

## The latest news from Temwenani

- Truck arrives ● Malawi volunteers ● Project update
- First UK employee! ● Fundraising ● Martin Collins

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Registered Charity No.1101090

[www.temwenani.org](http://www.temwenani.org)

## Malawi update

### The CVS truck arrived in Usisya!

After much hard work all round, the truck - packed full of goods donated from all over the UK - finally arrived at the beginning of September. CVS (Commercial Vehicle Solutions in Leicester) generously donated Temwenani a seven-tonne Peugeot truck, with spare parts for practically everything, including doors and windscreens! CVS also paid for all the shipping costs to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, where Temwenani project manager Sam Clark collected the vehicle. After a frustrating two weeks in Dar es Salaam trying to get the truck through customs and out of the port, Sam finally left for Malawi. Martin Collins, the owner of CVS, with his colleague Emma, went to visit Temwenani's projects and wanted to be there to see the truck arrive in Usisya. Due to the long delay and a breakdown, this almost didn't happen but finally the truck arrived in Usisya the night before Martin and Emma left! Martin even managed to drive the truck to the community centre after it got stuck in sand just one more time!



### Malawi volunteers

Whilst travelling through Africa, Chris Darts came across Temwenani's projects in Usisya. Chris offered to help Sam collect the truck from Dar es Salaam. He also set up a six-a-side football tournament when he returned to Usisya. Chris is an excellent photographer and has some amazing photos of the projects and community in Usisya, which he has kindly donated to Temwenani. The photos are now up on the website for you all to enjoy. Chris has now returned to the UK and has started to help as a volunteer in Bristol too. A big thank you to Chris.

Temwenani also has another volunteer going to Usisya this month. Jamie Walsh left for Malawi on the 10 January and she is hoping to be able to spend three months helping out. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jamie for volunteering for the organisation and we hope you enjoy your time with Temwenani.



### HIV/AIDS projects are well underway

The first two projects planned by Temwenani and the NAC (National AIDS Commission) are being implemented. The first is the HIV/AIDS video shows, which started in June. Video shows are held twice a week at the community centre on a large flatscreen TV with enhanced surround sound. A range of videos are shown that appeal to all members of the community. Before these films start, an educational HIV/AIDS video is played. Using video shows to educate people is a strategy used by Population Services International (PSI), an organisation that believes in 'edutainment'. The theory behind 'edutainment' is that people learn better if they are having fun in the process.

The second project that Temwenani has started is the Stepping Stones training programme. This is designed to tackle issues relating to HIV/AIDS in a new and innovative way. In Usisya, Temwenani will coordinate the training of eight Stepping Stones facilitators who will go on to teach other members of the community what they have learnt. In Usisya, four peer groups will be formed. Each peer group will consist of 40 women and 40 men, spread over different age groups. It is these groups that will then be trained by the facilitators. The programme is designed to reach people of all age groups within Usisya. Jumbo, our assistant manager, has been in charge of managing Stepping Stones and he has been doing an excellent job. The Stepping Stones project will pass on teachings about safe sex, will help people explore what they want from relationships and help people understand why they behave the way they do.



# UK update

## First UK employee!

Due to the huge growth of the Temwenani organisation, it has become more difficult to run the UK operation wholly with the help of volunteers. Therefore, as of the 1 Feb 2006, Joanna Hook will be working for the organisation on a part-time basis for two days a week. Joanna is a founder of Temwenani and has dedicated much time and effort to the charity over the past three years. This is a big landmark for the organisation, and with this new position Temwenani can continue to grow at the rate needed. Everyone involved in Temwenani would like to wish Joanna luck in her new role.

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## Fundraising

**Bottletop** ([www.bottletop.org.uk](http://www.bottletop.org.uk)) has granted Temwenani £5,000, which will be used to implement a carpentry course for 20 apprentices in Usisya. After a three-week training course, the trainees will shadow experienced carpenters in the North of Malawi. This and the starter packs provided by Temwenani will give them the experience and tools needed to start their new careers as carpenters. We are also looking to use the funds to expand our current projects in Usisya

The monthly fundraisers that are held at two locations in Bristol have again been extremely successful. The new **Native** nights raised over £1,000 during 2005. The acts that have featured include a fashion show organised by Michelle Jetzer (above); Babydub and AllFlaws playing live sets; and finishing off the year was a drum and bass themed night, with a live set from Blackout, followed by a DJ set by Bristol legend Rob Smith. The beginning of 2006 has already seen a very successful caberet night 'Go Go Fandango' to be reported on in the next issue. We will also be staging further monthly events at Native including West Country Hip Hop, 80's Groove and Reggae themed nights.



The **Park** bar nights raised over £650 during the last part of 2005. The acts helping to raise these funds included Paul Walker and John Douglas from Eat the Beat, Mark Davis, the Loosegroove DJs, and resident DJs Olly, Awon & Silk Cut. Thanks to everyone that has helped raise the much needed monthly funds that we receive from these events. Look out for more nights at the Park bar in 2006, these have now been promoted to the third Friday of every month due the success of the Thursday sessions!

