



FOCUS ON SWAZILAND

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Editorial | 1 |
| A fleeting visit | 3 |
| Peterstow Aquapower | 5 |
| From the Falklands to Swaziland | 6 |
| Thare Machi Education | 12 |
| Request for information on traditional Swazi star lore | 12 |
| The Diaries of Margery Inglis, 1926-35 (Introduction) | 13 |
| The Diaries of Margery Inglis, Part I | 17 |
| The Tinkabi project 1968 – 1990 | 24 |
| Investigation of sustainable indigenous agricultural practices | 32 |
| Announcement: The Swaziland Society 20th AGM | 40 |

The Swaziland Society

Focus on Swaziland

Issue Number 51

Note: Where links to websites are highlighted in [blue](#), you can go directly to that website when you are connected to the internet. To do this, please place your mouse pointer over the [blue](#) hyperlink. The mouse pointer should change to a hand shape. Right click your mouse on the website link. A 'security warning' sign appears. If you trust the link, click 'Allow' and the website should open in your internet browser. If you don't trust the website, click 'Block'.

An example is provided below.

www.swazisoc.com

EDITORIAL

Most of us can remember the first day that we arrived in Swaziland. For me it was 7 September 1968, a bumpy flight over the brown landscape of the Transvaal from Johannesburg in a DC3, with oil seeping from the rivets on the engine cowling. We flew in to Matsapha over the grey-green fields of pineapples, which I had never seen before and on which I was to supposed to lecture within a few days.

But I doubt that any of us can match the experience of Margery and John Inglis as they arrived in Swaziland in 1926 to start a farm in the bush, 15 miles north of Gollel in the low veldt. Despite having to establish the farm, build a house, cope with sickness and entertain passing travellers – Margery somehow found time to write a diary, a fascinating account of their time there, which her grandchildren have kindly agreed can be serialised in Focus. You can read it here verbatim, unexpurgated or adjusted for political correctness.

Eric and Jay Jenkins arrived in Swaziland in 1961 and taught both in the low veldt and in Manzini – but not before Eric had started work as a teacher in the Falklands at the tender age of 18, three years later taking up another teaching post in the Australian outback. Eric recounts his early experience before Jay joins in describing their happy time in Swaziland.

One of my colleagues at the agricultural college was Alan Catterick, a straight-talking Yorkshire man and agricultural engineer who had been involved in building the college and in both developing and managing the college farm. It was not long before he realised that late planting was one of the major causes of the low yields of maize, because the oxen were weak at the end of the long dry season and unable to plough efficiently. His answer was to develop the mechanical ox, the Tinkabi tractor. Alan describes how the idea emerged, how the tractor developed and gives us a taste of what might have been.

Also in this edition we have the last extract from Russell Dlamini's fascinating research into indigenous food production and storage in Swaziland, this time focusing on how the produce was stored so that insects, animals and marauders could not get at it – and yet be available when households needed it.

John Doble brings us back to the present day with some observations on his recent visit to southern Africa. In fact, apart from John's article this edition is all about the past; partly because that is what our contributors have chosen to write about and partly because I believe that one of the functions of Focus is to build a historical record based upon people's experience.

In this electronic age, there is an increasing number of places where information and comment on current affairs in Swaziland is available but nowhere were the kaleidoscope of personal experience from the past, as distinct from archived records, is being accumulated.

We had hoped to provide

information on the date and time of the Independence Day service at Westminster Abbey but when going to press these were not yet known. When the information is available it will be put on the website -

www.swazisoc.com

- where you will also find information about the annual dinner to be held at Liphook on Sunday 31 July.

That reminds me to remind you to take a look at the website from time to time. If you have news about Swaziland that you want to share with others then please send it to Brian Donnan (our webmaster) at

brian@donnan.co.uk

The next edition of Focus will be in December 2011 and if you have a good story to tell about your time in Swaziland then please let me know.

ERRATUM: On page 32 of the last edition of Focus I wrongly stated that Green Glass is the UK distributor for Ngwenya Glass. My apologies for the error (Editor).

A FLEETING VISIT

to Swaziland, South Africa, Mozambique - January 2011

by John Doble

To sail on the mail-boat from Cape Town to Tristan da Cunha, Gough Island and St Helena was a once-in-a-lifetime, magical experience. But I couldn't just fly in and out of Africa without visiting the area I love so much. I may be inclined towards rose-tinted views. Even so it may be worth recording some fleeting impressions of Swaziland and the region. Swaziland cannot of course be seen in isolation from the region, of which, despite independence, it is very much a part.

Overall the region is doing very well. South Africans, a US survey recorded in January, were more optimistic about their prospects for the coming year than any other people in the world. Inward investment has pushed the rand to levels not seen for over ten years, a worry for exporters. New construction continues everywhere. Maputo, restored to its old role as the natural outlet to the sea for Johannesburg, is, residents

told me, a boom town. There have been two good years of rain. Mile upon mile of maize was to be seen in prime condition, the only worry being excessive rain. South Africans with 4 million tons of surplus maize have negotiated sales to India and Saudi Arabia. Their food situation, in a world with increasing pressure on supply, gives reassurance, as well as a warning for the future.

That South Africa has ample supply of its staple food twenty years after political change began is an indication of how well black/white co-operation is going; at the same time in a country where the majority are now urban dwellers, should anything like Zimbabwean agriculture policies prevail, there would be catastrophe.

Yet it is just those policies that the ANC Youth leader Julius Malema is calling for. I was worried to hear that President Zuma tends to tell whatever

audience he is speaking to, what they want to hear. So it is hard to have confidence in his words of reassurance to those, not only white people, who are worried by Malema's repeated threats.

Corruption seems to be a growing worry in all three countries. Mozambique has begun to grip it, in so far as two ministers have been found guilty of massive fraud.

But people await the sentence for one and the appeal against a long prison sentence of the other. In Swaziland two ministers have been dismissed after massive corruption; but people await public trials and sentences, which could deter further nest-feathering, while desperate poverty persists.

There has been some new investment, including a British firm making drilling equipment for the mining industry (Peterstow Aquapower). But much more is needed. After the devastating fires around Bunya, timber operations have re-started.

The traffic and building in Mbabane has greatly increased.

AIDS remains a huge problem; in many areas 60% of primary school children are orphans.

I came away with the impression that, beside the poverty, in some respects Swaziland is changing through affluence. We were told of homesteads in remote areas, often now with new buildings, not infrequently with satellite dishes; there are 600,000 mobile phones in a country of around a million people.

With all the problems of Swaziland, where does this money come from? The conclusion seems to be that it is from family members working in South Africa; that as ever Swaziland depends to a great extent on the economic situation of the giant next door.

PETERSTOW AQUAPOWER

Most of South Africa's deep-level gold and platinum mines use hand-held pneumatic drills to bore holes in the underground rock face, into which explosives are inserted to blast the rock. These pneumatic drills are driven by compressed air. The problem with this approach is that it is very energy- and water-intensive. The compressor, which compresses the air for the drill, stays on the surface - which can be thousands of metres above the actual drilling. It is very inefficient, mainly because of leaking pipes. As up to 30% of a mine's energy consumption is used for drilling, and as little as 1% of the electrical energy employed is actually used to power the drill (due to losses in transmission), this is clearly an inefficient system. Further, large tanks of oil are attached to the compressor to facilitate oil-mist lubrication for the machinery – which in turn is part of the cause of the acid-mine drainage that can pollute drinking water. Polluted water from mine drainage is now on the national agenda in South Africa.

At the Peterstow factory at Ngwenya, the company produces a patented, closed-loop water-hydraulic drill in conjunction with modular power packs, which are taken underground – dramatically reducing both water and electricity usage. It also decreases the chance of flooding, reducing the need for facilities to pump drainage water back to the surface. The factory in Swaziland produces the drills and power packs, which come in 7.5kW and 15kW units – as well as road breakers for construction. On its website, www.peterstow.com, the company notes that it *has developed a unique, low energy, low water consuming Oil Free Hydraulic system for hard rock drilling and civil engineering applications. Operating on normal tap water and powered by a closed loop water hydraulic system these machines transform the conditions of the working environment and significantly reduce both electricity and water consumption.*

The company believes that this revolutionary technology is the most significant advancement in the mining industry for over half a century. Peterstow chose Swaziland over South Africa because of its lower costs and the availability of an educated workforce. The company takes students from the Swaziland College of Technology and trains them on site.

