

News Archive

2010

December

Maiko Paulo takes on Simba Club coordination in Yamba as Merina Joseph has left to live with her partner in Tanga.

Glaisdale WI Christmas event raises money for mosquito nets.

LAST CHANCE TO BUY VILLAGE AFRICA 2011 CALENDAR. Due to demand, Village Africa is planning another print run of calendars. Book now for delivery in the New Year. Only £6 including post and packaging. Cut off date 7 January. Please email christina_lh@hotmail.com with your name, address and how many you would like. Further details on how to make payment will be given on receipt of order. Paying online is possible.



Photograph by Simon Faulkner

November

Desks presented to Yamba Primary School. The eleven desks were made by local carpenters and funded by St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Nottingham who did a sponsored walk.

VA completes Samba House, a small house for volunteers on the Mzizma plot.

Baby Emma is born and named after our Volunteer Liaison Officer.

Look up old friends on Friends Reunited under Village Africa www.friendsreunited.co.uk

Talks given to WI groups in Lealholm, Fryup and Glaisdale by Lynn Thompson, a volunteer on the 2010 Summer Camp in Yamba.

An enormously successful coffee morning followed with cake, book and jewellery stalls, a tombola, guess the name of the lion competition, an African treasure map and refreshments including scones, jam and cream. An African quilt was a raffle prize. Special thanks to the Heather Quilters for their most generous donations of money.



Struggling for gift ideas for family and friends? Buy them a [Life Changing Gift](#). Village Africa offers gifts that are much needed by the local people in Yamba and Milingano in the West Usambara Mountains of Tanzania.



October

Phil coaches youth and adult football and builds in Milingano. This is his second visit. Football equipment and kits collected by Phil are distributed. Thanks to everyone who provided football kits or storage space, or who helped with the Race Night fundraising event.

Eddie Stobart Ltd
Great Sankey Leisure Centre
Great Sankey Sports Partnership
Woolston Rovers Junior Football Club
Matthiola Junior Football Club
Eagle Junior Football Club
Crossfields Junior Football Club
Whittle Hall Junior Football Club
Cromwell Junior Football Club
Paul Abbot, Dave Smith, Sam and Mikki, Steph and Shez.



The international company, Buongiorno, chooses Village Africa as one of its three charities for the year.

"Portrait of an African Village", a photo exhibition is being held at the Irish Aid Centre, Dublin from 5 October for one month. All the photos were taken by Avis Mulhall (a past Milingano teaching volunteer). The exhibition was featured as a two page spread in the Daily Mirror and advertised in the Irish Times. Avis was interviewed by RTE Lyric FM about her volunteer work in Tanzania and her exhibition. The exhibition is to raise funds for the charity and to encourage people to volunteer in the village.



Mosquito nets purchased for the 62 primary school pupils in the child sponsorship scheme.

African nurse Hilda designs and runs seminars on hygiene and the environment at Kwemshi (the hamlet next to Village Africa's garage).

September

Amanda and Flo join as teaching volunteers for Milingano Primary School, and Katie and Linda for Yamba Primary School. Andy and Nick come as building volunteers. Amanda is from the US and the others are from the UK.

Village Africa starts building a small house for volunteers at Mzizma in Yamba. Unfortunately "The Uncle's House" will no longer be available for rent from January 2011 as the local family needs it. The Uncle's House was kindly loaned to Village Africa in 2006 to help get the project started and until the charity had time and finances to build enough accommodation of its own.

Milingano Primary School holds its first Std VII graduation ceremony for more than 24 years. Caroline Johnston, Village Africa's Project Leader, was the guest of honour. She also attended the graduation ceremony at Kwemisambia Primary School.

Rebecca Stagg (past Yamba teaching volunteer) does two weeks' work experience in the UK researching possible funding sources for books.

Joanna, a physiotherapist, trains Village Africa's two nurses on how to deal with new and old injuries. She also ran a seminar on bones at Mibukwe Secondary School and Yamba Primary School.

