Welcome for the Bishop of Mara

On 11th April the TDT committee and members of BTS were pleased to welcome Rt Revd George Okoth (Bishop of the Mara Diocese in which the Safe House is situated) and Mr Yusuf Kashangwa from the Tanzania High Commission in London to a reception attended by over 40 people at St Mary at Hill Church, Billingsgate. Julian Marcus gave a PowerPoint presentation of the work of TDT and of the Lake Victoria Disability Centre in Bishop George’s diocese. The Swahili congregation in London who use the church, gave much helpful support in the running of the event. Good Tanzanian food was prepared by Hope Katanga and Petronilla Mlowe. Congratulations to all involved.

News of the sad passing of Sir Andy Chande and of Dr Elly Macha MP

In the days before we went to press, we learnt of the loss of two very good friends of BTS.

Sir Andy Chande

Sir Andy Chande was a life Vice President of BTS from its creation in the 1970s. In the 1950s, he had taken over his father's grain milling business in a village near Tabora and built it into a national chain. He was also nominated to serve on the Legislative Council before Independence, where he supported TANU. In 1967 when Nyerere nationalised the grain mills, he made him Chairman of the National Milling Corporation. He also chaired the boards of several of the most sensitive nationalised companies, and was a board member of many others. In his long retirement, he served the cause of freemasonry (District Grand Master for East Africa 1986-2005), Rotary International (Chairman of the Rotary Foundation of the UK), and Round Table (Honorary Life Vice Chair of the Association of Round Tables of East Africa), as well as regularly advising BTS. In 2003 he was awarded an honorary knighthood, the first and, as yet, only Tanzanian to receive this honour. We have sent a letter of condolence to his widow Jayli and his three sons. Tanzanian Affairs will publish a full biography as soon as possible.

Dr Elly Macha

Ellie Macha was blind from the age of two, but persevered in every possible way. She got a degree in Dar es Salaam, then a Master’s in special needs from Manchester University, and then a PhD from Leeds University on Gender, Disability, Development and Access to Education in Tanzania; at this time she was supported by a small BTS members’ group including Mary Boyd, David Gibbons, Liz and Ron Fennell. In 1994 she climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. She never ceased to campaign for people with disabilities. In 2015 she was nominated as an MP for Arusha, and this gave her the platform she wanted. She had many friends in BTS, and she died, from cancer, in Wolverhampton. Here is a tribute from David Gibbons:

"Dr Elly was a light and inspiration for many of us who knew her. Her list of achievements alone were in themselves a testament to her character and spirit. In the late 1990's while completing her PhD, Dr Elly came and spoke to the whole 6th form at St Bede’s school to inspire them to follow their dreams. Due to the musical Carousel being performed that year, one of the students sang “You’ll never walk alone” to her. Elly’s concern for others shone through in her work as well as personal communications. In Christmas 2015 Dr Elly sent me the Christmas message from her church which included the words, “He became intimate so that nothing in the past or in the future should scare us”. Her faith underpinned her life. I will miss her but am also inspired by her example to live a life which is not wasted. As Dr Elly often signed off her emails and communications: “Mungu azidi kukubariki”. 
Report by Project Officer Kevin Curley of his latest visit, Jan – Feb 2017

Is there a finer experience in life than to sit with a group of women (pictured left and right) in the remote Kondoa village of Thawi Chini discussing their sewing business and working out what difference a knitting machine, funded by the Tanzania Development Trust, will make to their incomes?

And after the discussion to enjoy a ‘kinyeji’ chicken cooked by the group’s Vice Chair Rehema Muhamed (pictured) and eaten with ugali and mchicha.

In the late afternoon I get back onto a motorbike and am driven back to Kondoa town for two hours. The journey involves a river crossing with socks and shoes off (pictured below) and an unlikely meeting on the road with a family of missionaries from Surrey.

Since I retired in 2012 I’ve spent a month each year working for the Tanzania Development Trust (TDT) as a volunteer Project Officer. It’s immensely satisfying and such a privilege to be given the opportunity to understand more about Tanzanians’ lives and their struggles and joys.

One of my first visits in January 2017 was to the Catholic sisters at Nyaigando mission near Bukoba. They had requested help to buy more sewing machines for their vocational centre. They are training 60 girls in three year-groups to sew, embroider and knit. At the end of the course each girl receives a sewing machine so that she can start her own small business. Sister Redempta (pictured right) is in charge. She showed me round the centre and all the buildings badly damaged by last year’s earthquake. At every mission I visit I’m well fed and Nyaigando was no exception with every vegetable grown in their gardens and the free range chickens reared on their farm. I’d spotted a lively village bar about 500 yards from the mission and fancied a bottle of ‘Safari’ before bed. This was not to be. Soon after dinner at 9pm the mission gates were chained and locked. I could find no gap in the sturdy fence and it was time for bed.

