



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

This quarter's Newsletter is a little late, for which I apologise. The reason is that we have been awaiting the Zambian children's return to school, in order to take photos that will allow us to report fully on the Manaca Project, mentioned in previous editions.

Fast approaching is the inaugural **Walk4Hope** to be held on 13th June in some of the wonderful countryside surrounding Plymouth. This is a sponsored awareness event, organised by Roborough Rotary Club and involving a local School, Hyde Park Infants.

The final section of the Newsletter highlights some of the support we are getting from around the country, this time featuring Inner Wheel Clubs.

Looking forward, Helen West, next year's President of Roborough Rotary Club will be doing a SkyDive for us on 21st June and we're pleased to report that Penryn School will be adopting us as their charity for next year. More about these in future newsletters.

We try to feature those who have supported us in the Newsletter but we can only do this if we have both photos and a description of a fundraising event.

If we do miss featuring your fundraising event, do please let us know and we will include you in a future edition, providing we

have the relevant text and photos to do so!! We always welcome any anecdote and photos of your fundraising efforts as it allows us to publish 'fresh news' whilst giving you, the donor, a public thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

If you have not seen it, please go on-line and view our new 'School video'. This is being very well received by UK schools as both a teaching aid and an information film; very useful as schools look to educate their children on Africa. It is used by Clubs, not only to link with schools to offer their service programmes but also as an information film in its own right.

The feedback we receive from Zambia is warm, full of gratitude and makes us feel very humble. I hope you feel this as you read our Newsletter, but we can only do what we do with your help. Thank you for this and your continuing support as we work hard to reach our target of 1000 Literacy Boxes a year

Ian Parker, Chairman

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MANACA PROJECT

Manaca School is a community school on the outskirts of Lusaka. It was started by its dedicated principal and founder who provided the chicken house on her property to help educate local children.

In spite of its humble beginnings the school has grown to cater for around 400 local children who come from up to 5km away to receive lessons in all of the standard school subjects. The school offers a very high standard of education with almost all students passing their exams to go on to secondary school.

A refurbishment programme, funded and overseen by our logistics partner, Operation Sunshine, enabled us to undertake a project to fully provide the now secure school with basic school materials and local curriculum text books.

You may recall from our January newsletter that, as a result of the generous donations by supporters of the project, we were able to send 16 Literacy Boxes on the December Operation Sunshine Container. At that time the intention was to also provide the School with £3,000 of local curriculum text books.

However, following discussions with Grace Lutanda, who handles the distribution of our Boxes and text books to schools in and around Lusaka, it was agreed that £2,200 would be sufficient to adequately supply the School. We therefore put £295 towards an additional Literacy Box, which will be sent on our next container, with the remaining £505 being carried forward to our next project. This is already being planned and there will be more about it in our next Newsletter.

To facilitate the adjustment we have agreed with our sponsor, Roborough Rotary Club, that, instead of using the whole of the £1,500 donated by themselves and their Rotary District 1290 for text books, only £700 will be used for text books with £295 providing the additional box and £505 being carried forward to our next project.

We're please to be able to report that both text books



and Literacy Boxes



have arrived safely.

The images from Manaca are not that clear in the Newsletter but they can all be viewed on our website gallery.

<http://www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk/gallery/index.php/Manaca-Project---May-2015>

The third image on the previous page features four of the six boxes provided by Baldock Rotary Club and Rotary District 1260. The first image on this page features the three boxes funded by GAGA (Goodwill and Growth for Africa).

In addition to photos, we also received thanks from Rosemary, the headmistress of the school. A few extracts, interspersed with a few more photos are reproduced below.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude for the 16 literacy boxes which you sent to Manaca Community School recently.

When Madam Grace phoned me to go and meet her at the clearing house to pick up the boxes, I could not believe it that all those boxes were coming to our school. I was really amazed. I thanked God in my heart and prayed that our God Almighty should bless you so that you may continue with the lovely work you are doing.