Luke, Alex and Charlie join the project as building volunteers. Charlie also helps Maiko (Village Africa's manager) with a survey on the health of pupils in Yamba and Milingano; and Merina (Village Africa's manager) with the distribution of child sponsorship gifts.

Maddie, a psychotherapist, provides leadership counselling.

Village Africa's relationship with Medicine Education Africa (MEA) is going well. There are now 8 village health workers reporting via Village Africa's nurse, Mama Ade.

August

School sweaters given by Village Africa to all pupils at Yamba Primary School. These were knitted on a machine by women in Yamba.



Helen joins Village Africa as a doctor volunteer. She holds first aid seminars for Village Africa staff and a cholera/diarrhoea seminar for Mibukwe Secondary School.

Clemencia (former Village Africa housegirl) names her new baby, Helena, after Dr Helen.

Village Africa's Summer Camp attracts four volunteers from Australia and the UK. They taught at Yamba and Milingano Primary Schools. The geography lessons were particularly successful. They also taught English, healthcare and extra-curricular activities.



Daniel joins the project as a carpentry volunteer.

July

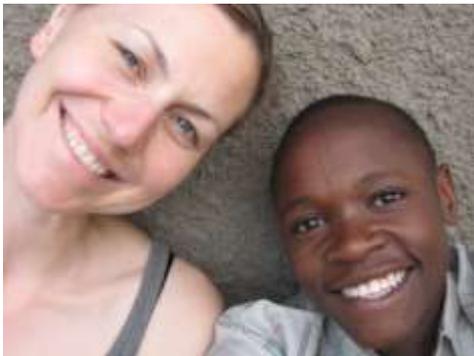
jjFOX, the UK recruitment company, very generously funds a further two classrooms for Milingano Primary School. They send a team of eight building volunteers (including Rob and Daniel, two of their Directors) to do the brickwork.



Ros, Village Africa's first doctor volunteer, holds seminars on pneumonia, nutrition and the importance of vaccinating children. The seminars were held in Yamba, Milingano and Kwembalazi and were extremely well attended.

Clemence from Germany joins Village Africa as a building volunteer.

Jane starts as a marketing and building volunteer.



Emma becomes Village Africa's new management volunteer.

June

Phil is the first volunteer to live in the new volunteer house at Kwemsiga, near Mibukwe Secondary School. He is a building volunteer.

Harriet visits her sister (teaching volunteer Gabby) and teaches English to Village Africa's staff.

Kiswahili health literature is provided by Christina Holden, Village Africa's Director and twice nurse volunteer in Yamba.

Dr Rosalind Hennig will be joining Village Africa in mid June 20 as its first Doctor volunteer. Her decision to come follows a visit to Yamba by her daughter, Yani.

May

Village Africa launches its Ambulance Appeal.

Helen O'Grady Drama Academy is organising an ambulance drive around the UK to support the appeal. This will be the first ever national event in aid of Village Africa.

The drive will take place between 11-25 June and cover Scotland, Wales and England (North, South, East and West).



Fiona Nelson finishes her 17 month placement as a Village Africa management volunteer. Everyone at Village Africa thanks Fiona for her contribution and wishes her all the best for the future.

April

Kids Helping Kids, a US charity, sends funds for further toilets to be built by Village Africa. Three toilets will be built at Kweulasi Primary School, the new school just outside Milingano, on the road to Korogwe. These new toilets will replace the temporary toilets shown below.



Successful appeal held to raise much needed funds to run Village Africa's core services in Yamba and Milingano, especially its health post and emergency trips. A big thank you to all supporters who contributed.

Simona from Italy and Gabby from the UK become teaching volunteers in Yamba.

Lesley Henderson wins the PoD photo competition securing a £50 donation to the charity. Lesley was a recent building volunteer in Milingano.



Online shopping for Village Africa products becomes available. Buy T-shirts, mugs, hats etc showing the charity's logo. See <http://www.zazzle.co.uk/villageafrica>

March

Village Africa's African nurses held seminars on malaria and pneumonia in Yamba, Milingano and Kwembalazi. Malaria and pneumonia are two of the most common health problems in Tanzania.

