

# WORKAID<sup>®</sup> WORLD

## We've moved!

**After almost a year of searching for our own premises, Workaid has a new home – a former boot factory in Chesham, just three miles from our previous headquarters in Amersham.**

**T**hanks to the tremendous response to our Premises Appeal, which has raised £200,000 so far, the trustees were able to put down a deposit and raise a £400,000 loan to buy the factory. The sale was completed on 15th September – just in time to meet the deadline to be out of our old premises by 31st October.

Chairman Sylvia Parrott MBE said: *"It has been wonderful to see so many people contributing to the appeal and showing that they want our work to continue. The boot factory offers us a tremendous opportunity to expand our operation so we can carry on doing what Workaid was set up to do – giving more disadvantaged people in Africa the chance to help themselves out of poverty."*

September and October were an incredibly busy and exciting time for all the volunteers and staff as we moved out of our old address and into the new one. The huge operation of transferring each

workshop department to the new site – as well as our stocks of donated tools and equipment – was made easier thanks to a large lorry with a tail-gate and a driver, loaned to us free by one of our patrons, Gary Grant, who owns The Entertainer toyshop chain.

The three-storey Victorian factory is almost three times the size of Workaid's former headquarters – offering 13,667sq ft of workshop, storage and office space for the charity to grow into. The plot is two-thirds of an acre, providing more parking spaces for volunteers and visitors as well as room to store shipping containers on site, which will be a tremendous advantage for our operation.

The premises are an ideal investment in Workaid's future and should enable us to send even more tools and equipment to training projects in Africa in the years to come. Before that can happen, however, the building needs some renovation after

*"It has been wonderful to see so many people contributing to the appeal and showing that they want our work to continue"*

standing empty for three years.

Workaid's workshop operations manager Kevin Ling, who is supervising the project, said: *"We are delighted to be bringing this Victorian building back into use – to be 'recycling' it in the same way that we recycle tools and equipment and giving it a new lease of life."*

The cost of the renovation work has been significantly reduced by the amount of free labour put in by volunteers and some generous donations in kind, but it is still expected to be at least £60,000.

Whilst the Premises Appeal has been very successful so far, we still need to raise £400,000 to repay the loan as soon as possible, as well as fundraising for our work in Africa which costs around £200,000 a year.

Please support our appeal and help secure Workaid's future – enabling the recycling of tools for disadvantaged communities to continue. Donations can be made via our website [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org) or by sending cheques payable to 'Workaid Premises Appeal' to our new address below.

**See inside for more on Workaid's new home.**

*Workaid trustees witness chairman Sylvia Parrott and finance director Peter Harper signing the contract for the new premises.*



**Our new contact details from 1st November 2008 are:**  
**Workaid, The Old Boot Factory,**  
**71 Townsend Road, Chesham**  
**Bucks HP5 2AA**  
**Telephone number: 01494 775220**  
**our email and web address**  
**remain the same**

# Good news from

**Volunteer Sue Gotley made a four-week visit to Zambia in September, to see how our partners at the Community Institute for Youth Development (CIYD) were coping following the sad death of their director, Latima Bupe, in February.**

**T**he loss of Latima led to a delay in sending Workaid container 'Samuel' but it finally arrived in Ndola in August. Sue was able to spend time with Brian Mwila, who worked with Latima as his assistant director and has now taken over the running of the institute.

Aged 28 and married with two young children, Brian has qualifications in social work and administration and was previously responsible for co-ordinating CIYD's development and welfare programmes. Sue said: "Brian dealt with the complicated business of applying for tax exemption, the release of the container and distribution of the goods extremely well and, at the time of my visit, all but three of the 24 projects to benefit from the consignment had already collected their goods".

Apart from dealing with the release and distribution of goods for Workaid, our partners overseas also play an important role in the assessment of projects. Sue was able to visit several projects with Brian and give him guidance on Workaid's evaluation criteria.

One of these was the New Hope Christian Centre in Ndola – a truly inspirational project run by Rev. Christopher Mubanga, that has been helped by Workaid on two previous occasions.

