



The newsletter of the Nyika-Vwaza Trust and Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust
"working for the environment and wildlife conservation in northern Malawi"

Welcome to the Spring issue of Nyika-Vwaza News.

For us in the UK, the days are lengthening and the first daffodils are appearing, heralding the approach of spring. For the UK Trust, too, there are new beginnings. As you'll see from this newsletter, UK Trustee Tom Lupton has agreed to become our new Chairman. We are delighted by his appointment, and all of us are looking forward to our work moving forward under his leadership.

In Malawi, although Jerry Kent and Lisa Holyhead have now left the Nyika to continue their African adventure, they have handed over to new trust manager, Andrew Jackson, who is settling in following a handover period with Jerry and Lisa. The casual trust workers have returned to the Nyika and all are looking to a productive season ahead.

You will find much to enjoy in this issue of Nyika-Vwaza News - you can catch up on news from the field, read our report on our 2009 RGS evening or dip into a couple more historical articles - one on road building and the other on the Chelinda pine plantation.

We hope that what you read will encourage you to continue to support us. In early 2010, The Guardian carried an article by Margaret Atwood - "On a wing and a prayer" (a plea to save our birds) - in which she quotes some statistics from Al Gore. According to him, 97% of all charitable giving goes to human causes. Of the remaining 3%, half goes to pets, leaving 1.5% to devote to the rest of nature. Thank you for being part of the 1.5%. We really do need your help to continue the work we do to protect Northern Malawi's wilderness areas for future generations of Malawians and for the rest of the world.

Jane Gallacher (Editor)

2009 RGS Evening: Animals, Anthu and Ancestors

First of all a big thank you to those of you who joined us for our annual fundraising and promotional evening at the Royal Geographical Society on 9 December. It was a sparkling evening and we have had lots of positive feedback from you, which is great.

Without doubt, the success of the evening was in large part due to having such a compelling speaker in Professor Brian Morris. He distilled a lifetime's observations of the relationships between the peoples of Malawi and their wildlife into a spell-binding 45 minute talk. He gave us a real insight into both the cultural and the spiritual significance of wildlife to the people there, connections which remain important. We are indebted to Professor Morris for giving us both his time, and the benefit of his knowledge and understanding of these subjects.



Professor Brian Morris



His Excellency Dr. Francis Moto and Professor Colin Baker

We were delighted that, once again, His Excellency Dr. Francis Moto was able to support our evening, along with our Patron, Professor Colin Baker and his wife, Shirley. Thanks must also go to our UK Trustee, Tom Lupton, for updating us on recent Trust activities on the Nyika and in Vwaza following his visit to Northern Malawi back in the Autumn.

As ever, we are grateful to the team of volunteers who helped make the evening possible - Mick and Marianne Lavery and Eleni Fostiropoulos for manning the second-hand book stall (with special thanks to all who donated books), Angela Kilner for acquiring the WESM calendars, Pip Hayes and Donna Wilson for selling them on the evening with some timely help from Iona Kippax, (thanks also to Donna for being our photographer), Gill Foot for selling the Nyika-Vwaza Trust Christmas and occasional cards (and to Isobel and Paul Langton and Ivanhoe Printers for getting them printed), Claire Grimshaw for selling paintings and prints (with special thanks to Pastor Theo Campbell for his prints), Chris Grimshaw for being our auctioneer and also, together with Jack Davison, for being front of house, and finally to the House Manager, Denise Prior, and staff of the RGS for responding positively to our many requests.



Rodney Walshaw & Mpalive Msiska

We were also thrilled that Harry and Margaret Pease and Jacqueline Street were able to come from the Isle of Man to be present at the evening. They have our heartfelt thanks for their efforts in connection with the Ian Hay Legacy (for more details see our Autumn 2009 Newsletter).

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)



Time for a chat at RGS 2009

We are also grateful to the people who took the trouble after the evening to write or email their enjoyment of the event; these were greatly appreciated.

For those of you who were unable to join us, but who would like to obtain an expanded and printed version of Professor Morris' talk, these are available at £6 per copy inclusive of p & p from Harry Foot, Stowford Farm, Harford, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0JD. (Please make cheques payable to "The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust".)



