



HELPING THE PEOPLE OF UKEREWE

A ROTARY PROJECT TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF UKEREWE TO HELP THEMSELVES

5 FEBRUARY – 16 FEBRUARY 2015

This is the fifth project organised by Rotarians from the United Kingdom and Sweden to help the people of Ukerewe. A team of nine volunteers arrived on the island on 5th February and worked alongside Nansio Rotarians and community leaders until 16th February on a variety of projects. This is a brief report of what has been achieved during this visit.

TOUGH COMPETITION FOR ROTARY'S SCHOOL TROPHY



Seventeen Schools participated in the second interschool health quiz competition on Monday, 5th February, organised by Rotarians from the UK and Sweden with help of Rotary colleagues from Nansio.

The church hall at St Mary's church in Nansio was packed by 34 participating pupils (two from each school) all in smart school uniforms – and their teachers as well as the Rotary team.

The competition focussed on health topics, human biology and general knowledge. The standard was high with scores ranging from 49 to 30 out of a total of 70.

The participants did very well in some areas such as 'malaria' and 'sexual health', but some areas like 'water and hygiene' and 'Albinism' yielded mixed answers. To a question 'is Albinism' infectious?' a few answered 'YES'. The correct answer, of course, as provided by the vast majority is 'NO'.

Each answer was discussed at the end of the competition. It is our hope that, in addition to the challenge of entering an interschool competition, the participants and teachers also extended their knowledge about some vital subjects.

Our congratulations go to the winning schools: First prize went to Bwiro Secondary School, Second Prize to Nansio Secondary and third prize went to Pius Msekwa Secondary School.

The participants from each winning team from Bwiro were, Hashele Maina and Megana Peter. Our congratulations to these very bright pupils from Bwiro.

Mr Almahd Isa Majaliwa of Bwiro School said, 'the competition was very advantageous to our student. They enjoyed the day and found it challenging. We hope to keep the victory for the next year'

All members of the winning teams were awarded personal prizes and the three schools received, as a gift from Rotary, a quantity of stationery – paper, notebooks and pens.

The Rotary trophy will be retained by the winning school (Bwiro) for one year and then returned to Nansio Rotary Club or the third Interschool competition.

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE RECEIVE FREE GLASSES



Members of the visiting Rotary team held eye clinics in Nansio hospital, Gallu and Kagunguli. The clinics were conducted with the permission of local health staff and members of the team were under the leadership of eye specialist Ruth Perrott.

The team checked 731 people and supplied 569 pairs of glasses. The service – registration, consultation and supply of glasses – were all free, thanks to donors from the United Kingdom. Ruth said: 'I was delighted with the efficiency of the clinics – a special thanks to Celine Mariba, who improved her skills in eye tests significantly.'

MURUNGURU TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE GETS HELP WITH WATER

Murunguru Teachers' training college has over 400 young teacher trainees. The College has many challenges – with inadequate classrooms, dormitory, kitchen, toilets and so on. The absence of a reliable water supply is perhaps one of the most severe challenges they face. Rotary had explored, in the past, ways of helping the college, but it was only this year that a viable solution was found possible.

The project has been funded by Mirfield Rotary Club UK and with the help of Good Earth Trust, who built the storage tank and fitted the rain water guttering, the new facilities were handed over to the Principal on 14 February 2015

NANSIO HOSPITAL GETS NEW MATTRESSES



Rotary's collaboration with the Nansio District hospital goes back many years. This year, though the courtesy of the Rotary Club of Braids, in Scotland, 120 water proof mattresses were donated.

Senior Doctors including Dr Magreth and Dr Nyanda Nkombi and staff assisted the Rotary volunteers to remove old mattresses from the beds in each ward and replace them with new ones.

Some patients were concerned when they saw their mattresses, sheets and other possessions on the bed being taken out but delighted when everything was replaced with new and comfortable mattresses.

