



AFRICAN VISION MALAWI

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

Our Vision: A healthy, educated, self-sufficient community in Malawi

Inside this issue

Sam's Village	1
Community Leaders Meeting	1
LBC cluster meeting	1
Epilepsy training	1
Disability	2
New office	2
Staff Updates	3
CBCB Feeding programme	3
Volunteers	3
Education	3
Funsani CBCB	4
Fundraising Events	4
Thank You	4



SAM'S VILLAGE: 2017 has been very busy with earth building and both the new office and Sam's Village are nearing completion. This is a very exciting time, as we hope to be transitioning to more training and being more sustainable. Training courses have already started; these include Team Management Training with Jeremy Thorn, Epilepsy Awareness Training with Laura Dowd, a Community Leaders development meeting and our Local Based Committee members bi-annual cluster meeting. We have revised our MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with TEVETA who will be providing the accredited vocational training in January next year. Solar will be installed in the next month and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel! We have nearly completed the Kitchen & Restaurant and one accommodation block. We have had a lot of issues with goats eating our plants, so we are now planning to install a fence around the Village.

COMMUNITY LEADERS MEETING: This meeting was well attended by Chiefs, Village Heads and Group Village Heads, so we could discuss the development of Sam's Village and upcoming issues of security (and pesky goats eating our food!) It was a very positive meeting and all showed support for the future of Sam's and the impending training. They were amazed when they looked around the buildings and they couldn't believe that they were made from earth!



LBC CLUSTER MEETING: Besides this meeting covering the main issues brought to us by the LBC (Local Based Committee) members, our main discussion was around 'proactivity in the community'. We showed various scenarios based around real stories, and they got into groups to discuss consequences of actions or lack of actions. This was very a positive time to learn from each other. Our M&E Officer and Education Manager talked to the group about the importance of their role within our projects.



Management training



Cooking for 100 people at LBC Cluster meeting



LBC Discussions



Management training



Management training



Epilepsy training

EPILEPSY TRAINING: Laura Dowd is a nurse based in Surbiton and she volunteered for a month in April to investigate the issues with epilepsy in our area and she ended her stay with two well-attended Epilepsy Awareness Training sessions in our area. One at Sam's Village and the other at Kafutwe in the other half of our support area. During the time of interviewing local people with epilepsy she was taken to see a young man called Kachinga who was badly burnt and left for a month without treatment, as they didn't have money for transportation.

Photos are distressing and put on the second page of this issue.



Recovery position

DISABILITY



Epilepsy burn



Epilepsy interviews



Samson with wheelchair



Dickson

We held two Epilepsy Awareness Training sessions, and Laura Dowd managed to interview 45 people to get a stronger picture of the issues faced in our area. Cerebral Malaria came up as a candidate for Epilepsy although many causes are still unknown. We observed, that the full and new moon seems to have an effect on seizures. At Kafutwe, one of the attendees had a seizure before we started the session, so Laura took this as an opportunity to show how to put someone into the recovery position, which was already a planned part of the training. We were taken to see Kachinga, an epileptic, who was badly burnt and we took him to N'khoma Hospital special burns unit. His leg has nearly healed and he was recently released and has gone home, walking!

On a Disability Outreach day we visited many of our clients who we don't regularly see, so we could see how they were coping in their home environment. 3 of them had recently been donated new wheelchairs from Motivation Africa. These were the best wheelchairs that have been distributed and very practical for our area. We were asked to see a young 12 year old boy, called Dickson who sadly had a bone sticking out of his leg and had been like this for a whole year. We think he had been hidden due to his injury. He has been operated on by Beit Cure and he is recovering. They removed the dead bone and hope his bones will knit together again, which will be amazing! After 8 weeks in hospital he has been discharged back home to his grandparents with plaster on to support his leg further.

