



### Letter from the editor

It's strange to think we're nearly half way through 2021, still fighting a pandemic, and absorbing the implications around the world. Like most charities, New Ways has suffered from the cancellation of fund raising events but the needs do not go away. On the positive side, we have built new volunteer teams here in the UK to help build for the future, made some progress in increasing our social media

profile and used Zoom to good effect in regular communication. In this edition we look at some of the changes, not least our YouTube channel (please subscribe! - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp0StQLehp\\_xVvwjubbgStQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp0StQLehp_xVvwjubbgStQ) ). We also hear from both Turkana and Ethiopia.

Enjoy,

*Tony Earnshaw*  
editor

## Twenty Five years and still going strong

It's been 25 years since New Ways took shape and over that time much money has been raised, many projects supported, and a community of supporters has grown. We'll have much more on this in a special 25 Year Celebration edition in the summer but in the meantime we are very aware both that the twenty five years is something to celebrate and that there

remains much to do.

As part of recognising this milestone we have revamped our logo (see above) and will have versions which cope with the different requirements of the various social media channels.

## New Ways on YouTube

We've had a YouTube channel for some years but we now have much more content – ranging from the Todonyang school choir via insights on projects to personal stories from a range of people, teachers and nurses in Turkana, volunteers in the UK and more. Take a look – and if you haven't already please

subscribe. It costs nothing and the more subscribers we have, the more we can do with the channel.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp0StQLehp\\_xVvwjubbgStQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp0StQLehp_xVvwjubbgStQ)

## The pupil who returned - as a teacher

We have a first. The first pupil from one of the nursery schools we support to return as a teacher. Melania Cheseto attended school in Nariokotome, and is now back, a mother herself and teaching the next generation. You can see Melania telling her story on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8JA9NxPbSI&t=9s>

# Fundraising - looking forward

Fundraising activities have been hard hit by the pandemic with the inevitable cancellations and postponements. No bike ride in 2020 or 2021 and our Three Peaks Challenge has also been postponed. These events, and others, will be back though – in 2022 if not before. In the meantime, do remember New Ways as you think about getting out and doing anything which could be sponsored, as you review your regular giving and as you talk to your friends. The needs in sub Saharan Africa are not going away!

## New Ways of Giving – QR Codes

No pun intended, but we wanted to let you know we are now able to accept donations using QR codes. By scanning the QR code, just as you would in a restaurant for a menu, or the NHS app, it will allow you to make a donation direct from your mobile banking app to New Ways. We benefit from more of your donation (which can include Gift Aid) as payments are made securely via the banking app direct to us and there is no payment platform in between. The QR code can be used with all major UK banking apps and is helping charities who've had few fundraising events this past year to take advantage of a simple technology that has become so familiar to us during the pandemic. The QR code can be scanned on screen, from an email or even worn on a t-shirt!

Give it a go:



There are a couple of opportunities to raise a little now and in the coming months. Later in the year, as we approach Christmas, we will be offering an alternative gifts package so watch out for that. And right now there is an opportunity to raise funds by buying a book – more below.

## Paths and Digressions

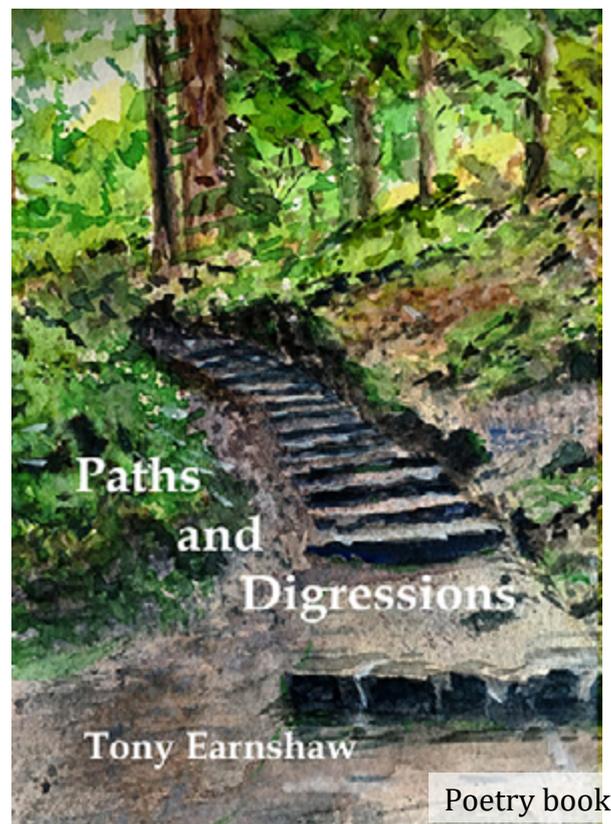
Many of you will know that our editor, Tony Earnshaw, is a playwright, novelist and poet. His poetry has been

