will take up the reins capably and with his usual good humour.



Keith Irvine