



### This edition of the Newsletter features:

News from the Village  
..... pg 1

A New Motorbike  
.....pg 1

Shoes for leprosy  
patients ..... pg 1

A wedding ..... pg 2

Worries about the  
harvest .....pg 2

Fishing.....pg 3

Notes from the Trustees  
.....pg 4

Fundraising..... pg 4

Cycle ride to Paris...pg 4

Remembering RLT. pg 5

New editor taking over  
.....pg 5

Contacts  
.....pg 6

I thought our readers would be pleased to hear that editorial responsibility for your Newsletter has now been passed to another Trustee, Jenny Cosgrave. Jenny knows Kindwitwi well because she was there on an extended visit in 2009. She helped the management in Kindwitwi with IT and language, so she is just the person to carry the task forward. *Val Mead*

## News from the Village

sent to us by Salum Kipoloya, the orthopaedic shoemaker

### A New Motorbike

First of all, I would like to thank KLCCDA for providing me with a motorbike. This is making it much safer for me to meet my responsibilities as an orthopaedic shoemaker. As you will know, one of the consequences of leprosy is a loss of feeling in the extremities of the body, such as hands and feet. When people are working (for example making fires for cooking or working in the fields) they do not feel cuts or burns. And these can lead to infections and ultimately severe damage. Therefore, it is very

important we make shoes for those such people. This quarter I have made 22 pairs of shoes and in addition I made 9 pairs of



shoes that were specifically designed to fit the needs of people with a disability or amputation from their leprosy related injuries.

The new motorbike means I can travel more frequently and I have recently made three trips to visit patients in more remote areas, even more remote than Kindwitwi! I have been to Bungi, Mchukwi and Kibiti. One of the patients I visited in Kibiti is called Mohammed. I met him at his home and made him a pair of shoes.

In the photo in the centre of the page you can see two patients I met at the Kimbaug dispensary. Their names are (from left to right) Rajab and Kidawa. Behind them is the

*When you have read this Newsletter, please would you pass it on to a friend?  
This way, we can tell more people of the good work of RLT and Kindwitwi.*

In April this year a member of our community got married! Tabu , is the daughter of Pilli who, before he passed away was a Kindergarten teacher in Kindwitwi.

Tabu got married to Shaban from Mkuranga district.

This is significant because in the past it would not have been possible for someone from Kindwitwi to get married to a person from another village. This was because there was a great deal of stigma attached to anyone from Kindwitwi regardless of whether they had ever suffered from leprosy.

A wedding is a wonderful celebration and this event was no exception. The villagers celebrated all night with music and dancing . Tabu is the granddaughter of ex-leprosy patients. They came to Kindwitwi forty years ago from Matumbi, in Kilwa district, which is in the southern part of Rufiji . In the photo here you can see Tabu preparing to travel from Kindwitwi to Mkuranga to start life with her husband. We wish her great joy and happiness in her new life.

## A Wedding



## Worries About the Harvest



We are sad to report that this season the harvest has not been good. At the beginning of the season there were heavy rains which caused flooding particularly in farming areas. For people in our community who farm near the river basin this caused their crops (including maize, cow-peas, pumpkins, amongst others) to be damaged. For the people that grow rice the initial rain was good news as it caused the rice to seed. However, the rain stopped halfway through the season and the resulting heat caused a drought. This resulted in less rice being produced than usual.

Although it was an unsatisfying season people were able to grow cash crops such as simsim. Normally simsim is planted between January and February and harvested between May and June. This season growers were not pleased because the price of

simsim decreased day to day compared with last season. Here you can see one family from our neighboring village (Katundu), winnowing the seeds from bundles to be ready for the market. The interesting thing is that they are using mosquito nets to separate seeds and particles which are unwanted, which is much faster than the normal way of doing it



As a result of the poor harvest the government supplied three kilograms of emergency food (maize) per person for those who had been affected by the flooding and resulting drought on their farms. Here you can see that the library in the village is being used to distribute this food aid.