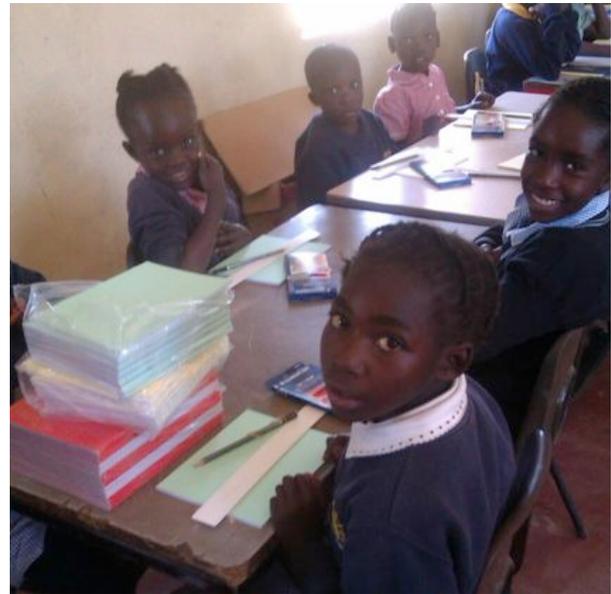


The Literacy Boxes are a great blessing to Manaca Community School. The school bags have made the school children look decent. Even the new comers will still benefit from the same consignment.

Previously, the majority used to carry their books either in their hands or in a plastic bag, which made them look very vulnerable.

When the grade ones reported to school for the first time, they were all given a bag for their books.

The exercise books also made the learners very excited. This time, no learners will sit without writing when an exercise book is full as the books will readily available for distribution. Previously, whenever a child did not have either a pencil or pen, they would either just sit or ask from others.



This time, such a thing is gone as there are a lot of pens and pencils to cater for everybody. Each and every learner has a ruler, rubber and sharpener. They will be able to draw straight lines and their drawings and handwriting will be neater.



The school will even introduce basketball as the balls for this game have been sent to us.



Grace Lutanda also e-mailed her thanks to our Treasurer Geoff Lucock.

Our school is so beautiful now. As you can see in the attached photos we got the text books from Longmans



and this has brought such a big

transformation to our school. The posters on the wall are from your daughter's school.



The classroom with the posters on the wall is the class that Andrea taught the children in when you visited Manaca in 2013.



We are very very grateful for everything.. Please pass our heartfelt gratitude to the Literacy Box team.

And finally Lyn Callendar, who runs our logistics partner Operation Sunshine, and is currently visiting Zambia, sent back her own e-mail message from Manaca as part of her ongoing reports to us.

Monday morning I woke late again and only just in time to make it to a meeting with Grace. We went out to Manaca, completely unannounced, I did not want any fuss etc. The school looks so good and the children seem to be influenced by their surroundings. They all were wearing various uniforms and sitting up straight. I asked them if we were going to have a party to

open the school. Yes, but they still are shy and when I asked if there was anything they would like they said "Anything" - I then suggested cabbage and carrots and their little faces were so crestfallen. I then asked them about cake and I don't think I have ever seen hands go up into the air so quickly. I then asked about sandwiches and it was unanimously agreed that they should have jam in the middle. There was a lot of discussion about the jam sandwiches and I asked Rosemary (headmistress) what was causing the discussion. It seems not many children had actually tasted jam.

The Manaca Project is not yet quite finished. In addition to the extra Literacy Box due to go out on our next shipment we also received an additional donation from Medway Sunlight Rotary Club which enabled us to send a further 4 boxes as part of our April shipment. The additional 5 boxes will ensure that next year's intake is as well provided for as those currently at the school.



The donations for the additional 4 boxes provided by Medway Sunlight Rotary Club come from money raised in memory of Clive Lawrence who sadly passed away last year.

The 4 boxes are additional to the 8 boxes and £1200 of text books already provided to the school by the Medway Sunlight Rotary Club, Medway Rotary Club and their Rotary District. We are very grateful for their generous support of this project.

WALK4HOPE

Just over a year ago, in January 2014, the children from Hyde Park Infant School raised money for us, packed a box, and signed their names on the box. You may remember the photos that we received from Pearl Education Zone, some of which were used in our October 2014 newsletter.



Just click on the image above to see the full album on our website gallery.



