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The Friends of Urambo & Mwanhala



Friends of Urambo & Mwanhala

Linking the Tabora Region of Tanzania with the UK



A Message from the Honorary Secretary

Ndugu Wanachama, karibuni kwenye gazeti letu la kiangazi. Lina habari nyingi sana kuhusu shughuli za FUM, ni matumaini yangu kwamba mtafurahi kulisoma.

Dear Supporter, welcome to our autumn newsletter and thank you for continuing with your interest in FUM. Thank you all so much for your continued financial support without which our projects would fail. I hope you will enjoy reading of our successes over the last few months.

Perhaps the most important thing is that our friends in Tabora Region, after a very wet, in some ways too wet, rainy season have had a good harvest. Our FDC principals tell us that the college plots produced well, providing much needed income. Local farmers too produced a surplus and thus a welcome income to better their families' condition. It seems that the water supplies

that we have been installing are all working as they should too, so by and large the situation in the region is on the up.

Most things we do continue in their unremarkable way almost under the radar and yet they are so very important for the individuals and villages we help. Other projects you will read about are new even though we have perhaps mentioned them as possibilities in previous newsletters. In the routine group of projects is our continued support for the Folk Development Colleges in Mwanhala, Sikonge and Urambo: Di Cooper gives a short account of the FDCs on page 4 including the news that Sikonge FDC administrative

building was burnt to the ground because of an electrical fault. And we are continuing our assistance for the Mother and Child Health Clinics we support, so vital for the ladies in the villages: you can read Jo's report on page 5. Those of you who have paid close attention over the last few years will have noticed an increased number of clinics on our support list. This is a result of the creation of the new district of Kaliua, carved out of Urambo District which itself continues, although now smaller in area. All of the MCH clinics we supported in Urambo now find themselves in Kaliua so it was put to us that we really ought to adopt three clinics in villages still in Urambo District. Thus it is that we now have adopted

Usisya, Kiloleni and Kamalendi. So far we have not made an assessment of their needs but that will happen soon.

The major project in Urambo is the completion of the Health Centre at Ibambo. Jo writes about this project which has taken us a long time to see completed. We should salute Jo's perseverance in seeing this project through. Of course the clinic needs both accommodation and a water supply and we have committed ourselves to providing those. Accordingly they are the object

“ I find it truly astonishing that it is possible to assure a child's schooling for such a small amount; if you are not yet sponsoring a child please consider doing so. ”

of this year's appeal. Look on our website and you will find plenty of information about the appeal, including a link to our appeal page should you want to contribute.

Of the last appeal targets, the water supply at Nyasa clinic is the most striking, being a very large water harvesting scheme. The holding tank and tower with its feed tank are complete and I hope the solar array and pump positioned in the tank are by now in place. I am anxiously waiting to hear the good news. Many individuals contributed to

this scheme as did the Sutton Coldfield Rotary Club who were major donors when the clinic was first built. A big asante sana to everyone involved.

Our secondary school pupil sponsorship scheme is running smoothly thanks to the hard work of Jenny Wills. You can read her report on page 13. I find it truly astonishing that it is possible to assure a child's schooling for such a small amount; if you are not yet sponsoring a child please consider doing so.

You will read in Jo's report about a major step forward at Nzega Hospital Nursing College. For many years we have been seeking ways of sponsoring student nurses but the whole thing was a tangle of bureaucracy and very difficult to sort out. Thankfully we have at last been able to overcome all the difficulties and we now have several nurses in training as Jo details in her report. A major plus from this project has been the cementing of cooperation between The Friends of Nzega (FON) and ourselves. Both groups have worked to complement each other in the past: indeed FON was a major player in the provision of water supplies at the Nzega clinics. Now FON is a driving force behind the nurse sponsorship scheme.

When Nick, our treasurer, was in Nzega District last year, the clamour for a nurse's house at the clinic in Mwanhala was overwhelming. I am very grateful that FON has decided to fund this jointly with FUM which is super news.

Encouragingly, the villagers themselves are contributing by providing labour and all the rocks and sand needed for the build. As I write this, the news has just come in that the money has arrived and that construction is about to start.

