

Welcome

Welcome to the Trade Aid Spring Newsletter and a very warm welcome to new faces in Mikindani. Since all our volunteers are on an average of a 12-month placement, there is always some coming and going and this year has been no exception.

We welcome Ian and Sue Lockwood, a husband and wife team. Ian is an accountant (so we make sure all our donations are very carefully looked after!) and Sue is a qualified teacher so she will be extending and developing our English teaching programme. Good spoken English is a tremendous asset for anyone wishing to gain future employment and we feel it is key to providing a good guest experience in a hotel. Although English is taught in secondary schools, generally the standard is low and the opportunity for our staff to have Sue teaching in small group situations is a fantastic chance to learn.



Ian in Fordingbridge before departure

As well as Sue and Ian, Suzanne Hay has joined our team. Suzanne comes with an extensive background in hospitality and she is using these skills to develop our Hotel Training. Suzanne is training the staff in all areas of running the hotel – from how to cook a poached egg for breakfast to how to handle a reservation or a tricky enquiry.

Suzanne shows the kitchen staff how to roast potatoes!



Ken Johnson arrived in Mikindani just three weeks ago and is the newest 'kid on the block!' Ken has taken on the role of Building Project Manager. Before he left UK, Ken asked "will there be plenty for me to do, because I like to be busy!" So far Ken has been so busy he has hardly stopped and has begun a refurbishment of Base House (previous volunteers will be heard saying "at long last!") and lots of maintenance in the hotel.



Once he finds his feet, we hope that Ken and his team of fundi (local craftsmen) will continue the restoration and conversion of Livingstone House, which has been 'mothballed' awaiting the arrival of a good Building Project Manager. We think Ken will be kept very busy indeed!

New style Base House now has the Trade Aid office downstairs

Back in UK, ex-volunteer Tim Dench has joined one of Brian's companies and is now working in Fordingbridge. His wealth of experience in Mikindani while he was with Trade Aid, EduKaid and, more latterly, TOAD is very valuable and it is great to have him around.

What a team! A very BIG welcome to you all and very best wishes for a happy and productive year.

The Old Boma Hotel

This year there have been busy periods and slacker periods in the hotel. We keep positive, the quieter times are ideal for Suzanne to get training done, so good habits are established for the busier times.

One of the highlights of this quarter has been the visit from the UN, who chose the Old Boma Hotel as the venue for their recent delegation. Amongst other guests, we welcomed Enrico Strampelli, the Head of European Union Operations in Tanzania and several other key Government officials as well as representatives from UK, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Germany, Finland, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, France, Netherlands and Germany.

The symposium was organised by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and matters such as how to reduce poverty and increase literacy were part of their discussions. The UNDP is at the forefront for the development of a global network connecting less developed countries to countries with wider experience and resources. It is wonderful to think that Trade Aid and the Old Boma Hotel has become part of this.

Over fifty delegates enjoy the buffet at The Old Boma Hotel



The Enterprise Development Project

There will be many Friends who will be interested to hear about the Trade Aid EDP and how it is going. For those of you who are less familiar with Trade Aid, this is our micro finance facility, where we offer business advice to local entrepreneurs. It has been a very successful initiative with many small businesses around Mikindani benefiting greatly from Trade Aid counsel and funding. All the early loans have now been repaid and we are now ready to consider the way forward. One suggestion is to offer larger loans to fewer people; this would help greatly with the administration procedures, which are sometimes complex and time consuming. Whatever is finally decided, all donors can rest assured that their money will be kept as allocated funding and when the time is right, used appropriately and prudently so that it gives maximum value to the individuals and the local community as a whole.

Individual Sponsorships

We have several Friends who have chosen to sponsor individuals. Alan Bardsley is one such person. Many will remember the Christmas Appeal 2009, when we focused on two young ladies (both called Tatu!) who had worked hard at school and wanted to continue their studies and go to the local VETA Technical College to study Catering. Neither had families who could afford to pay the fees. Alan generously decided to sponsor both girls. This has been a fantastically successful story, with both girls doing really well and Alan having regular updates. Alan hopes to visit Mikindani and meet the 'Tatus' this year. Recently the girls came to Trade Aid with their latest examination results and their attendance records (100% attendance). While they were there, we held our own version of 'Master Chef'. The girls were each given a selection of root vegetables to choose from and asked to prepare, cook and serve a soup of their choice with fresh bread for lunch! The volunteers and guests eagerly waited! Both girls did brilliantly, there were neither winners nor losers and great fun was had by everyone.



If you would like to sponsor a young person through College, and give them a real chance to make something of themselves Trade Aid can help you. It costs around £200 a year and this includes boarding and living costs. Most courses are for two years.

We would love to hear from you. info@tradeaiduk.org or call Jane on 01425 657774. This is a wonderful way to help.

And Finally:

A word of thanks to the Trustees! (often neglected – but never forgotten!)

As with most charities, Trade Aid relies upon a small group of individuals who give their time to support our charity.

Trade Aid has six trustees, four in UK and two in Tanzania. Between them they have had a combined active involvement with the charity of over sixty years!

Their contribution, which includes attendance at monthly meetings and staff interviews; regular visits to the Project (we have had two Trustee visits to Mikindani this year already) and day-to-day participation in all areas of the organisation is not insignificant and is absolutely crucial for the smooth running of the charity.

This long-term association with Trade Aid and energetic commitment provides our charity with a stability rarely found.

Thank you to all the Trustees.

Jane meets and thanks our two Tanzanian Trustees, Kate Kamba and Daniel Ngadala during her visit in Dar es Salaam



That's it folks! Our Summer Newsletter will be with you in August and will be edited by George Denham.

Those of you with good memories will recall that George worked at Trade Aid during the summer of 2009. Just finishing his sixth form at Bishop's Wordsworth School in Salisbury, George completes his 'A' levels this year. Fortunately, George will be here in the Trade Aid office in Fordingbridge during the summer months, helping in all sorts of ways as well as lending us his imaginative editorial skills! Watch this space for a treat!



'Creating Sustainable Employment'