

The latest news from Temwenani

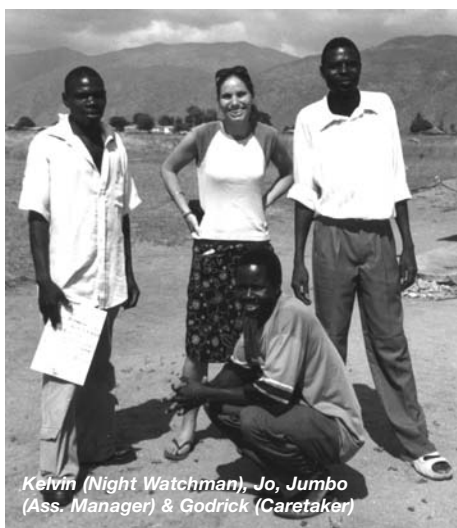
- Jo and family visit Malawi ● Sam starts work ● HIV Projects underway
- Bottletop album ● Truck arrives in Africa ● Street art ● Sally Taylor

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Malawi update

Jo Hook, Temwenani co-founder and trustee, spent four weeks in Malawi recently, overseeing the project manager change-over, assisting with daily operations, meeting new staff, checking accounts, and finding out costs for new SDIs (Skills Development Initiatives). Jo was very impressed with the Temwenani committee in Usisya, which is made up of key members of the local community, who work for Temwenani on a voluntary basis. They have really taken the Temwenani projects on board as their own and they work exceptionally hard assisting with all aspects of the projects. They are very dedicated and enthusiastic people.

Jo's mother and her mother's husband, along with Jo's Aunt Bren and Uncle John, also visited Usisya. They got involved straight away: visiting the local schools to research information needed for a schools presentation pack that will be put together by Tom Blower, who works for Young Bristol.



Kelvin (Night Watchman), Jo, Jumbo (Ass. Manager) & Godrick (Caretaker)

In mid June, Sam Clarke – Temwenani's new Project Manager – started work out in Usisya.

In the short time he has been working with the charity, Sam has already made a big impression. He has integrated well into the community and already proved that he is very hard working and dedicated. So far, Sam has been organising our next HIV and AIDS educational programme, 'Stepping Stones', as well as other HIV and AIDS activities; working with trustees in Malawi; pushing forward our registration process with CONGOMA (Council for NGOs in Malawi); researching a large-scale agriculture and irrigation programme; working alongside the government and the community; researching a gender equality project that might possibly be funded by the CIDA Foundation; applying for funding from the US Embassy for more SDIs (Skills Development Initiatives); helping to co-ordinate the arrival of the Temwenani truck to Malawi; as well as carrying out day-to-day management duties.

Phase one of the HIV and AIDS projects are well underway. Temwenani has procured a large flat-screen television, video player, sound system and generator and, each week, Temwenani now holds an educational video show before showing a feature film. The educational videos are HIV-AIDS educational productions, which pass on vital information on HIV and AIDS. The video shows have been very successful, with around 200 people filling the hall at each event.

Temwenani was very sad to say goodbye to Rebecca Bronheim, our previous project manager, **and Aubrey Patsika,** our long-term volunteer at the end of June. They both worked extremely hard, were very dedicated and helped shape the Temwenani projects in Usisya into the success they have become today. We would like, in particular, to thank Aubrey, who ran his own business in Nkhata Bay and volunteered for Temwenani for over a year. He often went out of his way to support Temwenani. They will both be greatly missed.



Brenda, Sally & Jumbo talking at the secondary school

UK fundraising

We are looking for new volunteers! Would you or anyone you know be interested? We meet in Bristol every fortnight to talk through the current fundraising projects we've got going on in the UK, brainstorm for new fundraising ideas, then put our ideas into action. The meetings are very informal, and all we ask is for an hour or so of your time. If you'd like to come along and see how Temwenani works and have some fun organising events for a very good cause, why not pop along! There are many ways to get involved! Email info@temwenani.org for the date and place of the next meeting.

BottleTop (www.bottletop.org.uk) will soon be **launching an album of Afro-Beat music**, remixed by well-known house and dance musicians from Europe. Temwenani is one of five charities that will be receiving funding from this campaign. The first grant given to Temwenani will be put towards an SDI carpentry course and towards registering costs with CONGOMA.



Street art for Africa!

Temwenani recently held a street art auction and exhibition at bar One30 in Bristol. A massive thank you to the artists that donated new canvases: Paris Xenx, Mr Jago, Ponk, Rikta, Seza, Bone, Dicy and Satch. Thank you also to Sarah Garrard for organising the event and to One30 for being so accommodating.