Tom & Julie Lupton

The NV(UK)T Evening at the Royal Geographical Society in 2010 (this year!)

We hope that you will join us as we gather again at the RGS on the evening of **Tuesday 9 November 2010** (please pop the date in your diaries now - time moves fast!). We are fortunate that **Professor Anthony Young** has kindly agreed to be our Speaker with the topic of his illustrated lecture being "**Thin on the Ground. Land Resource Survey in Malawi and the Commonwealth**". Anthony Young is Emeritus Professor and Honorary Research Fellow in Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia. One of his earliest publications was "The Physical Environment of Northern Nyasaland (Malawi)".

Details about ticket sales will be announced in the next issue of Nyika-Vwaza News.

New chairman of the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust elected

We are pleased to announce that Tom Lupton has been elected as the new Chairman of the Nyika -Vwaza (UK) Trust . Tom has been a Trustee since February 2008 and those of you who attended the RGS evening last year will remember that he updated us on recent trust activities in Malawi and introduced Professor Morris.

Tom was appointed following Molly Jackson's resignation as Chairman and as a trustee for personal reasons in Autumn 2009. Molly joined the Board of Trustees of the UK Trust in November 2005 and succeeded Lady Toulson as Chairman in May 2008. We thank Molly for the four years of service she gave the Trust and for her leadership during her period as Chairman.

Tom has had a lifelong interest in conservation, setting up an environment society when he was at school, and then going on to study Agriculture and Forest Sciences. Tom spent many years in Africa working with the Commonwealth Development Corporation. He spent 7 years in Malawi, including living in Northern Malawi working with smallholder coffee farmers around the edge of the Nyika. During this time, he got to know and love the Nyika (as well as meeting his wife Julie, who was teaching at a secondary school). Since leaving CDC in 2002, Tom has been a regular visitor to Malawi on business and to see friends. Tom and Julie now live in Kent and for the last two years he has been working for the National Trust at Sissinghurst Castle.

Commenting on his election, Tom said: "I am delighted to be able to take on the Chairmanship of the Trust. Since being set up in 2004 it has developed into a well respected organisation. Together with the sister Trust based in Malawi it is supporting important conservation and protection work on the Nyika and at Vwaza Marsh. I visited Malawi in November last year and saw at first hand the activities being undertaken by the Trust and the importance of its support in helping protect these wilderness areas. I look forward to working with the Trustees and our supporters to raise awareness of the Nyika and Vwaza, and in raising money to fund conservation work in Malawi".



Tom Lupton in Nyika NP admiring one of the new bridges

Rupert Brown

The Trustees of the UK Trust are pleased to welcome Rupert Brown to the Board. Rupert was born in Malawi where his father, Peter, was serving in the Government's Agricultural department. Rupert is steeped in environmental issues; he holds an MSc in environmental technology from Imperial College, London and he has been involved as an Environmental Consultant for the past 15 years travelling to many countries. Today he is Senior Consultant in the Corporate Risk Team in the London office of the global firm Environmental Resources Management Ltd. He is married to Claire who had worked in the safari business in Livingstone, Zambia for 4 years. Rupert has run four marathons and in August 2009 he and his elder brother, Adrian, on their own initiative, undertook a sponsored Trans Pyrenean Cycle Tour to raise funds for Pump Aid in Malawi.

Field diary

In the last issue of Nyika-Vwaza News, our field diary covered the period from May to July 2009. Here is your chance to catch up on the action from August to December...

August

At this time of year, the nights at Chelinda are still cold but the days are starting to get warmer. Apart from some late burning, most of the work in August was fairly routine road maintenance and the removal of Himalayan raspberry.

A swarm of bees took up residence in the office, intent on building a nest in the gap between the external and internal walls. This made life difficult for a while but fortunately there is plenty of bee-keeping expertise on hand at Chelinda!

UK Trustee Mike Budgen and his mother very generously donated the funds for a portable Honda generator and this was delivered by Malawi Trustee and Chairman Chris Walker when he visited Chelinda in early August.