Our current appeal, with its target of £15,000 is going well. Lots of individual donations have come in – you can access the appeal page via the website should you want to help – and the two sponsored walks were better than ever this year raising well over £8000. I couldn't walk myself but clearly missed two good days out as you will read on pages 7 and 8.

“ Our current appeal, with its target of £15,000 is going well. ”

Once again we have a runner in the London Marathon: David Swinburne of Cranbrook School will be running for FUM. He will have a sponsor page early in 2019. Final mention must go to Ruby Overnell and her classmates at Bere Alston primary school who held a most successful cake sale at their school as you will see on page 9.

At the Tanzania end then things have gone well, but here our year has brought sadness through the death of our Life President, Priscilla Gillett. She was so crucial to FUM right from the start and it is safe to say that without Priscilla's support FUM would not have been the success it has been.

Rod Smith

Priscilla Gillett

FUM President, 2002 – 2018

Priscilla was at the heart of FUM from its very start. Together with John and a small band of enthusiasts they created The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala out of the energy and goodwill achieved in Devon's Freedom From Hunger Campaign in 1963.

John and Priscilla were farmers working the family farm at Gulworthy near Tavistock and were always fearfully busy. Moreover, Priscilla faced the task of raising four children as well. Somehow they found the time for FUM and with what must have seemed an endless stream of visitors, charmed everyone who came within their orbit. Priscilla had that rare skill of making one feel that you were the most important person for her; I always enjoyed my visits to Gulworthy.

I don't quite know how they managed, but John and Priscilla made several trips to Tanzania, in turn taking each of their four children with them. I made my first visits to Tabora Region as their visits came to an end and quickly realized the high regard in which they were held. Priscilla was, as you can imagine, a huge hit with the village ladies as well as with the officials and wives of officials she came across. I think it is fair to say that Priscilla, although she probably wished it had not been the case, accepted that at that time ladies in rural Tanzania had their distinct place in society and, instead of worrying about it, accepted reality and did her best to find ways to help women in particular.



John, naturally was keen on farming, and FUM had after all started life based in the two farmers' colleges at Urambo and Mwanhala. I am sure it will have been Priscilla's influence which pushed us into our support for the Mother and Child Clinics being set up in the villages at that time. I was always puzzled as to why the clinics adopted by FUM were so far off the beaten track and so hard to reach. It was Mr Masatu who gave me the answer when he told me that other agencies just weren't prepared to venture so far. I know that Priscilla will have spent many uncomfortable hours sitting in the back of a

hot, dusty Land Rover as it made its way slowly along the dirt roads to Uhindi, Semembele, Mwasala and the others. Yet I am certain that on arrival that charm of hers would have switched on and everyone would have felt they had been the centre of attention for that brief visit.

FUM members were pleased to appoint Priscilla and John as joint Life Presidents at our AGM in 2002; Priscilla fulfilled her role with her customary grace. Sadly that era is now gone but FUM lives on as a testimony to these two marvellous people.

News of the FDCs

First-hand information about the FDCs appeared in the Spring Newsletter, courtesy of the visits made by Nick Vinall and his daughter, Joanna. It is always good to receive immediate news when people arrive home. Their observations regarding the state of facilities and lack of equipment brought us details to be discussed by the committee on the best use of our available funds.

Unfortunately, it would seem that funding for general equipment, and maintenance of infrastructure, has not been forthcoming from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to date. We had hoped this would happen following the changeover from the Ministry of Gender and Community Development. Whilst the Ministry provides funds for food, it is very difficult for the Principals to meet the costs of all the other requirements for the day to day running of each college, with student fees and income from their own small 'entrepreneurial' projects being their only sources of income. They much appreciate the regular funds sent by FUM for bursaries for those students unable to pay their own fees, and for the major assistance which has been given to provide appropriate water supplies at each site.

At each college a Board of local councillors and district officers has been re-introduced to support all aspects of college activities. At Urambo FDC, Mr Nestory recently reported that the new Board had passed a number of resolutions at their first meeting on 28th August. This included important

requests to the Ministry regarding recruitment of well qualified staff to fill gaps in staffing levels at the college, to ensure the college runs at its full potential and students receive the appropriate quality of training. There was also the suggestion that Urambo District Council could be

“ We thank each of the Principals for the very real efforts they make to maintain a good level of training for their students in difficult circumstances. ”

approached to supply trained technical staff to assist in filling the shortages, and to reduce the wage burden on the college. We hope that each of the Boards will be active in raising awareness of the on-going funding needs for infrastructure and equipment too.

