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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

Dear Friends and Supporters of FUM

My apologies for the lateness of this newsletter but, late though it is, I am writing with lots of positives to report, although there is one huge negative. The second part of 2016 has been one of renewal for FUM as we have an almost complete change of personnel in Tabora Region. All senior posts have changed starting with the appointment of His Excellency Aggrey Deaisile Joshua Mwanri as Regional Commissioner. He has agreed to act as our Tanzanian President as his predecessors have done, which is important to FUM as it keeps our work firmly linked to the Regional Development Plan.

There is though the saddest of news to report as well. Our dear friend Janeth Mazimba, our regional liaison officer, died suddenly in October. You will read about her elsewhere in this newsletter.

The post of Regional Administrative Secretary has changed too and we now have Dr. Thea Medard Ntara in charge. Similarly the posts of District

Commissioner and District Executive Director in Kaliua, Nzega, Sikonge and Urambo, the four Districts where we operate, have all been filled with new persons. We thank the previous incumbents for their help and support for our projects, small

“Richard Pratt and Jo Taylor will be able to forge new personal links with our Tanzanian friends and so set us up for a successful next few years.”

beer to those wrestling with the budget for an entire district, but without the support of the Districts we would not be able to operate successfully. We are grateful for the oversight the Districts provide.

We have new FDC Principals: Mr Maduwa in Mwanhala and Mr Luambano in Sikonge, both of whom are feeling their way into their relationship with FUM. Moreover the excellent Mr Nestory, Principal of Urambo FDC,

who has been in post a while, is still unknown to us on a personal level. It is therefore very fortunate that our Chairman, Richard Pratt, has decided to visit Tabora Region in November and that he will be accompanied by Jo Taylor, formally a teacher at Cranbrook School and a leader of many school trips to Tabora Region. They will be able to forge new personal links with our Tanzanian friends and so set us up for a successful next few years. They have a packed timetable for their visit and are likely to return to the UK completely exhausted having visited all four districts, the FDCs, hospitals, schools and clinics, some of which are in far flung villages and difficult to reach. The rains will just have started, but the roads should still be passable without too much problem.

There have been two notable retirements this year, both from key positions in Nzega. Mr Tegile, a District Education Officer and FUM liaison, and Mr Gomegwa, the Nzega District Council Clerk of Works. Both have been great supporters of our efforts and have



provided us with sound guidance for many years. Jo Taylor has written an appreciation of both.

One project worked on so assiduously by Mr Gomegwa has been the girls' dormitory at Semembele Secondary School.



The finished girls' dormitory at Semembele

This was undertaken at the request of the Nzega District Commissioner some years ago. It was a rather ambitious project, too large for us to fund ourselves, but with contributions from Durham University students, The Tanzanian Development Trust and from Cranbrook School this building has been completed. Cranbrook School pupils went to Semembele and decorated it in the summer of 2015 and it is now furnished and occupied which is a major achievement. With this building functioning, it is at last possible for girls living in the satellite villages of Semembele to attend secondary school.

Many of you will have already donated to our Water Appeal which, at the time of writing, has passed the £28,000 mark and you may be wondering what has happened to the money. Well, we



The new borehole and pump at Mwasala

have not sat on it but have put it to work immediately. A second shallow well, which has proved to be reliable even throughout the dry season, has been refurbished in Isegenhe Village, and a borehole and pump have been successfully installed in the village of Mwasala where, in addition, we have paid for the clinic and the medical officer's house to be refurbished. As I write this, I am awaiting news about another borehole which is being drilled in the village of Semembele where, thanks to a donation from Cranbrook



School pupils, a rainwater harvesting scheme has been installed at the clinic and at the new dormitory building. I am very grateful to The Friends of Nzega who have joined in with our attempts to provide all our supported clinics with reliable and safe water supplies. Some time ago they paid for the successful installation of a borehole and pump in Shigamba village and just recently provided funds for a new borehole in the village of Mbooga. This second borehole is proving problematic as the first drilling attempt was discovered to be in the wrong location, but then a test borehole at the site suggested by the geophysical survey also failed. A second geophysical survey has been carried out and we are anxiously awaiting the result of the third drilling attempt.