Poaching activity has been on the increase. A zebra was shot near the Zambian Resthouse and two roan antelope were shot near to North Rumphu. National park scouts apprehended two poachers near North Rumphu but there was evidence of various groups of poachers operating there.

September

Increasing temperatures and areas of fresh vegetation after the controlled burning have resulted in the gradual return of large herds of eland, roan, zebra and reedbeek to the higher parts of the Nyika plateau. The eland and roan herds included many infants. Wildflowers also started to bloom and the shorter vegetation mean that duikers were spotted more frequently.

September was a very busy month for the Trust both at the Nyika and in Vwaza, A major achievement was building a bridge over the North Rumphu river. This opens up much of the north-east of the Nyika to anti-poaching patrol vehicles for the first time in over a decade!

Joseph Mhone had the honour of driving the first vehicle across the North Rumphu river and over the next four days Jo Kapira and a team of Trust workers cleared about 10 km of road to the north of the new bridge to make it accessible to vehicles. This will enable anti-poaching patrols to be dropped off much deeper in this area of the Park and it is hoped that this will have a significant impact on poaching activity.

The Trust's new portable generator was put to immediate use. Texon Kapira and Frackson Ndovi have made new signs to replace inaccurate ones and Lameck Gondwe took over the task of fixing the signs to the concrete and stone plinths across the Nyika.

In Vwaza, Jo Kapira and a team of Trust workers dug a 400 metres long channel (the Hewe Channel) to redirect water (previously diverted by local villagers) back towards a river that flows into Lake Kazuni. This should help increase the level of water in the Lake during the dry season. After discussions with National Parks and local village chiefs, the Trust will return to the area and extend the channel by 150 metres to ensure that water does not flood villagers' gardens.

Elephants "playing" in the South Rukuru river damaged the barrage constructed by the Trust in July (see the Winter 2009 issue of Nyika-Vwaza News for more details) resulting in a drop in the level of the lake. Masewero Mghogho and a team of Trust workers spent an "interesting" day at Kazuni dodging a herd of 30-40 elephants to repair the damage and reinforce the barrage.



Constructing the bridge at North Rumphu

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

There were a number of wildfires during September, mostly attributable to poachers. The pattern of controlled burning undertaken by the Trust (under the auspices of National Parks) kept most of these fires in check.

October

The first week in October saw a couple of heavy downpours and lightning storms but, after that, the weather was dry and increasingly hot and windy.

Although there were numerous "poachers" fires during September and early October, none needed serious intervention by the Trust. However, hopes that we would get through to the start of the rainy season without having to fight any major fires were dashed with a serious fire that threatened Chelinda Lodge and Plantation and another fire near the Matola river. Both fires were successfully contained.

As well as fighting fires, Trust workers completed the Hewe channel and made significant progress towards rebuilding Chisanga bridge.

National Parks and The Peace Parks Foundation conducted an aerial survey of game numbers at Nyika and Vwaza.

Senior Mechanic Lameck Gondwe completed a Defensive Driving skills course run by the National Road Safety Council in Mzuzu and driver Joseph Mhone is scheduled to take the same course in November. The Trust has paid the cost of these courses which it is hoped will extend the life-spans of Trust vehicles!



Broadening the Hewe Channel

After discussions with National Parks and the local village chiefs, Trust workers returned to Hewe for another week to extend and broaden the channel. The channel is now about 700 metres long and, despite the dry season, the diverted water was flowing strongly. This should assist in maintaining the level of Lake Kazuni during next year's dry season.

After the team had completed work on the Hewe channel, they spent a day repairing an old dam near Kawiya Camp at the north end of Vwaza, which should help provide water for animals during next year's dry season.

And finally, as the sun set over a dusty Chelinda stadium, the Zebra Warriors came back from a goal down against Gamba to earn a deserved victory courtesy of a late goal by their captain and Trust mechanic Yobe Nyelemu.

November

Early November brought some tremendous downpours including one big hailstorm. These first rains cleared the dust and smoke from the air and there were stunning views across the (increasingly green) Nyika plateau and across into Zambia. Towards the end of November large herds of eland, roan antelopes and smaller groups of zebra suddenly descended on the Chelinda area, making for some spectacular game viewing.

