



# Linking News

October 2011

from the Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust

## In Brief

What a busy year!

- ❖ *In January* CMCPT celebrated getting a Global Community Links (GCL) grant to learn and spread awareness about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – this has set the scene for the whole year.
- ❖ *In February* teachers from Mine Basic School visited their link school, Bruton Primary.
- ❖ *In March* there was an Intro-Zambia trip, run by Laura Tilling and Steve Curtis.
- ❖ *In April* 14 UK students and four teachers visited Zambia on the first leg of the student exchange.
- ❖ *In May* many of us, including students, took part in the Wells Zambia conference.
- ❖ *In June* teachers from Sexeys School visited Mufulira to forward their link with Mopani Copper Mine Secondary School. The MCM teachers return in October.
- ❖ *In July* John Kapesa and Ilunga Mutwale arrived on a visit funded by the GCL grant, followed shortly after by Mufulira High School student exchange group and teachers.

Now, using the last part of the GCL grant, we are following up with two workshops to help turn thought into action, and raise awareness of the MDGs as widely as possible.

## MMTA Lunch Highlights Pollution Issue

A report on the MMTA Lunch held at the Liberal Club in London

Members of the Minor Metals Trade Association have now had a long association with our Mufulira links, and have provided very significant funding to support them and projects they are involved with in Mufulira. Members of Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust Executive and various of our Zambian visitors have been privileged to speak at their annual fundraising dinners for the past three years.



*Ansford students present their views and experiences at the MMTA Lunch*



*Pollution from the Mufulira smelter was the key topic*

But the event MMTA hosted in London in July during the exchange visit was really special – a celebration buffet for all the Zambian and UK students, who were able to chat informally with MMTA members about their reciprocal visits.

Over 100 people attended, including HE Professor Royson Mukwena, the High Commissioner for Zambia, and representatives of other links between Somerset and Mufulira – CMCPT itself, the Rotary Club, IntroZambia, the Bruton/Mine School link etc.

BBC's Panorama team was also there, largely in order to catch the students' first hand impressions of the effects of sulphur dioxide pollution from the smelter in some of Mufulira's townships. The programme should be on air some time in October, so watch out for it.

### Credits

Linking News is the official newsletter of the Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust. Articles have been contributed by Laura Tilling, unless otherwise mentioned. Compilation and editing is by Dave Simpson.

## Over 100 attend Zambia Conference

A report on the Zambia Conference held in Wells, Somerset in May

Part of our Global Community Links grant, funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development, enabled us to subsidise places for exchange students, their parents and others at a conference on 21st and 22nd May in Wells, organised jointly by UKOWLA (UK One World Linking Association) and the Diocese of Bath and Wells Zambia Group.

Over 100 people from UK and Zambia attended the conference, which focused on Zambia's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Four of Ansford's exchange students, Will Newth, Ed Gillard, Flora Godfrey Henry and Shannon D'Arcy, supported by teacher Olivia Butler, gave a well-attended workshop about their recent visit to Zambia. Their photograph activities, inspired by their own sessions with GLADE, provoked discussion about stereotypes of "Africa".

At Gracewell Mwansa's workshop on corporate social responsibility, the students spoke cogently about their first hand experience of the severe pollution in Kankoyo and Kantanshi caused by sulphur dioxide emissions from the copper smelter, and this was a factor in



stirring up delegates to petition Glencore, the international corporation which owns the mine and smelter, to take urgent steps to reduce the emissions.

The grant also subsidised places for people from other Somerset linked church and community groups and students from previous exchanges.

## Sexey's Teachers Visit Mopani

By Denise Magill

In July three teachers from Sexey's School visited Mopani Copper Mine School, funded by a British Council Reciprocal Visit grant from Global School Partnerships.

Jenny Wilkinson and Rocio Beeching spent a week in school assisting and teaching and will now create projects for the sixth form (on the prevention and treatment of malaria) and for year 8 (creative writing and poetry) in both Sexey's and Mopani.

Denise Magill, the third team member, focussed on the development of the link, and also supported final preparations for the



Staff of the two schools demonstrating "traffic light" cards for student use.

Mufulira/ Ansford exchange and visited other schools looking for links.

The three teachers also managed to fit into their busy schedule a

descent of 1403 metres down the mine!

The return visit to Somerset is in October. As well as observing and teaching, Davies Walusiku and Danny Banda will make a study trip to London and spend the obligatory day at the seaside.

