

Tavernspite Teacher Lives Life To The Full in Zanzibar

By Sharron Hardwick

Tavernspite Primary teacher, Julie Houghton, shared about working together with a team of Zanzibar Teachers, at Tavernspite PTA Fairtrade Coffee morning.

The Pembrokeshire team visited Zanzibar schools with Wales based *Sazani Associates*' not-for-profit research and development organisation, specialising in community engagement through participatory research, and development of integrated programmes for sustainable rural development here and overseas.

Julie visited Tavernspite's link School in Bububu, Stone Town; with an astounding 5,000 5-14 year old pupils. Tavernspite School and PTA enjoyed Julie's photographs, gaining insight into Bububu School life. They saw a Bububu girl dressed in Welsh costume and some Tavernspite inspired fun activities including: blowing bubbles, which excited, but scared some pupils; and pupil's flying kites donated by Tavernspite's PTA.

Bububu School offered overwhelming hospitality: "Everyone was lovely. Zanzibar people pride themselves on making visitors feel welcome and safe. It's a beautiful area. The children were so sweet, singing welcoming songs. There were lots of jam sandwiches, they couldn't stop feeding us!" shared Julie, who met some of the 70 staff members, and was privileged to go for lunch at the Deputy Head's house.

The 28 classrooms visited were bare, without windows, doors and furniture, apart from the teacher's desk. The school office was decorated with Tavernspite photographs. Although working on the floor, the children's blue and white, head covering uniforms looked crisply clean.

Despite soaring 38-50 degree temperatures, very basic toilet facilities, limited access to water, electricity and resources; visitors noticed that discipline, dedication and respect at the school were outstanding, especially with classes of 115 pupils. Julie's most challenging moment was during an English lesson, when the teacher promptly asked her to teach English to 84, 14 year olds!

All at Tavernspite were impressed with the Zanzibar barefooted football team's skills. "As a Fairtrade school we support Sharron Hardwick's Fairtrade in Football Campaign. We were privileged to share two Fairtrade footballs with Bububu School. The children were thrilled to play with the new Fairtrade footballs as they were accustomed to making do with balls made of recycled materials, now we both play Fairtrade football!" said Julie.

Headmaster, Mr Phelps, is keen Tavernspite engage further with Bububu School. Potentially working together for three years through *Sazani Associates*, the schools want to share knowledge, develop curriculum resources, introducing more active learning, interesting projects; teaching

about hygiene, sanitation, litter, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

Nine Zanzibar teachers are visiting Pembrokeshire this June. Tavernspite School want to return the warm welcome by hosting activities, including a trip to Folly Farm. (Friesian cows are described as “exotic” in the Zanzibar Zoo!)

Tavernspite pupils are excitedly replying to letters received from their new Bububu friends. As well as learning lots from the Zanzibar School, Tavernspite School and PTA hope to support the school in anyway they can.

“I can honestly say I lived more that week than I ever have before. We look forward to working together with the Zanzibar teachers and pupils; we have so much to learn from each other as we develop our partnership.” concludes Visit: www.sazaniassociates.org.uk







