

ZAP News

Issue 6, Autumn 2011



In this, the 6th issue of our Newsletter, we report on all ZAP activity following our visit to Jambiani in July. Since the charity was set up 8 years ago, we have had more than our fair share of successes, but inevitably there will be some projects which do not go smoothly for one reason or another—particularly the ones which break totally new ground. One such is the **Jambiani Fundi Autoworks**, a very ambitious concept which has needed a great deal of input, and some extremely hard work. The outcome is still

in the balance, but if this project succeeds, it has potentially the most significant impact in the village of any ZAP projects to date, for it will undoubtedly attract new business to the whole area. We feel sure that our supporters will appreciate hearing about our struggles as well as our triumphs, so you will find an honest appraisal of what was a particularly testing Field Trip on Pages 2-3.

All other ZAP Projects go from strength to strength, but **all of our achievements depend upon your help**. In addition to the steady, stalwart and loyal core of ZAP supporters, many of whom have been 'on board' from the word go, we continue to attract new donors from an incredibly wide catchment area.

It has been a bumper year for **sponsorship activity** - ZAP supporters, young and old, have run marathons, climbed mountains, cycled from London to Brighton and even triumphed in golf competitions, all for our sake. Others have signed up to our Regular Giving scheme, quite simply the life blood of the charity, and we continue to receive a steady stream of helpful practical offers, as well donations in kind.

Janie Preece, Director

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VISIT to JAMBIANI

JULY 2011 FIELD TRIP

Pat, Janie and Janet spent a total of just over a month in Jambiani this summer – Janet going in advance to organise the very successful **Headington School** trip in her inimitable style. We were joined by Joe and Mary Braitch for the last 10 days (see articles on Headington and Solar Power elsewhere in this issue).

It was a particularly exhausting trip, and we kept poor Mr Pandu's and Mr Vuai's noses to the grindstone throughout, for this time it was not a case of 'Hakuna Matata'.

JFA (Jambiani Fundi Autoworks)

In hindsight, it was unfair of us to have shouldered them with full responsibility for the construction of the new **Jambiani Fundi Autoworks**, particularly since a couple of designs for new equipment which we had commissioned from so-called experts turned out to be wildly inaccurate. It was impossible, for example, for any car to use the new ramp without instant damage, so it had to be completely re-built – by teams of strong men with pick-axes working around the clock, including Mr P, toiling nobly in the heat of the day.



Rama and Kassim, ZAP motor mechanics, were clearly not yet ready for the responsibility of running a modern garage on their own. Capable, intelligent and willing as they are, they were virtually uneducated when ZAP gave them their chance to go to college, so it was wildly optimistic of us to expect them to cope on their own. What on earth were we to do?

Fortunately, as a result of an introduction by the excellent Karume College Principal we met Hans-Dieter Allgaier, proprietor of **PAMOJA**, a State-of-the-Art Autoworks recently opened in Stone Town, bang next door to Karume. Somehow, we persuaded Hans to travel to Jambiani to look at our premises; luckily he was impressed with our location, buildings and equipment. He gave us much valuable advice but also dire warnings to go 'pole pole' (slowly, slowly) and not attempt too much at first. He has turned out to be our saviour, for despite his own incredibly busy life (he also runs a charity, and teaches IT in the college), he agreed to take on the boys at his garage for several more weeks of work experience, including management skills.



Janie outside new Garage

As a result, they have gained a lot of confidence and we are delighted to report that Hans found them both very likeable, trustworthy and competent. 'You have chosen well', he told us, much to our relief! Mr Vuai, too, benefited from some time at Pamoja, learning the ropes of ordering parts and invoicing clients. To cap it all, Hans has donated a new battery charger to the Jambiani Autoworks and has promised to recommend the JFA to his clients in the whole south-eastern area whenever possible.

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VISIT to JAMBIANI

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What incredible luck to come across such a person, and just in the nick of time. At the time of going to press, we have received most encouraging reports from Jambiani regarding the JFA. Business was naturally slow at first, but it is now building up, and Mr Pandu says that they have recently had 4 cars in the garage, one of which is 'seriously not well'. No news on the date for the garage Opening Ceremony as yet - but we will keep you posted.