First Village Africa reunion of past volunteers held in London. Volunteers enjoyed exchanging stories and hearing the latest news from Yamba and Milingano.



Christina Holden appointed as Village Africa Director. Christina has twice volunteered in Yamba and Milingano as a nurse.

Jaana from Finland gives geography talks on her country at Mibukwe Secondary School and Yamba and Milingano Primary Schools. Now all the pupils are saying "Moi" which means "Hello" in Finnish.

Eva Crane Trust sponsors journal subscription for Village Africa. This will allow Andy Matfield (past volunteer) to research specific agricultural issues for Village Africa.

Blankets given out to primary school pupils in the Simba Club, Village Africa's child sponsorship scheme. The scheme now sponsors 51 primary school pupils, 4 secondary school students and 1 teacher training student. More sponsors needed. See [sponsor a child](#) page

Emma appointed as Village Africa Management Volunteer with special responsibility for volunteer liaison. To start in July 20 after Fiona finishes her placement.

Baby scales stand made for Village Africa health post.

February

Local house bought in Yamba to renovate for overseas volunteers.

Lesley joins the African building team in Milingano as a building volunteer.

Jaana becomes Village Africa's first volunteer from Finland. She will research the feasibility of a maize grinding machine for Yamba, farming and livestock.

Michael Paulo (son of builder Paulo and grandson of Village Africa's watchman Jango'fua) is her translator.



Gemma Lay joins PoD with special responsibility for Tanzanian placements. Gemma was a Village Africa volunteer in Yamba in 2008 and wrote an environmental assessment for the charity.



Village Africa strengthens its partnership with MEA, a UK registered charity based in Tanga. MEA provides free medicine and first aid kits to its own health workers for use in rural areas. MEA now has three village health workers in Milingano, two in Yamba and three in Kwembalazi. Village Africa is assisting with the training of these health workers.

Village Africa continues to provide emergency trips to hospital for serious cases. On average it takes one patient per week (55 trips in 20). Common problems include malaria, pneumonia, complications in childbirth and broken bones. Patients from Yamba are carried on a stretcher down the steep mountain pass and then are driven 1 km to hospital in Tanga. As patients are unable to pay for the transport (£150 per trip), Village Africa provides the service free of charge, thus saving many lives.



Village Africa hands over the four recently built classrooms to the government so that the children can start using them.

The two classrooms in Yamba were received by the Diwani (councillor) and the two classrooms in Milingano were received by the District Commissioner from Lushoto. Many officials and villagers from Yamba, Milingano and surrounding villages attended the ceremonies. The occasions were a lot of fun and included lots of dancing, singing and drumming! The groups all performed with great confidence.

The District Commissioner thanked all Village Africa donors and volunteers. There were special thanks to FOXfam who funded the Milingano classrooms and who sent a team of volunteers to do the early brickwork.

Goats were presented by the villagers to the District Commissioner, who was the Guest of Honour, and to Caroline Johnston, Director, Village Africa.



Milingano classrooms handover



Dancing at the Milingano classrooms handover



Yamba classrooms handover

Village Africa is currently renovating a house for volunteers next to Mibukwe Secondary School in Milingano. Secondary school teaching volunteers needed. Due to a severe shortage of qualified teachers in Tanzania, Mibukwe only has a qualified headteacher and African volunteer teachers. It is an English medium school. If you are interested in volunteering please visit [Personal Overseas Development](#).

Teddies for Tragedies knit more teddies for Village Africa. Village Africa is delighted to pass these on to children via its health post.

Laptop needed in Tanzania for health post statistics and computerising other important data. If you are able to donate a laptop (new or secondhand), please contact info@villageafrica.org.uk

Thank you.

January

Caroline Augustino in Yamba is the second baby named after Village Africa's Director Caroline Johnston.



