

## Island's Uzima charity bringing life and hope to Kenyan children.

Island charity 'Uzima in Our Hands' are starting to make preparations for their yearly visit in February to the Day Care Centre they support in rural Western Kenya. All the trustees of this relatively new charity live and work on the Isle of Wight and most of the financial support comes from generous Islanders.

Uzima Day Care Centre supports around 250 needy children in the region, all of whom have suffered from either being orphaned by AIDS, severely neglected, having diseases or suffering as a result of living in abject poverty.

Six brave souls from the Island are keen to visit the children at the centre and each of them has had to make considerable preparations before signing up. They have all

had to complete a fund raising activity for Uzima, get their jobs at the doctors and supply two large cases for the trustees to pack school uniform for the children in. They are expected to fit all their personal luggage in their hand luggage and have to be ready for a long flight as well as travelling overland to a remote, rural part of Western Kenya. They have to live with no running water or electricity while staying near the Centre for nearly three weeks.

While in Kenya they will be involved in shopping for the centre: buying supplies of school equipment, food and shoes for all the children. They will be travelling out by road the two and a half hours journey from Kisumu to close to the border with Uganda. They will also be involved in helping to photograph

the children for the Sponsor a Child scheme the charity runs and record-keeping of all the children. They will be working with the children in many ways, including doing lots of home visits to families who are helped by the work of Uzima.

'Uzima' is the Swahili word for 'Life and Hope' and by visiting and supporting the work done with the children in Kenya, each visitor will be bringing just that to those in great need. Please visit the website [www.uzimainourhands.org](http://www.uzimainourhands.org) and consider 'sponsoring a child' at Uzima to help the very poorest in our world.

*Trustee Steph Hickman on her visit to Kenya in February of last year.*