The work highlight this month was the completion of the Chisanga bridge, a major undertaking completed despite shortages of both diesel and cement.

Malawi trustee John Pendered spent a lot of time and effort trying to track down suitable lorry chassis for this bridge. Despite getting a local steel fabrication company to agree to supply steel at cost and do the work for free, the cost of using new steel was prohibitive.



Chisanga Bridge

The new Chisanga bridge has therefore been made from 11 metre blue gum beams which are significantly thicker than the beams used to make the old bridge, with pine cut offs and some lengths of timber being used to complete the bridge.

Even if obtaining steel is not possible in the short or medium term, this bridge should last many years. The Trust will ensure that the area around the bridge is kept clear of combustible material to keep the risk of fire damage to a minimum. As with the North Rumphu bridge, now that the stone and concrete is in place, replacing the wooden sections can probably be done in matter of days.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

December

Herds of eland, roan and zebras continued to congregate around Chelinda and a lone elephant was spotted heading in the general direction of Chelinda near the road to the Zambian Resthouse.

Although there were a number of fatalities and much infrastructure damage following earthquakes in the Karonga area, Chelinda was spared.

December was a quiet month as the Trust's operations were wound down for Christmas. All casual staff had left by the middle of the month and permanent staff returned home just before Christmas.

Road Building in Malawi

You may recall that, in the last issue of Nyika-Vwaza News, Robin Gray wrote about the road-building projects in which his father, Michael Gray, was involved in Malawi in the 1950s. After he graduated in the mid 1960s, Robin followed in his father's footsteps and, in this second article, he writes of his own experiences of road-building in northern Malawi in the late 1960s and 70s.



In the last issue I wrote a little about the 1940s and 50s when my father was working for the Colonial Civil Service as a Provincial Engineer and was very attracted to the Northern Province. I graduated from Imperial College in London in 1965 and hadn't had a job offer that really enthused me. Whilst I was wondering what to do I saw an advert on the college notice board for the Voluntary Service Overseas organisation wanting civil engineers for various countries including Malawi. I thought I would go out for the one year tour offered and maybe decide what to do after that. It was an interesting 15 months which didn't involve anything in the north but included building an all weather road to Makanjila from Mangochi, diesel tank foundations at Salima for the fuel lift to Zambia (it was the time of UDI in Rhodesia), a survey track from the Mozambique border south of Mwanza to Liwonde and various small roads and bridges mainly in the Southern region. I was also married to Di at Zomba Anglican Church in July 1966.

We returned to Malawi working for the Roads Dept in September 1968 and were based in Zomba designing upgraded roads from Liwonde to Mangochi, Chirumba to Chiweta and various other works. In 1970 I was appointed to supervise construction of the new road from Chirumba to Chiweta and laying a low grade bitumen surface on the Chirumba to Karonga road. German contractors had previously reconstructed the Karonga - Chirumba road to gravel standard using modern mechanised equipment (bulldozers, motor scrapers, graders etc) which, because of their size and weight, represented new logistical problems. All the equipment had to travel from Blantyre and Lilongwe through Rumphi, through Zambia to Chisenga and round the north of the Nyika to Karonga before travelling south again to Chirumba. Lilongwe to Chirumba is about 450 miles by that route mainly on earth roads, some gravel but no tar: those who have driven from Rumphi to the Nyika will know how delightful the earth roads are! Some machines had to be unloaded from low loaders to cross weak bridges and, in extreme cases, had to ford the rivers to avoid the bridge entirely. Materials were delivered to site partly by road and partly by the lake service barges and steamers. There was no jetty at Chirumba and it was found that the bitumen drums would usually float if pushed off the barges due to the small amount of air in the drum: unloading therefore provided a bit of entertainment and no doubt there are still some drums with no air at the bottom of the lake. The new construction from Chirumba to Chiweta included seven concrete bridges replacing bush pole bridges and one swaying pedestrian rope bridge. One bridge near Chirumba had been designed to cross a well defined channel, when we arrived on site the channel seemed to be silting up but after a review it was decided to build the bridge as designed. By the time the project was completed there was hardly any headroom under the bridge and a year or two later the bridge had been covered in silt and only the handrails were visible! All this was due to deforestation on the Nyika foothills. The whole project from Karonga to Chiweta was started in mid 1970 and completed in 1972. The senior staff housing camp has been used since then by LEPRO to virtually eliminate leprosy in Karonga District and is now used by the Welcome Foundation and others for research into communicable diseases.



