

**TE BUU**  
**KIRIBATI TUNGARU ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**



## **Kam Na Mauri!**

We hope everyone is safe and well, after what has been an extremely challenging and unusual time for everyone due to COVID19 we are so pleased to announce that we are able to celebrate and reunite once again this year.

Thank you to all you lovely members for the continued support and understanding you have shown this past year around the adjustments that have been made. It's much appreciated.

As always we're keen to hear your thoughts and feedback on all events and if there is anything that you'd like to be done differently - please don't hesitate to contact us, send any suggestions to [chairman@ktaweb.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ktaweb.org.uk)

We've got some exciting updates and articles for you within so read on...there's also some information on how you can join the committee and help out at events!

**We wish all the blessing of Te Mauri, Te Raoi ae Te Tabemoa.  
Tekeraoi ngkami and we can't wait to see you all soon!**



# ANNUAL GET TOGETHER 2019

Our last annual get together took place in Great Dunmow, Essex where we have held the event a few times previously. It was a particularly special event in 2019 as we celebrated 40 years of Independence for Kiribati. Most of the guests arrived as usual on Thursday evening and Friday morning ahead of the long weekend. The campsite was a fantastic large space and worked brilliantly as a base with only a short car ride or walk to the hall. It was a lovely sunny evening to catch up over food and drink whilst the children (and adults) enjoyed some organised games. The Dunmow Mayor Councillor, Emma Marcus came to the campsite to introduce herself ahead of the main event and even joined in for a round of the three-legged-race! The dance committee got in some final rehearsals and fresh flower garlands were made into the evening.

Whilst this was happening some volunteers from the campsite helped to decorate the hall. Krista had a lovely idea of printing hundreds of photographs from previous KTA get togethers and events which were hung around the hall along with a book to write in your favourite memory. The main event was held on the Saturday and doors were open from 11am for people to browse the tables set up alongside the walls. Among them were items for sale such as island style hand crafted accessories, mugs and keyrings as well as the palm appeal T-shirts and KTA T-shirts made especially for the 40th anniversary.

At the AGM, which was led by acting chairman Cordelia Walsh, main events and news for the KTA were discussed. We acknowledged and thanked Josie Daley for her contribution to the KTA committee as she made her decision to step down as treasurer and we welcomed Jon Blake to the team taking on this new role. Here is the current committee team:

**Cordelia Walsh – Chairman**  
**Krista Dixon – Secretary**  
**Jon Blake - Treasurer**  
**Paul Hartness - Trustee**  
**Lucy Harris - Publicity Officer**  
**Victoria Burns – Webmaster**  
**Fundraiser - Vacant**  
**Dance Coordinator - Vacant**



After the meeting, Mayor Emma Marcus made a speech and we sang the national anthem. This was followed by a toast and the cutting of the annual KTA cakes. Cordelia Walsh was MC for the event and as we can all agree, she did a fantastic job, getting everyone involved and entertaining the audience throughout the day! As always, the dancing was fantastic and it was evident that the dancers had put a lot of time and effort into practising for the occasion. A mixture of all ages and some beautiful acoustic songs sung too. Thank you to the dancers for all of the hard work they put in throughout the year!



In between an afternoon of dancing we enjoyed an incredible feast. We are extremely lucky to have some very generous members of the KTA, who kindly gave their time to prepare and cook the food. As always, it was delicious! Tea and cake was served and some organised games were played with some great prizes on offer. Musical chairs and the raffle being a couple of highlights.

Sunday morning, the campers packed up and made their journeys back home. Once again, a wonderful celebration and a huge success. A location we hope to visit again in the future! Thank you to all involved in the planning of the event and the extra touches to make it a special one!

Words by Lucy Harris.



# BRITISH NUCLEAR TESTING ASSOCIATION

We were very kindly invited to join members and guests of the British Nuclear Testing Veteran's Association (BNTVA) at their annual conference near Chester in May 2019.

