



# FUM

*Helping with the development of the people of the Tabora Region of Tanzania*

Newsletter

Registered Charity Number 265345

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## WORKAID Tools in FDCs a Huge Success

Following the WORKAID shipment of tools to our three FDCs last year I am pleased to report that they are being used enthusiastically by the students. Urambo FDC received a power band saw for their woodwork class and we are keen that this is used effectively and properly maintained, so we are delighted that Tom Davies, who has worked

as a furniture designer for some years, has decided to visit Urambo on our behalf. While there, he is tasked with looking at their furniture production and seeing if he can improve on their designs and methods of manufacture. The arrival of better quality tools thanks to WORKAID should mean that the quality of workmanship can improve.

Tom is very passionate about his visit – there will be a report in the next newsletter – as he has heard so much about Tabora and the doings of FUM from family members; Tom is the grandson of John and Priscilla Gillett. He ran a fundraising event before



departing, raising nearly £2000 for FUM. I am sure that he will return with a recommendation of how that money should be used.

**Rod Smith**

### STOP PRESS!

News has just come in of a £3500 donation from the pupils of St Edmund's School, Canterbury. Thanks to all at St Edmund's for this wonderful fundraising effort.



Tools from WORKAID helping to improve quality of workmanship

# A Message from the Honorary Secretary

Dear Supporters,

Our 50th AGM was held at The Buckerell Lodge Hotel in Exeter on Saturday 29th March. It was a most pleasant occasion and wonderful to see so many members there. The meeting expressed its thanks to our retiring Chairman, Mike Izzard, who has held us together for the last few years and was pleased to elect Richard Pratt as our new chairman (see page 8). Also newly elected as an officer is Isabel Heycock who has taken on the task of trying to improve our income; I am sure that you will be hearing from her before too long.

Jenny Wills, as ever, is in need of more sponsors for her growing list of primary school pupils moving on to secondary schools who are in urgent need of financial support. If you are not sponsoring a pupil I would urge you to think about doing so, as there can be no more effective way of giving money.

The AGM was pleased to hear from George Daly and from Joe Winkleman. Both are leading small groups working through FUM to advance education achievement in the Tabora Region. Details of their schemes are given on page 8 of this newsletter.

I was delighted to announce to the AGM that at last the water supply to Mwanhala is up and running, and clean water is finally running from taps in the



Improving computer skills in the FDCs

village. I could write a book about the trials of tribulations associated with the Mwanhala village water scheme which has baffled us for so many years. It is really good news that at last clean water is available to everyone in the village and FDC. A method of keeping the clinic and the two schools supplied with water has yet to be developed – they

are too far from the borehole to run pipes, but I see a solution in the offing.

Francesca Hanson, a niece of Di Cooper, spent time in Mwanhala earlier in the year looking at the new computer classes. Using her teacher expertise she left them with a basic teaching and learning programme so that students could



Water storage tanks being erected in Mwanhala



Water pipes being laid

assimilate basic computing skills at the FDC. There are also banks of computers at Urambo and Sikonge FDCs. Francesca was in Mwanhala while the storage tanks for the borehole water were being erected. Sadly we don't as yet have pictures of the running water.

We are looking forward to the visit in October of three friends from Nzega District: Mr Mndeme, the Nzega District Executive Director, as a guest of FUM, and also Mr Gomegwa, the Nzega District clerk of works, and Mrs Agatha Mwaliwale, Head-teacher of Mwanhala FDC, as guests of Cranbrook School. It is always a pleasure to receive friends from Tabora as well as being useful as it gives us time to talk with them at length and to plan ahead.

As part of the drive to spread the word about FUM I would like to point out three initiatives, details of which can be found to the right and on page 9 of this newsletter.

A set of FUM postcards is available and can be mailed to you. The pictures have all been taken in Tabora by visiting FUM officers. I'm afraid that those of you who receive a printed newsletter will have only black and white pictures but the postcards are in full colour.

Also published is a 'History of The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala', a Power Point presentation with narration and local music explaining where FUM has come from

and what we do. It is available to supporters for their interest or for FUM promotion.