The next day I travelled by minibus two hours through the Kagera hills to the village of Kishanda. KAWESO, a lively women’s group (pictured top left next page) with 57 members had asked for money to build 10 ‘demonstration’ pit latrines. They’re called ‘ventilated improved pit latrines’ – VIP for short – because they have venting pipes and fly screens to reduce smell and stop insects from invading them. This was a tougher visit because nobody spoke English. My Kiswahili is basic and after using it – with a mix of English when I got stuck – for three hours I was exhausted.
The group had already selected the 10 families to benefit from the latrines and with Chair Bertha Andrew in the lead we set off through the dense banana plantations to visit some of them. After the luxuries of the Catholic mission the abject poverty of these families moved me. In every case a woman was bringing up children alone. Two women told me they were HIV positive. Food was scarce and some mothers could not send their children to primary school. Although primary education is notionally free there are lots of ‘special charges’ and uniforms and shoes have to be bought. Pit latrines could at least result in fewer intestinal illnesses and make it easier for girls to manage their menstrual cycles. It was clear that the women were very pleased about the possibility of getting latrines and in every case had started to prepare deep holes (pictured below). Bertha believes that the 10 ‘demonstration’ latrines will motivate better off families to improve their own sanitary arrangements.

From Kigoma I journeyed by coach to Kasulu. TDT awarded a small grant of £600 last year to ANCO, a local NGO which supports street children. As many as 30 boys – and a very few girls - aged roughly 8 to 16 years sleep rough in Kasulu, climbing into old maize flour sacks at night and lying down under hoteli tables or market stands to shelter from wind and rain. I think they are probably the most vulnerable people I meet in Tanzania. It was heart warming to learn from Obadiah Benguye, ANCO’s Director, that TDT’s money had enabled 6 boys to go home or find new families. The money bought mattresses, mosquito nets, clothes and either school uniforms or start up costs for petty trading. This approach won’t work for all the boys. Some now find life on the streets to their liking and have no interest in change, despite the risks they face every day. Others move between home and street, sometimes fleeing for a while a violent or drunken parent or uncle. Our small grant, which we have now renewed, has also helped ANCO to deal with medical issues such as jiggers, which invade the boys’ toe nails and destroy them (Joseph and his feet are pictured, with his consent).
Pictured left - Pala going home with his new mattress. A joyful moment. He’s now with his dad, making bricks.

After more visits in Kigoma I needed a rest. So I treated myself to a long, slow journey by train (pictured right) via Tabora to Manyoni in Singida region.

First class costs less than a coach and I slept for 10 of the 30 hours I was on the train. I shared my compartment with an interesting farmer from Pemba Island. I got a comfortable bed, a pillow, a sheet and delivery to the door of ‘chipsi mayai’ (egg and chips). At every station there’s the chance to step down, take a walk and buy rice and goat meat or delicious vegetable samosas.

After three visits I’ve grown to like Manyoni, an arid, dusty truckers’ stop on the main road from Dar to Rwanda and DRC. My visits are hosted by Mwalimu Innocent Temu, a teacher at Manyoni Secondary School. Whilst not a formal representative of TDT he has helped me and other Project Officers to assess applications from a women’s group making batiks (pictured below left), a group of young unemployed people who have started a brick making business (pictured below right), a girls school hostel and water tanks for remote rural schools.

This time Innocent wanted me to go to the village of Masigati where his friend Magembe Machibula is a Ward Councillor. The village faces an appalling shortage of water. I saw women trying to fill buckets with filthy water from small puddles at the bottom of deep sandy holes (pictured left). At the primary school children told me that this water is all they have to drink. And yet near the school we saw a broken pump with a deep borehole. I encouraged the village leaders to apply to TDT for the funds to renovate the pump. Most village leaders do not know about TDT. They do not have the advantages of the urban NGOs which network together and share information about international funding sources. It’s only by going to meet them in the villages that we can encourage applications.

I hope I’ve given you a flavour of my work as a volunteer Project Officer for TDT. I return from Tanzania each time moved by what I’ve seen, awed by the efforts of the people we support and proud that with small amounts of money we can make a difference to the lives of very poor people.

This article is my way of saying a heartfelt thank you to every reader who supports TDT with donations - Kevin Curley
BTS Education Group Seminar - Maths Focus – 23rd January 2017

We had a very successful meeting on January 23rd about Maths, with presentations from Polycarp from AIMS (the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences), who run teacher training and maths camps in Tanzania and from Lyra about using Raspberry Pi computers with Khan Academy maths resources. Lyra are doing a research project on how using tablet computers running RACHEL content can help with the teaching of Maths in Tanzania.