The BNTVA are an organisation that campaigns for recognition and restitution of the servicemen who participated in British Nuclear Tests. It's an organisation made up of not only the servicemen, but their descendants, that continue to fight for recognition.

Krista and Cordelia were lucky enough to hear from the veteran's directly about their time on Kirimati island and were happy to listen to their experiences throughout. Cordelia was asked to give a short talk on the Kiribati community in the UK - as many of the veteran's had no idea about the culture of the place that they were living in! They heard from speakers from Texas, Australia and France and met several people from all across the globe who had been affected by nuclear testing.



In the evening, the girls surprised the veteran's with a performance! It was very well received by all, and the day wrapped up with dinner and a dance. We were very pleased to welcome several members of the BNTVA to the Independence Celebration in Great Dunmow and we have been invited back to their conference in May 2020. If you'd like any more information about the BNTVA or would like to get involved, visit [www.bntva.com](http://www.bntva.com)



## FROM WHERE WAS KIRIBATI SETTLED, AND WHEN?

As part of the research for my forthcoming book 'A History of Kiribati: From the Earliest Times to the 40th Anniversary of the Republic' I have been delving into the literature of the origins of the Tungaru people, and how they came to settle in the Gilbert Islands archipelago and on Banaba. Assessments as to when, and by whom, Tungaru was first settled have been variously based on: oral histories; physical anthropology; sailing capabilities; linguistics; genetic analysis; and archaeological discoveries - roughly in that order. Dates assigned to the first settlement of Tungaru have also varied widely, from as early as 5,000 BCE to as late as 1,300 CE. This brief article summarises how my perceptions from the 1970s have been completely overturned and now differ completely from those which were current when I first went to Kiribati, nearly 50 years ago.

Largely inspired by the oral accounts collected (and interpreted) by Grimble, it was then still thought that the first inhabitants were Melanesians who had migrated eastwards across the Caroline Islands and Marshalls: 'a small black skinned, large eared, flat-nosed race much addicted to magic ... whose system of descent was matrilineal'. They were invaded by [male] newcomers 'of great stature, red-skinned (i.e. light brown) with bushy hair standing high on the head and curled at the ends'. These invaders, according to Grimble, mainly passed through the Gilberts on their way from Indonesia to Samoa, and became ancestors to the Polynesians.

The current view of researchers is now, however, that the I Kiribati mostly descend from an Austronesian horticultural population originating in Taiwan.

After inventing advanced double-hulled sailing technologies (proas), they entered the Western Pacific after 3000 BCE. Analysis of ancient DNA in 2016 has shown that the ancestors of the I Kiribati reached as far as northern Vanuatu without much genetic variation (described as 'straight out of Taiwan and perhaps the northern Philippines') and only thereafter - and there - mixed with newly arriving, mostly male, Melanesians, who had acquired their sailing technologies.

Voyagers set out northwestwards from Vanuatu perhaps 1,000 years later, along the 'safe bearing for exploration' (i.e. sailing against the wind on the outward voyage), and using a variety of techniques for detection of land out of sight, were the most likely to have discovered Tungaru - either directly, or, some think, via Kosrea and the Marshalls. The earliest archaeological remains yet to be found (on Nukunau) have been dated from to about 2,000 years ago. This is consistent with geological researches which conclude that the atolls had only emerged as dry land a few hundred years before; and also with the linguistic evidence for emergence of I Kiribati as a distinct Micronesian language at the same time. Other than pandanus, it is also likely that they had to bring nearly all their food crops (including coconuts) with them - so the present landscape on the atolls is largely a There were later contacts with both Polynesians to the south and other Micronesians to the north, and of course internal civil wars and migration. These led to the largely homogenous Tungaru population encountered by visiting Europeans from the 18th century onwards.

