

# NASENJE'S NEWS

## JANUARY 2021

Hello everybody. This year my newsletter is not just to my nieces and nephews at the Centre, but to adults, too.

I know that you are all so sad that your Sekulu has died. We are, too; his family, friends, students and the team and all the supporters of the Foundation in the UK and elsewhere in the world.

But we are also happy – that William died quickly and peacefully; that he didn't suffer; he didn't have to go to hospital where he would have been alone. Right to his last breath he had his independence and his joy of living – and his love for the work he did to enable the Foundation to grow.

And grow it will. The Foundation did not stop with Sekulu going to heaven.



We will carry on his work, as you see by the building of the shower blocks. I look forward to the day when these are ready for you all to use. Your lives will be made easier.

William's funeral has not yet taken place. In our country, it is different from Malawi. There is a choice of burial or cremation. William chose to be cremated, as Margaret and Jean were. This means that the body is placed in a coffin, a service takes place and then the coffin slides behind a curtain. At Jean's service, and my mother's, as we all went out of the room, we waved goodbye to the coffin while the song Happy Wanderer played – because the family had been a band of 'happy wanderers' and Jean loved the song. The coffin is then burned, and the ashes are returned in a casket or urn.



These are the words of The Happy Wanderer and the link above is to the singing of it by the Obernkirchen Children's Choir – Obernkirchen is a town of the same name in Germany.

### **The Happy Wanderer**

I love to go a-wandering,  
Along the mountain track,  
And as I go, I love to sing,  
My knapsack on my back.

Chorus:  
Val-deri,Val-dera,  
Val-deri,  
Val-dera-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha  
Val-deri,Val-dera.  
My knapsack on my back.

I love to wander by the stream  
That dances in the sun,  
So joyously it calls to me,  
"Come! Join my happy song!"

I wave my hat to all I meet,  
And they wave back to me,  
And blackbirds call so loud and  
sweet  
From ev'ry green wood tree.

High overhead, the skylarks  
wing,  
They never rest at home  
But just like me, they love to sing,  
As o'er the world we roam.

Oh, may I go a-wandering  
Until the day I die!  
Oh, may I always laugh and sing,  
Beneath God's clear blue sky!



William's cremation will take place on Thursday 4 February and Mr Mlambya will keep you all informed of how you can remember Sekulu. My family will, when lockdown allows, scatter the ashes of both William and Margaret in a place which they, and we, loved.

The photo is of William when he was about 21 with his favourite cow Gipsy at the farm he and my grandparents owned – Woodlands

Please remember that William himself will not be in the coffin – his spirit flew to be with Margaret, Jean, John and all the family who had gone before him – and many friends too – but never forget that his spirit is with us all.



William in 2013 when he came to visit me in Scotland.

Here he is leaning on one of the big guns at a castle nearly in Stirling.

We took him to see again all the places he lived as a boy and young man.

It was a very happy time.

So, no tears of sadness; only happy tears that Sekulu came into the lives of all of us. Live your lives honourably; study or work to the best of your ability. Above all, this year, go safely – wash your hands; keep social distance and wear your masks but live your lives without fear.

Love from Nasenje