RACHEL Offline (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education & Learning) is a collaborative effort of non-profit organizations to bring technology free of charge to those without internet and groups that need it most. https://racheloffline.org/

Further details, resources and recordings of this and previous meetings of the Education Group are all on our Facebook page. Janet Chapman

The Arusha Declaration @50 – 24th February 2017

There was a significant presence of the Britain-Tanzania Society in Edinburgh on the 24th February to mark the 50th anniversary of Tanzania’s Arusha Declaration at Nyerere’s alma mater. The University’s Centre of African Studies and the Global and Transnational History Research Group hosted a one-day workshop that brought together academics and others from across the UK and Tanzania. The workshop featured four panels that explored the broad implications of the Arusha Declaration on contemporary Tanzanian politics, economic development, education and social media. The first panel looked at the historical aspect of the Arusha Declaration particularly from the perspective of the ‘survivors’ of the Declaration whilst the second panel explored the impact of the Arusha Declaration from an economic and social perspective. The third panel looked at the Arusha Declaration in contemporary politics and the final panel, an all Tanzanian affair, analysed social media discourse on the Arusha Declaration. The panels were chaired by the university’s renowned Tanzanian scholars: Dr Hazel Gray, Dr. Tom Molony and Dr Emma Hunter. Dr Molony also provided a fascinating closing address about Nyerere’s Edinburgh years, 1949 – 1952. Nyerere received his MA from Edinburgh and, in a rather remarkable feat, he returned just a decade later as head of independent Tanganyika to receive an honorary degree.

As a young Tanzanian, I particularly enjoyed the historical perspectives from those who knew Mwalimu personally and worked on the implementation of the Arusha Declaration in the 1960s and 70s. It was a history lesson for me. I was fascinated by Ralph Ibbott’s account of the key role he played in helping Nyerere’s vision of education and self-reliance. I was equally intrigued by Brian Van Arkadie’s economic perspective of the Arusha Declaration. Brian was also personally involved in the implementation of the economic policies of the Arusha Declaration.

From the ‘survivors’ account, I imagined having a front row seat in history. To many young Tanzanians, the Arusha Declaration has been reduced to a form of a patriotic slogan that is invoked during elections or when a foreign aid organization threatens to withdraw aid. Mwalimu, on the other hand, remains a largely mythical figure albeit a singular transformative one. Hence, it was sobering to imagine Mwalimu and his people could and should have done certain things differently. However, it quickly dawned on me that pondering what they could do and should have done is being ungrateful and ungenerous with time. It was clear to me that whilst Mwalimu may not have been perfect, he had the courage to attempt to chart an alternative political, economic and social path despite the seemingly insurmountable challenges of the time. He diligently ran his leg of the race. Moreover, I was encouraged that whilst it may not be possible to replicate the Arusha Declaration in 21st century Tanzania in its entirety, the principles and ideals embedded in the Declaration are still sorely needed in present-day Tanzania.

While the themes of the presentations varied widely, the deep historical perspectives of the panelists ensured a rich and enlightening discussion. Whilst Nyerere might have experienced a vastly different Edinburgh in the 1950s, I was delighted to have taken part in commemorating Arusha Declaration @ 50 in Edinburgh in 2017.

Report by Albert Mkony
Leprosy in Rural Tanzania: Detection, Treatment and Overcoming the Stigma

On March 6th BTS hosted a seminar at SOAS, on Leprosy in Tanzania. The speaker was Dr. Sarah Feather, Co-Chair of the Rufiji Leprosy Trust, a small charity supporting people affected by leprosy in the Rufiji District of Tanzania. Below is a summary of her address.

Although the burden of leprosy globally is carried by Indonesia, India and Brazil, the disease still has a significant prevalence across Africa. 2422 new cases were detected in Tanzania in 2105. Nationally this is not at a level where leprosy is formally classed as a public health problem, but there are some districts where prevalence is above the rate of 1 in 10,000 population, notably Liwale and Lindi.

95% of people have a natural immunity to leprosy and it is not easily transmitted. It can remain in the body for up to twenty years before showing itself as a numb patch or an area of loss of skin pigment. It often goes unnoticed until the more serious complications, such as loss of sensation at the finger tips start to develop. By this time people affected are at high risk of disability as loss of feeling makes them more vulnerable to injuries which eventually leads to loss of fingers and toes.

The District TB and Leprosy co-ordinators have to ensure that staff in rural dispensaries can recognise early signs of the disease; a further challenge for them is ensuring people with the disease complete their treatment, which is a six or twelve-month course of antibiotic, depending on disease severity at presentation. The Tanzanian government has invested significant resources making sure the supply of drugs to treat leprosy and complications of its treatment is robust.

There are still many myths surrounding the disease with some people still believing it is caused by witchcraft and that it is incurable. Historically villages would cast out anyone who became affected by the disease which increased the stigma attached to the disease. We can reduce the stigma associated with the disease by avoiding using the term ‘leper’ when referring to people affected by leprosy. It is an outdated term associated with stigma and being an outcast. Modern reality is that once diagnosed with leprosy people can receive treatment in their homes. They can be supported with informed advice on how to prevent development and progression of disabilities and continue to live and work in their community.

Dr. Feather outlined the ongoing work of The Rufiji Leprosy Trust which was set up over thirty years ago to build on the work started by Father Robin Lamburn in the village of Kindwitwi. Currently it supports elderly villagers who are so disabled from the effects of leprosy that they are unable to care for themselves. It supports those who can work with agricultural projects and, via a kindergarten (see bottom photo) and secondary school sponsorship, ensures children from families affected by leprosy have full educational opportunities. It funds a shoemaker to provide bespoke shoes for those with foot disabilities. Although nationally the challenge of disease detection and support of those affected by leprosy is still significant, much progress has been made in the past ten years towards elimination of the disease as a public health problem.

