



FUM

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

Newsletter

Registered Charity Number 265345

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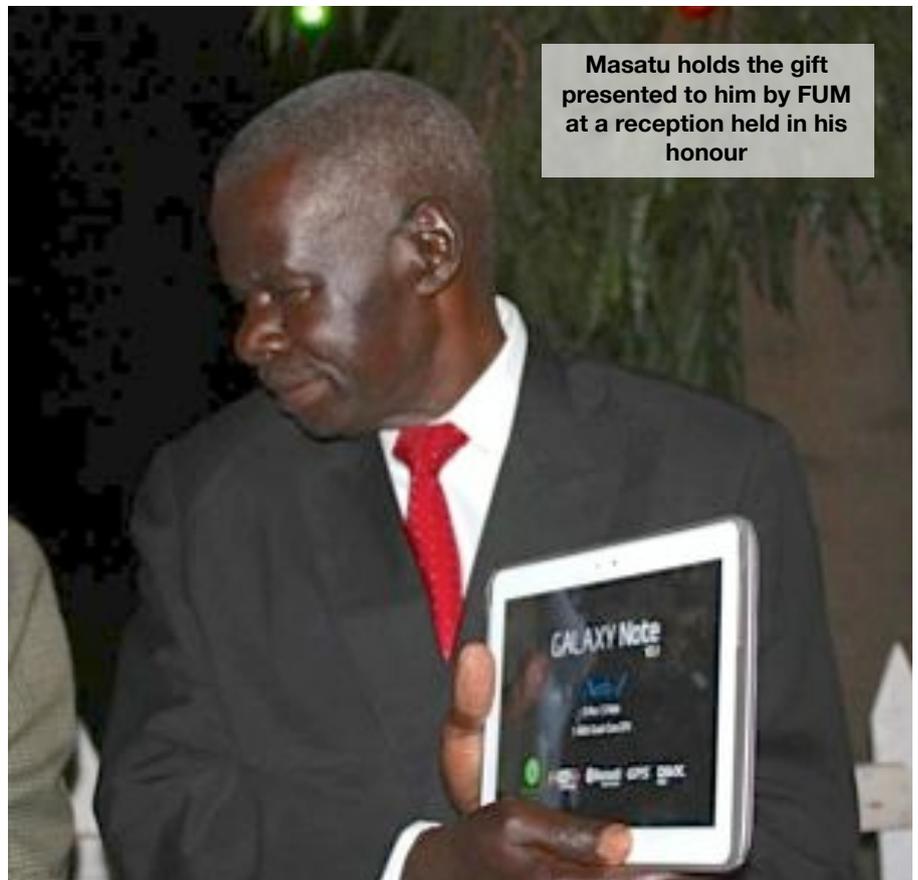
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A Message from the Honorary Secretary

Dear Friends,

As the autumn draws to a close, I write with news of events in the Tabora Region. Jo Taylor, Iain Chorlton and I all spent time in Tabora this July accompanying another Cranbrook School expedition. We had time to see many FUM projects and are heartened by what we saw. This newsletter will consist mainly of captioned pictures as, having so many interesting images at our fingertips, it seems wrong not to share them.

Following good rainfall earlier in the year, most Districts had had good harvests and this, together with the economic input from a large road building project in the Region, has made the





One of the two Gillett Wells in Isegenhe village. Cranbrook School pupils are paying to have this well cleaned, covered and fitted with a new handpump.

had raised so much money. You can read their report later in this newsletter.

One Cranbrook group worked in Isegenhe village where they found two shallow wells which had been constructed in 1983 while John Gillett was FUM secretary. These wells were still full of water but had lost their covers and handpumps. Cranbrook's generous contribution will enable these wells to be brought back into use.

Once again their visit generated enthusiasm on all sides, but was sadly marred when the Sikonge group, travelling from their village by lorry, found themselves caught up with several other vehicles in a road ambush. Robbers brandishing and firing automatic weapons and wielding machetes stole the group's money, cameras and phones, leaving the party badly shaken, and though the guard accompanying them was stabbed and many pupils were kicked or hit with the flats of the machete blades, nobody was badly hurt. Fortunately the

area noticeably more prosperous, although there remains an extraordinary lack of basic infrastructure. Schools, clinics and hospitals are woefully short of resources. An exception to the good news was Sikonge District which yet again missed out on the rain, and at the time of our visit there was a serious shortage of water.