The borehole at Mwanhala has been operating for

some years, but as its potential yield is considerably greater than that achievable using a handpump, we took the decision to fit the borehole with an electric pump connected to storage tanks and standpipes for village use. All is now in place meaning that 1000 litres of clean water is supplied each hour. It is now up to the village water committee to devise a means of delivering this water to the schools and clinic and to raise the money to pay for the electricity needed to run the pump.

Looking forward to 2017 I am very happy to mention that we have arranged for three young doctors, now training at UCL, to spend their medical elective weeks in Urambo District Hospital. Members will recall that we have arranged many such placements in the past, both at Nzega and Urambo, and they have always been a great success. I am sure the three will have a hard working but very rewarding time in Urambo.

Our 2017 AGM will be on 8th April in Kalendar Hall, South Street Exeter. We hope very much that Neema Malyeli will be with us as our guest so do come and support.

Our efforts to raise money continue. Elsewhere you will read a report on this year's sponsored walks and on Tom Davies' ambition to run in The London Marathon, raising money for FUM. This is all good news but we cannot just sit back. Please ensure that you continue to pay your membership each year as this steady income is so important to us. If you are not already sponsoring a school child, please consider this; contact Jenny Wills (details on the back page) should you wish to do this. How about running a coffee morning on behalf of our Water Appeal or joining one of next year's sponsored walks? If anyone has any other bright ideas we would welcome them, so please contact Isabel Heycock with your suggestions.

*Rod Smith*

## THE FRIENDS OF URAMBO AND MWANHALA



### NOTICE OF THE 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at 2.30pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017

at

The Kalendar Hall, South Street, Exeter

We hope to be able to welcome to this meeting our great friend Mrs Neema Malyeli, recently retired Principal of Mwanhala FDC.

Mama Malyeli has been to the UK several times and has always been hugely popular in England, particularly with school pupils. Her principal reason for visiting England in 2017 is to attend a gathering of ex-Cranbrook School pupils who in the past have visited and worked as part of a school party in the Tabora Region. It is fortunate for us that Mama Malyeli will be able to fit in both that reception and our AGM. I urge you to come along and meet her.

Tom Davies, our marathon runner, will be at the meeting too, so you will have the chance to give him a word or two of encouragement.

Particularly interesting will be the Chairman's report on his visit to Tabora in November 2016. This visit is a chance to set FUM on a new footing and to rethink our aims and objectives; I am sure that he will cover this and then give you the opportunity to have your say about the direction in which we should move.

# Janeth Mazimba

It is with great sorrow that I have to report the sudden and unexpected death of our dear friend Janeth Mazimba on Sunday 16th October.



Janeth had been visiting outlying villages during the week and contracted malaria which led to her death. It was very sudden; she had been corresponding with me only the evening before about the arrangements she was putting in place for Richard Pratt, our chairman's visit to Tabora in late November. She also emailed Di Cooper that day, as always, working to support FUM.

Janeth was a Community Development Officer in the Regional Offices and became attached to FUM six years ago as our Regional Liaison Officer. Then, after Frank Charles left Tabora, she took on sole responsibility for directing FUM's affairs in the Region. Janeth became a great friend

and visited the UK in April 2013, charming us all with her lovely manner and great good humour, although it has to be said that she didn't much like our cold weather.

Working with Janeth was a real pleasure as, no matter how busy she was, she would always answer requests for information and advice; if she did not know an answer she would say so and then quickly discover what we needed so that we could move in the right direction. I always sent important letters via Janeth, who was able to make changes so as to avoid any misunderstandings or mistakes in protocol, and her guidance enabled us to direct our efforts in the most effective direction. The current ambition to provide all our clinics with safe, reliable

water supplies was her initiative and as always she was right. She saw the gradual and increasing inadequacies of existing shallow wells and so pushed us onto the path we are now following.