Finally, for those who receive the newsletter by email, I have included an FUM flyer (shown below) which can be printed and used if you wish to spread

the word. I have not sent these out by mail as the production cost is quite high but if anyone would like a printed copy please just let me know.

Best wishes  
Rod Smith

## Let others know about the great work of FUM

A flyer has been sent out with all emailed newsletters. Please feel free to print it and hand it others who may be interested in the work of FUM. Alternatively, you could email it to them. Printed copies are available from Rod.

### The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala

Website  
[Fumuk.org.uk](http://Fumuk.org.uk)

Reg Charity 265345  
Refg.Soc. Tanzania SO 7441

The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala is a small NGO working in the Tabora Region of Tanzania, specifically in the Districts of Nzega, Sikonge and Urambo. We are an association of friends who each give money to support our projects in Tanzania. From time to time we receive support from other organisations to help with specific projects.



Our main areas of interest are: education, health, water and agriculture. We are concerned with advancing the development of the people of the Tabora Region but also with educating young people in the UK. To that end we not only provide funds for projects in Tanzania but facilitate educational visits by UK schools and individuals to the Tabora Region.



FUM has operated in the Tabora Region for nearly fifty years and has developed a good working relationship with the Tanzanian Government. The Regional Commissioner, Tabora is one of our two presidents and the district authorities have appointed FUM coordinators in each of the districts.



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Rod Smith, Tanner House, Sissinghurst Rd, Biddenden, Kent. TN27 8EX  
email [rodsmith@btconnect.com](mailto:rodsmith@btconnect.com)

# My Elective In Nzega

Nick Tilbury

**At the end of a gruelling medicine degree, I had the pleasure of spending my 6 week elective at Nzega District Hospital. I first found out about Nzega from Suzanne Horsfield and Dr Iain Chorlton, who told me all about the great work that FUM have been doing in the area over the years. Furthermore, without the assistance and practical advice they gave me, there is no way I would have made it to Nzega, so for that I am extremely grateful.**

So, with a great deal of help from a number of people, both in the UK and Nzega, I found myself on a plane heading to Dar Es Salaam. Once through customs, I bundled myself into a taxi and headed for the city centre and the hostel in which I was to spend my first night, before the marathon bus journey west to Nzega.

Suzanne had put me in touch with Edward, a lovely guy from Nzega who was studying in Dar at the time, and I had arranged to meet him that night. He showed me the sights of Dar and we chatted over a few bottles of Serengeti.

With the knowledge of a 5am start the next day though, I didn't stay out late, and after a few hours of broken sleep I was up and in another taxi heading to the chaos of Dar Es Salaam bus station.

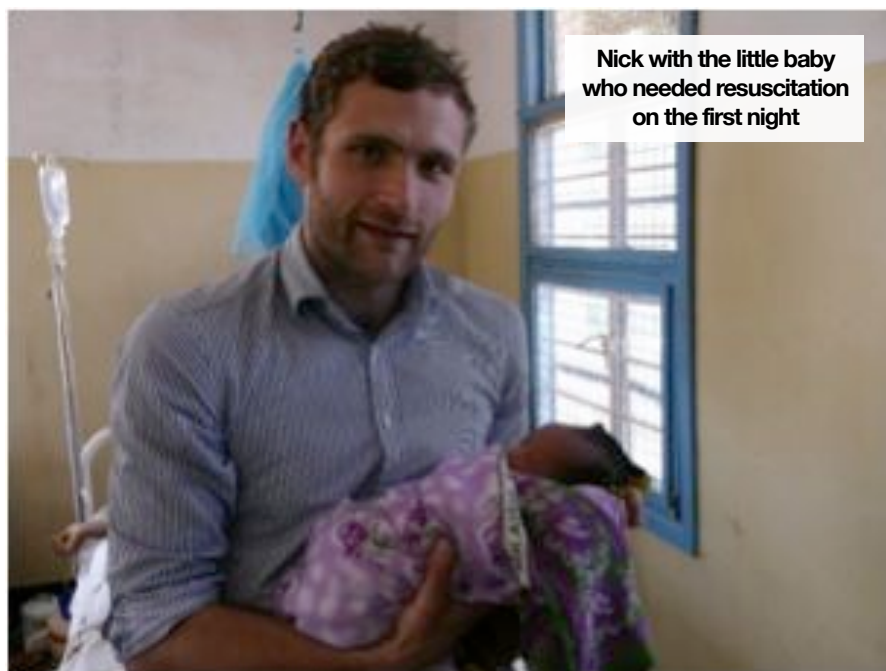
It was still pitch black when the taxi pulled up and I was confronted with a huge amount of people and rows and rows of coaches with no indication (in a language that I could read) of their destination. As soon as I got out of the car I was surrounded by a big group of men asking where I was heading. I had no choice but to put my destiny in their