Hara Bridge near Chilumba

In 1971 I joined W&C French (Malawi) working at Tedzani Hydroelectric scheme followed by building the roads and infrastructure for the new Lilongwe City Centre. In 1974 we moved to Blantyre from where I managed construction of various projects around the southern region as well as rice mills at Karonga & Chirumba. During this period WCF also built a jetty for the lake service at Chirumba: the jetty was increased in height after a few years due to rising lake levels but now has a good freeboard as the lake level has dropped again.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



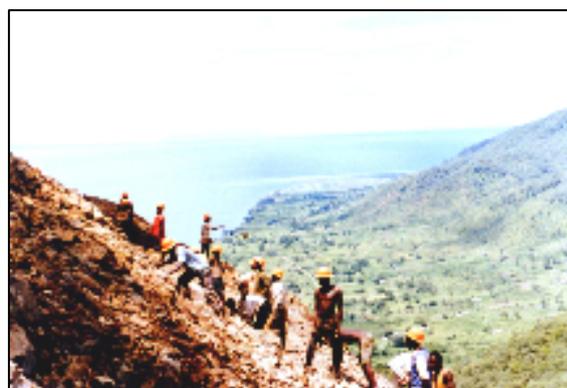
Rope Bridge at Chiweta

In 1978 we won the contract to construct a new road from near Rumphu down the South Rukuru valley to Chiweta which would provide the first good all weather road connecting the Karonga lakeshore to the rest of the country. This has been of incalculable benefit to Karonga district in reducing isolation and allowing swift and cheap access to the south of the country. The section of the road near Chiweta is the most challenging where the road drops more than 700m in about 7km down the cliffs of the edge of the rift valley: this section of the road had to be redesigned as the work proceeded since the topography was more severe than the original design indicated. We were pleased to see in 2009 that our staff housing camp at Pwezi has become one of the best girls secondary schools in the country. Our squash court has become a classroom but, 30 years later, the court markings on the wall are still there! We were impressed that, whereas our houses each had septic tanks, they have connected all the effluent system into one tank into which they also discharge any vegetable waste. The gas from this tank is collected to fire

their kitchens and so they do not fell any trees for firewood: we complimented the headmaster on this and said that they were in advance of most western countries in this respect.

After the Chiweta road we worked on building 78km of canals and eight dams to irrigate Dwangwa sugar estate which was being created in Bana Swamp at the outlet of the Dwangwa river into the lake. After a period establishing a company in Lesotho we returned to UK in 1981.

We were surprised on our visit to Malawi in 2009 that many main roads had been reconstructed again to a very high standard relative to the traffic carried. The main road network appeared to be over developed whilst the feeder road and crop extraction roads had been neglected. Maybe international donors should look more at projects that truly benefit the people rather than high visibility prestige projects.



Clearing road line at top of rift valley – note lakeshore below

From Seedlings - Pine Trees Grow!

As regular readers of Nyika-Vwaza News will be aware, and as any visitor to the Chelinda area of the Nyika National Park will have seen, the pine forest there is a dramatic - and controversial - landmark. One of our readers, Derek McLinden, describes how the forest was created back in the early 1950s as part of a trial forestry project in Northern Malawi...

I note from previous newsletters that attempts have been made to control the growth of the *Pinus patula* still growing in the various plots at Chelinda. It may be of interest to know how the first seedlings were transported there back in the early 1950's.

At that time, I was working in the Forestry Department in the Northern Province and "development" was the key word. My own special projects were Mzuzu, Viphya and the Nyika - a contrast in forest management - exploitation, establishment and conservation. There was an interest then in conserving the rainforest and this meant occasional forays onto the slopes of the Nyika around Rumphu and Nchenachena.

