



The Chronicle

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine

AUGUST 86

ISSUE 36



Editorial

The weather for once was near perfect for the Festival - not too hot and rain free. Can I, on behalf of everyone, thank all those who helped make the day a huge success. Many people commented on how pleasant the afternoon had been, with time to relax, listen to the excellent Great Horwood Brass Band, have tea and a quiet chat with old friends.

The Flower Festival in the Chapel and the Church was well worth the enormous effort made by so many and a tribute to their talents. The lunch on Sunday again escaped the rain and was, as always, a great success. Our thanks to all who helped make it possible.

Thanks seems such an inadequate word, for I realise the work and worry that goes into organising the Festival, but 'much obliged' fails to convey the sense of appreciation you wish to convey. Thanks is too short, too abrupt - perhaps the French express the feeling more adequately - so too everyone 'merci beaucoup'!

I had promised to include in this month's edition details of the stark financial reality regarding The Chronicle, but at a time of festivities it hardly seems appropriate. News will however be forthcoming in September's edition, which will be the first copy of our fourth year of publication.

In the meantime have an enjoyable August.

Graham Parker

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE : 24th. AUGUST PLEASE.

HOW TO PASS ON ARTICLES/INFORMATION FOR "THE CHRONICLE"

1. By telephone to Graham on Aylesbury 681325.
2. By dropping a note through his door - The Cloisters.
3. Use the box in the Village Shop or the Post Office.

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ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL

3.

It's actually happened !

I now believe in Religion !

It must be true because the Rev seems to have stopped the traditional rain for this years fete.

What a day it was, the band played, Doris sold the Ice creams and Michael Cox seemed to win everything in the draw.

Some one called Esther seemed to win a few things in the Competitions and Colin won the Rose and the Wine.

And yet now the Green has been cleared and the people have melted away it's almost though it hadn't happened.

But it did and we made lots of money for the various worthy causes in this village of ours.

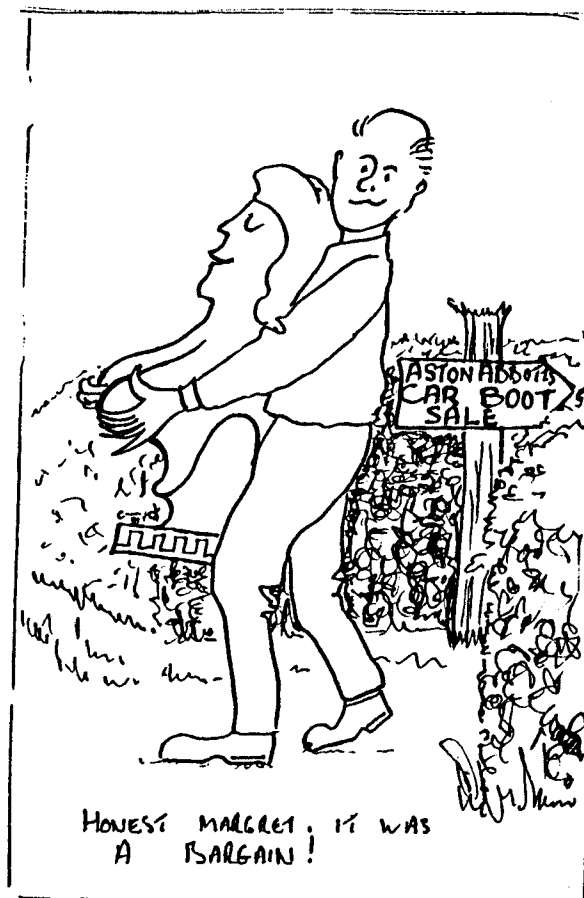
Doris reports that the Raffle raised over 475 and other stalls were reporting contributions ranging from 5 to 100

We now know that the total is something in excess of 850

A really great effort and a tribute to the small but reliable team of workers who seem to organise these successes year after year.

In particular we ought to make a special point of thanking the committee chairman, John Whyte, who made the whole thing work a treat.