Spectacles given out to villagers in Milingano for the first time. More secondhand spectacles needed. Contact info@villageafrica.org.uk for details on how to transport items to Tanzania and costs involved.

Alice, Harriet, Jane and Mairead join Village Africa as teaching volunteers for 3 months.

Village Africa starts knitting lessons for beginners in Milingano. Village Africa is providing the teacher, knitting needles and wool to get the local women started. The teacher is Alloysia Joseph from the Yamba Knitting Group. The women will learn how to make blankets and hats.

Village Africa is looking for a full-time manager to work in Tanzania (based in Yamba).

This is a voluntary position with expenses paid including flights, insurance, accommodation and food.

Starting date negotiable (May-July 20) for a minimum of one year.

Village Africa is a UK registered charity. It is a small but very active charity helping some of the poorest people in the world. It is based in a remote setting.

For more details please click [vacancies](#)

Follow Village Africa on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/villageafrica>

Alan Turk, one of Village Africa's founding Directors, steps down. Alan was also the UK Administrator and remains as VA's proof reader. A big thank you to Alan for all his help.

Village Africa buys medical books for use by the doctor in Tanga whom it consults on serious local cases. These books were supplied by TALC, a UK registered charity that offers teaching aids at low cost to promote the health of children and advance medical knowledge in the UK and throughout the world.

Village Africa buys an African doll to use as a teaching aid in its health post and at childcare seminars. It is ethnically and anatomically correct. Village Africa's nurses have already dressed it in knitted clothes made by the Yamba Knitting Group.

Baby born to Melania (Mgr) and Sheki (Mzizma watchman). Named Baby Fiona after Village Africa's management volunteer. An emergency trip was needed for the birth but she is now doing well.

Baby Marietta has been born. Named after current teaching volunteer. She is daughter of Elias and Flora and sister to Eunice (age 5) who live next to the video room in Yamba.



2009

December

Village Africa translates more health DVD scripts into Kiswahili for Thare Machi Education, a UK based charity based in Leamington Spa. The translations were written by John Shekuamba, Assistant Director.

Father Baruti taught housegirls how to make juice from local berries and gave them fruit tree cuttings.

All tortoises given as gifts to volunteers quietly released back into the wild...

Two classrooms for Milingano Primary School have been completed. They were funded by jjFOX who sent a team of building volunteers to help with the brickwork. This 7 person team included their Director (Rob Tillett) and staff from their different offices around the UK.





November

Phil volunteers with the building team in Milingano. He also coaches football and plays for the Milingano adult team!

Nurse Hilda returns to Yamba Village Health Post after three month's microscope training in Tumaini Hospital, Tanga.

Baby James and Baby Fiona named after Village Africa's management volunteers.

Teacher Tom designs an English grammar booklet with Kiswahili translations and distributes it to his pupils and Village Africa's staff. Tom also gives English lessons to Village Africa managers, watchmen and housegirls.

Edmundi, Anjela and Baby Joanna have moved into the Doctor's House to get more space. Edmundi is Village Africa's Driver/Manager and Anjela is the Accounts Clerk. Village Africa is fundraising for staff houses for the skilled staff who have moved to Yamba to help the project. It is the custom in Tanzania for the employer to provide housing.

Teresia Richard (former Mzizma housegirl) is now working as a cook for Fr Paul's sister in Tanga. Teresia has a baby boy called Mathias.

Two classrooms for Yamba Primary School have been completed. Thanks to the many donors and volunteers who helped with the construction.



Baby Paris - named after Milingano teaching volunteer



Baby Erica - named after Yamba building volunteer

October

Volunteers help to run Milingano community library and Yamba Primary School library.

Over 200 women in Milingano held a party to thank Village Africa for all its assistance: emergency trips to hospital, health seminars, volunteers, classrooms and school toilets. They presented Village Africa's Director (Caroline Johnston) with a goat, a kitenge and khanga (cloth), eggs and a sack of charcoal!

Beanie joins as a building volunteer in Yamba.

Zoe starts sewing lessons for girls in Yamba.

