

# 2015 Annual General Meeting

At its 2015 AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> November KOA handed over to representatives Jon Beale and Jamie Walling of Standing Voice the final instalment of the £28,310 that Kennington has raised for the charity this year

In accepting the cheque Jon said:



*What KOA and Kennington residents have done for Standing Voice is phenomenal. When Standing Voice applied to KOA for support, our health work was in its early stages and needed a step up. We now have international recognition for the work we do due to KOA giving us the support we needed to expand our positive impact on the lives of people with albinism in Tanzania. What KOA does is unique in today's world. For a village to come together to generate such support for charities like ours is a spectacular show of unity and compassion. We value that greatly, both as a beneficiary organisation and as an organisation who shares the same values of fellowship and humanity.*

He and Jamie also said how impressed they had been by the questions asked by the group of older children at St Swithun's School, with whom they had discussed the work of Standing Voice that afternoon.

Cheques for £1,000 each were also presented to the Children's Radio Foundation (CRF) and Lunch4Learning, charities with which Kennington has been associated for several years.

Charlotte Bannister-Parker of CRF described Kennington as Britain's most generous village, and stressed how important the KOA model of working with smaller charities is in helping them get to a new level in what they are able to do in the communities in which they are working.

The meeting recognised once again the enormous contribution made to KOA's fund-raising by Trevor Cowlett and the Kennington United Choirs, as well as our very generous anonymous donor. A special presentation was made to 8-year-old Kievan Gallagher whose busking in Oxford with his violin made him one of the most successful individual fund-raisers.



This was a record-breaking year for KOA fund-raising, and the Treasurer pointed out that we have now raised over £500,000 for development charities since our founding 47 years ago.

This is all very pleasing and positive, but the fact remains that KOA needs more people to become involved in its running if we are to continue to be this successful. We are therefore delighted to welcome Laila Ismail Khan to the committee.

However Rebecca Allison has retired as Secretary. She was thanked very much for her valuable contribution to KOA over the years. Halcyon Leonard will take over as Secretary for the time-being, but a longer-term Secretary is sought. Sylvia Vetta was elected Chair for the sixteenth time, but made it clear that she would not be available to stand again in future. The position of Vice-Chair remains empty. Clive Rodgers will continue as Treasurer.

The committee intends to set its fund-raising sights a bit lower in 2016, by running fewer events and working with three charities we already know well: CRF, Lunch4learning and the Nasio Trust. We then hope to use the time thus freed up to try to implement some of the ideas for the future of KOA which came out of the two KOA World Café events held early in 2015.