The car boot sale was a new event and seemed to be well recieved, but, more to the point it raised an extra 40 or more.



The Bouncy Castle went down well with the kids. It was totally sponsored by the Bull and Butcher. I personally had to restrain

the Postmistress from leaping into the middle of it !
How come the Vicar escaped the Stocks ? They were put there specially for him. Ah well there's always next year.

Lunch on the Sunday was the usual splendid spread which seemed to be enjoyed by all. Special thanks must go to Brenda Roff, Margaret Chesher and Rita Robinson for there splendid efforts.

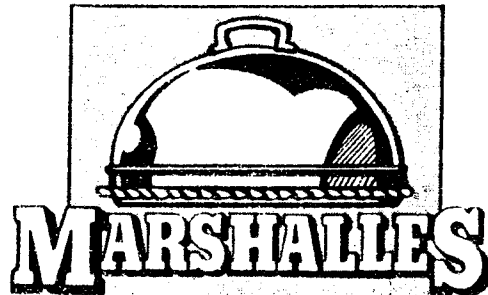
I understand that the current chairman of the Festival Committee is looking for new bunch of people to volunteer for next years event so if you fancy having a go please contact John who is taking names,

The Prize winners were as follows:

Best Rose	1st Colin Higgs	Best Sponge	1st Esther Chesher
	2nd Kay Dines		2nd Alison Ford
	3rd Bridgette Gutierrez		3rd Don Waite

Best Wine	1st Colin Higgs	Childrens	1st Esther Chesher
	2nd Mrs Kelleher	Floral	2nd Pauline Dixon
	3rd Mrs Kelleher	Display	3rd Tracy Fletcher

Childrens Painting	Under 7	1st Hannah Brandon
	Over 7	1st Karen Brandon
		2nd Donna Wiggett
		3rd Esther Chesher



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Dear Graham,

CAN I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR HARD WORK ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY THAT MADE THIS YEARS FEATIVAL SUCH A GREAT SUCCESS. THE WEATHER WAS KIND AND IT WAS GREAT TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE OTHER VILLAGES COMING TO VISIT.

TRISH WEBB

Secretary to the Featival Committee.

LADIES CLUB

The 1985/6 session ended on the 17th. July with an "end of term" tea party at Mrs Bellingham's house. We are very grateful to her for her unfailing hospitality on these occasions. The new session begins again on 25th. September. Perhaps we will add to our numbers then ? We are looking for a new secretary to take over at the A.G.M. !

Machine Knitting Undertaken - any pattern - very reasonable prices - apply to Mrs. Fox, Church Row.

ORANGE VANS

WHEN A NOTICE WAS PLACE IN THE CHRONICLE THAT THE LANDLORD OF THE BULL AND BUTCHER WAS SPECIALISING IN THE CREMATION OF BIG ORANGE VANS THIS REFERRED TO BARRIE'S UNFORTUNATE WITH HIS ORIGINAL VAN.

IT IS A BIT MUCH TO GET US ALL TO BELIEVE THAT HIS SECOND ORANGE VAN GOING ON FIRE IS ANY MORE THAN BARRY TRYING TO SCREW THE INSURANCE COMPANIES FOR THEIR MILLIONS.

DON'T LEND HIM YOUR CAR, SPECIALLY IF IT IS ORANGE, UNLESS YOU ARE COVERED FOR THIRD PARTY, FIRE AND THEFT.....WITH THE ACCENT ON THE FIRE ,



CHRISTMAS PARTY 1959

In the past we have included photographs in The Chronicle, but to obtain reasonable clarity we have had to spend considerable sums of money. So this is by way of an experiment - can you recognise anyone? Is this standard of reproduction adequate? Your views would be appreciated.



"AFTER-THE-FETE" LUNCH

Sunday morning - help! it's 9.00 am, we've over-slept, and I've still got the coleslaw to make. It's rained overnight - panic - where will we seat everyone if it rains at lunch time? We'll never get them all inside the Church Room.