**Words by Michael Walsh**

## NORTH SEA DIP 2020

North Sea Dip 2020, as always, for the special children

**Mark Overbeeke is a member of the Kiribati Tungaru Association and has been fundraising for the Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs through his own initiatives like the North Sea Dip and through sales from the shop he runs at the KTA Annual Get Together. Mark shared this year's experience of the North Sea Dip which aims to raise £500 to support children with special needs on the island of South Tarawa. It is a pleasure to support Mark in his fundraising endeavors and we look forward to seeing him again at future Get Togethers.**

Our friends Friedel and Jenn revived the North Sea Dip this year with unbridled enthusiasm. Being Canadian they're not afraid of the cold. Unlike me. I could happily dip into Abemama lagoon every day of the year, but I wouldn't get many sponsors that way. So on 1 March the North Sea it was and I can assure you it was cold.

Two brave children, Beckett and Luke, and seven adults went in. I was happily wearing my special t-shirt designed for me by Linda Uan with the Kiribati flag and the text Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs. With the cold wind blowing very hard (wind force 8 and a very numbing windchill factor) each swimmer had a designated assistant to make sure our clothes wouldn't blow away. Imagine if they had...



After our respective hot showers we had a lovely botaki. Money flowed in at GoFundMe as well as cash from our family, friends and supporters who were present and who all donated generously. By the end of the day we had more than 1150 Euros in the kitty and more is still coming in.

There are two nice things about the freezing dip. First, the hot shower afterwards and second but most important: funds for the School and happy children.

Mark Overbeeke  
Secretary Netherlands Kiribati Friendship Association

## BRITISH MUSEUM STORYTELLING SESSION

In February 2020, the KTA were invited to host a storytelling session for Early Morning Explorers at the British Museum. Early Morning Explorers provides an opportunity for young people with special needs who would otherwise find public events too loud or overwhelming to access the British museum before opening hours, and explore the exhibits as well as take part in arts and crafts and storytelling sessions.



KTA member Terema Wainwright led the session along with the help from dancers Dottie Skrzypek and Sophia Dixon. The event took place from 8am – 10am and it was so lovely to be able to share some Kiribati folktales with the families and encourage the young people to join in with the dancing. We had some lovely feedback from the British museum and the families, please see a comment from a parent below:

*"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for running this event. The story telling and dance session was particularly good. Usually our son will walk straight out of that kind of thing so it was amazing to see him happy and joining in. It was so thoughtfully done. Thank you!"*

As part of the performance we encouraged families to find out more about our country and culture through the Kiribati exhibit which has been on display in the museum since August 2017. We are delighted that the exhibit still has a place in the British Museum and we hope to continue working with them on similar events in the future.



## DANCE FILM IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

During the production of the display in the British museum we were asked to choose and contribute artefacts that would portray the Kiribati cultures and traditions. One of these is a film, directed and produced by KTA committee member Victoria Burns with a dance performance by KTA members Chloe and Barrie Karea. Chloe shares the lyrics and meaning of the dance:

Song Title : "Ana Kanenei te Raaka O"

### Lyrics from the first verse:

"Ana kanenei te Raaka O,  
laonni waana te waa nni kaborerei,  
Bwa e nang kakioi taianni man ake ietan Tarawa"

### Meaning of the First verse:

Setting the scene, the verse describes the Spirit called "Te Raaka" on his journey on his outrigger "te waa" and is tracking the birds "taianni man" that are gathering north of Tarawa "ietan Tarawa" and goes towards them as the birds indicate where the fish are.



### Meaning of the Song:

The dance movements show how the spirit te "Raaka" creeps forward very slowly towards the flock of birds so that it doesn't disturb the water too much as it will scare the fish away. The dancers will extend their arms out wide with a little kink to mimic a flying bird.

The site where the birds are hovering over indicate where the life or fish is [this is still common knowledge for fishermen] and the dancers will move to demonstrate how the Spirit casts his rod and the Spirit finally catching the tuna "te ati" and bringing it onto his outrigger "e toka".