The most recent consignment, consisting of 26 boxes of sewing machines and tools for carpentry and mechanics, was sent on container 'James' in 2005. Workaid received a further request at the end of 2007 and an assessment visit was necessary to see what progress the project was making and what use was being made of the tools and machines already sent. Sue said: "I was able to see for myself that the project is thriving and from small beginnings, with four sewing machines and two carpentry sets sent by Workaid in 2004, the group has grown. There are currently 65 tailoring students, 20 carpentry students and 12 students studying mechanics.



**"My visit to Zambia has left me full of admiration for the people I met, for the wonderful projects and the good work they are doing to help the poor and vulnerable in the community"**

*Many of these will sit nationally recognised trade examinations since the project has established good links with the Northern Technical College."*

Training in skills is only the first step to self-reliance and the best projects also support students after qualification. At New Hope Christian Centre, graduates are given access to the machines and tools to enable them to make things to sell. Mavis Musonda is one such graduate who has nine children. Having completed a course in tailoring, she makes clothes and has a small shop in the local market. She is now able to contribute to the family income, pay school fees for the children, has access to health care when needed and can feed her large family. New Hope Christian Centre have also investigated setting up loan schemes within the group to enable students to buy their own machines, and they also try to arrange work experience placements in local businesses for students studying carpentry and mechanics.



**Brian Mwila**

Sue said: "Alongside the training programme, this wonderful project also runs a welfare programme, providing lunch for up to 50 orphan children three days a week, paid for with money from the income generating activities associated with tailoring and carpentry.

The welfare programme also includes the provision of plots of land for women – frequently grandmothers looking after several of their grandchildren or widows left to fend for themselves – where they can grow vegetables to eat, or for sale to bring in a small income." The most recent request made to Workaid includes horticultural tools to enable this part of the project to develop further.

Thanks to the renewed relationship established with Brian Mwila, Workaid's association with CIYD looks likely to continue for the foreseeable future – giving us a reliable partner to assess projects and deliver much-needed tools and equipment.

Sue returned to the UK impressed by the efforts of so many disadvantaged people to improve their own lives and raise standards of living in their communities. She said: "My visit to Zambia has left me full of admiration for the people I met, for the wonderful projects and the good work they are doing to help the poor and vulnerable in the community. The fact that Workaid is able to respond to their needs in such a positive and worthwhile manner makes a very real and lasting difference to the lives of many, many people."



# A big thank you from Namwala

**Namwala Youth Projects in southern Zambia is run by a wonderful, caring nun called Sister Delia McEnroe, who visited Workaid in April this year. She brought with her lots of photographs showing students using Workaid tools and equipment and, on her return, sent us some inspiring letters telling the stories of young people whose lives have been transformed by the training they received. Here is a selection:**

*"I wish to extend my sincere regards. I am a married lady with five children. I also have one dependent who is an orphan. My husband stays in a different district. I went to school up to grade 12 and obtained good grades in eight subjects including English and sciences but I had nobody to send me to college. Fortunate enough, I was invited to enter NYP to be trained as a tailor and designer. On graduation, I was awarded a certificate and a sewing machine which was donated by Workaid. Since then, I have found it very easy to look after my family and it became a relief to me. I can assure you that your great contributions have improved the lives of the less privileged orphans and vulnerable ladies and gentlemen with tools etc. I would also like to appeal to you that you continue sending more donations to Zambia, particularly Namwala Youth Projects so you shall be able to uplift more lives"*

**Jane Simpito**



**Above: Mavis Musonda, New Hope Christian Centre, Ndola**

**Right: Judith at the Kawama Widows and Orphans project in Ndola**



**Sister Delia in our Amersham workshop with Sue Gotley and Sylvia Parrott**

*"I would like to thank you for the job you are doing here in Zambia, especially in Namwala, helping the youth and the poor. I am a former student of Namwala Youth Projects. I graduated with good performance so I was chosen to be an assistant teacher and I am earning wages now. Not only that but also the sewing machine I was given after graduation has helped me a lot as I am an orphan. I lost my father so no one (else) can support my brothers and sisters. I am married with two children. In order for me to survive I use the sewing machine to make dresses and shirts and other things. Through the machine I am able to support my young ones at home in terms of school fees, books and also with food. So please continue with that job helping the poor like us here in Zambia, especially orphans and the youth. There are so many of them. Not only I alone benefitted but also my friends are doing good things with their machines. So I would like to thank you very much. God bless you all as a team Workaid."*

