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This edition of the Newsletter features:

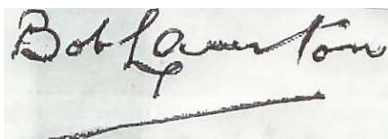
- ◆ **Update on the special appeal**
- ◆ **The Father Robin Archives in St Mark's College Dar es Salaam**
- ◆ **News from the Village comes this time from visitors to Kindwitwi**
- ◆ **A portrait of Dr Sira Mwambo of the Tanzanian Leprosy Association**
- ◆ **Extracts from the Annual Report of the Rufiji Leprosy Trust**

RLT Appeal – February 2009

This is the latest position at the time of going to press. More than half of those to whom we wrote have so far contributed the most generous sum of £13,910. This just shows that, in our present, difficult situation, as detailed in the appeal letter, we can rely on your loyalty to RLT and for this we are all exceedingly grateful.

If the remaining donors are still undecided, it would be a great help if I could take the liberty of imposing a deadline for the end of April. This will make it easier to set a budget for the remainder of the year. I will give you the final figure in the June Newsletter.

Let's go for a 100% response! Any amount, however small, will be more than acceptable and, remember, whatever you are able to give, Kindwitwi will benefit. That has always been RLT's priority, trademark and attraction.



The Father Robin Lamburn archive in St Mark's College, Dar es Salaam

Thank you to all those who have forwarded to us the correspondence they had with Father Robin.

We have received a request from Father William Mndolwa of St Mark's College for copies of these letters to be kept in the Library at St Mark's. We intend to send electronic copies of all the letters we have in the RLT archive so that they can be stored alongside the diaries and early notebooks of Father Robin from his pathology and theology lectures. We hope that this is acceptable to those RLT supporters who kindly donated letters. Therefore, unless we hear from anyone to the contrary, we shall be handing over the documents next month.

News from the Village

In February, Val Mead, a Trustee, had the great pleasure of visiting the Village. She was accompanied by a friend, Wendy Williams. Wendy worked as a director of films for the BBC and kindly offered to make a video for our use. Nearly everyone in the Village

managed to get a starring part as Abdallah, the Manager, organised the filming in his usual efficient, diplomatic fashion.

Wendy and Val went on an Outreach to the villages the other side of the Rufiji River.

The first picture shows two ex-patients happy to be receiving the attention of the POD team. The little pink pot contains vaseline to keep the affected skin soft. And the man nearest the camera is obviously pleased to be displaying his smart new sunglasses - a gift from the German Leprosy organisation.



The second picture shows Wendy being taken back over the Rufiji River by dugout canoe.



Dr Sira Mwambo

Dr Sira qualified as a doctor in Russia. It was a great honour to be chosen to study overseas but it also entailed a great sacrifice: she had to leave her two children to be cared for by

her mother. However, she has been able to 'repay' that debt many times over because she and her husband are now responsible for housing and educating **sixteen** young people, both relatives and children of friends.



4 of the 16

Currently, Dr Sira is Head of the Tanzanian Leprosy Association which is a charity sponsored by the Sasakawa Foundation. The TLA are encouraging people who have suffered from leprosy to become economically active members of their society and you can imagine that the visiting delegation got an enthusiastic welcome on arrival in Kindwitwi.

Here you can see Dafres taking a photo outside the new library to record the visit.



That is all the news for this quarter. Our best wishes and thanks to all our Readers.

Extracts from the Annual Report of The Rufiji Leprosy Trust

Chairman: Geoff O'Donoghue

Summary of the main achievement during the year

Much of our work this year was focused on the successful implementation of the new management and administrative arrangements that were put in place when Kindwitwi Leprosy Care and Community Development Association became independent. Over the year RLT offered increased support in management, planning, reporting and leprosy outreach development as a part of this process. A special vote of thanks goes to those Trustees and friends of RLT and Kindwitwi who gave their time, energy and skills to make this happen, in many cases at their own expense.

