

Our Dear Readers

Greetings from Kindwitwi

First it gives me great pleasure to report the arrival of the tractor. It will make a great difference not only to us in Kindwitwi but also to our associated hamlets of Nyanda / Katundu and even to nearby areas like Utunge and Utete.



We are already planning a big celebration. Every house will contribute Tsh 1,000 to buy drinks and we expect the dancing to continue late into the night.

Our thanks to RLT and to the Directors of KLCCDA!

Food situation

The situation with food has not improved since my last Newsletter. As I reported then, the rice harvest was not good and now the wild pigs have destroyed much of our maize and many of our pumpkins. We hope for a better rice harvest next year because the tractor will enable us to extend our shambas.

News about water

You may recall that we have had a problem of getting clean and safe water to the Village for

a very long time. You will certainly remember our dreadful loss when two of us were killed by crocodiles: one woman when she was fetching water for drinking and another when she was washing clothes in the lake.

We have tried various solutions through the years:

- The Centre built rainwater-harvesting tanks, but these only really help in the rainy season.
- The Centre and donors like UNICEF have drilled no fewer than five boreholes at various times, but all wells yielded salty water that is only of limited use and, in any case, the salt content rusts the well's accessories.
- For a short while we tried to get water from Utete town but with the increased population, insufficient water built up in the tanks to maintain the gravity feed to Kindwitwi. The one solution offered us here was to pay for the water to be kept topped up. However, not only was the payment extremely high, but also it would have been a continuing cost over which we had no control.

The reason for telling you that long and sorry story is that at last there is some hope for the future. I have received a letter from the District Water Engineer saying that Kindwitwi is now a priority area for a new scheme funded by the Canadians. Already they have drilled two really big wells, one in Utete and the other in Nyanda / Katundu, and the latter will serve both Kindwitwi and Utunge hamlets. The estimates for pipework and a pipe house are now being drawn up and, although it may take two or three years, this would be a highly satisfactory and permanent solution for us.

Overleaf you will find some lovely photos taken by Melanie Bumberger on the theme of water and Kindwitwi.



Water carrying starts early in Kindwitwi.

But do you think all that effort is appreciated at bathtime by this youngster?



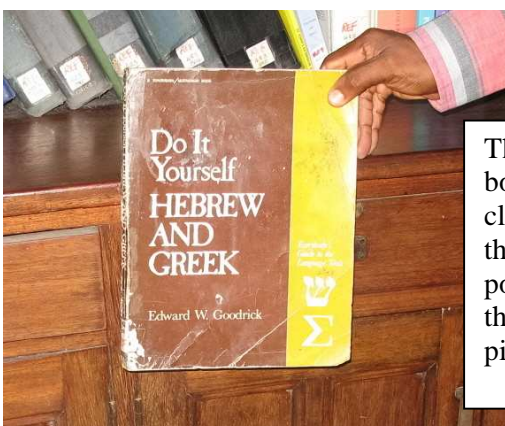
Photos by Melanie Bumberger

Bookcase for Father Robin's books

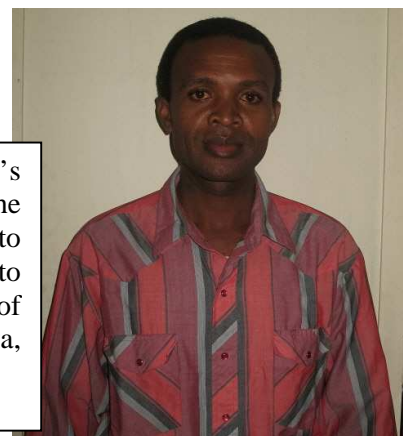
You may recall from the last Newsletter that we asked for donations towards creating a bookcase for the Lamburn Papers. We are pleased to say that the money has already been raised and Graeme Watson received this note from Father William Mndolwa, of St Mark's Theological

College in Dar es Salaam where the archives will be kept:

‘The sum of \$350 was safely banked on 28 July 2007 and we shall start work next Monday. May I thank all who so generously made donations?’