A very pleasant duty for us three was to host a reception in honour of our dear friend Elias Masatu who retired in December 2012. We presented him with a notepad computer on behalf of FUM, and Cranbrook School gave him a very stylish Dartington Crystal clock. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an appreciation of his work on behalf of FUM; his short speech is printed here too. The occasion gave us an opportunity to gather together the leaders of the Districts and the Region as well as the individuals who are so important for FUM's work. It was a delight to see so many friends that evening.

We are fortunate that in place of Mr Masatu we now have Mr Frank Charles and Mrs Janeth Mazimba looking after FUM affairs in the Region and to-

gether with the great support from our Tanzania President, Mrs Fatma Mussa, Regional Commissioner, we can be sure that our interests are well served in Tabora. Janeth has just passed me some results from the recent national census. There is an annual population growth of 3.6% in Tabora Region meaning that there are now nearly 2,279,000 people, 50,000 more females than males.

Once again the visiting Cranbrook pupils divided into three groups, one each in Nzega, Sikonge and Urambo Districts. They excelled and worked hard on the projects for which they



Nicole and Neema Malyeli with the Imeli Bursary students at Nzega

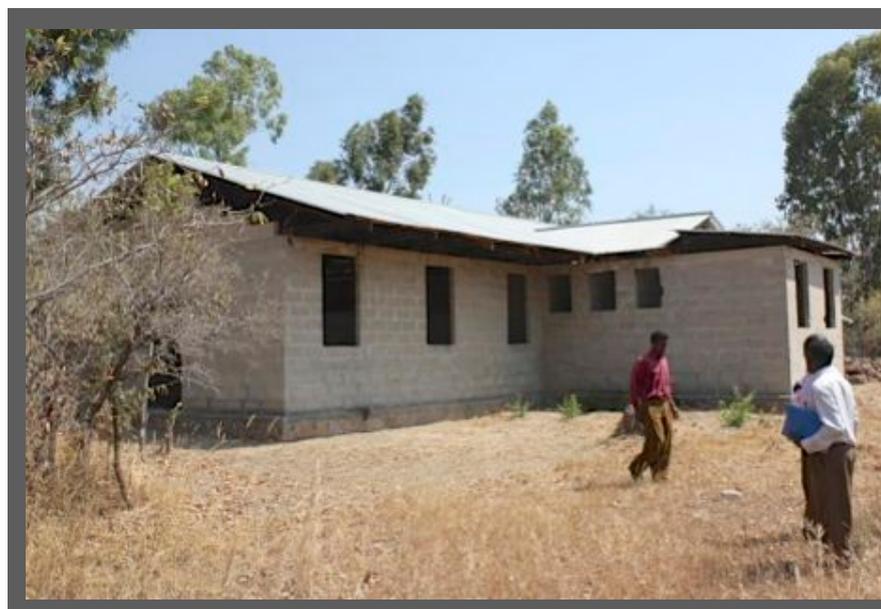
group was led by Cranbrook's ex-headteacher, Angela Daly with her husband George and their strength and resilience supported the group through the trauma to the extent that all of them decided to carry on with their Tanzanian adventure. Throughout the 29 years of the Cranbrook School Tanzania Project's existence, staff and pupils have always been popular and hard-working, splendid ambassadors for their school and for FUM. These young people, tested rather more severely than one would wish, came through their ordeal with heads held high. We can only admire their fortitude. The Tanzanian authorities acted swiftly and it seems that the robbers have been caught and some of the stolen goods recovered. The case has yet to come to court.

Best wishes
Rod Smith

The water tank at Malilita Clinic



Well at Isegenhe



The new girls' dormitory at Semembele Secondary School under construction. This project is being funded through contributions from Durham University students, The Tanzania Development Trust, Semembele Village Council, Nzega District Council and FUM. We hope that the building will be completed and ready to use by the start of 2014.

This facility will make it possible for girls living in the satellite villages around Semembele to attend secondary school for the first time.

Hospital Visits Summer 2013

This summer's trip with Cranbrook School gave Dr Iain Chorlton the opportunity to visit three of the hospitals in the Tabora Region.

Kitete Regional Hospital, Tabora

This is not directly supported by the FUM, although several village dispensaries are, so a visit to Kitete is always productive. There has been significant investment in recent years, most notably visible in the new pathology laboratory.