JFW (Jambiani Fundi Workshop)

We are happy to report a most gratifying first hand experience of ZAP Fundi (tradesmen) skills! On arrival at Blue Lagoon in July, we were faced with a major problem in the main bathroom involving hot water to the shower. Day after day, a local plumber wrestled with it in unconvincing style, with much head-scratching and excitable exchanges in sign language, to say nothing of inconveniently regular flooding. Mr Pandu suggested we call in Amour – ZAP electrician fundi* – to pick his brains. Amour is an extremely talented man— and he quickly diagnosed the problem, which was not at all obvious, and he proved to be spot on.

After an 10 hour day at his main job in a large new hotel, Amour came to Blue Lagoon with Muhidini, ZAP plumber, and between them they pulled off what was quite a complicated and technical job, all with a minimum of fuss, and a very obliging manner. Finally, the hot water worked perfectly and only those who have regularly suffered Zanzibar plumbing problems can imagine the extent of the joy which was felt by Daktari and Mama for the rest of the Field Trip! We were most impressed, and felt very proud of 'our boys'.

A recent report from Mr Vuai confirms that all ZAP fundis are in full employment, gaining in reputation, and in demand far and wide. They are employing apprentices where possible. We still can't believe that every single one of the lads in our initial intake have stayed the course, and done so well - a great deal of the credit for this lies with Mr Pandu and Mr Vuai who have been so 'hands on' and supportive throughout.



* *Amour is totally deaf. When the village first proposed him as a potential fundi, we felt obliged to question their choice. 'How will he cope?' I asked Mr P. 'Mama', came the reply, accompanied by a sage look, 'Allah may have taken away his hearing, but he has given him much wisdom and intelligence. This is a good man. You have my word'. How right he was - as usual.*

ZAP - direct co-operation and direct action

SOLAR POWER

SOLAR LIGHTING IN JAMBIANI

Editor's Note: Joe and Mary Braitch, already extremely generous ZAP supporters, came to Jambiani with us in July, bringing equipment for the Jambiani Autoworks, a solar powered water pump and a great deal of energy and enthusiasm, especially for their new initiative—the provision of solar power in Jambiani. Here is an account of the project, which they have personally financed., in their own words

A large proportion of patients at the local surgery in Jambiani suffer from chest and breathing problems such as bronchitis and asthma, which are caused in part by the fumes from kerosene lamps in the home. Most families use kerosene lamps every day as soon as darkness falls, and frequent power cuts mean that even those in homes with mains electricity rely on them quite regularly. The lamps are cheap to buy and to run, which is essential for many families – BUT they are a major health hazard and can cause devastating fires if they are knocked over or left unattended.

We felt that solar lighting could be a simple solution to this problem, so we set about trying to introduce the idea on our last visit in July. Solar lights are clean, safe and efficient and seemed to us an obvious choice in a country blessed with many hours of strong sunshine almost every day! Mobile phones (rife in Zanzibar) can also be charged from them.



Initially we met with a certain amount of indifference, and reluctance to change from long-established practice. The cost - \$30 for a lamp and \$100 for a 4 light home setup - also put some people off, though the relatively high cost of kerosene makes solar lighting cheaper in the long run. Although solar lights are used in many other parts of Africa they are not yet common in Zanzibar, and many people seemed unaware of the health benefits or the fact that, in the long run, they would make more economic sense.



Prior to our visit, we had given solar lights to a few key people in the village (Dr Hamza, Mr Pandu and Mr Vuai) for a trial period. They were all extremely enthusiastic and the word soon began to spread. On the July trip, Pat and Janie held a Village Committee meeting to promote the idea of solar lighting which was very well received, and a young man (Wadhifa, one of Dr Hamza's ZAP nurses) agreed to take responsibility for the initial stock of 66 lights that we had provided and the day-to-day management of the project.

We are also grateful for the help of a local NGO (ZASEA, based in Stone Town) which has offered technical support and training for the project.

Since July about 80 of the 150 interested families have received solar lights and are paying for them by instalments; word is spreading fast now that the first customers are showing their neighbours how effective they are. Many of the poorer families are taking longer to pay than we hoped, so the monthly purchase of new lights is slow but the system is working well, especially as the cost saving on kerosene pays for the new lights.

