

ZST NEWS EXTRA

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Profile: Professor Royson Mukwena

Professor Mukwena arrived in London at the end of September to take over the post of Zambia High Commissioner to the UK and Ambassador to the Holy See, Ireland and Iceland, after four years in Dar-es-Salaam as High Commissioner to Tanzania and Ambassador to Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. Before entering the diplomatic service, he had a distinguished career as an academic. He holds two degrees in public administration from the University of Zambia, and a PhD from the University of Manchester. He lectured in public administration for ten years at the University of Zambia, and after obtaining his PhD was appointed as a lecturer in public administration at the University of Namibia. He remained there for seven years, eventually becoming Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, before moving to the diplomatic service in 2005. He has an impressive list of academic publications.



Project update: St John's, Kasama

ZST committee member David Goodacre reports: St John's is the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the archdiocese of Kasama. In 2001 it started an imaginative orphans and vulnerable children project within the community. The plan was to ask the Head of a village if a field could be found for the needs of vulnerable people. The village was asked to set up a local committee to run



the project and liaise with the Cathedral, who in its turn would provide expertise and support and initially seeds as well. The idea was that each village should become self-supporting, using the harvest to provide food and seed for the next year. Currently, projects in five villages are prospering. Unfortunately several others have failed, many of them when the European Union withdrew its funding for education. As a result, ZST is now the major funder of this programme. As one villager commented, 'One eats to go to school.' The success of these projects has a beneficial effect on many aspects of the villagers' lives. St John's hopes to continue and expand the programme, in spite of the setbacks.

Wedding raises funds for ZST

John and Shupi Whittingham write: "Our third daughter, Kwilindi, was born in Lusaka and her fiancé, Nick, has visited Zambia twice. Both Nick & Kwilindi visited the Chitsime project in Lusaka which is supported by the Zambia Society Trust. Nick, a keen footballer, played with the boys and, despite being a Spurs fan, was skilful enough to avoid breaking his toes on the volcanic rock which protrudes everywhere on the school football pitch. Visitors to the project cannot help but be inspired by the developments taking place and the wonderful spirit of all those involved.

Both Nick & Kwilindi must have been amongst those inspired because, when sending out invitations to their wedding, they asked guests not to give them gifts but to consider a donation to the ZST. They were married at the end of October and to date around £400 has been received by the Trust in donations. We feel proud that these two young people, by no means rich, should choose to raise money for the Trust in this way. We have just been to the Trust AGM and were touched yet again by the wonderful work that is going on all over Zambia and the time that Trust committee and members are prepared to put in freely to help the various projects. Nick & Kwilindi can rest assured that the money raised will be put to very good use."



Well-attended AGM

Nearly seventy members attended the Trust's Annual General Meeting at the Zambia High Commission in London on 3rd December - the best attendance for several years. His Excellency the High Commissioner was unable to address the meeting as planned, as he had to attend the UK-Zambia Investment Forum with the Vice-President, but his welcome speech was delivered for him by Mr Steven Nyirongo, Counsellor (Political and Administration). In it he said: "With your support Zambia has made steady progress in addressing her social and economic challenges. Despite the global economic crisis, you have continued to make your contributions which have lightened the burden for the vulnerable groups." Two new committee members were elected - John Barnard and Peter Siderman - and we look forward to working with them. Mary Cleminson and John Coates retired, and our thanks and best wishes go with them. Following the usual buffet lunch, a series of PowerPoint presentations and a video brought members up-to-date with developments in a number of projects supported by the Trust.

Your legacy 'will' make a difference!

If Zambia has made a lasting impact on your life please consider supporting the work of the Zambia Society Trust by leaving a legacy and make a lasting impact on an orphan's or other vulnerable child's life in Zambia. There are approximately a million children growing up as orphans as a direct consequence of the HIV/AIDs epidemic in Zambia. They, their extended families and local communities need support to ensure that every orphan or vulnerable child is given the best possible start in life in terms of good health and education to try to break the cycle of disease and poverty.

