

## The latest news from Temwa

- Usisya Library • New 4X4 • New Project Manager Starts
- Committee Elections • HIV & AIDS Programs • Bottletop Malawi

Registered Charity No. 1101090  
[www.temwa.org.uk](http://www.temwa.org.uk)

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## Malawi update

### New 4X4 vehicle aids operations

During the summer months, Temwa's main corporate sponsor, CVS, very generously organised the purchase of a 4x4 vehicle to be used by the charity in Usisya. We were delighted with this incredible donation, as our staff previously had an extremely difficult time making both the rough terrain trip to Mzuzu and the laborious over-lake trip to Nkhata Bay for supplies and email/phone communications.

Bought in South Africa, the 4x4 was driven from Johannesburg, up through Botswana and Zambia, to Malawi, by Martin Collins of CVS and Michael Houlden from Alliance & Leicester. Their arrival coincided with that of new project manager Luke, and a visit by Jo Hook, Temwa's co-founder and UK Manager, who was in Malawi to carry out an induction programme. Luckily for Luke and Jo, the 4x4 was able to collect them in Lilongwe for the final leg of the trip to Usisya.

Upon their arrival in Usisya, a ceremony was held to welcome Luke, and to thank CVS and all involved for donating the 4x4, which

involved Martin handing over the keys of the vehicle to Temwa and the local community. Thanks to this donation, our staff no longer have to waste days of arduous travel to and from Muzuzu, and they have the operational freedom that having such a vehicle provides. We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to CVS, BFS, Adams Morey, Diagraph, Charnwood Fencing and Truck Buyer for providing us with the 4x4, and to Martin and Michael for their long-distance rally driving efforts. Temwa wouldn't be where it is today without your fantastic continuing support.



Luke with our new 4X4 vehicle

### Elections for new Temwa committee

Every two years, a new Temwa committee is elected in Usisya, so at the end of October, the votes were counted to find out who the new committee members for 2007 and 2008 will be. The committee comprises representatives from north and south Usisya, as well as members from outside of the central region, in order to make the committee as broad as possible. The representatives are also selected from a range of age-groups, and include both men and women. The names of the nominees were collected from every village in Usisya, and every community group in the region was invited to the election and involved in the election process to ensure it was fair.

### HIV and AIDS projects

NAC-funded projects continue in Malawi, with more Stepping Stones sessions and the production of educational T-shirts, which will carry an HIV/AIDS awareness message for community members in Usisya. Representatives from NAPHAM (National Association of People Living with HIV & AIDS in Malawi) were invited as guest speakers to the Temwa committee election day. NAPHAM is a fantastic organisation, which comprises people that have HIV or AIDS, who give talks on all aspects of the virus, and encourage people to become tested and to be open about their status.

## First library for Usisya

Temwa's plans for building and running the first ever public library in Usisya are now well underway. The library will provide the local community with a range of educational and entertaining reading materials, as currently there is little access to such information in the area.

A shipment of assorted books was sent out to Malawi earlier this year, and arrived safely despite a major mishap along the way: the ship carrying the container of books (shared with the Malawi Education Project) ran aground off Cape Town, but its precious cargo was salvaged, predominantly without damage. Temwa has also been promised an assortment of books from

an organisation called Book Aid in Malawi, through the Nkhata Bay and Mzuzu libraries. The building of Usisya Library will be funded by the profits from the Commercial Vehicle Solutions (CVS) black tie ball held in September. Construction is expected to commence early next year.

A small resource library is currently available at Usisya Community Hall, providing development research materials for CBOs (Community-Based Organisations) and other participants in the development process in Usisya. As very few people have access to newspapers, these are also now available at the community centre, where there is a reading room.

## New project manager in Malawi

Luke Boddam-Whetham finally arrived in Usisya to start as Temwa's project manager at the end of August. Despite problems obtaining a work permit, which delayed the commencement of Luke's work with Temwa in Malawi, matters were ironed out with help from the MP for Usisya, Hon. Pisho Nkhwazi, and the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Hon. Kumbo Kachali. We would like to pass on our

great thanks to them, and also to Kennedy Lweya and Bright Malopa for supporting us and putting us in touch with the right people.



Luke, Godrick & Calvin in Usisya

## Bottletop Malawi

Money donated to Temwa through our association with Bottletop was originally scheduled to fund a carpentry course, but following further research it has become apparent that there is not the demand in Usisya to train more of the community with such skills. Bottletop has now agreed that the money should go towards further Stepping Stones HIV/AIDS education sessions, Behavioural Change Intervention sessions, a mobile video education programme (taking the HIV/AIDS educational video shows to further parts of Usisya), community centre open days, and NAPAHAM visits (see 'HIV and AIDS programmes' story for an explanation of this organisation).