FROM THE FALKLANDS TO SWAZILAND

by Eric and Jay Jenkins

In the post-war years the Colonial Office in London recruited United Kingdom teachers for service in the interior of the Falkland Islands, which was known as “the camp” - derived from the Spanish word “*campo*” meaning country. The requirements were to be able to teach across the 5 to 14 age range and to be able to both ride a horse and travel by small boat (cutter or schooner). The successful candidate also had to be eighteen years old. I had been teaching as a very young unqualified Head of a small, one-teacher 5-14 school which was due to close shortly, as primary schools would in future only take 5-11 year olds.

A successful interview at the Colonial Office resulted in my heading south along the Argentine coast from Montevideo in September, 1949. A preliminary introduction to the education system in Stanley, the capital, was followed by a sea journey to Fox Bay on West Falkland followed by an eight-hour ride down to the

settlement of Port Stephens. I had left behind my suitcases in Stanley and switched to saddlebags, containing my basic clothing and teaching equipment, i.e. exercise books, pencils and reading books for the pupils.

Those pupils were located in six different places miles apart in isolated shepherds' houses and small compacted settlements, where there might be a tiny schoolroom. Otherwise the teaching venue was a bedroom, kitchen or sitting room if the house had enough room. Right in the middle of a maths lesson one's olfactory nerves were often startled by the smell of cooking that included boiled penguin eggs, mutton in a variety of forms with beef as a luxury - usually in winter when the cattle were taken off small, tussock-clad islands on which they had been fattening.

Individual and small-group teaching in such circumstances required adaptability and flexibility. Science teaching was

limited to nature study and there was plenty of that - from the very varied bird life to the great whales that swam in the creeks making blowing noises in the night. But the strong winds were always present - from strong breezes to absolute gales of Force Eight or more. The wooden houses fairly shook under their impact.

At night the familiar sounds were the peat fire roaring up the chimney, the hum of the pressure lamp for reading and the spluttering of the candle as one extinguished it at bedtime. At the end of each house stay it was a case of setting homework for several weeks until I could return, and then the downside as it all had to be marked when completed.

Half-way through the contract I was transferred to Goose Green, which years later became famous following the Argentine invasion. There was a proper school room in the settlement so the curriculum followed that of a normal school as much as possible.

I look back on the experience as the days of idyllic teaching: small all-age class, no discipline

problems and involvement with the community to the extent of officiating at a funeral both in the community hall and grave side. There was no hearse as such, so a farm cart given a good cleaning up for the purpose had to suffice. The entertainment in Goose Green consisted of a dance on Saturday nights at which I played the piano accordion.

By now I was well aware that to proceed with a proper career I would need to embark on teacher training. By the time I returned to the United Kingdom in 1952 the Queensland State Education Department were recruiting and offering teacher training to suitably qualified candidates.

The sheep environment of the Falklands was a good background in my case. Candidates had to agree to serve as a teacher in Australia for an agreed period of time. My posting to a school four hundred and fifty miles from the coast at Rockhampton was very agreeable and I lived at the Methodist Church in return for acting as organist.

By now I was reaching the age

of settling down but there was no Miss Right locally so, after an acceptable period of service, I returned to the UK where in fact I did meet Miss Right, also a teacher in a Croydon school. In 1961 the Colonial Office was by then recruiting teachers for service in Swaziland. Married couples were especially welcome and became liable for service in small schools for European children in developing areas like Tshaneni (CDC Project) and Big Bend (sugar cane and cattle areas).

Jay, my wife, was a most flexible and adaptable teacher and was interviewed with me jointly at the Colonial Office. Thus we received joint contracts to serve in Swaziland for a total of ten and a half years, first at the Evelyn Baring High School in Goedgegun, now called Nhalangano, and later as a husband and wife team at Tshaneni and Big Bend.

[Jay continues the account:] We travelled by train from Cape Town via Johannesburg to Piet Retief on the South African side of the border. There we were met by a fellow expatriate staff member and his wife who drove

us into Swaziland through the (at that time) open border post at Mahamba. Our first impressions of the landscape featured plantations of wattle trees and scattered Swazi huts and kraals that had not been such a feature on the South African side. The car sent up clouds of dust as it passed over the dry, dirt road. Eventually we saw the little town's name: Goedgegun. This was our destination and at the beginning of the village we had pointed out to us the house that was used to accommodate the Royal visit in 1947.

We continued into the village past the stone-built circular market place where women were already selling fruit, vegetables and beaded ware at what for us seemed to be very cheap prices. Our progress took up past Mr. Stain's butcher, the Mimosa store, the McSeveny's shop, John Pearson's hardware store and the Post Office. Next to the Post Office was a charming little park with a Norfolk Island pine and then the Dutch Reformed Church. Directly opposite the Church was the house we had been allocated, a gleaming white bungalow with a red-polished stoep set in a sizeable garden

with fruit trees - including a giant avocado pear tree overhanging the house.

At the back of the house a passion fruit vine hung around the back stoep and then outbuildings housing the garage and servants quarters. For drainage and sewage we had a septic tank but the servants' quarters only had a bucket arrangement, which was emptied from time to time by a large version of a "tank on wheels" drawn by oxen. Good conduct prisoners were given time out to cut the grass verges. On at least one occasion they dawdled along until the jail was locked. But hunger drove them to "breaking into jail" to be given their evening ration of food.

Getting to school each morning simply meant crossing the road and walking through the school grounds. The school itself was a long, low building edged by a stoep on the northern side. Classrooms were entered off the stoep thus avoiding internal passage between classes. Education was truly comprehensive offering both junior (5-14) and senior (14 up to South African Matric at approximately 17

or 18). Thus the curriculum had to be dual medium English/Afrikaans instruction. Standards were high and demanded as such from committed parents and teachers. Open Day meant producing all work done, including exercise books for inspection by highly supportive parents. Explanations were expected, indeed demanded, for work not seen to be in keeping with ability. It was one of the best teaching environments in which we have served.

However, as a teaching couple we were liable for service in small schools on new development projects like the sugar and cattle estates in the low veldt. The first of these was at Tshaneni in the north-east of the country and only forty miles from the entrance to the Kruger National Park. Later we served at Big Bend and it was only the arrival of our first child (William, who was born in the Raleigh Fitkin Hospital in Manzini) that prevented us from renewing that contract. The expected birth of our second child indicated a return to England. But that was to be only temporary as once again in 1972 we returned to Manzini for a third contract of three years –

for Jay at Sidney William School, Manzini, and for me at William Pitcher College. But with two children to see through school and university, September 1975 saw us back in England with me embarking on a course of study at Bristol leading to the Advanced Diploma and M.Ed. degree.

At one point in time we were considering accepting a joint post at the new Government Boarding School at Goose Green in the Falklands but as Jay's post would only have been as a matron she felt her teaching skills would be wasted.

[Eric continues]. Having music and singing as teaching subjects were of great help not only to schools offering a full curriculum but also for the Swazis. It was an attribute that they greatly welcomed as important aspects of their culture. Apart from playing the hymns for assembly which at first were alternate English/Afrikaans hymns the addition of Zulu/Siswati added another dimension. Because of translation there were English hymns that required an extra verse for the SiSwati. So renowned has the

Swazi singing become that they have performed at the Welsh Eisteddfod and other leading festivals. I was always amazed at how easily they broke into descants and delightful variations on a variety of musical pieces.

Jay taught infants in all the four different schools we were posted to. These included Nhlangano and Sidney Williams on each of two of our contracts. Jay ended up as head of the Infant Department at Sidney Williams and was responsible for integration there. In 1968 I went with Big Bend School out into the bush near Siphofeneni to the local Independence Celebrations. In all our years as teachers in Swaziland we never actually taught up in Mbabane or in any high veldt settlement. We were always in the Middle Veldt or down in the Low Veldt at Tshaneni or Big Bend.