In July 2011 Janeth spent a week escorting Jo Taylor round all the clinics supported by the FUM in the Nzega, Urambo and Kaliua Districts and the three FDCs where teams from Cranbrook School were working. This chance to get to know Janeth was invaluable and from that time onwards Jo counted her as a personal friend. Janeth had planned the tour and ensured that, in the villages, Jo was introduced to village leaders, medical officers and others. Jo then found more meetings set up for the evenings. Janeth had endless stamina although Jo noticed that, surprisingly, Janeth often found the Tabora evenings a bit chilly!

Janeth leaves a family grieving for a lovely lady who has been taken from us all at far too early an age. All of us who knew her will miss her but will always remember her.

**Rod**

# FDCs Report

From past newsletters most members will be familiar with circumstances at each of Mwanhala, Sikonge and Urambo FDCs, where we provide bursaries to enable students from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend courses which will provide them with the skills they need to make their way in life. As far as our funds allow, we help the FDCs in other ways too, providing funds for buildings and equipment.

Urambo and Mwanhala own cars purchased by FUM and Sikonge a motorbike, so we regularly send funds to ensure that these are properly maintained. The vehicles are ageing, but fortunately the roads are now being surfaced in tarmac which we hope will extend the vehicles useful lives as they are most important to the FDCs.

Our efforts at promoting solar lights to the communities around the FDCs, by providing subsidised systems via the FDC shops, has had to be modified now that Solar Aid has withdrawn from Tanzania. Following further investigation, and discussion with the company which had 'inherited' Sunny Money's Solar Aid supplies, it was decided that it was important to continue this scheme for a period of time, in order to try to ensure a supply of 'quality' lamps to villagers and to enable the Principals to have the experience of running a small-scale business enterprise. To do this it is necessary that FUM offer a small subsidy per lamp. So now FDCs receive a reimbursement of the difference between the 'old' subsidised price and the new price they have to pay the new

supplier, ART Energy in Dar es Salaam. Each Principal has been given the opportunity to decide if they wish to continue in the revised scheme or not. Mr Luambano, the new Principal at Sikonge, is hesitant about continuing the scheme as lamps did not sell that well in their community. Mr Mwadua, at Mwanhala, expresses a wish to continue while Mr Nestory, at Urambo, has already completed a new order. We hope this valuable scheme will continue.

## Urambo

The second term for this year started on 6th August and there are 25 students being supported with FUM bursaries, but we have not received a precise breakdown of the numbers of students on each course.

From the amount remaining after expenses for the supported students had been spent, Mr Nestory used a small amount of funds to pay for medicine for the goats which Cranbrook students purchased in 2013, and to pay the herd boy. He had also bought fertilizer and agro chemicals for the college plot.

Mr Nestory is currently making a real success of the solar lamp scheme. In his last communication he indicated he expects he will earn TShs. 700,000 on the sale of the latest order from ART Energy.

## Mwanhala

Mr Mwadua, the new Principal, reports there are 105 students starting their final term taking the following courses: Domestic Electric Installation 33, Motor Vehicle Maintenance 33, Carpentry & Joinery 11, Tailoring 18, Masonry & Bricklaying 10.

Sadly, Mwadua's family has not been able to join him from Ikafara (Morogoro District) because the Government has not supplied the necessary funds for the move. He hopes funds may be forthcoming in February.

The borehole at Mwanhala FDC is functioning and can provide a steady supply of 1000 litres an hour, but at present there are issues with the electricity costs. We hope this can be resolved when Richard Pratt visits in late November.

## Sikonge

Mr Luambano seems to be a keen correspondent and has

sent photos of college personnel and pictures of the kindergarten children too.

At present there is a total of 52 students at the college, the breakdown as follows:

Domestic Electric Installation 23 Yr.1, 13 Yr.2; Masonry & Bricklaying 0 Yr.1, 8 Yr.2; Tailoring 2 Yr.1, 6 Yr.2.

Twelve FUM students receive bursaries, but two who had had bursaries have not returned this term.

Sikonge is in a period of change as the new principal settles in.