Temwenani has again sold graffiti Christmas cards this year. The cards were on sale in Eat the Beat, Replay, MackDaddys, Super8, Cooshti and through individual sales by UK Temwenani volunteers. So far, over £350 has been raised...

## Thank yous

- Keri Schofield: donated £50 instead of a birthday present for Sally Taylor

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- Mr Euburn: £50 donation

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- Simon Evans Chemist in Malvern: £500

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- Simon Usher: For running the Great North Run and raising over £500

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- Rob Smith & MC Kelz: Continued support and DJing at Native in December, which raised over £450

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- Monster Piece/BabyDub/Babyhead: A big thanks for their constant support over the years; they have helped to raise thousands of pounds.

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- Michele Jetzer: For organising a fashion show at Native in September, raising £350

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- Dan Lewin: For walking the length of the north island of New Zealand, raising over £1,000

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- Gurnard Primary School: Donating money that was collected from their Harvest Festival

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- A table top sale at Gurnard Bay W.I. Evening on the Isle of White: £70

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- Mrs J. Booth: £5 donation

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- Mrs Jenny Brasier: £10 donation

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- The Walker-Lenartz family for their donation of £50

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- Molly Phillips: \$50 donation

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- It seemed as if everyone was getting into the Christmas spirit over the festive period. Thank you to the following people for choosing to donate money to Temwenani instead of the normal Christmas expenditure:

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- Tim Douglas & Mark Douglas: donated £45 on behalf of Mary Douglas

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- Yvonne and Mike Fortey donated £250

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- Bren & John Schofield: For their continued support and donating over £80

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- Mrs Emma Glasbey: £10 donation

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- The Darts family: £100 donation

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- The Churchill family: £10 Christmas donation

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- Emma Lewis: £10 donation

# An interview with... **Martin Collins** of CVS

## **How did you and your company Commercial Vehicle Solutions (CVS) become involved with Temwenani?**

*An associate of mine requested I contact Jo to assist in delivering some sports shirts he had collected for the charity. I got speaking to Jo's father, who told me all about Jo and Temwenani, and that whilst they were doing some good work and had collected many donated items, they had no way of getting them to Malawi. As we are a business with 250 trucks, I thought we must be able to do something to help!*

## **What inspired CVS to donate the truck to Temwenani, paying all the shipping costs, as well as to now donate £400 a month to the charity?**

*Having seen how much great work had been carried out by Temwenani already, and seen how much effort had been put in, it made sense to try and help out in any way possible. CVS, as a business, has a social responsibility to provide support, financially or otherwise, to areas as needy as Usisya. However, we wanted to ensure that we would be able to see the end result of our support, and hopefully be a part of the processes of helping to provide ideas and further assistance.*

## **When Emma and you went to visit Usisya, how did you find the area?**

*The most memorable view I have seen is from the top of 'Snake Mountain', where you can look down onto the plains of Usisya and the surrounding waters of Lake Malawi. You realise two things: Firstly, the beauty of the area, and secondly, just how remote and disconnected the region really is. When you then drive down into Usisya, and along the dusty roads, you realise the difficulties these people face daily, and just how much we take for granted. And despite the many issues they face - AIDS, famine, poverty, malaria, lack of basic commodities, education and healthcare; the idea of which we too often brush away with thoughts of 'it only happens to other people' - I couldn't help but notice how many smiling and welcoming faces there were, how excited people were. Just realising that there are people in the world who are prepared to help them to help themselves means so much to them.*

## **What do you think of the projects being undertaken by Temwenani?**

*Clearly, there is so much that needs to be done in Malawi, prioritising becomes the issue. Every project is going to be a worthwhile exercise, but it's a case of ensuring that the people of Usisya are able to be part of these projects, and help themselves to move forward. This in itself is one of the biggest achievements of Temwenani. Despite inevitable obstacles, the building of the community centre, through working with the community, has provided a great central point for activities and shows that Temwenani is working towards a sustainable future for the area. The research that is going into the projects, such as the forthcoming irrigation project, is huge, but as with everything we've seen with Temwenani, this is done in a structured fashion. The training of tradesmen and tailors has already shown a return for the community, and again a sense of purpose. And with each project undertaken, irrespective of size, Temwenani and the people of Usisya are learning valuable lessons, providing the experience to improve each time.*

## **What are CVS's future plans regarding its involvement with Temwenani?**

*As a business, we have committed to supporting Temwenani in any way we can. We are supporting our staff financially by allowing them to take time out and visit the region, where possible in partnership with Temwenani to support ongoing projects, by providing extra labour. The warmth we felt from the people of Malawi, and the excitement they showed, proved that it's important for them to feel part of something bigger, rather than a lonely, remote region that people have forgotten about. So, the more encouragement we can provide in helping people to be out there, the better. We are also looking at organising a charity ball in summer, in the Leicestershire area, for our customers, suppliers and anyone else we can convince to come along!*

*Hopefully, we can also provide structural and research support for projects. We are able to supply man hours to assist with any research required at any level for any of the projects.*