## Demonstration Garden Blooms

The Temwa Demonstration Garden in Usisya has been providing members of staff working on the garden with an abundance of vegetables. The small-scale irrigation techniques trialled in the



Jumbo & Godrick admiring our carrots

garden have also worked well. Unfortunately, however, a partnership with the local secondary school has not lead to full use of the school's section of the Demonsration Garden, which has now been given to the UDN (Usisya Development Network). The UDN is excited by the prospect of having this section of garden to work on, and members have agreed to sell their share of produce from the garden to fund UDN activities.

## LED torches donated to Temwa

LED manufacturer Osram Sylvania, in the United States, kindly donated a box of wind up LED torches to Temwa, which have been distributed amongst our staff in Malawi. The LED torches are brighter than conventional torches, more durable and do not need batteries. The company heard of Temwa through Jo Hook's (Temwa co-founder) work with LEDs Magazine.



The LED torches reach Usisya

## International Tree Foundation

Temwa have recently been contacted by the International Tree Foundation (ITF) to discuss the possibility of working together on a variety of different environmental projects in Malawi. Richard Ince who works as a consultant for ITF recently came to Bristol to meet with Jo Hook and Chris Darts to discuss the work ITF are currently undertaking in developing countries and whether this would be suitable for Temwa. Since then Richard has been to Malawi and met up with the project manager Luke to discuss some of these ideas in more detail. The ITF are very community focused and ensure that all the projects they are involved in are embraced by the local community and will be of use to them, whether this is using trees for food, fuel or medicinal reasons.

Richard will be visiting Malawi again in March 2007 and has arranged to spent more time in Usisya to conduct some initial research as to what would be of the most benefit to the community there. For more information please visit:

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

# UK update

## Temwa's First Ever Black Tie Ball

Dressed as penguins and princesses, a group of Temwa volunteers donned their black ties several weeks ago and headed up to Leicester for the charity's first ever charity ball event. Generously hosted by CVS, our main corporate sponsor, the ball was a fantastic evening of auctions and African dancing, eating and entertainment, and a host of heartfelt speeches from Temwa co-founder, Jo Hook, and Martin Collins from CVS.

Attended by over 200 people, the evening was a great success, especially with regards to the staggering amount of money raised for Temwa throughout the evening. Wallets were well lubricated and the generous crowd bid for a selection of lots, altogether helping to raise a phenomenal amount that has been earmarked for the creation of a library in Usisya.

Everyone at Temwa would like to send a huge thanks to Martin Collins of CVS for holding this momentous event, with a special thanks going out to Tracy and Jo at the company, who put all their energies into the organisation of this truly memorable evening.

### Bottletop Boost

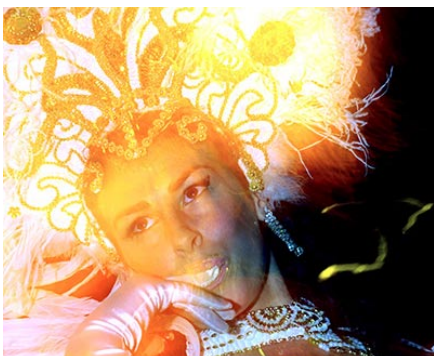
The sales of Bottletop Cds and T-shirts in Bristol are still going strong. The Cds and T-Shirts are now selling well in three shops, Rooted Records, the Here Gallery and DMT records. That is not to mention the sales at our events including the Bottletop Sound Affects Afrobeat Party that we held at Native in June.

### A World Record For Temwa!

Beginning sometime in 2007 will be the first attempt to row 20,000 miles around the world covering three consecutive oceans without making landfall. What has this got to do with Temwa? Well, one of the crew, Alicia Hamel, who is joining the boat to row the 5,000-mile, three-month, South America to South Africa leg, has chosen Temwa her charity of choice. For further information on the expedition, please visit the Row Extreme homepage at [www.rowextreme.com](http://www.rowextreme.com)

# Temwa fundraising

- **Jump Up Bristol 1 & 2:** Our fundraiser club nights reached stellar proportions recently when we put on a huge event at the Bristol Carling Academy in July that raised over £4,000. A gathering of the Bristol tribes, Jump Up Bristol was supported by Blowpop, Dub From Atlantis, Full Cycle, Hustler, Rukus, Go Go Fandango, Monster Piece and Aerosolics, with headline acts from the likes of Rodney P & Skitz, DJ Krust & DJ Die, Babyhead and Joe Ransom. Buoyed by the event's fantastic success, we followed it up with another Jump Up Bristol in October, which was also a great awareness-raising and fund-raising event.
- **Native Nights:** Before our summer break, Temwa held the Bottletop Sound Affects Album Party at Bristol nightclub Native, which was a hugely popular evening. In September, our nights resumed with a Friday slot, where we have since hosted the RUN vs Monster Piece drum and bass night, Go Go Fandango Part 3, and a dub reggae special with Rob Smith and BabyDub. Huge thanks to all those involved.
- **Move any mountain:** Sophie and Caroline Hook, cousins of Jo Hook, Temwa's co-founder, recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and raised sponsorship for Temwa. They made it to Kibo Huts at 4,700 metres, but due to some members of the group developing severe altitude sickness they did not make it to the peak at Gilman's Point. Well done to them anyway and many, many thanks!