Among the local inhabitants was Oom Ben Esterheizen who was our delightful elderly neighbour. He ran a minor drug store selling aspirins, cough mixture and other remedies not stocked elsewhere in the village. His grandson, Richard E Grant, became a leading actor in England.

And there was Mr. Swanopoel, the taxi driver cum hairdresser (*haar kaarper*). There were others, of course, equally important to the community, but time causes the memory to fade somewhat.

On our return to UK we settled in Croydon and that reminds me about Croydon in Swaziland. When we lived at Tshaneni we often drove through Croydon on the way to Manzini. There was a store and petrol pumps called the "Croydon Stores". There were reports that it had been given that name because of an early settler from Croydon, England.

Whilst we lived in Croydon it was very easy to attend meetings of the Swaziland Society when held at the Swaziland High Commission but since moving to Somerset and getting older such attendance has not been so easy. However, we continue to receive our copies of Focus and will always take an interest in Swaziland, the Swazis and the expatriates who served there.

Now, in retirement in Somerset, I can look back on a life full of incident and interest:

of long rides on horseback of as much as ten hours (Goose Green to Stanley in the days before a road was made: of rides in the Queensland bush, having to duck when my bolting horse ran under the branches of trees; of making three live broadcasts for the Australian Broadcasting Commission on teaching in the Falklands; of colliding with a fellow passenger disembarking from a plane at Punta Arenas on the Straits of Magellan only to discover that he was our next door neighbour from Park Hill in Croydon.

From our dining table at home in Somerset I look at a picture of New Island, the most westerly island of the Falklands. It fills me with the greatest of admiration for the early settlers, who arrived off sailing ships, putting up with the utmost privations such as the absence of easily accessible medical services. By the time a doctor arrived, patients were either recovered or dead and in their graves. Settlers in the Australian bush had to cope without refrigerators and their "shower" was a bucket with perforations in the bottom suspended from a tree.

Thare Machi Education *from Liz Ball*

Thare Machi Education is a small charity based in Leamington Spa which makes educational DVDs on health and welfare for use by the world's poorest people. Topics include HIV, TB, Malaria, Growing Up, farming methods and the dangers of drugs and alcohol. At the moment we are aiming to translate all of our 29 lessons into Siswati so that they can be used in Swaziland. Can you help? We need fluent speakers and writers of SiSwati to help translate our lesson scripts.

We especially need Siswati speakers living in the UK who would record our DVDs for us. Alternatively, if you are about to visit Swaziland you could take a voice recorder with you.

For more information contact liz.ball@tme.org.uk. Visit www.tme.org.uk

If you know of an organisation that would like a free copy of our DVDs, let us know.

Request for information on traditional Swazi star lore

from Dr. Peter Alcock

My name is Dr. Peter Alcock. I live in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. I am busy writing a book on South African traditional star lore and observations. I am including the sun, the moon, the stars/planets, the heavens and the sky. I am also including relevant celestial stories, poems and proverbs/riddles. One of the groups I am writing about is the Swazi. There is, unfortunately, very little traditional star information available for the Swazi. This lack of information includes the old names for the stars. I have only been able to discover the traditional names for Venus as the Morning Star and as the Evening Star. I have some data on Swazi beliefs about the sun. The Swazi names for the various moons (months) have been well-documented in a book written by Marwick in the 1940s. I have made extensive stellar enquiries in Swaziland, with the kind help of someone living there, but all to no avail. I have contacted the university, the national museum, and other sources of information on cultural matters. I would sincerely appreciate any assistance from readers regarding my quest. All information, will, of course, be properly acknowledged in the standard academic manner. I can be contacted via email: wildlife95@satweb.co.za, or by post: 95 St Patricks Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201.

THE DIARIES OF MARGERY INGLIS 1926-35

Introduction by Jaime Inglis

Margery and John Inglis spent the years between 1926 and 1936 in the south-east corner of Swaziland, farming and raising three children. Margery kept a detailed diary with entries every day or so, time permitting, in which she recorded the trials and tribulations (and joys!) of life in the Low Veldt.

Margery (1900-96) grew up in the country near Innerleithen in the Scottish Borders, where she and her sister, Jo, were tutored at home. Her father, Walter Thomson, was an engineer and manager in the Brandon Bridge Building Company. Margery attended Glasgow School of Art in her late teens and had a lifelong love of painting.

Her husband John was born in Maybole and raised in Ayr, where his father was a doctor. His grandfather, John Inglis, owned A&J Inglis shipbuilders in Glasgow. After attending Fettes, John served with the Seaforth Highlanders in the Great War, where he was

mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Military Cross twice.

After meeting through mutual acquaintances, John and Margery became engaged in 1923. Shortly after this John became interested in a scheme whereby the government allowed veterans to buy land in Swaziland at favourable prices. After some consultation he purchased a farm near the main road, 15 miles north of Gollel on the South African border (also purchasing an adjoining farm a couple of years later, for £1,000 to be paid in instalments over 5 years). John then travelled to Swaziland, where he spent time at the Candover Estate, learning the rudiments of cotton-farming under the auspices of Mr. Rouillard (aka the 'Cotton King of Africa').

Margery and John were married at St. Giles, Edinburgh, in 1926, after which they returned to live at the farm, which they had named 'Lismore', for the next ten years. In 1927 John also set up an agricultural experimental station

for the district, for which he was paid £15 a month. Once the main house was built, they set about improving the property.

The fields were planted with mealies [maize], cotton, monkey nuts, tobacco etc., with the help of a tractor which John had driven down from Johannesburg. Dams were built and a shop was set up by the main road to provide supplies for the workers and their families.

Margery treated the sick and injured, who came to her for miles around although she had no training and very few medicines apart from sticking plaster and disinfectant.

She also designed and planted a beautiful garden, and oversaw the building of a tennis court which proved to be a social centre for local families who congregated there on Sundays.

On one occasion the pilot of a passing plane (who was by coincidence also called 'Inglis') tried to turn around to get a better view of the court and crashed near the house – he was rescued

and spent some weeks at the farm recovering! Owing to the state of the roads and lack of bridges, it was difficult for motorists to predict journey times, and therefore, on an almost daily basis Margery found herself giving hospitality to passing motorists and visitors – from a cup of tea to a meal and a bed for the night.

Difficulties with supply and a lack of refrigeration meant that there was constant anxiety about having enough food on these occasions.

Visitors often included government officials and the occasional politician – among these being Mr. Elder, Minister of Agriculture for Swaziland as well as Conservative politician Leo Amery.

Amery later noted that 'John was a most enterprising settler, with a charming wife' and that he was 'most impressed by all that had been done in the time they had been there'.

Margery and John decided to leave Africa in 1936 for a variety of reasons. John was reluctant, but

it had always been hard to make the farm pay. Fluctuating cattle and crop prices made progress and planning difficult. Rinderpest, ticks and tsetse flies attacked the cattle. Locusts, sandstorms and hailstorms decimated the crops and there was little or no grass during the droughts.

Water access was always a serious problem as the nearest river, the Ngwavuma, was 5 miles from the farm – with water being brought in by oxen cart or sled during droughts.

There were also leaks and problems with the dams they had built and the water shortage issue was never properly solved. John and Margery always believed that if they had managed to purchase the land adjacent to the Ngwavuma, the enhanced irrigation possibilities would have given them a much better chance of success.

On a more personal level, ticks, malaria, snakebites and sleeping sickness were a constant threat.

Margery had lost one child in the first weeks of life and had been forced to send her eldest back to

Scotland because the climate didn't suit him. She herself had contracted malaria on a number of occasions. Margery always maintained that she became ill more frequently than the men because in the evenings, when the mosquitoes were about, the men were usually settled indoors socialising while she had to run back and forth to the kitchen (which was outside the main building) organising the evening meal.

These threats were exacerbated by the fact that Lismore was situated on low-lying land, with Margery stating at one point in her diary that her friends in the Lubombo Mountains were 'rather worried about us living down here in this fever-ridden country'.

On returning, Margery and John bought Raera Farm on the banks of the Euchar River, near Oban. Margery had a fourth child in 1939.

During the second world war, John served as a Captain in the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a part of the ill-fated 51st Highland Division.

