

HEREFORD - MUHEZA LINK SOCIETY
(Working with Health Services in Tanzania, East Africa)

Supported by
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SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2014

News from Hereford:

Walter Gould

John Wood, Richard & Karilyn Collins write :

With very great sadness the Link mourns the recent death of Walter Gould, our Vice Chairman. Since 2001 Prebendary Walter Gould brought his wisdom, energy, enthusiasm and efficiency to the Link, and also his keen recognition of the great value of personal contacts and relationships across the World. Walter had been Vicar of Bromyard and was, along with Geoffrey Wilkinson, a vital and most important part of the links between Bromyard, Leominster and Tanzania. He was a major organiser of the conference of local bodies with African Links held in Leominster in 2002. Walter was a central and key member of the Tanzanian Committee of the Diocese of Hereford, and he and Hazel visited Tanzania quite frequently for both family and Linking reasons. Walter was also the Diocesan Link Co-ordinator from 2002, overseeing all the school, parish, deanery and diocesan links and wise Vice Chairman of the hospital link. He made 28 trips to Tanzania and visited Teule Hospital on about half of these. He first visited Teule in 1995, accompanying Bishop Anthony, Bishop Michael, the Dean and finally, last September, the Archdeacon on official trips.

As well as welcoming our visitors from Muheza and helping with all our planning and organisation, Walter several times conducted the Link's Christmas Carol celebrations in the Chapel at the County Hospital. We shall miss him dreadfully, and all our best wishes and love go to Hazel and their family.

Bishop Maimbo Mndolwa of Tanga, one of the Link Society Patrons has sent the following tribute:
THE DEATH OF OUR BELOVED BROTHER WALTER GOULD

He was here in Tanga in last September. His health was not that weak. To hear that he is no longer with us is shocking and very challenging. In his visit to Tanga in 1994, he met emeritus archbishop John Ramadhan and asked him what his first priority was. The archbishop who also was a diocesan bishop of Zanzibar and Tanga said it was training of ordinands. Walter took that in his heart and made special arrangements in his home diocese which enabled training of Zanzibar and Tanga students at St. Marks Theological College. The college which was about to close because diocesan bishop could not pay the fees of their respective students in there was revived when it received the first grant from Hereford. Walter continued to publicise Tanga when he participated fully in the establishment of Hereford Muheza Link and Tanga Buhuri-Broomyard link which had enabled several Tanzanians to visit England and some English people visit this part of Africa for the first time in their life. Walter Gould also facilitated the establishment of Tenbury-Maramba link which has been working very well. Although we may not make it to his funeral, our condolences to mama Hazel, Jane and Helen. Walter Gould will be remembered in Tanga in many ways. The recreation room in the Hereford Lodge and the Out Patient Department at St. Augustine Muheza Hospital will be named after him. May his soul rest in peace till we meet again in the life eternal, Amen

Recent Meetings : We have had two excellent speakers this year at Link Society meetings focusing on Medicine in Zambia and Dentistry in Nicaragua.

In February, Dr Katie Crombie spoke about her experiences working as a volunteer Doctor, ' On Call Africa '. The challenges and limitations of providing healthcare on a small budget to a rural community are familiar topics and there seemed to be many similarities with our own experiences in Muheza. Katie, along with two other Doctors provided a mobile clinic for a large population who did not have the means to get to a Hospital. One of the main problems was the volume of patients who walked to the clinics and the necessity of choosing which ones to treat before the clinic had to close at dusk each day. (Driving after dark is dangerous due to wild animals and trucks without lights on the road). Occasionally, patients were taken to the nearest Hospital (several hours drive away) in the volunteer's truck. One particularly memorable case involved a convulsing child who required glucose urgently, and as none was available in the limited pharmacy stock, Katie went to ask for sugar at the nearest house and made up a solution to treat the child. Prioritising care for these patients and making the best use of limited medical supplies along with a clear need to work creatively were the central themes of this talk.

At the AGM in April, Will Hanks spoke about his recent trip to provide dental treatment in mobile clinics in Nicaragua. His work, supported by the Peace & Hope Trust involves packing up and transporting a huge amount of dental equipment including a portable Dentist's chair to Nicaragua. Will lead a team of Dentists, Pharmacists & Dental Nurses and the purpose of the trip was to provide much needed emergency treatment and education in basic dental hygiene to large sections of the rural population. Scores of toothbrushes given out with teaching sessions on their use . A key member of the team is the translator who helps to encourage any nervous patients and explain treatments. The clinics proved so popular that on one occasion the police had to be called to establish order. As in Africa, the same challenges of limited water and electricity supply exist here and patients suffer from the lack of rural treatment centres, many have never seen a dentist in their lives. With thanks to both Speakers, it was fascinating to broaden our horizons beyond Tanzania.



Dates for your Diary :

Garden Party at Dormington House, nr Hereford on Thursday June 19th 6 - 8 pm

Coffee Morning at St Ethelbert's Hospital, Castle St, Hereford on Saturday,
September 6th 10 - 12 pm

Autumn Supper at Hampton Park Church Hall, Hereford on Saturday, 18th
October at 7pm, speaker to be confirmed.

All welcome !

News from Muheza: The four visitors selected this year are just applying for their visas, they are Rose Samzugi (paediatrics), Dr Elisaria Somi (Ultrasound), Dr Jesca Lebba (Diabetics) and Andrew Kalimbe (ECG). As ever, communicating with Chris Mselemu in Muheza has been difficult due to the erratic computer connections, but John and I will be backing up the applications with letters and emails. One piece of good news, the application office has now moved back from Nairobi to the British High Commission in Dar-Es-Salaam which makes the process easier. The container sent in January should be in Muheza by now, delays occurred initially in Felixstowe due to rough weather and in Tanga due to the arrival of another large container arriving from Ohio just before our own.

With best wishes,

Elly Ecroyd (Sec to the Hereford-Muheza Link Society)