Unfortunately the re-building of the administration block, lost in the fire at Sikonge FDC in August 2017, has not yet happened. This has been postponed at least twice and the last we heard it was expected to happen in

September. We are awaiting confirmation. The difficulty in replacing the equipment lost has not been resolved.

Student numbers are being maintained at each of the colleges. The domestic electric installation course continues to maintain the highest student numbers at each of the colleges, female and male students receiving this training. Short courses in IT and driving instruction run in addition to the two-year courses. The kindergartens continue to operate at Urambo and Sikonge FDCs.

At Mwanhala we have provided Mr Mwadua with funds to purchase water containers which he uses to transport a daily supply of water from the college borehole to Mwanhala clinic. In this way we have, at last, achieved our aim of ensuring the water supply to the clinic and dispensary. The borehole will also supply the water needed for the construction of the new nurse's house at the clinic.

We thank each of the Principals for the very real efforts they make to maintain a good level of training for their students in difficult circumstances.

Medical Matters

Jo Taylor, our medical liaison officer, writes...

Our commitment to improving the health of villagers remains undiminished and accordingly FUM cares for 14 Dispensaries with Mother and Child Health Clinics in the Tabora Region.



The School of Nursing, Nzega

Six clinics are in Nzega District, five in Kaliua District and three in Urambo District. The Dispensaries staffed by a paramedic provide primary health care, rather like a doctor's surgery, where mothers and young children go for general health care and vaccinations, though most dispensaries care for adults too, especially those living with HIV. The MCH clinics staffed by a trained midwife provide ante and post natal care and a safe environment for mothers to give birth, and many clinics, particularly the larger ones, have nurses in support of the paramedics and midwife. These facilities are of vital

importance to villages, particularly the isolated ones, as they are able to assess patients and call on support from the District Hospitals when needed. As a consequence of the isolation, it can be difficult to retain staff, particularly when there is no adequate housing available and so it has long been FUM's policy to ensure that there is good quality accommodation provided. In partnership with The Friends of Nzega, we are providing a staff house for the midwife at Mwanhala clinic so that mothers arriving 'out of hours' have skilled help available. I am pleased to

report that the building work at Mwanhala has already started.

In Urambo District, the big news this year was the opening of the Health Centre in the village of Ibambo. Back in 2011 a team from Cranbrook School visited Ibambo to work at the Health Centre which the school had helped finance. The building work was still in its early stages but the students worked hard helping with the project as well as doing a lot of painting and teaching at the village school where they were staying. During the past 7 years, progress on this building project has been slow, but in March the Dispensary at last



Visitors from Friends of Nzega visiting the Nzega Nursing School, seen here with our sponsored nurses

opened, albeit without an adequate water supply or acceptable staff house, both of which are of course essential for full operation. To provide these FUM is running an appeal to raise the £15,000 needed. Thank you to all who have been so busy raising funds, and to all who sponsored participants. The people of Ibambo will be very, very grateful! Details of our appeal can be found on the FUM website.

In April FUM sent our annual donation of £200 per Dispensary to the Districts. We heard quickly from Urambo District that the monies had been transferred and combined with the District's Result Based Funding pot and then put towards small rain water harvesting projects at each of the three Dispensaries we support. Results Based Funding is a Government initiative to encourage good practice, where the better Dispensaries receive extra funding as a reward. We were also told that FUM's money was transferred quickly to the five Dispensaries in the Kaliua