10.00 am - over to the Room - Rita, Bridgit and Brenda are already there - set up the tables - rapid count of chairs - have we got enough? No - quickly send Andy home for the ones from his garden. Dispatch Neil into Aylesbury for the bread.

The food begins to arrive - salads, quiches, puddings; people have been so generous - where would we be without them? We've forgotten the flowers for the tables - cryptic message sent to Chris - get the mustard pots down from the loft! Trish Webb arrives with the ham - looks too good to eat - and Neil returns from Aylesbury with the bread. Chris arrives with the mustard pots and Bridgit sends him home again with instructions to ask Aunty to fill them with flowers.

Finished for now. Home for a quick wash and change then back to the Church Room. Goodness, they are queuing up outside already - and disaster, it's starting to rain! More food arrives - the tables are starting to sag with the weight. Cut the bread, pour the wine, more people are arriving and, thank heaven, the sun has decided to shine.

Ask Len to say Grace, collect a plateful of food and collapse into a chair. Marvellous!

Was it worth it? Definitely, it's an excellent conclusion to the Fete week-end, but without the very generous support of everyone it couldn't be done. So, very many thanks to all those who cooked and donated the food, and especially to Rita Robinson, Bridgit Brandon and Brenda Roff for all their help and support.

(Incidentally, we raised £107.60 for the Church Room funds.)

People

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OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

4th. AUGUST PAUL FLETCHER.

11th. AUGUST MARK HEWITT.

22nd. AUGUST CHRIS SERLE.

25th. AUGUST DEAN WIGGETT.

OUR THOUGHTS

are with Paul Hewitt who is still in hospital following an emergency appendix operation. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

OUR BEST WISHES

also go to Tom Brazier and Mrs. Whinnie who are both in hospital after having falls.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The card opposite was found recently in a pub in Norfolk.

BAR CHAT

Its surprising how little titbits waft around the bar ,on these warm summer nights. Bits of gossip from here and bits of gossip from there.....

Now that DINE'S-ing out is no longer a pleasure on Saturdays because the Ross Road Rockers are using the Pubs garage for rehearsals and they still haven't found out what the word decibel means.

But in truth that was nothing when it came to the Open air Rock festival which hit the airwaves the evening after the Festival. Did it come as much of a shock to you as it came to me ? And I wasn't even at the pub that night !

There's a very strong rumour around that the Ministries pay is so low that a certain gent is having to put a very old motorbike back on the road to make ends meet.

I also heard tell that the theme for the Christmas show has already been chosen and apparently it will be naughty and french That should be right up Andy Fords street.

As a final thought who was minding the barbecue whilst Ray was in the pub with the rest of us ?

See you next month....

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A LETTER FROM WING.

1. Some confusion over the relationship between a C.S.E. 1 and 'O' Level. The official view is that a C.S.E. 1 is equivalent to an 'O' Level pass Grade C or above, but no close definition is given.
2. Like many schools we do suffer from damage caused by illegal use of the premises. Only organised events, which have been cleared with the school, are permitted. Anyone else found on the premises will be reported to the County who may prosecute for trespass.
3. The Kitchen Staff at Wing are considering "going private" if the School Meals service is withdrawn. They are conscious of the lack of knowledge in accountancy and the complete organisation of a service. If there is anyone in the area willing to give advice could they please ring Mrs. J. Gurney, Aylesbury 681504.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for the help and support the School has received from so many local people over the past year. I hope you all have a very pleasant and relaxing summer.