He was captured after commanding the defence of Escarbotin during the retreat to St. Valery and spent the rest of the war as a POW in Germany. He was awarded the DSO for his part in the rear guard action near St. Valery.

John was re-united with Margery when the war was over and they lived quietly at Raera until his death in 1976.

John managed the farm and salmon river while Margery pursued her passion for art,

producing hundreds of paintings in both oils and watercolour. In the 1980s she also arranged for the diaries, which totalled well over 230,000 words, to be typed up.

Margery had a winning and mischievous manner, and was fond of telling her grandchildren colourful tales about her time in Swaziland. She died in 1995.

With thanks to Margery's children, Jeremy, Anne and James, and her grandson Tim, son of her eldest child, Tony.

Cotton on Lismore Farm in the 1930s



THE DIARIES OF MARGERY INGLIS

(Swaziland 1927-1932, Part 1)

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April 24th Sunday, 1927 Had a terrible day trying to mark the tennis court. It was bitterly cold and windy, and Smith, who was supposed to have measured it, had made the whole thing squint. We were proud of it too. Made almost entirely from red ant-hill with a bottom of stone on a piece of level ground, we reckoned it had cost no more than £10, including labour. Where could one build a perfectly good tennis court for £10? So it was very important that it should be marked properly. After a horrid battle it was.

Then we read as usual and John had his usual Sunday cigar, followed by a bit of reading out loud while we both relaxed on the sofa affair on the verandah.

After tea, we were just going to have another shot at the tennis court when May (of Plantations) turned up. Had to get more tea (Franz, the cook-boy, goes off on Sunday afternoons), and talk to him. When



Margery in the cotton fields

he left it was too late to go on with the tennis court.

Set the black hen on eggs. May had really come to fix up about John taking him to the Pongola in the car.

He is leaving Plantations. Just got sick of it. Too much work etc. He is going home, I understand, for good. South Africa is no good for people who don't like work.

April 25th Nothing exciting. Prigge arrived to five up spare parts (the very ancient Overland we bought as spare parts for the first original one) and he got off shortly after lunch in the car. John had to crank the handle then jump quickly out of the way as there was something wrong with the engine and the car crashed forward as soon as the engine was started.

Jock, the Pointer dog, started off in pursuit a few minutes later when

he realised that John was on board. Although John shouted to him at the top of his voice, the dog never heard and ran on. We could see him following the car more than a mile away and as Prigge's place on the Pongola is more than 15.5 miles away, poor old Jock will be done before he gets there. Even if Prigge sees the dog, he can't stop as he couldn't start the car again alone in its present condition. Just don't know what we will do without Jock and I don't know how we shall get him again.

Tony (the baby) very constipated and I had to use the enema again. John still very deaf in one ear and has been so for over a week. I put in some olive oil and syringed it a few

Margery in the car crossing the river - on her first trip to the farm



nights (with the baby's enema) but it did not help. Perhaps I am not rough enough.

April 26th The Boasts, Mrs B's sister and her fiancée came over for the first game of tennis on the new court. Quite a famous occasion. Just got it marked in time after many attempts. They arrived about 2.35, when I was in the middle of getting thin bread and butter (for tea) and feed the chickens, and it was also time for Tony's feed! John, of course, was nowhere when they arrived as he was somewhere with old McShefnie (the old half-Scottish, half-Dutch, transport driver, who does all our transport) who had arrived at 2.30 with his wagon for a load of cotton, the first, so it was also quite historic, and John had to get him fixed up.

I had to leave all my jobs, collect everyone onto the verandah, find chairs, hunt for balls, racquets etc. and get a set started, before getting back to Tony and the chickens etc. But at last everything was organised. The court played splendidly and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

April 27th Last night the cattle broke out of the kraal and trampled through the garden,

breaking down the sunflowers etc. They had also been right through the lands, the cotton field and even the beloved tobacco and all over the new tennis court. The whole place was in a mess.

The boys also told us that wild pigs had been in the Kaffir corn and had rotted up the inglubos (sweet potatoes). They would! The wild pigs have been doing a lot of damage lately and John had gone out in the car at 9.30 last night and waited a bit to see if any came, but none did. They must have come later. Perhaps they were even watching John while he lay in wait! They are very hard to get and very nasty when wounded and make short work of a dog, unless he is specially trained.

I was sitting on the verandah just having finished the butter (it was 8.45 am) when John called me. I knew something had happened by his voice and ran out quickly. John said, "The orange trees have all gone." I looked at him as I could hardly believe it and thought he must be in fun, but I saw from his face that it must be true.

We went together to see and found that they had all been hauled out

by the roots as if some demon had taken a hand. The bark had even been scraped off and the ground had been trampled flat where each tree had been. The little tender branches, which had grown about 6 inches to our great joy since the last rain, had been torn off.

It was unbelievable. It was wicked. It was just too cruel. I cried and at the same time tried to comfort John as he was so cut up. What a horrid, cruel country this is. We had been so proud of those orange trees, four orange trees, two lemons and two nartjes, four years old, which he had got as a surprise for me when I came back from Johannesburg with Tommy.

He had made such careful plans for their journey up from Durban. Had even written to various people at different stages on their journey up to water them, had arranged with the station people to write to him when they arrived and had sent a wagon immediately on their arrival to fetch them. Then they had just arrived at the right time to get a good rain and so were well established.

He had read all the articles he could find on the care, planting and culture

of orange trees and they were really looking splendid and he was rightly proud of them and now here they lay on the horrid dry soil of Swaziland. Just another heartbreak. Another blow in this country which seemed so adept at finding one's weak spots.

John says never again will he have compassion on an ox. There was something so wantonly spiteful about the damage. One could just picture the great brutes hanging on and worrying the poor little helpless trees, then trampling them down and careering off to look for something else to tear up. One could almost think they had been possessed by a devil. How they had broken out of the kraal was a mystery as it had just been made lately and was good and strong. They have lots of grazing just now and are having no work, so could not have been hungry. Why did they have to do this? We have not examined the tobacco yet.

Later, a native came along to cut some tobacco and John took him along to the shed and sent July along for the family scales to weigh it out. The native took some tobacco, chewed it, shook his head and said "Not very string". (They like it almost black). July said it was

“*Muchley stellig*” (very strong) so the native bought one hand for 2. When that transaction was done he decided he wanted another and then he bought another two and he went away quite pleased with his four hands which must have been exceedingly awkward to carry as the tobacco is dry and powdery just now. But they spit on it to damp it! And that was the first tobacco sold at Lismore!

Rescue - when water got into the petrol tank



April 28th John got up this morning about daybreak to go to the Ingwavuma to pick up May as arranged and take him to the Pongola, but the car refused to start. Franz and the kitchen infant pushed it quite a long way. All the four plugs were sooted up. The car finally got off at 7.30 instead of 6.15 so there was no time for John to cross the river, phone Pearce, or get the groceries we needed.

John and May came here for breakfast at 9 o'clock. While John was away Franz killed a small snake outside the verandah. John did not get back from the Pongola till 2.30. I had been watching the road and when I saw a cloud of dust knew it would be John so told Franz to bring lunch.

Then I ran to the back of the house ready to meet John but was disappointed to see the car turn off towards the cotton shed. I felt tired, hot and hungry, but got my parasol and dashed off to the cotton shed to see what had happened and found John with Prigge, who was in a great hurry and busily pumping the tyre of his motorbike with the car pump. This of course explained why they hadn't stopped.

In the afternoon, John and I motored to the Ingwavuma, waded over and walked the mile and a half to Plantations. John wanted to phone Pearce and we were almost out of groceries as things had not arrived from Durban.

Saw Carter in the store, also Neil who, however, pretended not to see me and kept his head bent over his desk in the office. Think he is still peeved after the few words I said to him regarding our luggage, which was dumped upside down and any old way on the store verandah and the ground outside. It was left like that for days and might have been there for months, if we had not gone over to look for it. Instead of sending it back on the wagon which had dumped it at their place by mistake, as they did not know where our place was, they off-loaded it and sent the wagon back, past our place, to the station, with a load of their cotton. Just utterly thoughtless as it was good, personal luggage.