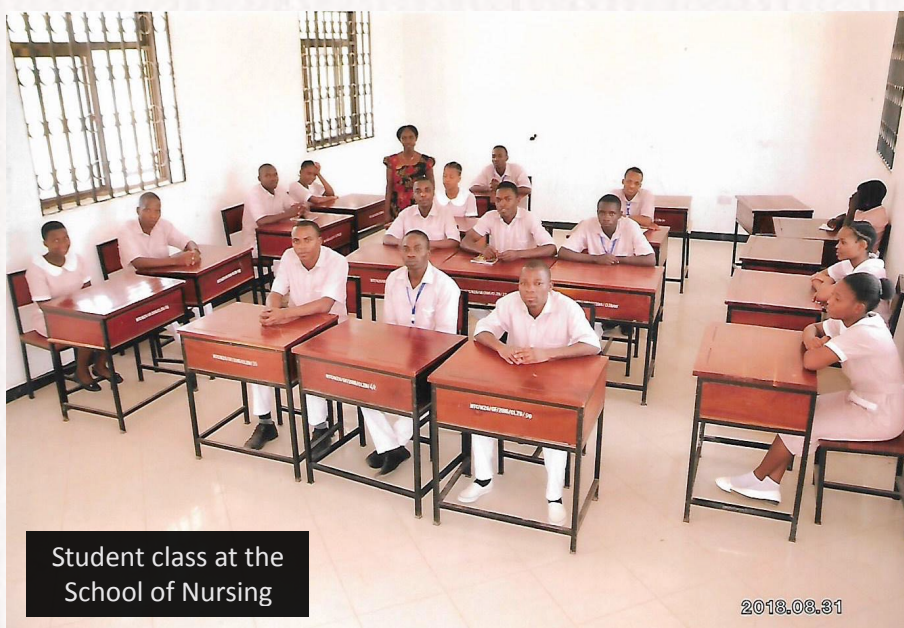
District but not yet how it has been used by each. Frustratingly we have not heard from Nzega District but the newly appointed DED, Mr Seckiete Seleman Yahaya, has assured us he will sort the problem out.

Nurse Sponsorship in Nzega

This year, at long last and after a lot of discussion with the medical authorities, FUM has been able to start the Sponsorship of trainee nurses at the School of Nursing in Nzega. By means of pooled funding, FUM, FON and

Cranbrook School's Charity Committee are able to sponsor seven trainee nurses. The Principal at the School of Nursing with the support of Local Government Officials recommended the trainees. All were already studying at the College but none of them could afford their fees due to specific family misfortune or simply lack of money, so we were delighted to be able to find enough support to sponsor all seven applicants.

These trainees are following a 3 year residential course which will result in them gaining a Certificate of Nursing. The applicants we accept must have completed sufficient Secondary Education to cope with the course and they have to commit themselves to work in the Nzega District for a minimum of 3 years after qualification. The Local Government has agreed to this last stipulation as a necessary arrangement, as nurses, like all government employees in Tanzania, are assigned to posts rather than applying for jobs as we do in Britain.



Student class at the School of Nursing

2018.08.31

FON visit to Nzega District.

In July this year Wendy Willmot and Ann Yeoman, who were spending some holiday time in Tanzania, agreed to act as representatives of the Friends of Nzega.

They travelled to the Tabora Region with the specific purpose of visiting FON projects in Nzega. FUM is now involved with FON in two jointly funded schemes: the sponsorship of nurses at the newly refurbished nursing school in Nzega and the

provision of a house for the Mwanhala Clinic midwife.

We are very grateful for the feedback Ann and Wendy were able to give on these schemes and generally on the situation in Nzega District. I'm sure that they had a wonderful time

experiencing the hospitality of our friends there.

There are details of these two schemes in Jo Taylor's report on the previous page, as well as a picture of Wendy and Ann at the nursing school.

West Country Walk

Another year and another great walk in the beautiful Cornwall and Devon countryside raising money for a very worthy cause.



This year's West Country walk saw 13 of us starting off, as last year, from a very misty and wet Kitt Hill in Cornwall, where we walked to Bere Alston Railway Station via Lockett, Morwellham and Tamar Trails through the Tamar Valley.

In total each of us walked 16.2 miles including our youngest,

Ruby, who walked 39,000 steps to complete the full distance!

“ ...raising a fantastic £1867.70 before gift aid. ”

We passed through fascinating countryside full of tin mines, the historic village of Morwellham and fast BMX

riders flying down the steep slopes at Tamar Trails.

Although the weather was poor when we started, it did improve as the day went on and everyone completed the distance raising a fantastic £1867.70 before gift aid.

