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News from the Village

sent to us by Salum Kipoloya, the orthopaedic shoemaker

Leprosy News

Since the last time we wrote to you in June, thirteen new leprosy patients have been detected. Nine were women and four were men.

Twelve of these patients were detected through our outreach work to a number of more remote villages: **Tawi, Rungungu, Mangwi, Mlanzi, Mjawa and Kimbuga**. This process, which we call "active case finding" was carried out by our team in July: DTLC Dr. Rogers Nnally, myself (Salum) and another two clinical officers, Abdallah Mbonde (from Jaribu dispensary) and Destiria Charles (from Bungu dispensary). In the first photo you can see Mr. Mbonde (on the right) and Destiria (with blue dress) examining a patient.

Importantly, one patient diagnosed with leprosy self-reported.



Whilst we don't like to see anyone contracting leprosy, the fact that the patient came forward of their own accord shows that our work on awareness-raising of leprosy symptoms is having an effect.

This quarter I have made two journeys. Ex-leprosy patients need protective footwear to prevent their feet from becoming damaged. They do not have much feeling in their feet and so they do not notice when they cut or scrape themselves, which easily leads to serious infections.

In the next photo, you can see me (Salum) at the centre, with two patients. To the right of me you can see Mr. Musa Mkubagile and to the left Hiari Msanga. This photo was taken on my outreach trip to a village called Mwaseni.

Whilst the motor bike allows me to be much more mobile, I still have to cross rivers to get to certain villages. In the picture above you can see my new motorbike loaded onto a boat ready for crossing the Rufiji River.

*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.*

A man who had previously suffered from leprosy came to Kindwitwi in July of this year because he wanted to be admitted to the ward that is funded by RLT. The purpose of the ward is to support elderly members of the community who are too disabled to care for themselves at home and do not have family with whom they can live. The policy is not to admit outsiders or new patients; indeed the last patient admitted to the ward was way back in 1986! However this person, who is called Yahaya had major health problems that needed urgent attention and therefore he was admitted to the ward.

Yahaya had serious wounds on his leg and foot. As a result of his injuries he was not able to take care of himself, grow food or hunt. Members of the village were providing him with food. In addition the District Administrative Secretary (DAS) also gave him food but requested that RLT staff and villagers in Kindwitwi prepared his food and care for him as best they could. On 21 June, 2016 Yahaya was transferred by the Utete District Ambulance to Dar es Salaam for further treatment. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Ex-Leprosy Patient



Outline shows sole of the foot



Kindergarten food: cup of porridge and plate of vegetables



News from the Village

I would like to inform you all that an organization called Betterlives provides vegetables for our children at the kindergarten. The vegetables are eaten daily and are a vital source of nutrients. The children are given one cup of porridge and one plate of vegetables (spinach or cow-pea leaves). The vegetables are grown and harvested by Kikundi Cha Mafanikio (KCM), which is funded by **Better Lives**.

Modriki was born with shortening of the leg; his father is a member of the Kindwitwi Development Association. On seeing his son's condition, his father, Mr Mohamed, brought him to our dispensary for the medical staff to check him over. The assistant clinical officer and I advised him to visit CCBRT- Disability Hospital. He went there and was given an appointment to be there again after six months. Mr Mohamed thanked the **GLRA** for their support to make the journey to the hospital. In six months they will have to go back to check on little Modriki's progress.

We are proud to work with these organizations:



the amazing world-leading hospital at Dar es Salaam: <http://www.ccbt.or.tz/home/>

Better Lives: <http://www.betterlivesfoundation.org/> and



GLRA/DAHW <http://www.dahw.de/>

Visitors to the Village

In July, we were visited by Stephen Plant and his family. Stephen is not a first-time visitor to Kindwitwi, the last time he was here was over thirty years ago! This time he came with his wife (Kirsty) and their two children. In the picture to the right you can see Abdallah translating something one of the residents of the ward said to Kirsty.



Later on in September, we were visited by Gill and Richard Jowett. They were in Tanzania for the solar eclipse and spent the afternoon with us. After their trip Gill wrote to RLT saying,

“We had a truly wonderful welcome from the kindergarten, and from Abdallah, who showed us around the whole village. We were so impressed, having read about the developments over the years it was amazing to see it all for real. We both found it very moving.”



RLT Supports Education

There are a number of young people that RLT sponsors to attend boarding school through your donations.