Urambo District Hospital

I met with Dr Kagia (District Medical Officer) and Dr Manyerere, one of the medical officers, who also accompanied me on a trip to the remote clinic at Maboha. Unreliable

“Competition is fierce for places, with several hundred prospective students applying each year”

water and electricity supplies continue to be a problem. Urambo District Hospital has just two water harvesting tanks, although plans are in hand to increase supply via this route.

The hospital is in need of a re-wire and last year was hit by a thunderstorm, which destroyed the ultrasound machine and severely damaged the X-ray unit. A lightning



conductor has been installed to protect this delicate equipment in the future.

Cranbrook School commissioned the FDC in Urambo to supply some wooden shelving, to relieve pressure on space in the pharmacy. They will be used in a new medicines store, which cannot be completed until a new air conditioning unit is in place.

Nzega District Hospital

Dr Mwombeki has recently moved on, having been District Medical Officer for several years. Incidentally, I met him completing his Masters as-

“Cranbrook School commissioned the FDC in Urambo to supply some wooden shelving, to relieve pressure on space in the pharmacy”

signment at the Tabora Hotel. The new Outpatient Department is fully operational and makes for a much cooler environment for patients waiting for consultation. Most of our visit was spent discussing how the FUM might support nursing students, alongside the Kingsbridge Friends of Nzega. The Nursing School reopened in 2009 and the current student intake is 24 per annum, of which fewer than 10 are usually resident in the Nzega District. Competition is fierce for places, with several hundred prospective students applying each year. These

“Unreliable water and electricity supplies continue to be a problem”

places are nationally funded and students are expected to contribute to their board and uniform, which amounts to approximately £260 a year.

Early discussions have begun around additional support to students, which may well lead to an increased intake of nurses, with the intended benefit being a larger cohort of trained clinical staff who can work locally - so watch this space!

Cranbrook Trip 2013

Cranbrook School has been sending students to the Tabora Region for nearly thirty years to work alongside the local people on development projects, particularly in the areas of education and health. This year these projects were funded to the tune of £24,500 by the efforts of the students themselves, with help from the School's Charity Appeal, the CSPA, Old Cranbrookians, some parents and others.

On July 9th, forty-one students plus eight staff left school to start this year's trip. After one night in Dar es Salaam and an eighteen hour coach journey, the following day, they arrived in Tabora. There they were given a welcome breakfast by the Regional Commissioner and in the evening attended a Reception hosted by FUM for Mr Masatu, the recently retired Regional FUM officer. Mrs Daly presented him with a beautiful clock from the school, part of our thanks for all his hard work masterminding Cranbrook visits over the previous twenty-eight years.

From here the team split into their three groups and moved to their respective Folk Development Colleges (FDCs). These colleges, which provide vocational training and education for young people, have been central to much of the work which Cranbrook students have completed over the decades and have provided accommodation and a base from which they can then go out into the villages.

The Mwanhala group, initially led by Mr Rod Smith, Mrs Vehrlé-Smith and Mrs Winnie Parson, then later by Mrs Jo Taylor, cleaned and painted the boys' dormitory at Mwanhala FDC. They then moved to the village of Isegenhe where they refurbished the village clinic and painted a classroom at the village primary

school. FUM had persuaded Mr Hamilton to visit Nzega District, his visit overlapping with the school's. His task was to overhaul Mwanhala's electrical supply ready for connecting to the national grid and to fit an electricity supply to the new college bore-hole pump. As he was there, we were able to use him to oversee the installation of solar lighting at the Isegenhe clinic. Staff at the clinic are now ecstatic that they can help with the night-time baby deliveries without the need for oil lamps!

The Urambo group, led by Miss Toni Pitt, Mrs Dot Ledsham and Dan Felts, painted the Urambo Folk Development College Assembly Hall as well as clearing the football pitch (by hand!). They

purchased a small herd of 11 goats for the FDC to run as a money-making project. The group then moved to the villages of Ibambo, where they painted the ten rooms in the new village health centre, and to Uhindi, where they partly refurbished the busy Mother and Child Clinic. While in the FDC, the Cranbrook students gave English lessons to the FDC students which were very well received and greatly appreciated.

The Sikonge group, led by Angela and George Daly, arrived at their FDC to discover that there were no students on site. They had all been sent home because there was no water in the wells. The group was able to provide the necessary money to dig two new wells and work started on this the very next



Painting at Mwanhala FDC

At work at the Isegenhe Clinic



for the Tanzanians and for us. Groups also took the chance to visit local District Hospitals and other Mother and Child Clinics which was especially useful for the prospective medics. It was astonishing how tirelessly our teams worked as painters, cleaners and ambassadors of the school. Our Tanzanian hosts love their energy and friendliness; there is always keen competition to welcome a group to their schools and villages.