hands and no sooner had I mumbled "Nzega" my bag had been chucked into a wheelbarrow and wheeled off. Had I

"Twelve hours after that hectic bus station, I unfolded myself and disembarked in a dusty town that I was assured was indeed Nzega"

just been robbed of all my possessions?! I ran after my bag and eventually was bundled into a coach by someone, who then demanded payment. After confirming my bag was indeed underneath me in the luggage compartment, I was happy to pay up. I may well have been ripped off but if I had decided to try to find the bus on my own I think I would probably still be wandering around the bus station now, so all things considered, it was probably a good deal!

I had been pre-warned about the bus journey back in England and the descriptions were certainly not exaggerated. Twelve hours after that hectic bus station, I unfolded myself and disembarked in a dusty town that I was assured was



Nick with the little baby who needed resuscitation on the first night

indeed Nzega. I called Dr Mwombeki, with whom I had been exchanging emails back in England, and soon I was in a taxi with a friendly administrator from the hospital. We visited a few council buildings where I was introduced to some official looking people who took photocopies of my passport and then headed to the hotel that was to be my home for 6 weeks. The hotel was actually really nice and after washing and eating, I fell straight asleep, looking forward to heading down to the hospital in the morning.

The next day I was picked up by an equally friendly driver in an ambulance and taken to Nzega District Hospital. My first impressions of the place were that it was quite basic, and, as expected, very short on supplies and equipment. Everyone was exceptionally welcoming and interested to find out about why I was there, and almost immediately I started receiving impromptu Swahili lessons!

Dr Gwambaaye, who was the Chief Medical Officer at the hospital, was to be my main point of contact throughout my time in Nzega and the second I met him I was greeted with a huge smile and a strong hand shake. He really did go out of his way to ensure I experienced everything that happened in the hospital and I think we will remain in contact for years to come.

Any hopes of a gentle start I may have had were dashed on the first night. Dr Gwambaaye was performing one of the



Nzega District Hospital

many c-sections that happened every week, and as it was my first day, I decided to watch at the side, while the midwife waited for the baby. The baby was delivered but was blue and in desperate need of resuscitation. The midwife put the baby on the trolley and started trying to use the suction catheter to clear some of the secretions from the baby's mouth.

**“Any hopes of a gentle start I may have had were dashed on the first night.”**

Unfortunately though, the machine was broken so instead she attempted some rescue breaths with a bag and mask. This didn't work either though and a quick look at the mask showed the reason why – a large tear in the inflatable seal that allowed all the air to escape. The midwife bundled the baby into a blanket and rushed next door to the labour ward to see if there was some working equipment there. I

followed close behind and by the time I had arrived it was clear that the suction here had broken too. The next minute or so was fairly surreal. As the baby lay there gasping for breath every few seconds, essentially suffocating to death in front of us, the midwife looked at me with a half-smile and shrugged her shoulders. She was all out of ideas. My knowledge of neonatal resuscitation was very limited, but what I could tell was that this baby was trying very hard to breathe but the air just wasn't getting through. In a last ditch attempt I started doing mouth to mouth resuscitation. As the little baby's chest started rising with each breath, gradually its colour started to improve, and its heart rate started picking up again. What happened next was even more bizarre. As I was literally in the middle of mouth to mouth, the midwife said to me, “I am going home now,” and just left. So there I was, all on my own with this critically ill new-born baby.

Luckily, only a few breaths were needed before things started improving, and about half an hour later, I picked up the baby and went back to the operating room to find Mum.

