

Zanzibar Teachers Visit Pembrokeshire (By Sharron Hardwick)

Pembrokeshire teachers, who visited Zanzibar earlier this year, returned a warm welcome to 23 Zanzibar teachers arriving in Wales recently.

The teachers, working together through Wales based not-for-profit research and development organisation, Sazani Associates, were welcomed by Director Cathryn Macallum. They hope to learn through active community engagement, participatory research, and development of integrated programmes for sustainable rural development here and overseas. Everyone attended a food sovereignty and sustainability course at the Botanical Gardens.

Visitors staying with their perspective hosts enjoyed meeting local people, and visiting Pembrokeshire attractions at the weekend.

Khadiju Isacq Mzee said: "The environment of Wales is beautiful. It was very good to see the historical detail in Pembroke Castle. I have never seen the past years laid out in this way, with life like models; and hearing the noise of the large guns was surprising! It was all very interesting."

Khadija with Zanzibar teachers, Chedi Mkali Rajab and Asad Khamis Kilomini, spent Monday and Tuesday at Tavernspite CP and St Aidan's VA Schools; linking with teachers Julie Houghton, Tavernspite, and Wendy MacGarvie, St Aidan's; who visited Zanzibar's Bububu and Kajificheni Schools.

Visiting teachers were particularly inspired by Tavernspite and St Aidan's sports days saying: "We really enjoyed sports day and are going to use that knowledge in our schools."

Tavernspite hosted a curry evening, serving Fairtrade rice and refreshments for the Zanzibar visitors, Tavernspite staff, members of the governing body and P.T.A, Sharon Hardwick, Fair Trade Wales, Wendy MacGarvie and Yvonne Morgan, teacher and L.S.A. from St. Aidan's.

Tavernspite, a Fairtrade School, gave two Fairtrade footballs, donated by Sharron Hardwick's *Stokieshazer's Fair Trade in Football Campaign*, to Bububu School during Julie's visit.

Khaddija thanked Sharon, presenting two home made footballs to Tavernspite School; one has been donated to the Fairtrade Football Campaign.

Class two were very keen to play a game with the recycled football from Zanzibar. They marvelled at the ingenuity of the children who had worked so hard to produce it and were so surprised to find that it bounced!

When asked to consider why the children had made the ball Owen Filipovic (class two) commented: "They probably made the ball because they could not afford to buy one, but they were creative, so they made one with litter."

Tavernspite teacher, Ceri Emanuel, led traditional Welsh dancing during the curry evening. Visiting ladies enjoyed the dancing very much. The young male teacher, Asad, watched keenly. He later joined in, having lots of fun.

"Asad wanted to learn the dance first, once he had, there was no holding him back! He's affectionately known as "the funny man" The children in his class must love his lessons; he's so full of fun!" shared St. Aidan's Wendy MacGarvie.

The teachers said they were looking forward to learning and sharing much knowledge, visiting Folly Farm, and enjoying a meal at Letterston's famous chip shop.

"Our children were very excited to meet with their partner teacher from Zanzibar, and were full of questions. The whole experience has been very positive, the staff, governors, P.T.A. and children have had the opportunity to befriend our African visitors, giving us all opportunities to share knowledge, experiences and hospitality." shared Julie Houghton.

Both St Aidan's and Tavernspite Schools are grateful for the assistance of Mr Stephen Crabb MP and Simon Hart MP.