Thank you for all your support.

South Downs Walk for Water 2018

On a sunny September 1st the 12 walkers met at the National Trust car park at Birling Gap, many of them wearing the colourful "FUM Walk for Water" T-shirts.



Amazing views from the Seven Sisters

As water supplies, boots and the like were being checked Paul got talking with a man prior to a much longer walk he was going to do in Northern Ireland and gained an extra £20 sponsorship for FUM. Good work Paul! Then we all set off across the Seven Sisters towards Cuckmere at the start of our 15 mile walk. The weather was so clear no-one minded this steep up and downhill section as the views were amazing.

We then walked along the Cuckmere and at Exceat Bridge the team stopped for a welcome coffee and cake before we set off again through Littleington towards Alfriston. Just like last year we passed many people walking in the other direction as we walked along the Cuckmere valley: they were walking 26 miles in the day in aid of MacMillan Cancer

Research. We exchanged heartfelt cheers to each other all helped by our teams respective colourful T-shirts.

After the long uphill pull to Wendover Hill, we sat and enjoyed the fantastic views back to the sea as we ate our lunches. Throughout the whole day we could see for miles,



The sun was still shining and we were all still smiling

from the sea to the White Horse and further; it was a wonderful time to be out on the South Downs.

The team then carried on along the South Downs Way, now

heading south towards East Dean. We passed fewer walkers on this section but the countryside was wonderful, from open pastures to woods and through some pretty villages. There were a few long faces when we passed a church offering "free coffee and cakes" but Isabel was right, we needed to keep going. As we sat eating our lunches on Wendover Hill I was sure someone had said there were no more hills – they were wrong! Each village was separated from its neighbour by a hill, but this simply meant the last pit-stop at East Dean was especially welcome.

From East Dean it was just a short stroll back to Birling Gap. The sun was still shining and we were all still smiling; indeed the mood was so good Isabel was already encouraging us to make a date for the South Downs walk in 2019.

All in all another very successful walk and all thanks go to Isabel for organising the day and keeping us motivated and upbeat throughout the day. Lots of money

was raised through this walk and it will all go towards installing an extensive rain water harvesting system at the recently opened Dispensary and Clinic in Ibambo village.

Primary School Children Raise Money for Ibambo Village Projects

At the end of the summer term, Year 6 children from Bere Alston Primary held a coffee morning to raise funds for two very important projects in Ibambo village.

They raised an incredible £216.10, and of course every penny will go to Tanzania to help the villagers of Ibambo village obtain a clean water source and help towards finishing the staff accommodation at their new health centre.

Julie Overnell (FUM's Membership Secretary) sent a letter to the children's teacher, Mrs Wright, and the Year 6 children on behalf of all of the members of FUM, to say a big 'thank you' for the fantastic fund-raising they achieved.

She wrote, 'Thank you for baking and selling all those fabulous cakes and to all those who bought them (they were all delicious).'



Amazon Smile for FUM

A Great New Way to Support Our Work

We have signed up for Amazon's charity scheme that donates 0.5% of many Amazon purchases (not marketplace ones) to your named charity. There is no extra cost for you; prices are the same as normal.

To register for Amazon Smile and help FUM:

- Click <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>
- Login (if necessary) using your normal Amazon details.

• Type 'urambo' in the box then click

• When **The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala** appears click

Your Amazon screen will then show **Supporting: The Friends Of Urambo And Mwanhala** near the top.

These details will only need to be entered once; Amazon will remember them.

Be sure to change your Amazon link to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

Do please tell your friends and families of this easy way to support FUM.

THE FRIENDS OF URAMBO AND MWANHALA PAST PROJECTS

From the very start of FUM, over fifty years ago, we have been guided by its founding principles under the direction first of John Gillett, for many years our secretary, and then Priscilla his wife who continued as one of our two presidents. The years have passed and now sadly Priscilla is no longer with us.

One result of this is that I have inherited the files of John's correspondence from the early work of FUM. These days of course most of our correspondence is by email, but then even the most routine message was by letter and reading these I have been able to select out those of significance. I thought it might be of interest to readers if in the next few newsletters I used the archive to highlight some of the major undertakings of the early days of FUM.