Sadly the Sikonge group were involved in an unprecedented, armed, roadside robbery towards the end of their trip to the village of Utimule, but their bravery and calm behaviour during the attack meant no-one was seriously injured. Although it meant that the visits to the villages were shortened for all groups, the trip as a whole was able to continue to its planned conclusion. All credit to the Sikonge group, both staff and students. Happily the culprits have been arrested and many of the stolen items recovered.

All the groups reconvened at Mwanhala FDC for a final farewell reception and then they moved on to the Mikumi Game Reserve. This was a fantastic day with sightings of most of the animals to be seen in east Africa – lions, elephants, giraffes, impala, buffaloes, wildebeest, zebra, hippos, crocodiles, baboons, warthogs and more! From there it was three days of rest and relaxation at the New Bagamoyo Beach Resort right by the Indian Ocean. Everyone deserved this rest-break after all their hard work and travels, and they made the most of the local markets, the chance to paddle in the sea and to get up in time to see the sun rise over the ocean – not to be missed.

Then it was the long flight back to the UK, and back to school to be met by families and friends. The students brought with them tales of how kind, friendly and generous their Tanzanian hosts had been; their life changing experiences from seeing how people really do live in rural Tanzania; their better understanding of how the schools and the clinics function, and of their trips to the game park and the beach – probably in that order!

day. By the time the group left Sikonge, there was water in both wells and the students were returning to their studies. The group also painted the Kindergarten at the FDC, the shower block and added large murals to the walls in the Assembly Hall. They moved on to the village of Utimule where they helped lay the foundations for the new staff house and quarried sand to help further with the building. In the primary school there, they painted educational murals on the classroom walls. They also provided finance so that the FDC could set up a school uniform making project using new sewing machines provided through FUM and Workaid.

Whilst based in their FDCs and in the villages, all groups visited local primary and secondary schools, giving the gifts brought from England, plus a monetary donation, and they sang their group songs. These visits were good fun and educational, both

A gathering at Isegenhe



Words of Appreciation for Masatu

At the reception held in honour of Mr Masatu, Rod Smith took the opportunity to show appreciation for Mr Masatu's wonderful work for FUM, which has spanned more than two decades.

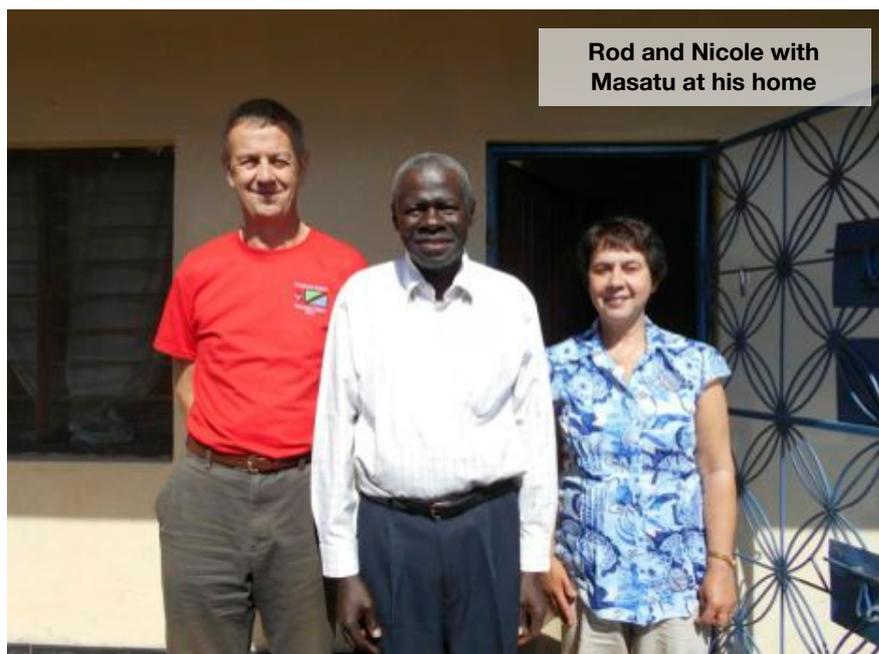
Honorable Regional Commissioner, Honorable District Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I have this opportunity to say a few words of appreciation of our good friend, Masatu.