**Finley Muchindu**

*"I hope and trust that you are fine. I am fine too. I am a woman age 28 years. I stopped schooling in grade nine due to lack of [financial] support. I have two children. I did tailoring at Namwala Youth Projects in 2007 and 2008 and I received a Singer sewing machine from Workaid. I thank Workaid and Sister Delia for the job which you are doing here in Zambia. My mother died in 2001 and I am the one who is looking after my sister and my brother.*

*The money I get from sewing supports us all at home in food and clothes. Yours gratefully"*

**Rentia Phiri**

*"I joined Namwala Youth Projects where I did tailoring courses and I was given a sewing machine after graduation. The machine has helped me in terms of food and clothes. I use it to make dresses and other things to support my family. At this time I am on piece work and am getting uniforms from the project which I make at home and am given some money. I have gained a lot from the machine I was given. Thank you for your support. God bless you all."*

**Carol Tilimwbo**

# Our new Home

## Chairman's Letter

**MOVING** into our new premises in Chesham was a major operation and it was only completed by the October 31 deadline thanks to the co-operation of the vendors, Giffard Newton & Sons, who kindly gave us access to the site before contracts were signed.

**F**or two months running up to the sale, teams of volunteers worked hard clearing the overgrown grounds and made a start on renovating the workshops and offices.

Further work to remove asbestos and install new electrics, heating and plumbing was carried out as soon as the sale was completed. Some structural work outside was also necessary, including repairs to the roof and guttering. The renovation of other less essential areas will be left until funds are available.

It took a daily run over four weeks to 'move house', loading the entire contents of Unit 2b on to a lorry and transferring them to the boot factory.

The last volunteers' shift at our Amersham workshop took place on October 17, leaving a fortnight to clear the unit completely before the keys were handed back to GE Healthcare on October 31. Normal operations are expected to be suspended during November while the new workshops are set up, then it will be business as usual at our new address from December 1.

Sylvia Parrott said: "I have been amazed by the enthusiasm and excitement of everyone involved with the move to the boot factory. We are tremendously grateful to all the volunteers who have given extra time to help there, enabling the shifts at Unit 2b to carry on servicing and packing equipment up until the last moment. To be able to start up the operation again after

*just a month is a major achievement and is due largely to the excellent project management carried out by our workshop operations manager Kevin Ling."*

Workaid's new home dates back to 1854. Five generations of the Newton family produced footwear there up until December 2005, when the manufacturing side of the company moved to India. By an amazing coincidence, one of Giffard Newton's directors joined Workaid as a volunteer in April this year and it was his involvement which enabled a close working relationship to be established so quickly. David Barnes, who lives in Chesham, helps with cleaning and picking tools on a Friday afternoon.

He explained that the firm had originally hoped to sell the factory site for redevelopment but proposals for flats were refused planning permission. He said: "The building had become fairly delapidated as we were expecting it to be knocked down, but I'm really pleased to see it being restored to its former glory by Workaid. It's an amazing set up. What they do is just so worthwhile and it will be great to see Workaid putting the old factory to such good use."

And it's not just the building that has been rescued for posterity. A photographic record was made of the factory prior to renovation, showing all its original features, and Chesham Museum was invited to look around and take any smaller items of historic interest. Curator Sue Gordon was delighted to fill several boxes with artefacts and wrote afterwards: "Thank you for allowing me to remove items for the museum's collections. So much of Chesham's industrial past has been lost and this was a very welcome opportunity."

**For more photos of the big move and the boot factory, see our website [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org)**

Everyone at Workaid has been so touched by the wonderful support we have received for the Premises Appeal. Thank you so much for the donations and for the supportive and encouraging letters we have received. Your donations to the appeal gave us the deposit we needed to buy the former boot factory and the interest payments on the £400,000 loan will be less than the rent would have been had we stayed in Unit 2b, which makes sound financial sense.

I feel sure that the Lord has led us to these premises, at first we were keen on another factory unit in Amersham and were disappointed when it did not work out. Then a few days later we learnt about the boot factory. We definitely feel the prayers of many people have been answered and that Workaid has found a secure base for the future.

