

One day at a time



The newsletter of the Open Arms Trust

A letter from Neville and Rosemarie

Malawi facts

Malawi is one of the poorest six countries in the world.

Malawi has one of the highest rates of AIDS in the world.

There are over 1 MILLION orphans in Malawi.

Diary dates

March 1st at the Harrogate Brasserie.
Details from Pat Berriman
(01423 724800)
Tickets from Graham Fletcher
97 Stonefall Ave
Harrogate HG2 7NS

Monday May 7th.
Ashville College Sponsored Walk.
Details and Sponsor forms from Graham Fletcher at the College
(01423 566358)

Open Arms Infant Home
Blantyre
Malawi

Dear Pat

Congratulations on a successful launch! We were thinking of you all that evening. Thanks for the money you raised. The new verandah is a wonderful addition. We can now put the babies outside, even though we are in the midst of the rainy season.

We're now almost six months into it and well settled into our new home. We have a fairly constant 37 babies/toddlers with us. Few days go by when we don't turn one away. We are just too stretched. The extension building is already full.

A typical case came recently. Annie Fulaki was born 3 weeks ago south of here in a very inhospitable part of Malawi, very marshy and incredibly hot (41° at midday!). Her mother was 15 years old and died giving birth. Cause of death uncertain but most likely AIDS related. The father is older and already has 4 children by another wife. Catholic nuns, who do an amazing job down there, brought them the 100 miles to Blantyre. Annie is poorly and undernourished and may well have the virus.

We are very happy. Much busier than we anticipated and pleased to see Tony and Elaine over New Year. We very much look forward to our next visitors from Harrogate. Anyone who fancies a reconnaissance trip will be welcome any time.

Best Regards

Neville and Rosemarie

Open Arms Infant Home is a private Christian charity transit home for orphaned babies from birth to two years.

Open Arms Infant Home provides orphaned babies with what the family cannot: good, nutritious food, medical care and security. The babies receive an abundance of loving care.

There is no charge to the families who are encouraged to visit as often as possible to maintain a family bond.

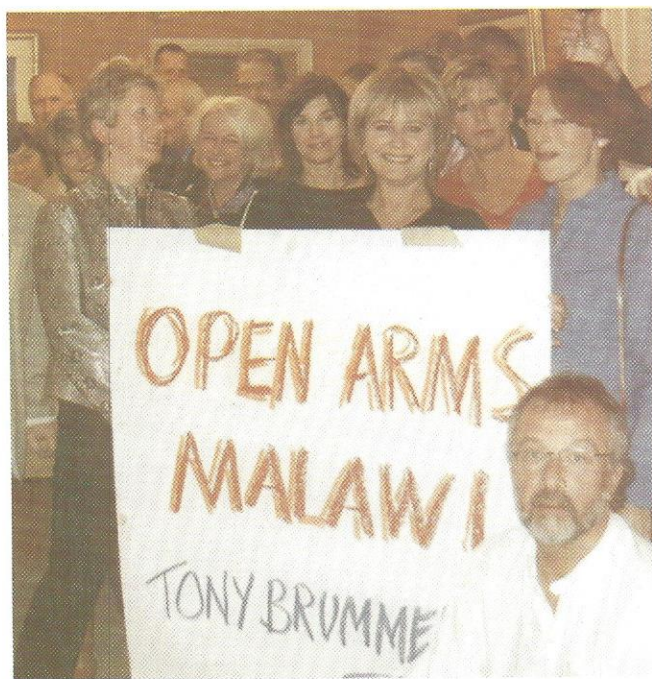
The daily 24 hour routine of bathing, feeding etc. of the 37 babies is covered by three groups of 6 nannies working in shifts, plus a cook and two housekeepers. All administration is covered by expatriate volunteers, so no such costs are incurred.



The new verandah has a roof since this photograph was taken. The babies can now have some fresh air without being drenched in the torrential summer rains.

Launch success

The Open Arms Trust launched its fund-raising in November with 'A Private View', an exhibition of paintings by local artist Tony Brummell Smith. Over 100 people attended and everyone pronounced it a great success, with most people attending looking forward to our next event. (See *Diary* at the bottom of this page)



Mr Brummell Smith kindly donated a percentage of his sales on the evening, which helped to bring the total raised to almost £2 300

Sponsored Walk

Our major fund-raising event for the year will be the annual Sponsored Walk held by Ashville College. The Headmaster, Mr Michael Crosby and the Chaplain, Rev. Paul Glass have agreed that the majority of the money raised should go to Open Arms.

The previous two walks have raised a total in excess of £45 000 and so it is hoped that we should receive at least £15 000 this year.

The Walk takes place on May 7th (Bank Holiday Monday) and goes from the College to Swinsty Reservoir and back (30 km). It is a great day out and any supporters are invited to join the walk (or just part of it!).

For more details and a sponsor form, contact Graham Fletcher at Ashville College, Green Lane, Harrogate HG2 9JP.

Diary

Our next fund-raiser will be at the Harrogate Brasserie on Thursday March 1st.

This will include a drink on arrival, a three-course meal to delight your taste buds, (wine included) and excellent live music to entertain you.

Tickets are £25 per person and available from Pat Berriman on 01423 724800. Why not get a party together?