

[www.RufijiLeprosyTrust.org](http://www.RufijiLeprosyTrust.org)

### Dear Readers

You may recall that early in 2006, the Kindwitwi Board of Management made a new appointment: a Leprosy Care Officer, who was to work as a Tanzanian Government employee but whose salary would be paid by RLT. They were lucky enough to secure the services of Dafres Peter Chirwa. Since then Dafres has lived in Kindwitwi and worked with Abdallah Nguyu, KLCCDA Manager. She also works with Dr Mbega at Utete Hospital and plays an important part in the Outreach Programme.



*Dafres - the only female motorcyclist for hundreds of miles*

In order to travel to her main job, Dafres rides a motorbike. She is surely the only female motorcyclist in the whole of the Rufiji District!

Since December 2006, Dafres has been helping Abdallah to provide information for this Newsletter. Because Abdallah is now so busy, Dafres has agreed to take over this responsibility and the Editors in the UK look forward to working with her.

### Leprosy Elimination

In December 2006, Tanzania achieved the WHO's leprosy-control target of less than one affected person in 10,000. This is a wonderful achievement but we would not want our readers to think that the problem is solved - far from it - and the Rufiji region is still a recognised 'hot spot', with an estimated prevalence rate in excess of 4 per 10,000.

### Nippon Foundation in London

On 28 January 2008, a Global Appeal to end the stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy was launched at the Royal Society of Medicine in London. It was a prestigious occasion and it was good to see many supporters of RLT there. Amongst those was Dr Sira Mamboya, a tireless worker in the field of leprosy and one who has visited Kindwitwi many times. Dr Sira was accompanying two children from Tanzania, who had both been cured of leprosy and were at the launch to read out the following declaration:

*"To many of us, worse than the very disease, is the prejudice that comes along with it."*

*Leprosy is one of the world's oldest diseases.  
For much of history, it was incurable.  
Countless millions suffered its disfiguring effects.  
Today, leprosy is easily treated with multidrug therapy.  
Since the 1980s, over 16 million people have been cured worldwide.  
Diagnosed early and treated promptly, leprosy leaves no trace.  
Far harder to remove is the age-old stigma.  
Based on ignorance and fear, society continues to discriminate against people affected by leprosy, even after they are cured.  
This has devastating consequences for them and their families.  
It limits their opportunities for education, employment and marriage, and it restricts their participation in community life.  
Defining a person by his or her disease is unacceptable.  
We appeal to society to understand the facts about leprosy.  
We call for actions to end the stigma and discrimination.  
We join people affected by leprosy in affirming the right of*

In his speech, Mr Yohei Sasakawa, the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for the Elimination of Leprosy and Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, spoke on the twin problems for leprosy sufferers and ex-patients. He likened the campaign to a motorbike.

The front wheel represents the medical approach of case-finding



..... the back wheel represents the campaign to eliminate the stigma of leprosy.

In view of Dafres' mode of transport, we thought this particularly appropriate!

To read more about the Nippon Foundation's good work in the field of leprosy, log on to:  
[www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/eng/leprosy](http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/eng/leprosy)

## VILLAGE NEWS

### Agriculture

This year the rains have been good and with our new plough, we are hopeful of good crops. At this time of the year, we are all busy hoeing the weeds so that our sim sim and cassava grow well.

shall just have to be patient.

### Kiwaukoki

Recently we had an anniversary to celebrate: It is exactly a year ago that our friend Melanie Bumberger organised us into self-help groups. One of these groups is called



*Photo by Melanie Bumberger*

### Too many boys!

We have tried many times to keep goats in the Village and in the past we found it rather difficult - once we even lost our goats to a snake! However, our latest attempt has been really successful, as this picture shows. The boys in the Village look after them, making sure they go back to a secure pen at night. The Village Development Association (KDA) initiated the scheme and, when the herd increases, part of the plan is to give each family in the Village a female goat for themselves. That way, the benefit of extra milk and meat is distributed fairly. Unfortunately nature has other ideas! Far more billy-goats are born than nanny-goats. Our Livestock Field Doctor tells us this is not unusual because billy-goats are conceived more readily, but it does not help us! We

'Kiwaukoki' a nickname using Swahili words that means the Kindwitwi group of sim sim and cashew-nut farmers. As well as these two crops, many banana trees are grown on their collective ten acres of land. Tomatoes and onions have been grown on a large scale for the first time. We think this venture has succeeded because it was voluntary, no-one had to join, thus pride made the volunteers work hard and co-operate with one another so as not to waste time. The group opened a joint bank account (no easy feat in isolated Kindwitwi), which they have kept in balance.

They hope that their mentor, Melanie, will be pleased to read this and wish that she could have been with them to celebrate.

## HIV / AIDS

A special unit came out to the Village in December and everyone who volunteered was tested. Back-up counselling was to be given by Utete Hospital.