The water situation at the college continues to be a real problem. Mr Luambano

indicates that the shallow wells created when Cranbrook visited in 2013 operate in the rainy season but are not deep enough to give supplies later in the year. He indicates that the Ministry have not paid the college's water bills since 2014. He has written to them but has not received a reply.

Di Cooper

## Tom is raising money for FUM's Water Appeal



**Tom Davies**, John Gillett's grandson, is planning to run the 2017 London Marathon and in so doing raise money for FUM's Water Appeal. He has secured his place and so is now in training, and he has started trying to raise money via his official London Marathon fundraising page. Tom writes...

In 2014 I visited Urambo Folk Development College in the Tabora Region of Tanzania to exchange carpentry skills and deliver tools to contribute to their amazing vocational school and woodwork department. Although there are many aspects of Tanzania that are excellent, sadly the availability of water is not one of them.

The lack of clean water really does affect the quality of life for many people in Tanzania. In Urambo students' daily routines involved travelling for

miles with buckets to collect their water. Having access to a pump will make life a little bit easier for a lot of people.

Running the marathon is going to be one of the hardest things I have ever done. I am not a seasoned runner and have generally avoided running! Whilst the main objective is to raise as



Tom at Urambo FDC sharing carpentry skills in 2014

much money as I can for FUM's Water Appeal, there is also my own personal challenge of running 26.219 miles. I am looking forward to the test! Hopefully the experience can be rewarding for myself and the people of Tabora Region.

Donations will be hugely appreciated.

Thanks

### Please Support Tom's Marathon Run

Visit his official London Marathon fundraising page at:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DaviesTom>

for FUM's Water Appeal

# Telesphore Tegile Retires

In another change to our valued FUM personnel in Tanzania, Tegile, a former Nzega District Education Officer and a loyal friend of the FUM has retired.

**Jo Taylor** reports.

Tegile has been a friend of the FUM for many years. He visited England as their guest in 1996 when he was a hit both with the FUM members and with the students and with staff at Cranbrook School where he was based for part of his stay. Over the last 20 plus years, Tegile travelled with and supported many teams of staff and pupils from Cranbrook School in the Nzega District, and his larger than life persona and smile meant he ensured everyone around him was in a positive mood at all times and any homesickness was quickly forgotten. Tegile was a star when he was interpreting speeches for Cranbrook School teachers in the villages where they were based; somehow everyone was smiling and laughing and one's speech seemed better than the one you thought you had prepared!

Nothing was ever too much effort for Tegile. He worked alongside teams from Cranbrook School, painting, shifting bricks, whatever was needed, and loved helping with their visits to all the Primary and Secondary Schools in the itinerary. In 2013, when a team



Tegile with Jo Taylor

from Cranbrook School based in the Sikonge District had been involved in an armed ambush, Tegile happily travelled from Mwanhala to Tabora, on a very early bus, to support Angela and George Daly who were leading that team. Thanks to Tegile, Angela and George had their first chance to rest since the ambush and the team of students were quickly swept along by Tegile's charm and positivity, and from that moment on their moods gradually lifted. Everyone was

especially sad to say their goodbyes to Tegile at the airport in Dar es Salaam that year.

Tegile was a critical part of our efforts to improve the state of Imeli School in Nzega, a very run-down school serving many children from very disadvantaged backgrounds. FUM, with a substantial grant from The Hilden Charitable Fund, and with significant help from Cranbrook School, triggered a programme of repair of the existing classrooms and the construction of a new block. Imeli quickly improved with the unlooked for outcome that many more pupils managed to qualify for

secondary education, but unfortunately a substantial proportion of these were unable to attend as their family circumstance meant they could not afford the fees. Rod Smith, FUM's secretary, with Tegile devised a programme of pupil sponsorship supported directly by many FUM members and now administered by Jenny Wills. This programme has allowed us to support a hundred or so pupils each year, paying school fees and making small grants to cover the cost of uniforms and educational

material. The government has now abolished secondary school fees, allowing us to give more substantial grants to an increasing number of pupils. Tegile has overseen the development of this scheme which now runs like clockwork and is genuinely life-changing for the young people involved.