Carter was very talkative as usual. John got Pearce on the phone and asked if there was any hope of our being able to sell part or all of the farm. (John had bought the place through him originally). Pearce was

of course surprised and said "Not much. Would advise you to sell your shirt to stay on." He was very nice and frank and practically said it would be disastrous to people, including himself, if we left this place. He is, of course, an agent for land down here and has other interests as well. Pearce said he was glad we had phoned him before the Big Bugs arrived, as he would be able to put the matter to them privately. He was sure it would be to their advantage to try to do something. Pearce said he himself had done well this year. Of course, he has irrigation on part of his farm. It really is the only thing.

April 29th Today was Jo's wedding day and though I have mentioned it last, I have been thinking a great deal about her. Darling Jo. It is a great adventure and I hope she will be as happy as I have been.

April 30th Mrs Boast's sister-in-law and her fiancée came for tennis. The Boasts couldn't come themselves as Mrs Boast's mother was arriving from Piet Relief with the children. (Sister-in-law very dull and rather mousey, unfortunately, still will make a four for tennis). Catt couldn't come, as he had to go

over to the North Estate, possibly for arrangements for Big Bugs arrival.

There are great preparations everywhere. We are getting our place tidied up, gravel raked etc. as we expect them here, perhaps for lunch. Carter says they may come here for lunch on Monday or Tuesday and there will be about 11 of them. I just hope our groceries arrive in time.

The Pongola is still flooded and one transport wagon, which attempted to cross a little time ago, lost four donkeys and the driver either got ill afterwards or died. Prigge says our things may arrive today or tomorrow, but I never expect them till I see them.

Have to give Tony a large dose of medicine. He is even worse at taking it than I am. John says it is inherited! I had to hold Tony's nose and the teaspoon while John holds his head still, also his hands and feet. It really is a dreadful business.

After dinner, when John was busy writing and I was mending socks and shirts, a light came to the door. Jock barked violently and a deep voice said "M'kosi". It turned out to be a police boy from the Ingwavuma with

a note from Boast (The Magistrate at Ingwavuma) to tell us that a house, erf (about 0.5 of an acre of ground) and some mealies were being sold at Ingwavuma the next day. They had belonged to a Mr Gadd, who had evidently cleared, leaving several unpaid debts behind. It was very kind of Mr Boast letting us know, but as we have no cash we can't do much about it. Everyone is rather worried about us living down here in this fever-ridden country. However, we sent the boy over to the other Boast (our neighbour) as he has now got a job on the hill and we knew he meant to build a house there.

Cut John's hair. Expect some of the second setting of eggs out today or tomorrow. Groceries haven't arrived yet.

John



THE TINKABI PROJECT 1968 – 1990

A short history of the little tractor that almost changed the world

by Alan Catterick

In 1963 I was approached by International Voluntary Services to work in Swaziland and help with the development of the agricultural college at Luyengo (SACUC) in the Malkerns valley. So began an adventure and experience that could have improved the livelihoods of small farmers throughout Africa.

During the 1960's, Swaziland was transforming from a very rural subsistence economy to one based on industrial production both in the agricultural sector and in manufacturing/added value. However, the majority of the population was still tied to subsistence farming. Agricultural research showed that average crop yields of maize was only about 15% of their potential, yet a modest 30% increase in yield would enable Swaziland to become self-sufficient in its staple food.

In 1961 the authorities had embarked on a new agricultural

training project with the help of OXFAM and Freedom from Hunger. By 1966 the College was up and running and training was well underway with students from Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

David Brewin, the first Principal, always encouraged the use of appropriate technology. Part of my work, as head of the Agricultural Engineering department, was to examine ways to improve the lot of the rural community by the application of such technology: using local materials, potable water supplies and irrigation.

Agricultural advice and technology was available (from Malkerns research station) and finance was available from the Credit and Savings bank. But we soon realised that the limiting factor was the availability of "farm power" at the right time.

Ox power was the main source

of power for Swazi farmers. However, as the number of oxen owned was a status symbol, the quality left a lot to be desired. Moreover, our field work showed that the oxen were at their weakest at the end of winter, due to the scarcity of grazing, when maximum power was required to plough the land. Tractor hire schemes had been introduced, but these schemes were too costly, too few and often badly managed.

My team set out to determine the physical requirements of the small scale farmer. By 1970 we found that whilst animal draught was capable of providing the farmers with power, it was not available when most required (at the end of winter), unlike a mechanical

system. Hence the problem was to find a suitable mechanical system. After a worldwide hunt - which included Massey-Ferguson, International Harvester, Ford, NIAE UK, CEEMAT France, FAO and UNIDO - nothing was found, nor was there any interest in small scale mechanisation.

With the help of Alan Mapham and Bill Bell (the new principal of the College) we secured a grant of R1,000 from the (then) Swaziland Department of Agriculture (under the direction of Tony Venn) to develop an appropriate mechanical system. This led to the birth of the TINKABI (siSwati for Oxen), aided by two other volunteers - Peter Catterick (my brother) and Mike Kershaw.

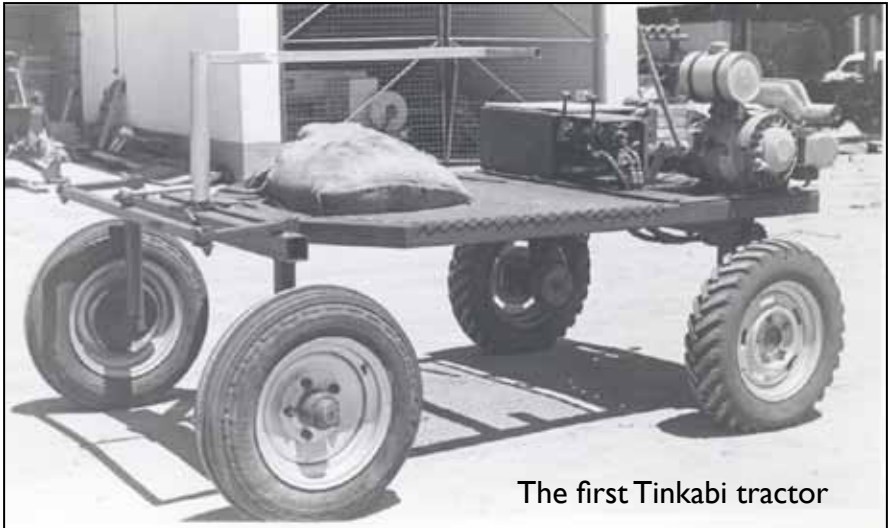
Testing the power of a typical team of work oxen in Swaziland



The objective of the project was to develop a tractor meeting the following requirements:

1. The cost of the tractor should be within the financial means of the farmer.
2. It should do the work of a team of work oxen more efficiently and quicker.
3. It should be capable of carrying a load of 500Kg, excluding the driver.
4. It should have high ground clearance to allow it to work in maize and cotton crops.
5. It should have a wide wheel track to make it stable on slopes and fit into existing row crop systems
6. It should be fabricated for robustness rather than good looks.
7. Components should be fitted to ensure easy servicing and maintenance.
8. The controls should be as simple as possible.
9. Servicing should be kept to a minimum.

The first unit was built at the College with the help of Esau Mbokazi, Philip Hlope and Petros Dlamini. Whilst not a resounding success, it demonstrated that such a machine could be developed and over the next two years the design was refined.



The first Tinkabi tractor

The key characteristics of the emerging commercial design were:



- Simple design: no gear box, brakes or mechanical power transmission from engine to wheels.
- A 12 Kw diesel engine pumps oil under pressure to hydraulic motors mounted to each of the rear wheels.
- A single control lever – push it forward to move forward and backwards to reverse. The lever in the central position stops the flow of oil and stops the tractor.
- To increase speed on the road, all the oil is pumped into one motor – doubling its speed.
- Maintenance of the unit was simple and low cost.
- Repairs were on a service exchange basis at fixed costs known in advance.
- The cost of the tractor included the cost of servicing for the life of the loan.

By this time there was a growing interest from other African countries in the use of the Tinkabi System. With the assistance of the British High Commissioner, Mr. Le Toque, more funding was arranged. A line of communication was opened up with the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering (NIAE) in UK and extensive field testing was started. In Swaziland, Wilson McKinley, the mechanisation Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, oversaw tests and machines were also sent to TAMTU Tanzania, the Department of Agriculture in Zambia as well as to NIAE – for independent testing outside of the control of the Project staff.