## World Leprosy Day

This year the Commemoration was held in Utete town where the guest of honour was The District Commissioner. His speech was drafted by our Prevention of Disability Team (POD) and the messages it contained were those we broadcast whenever and wherever we can:

**What leprosy is – Transmission – How to recognise leprosy – Leprosy is curable – Treatment is available and free at all health facilities – Warning of complications if not treated early – Don't rely on witchcraft!**

As usual, there were songs and poems, supplemented this year by an artist and a drummer.

## POD training

We are always on the lookout for new ways to bring cured-leprosy patients back into the community. Recently some of the POD team attended a training course in Chazi, Morogoro, and others at Hombolo, Dodoma. They were designed to give us the skills to help in rehabilitating ex-leprosy patients.

## Septic surgery

In the last Newsletter, we showed you pictures of the new facilities being renovated in Utete Hospital to help patients with chronic, septic wounds. In this issue, let us tell you a little more.

Ex-leprosy patients, who have lost sensation, are particularly prone to developing chronic wounds. When the POD team on Outreach comes across one of these cases, they take the patient to Utete Hospital. There, the chronic wound is excised away, making a new fresh wound that heals more easily either by using special stitches to pull the walls of the wound together or by using a skin graft from the patient's leg or buttock. Recovery takes about four weeks, two weeks in hospital and two in Kindwitwi where patients are encouraged to do some physiotherapy exercises.

The most recent patient was Mama Tatu Sultani who came from Kilimani village. We hope to post on our website a photograph of a happy Mama Sultani saying thank you and good bye to the office attendant Mr Makabala as she waited for a lift back home.

## Stayed Awhile in Tanzania Tanganyika

from the diaries of

Elayne and Roger Moisey

We recently received a copy of this book which has intrigued us greatly. Father Robin Lamburn and Roger Moisey worked together in the Tanganyika Boy Scouts Association: Father Robin was Training Commissioner for Scouts and Roger was Training Commissioner for Cubs.

The Moiseys have written this book about the life of an expatriate family in Tanganyika/Tanzania. The book covers the period from 1960 to 1971 and of the sad, amusing and everyday anecdotes, those from 1965 onwards include many about Father Robin.

This picture is to be found on page 233 and is entitled:

'Father Robin ..... truly a living saint'.



The book is only available from the author who asks for a donation of Euro 20 to The Friends of the Trees, Greece. Plus postage.

Contact [stayedawhile@gmail.com](mailto:stayedawhile@gmail.com) or [moisey@altecnet.gr](mailto:moisey@altecnet.gr)

The following is a review by Laurel Mantzanris:

**Stayed Awhile in Tanganyika/Tanzania** is a book to savor. I was constantly amazed and intrigued by what the family stay entailed - help to the famine stricken, navigation of impassable roads, dangers from insects, snakes, lions and charging elephants. Elayne's excellent diary-keeping has allowed her to convey their exuberance in interacting with the people - the reciprocal learning and teaching that went on in the community through local schools, university classes, home teaching, sewing classes, Scouts, sundowners, safaris, unexpected guests. And all this while raising a family and building a home in their adopted land. What struck me most was that the Moiseys themselves were able to savor and accept all the experiences of a way of life they suspected to be transient, and I felt privileged to be let in on the unique joys and sorrows of a time that existed for "a while" and is gone.

## ADDRESSES

### Donations

Donations should be sent to the Financial Trustee at the following address. Bankers Order forms and Tax Declarations may also be obtained on request to:

Mr G W W Laverton MBE  
Horton House  
Puddlebridge  
Horton  
ILMINSTER  
Somerset TA19 9RL  
UK  
Tel and Fax: +44 (0) 1460 52932

### Mailing list for Quarterly Newsletters

Regular information can be found in the Rufiji Leprosy Trust Quarterly Newsletter. Written in Kindwitwi, it offers an inside view on the work, the ups and downs and the achievements and failures. To join the mailing list for the newsletter, names and postal or email addresses should be sent to:

Mrs Val Mead, The Administrative Secretary,  
17 Harbutts  
Bathampton  
BATH  
Somerset BA2 6TA  
UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1225 445180  
Email: valeriemead@hotmail.com

### Field Address:

Mr Abdallah Nguyu  
Kindwitwi Leprosy Care Centre  
Box 2 UTETE  
Rufiji  
Tanzania  
Mobile: +255 (0)713 798 529 / 741 321674  
Email: a\_nguyu@yahoo.com

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Mr Henry Wilding

The Rufiji Leprosy Trust was set up in 1982 by founding trustees, Dr Alex de Waal, The Very Rev Victor de Waal, G W W Laverton MBE and Lord Pilkington of Oxenford, to continue and extend the work of Canon Robin Lamburn MBE, who retired from missionary work to Rufiji in 1968 and, until his death in 1993, devoted himself to promoting a good life for the people in Kindwitwi Leprosy Village.

The Rufiji Leprosy Trust will continue to support Kindwitwi in its efforts to gain self-sufficiency and in the extension of the work around the Rufiji district, in cooperation with the government health service, with a view to eradicating leprosy from the area. To enable this work to continue unabated, please send donations, however small, to the Financial Trustee at the address above, ensuring that cheques are made payable to Rufiji Leprosy Trust.

All contributions will be both gratefully received and acknowledged.

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