THE DUMUZI PROJECT

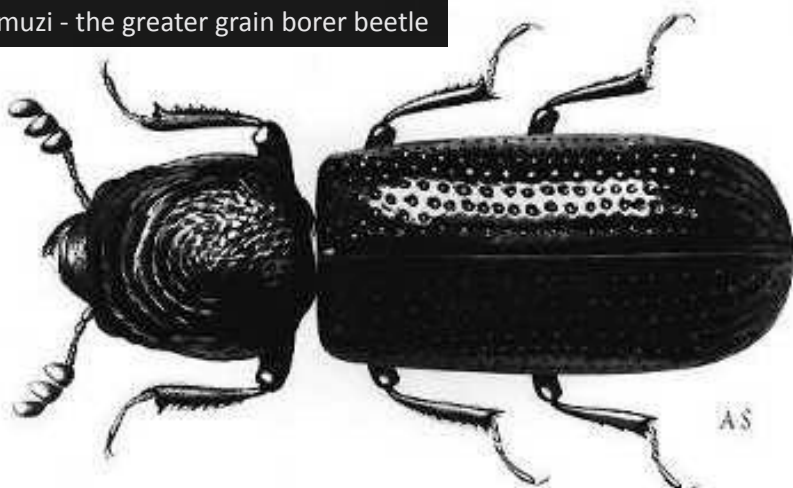
In 1972 Tanzania gave sanctuary to a large number of refugees fleeing the tribal killings in neighbouring Burundi and for them a refugee camp was set up on the edge of the Urambo forest. The camp exists to this day and is still run under the authority of the United Nations although the people there have gradually been assimilated into Tanzanian society or have returned to their homeland. In the late 1970s maize was provided as food aid to the refugees bringing with it a most unwelcome pest, *Prostephanus truncatus*, the

greater grain borer beetle, locally known as Dumuzi. This beetle was a native of Mexico from where it's thought the grain originated, but was unknown in East Africa where it has no natural predator. It quickly proved itself to be a devastating pest causing the loss of as much as 70% of stored maize and in no time at all the beetle spread into the whole of the Tabora Region, across the rest of the country and elsewhere in East Africa.

Traditionally farmers stored their maize on the cob in a loft, or dari, above the cooking fire and this provided some protection against local pests, but was the very worst thing when faced with an infestation of Dumuzi. Being a wood-boring beetle in its native America the beetle attacks the cob by boring into the grains from the inside and laying its eggs. With a life cycle of only a month the beetle population quickly becomes huge.

Research by the FAO-funded Greater Grain Borer Beetle Control Project indicated that the maize should be taken off its cob (shelled) as soon as possible after harvest. Just shelling the maize reduced damage by up to 60% since Dumuzi prefers the grains to be attached to the cob to enable it to burrow more effectively. Research also showed that dusting with permethrin insecticide significantly improved the level of protection against Dumuzi. This then brings another problem which is a lack of suitable containers for storage. It was found that a type of woven basket, plastered with mud and raised off

Dumuzi - the greater grain borer beetle



Dumuzi-infested corn cob



the ground was very effective at storing the maize. This type of store, known as a kihenge, was traditionally used by the Wasukuma tribe in northern Tanzania to store groundnuts, but was unfamiliar to Tabora Region farmers. A bonus was that it afforded protection against rats as well.

As part of the Dumuzi eradication programme, the FAO asked the UK-based organisation Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) to provide volunteers to assist local agricultural extension officers, known as Bwana Shambas. VSO Volunteers from the UK worked with the Bwana Shambas to run seminars in Tanzanian villages showing farmers how to construct the vihenge and how to treat the shelled maize with the correct dose of insecticide. FUM's contribution to this programme was to sponsor one of the VSO volunteers, Dr Nick Gosman, who spent two years based in Urambo visiting villages and individual farmers running seminars on how to combat the devastating pest, Dumuzi.

Acceptance of the kihenge storage method was hampered by local farmers' dislike of the Wasukuma, whom they held in low regard, but Nick and his local Bwana Shamba counterpart discovered that uptake of the kihenge method of storage by farmers could be greatly increased by modifying the

design. Instead of using a mud-daubed basket, a mud-brick storage vessel with a sliding door grain chute was developed (see next page for photo). By seeing how successful the procedure was, farmers quickly adopted the method and by the time the programme ended, safe grain storage in sacks or vihenge was well established.