A total of 11,500 hours testing was carried out in a year with the 3 units in Swaziland. This testing showed that the units were robust and could carry out the work required and that the testing over 12 months was the equivalent of over 4 years normal work. Similar encouraging results were obtained from Tanzania and Zambia.

In 1972, the Swaziland authorities decided that development should continue

on a semi commercial basis under the auspices of the National Industrial Development Corporation (NIDCS) and the project was moved to Matsapha Industrial Estates. The Swazi and British governments provided funds for the production of 100 units. Equipment was purchased, workers recruited, 45 local staff trained, and production started - with the assistance of UNIDO.

Market studies confirmed that a potential market existed throughout Africa and possibly further afield, but there were

two problems. The first was that of farmers securing loan finance to purchase the tractor. The second was the high costs of exporting tractors from Swaziland to East and West Africa. Due to the small quantities, tractors had to be air-freighted to East Africa whilst the West Africa consignments had to be shipped via Europe. To overcome the second problem, with the support of UNIDO, plans were made to manufacture the Tinkabi in Zambia, Nigeria, Senegal and Ivory Coast – using existing infrastructure in these countries.

The production facilities at Matsapha, Swaziland





A Swazi Farmer with his "TINKABI"

Meanwhile, the marketing of the Tinkabi continued in Swaziland. Some 350 units were sold over a period of 10 years. For Swazi farmers to get a loan for a Tinkabi, they had to send an agreed number of oxen to the holding grounds to be fattened and sold. The loan from the Swaziland Credit & Savings Bank covered the cost of the tractor, its servicing and the purchase of seed and fertiliser. The loan had to be repaid over four years at an interest rate of 11%. This type of loan financing was notorious for its poor repayment rate throughout Africa. In Swaziland, the normal

default rate was about 75%. But in the case of the Tinkabi, where the farmer was provided with advice throughout the season, the default rate was reduced to less than 3%. It was a resounding success!

The main reason why mechanisation projects of this nature fail is because repairs and maintenance of any mechanical equipment in Africa is fraught with problems. In the case of the Tinkabi, the system was made up of modular components and, with the exception of the diesel engine, these could not be serviced in the field. Instead, a service

exchange scheme was provided at a fixed cost, as well as bi-annual servicing - again at a fixed cost. At these service intervals, tractor transmission components could be checked easily and, if necessary, changed on site by the service personnel. The Tinkabi system provided this servicing on a regional basis at fixed times and dates with surrounding farmers driving their tractors to the local service site.

Initially the Tinkabi was designed with a range of standard equipment. Soon it became noticeable that as farmers became more financially secure from the increasing yields and cash crops, they wanted more and better equipment. The project developed low-cost overhead sprinkler irrigation systems, water tankers and trailers, crop sprayers (which also found a use in large scale farming operations), cotton and pineapple harvesters, wood saws and maize grinders. The grinders proved to be very popular, as instead of the women having to walk carrying their maize to grinders, the Tinkabi with a grinder attached could travel to the women around the district.

In 1986, the Tinkabi project turned over 1 million Emalangeni (rand), of which 70% was earned from exports. However the project was still a quasi-government operation, dependent upon annual funding for its cash flow. This limited the growth of the business. For example in 1989/90 orders to the value of \$750,000 had to be turned away, even though they were covered by an irrevocable letter of credit, because the project was not allowed to borrow against these credits.

After 14 years of operation, all the development work, pre-production testing, establishment of a manufacturing facility, local marketing and support services and engagement with export markets countries had been financed by a government grant of only E250,000.

In 1986 the government/NIDCS decided that the project should be commercialised and that a recognised commercial partner should take over the project. The chosen partner was FEDMECH SA, at the time a division of Massey-Ferguson, and the operating

company in Swaziland was named Swaziland Mechanised Farming (SMF). But it soon became obvious that the management of SMF was not interested in the Tinkabi concept, but only interested in marketing Massey-Ferguson products. In 1990, manufacturing of the Tinkabi ceased.

It was a sad loss for Swaziland. The Tinkabi tractor was not just another tractor, it was a system designed to meet the requirements of the small subsistence farmer throughout Africa. It had been designed, developed and tested by local engineers under local conditions.

The Tinkabi system gave the small farmer the tools to improve not only his own livelihood but to increase food production - and in many cases to create employment in the rural areas. The system was affordable, costing less than a third of the next comparable tractor. It was safe to drive and could be operated by women as well as juveniles. It had even become a status symbol! And as for durability, even today, I receive communications from Tinkabi owners in Swaziland

and Kenya wanting to know the availability of spare parts after some 30 years of service.



Cotton spraying with the "TINKABI"

The Tinkabi tractor was not just another tractor, it was a system designed to meet the requirements of the small subsistence farmer throughout Africa.



A Swazi woman has the opportunity of driving the "TINKABI"

INVESTIGATION OF SUSTAINABLE INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

by Russell Mmiso Dlamini

Here is the last extract from Russell Dlamini's Master of Philosophy thesis on "Sustainable indigenous agricultural practices in Swaziland". The target population of this study was traditional farmers, indigenous men and women aged 50 years and above, who were residents of four constituencies (Maphalaleni, Lubulini, Dvokodweni, & Matsanjeni). They were selected because they are rural, remote from western influence, harbour traditional agriculture and are believed to be custodians of indigenous knowledge (or IK) and could provide information required to accomplish the research objectives of the study. In this extract we learn about post harvest technology and food preparation.

Post harvest practices

The maize and sorghum crops were harvested manually and carried in baskets. After the introduction of animal draught, a sledge (*sihlphi sembila nemabele*) was designed to carry the harvest home. The sledge was fitted with the baskets to avoid losing grain. Once within the homestead the harvest was stored on the maize crib (*umsisi*) for drying before shelling. The indigenous maize crib (*umsisi*) is not the same as the maize crib that is now common across the country called *inyango*. *Umsisi* was elevated so that cattle

and other livestock could not reach the stored crop.

In the Low-veldt the maize crib was constructed differently such that it looked like a small hut. It was short and fenced with small branches such that livestock could not pull out the maize. Both types were constructed with material sourced from within the village. No wires and nails were used. The indigenous maize crib in the Low veldt, though not directly exposed to the sun, was well ventilated. In the high-veldt the crop was directly exposed to the sun and wind because temperatures are

normally lower compared to the Low veldt. The harvested crop (sorghum or maize) remained in the crib for about three to four months or until it was dry enough to be shelled. This ensured that grains had very low moisture content before they were stored. Post-harvest indigenous practices are summarized in **Table I**.

Maize was shelled and sometimes threshed while sorghum was always threshed. Before shelling and threshing, the surface on which the grain would fall was swept and plastered with cow dung to avoid contamination with stones and dirt. Shelling was done by rubbing the grain attached to cobs on hard stones. Threshing was carried out by beating the cobs or bunch with a strong stick. The impact of the stick removed the grain from the cob, or the main stock in the case of sorghum. Another technique was that of spreading the bunches of sorghum on the ground and then letting oxen pull a heavy log on top of the crop that was spread on the ground, in the process detaching the grain from the main stock. These practices are no longer common.

To preserve seeds for planting, the leaves on the cob are peeled back but not detached completely from the cob. The leaves are used to tie the maize so that it remains hanging in the traditional kitchen (*edladleni*). The traditional kitchen is a hut where fire is made at least twice a day. The smoke escapes through the thatched roof but the soot is trapped on the thatch. The maize is left to hang on the roof and is exposed to smoke every time fire is made in the kitchen. Eventually the seed turns black, as they remain covered by the soot. In this way the seeds are protected from pests such as the weevil.