Yamba Knitting Group meet thrice a week - twice for knitting and once for sewing. They have a sewing machine sent in the container. They are practicing by sewing onto paper. Sewing materials (e.g. cloth, thread, zips and buttons) most welcome. The group threw a party to thank Village Africa for all its help and encouragement.

Rob joins Village Africa's building team in Milingano as a building volunteer.

September

Village Africa makes its first visit to Kweulasi Primary School, a new government school built near Mibukwe Secondary School in Milingano. It has two classrooms (one built by the government and one by the community). There are 260 pupils, a head teacher and two teachers. One of the teachers is Mama Sauda who has been transferred from Yamba Primary School. Village Africa promised teaching aids to encourage this new school.



Photo: Fiona presenting chairs to Kweulasi Primary School

British Airways gave extra baggage allowance to four Village Africa volunteers to enable them to bring teaching aids and clothing for the villagers.

The Tanzanian Government invited Village Africa's leaders in Tanzania (Father Baruti, Caroline Johnston and John Shekuamba) to a special meeting of diwani (local councillors) to thank Village Africa for its assistance.

Milingano Primary School held a party to thank Kids Helping Kids in the USA for funding the six toilets built by Village Africa.



Photo: Father Baruti opens Milingano School toilets

Erica joins Village Africa's building team in the final stages of the Yamba classroom work.



Jen, Emma, Zoe and Jennie join as teaching volunteers in Milingano and Yamba Primary Schools.

Village Africa continues to transport seriously ill patients to hospital from Makanya, Milingano and Yamba. On average this happens once a week and call-outs can be at any time of day or night. The most common problems are malaria and problems after childbirth.

August

Jessica, an architecture student, joins Village Africa's building team during her university holidays. She helps to plaster the new Yamba classrooms.



jjFOX, Village Africa's corporate sponsor, sends its first team of building volunteers to Milingano. They help with the brickwork on the two classrooms in Milingano Primary School. jjFOX has very generously funded the entire cost of both classrooms.

Milingano warmly welcomed their Director (Rob) and six of his staff (Anna, Kerry, Sam, Jon, Matt and Tim). They showed outstanding team work in action, as they worked alongside Village Africa's Milingano building team.

The container sent from the UK arrives and gifts are distributed to local volunteers, the elderly, the disabled and Village Africa staff.

Many thanks to Hereford Muheza Link for space in its container and to everyone who sent boxes of gifts.

Cholera seminars held by Village Africa were well attended in both Milingano and Yamba.

Yamba becomes a village in its own right. It now has the four qualifying factors: a health post, a road, a primary school and a big enough population.

July

Food aid given out by the Tanzanian government to families in Yamba and Milingano - 8kg of maize flour per family. Due to heavy rain, the truck was unable to reach Milingano so the villagers had to walk up to 5 hours in each direction to Mashewa to collect the food. The food aid follows the failure of four crops in a row in Milingano and three crops in a row in Yamba due to drought.

Yamba is now a village in its own right. It is called Mweni-Yamba as there was already another Yamba in the district. John Kijazi is the new Village Chairman of Mweni-Yamba (voluntary position) and Moses Mkabenga is the Mtendaji (councillor - currently still a voluntary position).

Amiri Mfukamanga is the new Village Chairman of Milingano and Elias Mtunguja is the Mtendaji. Amiri was the Chairman before the outgoing Chairman (Charles Singano) so knows the role well.

13 out of 22 pupils passed the 20 Std VII exam in Yamba Primary School and 32 out of 170 in Milingano Primary School. Many thanks to all the teaching volunteers and donors who have helped these children during the project's three-and-a-half year history.

Toyota is kindly prioritising Village Africa's sole vehicle when it goes into the garage for servicing and repairs. This is because the car is acting as an ambulance and needs to be available at all times. Village Africa has changed the make of tyres so that it is no longer getting so many punctures! A factory manufactured spare wheel carrier has been fitted.