I still don't know how that baby fared. She went back to her village with her mum the next day and I never heard anything more about her. She went for quite a long time with no oxygen and I just hope there was no lasting damage. That first night immediately brought home to me just how different things are in places like Nzega. The equipment they had to work with was pretty much useless, and Dr Gwambaaye informed me later that the training for new midwives consists of half a day watching deliveries, before being left on their own. Quite understandably, when things go wrong, nobody really knows what to do. I think one of the most striking things about the experience, was the expectations of the medical staff and patients. New born babies die in Nzega. A lot. When it happens it is sad but everyone accepts it as one of those things. As long as the mum has survived, then it hasn't been a disaster. I want to make it clear however, that lots of the people I worked with were just as compassionate and caring as anyone in an English hospital. But people can only work with what they have, and in Nzega, what they

have is hardly anything. As a result, bad things happen every single day. If you worked there permanently and didn't become slightly immune to it, it would undoubtedly send you mad.

From that first day, I had inadvertently volunteered myself as the neonatal resuscitator

queues of people coming to get their anti-retroviral drugs to keep the disease at bay, would extend all the way round the building. The queue would be full of people of all ages, some looking perfectly well, some in the advanced stages of the disease, very close to death.

Malaria was another extremely common sight. It would often happen that family members would bring semi-conscious patients to clinics. Usually it would be those at the very bottom of the socio-economic scale, who couldn't afford mosquito nets or repellent. Lots died, some didn't.

It wasn't just acute illness that I saw. One of the patients who stuck in my memory the most, was a 12-year old girl from a nearby village. When she came into clinic, one half of her face was completely disfigured by a huge tumour. I was informed by Dr Gwambaaye that

this little girl was suffering from Burkitt's lymphoma, a highly aggressive cancer associated with chronic malaria infection. He explained to me that the cancer was curable with chemotherapy, but this was only available in a hospital in Kilimanjaro hundreds of miles away. The family were extremely poor and didn't even have any cattle to sell. After a while the family got up, thanked us, and left. I asked where they were going and was informed that they were



Nick Tilbury with  
Dr Gwambaaye, the Chief  
Medical Officer at Nzega

and as a result, a large part of my time was spent in maternity. I did however get to experience other areas.

**“One of the patients who stuck in my memory the most, was a 12-year old girl from a nearby village”**

I spent a significant amount of time in the daily clinics for the many people in the area with HIV and AIDS. Every day the

going home to wait for her to die. The grand total that was needed to get this little girl and her mum to Kilimanjaro and get her the chemotherapy was a little less than £300. Obviously I got the money. I didn't feel good about it though. On the contrary, I felt disgusted that I, as a rich westerner could decide the fate of this poor little girl. Yet another indication of the appalling inequalities many people in Sub-Saharan Africa face.

My time in Nzega was by no means all harrowing. I visited

Mwanza up by Lake Victoria, which was great fun, and also spent the day with Edward's family in a nearby village. The hospitality I received there was fantastic. They really looked after me, and it was a great insight into how people live in the area.

As I'm writing this, I am thinking of so many other things that happened during my time in Nzega. So many sad stories. So much injustice. Yet ultimately, the thing that I remember the most about the place is the amazing resilience of the

people there. Everyone was friendly and upbeat. I saw no self pity whatsoever. People just got on with life. I found it truly inspiring. My experience has left me in no doubt that I want to return to Nzega and other places like it in the future. There is a lot of work to be done there, but organisations like FUM are making some real changes. When I am more experienced and have a bit more to offer, I hope to be part of that. **Nick Tilbury**

## Meet Richard Pratt, Our Newly Elected Chairman

**Richard Pratt is a consultant on financial services regulation. He spent 25 years in the civil service (mostly in the Treasury) and then a further eight years in financial services in the private and public sectors**



Richard now works independently, providing technical assistance to emerging economies on bank supervision and other financial services regulation.

In addition to his consultancy work, Richard is a member of the board of a UK non profit social care company. He is Ombudsman and independent

investigator for KPMG and a JP.

Richard is married. He and his wife Christine have a son and three grandchildren

Richard and Christine have been FUM supporters since 1976. After thirty years as a subscriber and newsletter reader, Richard first went to Tanzania on a technical assistance project and, with the help of FUM and Elias Masatu, visited the Urambo FDC in 2008 and 2010. This experience has prompted increased interest in supporting FUM in a more active manner.