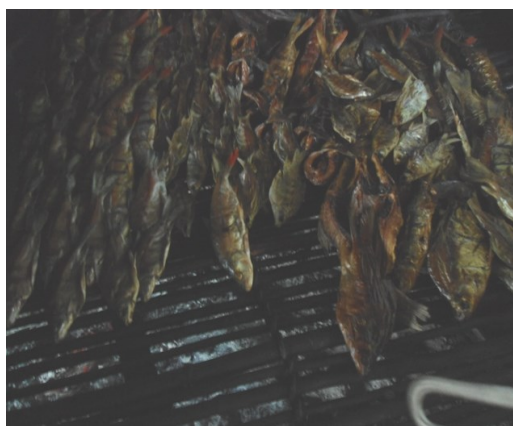
## Fishing

As well as cultivating our farms for crops like maize, rice, simsim and so forth some of us supplement our subsistence farming by fishing in the local lake. Kaimu is one such fisherman. He has three children; two are boys and one is a girl.



Here is Kaimu removing his fishing net from the water where he caught some fish.

You can also see how the fish he caught were preserved through smoking and are now ready for transportation. By preserving the fish in this way they will be edible for at least three months without going bad.



# Notes from the Trustees

Families affected by leprosy often remain trapped in a cycle of economic disadvantage as their children are kept at home to look after family members. In an effort to break this cycle, Rufiji Leprosy Trust sponsors the children of people affected by leprosy to board at the local secondary school.

In an effort to fund this initiative one of our trustees, Richard Luxmore, and his son Mathew took an exciting challenge to raise funds for the Rufiji Leprosy Trust.

Here is an extract in their own words about their trip and experience.

My son, Mathew Luxmore, and I

cycled from London to Paris via Avenue Verte, a distance we calculated to be around 233 miles.

Leaving London at 7am on Thursday 9th June we cycled to Brighton and then stopped a few miles short of Newhaven, a distance of 68 miles. We had to make a very early start the next day to catch the 08.30 ferry for France. We ate a quick breakfast on the ferry to make sure we would have enough energy for the day to come. We arrived in Dieppe at 14.30. We only had a few hours to get to Forges-les-Eaux, around 40 miles away.

On Saturday we had a 60 mile ride through the Vexin a verdant plateau on the right bank of the Seine and a further 65 miles on Sunday where we arrived at the Arc de Triomphe in time for dinner on the Champs Elysees!

At the time of this newsletter being sent out we had raised two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds out of our target of five thousand pounds.

**Thank you for your generosity and support!**



*Above: Richard in Kindwitwi with some of the students that will benefit from the funds raised on his cycle ride to France.*



*Above right: Richard and his son push on. This may not look like a steep incline but at the end of a long day of cycling it certainly feels like a mountain!*

## Remembering RLT

Over the years we have been very fortunate to receive legacy gifts from many of our supporters. If you are thinking of leaving a legacy gift to RLT, have already have left a legacy or would like to find out more about how a legacy could help the future of Kindwitwi, we should very much like you to let us know.

Please contact our financial trustee, Richard Luxmore. He will be happy to help you with the wording and arrangements.

**Email: [richluxmore@gmail.com](mailto:richluxmore@gmail.com). Telephone: + 44 (0)777 149 3283**

## New editor taking over

Val has been associated with the Newsletter for 20 years and been editor for 15, and enjoyed every minute of it.

In that time, it has gone

- ♦ from Project Officers working in Kindwitwi, reporting and sending the typed letter by post to be copied and sent out from the UK;
- ♦ from post to fax to email;
- ♦ from drawings to photos;
- ♦ from black and white to colour

— with every step of the way being accomplished by volunteers.

And this handover continues that remarkable trend: Jenny, the new editor is domiciled in Mexico City. So, the info will go from rural Tanzania to Mexico City; from there email readers will receive it directly from Jenny, but hard copy will be produced back in the UK and printed and sent out.