Greetings cards

A new range of greetings cards is available to purchase through various retail outlets around Bristol, as well as direct from Temwenani. Featuring five unique street art designs, the packs of greetings cards are available from 50:50, Eat the Beat, Alterior, Mack Daddys, Cooshti, Replay and Supa8. Thank you to Becky Rowe, Clare and Ryan Wills for organising the creation of these cards, and to the artists for their time and generous support.

STOP PRESS: Look out soon for our range of street art Xmas cards!

The truck kindly donated by CVS (see *In Touch*, Winter-Spring 2004-05) has arrived in Usisya. Packed full of generous donations, including five computers from Air Balloon School, a laptop computer from Ovum, printers from the Institute of Physics Publishing, and mixed items from, among many, many others: Mr & Mrs Rayment of Chepstow, Stu Brown of Aldershot, and Rich Hook of Portishead. Martin Collins of CVS also paid for the shipping costs to get the truck out to Malawi, and is flying out to visit the project and to see truck in action for himself. He has also pledged a very generous £400 each month to Temwenani. Many thanks to Amy Garrett, Sarah Garrard, Jeremy Hook and all the other volunteers who helped sort through items and pack the truck.



Thank yous

- Brownies in the Isle of Wight for their donation of £50 from cake sale

- Lloyd Felton for his £100 donation

- A private donation of £5,600 (anonymous)

- Dave Jones for the £1,000 donation

- Brenda Schofield for her consistent donations

- Jude Burns for raising £60 at his 30th birthday

- Clare & Ryan Wills for raising £260 at their wedding

- NPower for matching £1,000 from the Monster Piece night in January, and to Npower employee and Temwenani volunteer Sarah Garrard for arranging this

- All people who donate via direct debit to Temwenani – they make a big difference!

- The Park Bar in Bristol for hosting monthly charity nights, and to our guest and resident DJs. Over £2,000 has been raised, so far, from these nights.

- Barry Goode for the donation of four brand new bicycles

- Charlie Skelton, who walked the width of England and raised £250

- Dan for finishing his trek across New Zealand. See our website www.temwenani.org for a link to Dan's trek diary. He raised over £800

- The Jones family, who gave donations to Temwenani instead of birthday presents

Temwenani in the news

You may have caught Temwenani in the news recently. We featured in Bristol-based alternative newspaper *The Spark*; the local *Evening Post* paper ran a story on the CVS truck being sent to Malawi; and BBC Radio Bristol carried out a live on-the-spot report the day the truck left.



An interview with... **Sally Taylor**

Temwenani co-founder and trustee Jo Hook traveled to Malawi recently, and took some of her family with her. We asked her Mum, Sally Taylor what she thought of the country and talked to her about her experience of Temwenani in Usisya:



How did you find Malawi as a country?

It is always hard to see people living with so little and so little chance of getting out of that poverty trap. Yes, there is poverty, but there is also a quality that is so hard to define. There are very few white people, so it is very Malawian and there is not much evidence of influence from other countries, which gives a special charm. It has a beauty that is magnetic and the people have a quality that most western countries threw out with materialism.

What do you think of the projects being undertaken?

It must have been so difficult in the beginning deciding which projects to start with, but I feel they have it right, focusing on AIDS/HIV education and training programmes. There is so much to do in the area and easy to be diverted from the priorities, but the Temwenani committee and the Bristol committee are so focused. The people of Usisya are so proud of the hall and, as one person said, 'Temwenani has given them hope'.

What did you think of Usisya and its people?

It was just such a privilege to spend time on the project. We went into the schools to ask a series of questions, which we hope will, in time, develop links between Bristol schools and schools in Malawi. It would be brilliant if that happened. The teachers work under incredibly difficult conditions: in one school there was a class of 139 students, and in one school of 900 pupils over 300 are orphans. The people made us so welcome and are so generous.

What was the highlight of your trip?

Really difficult to pick out one, but I think it would have to be listening to the school children singing for us. Each class sang and it was magic.

Would you return to Malawi and if so why?

Yes, we would love to see more of Malawi and spend more time in Usisya. It is just beautiful there. Also, the country really needs the income from tourism. Because of the rate of exchange, it is incredibly cheap for us to live out there. It was the most meaningful trip we have done and just an amazing experience. When Jo talked about the wonderful people and the beautiful place it was difficult to fully understand, but now I do.