The presentation was followed by a short discussion around the issues raised. Report by Dr Sarah Feather

Further information of the work of the Rufiji Trust can be found at www.rufijileprosytrust.org.uk and WHO statistics can be found at http://www.who.int/lep/situation/latestdata/en/.
Poverty and illiteracy have been major factors hindering environmental conservation in Zeze, Kigoma. The community have been reluctant to plant trees, stop wildfire burning, or implement sustainable farming because of illiteracy and lack of knowledge about the environment and its benefits to development. So MVG (Mboni ya Vijana Group) has been training the community in order to bring environmental sustainability and enable it to generate income. As part of this we organised a Climate Change Conference in Zeze on March 23rd and 24th 2017.

Dr. Francis Njau is the national and international climate change trainer and a lecturer at the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) – Dodoma Tanzania. He was invited by MVG to train village leaders from four villages, NGO leaders, religious leaders, politicians, journalists and community members about Climate Change and Adaptation. During the training, MVG’s initiatives were used as practical examples. Dr. Njau says; “Zeze and Kasulu you are lucky to have such a fantastic organisation. I see here excellent climate change adaptation activities. I have gone around Tanzania, East Africa, Sub-Sahara countries and Europe, and this organisation is the only one I have seen achieving these developments at village level. If we support this organisation, for sure Zeze village is going to be an international centre of innovation. I am going back to my college and will bring our students here to learn from here and collaborate”.

Streams and ponds at Zeze and neighbouring places in Kigoma region are drying up as the result of climate change. Communities are challenged in their ability to access water for domestic and farming purposes. Mboni ya Vijana is solving the issue with hand drilled bore holes and locally made rope pumps giving the communities access to water. MVG have now drilled more than 5 community water wells.

Almachius, the Kasulu District Development Community Officer was also at the conference. He knows how much of a challenge water is for the development of Kasulu community. He visited a number of water projects where MVG has drilled and installed pumps for community use, and told the community “We have a big problem with water and deforestation but today I say we are lucky that we have youth who have made an important revolution in the water sector with their hand drilled bore holes – as no doubt all of you can see! I am very impressed they have now set up a tree nursery and are supporting their community to protect the environment. I appreciate the work they have done. We should all participate to protect and develop the scheme which they have established, for ourselves and our children”.

The conference was also featured on Radio Kwizera and Star TV. If you would like any further information please contact Benedicto Hosea benosea86@gmail.com

Mapping update from Janet Chapman
Since our seminar on Mapping Tanzania in January, which was attended by representatives from the British Library, Ordnance Survey and the World Bank, we have recruited our 1000th online volunteer and held mapping parties in London and at Northampton University with a live link to the Safe House. Next month we have events at Bristol and Cambridge and Maryland (USA) Universities, and at Eventbrite HQ. If you are involved with a university or business and would like to hold an event please let me know – otherwise if you have an internet connection, you can map from satellite images from the comfort of your own home! More details at crowd2map.org
Earthquake Relief up-date including photos just received from Kagera Region

By Jonathan Pace - Chair and Project Officer of TDT

Following the first report outlining the early stages of our earthquake relief to Kikukwe Community and Tweyambe School, both in Missenyi District which was particularly badly hit by the earthquake which struck Kagera Region on 10th September 2016, work has been continuing to support the rebuilding and repairs in both locations.

Kikukwe Dispensary site was struck by further aftershocks causing ground instability and greater damage to the repaired water tank stand than was anticipated and further funds have been made available to allow for a more substantial stand to be planned and constructed.

Since the previous report, repairs have been made to the many cracks in the dispensary/clinic, allowing the medical staff to continue their work for maternity and other community health needs.

New plans for the tank stand and the new staff house have now have been submitted to the Missenyi District Engineer's Department for approval.

The photo shows the funds being presented to the Kikukwe Community Chairman by one of our visiting project officers. The new tank stand design should ensure greater stability in ground which has been disturbed by the earthquake movement. This remote rural site must also be inspected by the District surveyors for approval. The arrival of the rains, long awaited and welcomed by the local farmers after a very challenging dry season, added to delays in building.

Kikukwe Community members at repaired clinic

Following initial deliveries of sand and stones by three lorries, the Chair of Kikukwe writes

"We haven’t yet mobilised more materials on site than the present two lorries of sand and three lorries of stone as it is heavily raining all the days from morning to evening, making it difficult for lorries to go off the road to pick materials. When the rain stops, we will then mobilise the materials and send you photos".

Tanzania Development Trust
Every pound goes directly to projects in Tanzania
Tweyambe School has continued to repair and replace damaged and destroyed classrooms, dormitories, and teachers’ houses. The Chairman of the Board has sent photos showing the updated situation of repairs and replacement of buildings. He also wrote to us a few days ago:

"Thank you for your continuing support for the dreadful damage at Tweyambe School. Tweyambe had so much more damage than any other school. At the moment the toilets are presenting a public health problem. Is it possible to ask a bit more assistance so that they can have the toilets put right?"

