



Scottish Charity Number  
SCO 33311

Secretary: Ralph Ibbott  
7 Kay Gardens  
Cockenzie  
Prestonpans  
East Lothain  
Scotland EH32 0HH  
Tel: 01875 818658

Treasurer: Gill Thomson  
Knoweside  
Ferntower Road  
Crieff PH7 3DH  
Email:  
Gill.Thomson@ukgateway.net

RUDA Website:  
[www.rudatanzania.org.uk](http://www.rudatanzania.org.uk)

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I group of six volunteers went to Tanzania this summer. Louise and Alice were accompanied by Alice's daughter Cheryl, Alice's friend Lorna Calley and two of Lorna's friends Wendy who is a writer and Gillian Caughey who is an accountant. Gillian and Wendy were only at Peramiho for a week but in that time Gillian worked hard with both Baraka and Ntimba, checking the accounts and offering business advice for the Magima pottery and the school project. She will design a template to help them to improve the lay out of the expenditure reports they send each month.

A whole raft of issues emerged once we had arrived a Peramiho and detailed discussions were had before decisions were made with regard to both the Magima Pottery and the Namanditi School. It was apparent that everyone involved has been working hard and thinking very creatively about the development and progress not only of the Magima Factory and the school but also about a series of small satellite businesses. These varied from the plans to charge villagers for grinding maize using our mill to the setting up of an internet café in Peramiho using a few of the computers from the container, all profits from which would be invested in the school project.

### Magima Village Ceramic Factory

The workers have produced many tiles for the school and are keen to increase further the number they can make in a week from 300 to 500 tiles. In order to make that possible Alice and Ntimba took an example of the plastic formers to a local joiner and asked him to make a prototype in wood. This wooden version worked well and the plan is to order 100 for the pottery. The wooden versions cost a fraction of the cost of the plastic formers and work just as well although they will have to be dipped in chemicals to prevent damage from termites. These insects at Magima are able not only to eat through wood but can also chew their way through bricks and concrete.



The workers at the Pottery wanted to know if they would receive sick pay when they were too ill to work and also if they could take time off for funerals. We explained to them that they had to work this out for themselves since that it was their own money from the business that would be funding this. We also pointed out and that the business has to be making enough profit to be able to cover this expense. We suggested that paid time off

for funerals should be restricted to the funerals of close family members.

One of the workers wanted to know if he could get help to fund his son's secondary school fees and we suggested that in the future the business might be able to offer him a loan which he would then pay back out of his wages each month. The word had got around that we were looking for children to sponsor to attend the Namanditi school and it was explained that while their families would not be eligible because they had an income, we would be taking details for two other children from their village of Magima and try to find sponsors for them back in the UK.

### Update on the Namanditi School

There has been a lot work done to flatten and clear the site around the classrooms and the builder has just about completed all the plasterwork and rendering inside and out. We have however had to revise the opening date to early January because there is so much still to do.



This has the advantage that we can get the container there before the opening and that will save money on the initial furnishing and equipping of the school. While we were there the engineers from the Electricity company visited the site and they will send an estimate soon for the cost of connecting the school to the grid. This will involve the erection of two telegraph poles and the cost of a transformer. Since the price for these services are set to increase in January it makes sense to do this now.

We are waiting for quotes from local electricians for the wiring of the existing buildings. There is still some work to be done on the ridge tiles for the classroom buildings and some additional tiles are needed to finish the admin block and the

toilet block. The admin block has some remedial work to be done but it is on the list of things which have to be finished before the rainy season start so the bulder will move onto this work once he has finished the classrooms and the toilet block.

We have commissioned a local joiner to make the bunk beds needed for the dormitory, we were able to see the bunk beds he is producing for a local government school and they look good and strong. He will bring the materials to the school and make the beds on site in the dormitory space.

The question of what kind of fence to put around phase one of the building has been answered and a temporary fence will be built using indigenous bamboo from the Litowa region. This will be considerably cheaper than any wire or wooden alternative, it looks much better and at a later date could easily be replaced by a decorative brick wall.

A water tank that has never been used at Magima will be transported to the school site where it can be raised on a tower and provide useful storage. There will also be work done on the two wells to seal the best one and to fit a water pump. These changes will made life easier for the gardener who at the moment has to water all the tree nursery and the vegetable garden using watering cans.

The trees that have been planted around the site have survived well in spite of a fire on an adjacent shamba spreading on to the school land and quite a few trees being stolen. The rate of growth on the surviving trees is amazing and many of these are either fruit bearing or local indigenous hardwoods which will be a valuable future resource.



The staff for the school are being identified and a matron with several years nursing experience has been found to look after the boarders. The headmaster Baraka is looking forward to opening the school in January and will advertise the school soon. The sponsor children we met again are as keen as ever to start their education. We collected information on a further eight children so now have a list of twenty children requiring sponsors twelve girls and eight boys. The sponsorship will cost £25 per month which will cover the cost of boarding, school fees, school uniforms and basic health care. I have confirmed sponsors for eleven of the children so need to find nine more.

If you would like to help by sponsoring a child please contact Louise Johnstone by e-mail at: [l.m.l.johnstone@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:l.m.l.johnstone@dundee.ac.uk)