As part of this change of legal status for KLCCDA, the Trust here in the UK is moving towards being less hands-on in terms of management issues and is focusing greater energy on the long-term, sustainable funding of KLCCDA. RLT will continue to offer technical and moral support, shaped by the increasing levels of leadership and local initiative coming from the community in Kindwitwi.

While the mission of RLT remains firmly focused on the treatment and eradication of leprosy, this is undertaken in the context of building local capacity in ways that will support the long-term delivery of this service by local people and systems. For instance by:

- **collaborating with the Tanzanian government health services** in the training and development of local health staff and in the provision of leprosy outreach facilities (case finding, treatment and disability prevention). At £70,608, RLT expenditure exceeded income by £18,441, a situation that arose because of increased capital costs and increased salary rates, the short fall being financed from reserves. Tanzania recently passed the World Health Organisation 'prevalence measure' of less than 1 case of leprosy per 10,000 population. However, not only does this average mask much higher figures in the Rufiji Region (estimated at 4 per 10,000) but also the 'prevalence measure' itself takes no account of the number of untreated and undiagnosed cases.
- **supporting Kindwitwi village committee** to play an increasing role in the development of

their community. This includes managing the day care centre for pre-school children, overseeing the growing education programme for secondary school children and supervising small grants to villagers developing their own income-generating projects. The Village committee now makes budgetary submissions via KLCCDA who supports them in planning and managing their budgets. RLT's expenditure on Village development rose in absolute terms by about £6,000 and in percentage terms from 14 to 19%.

- **investing in capital projects** that improve the infrastructure and facilities of the Leprosy Care Centre and the Village. This year saw a major investment in the Village dispensary that included reroofing the whole building, replacing the solar panels and lighting and providing new latrines for the dispensary staff. One of the old stores was completely overhauled and is now established as a reading room / library with solar panel lighting that offers the students somewhere to work in the evening. The library has also been used during the day for adult classes in English and staff training in subjects such as basic computing. RLT also funded a programme of renovation for the rain-water collection tanks that are dotted around the Village.

Other changes for RLT this year include new money transfer procedures from the UK to Tanzania. This will make the tasks of cash flow and financial management much easier for the management and Board of KLCCDA.

The increasing availability and use of information and communication technologies are changing many aspects of life in Tanzania just as they are elsewhere in the world. It is remarkable to think that we are now able to call and text people in Kindwitwi when not so long ago it could take days or even weeks to pass messages to and from the Village. We look forward to further developments in the use and application of technology in the life and work of Kindwitwi and the leprosy outreach programme.

One of the enduring features of RLT has been our commitment to facilitating the sharing of skills and experience through the use of volunteers and visitors to Kindwitwi and this year was no exception: David Confino provided extremely valuable management coaching to Abdallah Nguyu, the Manager, and two sets of young women helped with teaching English to KLCCDA employees and coaching in computer skills.

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 addresses should be sent to:

Mrs Val Mead, The Administrative Trustee
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UK
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Email: mead.val@gmail.com

In Tanzania:

Mr Abdallah Nguyu, Centre Manager
Mobile: +255 (0)713 798 529 / 741 321674
Email: nguyua@yahoo.com

Field Address:

Kindwitwi Leprosy Care Centre
Kindwitwi, Utete, Rufiji

Postal Address:

Kindwitwi LCCDA
c/o Box 948
Dar es Salaam

The Rufiji Leprosy Trust was set up in 1982 by founding trustees, Dr Alex de Waal OBE, The 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 relocated 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.

Registered in the UK as The Rufiji Leprosy Trust, Charity No 286242

Registered in Tanzania as Kindwitwi Leprosy Care and Community Development Association Limited, Certificate No 58593

PATRON

Lord Pilkington of Oxenford

THE TRUSTEES

President: Dr Alexander de Waal OBE

Chairman: Mr Geoff O'Donoghue

Mr Nicholas Bowley

The Reverend Victor de Waal

Dr Sarah Feather

Mr G W W Laverton MBE

Mrs Valerie Mead

Rev Dr Stephen Plant

Mr William Powell

Mr Burchard Rwamtoga

Mr Paul Smithson

Mr B K Tanna

Mr Henry Wilding