Mr Joe and Mama Mary - with the assistance of Daktari Pat

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

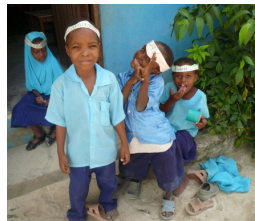
Form VI – our boarders in Stone Town – have all gained University places, which is amazing. Unfortunately, the government have recently changed the goal posts in the matter of loans for University fees. Unless students opt for certain specified degrees (Medicine, law etc.), they only receive on average 60% loans which is clearly a massive problem for them. The shortfall is equivalent to approx. £400 per student (6 this year), and this is beyond the scope of what ZAP is able to afford. So we have had to take the tough decision to support only those students who have achieved top grades (2 this year) and we hope this will be sustainable in the future.

Mr Vuai tells us that the new curriculum for Form IV students who study with him and other teachers in the **JAMBIANI COMMUNITY ACADEMY** after school hours now demands completely new sets of text books. Not what we wanted to hear! Again, we are not able to afford the number required, but we have allocated £100 this year and will increase it as funds permit.

As usual, ZAP has paid for the Exam fees for our Form V students, and we continue to pay rent for the very valuable asset of the ZAP Boarding house as well as giving bursaries to all higher education students who live there. In this context, the financial support of Headington School is extremely welcome.

NURSERY SCHOOLS

During our July field trip we were able to visit all three Nursery Schools, always such a pleasure. We received the usual warm and tuneful welcome everywhere at ‘porridge time’, but could not help observing that one of the schools has recently been fantastically well equipped, both inside and outside in the playground; we are told that it is specifically endowed by an Italian charity and there is now an obvious contrast with the two others. ZAP has allocated some Headington funds for lockable cupboards to the underfunded schools so that in future the teachers can store any donated toys, games and equipment safely and securely. We hope that we can gradually redress the balance between the schools by delivering help for the poorest in the future; we will also have to consider extending our support to a fourth Nursery School which has just opened in the south village.



During our visit, the children were delighted to show us the paper crowns which they had made - just one of the exciting activities organised for them by the Headington girls who spent each morning in the Nursery Schools. English words for colours, parts of the body etc. had been well learned, as Mama Janie was pleased to discover when she tested the children herself!

FERRY DISASTER

We were saddened to hear about the terrible ferry tragedy which happened just off the coast of Zanzibar in September. Many people were returning to Pemba from Zanzibar after Ramadan and the sadness at this terrible loss of life is spread around the island. Thank you to everyone who joined us in sending messages of sympathy to the people of Jambiani.

SUPPORTERS NEWS

SCALING THE HEIGHTS FOR ZAP

In July, Pat and Janie were delighted to be able to meet up with a group of young people in Jambiani who had just climbed Kilimanjaro, and who are donating some of their sponsorship to ZAP. Three of the group have also become Regular Givers - a brilliant way to ensure the future of our projects.



Jackie Brennan and her colleagues were chilling out in Zanzibar after their gruelling climb - 'Never again!' they chorused when we



Jackie with Nursery kids

talked about their painful ascent. A couple of days later, Jackie and two others took advantage of Mr Pandu's Grand ZAP Tour to visit the clinic, the Academy, the nursery schools and the sewing ladies. As an unexpected but VERY welcome bonus, the company where Jackie and her colleagues all work - EQUINIX - have made an extremely generous donation of £1000 to ZAP on their behalf. We thank them so very much for their kindness, and equally for their interest, support and the nice things that they said about our work.

ANDREW MORRISON'S BIKE RIDE - in his own words

'The **British Heart Foundation's** annual **London to Brighton Bike ride** is brilliantly organised and stewarded, giving non-skilled cyclists of all ages a wonderful day out.

Several of my closest friends have died recently from heart conditions and I wanted to make a contribution. With my ZAP hat on too, I wrote to friends asking their support for either or both charities. Their enthusiasm and generosity has been great.

Early on Sunday 19th June, my daughter Annie, godson Archie Gammell and a transit full of erstwhile Charterhouse teaching colleagues unloaded our bikes on Clapham Common. Not a great day, rainy and windy, but we were soon through the horrors of Balham and into the bosom of leafy Surrey. Half an hour in a pub and then on, and on, along reserved roads, to Turners Hill and a longed-for break for a pasty lunch.

