



Rufiji Leprosy Trust Newsletter

December 2017

Issue 109

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 109th edition of the Rufiji Leprosy Trust's Newsletter. Our aim is to share the latest news from Kindwitwi and show you how your funds are being spent. In this instalment two community members see pictures taken of them 30 years ago, Salum (the shoe maker) tells about his work and one of trustees reports back on a recent trip to the village. We hope you enjoy and look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.

Kindwitwi Locals: then and now!

In the early 1980s, Dr Ian Quidgley spent around eight months in Kindwitwi, staying with Father Lamburn before starting his medical training in London. He forwarded us some great pictures of his time there, and our co-chair, Dr Feather took these with her when she recently visited. People in Kindwitwi loved seeing the village as it was over 30 years ago, particularly some of the younger generation. Some people also found pictures of their younger selves.

Now in his late 40s, Salum Kipaloya, our talented shoemaker found a picture of himself with a model car he and his friend had made. He said the picture bought back many memories of playing with his friend.



Left: Mr Seif with a picture of his younger self taken more than 30 years ago.

Another local, Mr Seif recognised his younger self in some of the pictures. Mr Seif's mother moved to Kindwitwi when she became affected by leprosy. Born in Kindwiwti, Mr Seif left school at 12, and has made a living farming the fields. Now a family man, he grows a variety of produce including corn, tomatoes, okra, beans and sesame.

Now its time for some news from Kindwitwi. Our Shoemaker Salum Kipaloya writes: -

Dear Readers,

Here in Kindwitwi we are doing well and we hope that you are also. It is already the fourth quarter so that the end for this year is very close - how time flies.

Leprosy news

In this fourth quarter of 2017, I travelled to the villages of Mohoro, Mbware and Nambunju. I was able to see some of the villagers who have disabilities from having contracted leprosy in the past. Among them was Mohamed who originally came from a village called Nambunju. When he lived there (around ten years ago now) he was treated for leprosy. In the picture you can see his newly fitted shoes that I have adapted specifically for his feet. In the village of Mbware I met with a lady called Zena as she was displaying symptoms of leprosy. In the picture you can see me taking a record of her symptoms and ensuring she gets the right treatment.



Above Left: Mrs Zena with Salum at Mbware village



Above Right: Mr. Ndungutungu and Salum at Nambuju village during visit.

New case detected

We are able to report that only one new patient has been detected with Leprosy this quarter. The patient is a female and has started the treatment that will last for the next 12 months. This patient has what is known as multibacillary leprosy, which means we were able to identify more than 5 skin lesions.

News from the village

Visitors to Kindwitwi

As many readers will have realized, the residents of Kindwitwi are very pleased to have their friends and supporters stay with them. Visitors not only bring an additional income into the village, but many of them also bring some important ideas and advice. They also want to learn more about Kindwitwi, so they can share our story with our friends around the world. Dr Sarah came at the village together with her husband and her mother. During her visit we talked about the many challenges we face but also the work we are doing to make Kindwitwi a better place for us to live in.

The trustees and the villagers join in wishing all our Readers a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.



Above Left: Dr. Sarah and her husband by the Kindwitwi guesthouse

Above Right: Dr. Sarah standing next to Father Lamburn's grave in Kindwitwi

News from the Trustees

Our Trustee Sarah Feather writes

In October 2017 I had an enjoyable, self-funded, trip to Kindwitwi Village, together with two family members. We met members of KLCCDA and beneficiaries to ensure that the funds RLT sends to Tanzania are put to the best possible use. But we also found time to enjoy the hospitality at the Guesthouse, the tranquillity and the African sunsets.

Many things have changed in Kindwitwi since the Trust was first set up in 1983 and it is important that the Trustees ensure the use of RLT funds reflects these changes. Although there are far fewer villagers with severe disabilities than there were thirty years ago, there are still fifteen villagers severely affected by leprosy, some of whom are now in their eighties and have lived in Kindwitwi since the 1950s. At least half of these have no means of support at all, other than that from KLCCDA, so it is essential that we

continue to provide funds for healthcare, accommodation, food and clothing for these most vulnerable villagers.

The kindergarten is thriving. It provides essential childcare for parents while they are at work in the fields so that they can provide for their children and their elderly relatives.

We visited the secondary school and met two of the five children who are currently being supported. I advised them that, should they do well enough in their exams, then RLT would support them through their A level years too.

We spoke with the District Leprosy Co-ordinator and heard how his challenge is to ensure that rural healthcare workers can recognise the signs of leprosy now that it is not as common in their communities as it once was.

Sometimes it is hard to measure the impact of so many years of support. There is less stigma surrounding leprosy and the general standard of living in the village is far better than it was thirty years ago, but for me the story of one young lady in the village encapsulates the essence of what RLT set out to do. This young lady had just heard she had a place at Dar es Salaam University to study Electrical Engineering; her four grandparents came to the village many years ago when they found out they had leprosy, they were ostracised from society and had no hope and no aspirations. On arrival in Kindwitwi, they found support and acceptance, were able to set up homes and have a family life. I am sure they are very proud of the achievements of their granddaughter. We wish her well in her studies.

If you would like to help other Kindwitwi children please donate to our dedicated [education fund](#) established to support children for the next 3 years from Kindergarten through to Higher Education.

The [William Powell Education Fund](#) has been established in honour of Bill Powell, the inspirational teacher and former CEO of IST. Through this fund we hope to continue Bill's legacy, ensuring talented children can pursue their dreams.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for and solidarity with the community in Kindwitwi. On behalf of all the Trustees and the team in Kindwitwi we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes

Jennifer Cosgrave.



For queries, please contact rufijilt@gmail.com

To make a donation or if you are considering a legacy donation please contact:

Mr Richard Luxmore, Financial Trustee

Cherry Acre, Purley Village, Purley-on-Thames, Berks, RG8 8AF

To receive the RLT newsletter please contact:

Mrs Jennifer Garcia-Cosgrave

Rio Po 47, Apartment 101, Cuauhtemoc, Mexico City, 06500 or Cosgrave.jenny@gmail.com

To arrange a visit to Kindwtiwi please contact:

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nguyau@gmail.com or +255 0 688 810 243. Please note due to the remote location it can sometimes be best to use SMS Text message

More information:

Rufiji Leprosy Trust

Patron- Professor the Baroness Sheila Hollins

President- Dr Alexander de Waal OBE

Co-Chair- Mr Geoff O'Donaghue

Co-Chair- Dr Sarah Feather

Financial Trustee- Mr Richard Luxmore

Mr Nick Bowley

Mrs Jennifer Garcia-Cosgrave

The Reverend Victor de Waal

Mrs Rachael Green

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Mrs Valerie Mead

Mr Henry Wilding

KLCCDA

Kindwitwi Leprosy Care and Community Development Association
(registered in Tanzania, Certificate No 58593)

Chair- Mr Burchard Rwamtoga

Mr Martin Hall, CEO IST

Mr Omar Mtumbi, Village Chairman

Miss Juliana Ntukey

Dr Peter Sasi, Utete Hospital

Centre Manager and Secretary - Mr Abdallah Nguyu

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