

Bwengu Projects, Malawi - Completed November 2011

We have just heard from Tony and Sue, Bwengu's directors that the new home for the Takwonda Sewing group has been completed. Bwengu has been blighted by difficulties in 2011 with the ongoing political situation in Malawi. With incredible inflation hikes, fuel costs either go through the roof or there is none at all. It's a true testament to the charity that the project has been finished. The project was fulfilled in November. Tony and Sue have recently come back from Malawi and have now sent us pictures of the completed building.



Tony wrote; "At last the building of this project has finely been completed. The external painting and pointing will be completed by end November. The ladies will begin to occupy their new centre and continue making uniforms for St Dominic's – the new head teacher has commanded that pupils who do not wear uniform cannot sit their end of term exams. Good for business but..... Please don't tell pupils in UK this or there'll be a mass exodus.....!"



Bwengu Projects is a small NGO run by Sue & Tony Melia. Each year they work in North Malawi, completing various building projects of local village schools, churches and medical centres and generally supporting the community. Part of their work is in the provision of self-managing food projects providing for orphans and other children. They now have a Village Management Board in Malawi, who can make the choice of what development will take place within their village communities.

Bwengu Projects: Aims and Objective.

- To repair the community infrastructure.
- To assist the people in 82 villages within the Bwengu area to acquire knowledge and skills needed to be self-sufficient.
- To present opportunities for the community to determine their own future.

Takwonda (Happiness) Ladies Sewing Group - Workroom Project

Four years ago Sue set up a ladies sewing group with her next door neighbour in the village where they stay each year in Malawi, with supplies from the UK of wool, needles, and cotton etc. In addition school uniform material was purchased, and for the last 4 years, these ladies have kitted school uniforms for several dozen local children. In 2009 they received 4 sewing machines for them to expand their activity. The group works on a non-profit basis and is committed to teaching young girls to sew, knit, crochet and learn to use the sewing machines.

There are now some 20 ladies in this group where they work outside sitting on mats because they have no building in which to store the sewing machines or materials. GAGA, along with Bwengu Projects has funded the cost of building these ladies a place to work. When the weather improves building work will begin and we will keep you updated with all the progress.

For more information on Bwengu projects please visit www.bwenguprojects.co.uk