Incredibly, Tegile is now of retirement age so quite rightly he has stepped down from his role with the Nzega District Council, and although we remain in contact, FUM has lost a very loyal friend from within the education department. FUM would like to thank Tegile



for his years of support and friendship; we wish him a long,

healthy, happy and well-deserved retirement.

**Jenny Wills, Martin and I** would like to add a short but very sincere tribute to Jo's.

Like Jo, we have many fond memories of our time spent with Tegile, in Nzega District in 1995 and then in Cornwall the following year for a return School Links visit.

Tegile had been assigned to us by the DEO to act as interpreter and was by our sides throughout our visits to Shigamba (linked with St Cleer Primary School) and to Mwakashanhala Primary School (linked with Callington Primary School). His translating skills were flawless and in Tanzania we enjoyed many lamplit discussions about the idiosyncrasies of English grammar! Although we were very excited to visit our Tanzanian colleagues, we were also very nervous, but Tegile's presence was always the ice breaker we needed, making everyone smile, especially the children. (His memorable way

of engaging them was to shout, "Hoi hai?", which meant "Are you alive or dead?" They would of course shout back, "Hoi!") As Jo says, nothing ever phased Tegile and he would engender the same cheerful optimism in his colleagues. One of our favourite examples of this is when one evening during supper in Mwakashanhala we noticed in the dim light some small unidentifiable black bits on our plates. Tegile reassured us with his broad grin: "Nothing to worry about; it's only the bats dropping their dung!" He was right of course.

When two equally shy and nervous headteachers came back to Cornwall the next year (Mr Nyarege from Shigamba and Mr Mayunga from Mwakashanhala), Tegile accompanied them, all the time interpreting, explaining and supporting. He must have been

exhausted, but he never ever showed it and always turned up at every event, whether it was in the school or in the community, with the same enthusiasm and sparkle. Jenny has remained in contact with Tegile as he has of course been the overseer of the student bursaries in recent times. Martin and I have lost touch sadly, but would like him to know that he made those very special safaris possible, and they in turn brought about long-lasting friendships between the schools and their communities. On a personal level, these were some of the best experiences we have ever had, and Tegile's presence was integral to them. We thank him for that and we wish him all the best for the future.

**Mary Kenway**

# 'Walk for Water' Sponsored Walks

This year four committee members and their friends joined in two Sponsored Walks and raised over £5,500.



A quick stop, mid afternoon

Finn to keep us on track and though the rest of us couldn't always keep up their 'cracking pace' we

Vinall, friends and I, enjoyed a 15 mile circular walk on the South Downs. This was the same walk that we had done the previous year but it is such a good route that it seemed worth a repeat. Again the weather was excellent for walking; fine with a refreshing breeze.

In June six of us, including Julie Overnell and her son Elliott, tackled the final 15 miles of the Devon Coast to Coast Path from Ivybridge to Wembury. We were lucky to have a beautiful day and enjoyed walking through the delightfully green fields and woods of south Devon. Luckily we had Elliott and his friend



Lunch break

much appreciated their company. We had set out at 9.30am from Ivybridge, so by 5.00pm we were all very pleased when the sea finally came into view. We made our way downhill to Wembury beach and were delighted that Julie's husband was there with his car, waiting to collect us. Thanks to Julie for organising this walk.

9.30am saw ten sprightly figures assembled at Birling Gap car park ready to tackle the Seven Sisters. This is one of the best sections of the South Downs Way and I think we all really enjoyed the views if not the steep ascents and descents. In less than two hours we were having coffee at Exceat Bridge cafe, then another couple of hours walking, chatting as we went, before a late lunch on a breezy Windover Hill. From there it was mostly 'downhill all the way' to tea at East Dean and our return to Birling Gap.

**I would like to thank my fellow walkers and all those who so generously sponsored us.**

**Isabel Heycock**



Tackling the Seven Sisters

In early September a second group of intrepid fundraisers, Richard Pratt, Nick

## Stop Press - Success at Semembela!

We have just heard that the test borehole drilling at Semembela has met with success: water has been found at a depth of 24m. Very soon the borehole will be sunk and fitted with a pump giving the village with its clinic and schools a reliable and safe water supply.