We have been very fortunate over the last 23 years with sponsored accommodation. Our first workshop was an old store hut at the Boughton Factory in Little Chalfont (provided by Boughton's Engineering Co), then a prefab belonging to Amersham Free Church, followed by Unit 2b, St George's Industrial Estate, sponsored first by Amersham International and then by GE Healthcare.

This is the first time in Workaid's history that we have had to fund our own premises and we have been so blessed to have so many individuals, churches, trusts, businesses and other organisations who believe that our work is well worth supporting and have responded to our appeal. The fundraising must continue, however, as we still need to make the repayments on the loan as well as continuing to fund our life-changing work in Africa which helps so many vulnerable people.

In this newsletter we have included our gift leaflet again for Christmas. The money raised will support the costs of refurbishing and freighting the equipment you choose to give. This will ensure our core work can continue, helping more disadvantaged people to learn a trade and become self-sufficient.

**Happy Christmas and God bless you all.  
Sylvia Parrott MBE**



# Kenya still needs our help

**We are relieved that a peace settlement has been reached in Kenya whereby the people can hopefully rebuild their lives in an atmosphere of calm, following the election violence earlier this year. Now, more than ever, communities there need our help.**

**W**orkaid container 'Titus', which was stranded in Nairobi as a result of the unrest, eventually reached our partners in Kisii in May after a delay of over two months. Container Magdalene, destined for our partners in Uganda, was also severely delayed en route to Kampala but both consignments have now been distributed.

Many of the letters we have received from projects over the last six months report an increase in the number of people seeking support and training, in the wake of their homes and livelihoods being destroyed. Reverend Daniel Ong'ayi, of Chritoco Resource Centre in Emuhaya, told us: "We are safe but praying and taking care of many families that are displaced from their homes, lost employment due to destruction, and orphaned children. There is now peace and calmness. We can travel and attend to our normal activities. However, it is a problem to buy materials in towns – mostly Kisumu which experienced a lot of destruction and unrest - and there is a very high increase in the prices of items. Many families have returned to their villages and this will cause more enrolment in schools and training centres in rural areas. The project members are doing a lot of counselling and talking peace messages to people."

From another project in Mukurweini, the Kara Weteithie Self-Help Group, chairman Mr P Ndirangu Muturi Gichinga wrote to us: "Many youths who fled the Rift Valley as a result of the post-election violence are being accommodated by well wishers and many have approached our institute to assist them to learn vocational skills – over 600 needy youth need our assistance. Our capacity in terms of equipment cannot accommodate this number and we are regrettably turning them away. I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Workaid for your kind donations and request you consider us with additional tools to enable us to serve these desperate youths."

Workaid will continue to support as many projects as possible in their attempts to rebuild people's lives in Kenya, and our new bigger premises will eventually enable us to respond to many more appeals like this. But our capacity will always be limited by our resources and, just as the projects depend on us for tools, we depend on our supporters for the funds to refurbish and deliver them. You can contribute online at [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org) or by sending cheques to our new Chesham address (see front page).

## WORKAID ON THE WEB [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org)

Don't forget you can find the latest news from Workaid on our website [www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org), where you can also download this newsletter and previous editions to forward to friends and family.

If you would like to receive your copy of Workaid World by email from now on, please send an email to [admin@workaid.org](mailto:admin@workaid.org) with 'newsletter delivery' as the subject. This would help save paper, cut our printing and postage costs, and get the newsletter to you faster. **Send us your email address, subject newsletter delivery. Our email address is:**

**[admin@workaid.org](mailto:admin@workaid.org)**

## Briefly...

■ Just in time for Christmas, Workaid has linked up with ethicTrade – a website selling fairly traded clothes, handicrafts and gifts. For each purchase you make, 20% of what you pay will be donated to Workaid. EthicTrade has been set up to sell quality handmade goods produced by artisans in developing countries, giving them a fair price and access to customers in the developed world. Just click on the link on our homepage and get shopping!