Most of the traditional and older songs will start slow at the first verse and gradually the tempo increases as the song goes on to create the unique atmosphere experienced only in life performances.

It is a beautiful song and dance performance. If you haven't had a chance to visit the Kiribati exhibit then we encourage you venture to take a look during your next visit to London! Follow the sound of Kiribati ladies singing (Rottee, Tooti and Maritita) and you will find yourself witnessing the beautiful dance performance to "Ana Kanenei te Raaka O."



# GET TOGETHER 2021 DETAILS

We are thrilled to announce the details for this years Annual Get Together! We have use of the whole facility including playing fields and a playground. This is a fantastic venue with on site camping around the perimeter of the field.

## CAMPING DATES

Thursday 22nd July (Midday) - Sunday 25th July (Midday)

## DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday 24th July  
(Village Hall doors open 11am - 8pm)

## VENUE ADDRESS

Chedworth Village Hall  
Chedworth  
Cheltenham  
GL54 4NE

## ALTERNATIVE ACCOMODATION

Baldwin House Bed & Breakfast (5 min walk from the Village Hall)

The Inn at Fossebridge (4 min drive from the village Hall)

Old Post Office Holiday Cottage (8 min walk from the village hall)

## TRAVEL

Kemble Train station  
(approx 20 min drive to the venue)

We reccomend coming by car if possible as this is the easiest and quickest way to get to the venue.



## TICKET PRICES

The following ticket prices are on trial for this year, we have decided to create a one ticket price for camping and the day to limit contamination and exchanging cash multiple times. We hope that they can remain at this price moving forward however this is something we will have to assess after the event.

Due to the reduced ticket prices we are unable to subsidise tickets for dancers this year. As mentioned we will review this after the event.

### WEEKEND TICKETS (Including camping)

ADULTS: £25

AGED 12-17: £15

11 AND UNDER: FREE

### DAY TICKETS

ADULTS: £10

AGED 12-17: £7

11 AND UNDER: FREE



# GET TOGETHER 2021 REMINDERS

## COVID19 SAFETY

By the 24th July we are hoping that things will be a lot more normal however, to ensure everyone attending feels safe, we would like to encourage everyone to do a lateral flow test before arriving to the venue.

You can order your lateral test free at: [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

**Personal Protective Equipment** - We would like to remind attendees to bring and wear face masks whilst indoors and to make use of hand sanitization stations that will be provided at the venue.

**Be Mindful of Others** - Though it is in our nature to come together and share please be mindful of Covid and everyone around you. Try to avoid sharing cutlery and cups whilst camping and try to avoid sharing dancing gear during the performance.

We want to try and make this weekend as fun as we can whilst also remaining safe so please remember...

**WASH HANDS, COVER FACE, MAKE SPACE.**



## SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday 28th July -

31st July 2022

for next years Get Together weekend!



## THE GREAT K T A BAKE OFF

For this years Get Together we are holding a BAKE OFF for afternoon Tea!

All ages are welcome to take part, all you have to do is bring along or donate a cake. The 'Bake-Off' winner will be announced on Saturday 24th July.

Please include a small note of ingredients included (such as nuts) for anyone who might suffer with allergies.

## RAFFLE PRIZES

As always we will do an annual raffle! Any raffle prize donation, for all ages would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



# ELECTION PROCESS

In accordance with our constitution, the election process for the Executive Committee will take place during the AGM on Saturday. Nomination papers will be circulated with the agenda and there will be a brief pause in proceedings in order for members to cast their vote.

The votes will shortly be counted thereafter and the newly elected Committee Members will be announced. The procedure will be explained once more at the AGM and we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

The vacant positions within the committee are as follows:

**CHAIRMAN**

**DANCE COORDINATOR**

**FUNDRAISER**

## **CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Cordelia Walsh - Chairman  
Krista Dixon - Secretary  
Jon Blake - Treasurer  
Paul Hartness - Trustee  
Lucy Harris - Publicity Officer  
Victoria Burns - Webmaster