If you want to support any of these children and our disability programme in general, please make a monthly donation through the website www.africanvision.org.uk

NEW OFFICE

We have finally moved into the new office at Njewa, Lilongwe. It was very exciting and not easy as we had a lot of issues to deal with to make it operational. No electricity connection until we paid for our own electrical poles and cables, so we could jump the 2 year waiting list! Then no internet signal, so we paid to have a pole erected so that Skyband could fix a dish. We are very grateful to Skyband who provide us with internet through their CSR programme. Our work would be impossible without this communication. We still have building work and decoration going on around us, but we are managing to operate in between the power and water cuts! Our thanks to everyone who has helped, especially Anold Mankhambira and Alex Banda who have worked tirelessly to enable us to move in.



Office outside



On the move



Office inside

DISTRIBUTIONS AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

We have just started our School Partnership programme in Malawi and we are combining this with our blanket, jumper and hat distribution, so we can halve our transport costs. More information will follow in the next newsletter, but our thanks to all the knitters and people that have helped organise the distribution, which is quite a military operation! Eileen Speak, Sarah Parsloe and Gaynor Cook are all currently involved with the programme.



STAFF UPDATE



Gift Banda

Gift Banda has made a really positive start to his M&E (monitoring and evaluation) support, now he has a motorbike and able to be mobile. He stood in for Jack Maduka, our previous Education Manager, who left us in August, so this year he has finally been able to do his job properly! He is thankful to have our 6 month intern, Marion (below) to help!



Wezie Gwaluka

Wezie Gwaluka joined us in January as our new Education Manager. She had a big learning curve, but she is managing well, supporting all our beneficiaries from CBCC, Primary, Secondary and Further Education! We welcome her into the Landirani Team, as she completes her first 6 months. In May, Wezie visited 8 of our University students in Blantyre, Ncheu and Lilongwe. This was to meet them and see how their progress was getting on and also pass on a new contract we have written between them, us and their guardians.



Thomas and Alex—staff of the month April



Anold—staff of the month May

'Congratulations' to some of our 'staff of the month'. Well done Anold!



University students



FEEDING PROGRAMMES—Thank you for funds raised to buy some additional food for our CBCC feeding programmes. We are also starting to get contributions from the communities. Attendance numbers dropped enormously when the feeding programme stopped. It is very important to encourage the under 5's to attend, for their physical, social, spiritual and educational development.

Mteza feeding programme

VOLUNTEERS

Jeremy Thorn a former Kingston-upon-Thames Mayor, volunteered for us in January for 6 weeks. His main focus was on Management and supporting our new Country Manager, Duncan Chiyani and advising how we could improve our office processes such as Appraisals and Meetings. He also held a successful Management Training at Sam's Village with our Management team and met the local Lilongwe Mayor too!



Laura Dowd

Laura Dowd is a nurse living in Surbiton who volunteered for a month, to focus on Epilepsy. See front and 2nd pages for further information. The main focus was to link us with organisations that could support people with epilepsy and do awareness training sessions to the community in our area.



Jeremy Thorn & Lilongwe Mayor

Marion Bichet is a French intern who is with us for 6 months, focusing on Monitoring & Evaluation. She is working closely with Gift Banda who is our M&E Officer. There is a lot of important work to be done in this area.



Marion Bichet

LANDIRANI FUN DAY AND 12TH ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated our 12th anniversary with a Landirani Fun Day which has now become an annual event. All the team took part in obstacle races, scavenger hunt, African country quiz and decided on the names of the accommodation blocks/rooms at Sam's Village. They are now named after Malawi rivers, birds, trees, mountains and animals! Miston's team won overall, with George, Anold and Wezie. They are celebrating below.