# Education Matters

## Raising Money for a New Educational Project

**Joe Winkleman and Keith Bell are leading a group of retired secondary school teachers to Tabora later this year.**

All were Secondary School teachers working in Tabora in the 1950s and '60s and have fond memories of their time in Tanzania.

They are raising money for an educational project which in some way will stand as a reminder of their contribution to the advancement of Tanzania

just before and after Independence.

They have already raised around £2000 which has been used to sponsor Imeli students, and they hope to raise more to support teacher training places

They are getting together in Stratford at the beginning of

September, a meeting which we are sure will bring memories flooding back as they exchange news and tales of Tanzania.

Look forward to news of their achievements in future newsletters.

## The Sikonge Initiative

**Although Tanzania has made great progress in providing school buildings and encouraging primary school children to attend, many Tanzanians shared their concerns about the quality of teaching and learning in school, especially in remote rural communities. Some of the schools we visited in the Sikonge District clearly illustrated this problem.**

In discussion with the local Tanzanians we formed the view that one obvious way to improve the situation enormously would be to enable schools to have access to the enormous range of educational resources available in all highly developed countries via the internet. Clearly doing this in rural Tanzania presents some specific challenges.

In researching possible solutions, we came across an initiative in Zambia working on the same lines. Their solution was ZEdupads. These are educational tablet computers designed for pupils and teachers. They contain schemes of work, lesson plans and learning ma-

terials, and they give access to an enormous amount of educational material - all things we take for granted in the UK but are not available in Sikonge.

**"In researching possible solutions we came across an initiative in Zambia working on the same lines"**

The content is appropriate for Zambia and the languages used include English and many local Zambian languages. ZEdupads will soon also include Swahili. The Zambian and Tanzanian primary school curricula overlap about 90%.

This August an educationalist from London is testing their use in a comparable school in Northern Tanzania. If she reports back that they can be successfully used in Tanzania, we plan to purchase a number of them for schools in Sikonge and to help train local teachers and community leaders in their use.

We hope that a successful introduction of these into schools in Sikonge would illustrate a cost-effective way of transforming the quality of primary education throughout rural Tanzania.

**George Daly**

# Education Matters

## Pupil Bursary Project at Imeli Primary School

**The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala (FUM) began sponsoring pupils from Imeli Primary School in 2002, providing bursaries which enabled orphaned pupils or those from very poor backgrounds to attend secondary school.**

The need arose because of the improvements to Imeli Primary School that FUM, helped by grants from The Hilden Trust and the Tanzania Development Trust had catalysed, through a generous input of funds to the school. The Imeli catchment included some of the very poorest Nzega families and with the improvements brought about, pupils from these backgrounds began to qualify for secondary schooling but were unable to afford the fees required. Our bursary scheme was set up through the Nzega District Education Committee who annually request help for 20 pupils selected by them. Thus the number of supported pupils

“Over the lifetime of the scheme we have sponsored nearly 220 students in total at a cost of around £47,000”

increased annually until we were sponsoring approximately 100 every year, as after reaching form 5 pupils graduated and left school for the world of work. There are always far more pupils requiring

Sophie from Cranbrook meets some of the ex-Imeli bursary students



sponsorship than we can find sponsors for, so we have decided to keep to an upper limit of 100 in total unless we can obtain significantly more funding or individual sponsors.

In 2009 Nzega District Education Department requested FUM to consider extending our sponsorship to students from primary schools other than Imeli and for a couple of years we had pupils on our books who attended Iduduma, Ileleminha, Isanzu, Kitongo, Mhembe, Mogura, Mwanhala, Nyasa I, and Udomoro Primary Schools. However, lack of funds has forced us to keep to our limit of 20 new bursaries a year and for 2012/13 all the

new bursaries have been awarded to pupils from Imeli primary school itself. The sponsored pupils attend approximately fifteen different secondary schools, the majority leaving school after Form 4 but some students transfer to a different Secondary School or College for two years of sixth form studies. Follow up information is not always easy to obtain, but to our knowledge there are thirteen students who have completed 2 years of sixth form studies and several of these have gone on to University and even to post graduate studies. We believe the number may be larger than this but haven't yet received informa-

tion about the students who were in Form 4 in 2012 and who may now be in their second year of 6th form.