IVAN ANDREW



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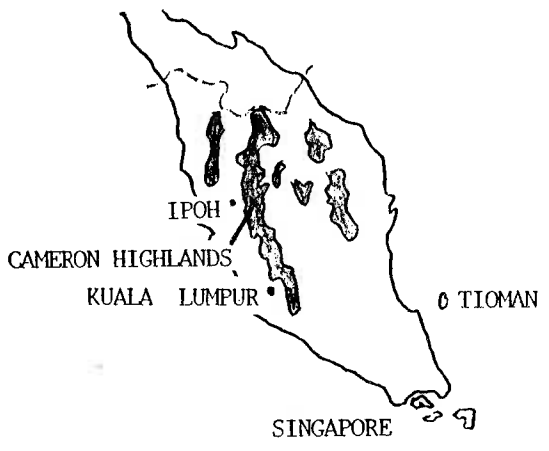
A LETTER FROM MALAYSIA

Before Steve and Helen Richardson left Aston Abbotts on their four month round the world adventure several people suggested that they should write an article or two for THE CHRONICLE about their exploits. This is the first of what we hope will be a series of three articles.

A few months ago we decided that life in Aston Abbotts was too comfortable and our cottage too cold. The opportunity arose to seek out warmer climates and we therefore decided to take it. Steve is returning to college in September and so we had four months in which to travel. Several of our old university friends were strategically placed around the world, and we therefore decided to impinge on their hospitality. Our first stops were Singapore and Malaysia. We had planned to visit a friend of Helen's in Malaysia, but after planning our trip, he rather selfishly got kidnapped. Surviving the ordeal he was sent to Hong Kong for safe keeping. Without him we were rather left to feel our own way. We certainly needed his help when we arrived in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. Our coach left Singapore the previous evening and was to prove an experience in alternative travel. Coaches in Malaysia are made with four foot tall Chinese people in mind. Thus the leg room is none too spacious, and we ended up with our knees up by our necks. Another idiosyncrasy of Malaysian coaches is that the seats recline fully. Consequently you end up with the person in the seat in front of you lying in your lap. Surviving the ordeal we arrived in Kuala Lumpur two hours earlier than the published time at 3.30 in the morning. We were met by 20 taxi drivers; all falling over each other and insisting that we stay at their aunt's/uncle's/sister's/brother's/wife's hotel. They swarmed around like flies as they tried to grab our bags and throw them into their taxis. Eventually we escaped, and persuaded a taxi driver to take us to Ipoh, a town 170 miles north, for £10. To our relief we were met in Ipoh by another friend, a Chinese girl whom Helen had met at University. From here we gained a much better insight into the country, and our Malaysian dollars seemed to go a lot further, as Malaysians have an inbuilt desire to charge every tourist double the normal price.

MALAYA

The peninsula of Malaya forms the principle part of the country of Malaysia which also includes the former Borneo territories of Sarawak and Sabah. They joined in 1963 to create the new state. Two years later however, Singapore seceded from the federation to become an independent republic.



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Staying with a Chinese family we were compelled to eat with chopsticks. For the first few days we ended up with most of our food in our laps! Malaysia has an abundance of 'Hawker Centres' where the Chinese set up their stalls in the evening. You order various dishes from different stalls, and it is not unusual to order a dozen dishes from a dozen different stalls. It is one of life's miracles that the stall holders can remember who ordered what; and can find you, amidst the hundreds of people, to pay the bill before you leave. We sampled the most amazing variety of dishes and I'm sure it was useful not to know what we were eating, as our Chinese isn't too impressive!

One of the drawbacks of Malaysia is the oppressive heat; it is like living in a sauna twenty four hours a day. The atmosphere is so humid and the temperature does not de-

10.

crease at night. For two people used to a draughty cottage, the heat was too much and so we visited the Cameron Highlands for a respite from the heat. The temperature in the Highlands was a mere 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and actually cooled at night.

To get to the Cameron Highlands we travelled on a bus which seemed to be older than either of us. It was full of Malaysian women carrying live chickens and large wicker baskets full of bananas or sweetcorn, which didn't leave a lot of room for people. Our driver seemed to have a crazed death wish. As we negotiated the 320 hair pin bends on the way to the Camerons, he decided to race his friend in another bus. We approached a blind hair pin bend, with nothing between us and the bottom of the mountain; on the wrong side of the road. Somehow we managed to come out of that scrape alive, but more importantly for the drivers ego, he managed to overtake his friend.