used in the past to celebrate our tenth anniversary and as a record of the first Kenya Bike Ride back in 2004. Poetry publishing house Dempsey and Windle have now published a collection of Tony's poems and these are now available. Tony has offered to donate 10% of any income derived from sales to New Ways supporters.

Our communications supremo Steven Hayward had an early opportunity to read the collection and here's what he had to say –

*"I absolutely loved this collection of poems. Diverse and refreshing, at times sad, often joyful, but always thought-provoking. From the elegant 'Castlerigg' to the hard-hitting 'Abdullah', the provocative 'Beyond' to the heartbreaking 'I encountered death early', and the humorous 'Fox' to the shocking 'Duck Shooting' — Paths and Digressions is a remarkable collection of poetry, taking the reader on a journey through life, love, religion, politics, and ultimately humanity. And the clever opening haikus are an added bonus!"*

You can get your copies from Tony's website and ensure he knows you're a New Ways supporter by entering 'NewWays' in the 'Order Notes' box which you'll see once you have 'proceeded to check out'. Here's the link - <https://www.tonyearnshaw.co.uk/books/>



# Muketuri - Covid in Ethiopia

St Joseph's mother and child centre serves 340 children in Muketuri in the North Shoa region of Ethiopia. The centre has 17 cows, which provide enough milk for each child to drink 250 ml a day, hens to provide eggs and electricity to pump water. Eshetu Megersa, the manager, is responsible, with his team of three, for the welfare of the cows, milking them and managing the resources they need. The hens died of a sickness early in the year and were not replaced because of Covid 19, but a new batch are now on order. The regularly pumped water supply has enabled vegetables to be grown, the animals to be watered and the mothers and children to learn about hand washing, hygiene, and water conservation.

Covid 19 meant that the school was closed from April to September, and then reopened with the children split into morning and afternoon shifts. Desks and chairs were disinfected between shifts. Teachers and staff put in an extra hour each day to make things work smoothly. All very familiar!

The women and the families of the children were very concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic and all were very participative in the new initiatives of the Centre, taking care of themselves and others in the

community. The families were very happy that even in the pandemic, there was a continuous presence at the centre helping them.

As elsewhere, Covid-19 was a major challenge. Teachers and staff were kept on full pay but many poor people lost their jobs and started having problems feeding their families, so the centre staff started distributing food - including carrots, onions, beetroot, and pumpkins. While classes were suspended, the milk which the children would have drunk was distributed to the 65 neediest families in the area with any surplus sold off. So, during the tough times, the centre and its staff were able to support the community at large.



Muketuri

## And in Nariokotome...

Another mother and child centre, also St Joseph's, but this time catering for nomadic people in north Kenya. The centre caters for 240 children from 80 families and seeks to provide a proper learning environment, potable water, and a balanced diet. It also seeks to empower the women, to promote agriculture and to improve hygiene and sanitation. A long list, although many of the aims overlap.

Much emphasis is placed on growing food, enabling the community to feed itself rather than relying on food aid, and the children are taught basic agriculture from an early age.

As with their counterparts in Ethiopia, the children were unable to attend classes once Covid 19 restrictions were imposed but the teachers were able to visit the villages and teach small groups while observing government guidelines. Food also continued to be distributed to the children. PPE was provided for children and teachers, meaning that

there was less money available for other medical needs. A case of teachers and staff rising to the challenge and continuing to care for the community.

As can be seen, the aims of these centres become even more important in a pandemic situation, even as they become more challenging to meet but the team on the ground are equal to the challenge - and your support enables them to be there.



Nariokotome