Thanks to all who sponsored Denise's 1000km cycle/row/run challenge which raised over £1000 for the link, and to Wyke Farms and Delaware Veterinary Practice and everyone at Sexey's school for their endless generosity, and to members of CMCPT who supported numerous fundraising activities.

by Gail Carroll

## A Strong Relationship

The Bruton Primary and Mufulira Mine Basic link continues to be a strong relationship, firmly embedded in the curriculums and day to day lives of both schools. Recent staff changes in both schools have meant new Link Committees, providing opportunities for us to review our aims and partnership agreements and ensure we are making the most of resources available to us. Our next

visitors from Mine Basic are expected in May 2012 when both schools will complete a project called 'Daily Life'. We hope to make good use of photography and video clips to support the children in both schools in understanding each other's day to day lives.

The activities of Mine Basic's Climate Change Group in

promoting international awareness of the problems pollution from the mine creates have been quite inspirational. The group has also been busy raising funds to support a sick ex-miner as well as organising tree planting programmes! Their hard work has encouraged us to be more ambitious with environmental projects at Bruton Primary. As always, there is a great deal to learn from each other!

## Zambian Journalist and Environmental Planner visit Somerset

The Global Community Links grant funded the visits of John Kapesa and Ilunga Mutwale, who arrived in UK a week before the Exchange Group.

John is very well known by many of us here; he teaches at Mano Basic, and writes for the Times of Zambia. Ilunga is an environmental planner for Mufulira Municipal Council.

During their first week they visited GLADE to gather methods and materials for raising awareness of the MDGs, and visited Lovington, Bruton, Countess Gytha, Castle Cary and Keinton Mandeville primary schools. John also visited Fairmead Special School. Ilunga did preparatory work for his placement with South Somerset District Council, and had an eye-opening

visit to Southwood Waste Management Site and attended a Councillors' Training Session and South Somerset Local Strategic Partnership AGM, which gave him a very clear idea of our local government structures.

In the second week John supported the student exchange group in their work on MDGs at Ansford Academy and at the primary schools. Ilunga had a packed schedule, meeting and shadowing South Somerset District Council staff involved in planning and environmental protection, and finally giving a fascinating seminar to SSDC staff about how his visit had inspired him to return to Mufulira with new ideas about tackling environment and planning visits locally.



## Councils can learn from each other

By John Kapesa

Mufulira Municipal Council Environmental Planner, Ilunga Mutwale visiting Somerset County in Castle Cary has observed challenges, saying the operations in Mufulira, Zambia should begin to change for the better.

He told Linking News, "The experience has been eye-opening. The UK operates four levels of Local Government in addition to the Central Government overall. Generally, the system works well when the flow of communication is enhanced from top to bottom and vice versa."

Ilunga expressed delight and added, "This is something that often times don't happen in Zambia whereby the Central Government may dictate without liasing. In turn, the Council will also implement without consulting people on the ground. Here in the UK it appears that at times, just like in Zambia, there is conflict of interest in development planning. Ideally, as in our decentralisation strategy, the Local Authority, under advice from the residents living in the developmental area, should be the drivers of change."

The environmental planner added that the move to decentralise in Zambia is the counterpart to the UK Localism bill, which aims to cut down on Government spending on public activities and infrastructure by encouraging residents to contribute to their own development without necessarily seeking Government support."

## IntroZambia Easter 2012

### Why not join us?

Laura Tilling writes: "IntroZambia" trips have been running now for 8 years, with dozens of Somerset people - teachers, doctors, nurses, parents of exchange students etc - a chance to visit Mufulira, which they have heard so much about. In the same way Worcestershire people visit Ndola with Steve Curtis. All have found it a fascinating and life-changing experience, just as the exchange students do.



*Intro-Zambia's house in Mufulira provides convenient and comfortable accommodation for visitors*

For the less intrepid it provides the comfort and security of fellow travellers; for those linking with schools it provides fellow-professionals; and for all, through the friendship of our Zambian colleagues, it provides a real glimpse of ordinary Zambian life.

At the end of the Mufulira visit we offer the choice to those who wish

of a trip to the unforgettable Victoria Falls via a rural village and farm; or an exciting expedition to a remote village in the Eastern Province plus a couple of days in the South Luangwa National Park.

It's not cheap (probably £1000 - £1800 depending on your trip) but it is fantastic value for money. Contact Laura on 01963 351461 or [ltilling@waysidecc.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:ltilling@waysidecc.freeseve.co.uk)

# What on Earth are the MDGs?



The Ansford/Mufulira exchange students are as fun-loving as most teenagers, but also have a serious side to their natures. They care about the world's future, and want to understand the problems people in different parts of the world face, and to take on the challenge of tackling them through personal action.