Following this appeal TDT is pleased to have been able to immediately send an additional grant of £1650 from our generous Global Giving donors to repair the damaged and unhealthy latrines.

Finally we are pleased to confirm that further relief funds from our Global Giving donors have now been sent to two other schools. There is a distinction between the earthquake support provided by the Tanzania Government with international appeals' support which has provided funds to repair adequately some Government Schools but does not meet the schools' needs in coping with essential backup resourcing and essential transfers from damaged schools to those with less difficulties.

Nyailigamba Secondary School, whilst receiving Government help to repair cracked buildings, asked for help to provide resources for the additional students transferred from other more damaged schools. We have been able to support resourcing for increased numbers in this very successful school in their developing A level courses and science laboratory. The School Board are currently implementing plans for this and further reports will be available later.

Following damage to their rainwater harvesting tank and guttering and science equipment not adequately protected from a disturbance in the area, Kibirizi Secondary School, near Lake Ikimba, applied for help to make water harvesting repairs and provide secure storage for equipment. This work will be completed in time for the next report on Global Giving.

On behalf of the communities and schools we thank again all our Global Giving generous donors.

Here is the link to Jonathan’s Global Giving report
http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/projects/support-tanzania-earthquake-relief/updates/
Matango Dispensary: Samuel's story From Julian Marcus 16th March 2017

Down in the dumps? Depressed by the world news? Don't be! There are inspiring young people who make all fund-raising and giving worthwhile, and young Samuel who is pictured here, is one of them. As you can see from the photo, he's quite severely disabled. No, we didn't make him walk over the hard stones in his bare feet - he took his shoes off, because he wanted to show us the problem, about which otherwise he makes no fuss. He might be looking a bit sad in the picture, but actually he's a very determined and successful young man of 17.

Samuel was born in a tiny village in Matongo, but when he was a toddler he contracted a disease, probably polio, which left him severely disabled. Babies and children still don't get adequate immunisations in Matongo valley because there's no clinic yet. Getting to Primary School was hard. Mostly he was on an older brother's or sister's back - just occasionally he would get a ride on a neighbour's donkey. But once at school, Samuel shone and the teachers quickly realised that he was a very bright boy. At the end of Primary School he got the highest grades which enabled him to be eligible to transfer to the best school in the Region, Musoma Technical. The Education Dept and school have been very helpful and at school, where he is a boarder, Samuel can zip around in his wheelchair - of course when he comes home to the family in Matongo, that's another matter and he has to hump around using his crutch. But not complaining!

Samuel is quite clear that he is NOT a victim. He is ambitious and determined to make a success of his life. But he is an activist and campaigner and that's why he was determined to be at the shell of the Matongo Dispensary on the 31st January to meet my wife and me and to be part of the village group pressing their claim to have at long last their own clinic. He knows very well that had there been a clinic when he was born, he would almost certainly not be disabled now. He's not bitter about that but determined that there WILL be a clinic to treat other children, mothers and all needing help. You couldn't possibly put the case better. After you've read Samuel's story, please share it with family and friends, and wherever you may be raise your hand and give a High Five to Samuel.

Please help me fulfil the promise as soon as we can. The secret is to spread the word so we can reach many more generous hearted people. Then we'll have done justice to Samuel.

If you would like to help TDT complete Matongo Dispensary, please go to http://globalgiving.org/projects/clinic-for-tanzanian-hidden-valley

Welcome to Godfrey – new local rep in Mtwara

Godfrey Makenzi is our new rep for Mtwara and Lindi, replacing Linus who is changing roles by getting married – so we thank him for all his hard work and wish him well. Godfrey was awarded a Bachelor Degree in Regional Development Planning from the Institute of Rural Development Planning, Dodoma. He works as a civil servant at Masasi District Council. He has experience in working with different groups of people, especially in rural areas. He has also been helping communities, grass root community based organisations and NGOs to write project proposals. Godfrey has passion and good communication skills to support the rural poor to find ways to improve their livelihood options.

Welcome Godfrey!

The local reps are now having regular Skype meetings to share good practice and exchange ideas.
TDT Cards and Artefact Sales raises nearly £2000 – Report by Ann Marcus

Total profits from Christmas cards and notelets including donations in 2016 £1,303.00
Total profits from Sale of artefacts in 2016, mostly made in the Safe House £665.00

We are very grateful to all members who continue to support Tanzania by buying cards and artefacts. Don’t forget that notelets can be bought at any time of the year. You can always contact Ann on ann.marcus@uwclub.net or ring 020 8668 5230

DONATION TO WIDOW OF CHRISTMAS CARD PAINTER

Members and friends who buy the Christmas cards which Ann Marcus sells for BTS and TDT may have noticed that Hemedi, the TingaTinga painter who has done the original of the cards for the last 3 years, sadly died at a young age just before completing the 2016 card. Our colleague in Dar es Salaam, Danny Mwasandube, kindly arranged for Julian and Ann to meet his widow. Ann presented Mrs Hemedi with a donation of the Tanzanian equivalent of £150.00 from the profits of the 2016 card. She told Ann that her daughter seemed to have inherited her father’s talent, so in a few years, another Hemedi may be selling paintings at the TingaTinga Co-operative in Dar!