Some seeds were also stored at the centre of the grain pit with the rest of the maize crop. The temperature in the grain pit is said to be higher than room temperature because there is no ventilation. The conditions in the grain pit are not conducive to sustain life of any pest as the weevil or any other pest did not survive in the grain pit (see the section on storage). Seeds for other crops such as the Bambara groundnuts, groundnuts, cowpeas, pumpkins, *emaselwa* and melons were sun-dried and sometimes

sprinkled with aloe ash and then stored in clay pots sealed with bark and cow dung. Both the grain pit and the clay pots were rarely opened. With experience, farmers estimated the number of seeds that were necessary to plant fields large enough to feed their families. The size of the clay pot (*imbita*) then became the measure of the area that was supposed to be planted with legume or cucurbits to meet the needs of a family. Vegetatively propagated indigenous crops such as sweet potatoes, *ematabhane*, were left in the field - only collected during the planting season. The leaves of sweet potatoes were buried in a shallow pit until the planting season when they were retrieved for planting. Small tubers for *ematabhane* were selected and set aside as seeds and were kept until they started sprouting.

The grain pit

Maize grain and sorghum were stored in separate grain pits (*engungwini*). This was a pit dug in the kraal. The depth and width of the storage pit underground was measured using the height of the tallest man. The entrance was

very small, only to widen further down. The walls were plastered (smeared) with cow dung. Grass was then burned inside the pit to ensure that the storage is dry and that the cow dung stuck to the walls. A stone and bark from the marula tree (*ligcolo lemganu*) was used as a lid. It is claimed that this particular bark does not rot easily and has high resistance to moisture. It was closed tight to avoid air entering into the pit and to prevent heat from escaping.

Soil from ant hills was used to cover the lid of the pit to prevent moisture seeping through. Soil from ant hills has a very high clay content which might prevent water percolation. When the storage was full of maize it was compulsory that cattle should sleep in the kraal every night. The pit (*ingungu*) was built under the kraal to take advantage of the heat caused by the piling dung on top as well as from the animals. Water from rain could not penetrate compacted cow dung into the storage, thus preventing possible spoilage of the crop. However, prolonged rainfall was a threat to farmers and after prolonged rainfall the pits would be checked to see if they were

still dry. The *ingungu* could not be easily identified. Maize so stored could not be stolen, even when there was war.

The facility was rarely opened and farmers indicated that at most it was once in three months and some would go for a year without being opened. A household usually had more than one pit spread within the kraal. Some was eaten during times when there was not enough food due to natural disasters such as hail storms and drought.

When the need to draw maize or sorghum from the *ingungu* was confirmed by the elders, children and adults alike would be warned not to get close to the kraal. The covering stone was removed and the entrance was left opened for almost the whole day until the heat and gas had subsided. It is claimed that a person could die if he/she went into the storage prematurely and therefore no one entered into the pit before an insect was seen entering the pit, signalling that it was safe. The stored crop did not have any of the common pests today such as the weevil "*Neligenga belingayi*". *Ingungu* was

improved by making a grass basket to line the walls.

Crops classified as cucurbits (such as pumpkins and the melons) were kept in the shade under the maize crib. They were to be protected from the sun and livestock. Wild vegetable leaves were parboiled, dried then stored in clay pots and baskets to be used as relish during the dry season. Tubers were left in the field and dug only when they were to be consumed.

Preparation of indigenous food

It appears that, traditionally, indigenous foods are either eaten raw without being cooked or they are boiled, steamed or roasted. For example, groundnuts, sesame and dry maize grain are roasted on shallow/flat clay pots (*ludzengelo*) whilst leafy vegetables are boiled. It is worth noting that plant legumes such as bambara groundnuts, groundnuts, mung beans etc. formed an essential part of the Swazi cuisine and they were a source of protein. Bambara groundnuts are rich in protein (16-25%DM) and carbohydrates

(42-60%DM) with only 5-6% lipids (Norman, 1992). **Table 2** presents a list of indigenous food, its composition and the preparation

method. Wild fruits were also eaten in between meals as snacks such as *tincozi*, *ematfundvuluka*, *emanumbela* etc.

Table 1: Indigenous post harvest practices

| Practice | Activity | Extent |
|---------------|--|---|
| Drying | Maize and sorghum were stored in maize and sorghum cribs respectively. The sorghum crib had no roof to expose the crop to the sun for drying. The maize crib had a roof but was well ventilated to ensure drying. In the Highveld cribs were constructed so that they were highly elevated above ground to prevent livestock from accessing the crop while in the Low veldt where tall trees are scarce cribs were short and closed but well ventilated. | Widespread & very common |
| Grain storage | Maize and sorghum grain were stored in separate grain pits. Grain pits were constructed under cattle kraals, smeared with cow dung and burned to dry them up before grain is stored. They were rarely opened. <45 x 75kg bags could be stored in one grain pit. | Widespread Facility now replaced by metal tank |

| Practice | Activity | Extent |
|--------------|--|--|
| Seed storage | <p>For maize seeds, leaves from the cobs were not completely peeled but were left attached to the cob and were used to hang it upside down on roof inside the traditional kitchen “edladleni” where they were exposed to smoke and eventually covered with sooth which prevented pests. Maize seeds were also stored in the grain pit where no pest could survive. Storing seeds in different places provided security against loss.</p> <p>Seeds for crops such as Bambara ground nuts and cucurbits were stored in clay pots “<i>timbita</i>” and sprinkled with aloe ash. The clay pots were then sealed with cow dung.</p> | <p>Widespread and common</p> <p>Widespread</p> |
| Shelling | <p>Maize was shelled by rubbing the maize cob on a stone with a hard and rough surface or by rubbing maize cobs against each other.</p> | <p>Widespread & common practice</p> |
| Threshing | <p>A thick stick is used to beat the crop (maize cobs or bunches of sorghum) thereby detaching grain from the main stock.</p> <p>Another method was pulling/rolling a big log on top of the crop against the ground using a span of oxen.</p> | <p>Widespread</p> <p>Rare</p> |

Table 2: The composition and preparation of indigenous food

| Name of dish | Type of meal | Cooking method | Ingredients |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1. <i>Sintjangabomi</i> | Main meal | Steaming | Leafy vegetable (e.g. pumpkin leaves, amaranthus), premature pumpkins and green mealies |
| 2. <i>Sijabane</i> | Main meal | Steaming | Leafy vegetable, ground green mealies and roasted and ground groundnuts. |
| 3. <i>Siphuphe</i> | Main meal | Boiled | Bambara groundnuts or mung beans boiled and crushed |
| 4. <i>Insontfwane</i> | Main meal | Boiling | Bambara groundnuts or cowpeas mixed with samp. |
| 5. <i>Sidvudvu</i> | Main meal | Boiling | Pumpkin cooked and mixed with mealie meal |
| 6. <i>Incwancwa (Thin sour porridge)</i> | Main meal | Boiling | Fermented wet mealie meal |
| 7. <i>Liphalishi (Porridge)</i> | Main meal | Boiled and steamed | Mealie meal boiled and steamed. |
| 8. <i>Emantulwa</i> | Main meal | Not cooked | Ripe fruits |
| 9. <i>Umbhidvo</i> | Side dish/ relish | Steaming | Vegetable leaves and water |

| Name of dish | Type of meal | Cooking method | Ingredients |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 10. <i>Ticaba</i> | Main meal | Boiling and roasting | Boiled maize and roasted groundnuts |
| 11. <i>Lukhotse</i> | Main meal | Roasting | Dry maize grain and groundnuts |
| 12. <i>Sinkhwa sembila</i> (<i>Mealie bread</i>) | Main meal | Steaming | Ground green mealies and wheat flour |
| 13. <i>Sweet potatoes</i> | Main meal | Boiling | Boiled sweet potatoes |
| 14. <i>Emasi</i> | Main meal | Steaming & fermentation | Sour milk mixed with porridge or ticabu |
| 15. <i>Ligusha</i> | Relish | Boiling | Okra leaves, water and ash |
| 16. <i>Umbhonyo</i> | Snack | Boiling | Bambara groundnuts boiled |
| 17. <i>Tinkhobe</i> | Snack | Boiling | Dry maize grain boiled and salted. Sometimes mixed with groundnuts |
| 18. <i>Imbasha</i> | Snack | Roasting | Dry maize grain |
| 19. <i>Tincheke</i> | Snack | Boiling | Large pieces of boiled sweet pumpkin |
| 20. <i>L'futfo</i> | Snack | Boiling | Green mealies |
| 21. <i>Ematabhane</i> | Snack | Boiling | Boiled and salted tubers |