Spice trees planted in the Yamba community garden started by Father Baruti. Spices can be used as a cash crop.

Sylvesta Ndeha is now Acting Site Manager/Building Manager for Village Africa's building site. Richard is dedicating his time to building in order to learn more skills.

Malcolm, an accountant, puts his suit to one side to become a building volunteer in Yamba Primary School.

Village Africa starts building two classrooms for Milingano Primary School.

Village Africa's first summer camp attracts six volunteers - Jessica, Kathy, Niki, Sheila, Georgie and Ben. Four are teachers, one a staff trainer and one a civil servant. Highlights from their action-packed schedule include health education to all pupils in Milingano Primary School and Yamba Primary School, and planting 0 trees. They also worked hard building and organising extra-curricular activities in Yamba.

Teachers Elizabeth and Caroline volunteer for Village Africa during their secondary school holidays.

Elizabeth will help build in the mornings and teach advanced knitting for women and beginners' knitting lessons for girls in the afternoons.



Caroline will teach music and other activities in Yamba Primary School. She has come armed with instruments.

Fettes College (Edinburgh) sent two large expedition groups to Yamba. This 36 strong international team was made up of students and leaders from Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, America, Kenya, Northern Ireland and the UK.

The visit was a huge success and the groups took part in many activities including: building classrooms and teaching English, health education, sports and extra curricular activities.

All Yamba pupils were delighted with the gift of toothbrush and toothpaste and the accompanying song!

A crafts market was held to give volunteers a chance to take souvenirs home. Volunteers left with baskets, carvings, wooden spoons, scarves, bags and knitted hats. The first ever souvenir with "Village Africa" on it was snapped up!

A pneumonia seminar was planned and delivered by Fettes' school nurse Janelle ("Mama Hannah") and Village Africa's African nurses Mama Ade and Hilda. It was extremely well attended as it followed the sad death of a one year old child with pneumonia.

Warm clothing is needed for villagers who often have no cash income. For details (including transport costs), please email us.

First aid seminars were also held for Village Africa's drivers, nurses and managers. They concentrated on shock, burns and broken bones. Our drivers and nurses regularly have to deal with these conditions.





Photo - Crafts Market

Salome left her temporary position as translator to start a secondary school teacher training course. The course is in Tanga and lasts for 4 years.

The African building team welcomes Vicci as a building volunteer.

Ruth and Simon also join Village Africa as volunteers and will be doing a range of activities.

June

Tom makes his second visit to Village Africa. "Teacher Tom" will be working with Yamba Primary School once again. More teaching volunteers are needed for January, April and September 20 .

Yamba Knitting Group Cooperative is now selling wool and other knitting materials. The profits are used to run a shop selling dried fish, flour and other goods. It is hoped that shop profits will be used to buy a knitting machine and sewing machine for the group and to make loans to members. Loans could be used for hospital fees or as capital to start small businesses.

Construction of two classrooms for Yamba Primary School starts. Site being cleared for the Standard IV and Standard V classrooms.

May

The Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland sponsored two of its staff, James Hacon and Erin Robb, to visit Yamba as marketing volunteers.



"Gleneagles Hotel"



"James and Erin in Yamba"

Money was raised through various activities including raffles at the Christmas and New Year Festive Party Nights at The Tryst Cafe-Bar. The amount raised was very generously doubled by Diageo PLC.

Village Africa welcomes five new volunteers - James and Erin (marketing), Aimee and Lillian (building) and Fin (teaching).

James Dunn, Village Africa's first management volunteer and its longest serving volunteer leaves to prepare for university.



Six toilets for Milingano Primary School finished.



"toilets under construction"

Village Africa's nurses designed and held seminars on Food Hygiene for Small Restaurants (Milingano), Dysentery (Yamba and Kwembalazi) and Malaria (Milingano Primary School).

Three Yamba women join Village Africa's management team - Merina, Estaride and Melania.

Teddies for Tragedies knitted teddies for the sick children of Yamba and Milingano. These were distributed at Village Africa's health post.