Nick was a very diligent correspondent and wrote wonderful letters and reports keeping FUM fully informed of his progress. Reading them one senses the frustrations of working in a developing country where even the simple things, such as obtaining the pesticides in time to be used during the harvest, seemed at times impossible. Through initiative and

perseverance he achieved much and made a real difference to farmers in the Urambo area. I know he retains fond memories of his time in Urambo which he passes on below.

Nick writes of his time in Urambo and Tabora Region:

I was 25 when I became a VSO volunteer. I was living with my parents in Edinburgh at the time but had already travelled extensively in the UK and Europe by bicycle, completing a seven month cycle tour from Edinburgh to Tanzania shortly before I was accepted by VSO. I had fallen in love with Tanzania during my cycling trip and was determined to return there. However, a life-changing event occurred even before I set foot in Africa: I met my wife-to-be, Debbie, during a VSO motorbike training course two months prior to shipping out to Tanzania. Debbie was posted to Thika, Kenya and I to Urambo, Tabora Region, a distance of approximately 500 miles separating us. Debbie and I each made the journey by bus to see each other twice during our posting which turned out to be an adventure in itself. We still treasure the many letters that we wrote to each other during that time and intend to use them as the basis of a memoir.

Dr Nick Gosman presenting a farmer seminar





A mud brick grain store

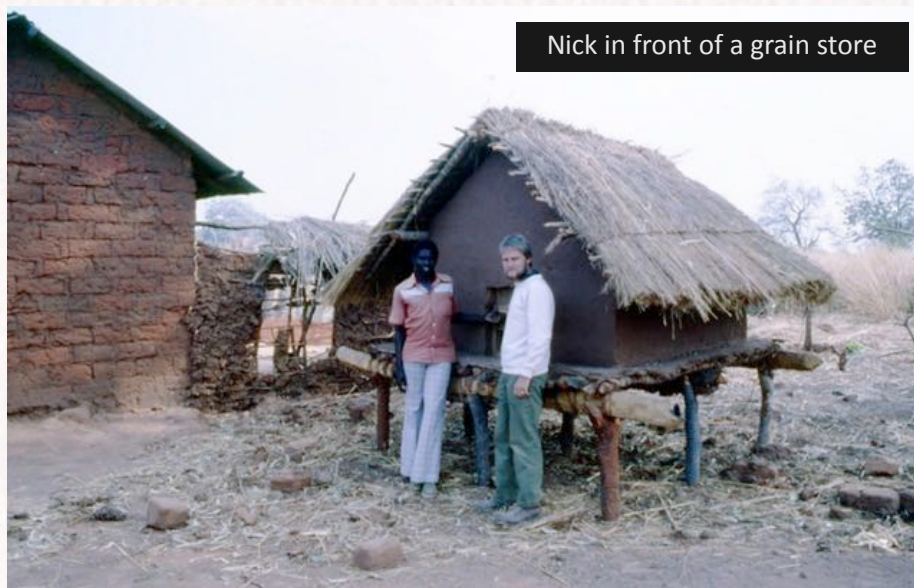
Not least because I met my future wife and enjoyed an Out of Africa-style romance, my time in Urambo has had a profound effect on me. Urambo was 50 miles by dirt road from Tabora where the other Dumuzi project volunteers were stationed. As I look back at that time more than 30 years ago, I remember that the isolation was the hardest part of my posting. I was housed alone in a small colonial-era building with only a table, chair and a bed. My Kiswahili was rudimentary at first, but my need to reach out to the people around me meant that I quickly became fluent. It was the friends I made in Urambo, Chichi the tailor, Mwisaka my Bwana Shamba counterpart and Mr Patel the local store keeper, that kept me going. It was from Mr Patel that I learned a little of the devastating effect that the ill-conceived British ground nut project had had on the region during which, many of the white

farmers lost their livelihoods leaving a parched, arid wilderness behind them.