Just £24 enables an orphan or vulnerable child to attend primary school for one year and provides them with uniform, books and writing equipment; £800 funds a primary school teacher for one year. The Zambia Society Trust currently supports, on an ongoing basis, eight orphan and other vulnerable children's projects, and provides education grants to support disadvantaged Zambian students - but we want to do more. Asking you to consider leaving a Legacy gift in your Will to support our work is not something we find easy to do; but Legacy gifts are a valuable source of income to us, especially so because as a registered charity in the UK these gifts are exempt from Inheritance Tax.

If you do make a Will or update your Will, having made provision for your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift in your Will to support The Zambia Society Trust. If you already have a will, a legacy to the Trust can be added by writing a simple codicil. Make sure you take advice from a solicitor about the correct wording.

If you would like to discuss this further please write to Andrew Rose, Hon Treasurer, Zambia Society Trust, 1 Home Farm Court, Church Street, Goldsborough, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 8NR or email him: andrew.rose@zambiasocietytrust.org.uk.

Books

In the last quarterly newsletter we reported on two new publications by ZST members, and we are proud once again to give details of a book co-authored by a member, Mike Dixon, with Gregory Radick: *Darwin in Ilkley* is published by The History Press.

When the *Origin of Species* was published on 24 November 1859, its author, Charles Darwin, was near the end of a nine-week stay in the remote Yorkshire village of Ilkley. He had come for the 'water cure' – a regime of cold baths and wet sheets – and for relaxation. But he used his time in Ilkley to shore up support, through extensive correspondence, for the extraordinary theory that the *Origin* would put before the world: evolution by natural selection. This book brings to life Victorian Ilkley and the dramas of body and mind that marked Darwin's visit, from his battles with his enigmatic illness to his debates with scientific critics.

Dead Aid, by Zambian author Dambisa Moyo, who has a PhD in economics from Oxford, a Masters from Harvard and a working background that includes the World Bank and Goldman Sachs, has caused considerable controversy since its publication earlier this year. She argues that foreign aid, far from helping Africa, has kept it in a state of poverty and fuelled corruption. (It is important to note that she excludes small-scale charitable aid - such as that undertaken by the Zambia Society Trust - from her criticism). *ZST member John Coates writes:* 'I think it is a wonderfully written denunciation of international aid policy as it has affected Africa. The economic arguments are well within the ordinary reader's understanding. It is an easy but very disturbing read as she argues that aid has forced the overall African economy into reverse since de-colonisation. Unlike so many economic pundits who tell us the problems, she actually sets out what is wanted and how to do it. The African proverb with which she ends her book - 'the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago - the second best is now' seems very appropriate.'

Are you an email subscriber yet?

Did you know that it costs nearly £1 to send a newsletter by post? Printing, folding, labels, envelopes and postage all add up - and at £12 a year it only takes two members to switch to an email subscription to provide the Trust with enough money to send one more orphan to school. Almost half of our members now receive their newsletters by email. Could you join them? All charities are suffering a squeeze on donations in the current financial crisis, and the Zambia Society Trust is no exception. Our administrative costs are already very small, but anything we can do to cut them further ensures that we do not have to reduce support to any of our projects. If you would be happy to receive ZST newsletters by email in future, please let the editor, Anne Fraenkel, know: anne.fraenkel@zambiasocietytrust.org.uk.

How to donate to the Zambia Society Trust

Sending a donation to support the work of the Trust is easy. Choose from the following ways:

- **By Post:** Send a cheque payable to 'The Zambia Society Trust' to Andrew Rose, Hon Treasurer, Zambia Society Trust, 1 Home Farm Court, Church Street, Goldsborough, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 8NR. If you have not already signed and returned a Gift Aid declaration form so that ZST can reclaim the tax, please either download one from the ZST website (www.zambiasocietytrust.org.uk) or ask Andrew Rose for one
- **Online:** You can donate by credit or debit card, or CAF card, via the Charities Aid Foundation website. Just go to www.cafonline.org and type 'Zambia Society Trust' into the keyword search, then follow the instructions.

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