Visit the TDT Website to read a series of reports based on the observations of Ann and Julian Marcus during their safari in January and February 2017. Remarkably, they made more than 25 project visits, at their own cost and enduring no little discomfort on the way.

BTS Scotland – Update from Ann Burgess

"The Scottish group has not been very active recently but several of us attended the very interesting one-day conference, 'Arusha Declaration @50'. The event provided an opportunity for the members of the group to exchange news and to meet members of BTS from 'south of the border'."

Supporting Minority Languages

Margaret Beckett has been working with a faith based NGO, SIL, in Central Tanzania as Literacy Coordinator for four minority languages since 2006. She works mainly in Kondoa and Chemba Districts of Dodoma region, along with some work in Magugu, near Babati. Language communities are Rangi, Burunge, Alagwa and Mbugwe. She does quite a bit of enabling literacy group leaders, and also materials development in Kondoa town.

In January, she addressed a BALID Informal Literacy Discussion on ‘Practical Volunteer Training’ outlining progress she has made in establishing a network, covering areas such as community involvement, finding volunteers, the establishment of working groups for writers, illustrators, and literacy facilitators.

At present each volunteer has about 6-8 days' training each year, depending on resources, delivered in sets of 2 or 3 days through their teaching season, which is between the harvest and the next rains, so effectively only six months with opportunity for teaching and learning. The volunteers work about 24 - 30 hours a month, and all receive a small acknowledgment for their work, about 8 UK pounds equivalent for each month of work. The volunteers teach small groups, and even though not everyone who attends learns to read brilliantly, enough succeed to make it worthwhile, especially for village women, who are often marginalized. Sadly, future funding is uncertain.

A short report can be found on the Informal Literacy Discussions of BALID’s (British Association for Literacy in Development) webpage. http://balid.org.uk/
Britain triggered Article 50 - its formal announcement to leave the EU - towards the end of March 2017. This article was published in the August-November 2016 edition of Africa Renewal magazine.

### Africa after Brexit

African economies may be severely affected by Britain’s exit... Brexit sent shock waves through the global markets, including those in Africa... Trade and investment will be affected most by Brexit. Most of the trade arrangements the UK has with African countries were negotiated through the EU. This means the agreements will cease to apply or will have to be renegotiated when the UK finally leaves the EU... It will be a difficult time for Africa, as the UK will no longer shape and lead some of the most important initiatives on the African continent that form the basis of cooperation between Europe and the continent... South Africa, the UK’s largest African trading partner, will bear the brunt of Brexit... After South Africa, Nigeria is Britain’s second-largest African market, with Kenya coming third... With China, the US, Brazil, India and others strengthening their relations with Africa, the continent could look elsewhere if its ties with Britain or the EU get complicated in post-Brexit era...

*Donovan McGrath*

### Swahili version of the Safe House Facebook Page launched by award winning journalist

Those of you who speak Swahili, please check out our new Facebook page here [https://www.facebook.com/MugumuSafeHouseTanzania/] and please tell your friends in Tanzania about it too. It is administered by Diana Kendi a journalist and a communication consultant who is passionate about women and children. She is an anti-FGM campaigner who believes that our girls can only be our future if we empower them. She's also a blogger of 'our girls our future' and currently a freelancer media coordinator at the Global Media Campaign and the first winner of the Efua Dorkenoo Pan African Award on Reportage on FGM and a Guardian News and Media Fellow – we are delighted to have her on board.

We also welcome Mary-Anne Decatur who is administering the English Facebook page. She is a PhD candidate at SOAS, University of London researching female genital mutilation/cutting in northern Tanzania. She is the Rights in Exile Programme's FGM country of origin expert for Tanzania and co-editor of Anthropology Matters Journal.
BTS Education Group Seminar - Literacy Focus - 5-7pm, May 15th 2017
The next meeting at SOAS will be on May 15th, with a focus on literacy – methods to improve literacy in English and Swahili in Tanzania. There will be a number of speakers presenting, including Livingstone Tanzania Trust, School Aid, PIXL and others to be confirmed. Everyone welcome!

Small Business Investments in Africa: Support from the Diaspora – 19th June 2017
5-7pm in Room 4429, School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
Speakers Perez Ochieng and Petronilla Mwakatuma will tell us how to identify and support small business opportunities. Perez specialises in innovative agricultural products, whilst Petronilla specialises in how to get the right permits and licenses to import products to Europe and the UK. Everyone welcome.

See also BTS Facebook Small Business Investments in Africa: Support from the Diaspora
This event will also be livestreamed here https://www.periscope.tv/jachapman82/

Modern Swahili Poems - Ushairi wa Kiswahili wa Kisasa – a seminar and book launch on 16th October 2017, at SOAS in London, 5.00pm

The tradition of poetry writing and recital has very long roots in Swahili culture, and is recorded as a feature of life in the great halls of Kilwa in the sixteenth century. Ebrahim Hussein, whose family originates in Kilwa Kisiwani, is both an heir to this tradition and has been one of its leading modern exponents. But he is not alone: the Department of Swahili Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam found in a national survey that there are five thousand writers of poetry in Tanzania at the present time. In recognition both of the tradition and its living exponents a ‘Prize for Swahili Poetry’ was established in 2014 having been funded by Gerald Belkin, an enthusiast for the language, its poetry and of Ebrahim Hussein himself.