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JOLLY JUMPERS

ALL SAINTS KNITTERS

ALL TRUSTEES

KAY LENNOX

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

KINGSTON COLLEGE

EILEEN SPEAK

GAYNOR COOK

OUR PARTNERSHIP

SCHOOLS

JANE THOMPSON

MARCUS COLLIE

BOBBY WYETH

KRISTAL DIGITAL

IMAGING CENTRE



June 2017

GANDYS 'ORPHANS FOR ORPHANS' FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL AT FUNSANI



Ramming walls



Main structure



Under 5's looking on

Rammed earth Community Based Childcare Centre (CBCC)

Gandys 'Orphans for Orphans' has funded building a pre-school at Funsani, Lumbadzi Centre. This has been much needed and the community have been asking for support for the last three years. We are grateful to Gandys for helping us. 'Orphans for Orphans' was started by two brothers Rob and Paul and their sister Rosie has joined them, since losing their parents in the Tsunami on Boxing Day, 2004. They have funded orphan care projects in Sri Lanka and have now decided to support Malawi. This new CBCC pre-school is all earth-built with an attached kitchen, store and large water harvester collecting water off the roof of the amenities building. It will provide education and a feeding programme to over 70 children within the area. It will be run by volunteers who will be trained in childcare. We plan to complete the building by August and Gandys will come out to open it in September or October this year.

Past Fundraising events:

Christmas Appeal: We had an incredible response to our Christmas Appeal which gave us funds to complete building work and prepare for our upcoming Vocational Training programme at Sam's Village. We raised £17,000 which was then matched to £34,000! Thanks to everyone for their support which is helping us towards our goal of providing skills to the local community.

Heather Palmer 26km run: Unfortunately after completing 20km in training, just 10 days before the run, she got a stress fracture and was unable to do it. Although still keen to do it at some point, her ankle is still not healed and can't get over 5km without it hurting! Thanks to those who sponsored prior to the injury; £631 was raised which is to support CBCC feeding programmes.

Rainer Struck: has completed his mega 1,400km cycle ride from UK to Marseille in France. The final week was very hot with temperatures over 35 degrees. He raised an amazing £7,330 in total which will support Educational projects.

Stephen Williams: has walked 'The Coast to Coast' in May which was 322km. An amazing feat which raised £1,930 to support the orphan and vulnerable children in Malawi.

Art & Wine tasting retreats held at a French Farmhouse in the Loire Valley in May & June by Sam Palmer have so far raised £650 for African Vision Malawi. There are still spaces available on the August Zen and Meditation retreat. See below for details.

Current and future events:

Indulgence Day: We hold our popular Indulgence Day on **Saturday June 24th** with massage, facial, reflexology and nail treatments, along with yoga, meditation and mindfulness sessions.

London 10km run: We have 6 runners running in the London 10km run on **Sunday 9th July**. They are Iona Bain, Jade John, Tony and James Williams, and Lyn Stevens with one available space due to health drop out.

Retreat to the Farm: There are spaces still available on the Zen and Meditation Retreat from **August 19th - 26th**. For booking and further details go to <http://www.retreattothefarm.co.uk>

Christmas dinner & dance: Saturday November 25th 2017. Keep the date for an exciting new fundraiser where we get into the Christmas spirit exactly a month before. We are holding a Dinner & Dance at Hampton Stables with a fun time to be had by all with a professional photographer on hand for some memorable photos! Details of how to get tickets coming shortly.

Malawi cycle challenge: End of **May 2018**. We are holding our first Malawi cycle challenge of 500km over 6 days with additional 2 days rest in-between. It is a chance to see some amazing parts of Malawi, cycling from Blantyre to Zomba then Liwonde National Park with a rest day on safari. Onto Mangochi on the lakeshore of Malawi with another rest day by the Lake, then up to Mao Mission Cultural Centre then Kuti National Park and ending up at Sam's Training Village to support or see some of the projects. £1,500 fully inclusive (except flights, visa and insurance) with minimum of £1,000 raised for the charity. We shall hold it over half term holiday dates to make it available to teachers who can then participate in School Partnerships when they arrive at Sam's Village. There are limited places and if you are interested contact Heather Palmer at heather.palmer@africanvision.org.uk