## How's that for taking advantage of the digital world?

*A note from Jenny.* Dear readers. I am delighted to be taking over the newsletter. Over the past 20 years Val has done an amazing job and I only hope I can continue to send you interesting insights into the world of Kindwitwi. From personal experience I can tell you that it is a special place and it is my privilege to remain connected to this community. That is all from me for now, see you in September!

*Our best wishes to you all  
from the Trustees*

## How to find us online

### OUR LOGO

Its simple design gets home the message and is in the colours of the Tanzanian flag.



### OUR WEBSITE

spreads the word about our good work:

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

### SOCIAL MEDIA

In between newsletters we like to ensure we are keeping all of our friends and supporters updated on the work of RLT and life in Kindwitwi.



<https://www.facebook.com/rufijileprosy>



[www.twitter.com/rleprosytrust](http://www.twitter.com/rleprosytrust)

**SINCE RLT STARTED** using both Facebook and Twitter, we have reconnected with lots of our younger supporters and GAP-year volunteers to Tanzania.

### DONATE

You can donate through our Website using CAF, debit cards and major credit cards. This is now an important tool for RLT and is supported by CAF online.

**CAF** Charities Aid Foundation



# Contacts and information

## In the UK

### to make a donation contact:

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Financial Trustee

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Berkshire RG8 8AF

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Tel: +44 (0) 118 984 5261

Make cheques payable to  
Rufiji Leprosy Trust.

Banker's Order forms  
and Tax Declarations  
are available either on  
request or from the RLT  
website.

### to receive the RLT Newsletter contact:

**Ms Jennifer Grace Cosgrave**  
Trustee

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Mexico City  
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The Editors are always  
pleased to hear from you  
and we should welcome  
any contributions and notes  
about your visits to or  
memories of Tanzania.

## RLT The Rufiji Leprosy Trust is registered in the UK, Charity no 286242

### THE PATRON

Professor the Baroness Sheila Hollins

### THE TRUSTEES

#### President

Dr Alexander de Waal OBE

#### Co-Chair

Dr Sarah Feather  
Mr Geoffrey O'Donoghue  
Mr Nicholas Bowley  
Ms Jennifer Cosgrave  
The Reverend Victor de Waal  
Mrs Rachael Green  
Mr G W W Laverton MBE  
Mr Richard Luxmore  
Mrs Valerie Mead  
Mr William Powell  
Mr Henry Wilding

## In Tanzania

### to arrange a visit to Kindwitwi contact:

**Mr Abdallah Nguyu**  
Centre Manager

Email: nguyua@gmail.com  
Mob: +255 0784 798 529  
*Texting is usually best*

### Postal address:

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Dar es Salaam  
Tanzania

### Field address:

Kindwitwi Leprosy Care Centre  
Kindwitwi  
Utete  
Rufiji

## KLCCDA Kindwitwi Leprosy Care and Community Development Association is registered in Tanzania, Certificate No 58593

### THE DIRECTORS

#### Chair

Mr Burchard Rwamtoga

Mr Martin Hall, CEO International School of Tanganyika  
Mrs Julian Ntukey, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
Mr Omari Mtumbi, Kindwitwi Village Chairman  
Dr Peter Sasi, Dental Surgeon at Utete Hospital

### MANAGER and SECRETARY

Mr Abdallah Nguyu

RLT was set up in 1982 by founding trustees, Dr Alex de Waal OBE, The Rev Victor de Waal, Mr G W W Laverton MBE and the late Lord Pilkington, to continue and extend the work of Canon Robin Lamburn, 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. Today, as KLCCDA becomes increasingly autonomous, RLT's primary function is to support KLCCDA in its work with the patients and people of Kindwitwi and the surrounding area. This work includes not only KLCCDA's leprosy work but also their efforts to gain self-sufficiency for themselves and those in the immediate Rufiji district, in cooperation with the Tanzanian Government authorities.