When CMCPT secured the Global Community Links grant, the students committed to raising awareness about the MDGs (the Millennium Development Goals) as widely as possible.

Lynn Cutler of Somerset's Global Learning and Development

Education Centre (GLADE) ran workshops for the UK students on the MDGs and suggested exciting ways of raising adults' or younger students' awareness of global issues, with tips on photography, observation and interviewing.

The UK students then had a chance to exercise these skills at the Wells Zambia conference, and along with their Zambian partners also used similar methods with students from Ansford Academy and pupils at local primary schools.

All this work will be featured on GLADE's website ([www.glade.org](http://www.glade.org)).

So what exactly are the MDGs? They are targets shared by the governments of 189 countries, including the poorest in the world, for reducing poverty and hunger, improving education and health, and creating environmental sustainability by the year 2015. A tall order, indeed!

But there is one final, crucial goal which will help us move forward on all the rest – developing global partnerships. The Ansford-Mufulira exchange and the other school and community links in our network are a small, but vital, step towards achieving this.



**MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**



**MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education**



**MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**



**MDG 4: Reduce child mortality**



**MDG 5: Improve maternal health**



**MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**



**MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**



**MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

## Progress with the MDGs

The UK students' visit to Mufulira provided a snapshot of how Zambia is faring with the MDGs. Small groups looked at health (particularly HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy); culture through dance; gender equality; and agriculture and mining including the impact of Mufulira Mine and Smelter on nearby townships. They also visited the enormous local basic schools.

The MDG Report for Zambia for 2011 is just out: ([http://www.undp.org.zm/joomla/attachments/144\\_Zambia%20MDG%20Report%202011.pdf](http://www.undp.org.zm/joomla/attachments/144_Zambia%20MDG%20Report%202011.pdf)), and shows that the students findings in Mufulira mirror the situation in the

country as a whole.

Zambia is on track for Universal Primary Education - the picture of the children playing games with the play parachutes brought from the UK points to the problem – so many children – and the solution – getting them into school.

Extreme poverty is still there - their visit to Kawama East brought them into direct contact with people in real poverty and this had an enormous impact on all of them – but they also saw new housing and infrastructure.

Other MDGs are not faring so well - the students who analysed soil samples from Kankoyo and

Kantanshi realised at once that pollution from the mine is a very serious – Zambia still has a long way to go to reach its environment targets. They met women in responsible positions, but also realised from their discussions with their partners, that equality for men and women is still not fully achieved.

We are now in touch with Glencore (the multinational company which owns Mufulira Mine), and hoping in a small way to influence them to enlarge and accelerate their work to resolve the environmental and social issues the mine and smelter create.

# The 2011 Ansford Academy/Mufulira High School Exchange

## Funding the Exchange

The students and their families, teachers, and others, worked very hard to meet the necessary financial target. Activities included: a sponsored virtual cycle ride from Ansford to Land's end; "Teachers Come Dancing", plant, jewellery and cake sales; "I'm a Teacher, Get Me Out!"; a Barn Dance; auctioning items on e-Bay; a spaghetti bath; a Pig Race; a Braai, rearing chickens.

Grants and donations came from a wide range of sources. Some were for individual students, others for the group as a whole. We would like to thank the following for their generosity:

- AJ & RG Barber Ltd
- Bradford's Building Supplies
- Castle Cary Carnival
- Clark Charitable Trust
- Crown Pet Foods
- Darton Commodities Ltd
- Dreamscape Kitchens
- Glastonbury Festival
- J. H. Haskins and Sons Ltd
- Keinton Mandeville Parish Council
- Lipmann Walton and Co Ltd
- The Livius Trust
- Members of the Minor Metals Trade Association
- Pylle Village Hall
- The Rotary Club of Shepton Mallet
- South Somerset District Council

Some activities, and the visits of Ilunga Mutwale and John Kapesa, were funded by a Global Community Links Grant funded by Ukaid from the Department for International Development.

### *During the Castle Cary to Mufulira visit in March the students experienced:*

- Homestays.
- School life at Mufulira High School.
- Working in basic schools and in a community school in Kawama East.
- Project work – each small group had a different theme.
- Visit to Kitwe, a large, busy town near Mufulira.

### *During the Mufulira to Castle Cary visit in July the students experienced:*

- School life at Ansford Academy.

- Social activities (including lots of BBQs and a pig race!) with their host families.
- Preparing and delivering sessions at local primary schools.
- Celebration lunch in London hosted by MMTA, plus sight-seeing.
- Camping overnight at a local farm – a completely new experience for all the Zambians!
- A tour of Carymoor Environmental Centre and Dimmer Landfill Site.
- A day of shared report writing using the school's IT facilities.
- A presentation to the UK students' parents of their activities in UK and Zambia.