The children of Hyde Park Infant School are now supporting us again with a sponsored Walk4Hope.

On 13th June they will enact a Zambian child's walk to and from school using a selected nature trail at Buckland Abbey. Buckland Abbey was the home of Sir Francis Drake for 15 years and is now owned by the National Trust. We are very grateful to the National Trust for letting us use it.

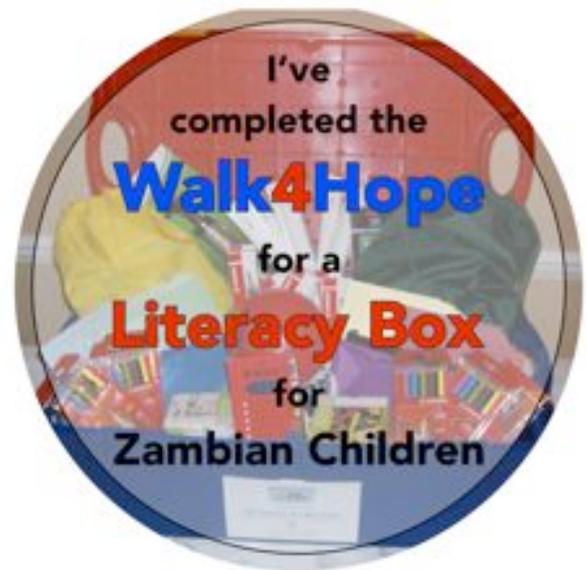
At the halfway point the children will stop in the Great Barn, have a taste of 'maize porridge' the staple diet of Zambian children, and partake in workshops to enhance their Zambian experience.



They will then complete their walk, finishing around lunchtime.

The total distance covered will be 2 miles, still significantly less than many of the children at the schools we support have to do every school-day, but enough to give them a small insight into what life is like for the Sub-Saharan African children they will be fundraising for.

At the end of the walk each of the children will receive a sticker.



If you would like to support these children you can do so either individually or collectively via the Virgin Money Giving Event we have set up. Just click on the badge above.

If you would like to run a similar event to raise money for Zambian children and give children in this country a flavour for what their life would be like in Sub-Saharan Africa then please contact the Trust for an information pack.

Finally a big thank you to our sponsor Roborough Rotary Club who have worked with us to organize this event.

INNER WHEEL SUPPORT

Our support from Inner Wheel Clubs continues to grow.

In the year ending March 2015 we received donations totalling £6,192, our largest yearly amount by a considerable margin.

With a membership which includes many teachers, ex teachers (and mothers of teachers!) amongst their ranks we find that our work resonates with Inner Wheel views on the value of education as a key to empowering communities. We are grateful to be able to explain our work to such a receptive audience

It's particularly pleasing when Clubs recognize our need for regular donations to ensure continuity of supply to the schools we support. Thanks you to those Inner Wheel Clubs who are providing us with ongoing support. You know who you are!

Below is from our visit to Maidstone Club's International tea where we also had the opportunity to talk to ladies from a number of other Clubs in District 24. Thank you to Jennifer Jeffery, International Chair (pictured with Phil Chesters, our Newsletter, website and Facebook Editor) for choosing us as her charity for this year and for organising the event.



The second photo shows members of Alfreston Inner wheel (pictured with

Chairman Ian Parker and Purchaser and Treasurer Geoff Lucock) presenting us with a cheque at this year's Inner Wheel Conference.



FACEBOOK ROUNDUP

Do have a look at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/literacyinbox for more news and photos including a few more photos of our travel round the country visiting Inner Wheel Clubs. You don't need to be a Facebook user to see our content.

You can also now access all of our Facebook postings very easily from our website News Events page www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk/news.html

If you're not already a Facebook fan then please become one and if you're not a Facebook user just bookmark our page www.facebook.com/literacyinbox and make regular returns.

THE LAST WORDS

You've seen three of our Trustees in the photos on this page. As we've taken on two new trustees during the last year we thought it would be a good idea to introduce ourselves to you more fully in the next Newsletter which will be issued in around 3 months time.

In the meantime thanks for your continuing support and enjoy the summer.