THE SWAZILAND SOCIETY
20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 8th September 2011
7.00pm

To be held at the
SWAZILAND HIGH COMMISSION
20 Buckingham Gate
LONDON

AGENDA

Apologies for Absence
Minutes of the 19th AGM held on the 9th September 2010
Chairman's Statement
Treasurer's Statement/Donations
Membership Report
Event Secretary's Report on plans for future events
Newsletter Editors' Report
Election of Auditor for 2011- 2012
Committee Elections: **(see below)**
Matters raised from floor: AOB

SPEAKERS

Her Excellency, Mrs. D Sukati,
The High Commissioner for the Kingdom of Swaziland

Dr. Geoff Douglas, CEO,
Health Empowerment through Nutrition Project

MEMBERS OF THE UK COMMITTEE FOR 2010/2011

| Position | Name | Appointed |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Chairman | John Doble* | 2009 |
| Deputy Chairperson | Phephile Magongo | 2010 |
| Treasurer | Douglass Boycott† | 2008 |
| Membership/ Minutes Secretary | Vera Robbins | 2010 |
| Events Secretary | Fiona Armitage | 2010 |
| Newsletter Editor | John Meadley | 2009 |
| Elected Members | Jim Watson | 2009 |
| | Dorothy Mbelu | 2010 |
| | Robert Colman | 2010 |
| | Ms. Nqobile Dlamini† | 2008 |
| | Ken Charles | 2010 |

* It is, with regret, that The Chairman, Mr. John Doble has indicated that he wishes to stand down as Chairman of the Society. However, he is prepared to continue as a Member of the Committee.

† The following Committee Members, Douglass Boycott and Nqobile Dlamini have now completed three years in Office. Society Members may propose and second candidates (for The Chair and Committee Members) either at the AGM or by post to the Secretary - Mrs. Vera Robbins, 4 Sybil's Way, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire MK45 3AQ. Nominations for election to the Committee should include the name of the proposer and the signature of the nominee agreeing to stand for 3 years from September 2011.

SWAZILAND SOCIETY

Minutes of the 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the
Swaziland High Commission, London
At 7.00pm on Thursday 9th September 2010

Apologies: HE, Mrs. D Sukati The High Commissioner, John Meadley, Douglass Boycott, Mike Carrigan and Terry Robbins.

Welcome: The Chairman, John Doble, welcomed all those present. John thanked the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Zeeman, and asked that appreciation be conveyed to Her Excellency for the continued support and hospitality provided to the Swaziland Society by all at the Swaziland High

Commission. Society Members look forward to the opportunity of meeting Her Excellency.

Mr. Zeeman, Deputy High Commissioner gave a brief talk on the new Constitution, which is now in place.

Minutes from the 2009 (18th) AGM were accepted as a correct record.

Chairman's Report: Gratitude to all at the High Commission. Which has enabled the Society to keep the 'show on the road'. Membership has increased, owing to the Treasurer who is very active in chasing up membership. However, it is noted that we do need more younger members and there is a need to encourage them to join.

Appreciation to Fiona for her continued hard work in organising functions throughout the year.

Treasurer's Statement: Copies of Treasurer's Statement, with Report of the Audit of Income and Expenditure Account tabled. Bank Balance at the end of the financial year (31st July 2010) £4,553 - a fall of £186 compared to 2009 when **£4,739** was held. The level of donations granted remained the same - £1,000 as in 2009 but increased costs, particularly in the production and distribution of the Society's newsletter, resulted in increased expenditure. There were three issues of Focus Magazine during 2009/10 as compared to two last year. Donations of £500 each to Emkhontweni Children's Home and the Mphumatanga Ministries which runs a school, care centre and kindergarten in the Siteki area.

Audited Accounts adopted as a true record. **Proposed** Mr. Bryan and **Seconded** by Fiona.

Donations (2010/11): Suggested that as there is a large reserve of funds held in the account that larger donations be made. The Committee have met and proposed that a sum of either **£750 x 2** or **£1,000 x 2** be made. After discussion and deliberation among Society Members present, it was **Agreed** that a donation of £1,000 each to two charities/projects.

(1) African Grandmothers Movement

(2) Mother Baby Unit Women's Prison.

John (Chairman), on behalf of the Society, gave thanks to Mr. Lepiarz (Honorary Auditor) for auditing the Income and Expenditure Account for 2009/10. Sincere thanks too to Douglass for his continued dedication in his role of Treasurer.

Membership: The Society currently has 175 paying members (55 joint, 57 single, 4 Corporate and 4 students) as against 163 last year.

Event Secretary's Report: Fiona gave a summary of events held, apart from the AGM. The aim is for 3 events per year.

Bath - Studio of Peter Hayes.

A visit to Buckswood School, near Hastings. The Students of Buckswood collected £300 for the Society. Full reports of the visits can be read in the July (Number 49) issue of Focus.

The Liphook Lunch, organised by Ken and Rita was well attended and raised £160 for a charity suggested by Sibusiso Mamba. Recently, the High Commissioner, HE Mrs. Sukati, invited Society Members to the evensong celebration of Swaziland 42nd Year of Independence at Westminster Abbey. It is intended that notification of this event, held each year to celebrate the Independence, will be circulated in the Focus in good time so that members may attend in 2011.

A second major event was on the 13th August when HE King Mswati attended the Passing Out Graduation Ceremony of his son Prince Lindani.

In the coming year, proposals to date are a gathering in the Great Malvern, hosted by Penny and Geoff Douglas. Geoff might talk about his health research charity, and Penny, about women craft workers in Swaziland. Other gatherings might take place in Oxford, Liphook for the annual lunch, and, of course, London for the AGM.

John, on behalf of the Society, gave appreciation to Fiona for her continued efforts in organising the Society events.

Newsletter Editor's Report: John, Editor, unable to attend meeting owing to a family bereavement. Sincere condolences expressed by all those present. John (Chairman) expressed gratitude to John in his role as Editor.

A request to encourage all to contribute articles of interest to Focus. There will be 2 editions a year. Hopefully, there may be a few colour pictures of His Majesty on his recent visit to UK.

Election of Officers to the Society: Ken Charles, to be elected to serve as an Elected Member. **Proposed** by Jim Watson and **Seconded** by Phephile Magongo and duly elected. Other Committee/Elected Members - Phephile Magongo, Fiona Armitage, Vera Robbins, Dorothy Mbelu and Robert Colman, are willing to stand for a further three years. **Proposed 'en bloc'** by Mr. Bryan and **Seconded by Cynthia Fisher.**

AOB: 'Sourcing of Archives in the UK': (Jim) In the past month meetings have been held with the senior archivist of the Swaziland National Archives and her colleague. They were in the UK to encourage donations of historic documents to the Archives, and to request other material from various Libraries and individuals. David Brewin contributed to their entertainment, and Alan Catterick (of Tinkabi Tractor fame), Fiona and Jim are among those who have started to contribute documents.

There being no further business, the AGM was formally closed at approximately 8.00pm.

SPEAKER

Welcome to Mr. Mike Aston (UNESCO) and Expedition Leader with a group from the Hertfordshire Scouts to Swaziland (2009) who presented an account (with slide show) of their expedition to Swaziland.

Text Layout

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The Swaziland Society

The Swaziland Society was founded in 1991 with the objective of developing and strengthening educational, cultural, economic and social ties between Great Britain and Swaziland. The Society aims to foster friendship and understanding between the people's of the two countries. The activities of the Society include the publication of this newsletter; meetings, talks and social gatherings; and financial assistance to development projects in Swaziland. Membership is open to all people who have an interest in Swaziland. Applications and contributions to Focus should be sent to the Treasurer and Editor respectively.

www.swazisoc.com

Annual Subscriptions are as below:

Swaziland residents: E40 individual, E60 joint.

Swaziland non-residents: £40 Company, £22 joint, £15 individual, £2 student.

Applications to join should be sent: in UK and other countries to the Treasurer (see below) and in Swaziland to Mr. C Davies, PO Box 1348, Mbabane. Tel: 404 0870

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