I pushed my bike up Ditchling Beacon. Annie and Archie rode with ease to the top. Then in an increasingly cold and wet westerly gale we dropped down into Brighton and rode with hundreds of others along the front to the line, manned, as the whole route had been, by BHF's stalwart supporters. Why not give it a go next year and ride with us?'



***Editors' note:** Andrew and Annie are too modest about their triumph - they both trained very hard, especially Andrew whose sylph-like figure is now almost unrecognisable. ZAP benefitted enormously from the considerable sum of money they raised for us; as always the UK pound goes a long way in Jambiani and their efforts are making a very significant difference to all our long-term projects.*

SUPPORTERS NEWS

HEADINGTON SCHOOL

The second Headington School visit to Jambiani took place in July, and proved even more successful than the first. Janet and the Headington teachers knew the ropes by now and had the organisation and logistics buttoned up; it also helped that some ZAP students from last year joined in, and a very happy time was had by all. This is such a great opportunity for the English contingent to experience what life is really like in an undeveloped country; a rare chance for both groups to learn about and develop respect for each other's cultures and traditions. We all hope that some at least of these new friendships will endure, and we are delighted that future trips are already in the pipeline.



During their visit, the girls took a great interest in all ZAP Projects, and gave some excellent and useful feedback, in particular for the Sewing Ladies Co-operative. Following their suggestion we are planning to use some of the Headington funds to purchase two sewing machines for ladies who have graduated from the **ZAP SEWING LADIES** project, and provide them with a dedicated sewing room in Mr Pandu's house as soon as we can afford to renovate it. (Est. cost £700 GBP).

The girls had prepared some lessons which they took in the Jambiani Academy under the watchful eye of Mr Vuai, and were impressed with the standard he sets. But the most fun of all is the inventive games they play with the hordes of little children who cluster outside their guest house after school clamouring for attention. Really a wonderful sight.

As before, Headington came to Zanzibar laden with toys, baby clothes and teaching aids; in addition, each girl had raised money for ZAP in a variety of ways - ranging from sponsored events to working behind the till in supermarkets. This is so valuable to us, and we are extremely grateful to the girls, to their parents for funding their trip and above all to their wonderful and inspiring teachers. See you next year!

SNOWDON CLIMB BY ZAP'S YOUNGEST SUPPORTER

Six-year-old Joseph Purcell and his parents recently climbed Mount Snowdon to raise money for ZAP. Planning a half-term visit to Zanzibar, Joseph wanted to help the local people, hence this amazing feat.



Joseph with parents Greg and Beth at the summit

As well as raising over £500 for ZAP, the family brought toys and equipment for the nursery schools, and two laptops and software for the Academy. Furthermore, with Mr Pandu's help, Joseph was able to join in, to help with some lessons, and even to make some friends in the nursery schools. What an achievement for a small boy—well done Joseph and Ahsante Sana!



MEDICAL NEWS

CLINIC

ZAP continues its regular support for Dr Hamza and for his motorbike, including emergency supplies of drugs – especially antibiotics for children.

The Hema-cue machine provided this summer (for testing for anaemia) has been most beneficial, and the Headington School group once again brought out supplies and baby clothes (pictured presenting items to Dr Hamza and Mr P).



DENTIST

For some time now ZAP has been lobbying the health authorities to provide a dental service – at present there is NONE in Jambiani. In anticipation of this, we renovated a small room in the clinic, installing air-conditioning, and equipped it with a dental chair. The room can also be used for minor surgery.

We have recently received the excellent news that a dentist will spend one day a month in the clinic. A most generous donor in London is organising a supply of dental equipment so we are keeping our fingers crossed (but not counting our chickens!).



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

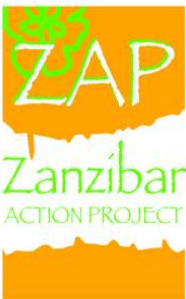
“Call my Bluff”

a wine tasting with a difference
at

Houghton International Horse Trials

By kind permission of the Marquis of Cholmondeley
on
Wednesday 23rd May 2012

PLEASE NOTE! ZAP has moved to a new temporary address - see below



ZANZIBAR ACTION PROJECT

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ZAP - the small charity making a big difference