The Cameron Highlands are really beautiful. They grow everything up there, from tea to strawberries, pineapples and bananas. The English influence is still strong in the Highlands; they even have a black and white timbered pub which sells English cream teas.

After revitalising ourselves in the Highlands we travelled to a beautiful Malaysian island on the east coast. Tioman was reputed to be the setting of the mythical Bali Hai in 'South Pacific'; and if you could see the island you would understand why. Dense jungle leads down to emerald green bays lined with palm trees. Bananas, mangoes, paw paw's, pineapples and watermelon grow like weeds in the fertile soil. The coral reef came right into the bay, and it was like swimming in an aquarium with brightly coloured fish everywhere - and the occasional shark. After being told that the waters were shark infested I swam into another snorkeller and was convinced that I would be facing life as an amputee!

If this island sounds like paradise, let us shatter your illusions. We ordered a fresh fruit salad, imagining a bounty of the fruit which grows on the island. To our horror we were given tinned fruit salad, which they obviously considered to be a great delicacy. We decided against ordering a fish dish, as that too would probably have come out of a tin!

We left the tranquility of Tioman and returned to the hustle and bussle of Singapore. We had one last hassle with a Malaysian taxi driver who tried to drop us ten miles from the city centre claiming we were only 200 yards away. If we hadn't been there before we would have happily got out. After arguing the issue we were eventually taken to the centre.

Singapore is like many other large cities and has huge tower blocks everywhere. There is still plenty of building going on and new skyscrapers are appearing everywhere. This means that the old traditional Chinese areas are getting smaller and smaller. Many of these buildings are hotels and there are now too many hotels for the number of tourists. This means that there is plenty of room for negotiating on price, and this bartering extended to most things which we bought. Almost invariably we were buying goods at 50% less than the asking price. This seems a terrific way to carry on and we are looking to knock the price of a pint and a gin and tonic in the Royal Oak down to 75p on our return.

Having bought lots of bargains in Singapore it was time to fly to Australia. We flew on the 4th. June and have now been here nearly three weeks. We are currently lazing in the sun on the Barrier Reef, but more of that in our next letter.

We hope we haven't made you too sick and look forward to seeing you soon,

STEVE & HELEN RICHARDSON.

P.S. If the lawn of 25 The Green looks as though it needs cutting, please go and show Giles how to use the lawnmower!



CHURCH NEWS

Last month I wrote about the plight of so many people in South Africa. This month I have asked the editor if he would print part of the latest letter from Dr. Elizabeth Hills of Muheza Hospital in Tanzania. Amongst other things she writes of treating 1,200 patients a day and how the hospital water main was washed away by floods leaving the hospital without water for four days before a temporary pipe could be fitted. Just imagine a hospital treating 1,200 patients a day without mains water for four days! What should our reaction be - a shrug of the shoulders and 'its no concern of mine'? Remember the chap who passed by on the other side when someone was crying for help? If we call ourselves Christians every cry for help is a cry to us personally. My dream is that one year we will use some at least of the Festival money, not in-



 "CHRIST" by the Jamaican artist Christopher
 Gonzalez shown in a recent Caribbean Art
 Now Exhibition.

directly through Church and Chapel but directly for some charitable cause which we all, as a village, care about. I have no doubt that if anyone in the village required help there would always be a neighbour to answer that cry. Who is the neighbour to the poor or deprived or unfairly treated in Africa or elsewhere? Bob Geldorf knew and was inspired to do something that touched and involved millions; but what about us?

CHURCH SERVICES

		<u>Sidesman</u>
3rd. AUGUST	: FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. Philippians 1(1-11); Matthew 20(1-16).	Alison Ford
10th. AUGUST	: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Micah 4(1-5); Matthew 5(13-16)	Colin Higgs.
17th. AUGUST	: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Jeremiah 20(7-11); Matthew 10(16-22)	John Ford.
24th. AUGUST	: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Ephesians 3(14-21); Like 11(1-13).	Gillian Ford.
31st. AUGUST	: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. 1 Timothy 2(1-7); Matthew 14(1-12).	Tony Hewitt..
7th. SEPT.	: FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. 1 John 4(15-21); Luke 16(19-31).	

