

## Equipment from Donegal

'Donegal people leave their mark on a remote Malawian Village' is the headline- Mary O'Neill the fundraising coordinator of Ubwino gets interviewed by Carolyn Farrar of the Donegal Democrat see [www.donegaldemocrat.com](http://www.donegaldemocrat.com) and go to archives August 27<sup>th</sup> issue. Joe Sweeney and Roger Byrne, two of the builders that swept the people of Namitembo off their feet, organised a container load of equipment such as toys, computers and clothing from their village in Donegal. People are so generous. It was transported courtesy of Manica from Belfast to Blantyre and thanks to Lughaidh Mac Giolla Bhrighde, Tanya Jenkins and Sarah Wiggin for coordinating all the unloading and ensuring its equitable distribution.

## The Namitembo Montessori Nursery School Official Opening.

At the official opening and plaque unveiling on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April the representative from the Zomba Diocese, Vicar General Father Henry , said they were very impressed to see the policy to increase early learning opportunities for the young child being implemented at grass roots level and how it was benefiting the community. Mr Nkhoma, the trade school administrator reiterated this by saying girls could go to school knowing their young ones were learning too and this fulfilled most of the 'Education for All' goals.

On behalf of the Ubwino team, Mary O'Neill, one of the project coordinators in her speech, thanked both local and international sponsors for their benevolence. She thanked Father Owen O'Donnell for his expert guidance, Father Frank for blessing the nursery, Miss Sarah Wiggin, a volunteer from the UK managing the school, Maribeth Leineke and pearl for co conducting the training of Montessori teachers and everyone else who had contributed to the brick in the wall project and equipment collection project. She thanked Mr Rajab for being Master of Ceremonies on this auspicious occasion.

The speeches were preceded by the national anthem sung by the children of Namitembo, songs from the trade school choir, a drama depicting people's reactions to the new nursery in the village and a dance by the Namitembo Dance group.

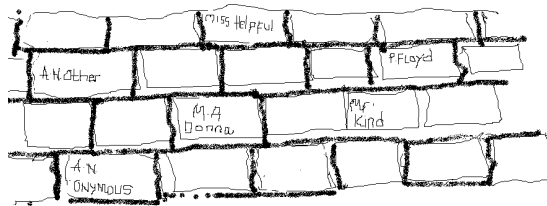
## Fund Raising Events

### A Night at the Races

A crack fundraising team called 'Friends of Ubwino' has been working hard over the Malawian winter months to create a superb evening of entertainment in the form of 'A Night at the Races' on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Companies will be asked to sponsor a race which

involves rocking horses, jockeys and dice. There will be great food, betting on your favourite horse, and a David Kelly painting as a raffle prize. Fran, Edel, Prudence, Sarah and Ian are indispensable in their enthusiasm and professionalism.

In January we launched the ‘**Another brick in the wall**’ project. This is to put funds directly into the nursery school for building and running costs, so as not to detract from our original project goals which are to pay girls secondary and trade school fees. We still need another K3 million to pay for these costs. K10, 000 gets a brick in the wall with your name on it. People who want to donate more get their name in Bronze for K100,000, Silver for K250,000, Gold for K750,000 and Platinum for K1 million and above. Thanks to Kameko Technologies for putting their name in silver!



Ubwino Wa Amayi is hosting the gala night for the Pantomime *Snow White* on 11<sup>th</sup> December. This means Blantyre theatre section are donating their proceeds on ticket sales to Ubwino. Thanks to the Director Gabby Wetten.

## Thank you to our sponsors

The fact that up to 75 girls are being sponsored and a nursery school was built at all is thanks to all the people who want to help to improve the lives of young women in Malawi and give them choices and chances and the ability to make decisions for themselves. If it wasn't for you we would not reach our objectives. Whether you have given a one-off or regular donation we are always grateful for your generosity.

**Manica** has been very supportive in giving us a container for free to bring all the equipment from Ireland. Ubwino look forward to a continued partnership with **Manica**.

## New Projects

Ubwino Wa Amayi is always looking for new ways to encourage girls to continue with their education. Tanya Jenkins from UK is doing some volunteer work in Namitembo and she has offered to do life-skills workshops in the afternoons with the Ubwino girls. Tanya is an experienced youth worker. Sarah Wiggin is also looking at ways to encourage income generating and has started a small project to make wooden early learning equipment.



Anna, a first-year carpentry/joinery student at Namitembo Trade and Agriculture School, takes notes on technical drawing during a theory class.



Threading exercises with learning toys freshly unpacked



[www.ubwino.org](http://www.ubwino.org)

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