As mentioned I quickly discovered that acceptance of the new methods of maize storage was hampered by the fact that the kihenge storage vessel was used by the nomadic Wasukuma, held in low regard by the majority Wanyamwzi. My task was made more difficult by the fear that my presence instilled in some older members of the population, which, I was told, was due to ill treatment meted out by the white farmers during the ground nut era.

Hardships and past animosities, aside, I came to love Urambo, becoming a well-known sight on my white, 125cc Suzuki motorbike (pikipiki). Memories of that time are too numerous to include here, but three stand out. The first is when I brought my future wife to

Urambo by motorbike. As usual, I took the opportunity of a visit to Tabora to pick up 25 litres of petrol, which I had, up to then, been carrying back in 5 litre jerry cans placed in a rucksack and carried on my back (the Health and Safety Executive would have had a fit!). With Debbie as pillion, it was her dubious honour to have the petrol-filled backpack on her back as we negotiated the sandy corrugated road, dodging speeding buses and land rovers. It is an experience that she vividly remembers today! The second is a visit that John and Priscilla Gillett made that came about half-way through my time in Urambo. I had met both John and Priscilla at their farm before I went out to Tanzania and had already struck up a warm friendship. Their visit, coming as it did during a time when I was recovering from one of several bouts of malaria, lifted my spirits considerably and undoubtedly gave me the strength to continue. I am always indebted to them both for their kindness and compassion at that time. My final memory is of the simple pleasure on a number of occasions of being able to observe family life in remote villages at close quarters. It was not infrequent, during the rainy season, that a storm would prevent me from returning to Urambo after a village seminar. A family would always take me into their home, and give me a bed and



Nick in front of a grain store

supper. Their generosity and kindness in sharing what little they had with me was a humbling experience which has left a deep and lasting impression on me.

In the years since my time in Tanzania, I have followed a career in Crop Science as a plant breeder and have travelled extensively in the world on business. In 2004, I had an opportunity to return to Tanzania with a colleague. Much

had changed economically for the better since the early 1980's, not least the positive impact on incomes brought about by widespread mobile phone usage and the relaxation of trade embargoes between Tanzania and Kenya. However, the friendly, engaging personality of the Tanzanian people remains the same, and, as my Kiswahili returned, I was able to, in some way, relive my time in Urambo and

visit a few places I had missed when I first came as a volunteer.

Acknowledgements:

I wish to thank the FUM and its membership for their steadfast support of my posting onto the Dumuzi project, and for their continued involvement in Urambo region in general over the intervening years.

Secondary School Bursaries for Students from Imeli Primary School

Over the last few years the numbers of students benefiting from this scheme has been steadily increasing. Now that the Tanzanian Government pay school fees our bursaries help the students with uniforms, books and materials. That means FUM is able to support more students for the same amount of money. So we have now agreed to support 30 new students starting in Form 1 each year.

Many thanks to all of you who support this project as this year all our students are sponsored. This is certainly a record for me to be able to say everyone is covered!!! We are hoping to receive photographs soon of the students in this year's cohort.

However, if you would still like to be a sponsor, I can add you to a waiting list for next year. The commitment is £30 pa for 4 years for one student. Some people pay this as a lump sum of £120, others pay by annual standing order, whilst others pay for 2 students with a



monthly standing order of £5. If you would like to know how you can be part of this worthwhile scheme, please

contact me, Jenny Wills, at casamargarida@icloud.com, and I will send you more information.

Could You Sponsor a Student through School?

Contact our Education Officer Jenny Wills for more information. If you are reading on screen, click on the link below to email her.

[Email Jenny](#)

Bursaries for School Students

FUM Officers

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The FUM Website

Our website is crammed with news, photographs and information about every area of our work. Just go to www.fum.org.uk on your PC or tablet, or point your mobile device at the QR code to take you straight there.



Why Not Sponsor a Student Nurse?

Contact our Medical Officer Jo Taylor for more information. See details above, or if you are reading on screen, click on the link below to email her.

[Email Jo](mailto:jo.taylor@fum.org.uk)

Nzega Hospital Nursing School



The Final Word

As you have read, our current appeal, with its target of £15,000 is going well, so it just remains for me to say...

Asanteni kwa michango yenu ya mara kwa mara.

Best wishes

Rod Smith