The friendship between Gerald, (who sadly died in 2012) and Ebrahim dates from the early 1970s when Gerald was filming village life in selected but pioneering ujamaa villages in Singida and Tanga Regions. Ebrahim was part of his advisory and linguistic team and they remained in touch whilst he took his PhD in East Berlin. Gerald’s films are now being curated by the Biblioteque Nationale in Paris and will be publicly available in a year’s time.

The first round of the Prize was awarded in 2014 and the second in 2016. The 2016 award and reading of the poems was held at the National Museum in Dar. Ebrahim Hussein was present on both occasions.

81 of the poems from these two competitions were published last year (Diwani ya Tunzo ya Ushairi ya Ibrahim Hussein. Mkuki na Nyota Publishers, Dar es Salaam). On 16 October we will introduce this to audiences in Europe for the first time. Ahmed Rajab – a London based journalist born in Zanzibar -- will give us a brief introduction to the modern development of Swahili poetry and chair the event. A selection of the poems will be read in Swahili, with English translations, and then discussed in English. So this event will be meaningful to anyone interested in poetry from the African and Arab worlds - in its contemporary cultural situations.

All the seminars above will take place at SOAS, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG
BTS is involved in a process of transformation. When it was created, in 1975, it was mainly a society for those who had lived and worked in Tanzania: in the civil service, as teachers, missionaries or doctors, or in the private sector, or their dependents. Many of the former colonial civil servants who were invited back by President Nyerere in 1971, ten years after Independence, to see how more had been achieved in 10 years of Independence than in the previous ten years of colonial rule, became members of the Society. One of the motivations for its creation was to keep informal diplomatic links open between the two countries, at a time when the formal links were suspended. So former High Commissioners were members, and many members the Tanzanian chapter in Dar es Salaam had links with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Widening Participation**

But that generation is moving on now, and the present needs are very different. We need to relate much more to people who are working in Tanzania at the present time, or organisations which support them, and to Tanzanians in this country who want to keep in touch with developments back home. The country still has many problems, of poverty and lack of often simple resources where they are needed. Our database of NGOs which support small projects in Tanzania (now updated and monitored by Janet Chapman) suggests that the Tanzania has more support agencies in this country than any other country in Africa, and we need to provide services and support for them. One such agency is our own Tanzania Development Trust, which supports projects in many of the poorest parts of Tanzania, and encourages its project officers to visit whenever they can, and that gives us a continuing up to date knowledge of the local situations. There are also more and more Tanzanians living in the UK, including many married to people from Britain and other countries. We need to find ways of helping them keep in touch with their heritage back home. These groups are dispersed; only some live in or near London. And so in the future contact will increasingly involve social media – Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook, LinkedIn, and others. Our Education Group runs seminars in which participants in far flung parts of Britain, or in Tanzania, can take part by Skype. So in this also, Janet Chapman is leading the way in showing how modern technologies can be used in interesting and innovative ways.

**Strengthening the Diaspora**

We would like to strengthen the diaspora representation on our committees. Two forthcoming seminars reported elsewhere in this Newsletter [see page13], "Small Business Investments in Africa: Support from the Diaspora" on 19 June and "Modern Swahili Poems" on 16 October should appeal to different parts of the diaspora. But we have a long way to go before we get this right. Perhaps we need more informal events – children’s parties, outings, reunions, and so on. All suggestions welcome!

**The Tanzanian Chapter**

The Tanzanian “Chapter” (the language, “the governing body of a Cathedral or other religious community” is archaic, and we no longer use it in this country, though it remains in our constitution) faces similar problems, made worse in that, with the important exception of a recent AGM, it has not met for three years. I met some of their members recently and formed the opinion that, with a few important exceptions, it can only continue with an almost completely new leadership, and much more orientation to the needs of those in Tanzania who want to keep in touch with what is happening in Britain, or who are looking for space in which they can examine what is happening in the world as a whole, and in Tanzania, in a spirit of openness and enquiry.

While in Tanzania I was able to visit Ambassador Paul Rupia, Chair of the Tanzanian Chapter, and was delighted that he is recovering well from a fall and various complications which required a long time in hospital. I was also privileged to be able to visit Andy Chande, only a few days before he died.

**New Officers Needed**

Back here I am pleased to be able to report that we have recruited a website officer, and are exploring the possibilities of someone else taking over as treasurer, but are still searching for a membership officer – someone interested in new contacts and keeping in touch, and willing to work with a large spreadsheet. If you are that person, or know of someone who might be, please come forward!

**Survey of Members**

Last but not least, we are about to survey our members, to try and better understand your links with Tanzania, and what we can best do to help you keep in touch and to feed your ideas and thoughts into debates and discussions about the country. We will do this first by email – because that will simplify the process of analysing the information - and then send hard copies to those without email.

