

First school music centre opens in the Rift Valley

The music centre at the St Andrews Tarabete School in Kenya, built from donations in memory of former ROSL Chairman Simon Ward, was opened in January amid much ceremony, dancing, and goodwill

Mr Dickson Gitahi, Board of Management and a founder of the school, told assembled guests, which included the Hon Martha Wangari, MP for the Gilgil constituency, that the school was now the first in the Rift Valley to have a music centre.

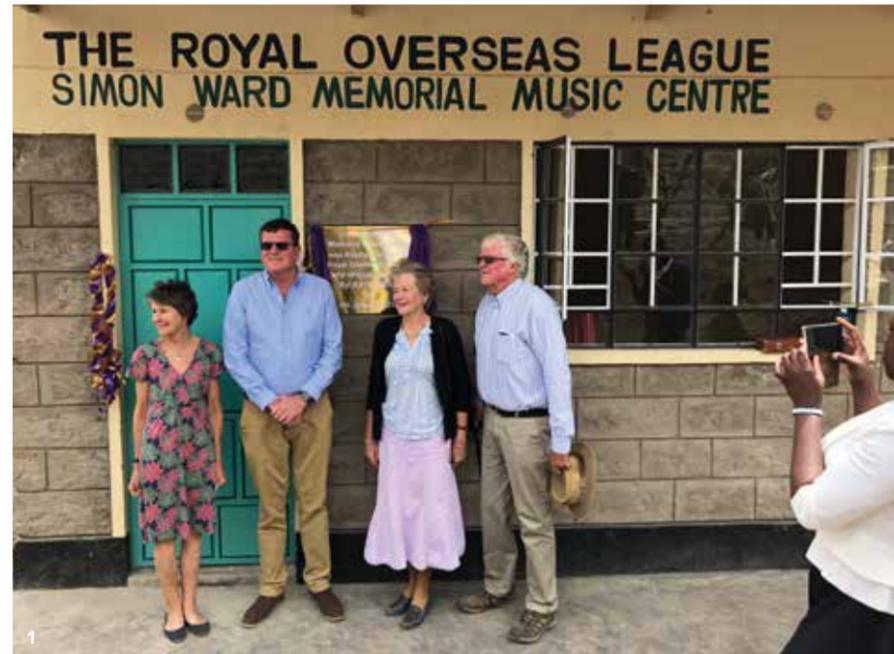
Raye Ward, Simon's widow, sent us this brief report of the occasion: "The ceremony started with entertainment from the students of the Music Club who danced and sang accompanied by a drummer.

"This was followed by the various speeches. Peter Low (my brother) had been involved in the supervision of the building of the centre, and had also been involved in the past with getting water to the school, as well as encouraging the building of a well, so tribute was paid to him. He, in turn, spoke movingly about the role of music in the life of a school. I said a few words and read messages from the Director-General of ROSL and the Director of ROSL ARTS, who suggested possibly twinning with the Griffins Schools Trust.

"The arrival of the local Chief, Mr Musa Lokiyor, followed by the Hon Martha Wangari, MP, necessitated more speeches. However, these visitors were a huge honour for the school and community. Their presence added some interesting flavour to the occasion.

"Finally, with the formalities concluded, having taken much longer than expected, the students and guests moved to the site of the music centre

1. Raye Ward (second from right) and her family unveil the new music centre.
2. Students perform at the opening of the Simon Ward Memorial Music Centre



and I had the honour of cutting the ribbon before the building was inspected by the guests. "It was some two and a half hours later that we wended our way down the rocky road from 'the school on the hill' as it is sometimes called, concluding that we had all been part of a very memorable and moving occasion. It is hoped that in the future there will be a short amateur video and a few pictures to show to recall the day."