The Chronicle:

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Medicines for Muheza.

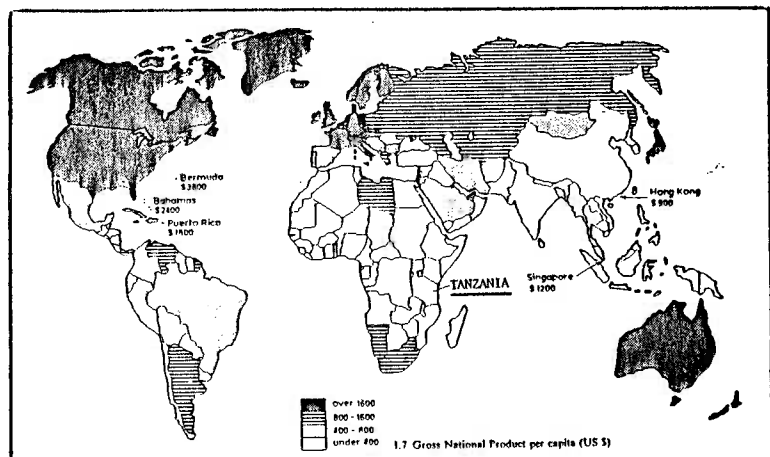
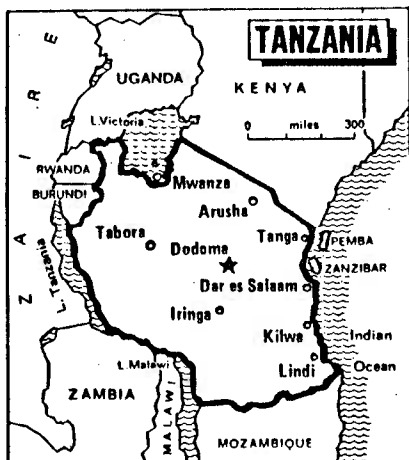
13.

DR. ELIZABETH HILLS is a missionary doctor working at Teule Hospital near Muheza in the Tanga District of Tanzania. For several years St. James's Church has helped support Dr. Hill's work through the charity 'MEDICINES FOR MUHEZA'. It is over twelve months since we last featured news of events in Muheza but as you will see in the extracts below, from Elizabeth Hill's most recent letter, problem after problem are sent to challenge the spirit of a remarkable women.

Dear Friends,

I've been back for over a month and already have done a lot of things you might like to know about.

The journey back was surprisingly uneventful. I wore a hat which had suffered a little during storage but was sufficiently eye-catching to ease my progress through Customs. Hats are highly regarded in Tanzania. I knew that the President had visited Muheza in my absence but thought that a hat might be needed on some future occasion. Miriam Webb travelled with me and we stayed in Dar to collect the consignment from Medicines for Muheza. A box of 66 Kg ECHO equipment had not fitted into the aeroplane and we were delayed for a long time while they weighed all the packages that had arrived, because there appeared to be 83 Kg missing, and the air cargo manifest had recorded that a package of 20 Kg was to follow for Muheza, so nothing added up. John Meadway subsequently explained the 83 Kg instead of 66 Kg because they had weighed the pallettes as well as the packages at Heathrow. The missing big package arrived a week later.