SAFE DRINKING WATER



Two years ago, Rotary brought onto the island a new technology for filtering water – Bio sand filters. At that time, the filters were brought from Uganda, at a huge cost. Three years ago, the filters were available in the Mara Region and Rotary bought 30 and distributed them to schools and the hospital. The filters were popular and the demand for them increased. It was thought best to provide some local people the skills to make them.

This was achieved at the end of last year, when a trainer from Moshe came to Nansio and trained a group of people in the making and setting up of the filters.

50 filters were made by the team but 8 had to be abandoned due to defects. 42 have been distributed to schools, which should make it possible for 1000's of pupils and staff to have access to safe drinking water.

27 teachers attended a training programme at the Monarch hotel on 13th February. They learned how the filters are made, how they work and how they should be maintained. Many teachers commented on the great value of the filters to their pupils.

Many also commented that one filter might not yield enough water for the school. As the skill to make these filters is now available on the island it is our hope that the schools may find resources to buy more filters.

BEE KEEPERS



Rotary launched last year a bee-keeping programme, providing a week long training to 11 people from the village of Naweala with basic skills to start a bee keeping programme. In addition to training, Rotary paid for 100 hives to be made of which 83 have been constructed. 55 of these have been colonised by bees.

Several extra training sessions have been provided during the year by the trainer Mr. Methus Chumu from the Bunda region. A preliminary harvest of honey in October yielded several jars. A bumper harvest in May 2015 is expected of yield on average 7-10 kg of honey per hive.

The team visited the village and was delighted to see hives buzzing with bees. There was also a buzz in the team who welcomed the visitors with smiling faces and genuinely welcoming words. It has been a pleasure to see this project coming to fruition.

MICROCREDIT PROGRAMME



Four years ago, rotary started the 'transforming lives' programme under the very efficient leadership of the Nansio Rotary Secretary,

Experantia. The aim was to help groups of women to borrow capital to start new business or expand existing businesses. During the last two years, there have been several training courses for the participants, funded by Rotary.

The training, the availability of capital without security at half the interest rate of the commercial rate and excellent governance by Experantia and her fellow Rotarians have led to the group prospering beyond all expectations.

A further training programme with topics such as leadership, conflict resolution and accountancy is being held from 13-17 February 2015. The international trustee of the programme, Chris Philip said: 'It is a personal delight to see the capital being recycled in this creative way, but more importantly to see the lives of many women improving because of their entrepreneurship and effort.'

Forty members of the microcredit and bee keepers group attended a graduation ceremony on Saturday 14 February.

REUSABLE SANITARY PADS FOR GIRLS



Thanks to the very hard work of Inner Wheel Member Elizabet Jensen of Sweden, some 700 reusable pads arrived by post on Friday 13th February.

Elizabet had been moved to learn about the plight of so many girls who are not able to go to school during their monthly period. The pads and

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holders were stitched personally by Elizabet over a 6 month period. They have now been given to Experantia of the Nansio Rotary club to be distributed to girls in need.

COMPUTERS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

We were delighted to meet with Mr Robert from ACTT Mwanza Branch (affordable Computers and technology for Tanzania) In a brief presentation to us he explained that his social enterprise aimed to provide good quality recycled computers for schools to enhance teaching resources .

A brief meeting with the District Education Officer (Secondary) confirmed that this would be an excellent project to support. Rotary is therefore considering sponsoring two secondary schools to receive computers.

POTENTIAL COLLABORATION WITH UKEREWE'S NETWORK OF FARMERS

We were delighted to meet with the leaders of MWIWAWU – a network of 5,250 farmers in Ukerewe. A Swedish NGO Viagroforestry has been providing advice and guidance to this group for some time.

Mr Thaddeus Mbowe, Viagroforestry representative in Musoma, came to the island to explore how a three-way partnership may be developed to encourage 'young farmers'. It was agreed that there is the potential to introduce partnership with some schools to cultivate some of their land to produce food or cash crops.

FUNDING

The project activities were funded by donations from well-wishers in the UK and Sweden. The team members paid for their own travel cost and all associated costs.