However, we also support children and young people who live at home so they can study in the evenings. When the sun goes down (at it does so rather rapidly in this part of the world) the lack of light means that children are not able to do homework or read text books (the vast majority of families do not have electricity at home). As I am sure you are aware, RLT built a library and it is full of books that cover the Tanzanian school curriculum. The library has electric light that is powered by solar panels on the roof. Abdallah (the RLT manager in Kindwitwi) told us recently that this library is often used and offers a real benefit to Kindwitwi's aspiring academics!

Notes from the Trustees

It is with great sadness that we let you know that since the last time we were in touch, Bill Powell has passed away. He was a trustee for many years and will be deeply missed by everyone at RLT and in Kindwitwi. In the following paragraphs you will see a tribute written by another trustee, Nick Bowley.

With the passing in July this year of William (Bill) Powell, the Kindwitwi Leprosy Care Centre has lost one of its most active supporters.

Bill was associated with Kindwitwi for over thirty years. In 1983, as Secondary Principal at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) in Dar es Salaam, he led weekend parties of students to Kindwitwi to help build a dispensary named after his predecessor at IST, Ernest Polack. This was no mean feat. In those days the road south to the Rufiji River was sometimes almost impassable and if the ancient ferry was out of action the students had to cross the sometimes swollen Rufiji by dugout canoe. Crocodiles and hippos were commonly encountered at very close quarters!

The logistics of building a clinic in such a remote location were also daunting, but perhaps the greatest initial challenge was persuading the IST parents that their children were not being exposed to the risk of catching leprosy on these working visits to



Kindwitwi. In those days the inhabitants of other villages in Rufiji District were also concerned about the risk to health posed by their neighbours in Kindwitwi, and these early student parties played an important role in helping overcome the stigma suffered by patients affected by leprosy.

In 1991 Bill became Chief Executive Officer of IST, but his ever increasing workload did not lessen his enthusiasm for serving the people of Kindwitwi. As Chairman of the KLCC Board of Management he formed a strong and affectionate working partnership, first with Father Robin Lamburn and later with the Centre Manager, Burchard Rwamtoga. Bill was also appointed a Trustee of RLT. In 1993 Father Robin passed away, and Bill's energetic work on the Board of Management and RLT was essential to the successful transition from Father Robin's stewardship to the current structure of support for Kindwitwi.

Bill continued to lead parties of IST students and teachers to Kindwitwi throughout the 1990s, and he was highly respected, both for his strategic thinking and for his willingness to roll up his sleeves and get on with the job. His ability to share a joke in sometimes difficult circumstances was a role model for building resilience in his student charges. In 1999 he left Tanzania for East Asia, but continued to serve as an RLT Trustee until his untimely death at the age of 66.

Together with his wife, fellow educator, Ochan Kusuma-Powell, Bill built a world-wide reputation for spearheading the inclusion of children with special learning needs into the mainstream classroom. He once wrote, "No child should have to earn the right to belong". The same passion for helping those who live on the margins drove his work for the people of Kindwitwi and inspired successive generations of IST students to share that passion.

Bill is survived by his wife, Ochan, who continues their work in education, and by their two sons and their families.



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. Telephone: + 44 (0)777 149 3283

New editor running the New York marathon!

On the 6th of November this year your humble newsletter editor will be taking on her first marathon. This has been an ambition of mine for many years and, when the opportunity came up to take part in one of the world's most famous marathon events, I jumped at the chance. My father, a life-long athlete (although more cricket and football than running) is also taking on the challenge.

The training so far has been challenging for both of us. We have both been injured and I have a young son and a full time job! There have been lots of 5 a.m. training sessions and pushing the buggy up and down hills while my son looks on, rather confused by why mummy is so red in the face! Mexican people do not have the same reserve as us British folk and so I often hear cries of encouragement such as, "hechale ganas guerra" (roughly translated as "you can do it blondy!" is a familiar cry that floats in through my headphones!

I will be taking this opportunity to fundraise for RLT and we would delighted if you could sponsor us for this event. To donate please click the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/216#/DonationDetails>

We will also send you some pictures of the big day in the next issue as well as on our Facebook page. Keep your fingers crossed that we make it!

*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

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

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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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:

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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 mem-
ories of Tanzania.

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

THE PATRON

Professor the Baroness Sheila Hollins

THE TRUSTEES

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In Tanzania

to arrange a visit to Kindwitwi contact:

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Texting is usually best

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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.