At Chikangawa - on the Viphya - the Forestry Department had established some plots of *Pinus patula* and nursery beds of seedlings for use mainly on the expanding Chikangawa plantations. The Colonial Development Corporation was showing an interest in establishing pulpwood plantations and the recommended species after trials in Swaziland was *P. patula*. There were also trials of wattle - the first plots were still growing at Chikangawa in the '50's. By 1951 there were excellent nursery beds of *P. patula* and some surplus stock which could be transported to set up the trials on the Nyika.

At that time, the only transport the Forestry Department had was a 3-ton lorry based in Mzimba. The driver was ex-KAR and the most faithful and reliable of employees. A reconnaissance was carried out and we thought it feasible to transport seedlings from Chikangawa to Chelinda via Rumphu along a track near NA Kathumbi. This, today, must be the present road and gateway into the national park. The seedlings had been grown in trays (half 4-gallon petrol tins) and slatted wooden boxes.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)



Controlling the Chelinda pine plantation

Our route went from Chikangawa to Njakwa - little tarmac in those days - where we had a night stop and then up the winding improvised road with the contents of the lorry shaking and rattling at the back until we reached the proposed planting area, near the rainforest in the Chelinda area.

The plot had been marked out and pegged under the supervision of John Kanyika, who came from the local area and eventually became Chief Forest Ranger, a title well-deserved.

The Nyika itself had suffered from wildfires and as the word used locally means "to burn well" it is very relevant. Over the centuries the forest had been degraded and it was conjectured that iron-smelting took place on the plateau. It is good to know that today controlled burning is practised by the Nyika-Vwaza Trust and so helps to preserve the continuity that is needed for this treasured area.

Postscript

It is of interest to note that in 1988 Paul Theroux on a return visit to Malawi (*National Geographic* - September 1989) visited the 'vast tract of trees on the Vipha Plateau destined as a rich source of pulpwood'. But after the trees matured and were ready for harvesting such a capital outlay for papermaking was required that the scheme was put on hold by government.

Subsequently a sound economic and social use has been found for the Vipha plantations producing charcoal for local consumption.

Readers' corner

Noel Harvey (Malawi 1954-1964) recommends two books to warm the hearts of anyone who lived in Malawi from the 1950's onwards. They present the extremes of life, from the remotest isolation in the far north of Malawi to the busy hub of district administration in the south, and finally at Dr Banda's State House in Lilongwe. Both books have been privately published.

Not out of Africa, by Enid Waterfield. Enid Waterfield changed her life in 1954 when she married Ken Waterfield, and left her job as a librarian in suburban Watford to travel to Malawi. Ken was a Government Agricultural specialist, pioneering and teaching the cultivation of coffee in the beautiful Misuku Hills of Karonga district, at the remote northern tip of Malawi. Reaching her new home overlooking the Chief's court entailed a two-day trek from the lakeshore on foot, already well into her first pregnancy, with her husband and their meagre possessions. No access to road, no telephones or electricity, no imported provisions, their water supply channeled through a furrow of their own making (no plastic in those days) straight from the mountain stream; and only a handful of other English speakers within 30 miles. She tells her story of heroic bravery - from the time of her arrival, building a small, modest house, raising her two children, loyally supporting Ken - up to its dramatic climax in the insurrection of 1959. It is the story, vividly recounted from a wife's viewpoint, of a life so isolated that she was only marginally aware of the political events of the time, only occasionally varied by a shopping trip into Tanganyika or by rare visits from colleagues. Ken, who later became a notable artist in Dorset, was the rock and focus of her world as wife and mother. This is "Not" the story of sophisticated white Kenya settlers in Baroness Karen von Blixen's "Out of Africa": it is the account of a brave and dedicated wife who, like her husband, loved the beauty and simplicity of their life in the Karonga mountains.

To obtain copies of **Not out of Africa** write to Mrs Enid Waterfield, Plaintiles, Uploaders, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4NU. Price £8.99 plus £2.50 p&p.

Here & There, by Bobby Kitchin. Bobby Kitchin's memoirs cover the full extent of his life up to his retirement in 1983, after 30 years of service in Malawi. They include an extensive family tree as well as a map and factsheet on Malawi in 1961. But the real delight lies in the pages of anecdotes and the numerous photos of family and friends, places and occasions which fill the book.

