

It's now 8.40am and it feels as though I have done a full days work - I will go for a siesta after lunch (I hope). There is a mountain called Malanje that is 3002 metres just over the border in Malawi. Must go and have a look sometime. There is even rumour of long rock climbs there.

My Portuguese is improving. Eo fallo Portuguese muito bem. I try to speak it with the workers and have lessons with Lorenzo Tomas. Despite what I was told the ability to speak some Portuguese is important. If you rely on English then you are relying on an interpreter, and it's likely to be their 3rd, 4th or 5th language. To speak 2 or 3 local languages plus Portuguese is normal for someone with only bare secondary education. A smattering of English is not common but they are very keen to learn. Did you know Mozambique joined the British Commonwealth two years ago? - to Portugal's annoyance. They are making efforts (from nowhere) to join the English speaking world.

We had the Govnorador (Governor to you) of the Niassa Province to dinner the other day. A typical politician nevertheless quite impressive. The usual "I speak no English" then talked all evening in English. He brought an entourage including one who knows Bradford and was a student at Cardiff. In spite of them being the educated elite, 4 of the 6 (they wanted to bring sixteen!!) spoke no English at all. A truck full of security and half a dozen armed soldiers were outside all evening. He was very keen for CO to expand - the reason, he has no Government money for development work - roads/water/health/education and foreign NGO's (Non Government Organisations - like CO) are a source of aid money. The Mozambique civil servants are not so keen as they are, a) cannot get their hands on the money - petty corruption/bribes are the norm, and b) are jealous (which is understandable).

Work with the locals is tough going. Outside of work they are cheerful, outgoing Africans. At work it can be difficult to get them to do anything more than the bare minimum - and the bare minimum here is less than the UK. This is not universally so but is the general rule. The following is a true record:

Me: "Bon dia Saied, what are the mechanics doing?"

Saied: "Bon dia Senhor Engenheiro, nothing."

Me: "Why are they doing nothing?"

Saied: "Because they are idle!"

Me: "Why are they idle?"

Saied: "Because they are doing nothing."

Me: "Why are they doing nothing?"

Saied: "Because they are waiting."

Me: "What are they waiting for?"

Saied: "You, Senhor."

Me: "Why are they waiting for me?"

Saied: "To tell them."

Me: "To tell them what?"

Saied: "To tell them to work."

Me: "Don't they know what work to do?"

Saied: "Yes."

Me: "Well why don't they get on with it?"

Saied: "They are waiting for you to tell them to work, Senhor."

It's not too bad for me, I have only three months of it. Those Ex-Pats (British) with one or more years contract get somewhat exasperated at times (the Christian bit slips!!)

I was driving along the other day and a strange vehicle passed and stopped - any vehicle you don't know - you stop for a chat! It was a Brazilian - fat and jolly - who is padre near here. He had once been on a day trip to York (from London, not Brazil) and spoke some English - for an hour at least.

I have done more in 4x4's than I ever thought I would. Landrovers are comfortable but far too unreliable and not rugged enough. Toyota's are the ones to have - simple, strong, reliable and with big engines - but very dusty. Toyota's can be complete wrecks but still mobile - that's what you want. I have broken down or got stuck four times so far. This is not the place to break down, it's a long way and too hot to walk.

When I had finished Dot Wood came out to join me and we spent ten days attempting to travel about in Northern Mozambique. Without lots of time, patience and endurance don't bother! However it is a place of great potential and interest. There are mountains up to about 8000ft that as far as I know are virtually unexplored. There is a huge quantity of rock (inc 2000ft walls) but being mostly the 'exfoliating granite' peculiar to this part of Africa is not usually suitable for rock climbing. However I have heard rumours that at Nampula (closer to the coast) there is 'some of the best climbing in the world' June /July is probably the best time - otherwise too wet or too hot.

We did manage a peak in the Mitoque Group (near Cuamba). There are a number of attractive mountaineering objectives and much exploration to be done. During my stay I managed six peaks, all easy 2-3 hour walks except in the Mitoque Group. Grande Mitoque (5800ft) by the route I took includes Diff to V Diff slabs which had to be reversed. There is a guide book to the Milange Group (9800ft) which is in neighbouring Malawi.



## ST. JOSEPH'S YOUTH CLUB AT DUNMAIL.

For the past three years St. Joseph's Youth Club has been involved in a three way exchange with Danish and Swedish youth groups which culminates this summer with a ten day trip to visit our Swedish comrades in Jonkoping.

After last summer when it was our turn to be the host group, we decided it would be beneficial for the English people who would be travelling to Sweden later in the year to have a short excursion to keep the enthusiasm up and restore bonds made last summer.

When we first arrived at the hut there was a feeling of excitement. After we had settled in and eaten, our youth leaders organised some 'getting to know you' games. The activities were not really necessary but they were a lot of fun! My favourite game was a sort of blind man's bluff outside in the dark. It involved a group of five being guided along a piece of string that was pegged around the house. It was certainly interesting!

The next day we went on an organised walk. There were moans as the weather was atrocious but after we had completed it there was a feeling of satisfaction.

I think I speak for everyone when I say it was a thoroughly enjoyable trip and everyone is looking forward to returning to the hut to give it the make over it is really in need of.



Blind Man's Bluff?

## CLUB NEWS

**Maintenance Officer.** George Partidge has kindly offered to take on this role. His brief is to oversee hut repairs and improvements. He will work closely with hut wardens and advise the Management Committee when work is required.

### CAFOD Race.

i) This year's CAFOD Race sponsorship money currently stands at £1630, which is a big increase on last year's (£520.50), so congratulations to all concerned with the race in any way.

A special thanks to non-ARCC runners who generously collected sponsorship totalling around £100. Unfortunately we do not have their names and addresses to thank them personally.

CAFOD have acknowledged all our donations and their letters have been displayed on the Bishop's Scale notice board.

Other donations to CAFOD came from Chapel CAFOD box - £20  
Wedding donation - £70

### Junior and Adult Membership.

A reminder to parents and junior members that junior membership ceases at the age of 17 years, at which age a junior member may apply directly for full membership. (Rule 5.4). Some parents are still paying junior overnight fees for children of 18 and 19 years.

Please note the changes to Rule 5.4 agreed at the 1995 AGM:

'that junior membership would not normally be granted to children of members who have not been full members for at least three years should be changed by the substitution of the period of 18 months for the period of three years'.

### Theft from Cars.

Members are reminded not to leave their cars in isolated lay-bys if possible. Locks and alarms should be in operation at all times, even on hut car parks.

### Club Dinner.

A very enjoyable evening was had by all. However the conversion of the bar into a bistro leaving nowhere for people to sit and talk may make us look elsewhere in 1998.