**Rod**

# Venance Gomegwa, Senior Civil Technician

Yet another change to FUM personnel sees the retirement of Venance Gomegwa. Gomegwa has been a friend of FUM for many years in his role as Clerk of Works for the Nzega District Council.

In this role he has helped plan the building and subsequent refurbishment of many FUM projects around Nzega, drawing up detailed and meticulous Bills of Quantities, which enabled FUM funds to be carefully apportioned under the guidance of Masatu, and more recently, Janeth Mazimba. Sadly for us Gomegwa has now retired and though all members of the FUM wish him a long, happy and well-deserved retirement, we will miss him and his reliable guidance as well as his warm friendship.

I first met Gomegwa in 1999 in the village of Mbooga where a team from Cranbrook School was helping with the building of the Clinic there. The team had thought they would be painting the completed building, but works had been delayed and Gomegwa, with Masatu and Tegile who were also there with team, ensured all were kept busy breaking rocks, laying floors and even laying bricks. Gomegwa had been integral in planning the project and ensured all was properly completed to his unerring high standards even though this was a long time

after the team had returned to England.

Since 1999, Gomegwa has accompanied and worked alongside teams from Cranbrook School every two years and all of the staff and students held him in high

constant calls for help: Gomegwa, where's the blue paint please? Gomegwa, is this level? Gomegwa, what shall we do next? Please Gomegwa, where is the ladder? the clean roller? and so on. And he knew everyone from the Village Chairman, the VEO, the Head

Teacher, the Medical Officers, the fundis and of course all the District Officials in Nzega. He was a good person to have at your side whether visiting the District Council offices or a remote village.

In 2014 Gomegwa was invited to visit England as a

guest of Cranbrook School and the FUM. Mndeme, the then DED in Nzega, and Agatha Mwaliwale, the Head teacher at Mwanhala Secondary School, were also invited. They all had considerable trouble obtaining visas and their trip did not happen until 2015 and sadly, by that time, Mndeme was too busy to be able to leave Nzega, so only Gomegwa and Agatha joined us in England. Again Gomegwa was a huge success, endearing students with his quiet but enthusiast ways, and not just at Cranbrook School



Gomegwa with Saidi the Nzega Lorry driver and the Lorry Boy

regard. Gomegwa was the hardest worker I think I have ever encountered; I clearly remember one evening borrowing a big stick from a member of the Sungu Sungu in the village of Isegenhe as threatening with a big stick seemed to be the only way to stop Gomegwa working. He was always the first at work every day, including Sundays, excellent at sharing out the jobs to best suit everyone's strengths, and he cheerfully led by example. Never once did I see him turn away from the

but other schools in the locality that he visited, impressing both teachers and parents. Visiting Devon, Gomegwa was warmly welcomed by the FUM Officers, and most of all by Johnnie Walker who has known Gomegwa longer than anyone else in the FUM. He was taken to visit Bicton College, Exeter Cathedral and the National

Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, which added to his visits to London, Battle Abbey, Cranbrook and Tenterden, all of which furnished him with a rich series of memories to take back to Tanzania.

Gomegwa loved his trip to England and not least because it was his first venture away

from Tanzania, but I can think of few friends of the FUM who deserved it more. Enjoy your well-earned retirement Gomegwa and please keep in touch with your friends at the FUM.

**Jo Taylor** (FUM Medical Officer and former teacher at Cranbrook School)



Jo Taylor and Gomegwa with the Regional Commissioner in 2015

## Do you want to find out more about FUM?

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



# FUM Officers

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## The Final Word

“Please ensure that you continue to pay your membership each year as this steady income is so important to us. If you are not already sponsoring a school child, please consider this too. How about running a coffee morning on behalf of our Water Appeal or joining one of next year’s sponsored walks? If anyone has any other bright ideas we would welcome them, so please contact Isabel Heycock with your suggestions.”

**Best wishes**  
**Rod Smith**