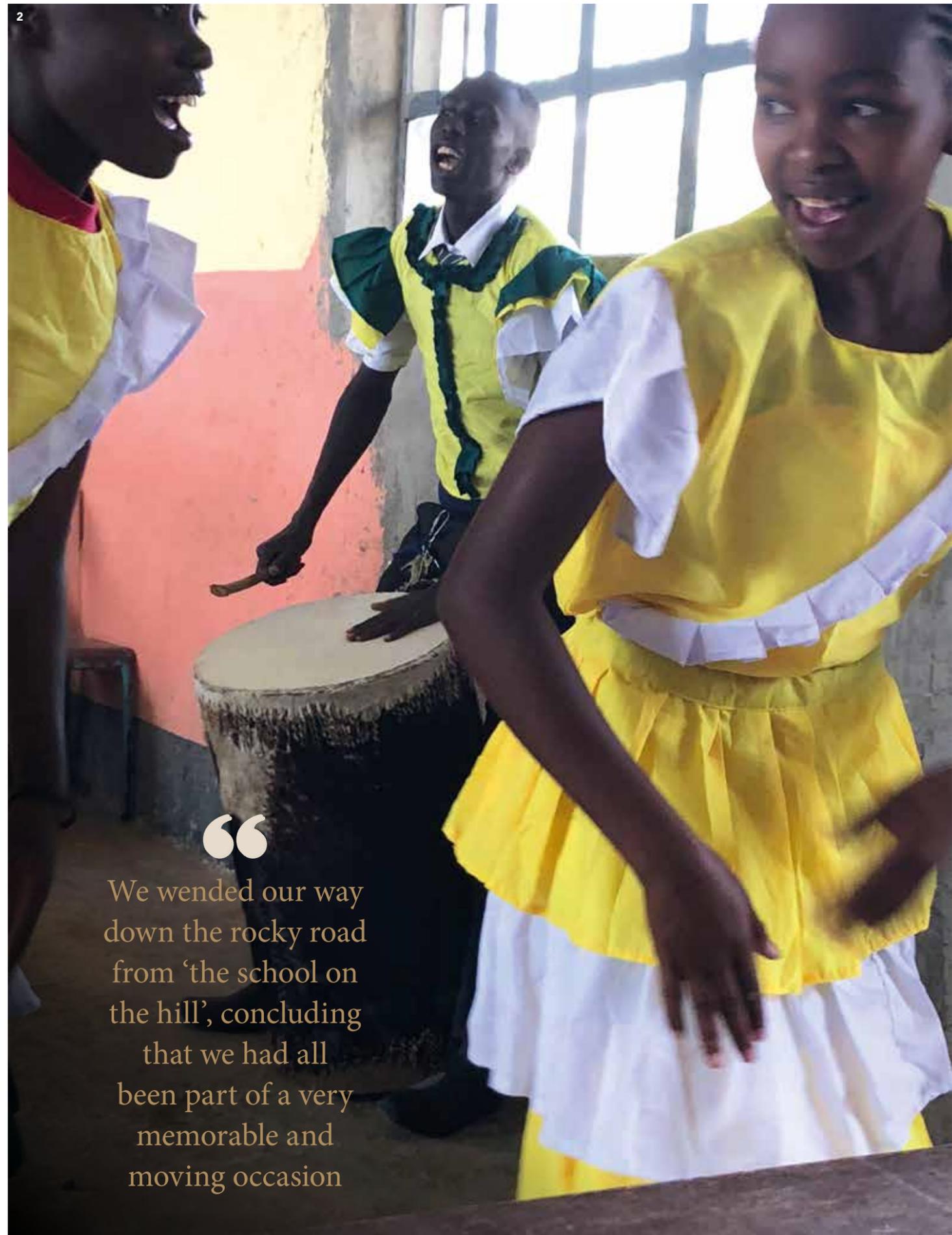
SIMON WARD PORTRAIT

Thank you, generous members
In addition to Kenya, elsewhere in the world, the generosity of members and others associated with ROSL has been further demonstrated by donations made during membership renewals including substantial support from members in Australia, Israel and other countries.

The computer lab constructed on the Solomon Islands has been helped enormously by funds of \$A22,000, raised mainly in Australia. "These were sent to Selwyn College in Honiara and work is nearly complete on construction of the Computer Lab", says the Project Co-ordinator, Mrs Christine Chamberlain, Deputy President of the ROSL Victoria Branch. When complete, the lab will be opened by Australian High Commissioner to the Solomons.

If you would like to donate to this or ROSL's other humanitarian and education projects, please visit www.rosl.org.uk/humanitarian/how-to-donate.

In keeping with ROSL's tradition of hanging portraits of past-Chairmen, ROSL ARTS and Metro Imaging have recently collaborated on this portrait of Simon Ward, which now resides on the first floor at Overseas House, London.



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