For more than 20 years he has been the guide of FUM in the Tabora Region and it is because of his wisdom, ability, and hard work that FUM has supported so many successful projects in the districts of Nzega, Sikonge and Urambo.

“There can be no doubt about the high esteem in which he is held by the members of FUM and by Cranbrook School”

His guidance has enabled the link with Cranbrook School to develop, giving many UK students such as these young people with us tonight, the chance to learn about your wonderful country and to become good friends of Tanzania. I think also that many young people in the villages the school has visited have benefited greatly from this school exchange.



Without Masatu, much of what has happened would not have been possible. He is a true friend of FUM and Cranbrook School. I am proud to count him and his lovely wife Rachel as friends of mine.

There can be no doubt about the high esteem in which he is held by the members of FUM

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and by Cranbrook School, so I now ask Mrs Angela Daly, former Cranbrook School Headteacher, to present some gifts to Masatu, as tokens of our appreciation: a gift from the members of FUM and another from the governors, staff, parents and pupils of Cranbrook School.

Thank you

Rod Smith
Hon Secretary
The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala

Mr Masatu's Vote of Thanks

Mr Masatu thanked FUM for nearly 50 years of support in the Tabora Region in a speech given at his reception on the 12th July, 2013, at the Orion Tabora Hotel. This is his speech in full.

The Tabora Regional Commissioner, Hon. Fatma A. Mwassa – Co-President of Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala (FUM) Organization; The Honourable Regional Administrative Secretary, Ms. Kudra J. Mwinyimvua; Honourable District Commissioners; The FUM Secretary Rod Smith and your Wife Nicole Vehrle-Smith; Angela Daly, Jo Taylor, Dr Iain Chorlton, Council Directors, Teachers and Students from Cranbrook School; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly may I take this opportunity to thank my family who work hand in hand with me during my own activities and FUM activities.

May I express my sincere gratitude for the honour and privilege which FUM has accorded to me by holding this reception today. Thank you very much.

The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala started on 1964 in the two Districts of Nzega and Urambo, there are now three Districts including Sikonge.

When FUM started the first Chairman was Prof. David Walker and John Gillett was FUM Secretary (sadly both have passed away). Today's FUM President is Priscilla Gillett. For 49 years now FUM has continued supporting Project in the Tabora Region.

I remember at the end of 1989 the late Mr. John Gillett with his wife Priscilla Gillett visited the projects

in Tabora, he was very discouraged by what he found and after arriving back in the UK he wrote a serious letter to Prime Minister then the Hon. Samwel Malecela, Regional Commissioner, Districts
“projects such as those in the fields of health, water supply and education were fully successful”

Commissioners and to Council Director proposing that FUM should stop supporting the Projects.

I wrote a letter begging FUM not to take such action. They agreed with me and to get around the problems of mis-use of funds started to send money through the Regional Office. I advised the Regional Administrative Secretary to appoint a person who would be responsible for monitoring the

“I also thank FUM for its support of the Nurse Training Programme whereby every year more than thirty students benefited”

implementation of the projects. Thankfully my advice was taken and in consequence, subsequent projects such as those in the fields of health, water supply and education were fully successful. I also thank FUM for its support of the

Nurse Training Programme whereby every year more than thirty students benefited.

As our friendship grew, we started to visit each other and now more than thirty five UK students come to Tanzania every two years and people from Tabora Region in their turn visit the UK.

I take this opportunity again to give out my grateful thanks for the continuing support of the Community and Folk Development Colleges in Mwanhala, Sikonge and Urambo.

We through FUM have other Friends:

- (1) Kingsbridge Friends of Nzega;
- (2) Kenilworth and Uyogo Community Link;
- (3) Minichampton Nkokoto Link.

Please send my greetings to all FUM friends who are not here today.

Long live FUM-Tanzania Projects.

Thank you very much for this honour.

MASATU, Y.E.C.

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



“Our 50th FUM AGM will be held on 26th April, 2014. Please put the date in your diary because we would love you to join us on this special occasion. The venue for the AGM is not yet fixed, but it will be held as usual in Exeter. Details will be circulated to supporters well in advance. Please ensure that we have your correct email address by sending a message to membership@fumuk.org.uk See you there.”

Best wishes
Rod Smith