We learn about his parents - an older father who worked in Burma and his mother Dorothy who at the age of 16 was left in charge of four siblings after the death of her mother, when her father had gone to fight in World War 1. Dorothy was later invited to Burma where she met Bobby's father, and after retirement they set up their home in Jersey. We hear of his evacuation from German-occupied Jersey to school in England, his time in Cambridge and his entry into the Colonial Service in 1953 - first the Devonshire Course in London, then arrival in Malawi as one of six cadets in 1954. He describes meeting Alison, his future wife, who was visiting London with her father from

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

their home in New Zealand; and later their wedding in Fort Johnston.

And so New Zealand, Malawi and Britain become the tripod on which Bobby's and Alison's life is built. With them we see Fort Johnston, the life of district administration in the fifties, followed by Blantyre and land resettlement. And we see it through Bobby's amused, anecdotal style - baboons and crocodiles, hippos and yachting; the birth of their daughter Belinda and their three sons; the misty mountain of Chiradzulu and then the 10,000 ft Mount Mulanje; introducing brown trout onto the Nyika plateau; a series of responsibilities interspersed with home leave in New Zealand and their leasehold cottage on Lake Malawi. After Independence in 1964, Bobby is posted to the Secretariat in Zomba and later takes charge of planning the move of the Capital from Zomba to Lilongwe. In due course he is appointed Comptroller of State House in Malawi, working to the President and Miss Kadzamira.

This is a unique account of official and family life, adventure and recreation, lived against the backdrop of Alison's constant and competent support. Bobby Kitchin is a man of style and ability without prejudice or malice, who has always found new responsibilities and outlets, new friends and connections to enjoy.

To obtain copies of **Here & There** send a cheque for £15 (includes p&p) payable to Ms Belinda Kitchin at Kiwi Fruits, 7, Royal Opera Arcade, Pall Mall, London SW1 4UY Tel 0207 930 4587.

How much the newsletter costs to send

As a small charity relying on donations from individuals and other charitable organisations for our funding we are acutely aware of the need to keep our administration costs to a minimum.

Producing the bi-annual Nyika-Vwaza News adds significantly to our running costs. To print and send one newsletter to a Friend in the UK costs £0.60 and the average cost for sending one overseas is £1.50. We are all aware of our "carbon footprint" these days and sending out the newsletter by conventional means does have an environmental impact. This impact can be reduced to a minimum by sending you the newsletter by email which also reduces the production and issuing costs of the newsletter to about £0.01 per copy. Approximately 30% of our Friends receive the newsletter by email at the moment but we would very much like to increase this to more like 70%. One of the other benefits of receiving the newsletter by email is that it will be in colour. If you have an email address and are willing to receive the newsletter by email please send details of your email address to info@nyika-vwaza-trust.org so we can send the newsletter to you by email in future.

Please also note you can read back copies of the newsletter by opening the News page of our website www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org

Legacies

During ones lifetime a person has many opportunities of helping charities in financial or other ways but there is also a way in which, during your lifetime, you can help charities after you depart this life, and that is by leaving a legacy in your Will. It has a tax advantage too because legacies to charities do not count as part of the donor's estate for tax purposes, and thereby any inheritance tax liability may be minimised. For recipient charities, legacies that they first learn about after the donor's death arrive 'out of the blue' and it is surprising how often their arrival is timely, helping charities to meet an urgent need. Legacies may take a variety of forms - money, stocks and shares, works of art, and even property. Our editorial thanks you for being part of the 1.5% of people who support nature charities so we hope that, when drawing up your Will, you will remember the wonders of the Nyika plateau and the contrasting habitat of the Vwaza Marsh and that, after providing for the needs of your own family, you will choose to leave a final gift for the on-going conservation of all of nature's creatures and plants that struggle to survive in these parks. And if your Will is already written, it can still be easily amended by codicil. Please nominate "The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust" for your legacy. Thank you.

The NV(UK)T Book Collection

A number of people have generously donated books about Malawi to the UK Trust for sale. A few books are mint but most are second hand. A list of the Collection with prices inclusive of p&p is published on our website www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org with guidance on how to buy. Do have a look, you may spot just the book that you are wanting and your purchase will help fund the conservation of the Nyika and Vwaza parks.

