



The Billy Riordan Memorial Trust

Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland

Private Bag 7, Blantyre, Malawi

Reg Charity no: 15091 (Ireland)

NGO reg no: NGO/R/05/02 (Malawi)

www.billysmalawiproject.org

Summer
2006

The Billy Riordan Memorial Trust was founded in direct response to the medical needs of the village of Cape Maclear/Chembe. The clinic opened on 24th August 2004, its main mission dedicated to improving medical services within the Cape Maclear/Chembe catchment area. The approximate population of the immediate locality is 12,000 residents but the extended population within a 20km radius is closer to 120,000.



The Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic known locally as 'The Billy Clinic' has, to date, treated more than 20,000 patients.



Feeding Programmes

January and February are the busiest months at the clinic with many patients suffering from hunger related diseases. Food scarcity is an almost yearly occurrence in Malawi and the months of December, January and February prior to the harvesting of the new maize crop in March are difficult for many people.

In response to this crisis the Trust provided likuni phala for 800/1000 children per day.

This porridge was cooked and

distributed to all school going children in the village from mid November 2005 to mid March 2006. Feeding took place in the village from Monday to Friday under the supervision of the volunteers.

In February in addition to the school children feeding programme the Trust also commenced a malnourishment programme which provides extra feeding for under fives, who in the opinion of the medical staff, are in need of supplementary feeding on an ongoing basis.

High protein concentrates are given to these children which are monitored on a bi-weekly basis.

Bush Ambulance

In June the Trust took delivery of a bush ambulance. This consists of a bicycle with a trailer attached. The trailer is fitted with a mattress and patients from the village who are unable to walk can be transported to and from the clinic. The bush



ambulance was generously donated by Mrs Ann Scarborough M.B.E. a former resident of Malawi and the Malawi representative of the Nchima Trust.

Bilharzia Treatment Programme

This programme, sponsored by Cavan County Council, is conducted through the primary school in Cape Maclear. Children are treated twice a year.

Year two of the programme will commence in September.

Volunteers

In February we welcomed Nurse Tess Healy from North Cork to Cape Maclear. Tess is a retired public health nurse and volunteered for three months with the Trust.



Anita Thow handed over the reins as project manager to Brian Finn who joined us from February until early in June. We wish Brian safe travelling on his journey through Australia. Rob Dyer and Tracey Oxley from the U.K. spent three and four months respectively with the Trust. Both volunteers were involved with the Orphan Agricultural project and the running of the clinic.

Catherine Ginnell from Westmeath returned to Ireland in June having given eight months as a volunteer nurse. She is now working in Dublin and hopes to return to Cape Maclear in October.

The following volunteers have spent at least three months working with the Trust between January and June 2006.

Brian Finn. Dublin, Ireland.

H A P P E N I N G S
The Newsletter of The Billy Riordan Memorial Trust



About Malawi

Where: Sub Saharan Africa.
Borders with Zambia, Mozambique & Tanzania.



Population: 13 million.

Life Expectancy: 37 years

More than 95% of the population are without electricity.

5% of girls and 7% of boys get to second level education.

20% infant mortality rate in under 5's

Nurse Tess Healy. Cork, Ireland.

Nurse Catherine Ginnell. Westmeath, Ireland.

Catriona Nolan. Cork, Ireland.

Pat Quinn. Dingle, Ireland.

Tracey Oxley. Yorkshire, England.

Rob Dyer. Dorset, England.

Anita Thow. Napier, New Zealand.

Dr. Martin Rouse. Clonmel, Ireland, visited the clinic in May and spent two weeks working with Dr Van Os and Clinical Officer Mr Rodney Gonani.

The Trust thanks all the volunteers who give so generously of their time and expertise. Without their dedication the important work in Cape Maclear could not continue.

Clinic Extension

The Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic today provides primary medical care to the people of Cape Maclear. In response to the ever increasing numbers of patients and the necessity to provide a broader range of medical treatment in the community the Trust is committed to extending the present building. Construction on this extension commenced in June 2006.

This building is an 8/10 bed unit which will provide intensive nursing care to patients who have treatable conditions related to their HIV status. The extension to the present clinic will also allow the medical staff to admit babies and children who cannot be sent to other hospitals due to a number of factors.

HIV/AIDS is an ongoing problem in Malawi and infection rates are increasing year on year. At present there are many patients in the village who already have full-blown aids and cannot avail of anti retro-viral treatment. These are the forgotten victims of the great tragedy happening today in Sub Saharan Africa.

Education

Education at second and third level in Malawi is difficult to access and economically beyond the reach of most Malawians. The Trust is enabling some students from Cape Maclear to avail of education at both second and third level. There are three young students at third

purchased by the Trust. Lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, beans and cassava are amongst the crops being grown. The young people work and learn under the watchful eye of Mr Vision.

The Director of the Trust and all the volunteers who knew her were shocked at the death in June of Marzi Callender of Kayak Africa.

Marzi was a good friend and generous supporter of the Trust. Her unflinching enthusiasm and welcoming spirit will be remembered by all of us. To Juri, Budge and little Java we send our love and light.



level education and a further four attending second level schools. Sponsorship is received from donors through the Trust.

The Chembe Orphan Project

The Chembe Orphan project is an agricultural educational programme supported by the Trust. An over dependence on a single crop i.e. maize has created an unstable food supply in Malawi.

This project is helping the young people in the village to grow a variety of food crops for their own consumption. Land has been leased locally by the Trust and all the necessary tools, watering cans, wheelbarrows, seeds and other items are

Would you like to spend three months living and working in the Third World ?

We are a small Irish based Charity working as a Non Governmental Organisation. We manage and run a Primary Health Care Clinic at Cape Maclear, Monkey Bay, Malawi, C/Africa.

We are seeking qualified doctors, nurses and other medical personnel to come and work with us in our Clinic on the shores of Lake Malawi.

We also need administration staff and skilled tradesmen - carpenters, plumbers & electricians to help us complete our new project by April '07.

Volunteers are asked to spend a minimum of three months with the Trust.

You will be accommodated in our new purpose built volunteer centre located on the beach in Cape Maclear village.

For further information please log onto our web site at:

www.billysmalawiproject.org

or email: Mags Riordan, Project Director at

magsriordan@billysmalawiproject.org

or contact: The Billy Riordan Memorial Trust, Kilfountain, Dingle, Co Kerry, Ireland.



The Treatment centre will contribute to an improvement in the quality of life for people in the village - both patients and their families who carry the difficult burden of nursing very ill family members, often for many months.