## The students talk to John Kapesa

### The MDGs

The students had started with little information about the MDGs, but could now confidently explain them to primary school pupils in Zambia and the UK schools. They believed the MDGs were achievable, and understood that Zambia was on the right foot in education, health and food security.



### Experiences

Both groups felt the exchange had been an eye opener with numerous experiences; living with people with different cultures was pleasing and should be enforced and encouraged throughout the world.

Visiting cities like Mufulira, Lusaka, Livingstone and the peri-urban area in Zambia, and London, Bristol, Bath and rural Somerset in the UK had added a lot to their life.

The Zambian students were notably mesmerised at seeing that the UK had green vegetation which they initially dismissed thinking UK was all buildings and skyscrapers. The Zambian students cited the visit to Carymoor Environmental Centre and Dimmer Landfill Site as one of the outstanding experiences.

### Project Work

The students said that the four projects; Gender equality, Farm-

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**Life Changing**

ing, Culture and Health tackled by the exchange project have been a huge success.



UK students Jenny Paull, Beth Sugg and Jack Barnes described their visit to Chibolya Basic school in Mufulira as a life time experience saying they initially expected hostility, but it turned out to be the opposite. Jenny said, "The children's happy faces when we arrived showed we were welcome and my fear disappeared." And the team picked selected classes and taught them British games among them making spiders

using paper and fluffy pieces of wire.

Flora Godfrey Henry with her partner Inonge Mundia who visited Mufulira Basic had this to say, "My visit made me realise how much we take things for granted and how grateful we should be for what we have. My visit to Zambian schools was a life changing experience. The children were so intelligent and well behaved, contrasting greatly with the UK stereotype that they're uneducated and helpless."

**The students' report**

**The students spent a day of their visit working in Ansford Academy's Library and Computer Room to compile their report, with help from their own teachers, but also from John Kapesa.**

**The beginning**

The exchange isn't just about flying across the world leaving your family behind to stay with one another, although that is a challenge in itself. There is so much more to it than what first meets the eye. The journey began during an assembly inviting pupils to apply for the exchange in June 2010. The next stage was the interviews competing against our friends to get a place. It was a hurdle we all had to overcome, but it was completely worth it once we saw our names on the official exchange sheet. From then on, we knew we were in for the opportunity of a life-time.

**The UK perspective**

After thirty two hours of non-stop travelling on coach, bus and plane, through torrential rain storms and blazing sun, our adventure was already under way! The journey alone brought the UK group closer, making the idea of living without Mum and Dad for two weeks slightly less daunting! Our first truly Zambian experience was our

arrival at Mufulira High School the following afternoon. Everyone was unbelievably welcoming, shaking our hands and introducing us to Zambia. A welcome party had been arranged with food, music and lots of dancing! We were all shocked at how dance united

Home stays came half way through our trip. We stayed at our partners' houses for the weekend, being introduced to their families and experiencing Zambia to the full.

Kawama East was one of our most challenging trips as a group. We had seen footage from programmes like Comic Relief, but seeing poverty at its lowest form first hand is a heart wrenching experience. The children at Nsansa Basic School were lovely, just wanting to enjoy themselves. We were all touched by their excitement; an experience we'll remember.

**The Zambian perspective**

Leaving for Lusaka, our feelings were so happy I wasn't even able to think of what England would be like compared to my home country. The morning we went to the airport was a great experience for those who were flying for the first time, me included. Before landing in London I had a clear idea of what their airport would be like, therefore I was not at all surprised when we arrived.

When meeting the UK students at Ansford School I was not actually aware of the fact we were going to be staying with our partners for two weeks, as I thought the Zambians



*Dancing at the welcome party*

everyone: students, teachers, young children and even parents! We left with a spring in our step, feeling we'd bonded as a UK and Zambian group.



*Cooking during a home stay*

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A trip to London

would be together. Staying with my partner however was a great experience and opportunity to learn how he lives his everyday life with his family and friends. On Monday we went to the beach which I really enjoyed though we didn't do any swimming after all because the water was really very cold.

### Primary and Basic Schools

During the exchange we visited a settlement named Kawama East and many primary schools in both countries. This showed us that alternative perspectives on education are different in both countries as the facilities which enhance people's learning are much easier to access in England than in Zambia.

Visiting the primary schools also resulted in close bonds involving English and Zambian communities as it introduced younger generations to other cultures that have rarely been seen before. Zambians felt honoured because the little children were looking up to them and aspiring to improve



Helping at Nsansa Community School

connections and attitudes which we believe should be promoted.

