

# DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 2/2013

## Dear BOTSFA members!

**A**s Botswana starts to cool off from the summer heat, Sweden is gladly welcoming the statements being made by spring. It's harvest time in Botswana and, in Sweden; the soil is being loosened for the new plant life in many gardens.

Membership is the lifeblood of any organisation or association. Attracting and retaining members has been very challenging for BOTSFA but, of late, the Association is seeing an increasing interest in member participation in its organised events. Members and friends of Botswana have patronised the informal-get-togethers and Dumela Newsletter and the website [www.botsfa.nu](http://www.botsfa.nu) continue to play the advertising role for the Association. We, however, know that the best method of advertising and recruitment is still the word of mouth. So please, bring members of your family and friends along to BOTSFA's activities. Encourage them to join the Association!

This issue of Dumela Newsletter features an article by Ulf Nermark on the development of photography skills for hearing impaired children »Seeing



**The winner of Photo Competition 2012:  
1st prize Kristin Land (Andreasson)**

the click – Botswana children with hearing disabilities use the camera«. The issue also presents the results of the BOTSFA 2012 photo competition and presents the theme for 2013: »Beautiful Botswana«. The issue also provides information on the plans, as part of the 2013 independence celebrations, for a get-together of BOTSFA members and Friends of Botswana in Lyrestad, along Göta Kanal.

Happy Midsummer!

Julia Majaha-Järtby  
BOTSFA  
Chairperson



### REMINDER

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2013

To assist the Association in maintaining a current record of membership, please pay as soon as possible! Don't forget to write your name(s) on the payment.

Individual: SEK 175 • Family: SEK 300  
(incl. children up to 15 years of age)  
• Student: SEK 100  
• Institution: SEK 500

Plusgiro 85 10 39-8, or  
Bankgiro 428-6472

For an update of records, please send an e-mail to [AndersHj@botsfa.nu](mailto:AndersHj@botsfa.nu) with the name(s) and contact details of the renewal or payment for new membership.

visit us on [www.botsfa.nu](http://www.botsfa.nu)

# Seeing the click – Botswana children with hearing disabilities use the camera



TEXT **Ulf Nermark**

PHOTO **The students**

TRANSLATION FROM SWEDISH **Ulla Odqvist**

**A successful workshop in photography was organised for a group of deaf school children in Botswana.**

## **A GROUP OF DEAF SCHOOL CHILDREN**

in Botswana was for the first time able to work with photography in a workshop. The motto was »less teaching and more fun«. The students took photos of a lot of various objects; small things on the ground, pictures of each other, including snakes – which people are generally afraid of in Botswana. Adding to this, they worked with a project about their own day-to-day living at the boarding school, with old fashioned film rolls in the camera.

I have, during several years, taught photography to youngsters in Botswana. In 2012 I presented an idea to the Botswana Society for the Deaf about photo workshops for deaf young people. We agreed on the project implementation that fitted with the school term, and to the profile of a sponsor of the project. Thus, it became a project with 12 children 9–12 years of age. This workshop was kindly sponsored by Mascom in collaboration with the Botswana Society for the Arts.

The children attended one of Botswana's two primary schools for deaf students. The boarding school is located in Ramotswa, a village half an hour's drive south of the capital Gaborone. The teaching in the schools is totally based on sign language. The children come from all parts of Botswana and the costs are covered by different government authorities, and through donations from banks and other companies.

It was exciting and challenging as all teaching and

instructions must be given using sign language. Two interpreters from the Society for the Deaf helped with the communications. Two students from my previous workshops also assisted. It was a challenge because the children were much younger, and we had only six sessions to work with the cameras instead of twelve in other workshops that I had led. None of the children owned a camera and neither had they ever used one. The children had to share the 4 digital Single Lens Reflex cameras that we had. All went very well as they got along very well. They were very enthusiastic, eager to learn and very cooperative. Their faces were shining with happiness when they walked around with the cameras around their necks.

In the beginning the cameras were put on automatic for the children not to feel that it was too complicated to press the button. The activities covered among other things: the light, daily odd small things, portraits, movements, fashion and pictures of nature. Following each activity we projected the images on the wall for everybody to share the results, not only the good ones but also the pictures less good. In this way the students could try to produce better results at the next trial.