■ Our most northerly Area Organisers are now in Orkney, after volunteer Andy Swain and his wife Jan moved to St Ola in June. Andy was one of our van drivers for five years and wanted to keep up his involvement with Workaid, despite living over 500 miles away! There are also changes in Leeds where one of our most active Area Organisers, David Faulkner, is now taking it easier after six years of devoting much of his time to giving talks for Workaid and collecting tools and equipment from local authority recycling centres, churches and other organisations as well as the public. Could anyone who is interested in taking over as Area Organiser for the Leeds area please call Bill in the Workaid office on 01494 775220.

■ Thanks also to the companies which continue to support Workaid with valuable 'in kind' donations of goods and services. Over the summer, we were delighted to receive six pallets of sewing thread, donated from a discontinued range by Coats Crafts, and 70 rolls of surplus fabric from British Airways when their aircrews' uniforms were changed. Bosch tools also generously gave us a large quantity of new discontinued stock.

■ Workaid now has its own Gift Aid envelopes, which make it easier to collect cash donations at church services, club meetings and private functions held in aid of the charity. The envelopes carry a photo of a mother in Kenya whose life has been transformed by her sewing machine as well as the giftaid statement for donors to sign. If you are planning an event where you could use the envelopes, please contact Fundraiser Chrissie Russell Flint in the Workaid office.

■ If you know of any manual sewing machines which haven't been donated to Workaid already, please round them up as we are running short! Singers only, please, as these are the only models for which spare parts are readily available in east Africa.

# Feedback from projects

We thank you very much for the consignment of tools and equipment for our project. The consignment in container Isaiah was received safely, containing 61 boxes. The board of governors and management committee extend our sincere thanks for your assistance and support of our vocational training programs. The tools were put to good use and have helped the youth to acquire essential skills in different fields and to be job-creators, self-employed and responsive to the labour market in Uganda. This has truly created a change in our training systems. The number of beneficiaries has increased and the practical work has improved. The programs have attracted many people and many have benefitted, the young people are well equipped with skills practically. They have managed to utilise the acquired skills to open up their working places, creating jobs and employment opportunities, and they are capable of sustaining themselves and helping their families. Again, we thank you our donors for supporting sustainable development and poverty alleviation among our people. On behalf of the whole community, we extend our sincere thanks to all volunteers of Workaid.

**Mrs Trust Kirungi, Headmistress  
Gabriel Vocational High School,  
Kampala, Uganda**

On behalf of the Komarock Self Help Group fraternity and the management committee, I wish to inform you that we are really pleased to express our acknowledgements for what Workaid has done this end. We also wish to thank Mr Christopher Otsinde, Education Secretary based at Kisii Diocese, for his responsible and

outstanding support he continues to extend. We wish to affirm that we did indeed receive the consignment of second hand carpentry tools and masonry kits in 6 boxes. We personally collected the consignment from the education secretary in good order and not tampered with at all. The project is going well especially for students that were able to register the previous year. They are progressing well except some who were affected due to the pre-election skirmishes. There is need to register more students immediately the situation is settled and resumes to normal. We wish you well in your work developing our youth. May God bless you.

**Isanda Obwoye, Chairman  
Komarock Self Help Group,  
Kisii, Kenya**

Greetings from Midpro administration together with the Community Technological Institute staff and students. May I convey our sincere appreciation for the kindness and generosity shown through the support given us in the form of tools, which are alleviating poverty amongst our people through equipping them with practical skills to help them earn a living. This donation has been of great help to boost our services rendered to the community and has brought our dream to reality. I do assure you that the donation will continue to do the work it was intended for and we shall see to it that the targetted groups benefit with tangible results. The typewriters you donated for office use, we felt we could use them for our secretarial/office practise course which many youths,

mostly 'O' and 'A' level drop-outs can benefit from in acquiring professional skills. We are now using nine of them for the training. Thank you for the second hand clothes you used for packing – they were given to children and old people so this was also a remarkable help you provided. Thank you once again. Our joy is beyond expression of words. I am attaching photos and this can tell how happy people are. May God bless you all.

**Michael Naboki,  
Executive Director Mikenis  
Development Programme  
(Midpro), Mbale, Uganda**



*Secretarial and office practice class at Midpro.*



*A brick-laying practical class at Midpro*

**WORKAID**  
Self-help Worldwide

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