### Carymoor and the Mine

We had a tour of Carymoor and the landfill site there. This made the English students realise how much they throw away. It made the Zambians realise that it was their own responsibility to take care of where their rubbish goes. Also they were determined to take this information back with them to Zambia to teach others how to look after their rubbish and where it goes, so that Zambia can one day become a cleaner country. It showed both the Zambians and the English that our waste does not just disappear and that it will be here for decades or maybe centuries. The three most important words we learnt about were reduce, reuse and recycle.



At the Carymoor 'shanty town'

The mine was a different story. The visit was a massive part of the exchange. The mine is the reason Mufulira is there. 75% of people in Mufulira get their livelihood from the mine directly or indirectly. It helps the people of Mufulira by supplying the town with water. In spite of the mine being so good for the town it has one major downside which is the emission of sulphur dioxide. This makes the soil around the mine infertile so it is difficult for people to grow crops. When we went to Kitwe the mine there had a converter so it could easily be used at Mufulira.

The trip to the mine showed us the world's great greed for copper had good and bad effects for the people that live there.

Another strong point of the visit was that it showed the Zambians where many of their family members worked and what happened in there.

### Group activities

During the exchange the whole group took part in many activities. Whilst in the group house at 7 Julius Nyerere Street the whole team spent a day doing team activities. These included sport, puzzles and mind games and games of trust with our partners. The various games helped everyone bond as a team.

The time spent together changed the students from being strangers to being friends. One of the various games was cross the fake river without touching the floor; if one person fell you all fell. This taught everyone to work as a team and to learn each other's personalities.

In England there was a camp out at the Paull's farm. This helped further strengthen the bond in the second leg of the exchange. This was needed as the students hadn't seen each other for a long time. Apart from the lack of sleep, this was a great success. The students played team sports and games together and there were celebrations for the two students who shared their birthday.



Camping at the Paull's

All in all, the team games and activities the students shared were key in bringing everyone together and building that element of friendship and trust.

## What the students said . . .



*You can see the pure happiness on the children's faces from such a simple thing as parachute games. It also shows their attitudes towards work and how enthusiastic and eager they are even though they have so little. They are poor in money but rich in happiness.*

*It has made me think about how many things I take for granted like hot water and electricity. I just expect these things to be there for me when I want them but now I think twice about things like that.*

*I have gained a lot from this exchange: things like MDGs. I didn't know about them until I came here and had a chance to teach the children. They are important because I think a lot of them affect Zambia and it needs to change so we need to educate people!*

*The MTTA meeting really meant a lot to me because we had an opportunity to talk about how the Mopani copper mine is affecting the residents of Mufulira and how we can actually get rid of the sulphur dioxide that's affecting our community at large. This is important to the exchange because in the future we might actually make a difference and get rid of the sulphur!*

*Children are the future leaders. Lets put hand to hand and achieve our goals by educating others and growing with one voice.*

*I have made new friends, met some amazing people, and shared an incredible experience. I really love Zambia and the people in it and I am definitely going back.*

*Each one of us stereotype people without even thinking.*

*I've been forced to cope outside my original comfort zone, and have learned many important life skills, such as cooking for myself and ironing clothes efficiently.*

*The exchange is of great benefit for it has personally made me social and at least I can talk in front of a lot of people. It has exposed me to the challenges of the world and how to handle issues.*

*Mufulira is a mining town and without the mine it wouldn't exist. We visited the mine and saw the pros and cons of it. It's hard to dive straight in and say the mine is good or bad as there just as many benefits as downfalls. This is also important because of the smoke coming out of the top. This can easily be stopped with a bit of money but because the western world is too obsessed with profit this cannot happen. The money is a major issue and if the money from the mine went straight into Zambia it would be thriving, but it isn't.*

*We gave the children paper plates and materials to make face masks. At the start of the day all the children looked so terrified of us, but once we got engaged with them every single one of them livened up. I went around helping some*

*of the kids decorate their masks and just chatting to them. They*



*each had a question to ask and a little story to tell me. It was such an amazing day and I feel this picture captures the aim of what we went there to do.*

*I believe if we work together as one we can do wonders.*

### **Advice to other students.**

*Be yourself and be open to the people around you, keep your mind open to the things you will see and do, try new things and don't expect it to be easy. The more effort you put into the exchange the more rewarding it will turn out to be. Unite together as a group and you will make life-long friends. Not everything is going to be as you expected, but the biggest piece of advice we need to give is to have fun and enjoy the amazing opportunity you have been given.*