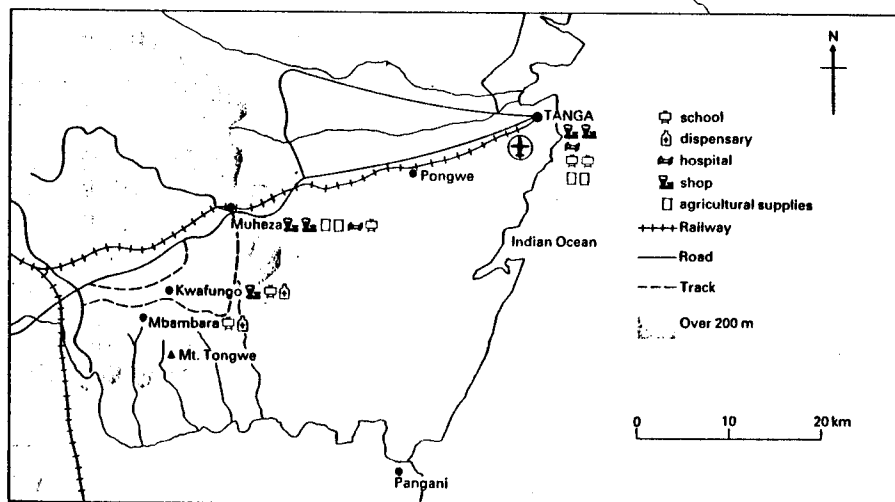


A lot of things were immediately in use. There had been a great shortage of blood-giving sets and they had been using ordinary - 1-v sets, and bandages were just going out of stock. We can't afford to buy bandages from a private pharmacy in Tanga. It might be all right if we were treating 50 or 100 patients daily rather than 1200. The football team were pleased with the boots collected by Princes Risborough Rotary Club and with their shorts. Most of the paper has already been used; it's a pity that paper is so heavy, but perhaps the price of transport explains the scarcity and expense here in Tanzania.

I found that my house had been fitted front and back with large shiny bolts to deter burglars. I'm not sure if it does much good as burglars pulled the iron bars out of Eddie's back window, climbed in and stole his electric kettle, then undid his bolts and lock and walked out. I did not know that his had been stolen. I brought myself back a replacement and take it and put it under my bed every night. I don't know how long I shall keep this up. I used to do it some long time ago when there had

been a lot of burglaries. This letter is being typed on my replacement second-hand typewriter. My sewing machine escaped as Mary had borrowed it to sew a dress for a High Commission party in Tanga.

Some of you have already heard that the hospital water main was washed away by floods during the few days before I arrived. The evening I got back from Dar after a neck-shaking journey the water department had just completed an overland pipe. The hospital had been without water for four days. From time to time people cut this temporary pipe with a panga and we have mud coming out of the taps and a fountain can be seen somewhere along the route of the pipe. I don't know how soon we shall organise the 350,000/- for laying a new main.



Services in the Tanga district

With some difficulty I persuaded Dr Gongwe to get the dates for our visits to the villages broadcast on the radio. There is always a lot of time devoted to announcements about deaths and funerals and I thought this equally important and people always seem to know what has been on the radio. Dr Gongwe agreed after he had tried the approved system of sending a messenger with a letter to Tongwe where the Union Day celebrations for the Muheza District were held. They vaccinated 9 children. With the radio broadcasts they found that lots of people were waiting for them and during the ten days they did 4500 vaccinations. The people who went got very tired and the Land Rover got gloriously muddy with no time to wash it between trips but I think that all of them were pleased with their achievement. They could not have managed without a lot of disposable syringes. Fortunately we had received quite a lot from ECHO of the old insulin syringes. They could not possibly keep boiling syringes in villages and it is likely that they would not be cold for the measles vaccine. So we need to get a lot more syringes and needles as we intend to go on and visit as many villages as possible.

I woke this morning and in the half light as I reached the kitchen I saw a dark wiggly line on the floor ... put on the light ... up the wall, piled up in masses inside and outside an old margarine tin, over the floor to the opposite corner, up to the work top, all over and inside the electric ring ... nasty sining black siafu. Boni was very peevd that I would not feed her. I shut her in the bedroom and set to work to boil water, made up some diazonon spray and then tipped every thing into the sink and swept piles of carcasses out of the door. I have been sweeping at intervals all day. Being thus occupied and not having dressed, at ten past seven the phone went. Labour Ward. A lady with a Caesar scar in labour and now with foetal distress. I felt that I must wash before going up so I took longer than usual to get there. But we produced a healthy baby with the vacuum. (For obstetrically trained readers, the previous Caesar was for placenta praevia so that my breaking of the rules was not so horrendous). In spite of two strong cups of coffee I'm now nearly asleep. Letters aren't arriving and my phone is

being awkward at times so that I can never be sure if it is working. The operator told me this evening that my phone does not ring at the exchange but only flashes so that I have a problem attracting their attention.