This is one of the Father Robin's books – chosen more for the clarity of its title in this photo than for its significance to posterity! The holder of the book is William Mndolwa, pictured on the right.



Our work for the next five years

Also in the last Newsletter, we showed you pictures of all those who attended the Bagamoyo Meeting ... now I can tell you something about this important leprosy work.

We concluded from the first two year's work that:

1. The incidence of leprosy in Rufiji is still very high: 4.5 per 10,000, a long way short of the Millennium Goal of <1.
2. The proportion of children affected is still very high.
3. Of newly detected patients, 4.2% are already suffering from permanent disabilities.

So the next 5-year Bagamoyo Plan will concentrate on:

1. Improving case finding and treatment.
2. Decentralising the drug treatment.
3. Redoubling our efforts to communicate the message that leprosy is curable and treatment is free.
4. Introducing Community Based Rehabilitation.

All this will cost a lot of money and we could not attempt it without your help. I will keep you informed of our progress.

Bath to Kindwitwi

Kindwitwi hosted friends from Bath in the UK. They came on 24 August for two nights. They were: Ernest Polack's sister, Irene, and her husband, Gaby; Val Mead, her husband, Geoff; Celia Mead, her partner, Innes Sibun and his two daughters, Amy and Daisy; Simon Mead and his wife, Christine. On Saturday night, we were treated to a performance of mzungu music from Innes, who is an international blues guitarist and singer. Kindwitwi had never heard anything quite like it and it was all great fun. The music and dancing continued until late in the evening.

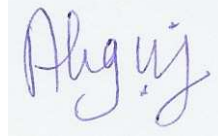
A Wedding Ceremony on 8 September

One of our KLCCDA staff, Tatu Rwambo, recently got married to one of the village boys, Salum Ngoengo. A celebration was held at the Day Care Centre. Tatu and Salum will be living in Kindwitwi. The staff and the Villagers celebrated by dancing until late at night.

[This is the third mention in this Newsletter of dancing until late at night – it's good to know that Kindwitwi has lots of occasions to celebrate!

Editorial note]

Until next time, my best wishes to all



Finally here is a letter from one of the RLT Trustees:

Dear Friends,

You may be aware that some time ago I undertook to write a biography of Father Robin Lamburn. The life of such a remarkable man surely needs recording for posterity, and I feel this is a task I could usefully perform as a member of the Rufiji Leprosy Trust.

Val Mead has given me a flying start with many items scanned from the archives she holds for the RLT, and Geoff O'Donoghue has discovered several volumes of Father Robin's diaries. These diaries start with his first departure from the UK for East Africa and they make fascinating reading. A further collection of diaries awaits me in Tanzania, and Elsa Pope's 'Father Robin Lamburn's Stories' are also a very useful source.

My purpose in writing is to ask for your help. I did not know Father Robin at all well personally, but many of you will have fond and vivid memories of the times you spent with him. Some of you have already kindly contributed your memories, letters and photographs, but more are needed! I would be most grateful if you could submit anything that may be of assistance in piecing together the story of Father Robin's life and the spiritual, vocational and other influences that moved him. No anecdote or reflection is too small to be considered. Some of you may have known Father Robin in his early life in the UK, while many more of you will have visited him in Tanzania. Maybe you didn't meet Father Robin yourself but know someone who did, in which case please pass on the message.

Please help in the writing of Father Robin's biography by sending your recollections to me by email at nrbowley@yahoo.com or by faxing me at +86 10 8777 6543.

If you would prefer to send a letter by post, please write either to Mr. G. W. W. Laverton MBE, RLT Treasurer, or to Mrs. Val Mead, RLT Administrative Secretary. Their addresses are printed on the back page of this newsletter.

Thank you very much for any help you can provide in telling the story of Father Robin.

Nicholas Bowley