



Alton Climate Action Network

**FOOD EVERY DAY!**  
Together we can  
(Patrick Kamzitu)



## THE GUMBI ALTON PERMACULTURE PROJECT (GAPP)

### “Thank you” newsletter to donors - February 2025

*None of this would be possible without your support*

#### The aims of the GAPP plan for 2025 are:

- To finish the development of the infrastructure on the GAPP demonstration farm – (especially the training kitchen, with solar-powered cookers, fridge and freezer, to be installed in May)
- To launch the GAPP demonstration farm as a training centre for local farmers
- To support more Gumbi farmers to use permaculture methods in their homestead gardens

*“We want to live a productive rather than a consumptive life.”* Luwayo Biswick, Founder Director, Permaculture Paradise Institute

#### GAPP has a strong project team in Malawi:

**Patrick Kamzitu**, Gumbi Education Fund Co-ordinator

**Chrispin Sunduza**, Project Manager

**Martin Thole**, Lead Farmer

**James Gomani**, Financial Monitoring and Mentoring



James Gomani



Martin Thole on his homestead farm

Patrick Kamzitu on the right, Chrispin Sunduza on the left, with Brave Kasambala, a solar technician, in the centre. Brave had been visiting the farm to conduct an assessment for the solar-powered training kitchen.

*“The progress on the farm is excellent. The land has been cleared again, and we started planting new crops on Monday. GAPP will be a triumph!”* Chrispin Sunduza, GAPP Project Manager



More tools and seeds have been purchased to ensure that the GAPP farm is producing a wide range of crops when it opens as a training centre later this year.



A permaculture homestead garden in Gumbi

In March, to improve security, the entire farm will be fenced and a gate and welcome signs installed.

### “Training the trainers”

In April or May, a group of five young farmers and the GAPP project manager will return to the Permaculture Paradise Institute in Malawi, where they were previously trained, for a “Training the Trainers course” lasting seven days, which will include cooking the wide range of crops produced on a permaculture farm. The farmers will come away with course materials to enable GAPP to open as a training centre in July or August.

*Photo right: Luwayo Biswick, Founder Director of the Permaculture Paradise Institute*



The project team are planning to trial “CookIt” low-tech solar cookers, a well-proven inexpensive solar technology. Solar slow-cookers.

The annual rains have yet again arrived very late. The training kitchen will have rainwater harvesting and last year a large pond and storage tank were installed. But water supply is still a problem.

**ACAN’s next major fundraising target is £5,000 for a mechanically-dug borehole on the farm and £2,000 for associated piping and plumbing, including to the 4 rondavels for accommodation.**

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18131#!/DonationDetails>

*“We have proper financial management systems here for GAPP, and are keeping careful financial records. The team is sharing these responsibilities and would like to assure ACAN donors that every penny sent is accounted for.” James Gomani, GAPP financial monitoring*

**See next page for Gumbi’s tree-planting extravaganza!**

In January 2025, ACAN bought 3,000 tree seedlings (1,000 were fruit trees) from the permaculture farmers who had grown them. They have been donated to the community, who have planted them for fruit and to capture carbon. Many more trees have also been planted on the GAPP farm.

To increase the survival rate of the trees planted, Chrispin Sunduza will monitor their health regularly with the community.



**A message from Martin Thole, who grew a very large number of tree seedlings:** Today together with my fellow young farmers we planted different trees in all community libraries including Gumbi & Mphako community Libraries. In addition, we have also distributed seedlings, mostly fruit trees, to some other farmers for them to plant at home! I was with my fellow young farmers their names are: Precious Chiphanzi , Samuel Martin, Gezina , Chimphonda Eveless, George and Milic Harold.”