If your letters and words of encouragement don't get here, we have to trust that your thoughts and prayers are with us. There are always new challenges and problems that need prayer to solve them. You need to pray that I find enough time to pray and get answers to all these problems. I know that it is difficult to make the best use of the all too short hours.

With love to you all,

ELIZABETH

HOW CAN WE HELP - THE PLEASE SEND WATER APPEAL

Can you imagine a hospital without clean water? Dr.Hills has been quoted 350,000 shillings for a new water main. That was last month. The Tanzanian shilling has since been devalued from 25 to 35 to the pound. The cost of an imported water main seems unlikely to remain stable long enough for the hospital to raise the necessary money.

There thus seems little hope of the cost being raised without help from outside Tanzania. We have a quote for the relevant mile-and-a-half of piping which, including shipment in a container to Tanga (the port only 20 miles from Muheza), amounts to £8,795.

We have made approaches to one grant-making trust which has been generous to us in the past. They will probably pay a pound for every pound we raise elsewhere.

CAN YOU HELP ?

Donations marked "PLEASE SEND WATER APPEAL" can be sent to MEDICINES FOR MUHEZA, 4 GLEBE AVENUE, WOODFORD GREEN, ESSEX, IG8 9HB or if you wish donations can be sent through St.James's Church (please contact Peter Dines or any member of the P.C.C.). Cheques should be made payable to "Medicines for Muheza", which is a registered charity.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN.

Bric-a-Brac

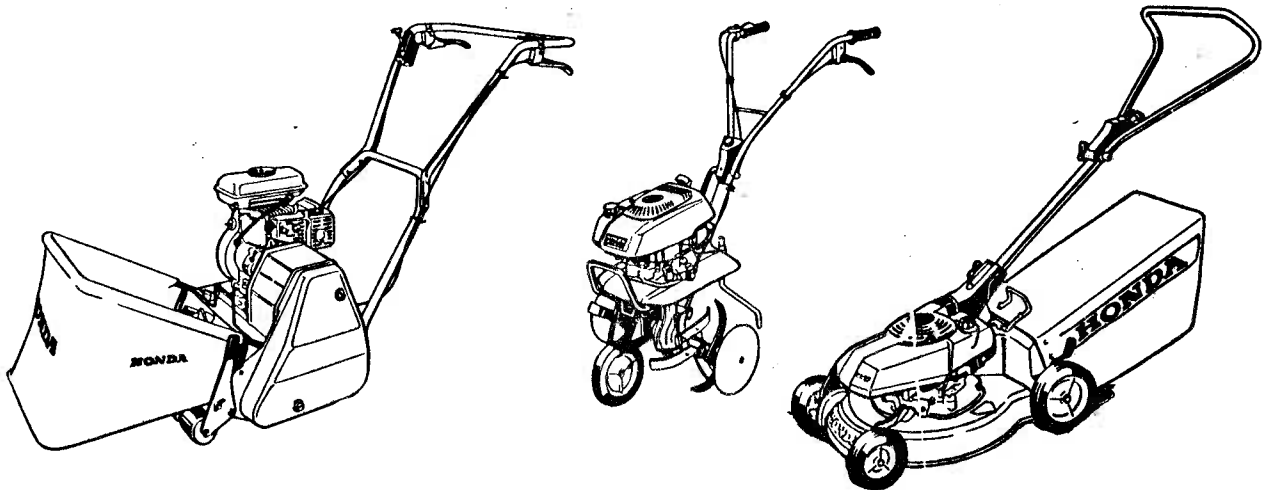


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