Making Donations to the Trust - guidance by our Hon.Treasurer

Our work depends on your continued generosity. You can make a donation:-

- by using the forms attached to this Nyika-Vwaza News; or
- via our website www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org (click "Support Us" on the tool bar or the orange oblong that invites you to donate); or
- by completing the donation form at the back of our information leaflets; or
- by posting a cheque to us at the address at the end of this Newsletter.

Gift Aid

A donation given by a UK taxpayer can be increased by the donor completing a "Gift Aid Declaration". This authorises the Trust to recover from the Revenue the amount of tax at the applicable rate that the donation attracts.

Types of donation

- **One-off donation**
This can be by cheque or CAF or by credit or debit card via our website.
- **Regular donations, usually via banker's orders or CAF**
You instruct your Bank or CAF to make regular payments to the Trust either monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually. Regular, on-going gifts assist the Trustees to plan ahead.
- **Income Tax Overpaid**
UK taxpayers can instruct the Revenue to credit to the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust the whole of, or part of, any overpaid tax which is due to be refunded to the taxpayer. For this purpose, in respect of the tax year 2008-09, the Revenue provides form SA100Charity2009. On page 2 of that form you will be required to insert our charity's unique code which is BAR31JG. Those who have donated this way tell us that it is 'painless' as the money has already left them, having been paid to the Revenue!

The Trust depends upon you

Every donation that is given to the Trust supports our work in assisting the Government's Department of National Parks and Wildlife with the conservation of The Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve and with the involvement of the local communities. Your support is our lifeblood. Thank you for your generosity.

The Nyika-Vwaza Trust
Registered in Malawi

The Trust Manager
Box 577
Mzuzu
Malawi

Tel: +265 (0)1 310 180
Email: manager@nyika-vwaza-trust.org
info@nyika-vwaza-trust.org
Website: www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org



Working for environmental and wildlife conservation in northern Malawi.

The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust
Reg. charity no. 1105105

The Hon. Treasurer/Secretary
Stowford Farm,
Harford,
Ivybridge, Devon.
PL21 0JD

Tel: +44 (0)1752 892632
Email: stowfoots@southdevon.org
info@nyika-vwaza-trust.org
Website: www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org

The Nyika-Vwaza Trust can only continue with the vital task of helping to conserve the Nyika and Vwaza Marsh with the continuing support of generous donations. We welcome further donations from current Friends of the Trust but we also endeavour to widen our scope for funding so please pass on copies of the newsletter to your friends and relations.

BANKER'S ORDER
(for UK residents only)

To: Bank plc.
.....
.....
.....

(Please insert the name and address of your Bank in the space above)

Please pay to Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 40 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BQ (Sort Code 30-90-15), for the credit of The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust's Account No. 1205669, the sum of :-

£ on

(Please insert date above)

and thereafter every month/quarter/six months/year (*delete as appropriate*) until cancelled by me in writing.

Name of Account to be debited

Account Number

Signature

Date

Please return this completed form to:-

Hon. Treasurer,
Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust,
Stowford Farm,
Harford,
Ivybridge, Devon.
PL21 0JD

for registration and onward transmission to your Bank.

Friends of the Nyika-Vwaza Trust
Donation Form

PLEASE PRINT YOUR DETAILS IN CAPITALS

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other: _____

Forenames: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Email: _____

I enclose a donation of:

Or: I have completed the Banker's Order Form.

I am a UK taxpayer and want the Charity to treat this donation and all subsequent donations I make as Gift Aid donations until I notify the Charity otherwise.

I am aware: -

1. that I must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount of Basic Rate tax that the Trust will reclaim on my donations; and
2. that if I pay tax at the Higher Rate I may claim further tax relief through my Self Assessment tax return; and
3. that I can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Hon. Treasurer in writing.

Signature:

Date:

UK taxpayers are asked to send donations to the UK Hon. Treasurer, other donors either to the UK Hon. Treasurer or to The Trust Manager, Box 577, Mzuzu, Malawi.