From the start the bursary scheme was based on students remaining at their secondary schools for five years. Initially the bursary stood at £50 p.a. but was raised to £60 p.a. a few years back. This is sufficient to pay school fees and exam fees with a small surplus to purchase study materials. Recently the pattern of schooling has changed; now many students complete their studies after form 4 while some students go on to 2 further years of sixth form study but overall the funds committed remain about the same. So, since 2002



An Imeli Primary School class

we have on average adopted 20 new students a year building up to our current 100 students in 6 year groups, and thus over the lifetime of the scheme we have sponsored nearly 220 students in total at a cost of around £47,000. Some of this came via a second grant from The Hilden Trust, some from individual FUM supporters who have adopted a secondary pupil and

some from FUM central funds.

Mrs Jenny Wills, the FUM officer who runs this scheme, works energetically to recruit new sponsors into the scheme. Sponsor numbers remain buoyant but they are by no means sufficiently numerous to support the twenty new recruits each year. The Hilden Trust donation is now exhausted and it is for this reason we are urgently seeking more individual donors.

The Imeli School project has been astonishingly successful. A very run-down urban primary school, suffering from vandalism and theft, with insufficient classrooms and a demoralised teaching staff - the sink school of Nzega, has with input from FUM, Cranbrook School, Kent, Modbury Primary School in Devon, The Tanzania Development Trust and The Hilden Trust, become a thriving school. It is a joy to visit Imeli and to see what a tremendous difference has been made in just over a decade.

**Rod Smith**



Imeli drummers...



...and fire dancers put on a show to welcome visitors to the school

## 50 YEARS of THE FRIENDS of URAMBO and MWANHALA



The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala grew from the 1963 Freedom from Hunger Campaign. We are still doing our best to help with the development of the Tabora Region of Tanzania.

**Our 50 year story is now presented as a power point slide show with music and commentary and is available to members on a CD.**

If you would like one of these for your own interest or as an aid to recruit new supporters please apply by email or post to Rod Smith. Only £3.50 per CD.

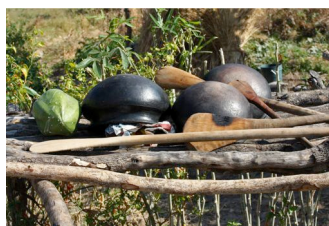
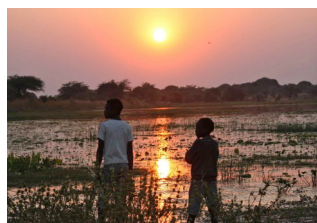
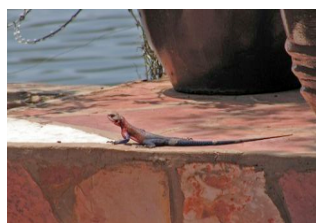
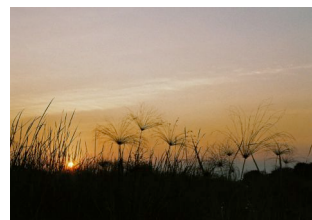
Tanner House, Biddenden, Kent. TN27 8EX or [secretary@fumuk.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fumuk.org.uk)

## FUM POSTCARDS

A set of twelve cards showing views taken in Tabora Region by visiting FUM Officers and Friends

£4 including postage and packing

Order from - [secretary@fumuk.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fumuk.org.uk)



# FUM Officers



Don't forget to check out  
the FUM website at  
<http://fumuk.org.uk> or  
just scan this QR code with  
your smartphone.



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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## The Final Word



"There are now so many ways to spread the word of FUM's great work, and hopefully encourage people to join us. We have the flyer, the presentation on CD and the postcards, along with an attractive and informative website, this newsletter and, of course, word of mouth. We are very keen to recruit new members, so if you think that they would be helpful, please remember that these resources can be ordered directly from me by emailing [secretary@fumuk.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fumuk.org.uk)."

Best wishes  
Rod Smith