The students got another task with simple plastic cameras loaded with a film roll, for which they had to take responsibility during three days. The task was to take pictures each day to document the daily lives at the boarding school. They were to take the pictures themselves and they should each, and as a group, try



to find different objects to photograph. This proved a bit difficult as other students at the school also wanted to try the cameras. The quality of the plastic cameras was not the best, but in its totality it was a successful task. Everybody handed in the film and we could choose five pictures from each student.

To finalise the project, we visited the Mokolodi Game Reserve – travelling in safari vehicles through the African bush. Even though the temperature reached +35°C, the students didn't complain at all. They were real wildlife photographers! Pictures were taken of baboons, waterbucks, impalas and hippos. It became even more exciting in the reptile park where the students got the opportunities to not only take close-up pictures but to also pat newly born turtles and a young python.

The result was presented and shown at the children's Christmas party at school. I chose a total of 90 photos from the digital cameras. I decided to do the same treatment to the students' images as most commercial photographers: adjusting the light and cropping some of the pictures. The results from the plastic cameras were presented as ordinary photos on A3-sized papers with the student's name below the picture. I was very pleased with the results. The photos were shown in the new auditorium/assembly hall. Both the staff and the sponsors found it almost unbelievable that these students had proven to take such nice photos after only a short workshop.



**BOTSFA's Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on March 16 provided many members with their first opportunity to be in scenic Sigtuna in an historic old house, Sockenstugan, which is managed by Sigtuna Hembygdsförening. The AGM drew 50 participants, including families of the staff of the Embassy of Botswana. Due to limited space in Sockenstugan, some members may have been deprived of the opportunity to attend. This clearly reflected a high level of interest in the activities of the Association as, in the recent years, AGMs have attracted not more than 25–35 participants. The participants were treated to a surrealistic film set in the Okavango, »The River used to be a Man«, and a delicious homemade dinner and lots of mingle among old and new members. A wonderful afternoon for which we all heartfully thank Julia and Per for the efforts, work and time they are giving to BOTSFA, never failing enthusiasm.

*Birgitta Lundgren-Lindquist*

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# FRIENDS OF BOTSWANA GET-TOGETHER September 28–29, 2013

BOTSFA, in collaboration with the Embassy of Botswana, is organising a get-together for »Friends of Botswana« on 28–29 September 2013. This will be away from Stockholm and the dates coincide with the Botswana Independence weekend.

The organisers have made contacts with Hotel Norrqvarn in Lyrestad ([www.norrqvarn.se](http://www.norrqvarn.se)). Norrqvarn offers hotel, hostel and »vandrarhem« accommodations in a beautiful setting by Göta Canal. It is possible to reach the place by train to Töreboda station, approximately 10 km from Lyrestad.

In addition to meeting old and new friends, we are working on a program that will include entertainment, possibly by artists from Botswana (music and dance). There will, of course, also be information updates on Botswana and other activities.

If you have not received an invitation by e-mail and would like more information, please contact BOTSFA at [info@botsfa.nu](mailto:info@botsfa.nu).

## PHOTO COMPETITION 2012

Per Järtby announced the winners at the AGM in Sigtuna.

- 1st prize Kristin Land (Andreasson)
- 2nd prize Lillie Marlén Lock
- 3rd prize Roger Bergström.

Per also presented the winners with certificates and small prizes.

## IT IS TIME FOR THE ANNUAL BOTSFA PHOTO COMPETITION

You are invited to submit 1–3 photos.

The theme for the 2013 competition is »Beautiful BOTSWANA«.

Rules:

- The picture(s) should have been taken by the member
- Prints, slides, scanned or digital images
- Closing date is 30 November 2013
- All entries may be printed in Dumela or shown on BOTSFA's web site

Images may be sent electronically to [per@jartby.com](mailto:per@jartby.com)

or by mail to: Per Järtby, Olof Skötkonungs väg 25, 193 32 Sigtuna, Sweden.

The pictures will be anonymously judged by a jury to be constituted.

**GOOD LUCK!**

**BOTSFA  
Photo  
Competition**



## Glimpses from BOTSFA's AGM



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Information, articles etc. to be included in DUMELA should be sent to the publisher's address.  
Membership fees: Individual: SEK 175, Family SEK: 300, Student: SEK 100, Institution: SEK 500  
Plusgiro Account: 851039-8 Bankgiro Account: 428-6472