Flamboyance at Go-Go Fandango



The Temwa team at the CVS Ball

# Thank yous

- CVS for their constant support and to all who attended the ball in September.
- Ameoba Art Exhibition – Many thanks to Sarah Garrard for organising this event.
- Everyone involved with Jump Up Bristol – there's too many of you to mention everyone individually, thank you all so much!
- Mankala, George Smerins & Realife for playing the Afrobeat Native night.
- Sally, Alistair and John from Run: DJ Dazee, Rob Smith & Kelz, DJ vs The Drummer and Xample who all played at Native in September.
- Sarah O'Neil and all of the Go Go Fandango team for another wonderful Go Go Fandango event!
- Mrs Acworth for her generous donation and letter of support.
- Bob Lancaster the estate agent for Mr & Mrs Schofield who donated a percentage of his fee to Temwa.
- Cas Boddham-Whetham for her generous donation
- Mrs O Burkitt - for her generous donation.
- St Oswald's Church, Leeds, for their generous donation
- Donation's in lieu of flowers at Temwa co-founder Sophie Elson's grandmother's funeral.
- Stuart Bowen for raising sponsorship money by cycling from Land's end to John O Grotos.
- Bruce Garrard for creating and printing business cards.
- Brenda and John Schofield for continued donations.
- Gurnard Guides & Brownies, Isle of White, for their generous donation.
- All Saint's Church, Long Ashton for their generous donation.
- Excellerate HRO for their generous donation.
- Donations in lieu of birthday presents from several of the Jones family.
- The wonderful team of staff in Malawi who are so dedicated and hardworking: they are inspiring to work with.
- The past and new committee in Usisya, all the volunteers in Usisya and in Malawi: there are so many people who support the project there.
- Mr Chinduti a truly remarkable man who is from Usisya and gives Temwa so much support, please read his story on our website at [www.temwa.org.uk](http://www.temwa.org.uk)

# An interview with... **Michael Houlden**

...a CVS associate who helped deliver the 4x4 vehicle to Usisya

## ***How did you end up delivering the 4x4 to Usisya with Martin?***

I was visiting Martin on business and the conversation got round to his previous trip to Malawi. I made a casual remark that I would love to go and see for myself what the place was really like, what hardships the people had and if they really were so welcoming as he said they were. To my surprise he said "Come along then". I wasn't sure whether he was joking or being serious. It turned out he was being serious. Once it had been confirmed that I was going, I just let Martin organise everything and I just turned up where and when required (I did have to organise all my own injections and vaccinations though!!)

## ***What was the highlight of your trip?***

When I first saw Usisya as we drove over the mountains I couldn't believe how beautiful and serene it looked. In the background you could see the lake and the hill and an absolutely flat flood plain. The main village dwellings/huts all seemed to be on the shoreline of the lake with various other buildings more scattered about. When we were driving through the various villages everyone waved and was so happy to see us; they all wanted to say "Hello". Everyone was so friendly, happy and excited. It wasn't just the children, but mums, dads, grannies and granddads – everyone was smiling and waving. When we went to the community centre for the formal handing over of the 4x4, I just couldn't believe so many people had

turned up. All the villagers were so proud and grateful to receive the 4x4.

There were many other highlights on the trip, one being driving through Botswana and photographing wild elephants literally 20 to 30 feet away. Another was Lake Malawi itself. I have seen numerous lakes, but Malawi seemed to cast a spell, especially when watching the sunrise and moonrise.

## ***What do you think of Usisya and the Temwa projects?***

One of the main things that impressed me the most about Temwa was that with a small amount of money and such a dedicated and focused team it is amazing what can be achieved. The majority of people I met in Usisya didn't want hand-outs, they wanted to work and help each other. The other big thing that struck me was the sense of togetherness; it seemed as though everyone belonged to one big family.

## ***What do you think will be your lasting memories of Malawi?***

That is the easiest question of all to answer. Seeing all the children playing together, especially a little boy with an old bicycle tyre tied with a bit of string to a stick running round playing hoopla. Also, everyone working together always looking at the positives and never being put off by the poverty and hardships they endure everyday. I can honestly say I can't wait to go again.



Mr Nyrinda with CVS vehicle



Michael, Martin, Jo and the Usisya team



Roslyn, a friend of Temwa