**Feedback your views**

All suggestions welcome!

Andrew Coulson
Liz and Ron’s 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration raises over £3,600 for TDT

Donations given at the recent celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Liz and Ron Fennell’s wedding, towards the work of TDT, amounted to £3,670.95 before Gift Aid. Of that £2,500 has been allocated by the TDT to the Kasulu Youth Development Project. Recommendations for the remainder will be made by TDT in consultation with a major donor who gave £1,000. “We could not have had such a joyful celebration without the help of our family, especially Susan, Michael and Andrew. We are glad that many of our friends were able to come and enjoy the food, fun and laughter. We value very much the skill and dedication of you all to the needs of communities in Tanzania. Thank you very much” Ron and Liz.

David Brewin 90th Birthday Bash

There was a large crowd on Saturday 18th March at the Cote Brasserie, Westbourne Grove to welcome David. We all sat for a main course plus drinks and listened to a number of appreciative talks by people from his various activities. David made a point of going round greeting everyone individually and himself made a brief speech. Afterwards, people were invited back to his place for more refreshments and entertainment.

The BTS owes a huge debt to David. As the long-term Editor of Tanzanian Affairs, he brought the Society to the notice of people not just in the UK and Tanzania but in many other countries too. I know, because they told me so themselves, that all the Presidents of Tanzania have read it regularly. Because of his frequent visits he was able to keep up to date those of our membership no longer able to visit. He is, for the same reason, an invaluable member of our Executive Committee.

We all hope he will continue with this work for many more years yet.

Trevor Jaggar

Joyce Trotman and President Mwinyi

After I wrote about former President Mwinyi’s 90th birthday in the last Newsletter, I was contacted by a number of our members who know him. One of these is Joyce Trotman, originally from Guyana, who was on the same course in Newcastle from 1955-56, when they were both teachers, and stayed at Methodist International House in Jesmond. They kept in touch and in 1991 when he was President he invited her to visit Tanzania. Joyce lives in Croydon, and will be 90 in October. We all wish her well.

Andrew Coulson

The photo above was taken in 1956 at the entrance to Methodist International House. Joyce is in the printed skirt at the front next to Ali.
Back row: Agnes Jones (Guyana), Allic Luke-Thompson (Sierra Leone), Mary Walmsley (England)
**Small Business Investments in Africa: Support from the Diaspora**

19th June 2017

5-7pm in Room 4429

School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

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**Modern Swahili Poems - Ushairi wa Kiswahili wa Kisasa** – a seminar and book launch at SOAS, London 16th October 2017, at 5.00pm

Centre of African Studies and the Global and Transnational History Research Group

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**BTS Education Group Seminar:**

**Literacy Focus**

5-7pm, SOAS, 15th May 2017

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**BTS Who’s Who & Contacts**

**BTS President:** HE Ali Hassan Mwinyi, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

**BTS Vice-Presidents:**

Derek Ingram, Esther Mwaikambo, Ron and Liz Fennell, Trevor Jaggar

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**BTS CHAIR**

Andrew Coulson 0121 475 4615

a.c.coulson@bham.ac.uk

**BTS MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

All enquiries to BTS Executive Secretary

**BTS TREASURER**

All enquiries to BTS Executive Secretary

**BTS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Dr Elizabeth Taylor 01869 243479

etaylorsjut@gmail.com

**BTS EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY**

Dr Elizabeth Taylor 01869 243479

etaylorsjut@gmail.com

**BTS EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY**

Dr Elizabeth Taylor 01869 243479

etaylorsjut@gmail.com

**BTS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Dr Elizabeth Taylor 01869 243479

etaylorsjut@gmail.com

**BTS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Dr Elizabeth Taylor 01869 243479

etaylorsjut@gmail.com

**BTS TANZANIAN AFFAIRS**

Ben Taylor ben.d.taylor@gmail.com

**WEB EDITOR**

Ben Taylor ben.d.taylor@gmail.com

**BTS NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Sue Mitchell 020 3665 1144

33 Viola Ave, London SE2 0TQ

suemitchell1953@hotmail.co.uk

**EDITOR TANZANIAN AFFAIRS**

Ben Taylor ben.d.taylor@gmail.com

**WEB EDITOR**

Ben Taylor ben.d.taylor@gmail.com

**BTS NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Sue Mitchell 020 3665 1144

33 Viola Ave, London SE2 0TQ

suemitchell1953@hotmail.co.uk

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**BTS SCOTTISH GROUP contacts:**

Ann Burgess 07858 481038

annpatriciaburgess@yahoo.co.uk

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**BTS DIASPORA contacts:**

Petronilla Mlowe mwakatumap@gmail

Fadhili Maghimbi fadhilimaghiya02@hotmail.com

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**BTS TANZANIA Chapter contacts:**

Hon Secretary: Ms Rita Mkama honsec@bts.or.tz

Chairman: Ambassador Paul Rupia chairman@bts.or.tz

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

1st August 2017.