



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

Welcome to our second Newsletter. If feedback and news from our programmes are a measure of success, then the sheer volume of both that our editor had at his disposal for this edition makes me feel very warm. I hope you enjoy the feedback from our latest programmes, [School Aid 4 Zimbabwe](#) and [School Aid 4 the Philippines](#). In addition, we will explain our partnership with Operation Sunshine and its role in the success of our core programme, [School Aid 4 Zambia](#).

Although the developed world is currently gripped by recessionary conditions, these are nothing compared to the problems of AIDS and poverty that afflict the Third World. If children in sub-Saharan Africa are to have any hope for their future, they need a full education and this can only happen if they have appropriate support in schools. They need school materials - almost non-existent in most of those countries - but this comes at a cost. We work with about 15 schools in our core programme, [School Aid 4 Zambia](#) and our prime aim is continuity of school materials for these schools. In reality this means in excess of 400 [Literacy Boxes](#) are needed each year at a cost of over £110,000. Our challenge is not only to raise this amount each year for supplies, but also look to funding vital curriculum text books in those schools.

All charities are competing for people's generosity as charity donors "give" either

time or money. We are incredibly grateful for the time you have all put in to create the donations that come our way, but our primary challenge is that any fundraising done to support the Trust, is done against a backdrop of a world always beset by disasters or the harrowing experiences of famine or water shortage. In short, when considering our charitable giving, we need to balance the emotional drive to support all humans fighting to survive, with a more measured, but no less vital need, to help the disadvantaged build a future.

Through the regular supply of [Literacy Boxes](#) we are trying to do the latter and give the children we work with hope for their future - hope that through education, they can work their way out of the twin challenges of AIDS and poverty. [Please help us to give our children hope!!](#)

I hope you enjoy this edition. If you have any feedback, or feel you wish to contribute on how you have raised funds to help send [Literacy Boxes](#), do please let us know. Our contact details are at the end of this Newsletter.

CONTENTS	
OPERATION SUNSHINE	2
THE PHILIPPINES	3
ZIMBABWE	4
ZAMBIA	6
THE LAST WORDS	6

OPERATION SUNSHINE

Our first newsletter briefly introduced the link with Operation Sunshine (OS) that enabled us to get started. Our story began in 2005, when two of our Trustees, Forbes Watson and Ian Parker saw, independently, the appalling lack of educational resources in Sub-Saharan Africa. They were moved to do something to help the children who, despite being cheerful, had little hope through lack of facilities and the ever-present spectre of Aids. Back in Devon, OS suggested we send two boxes full of educational basics on their container to Zambia and our own charity grew out of that small beginning.

OS is a Christian charity operating out of Tavistock in Devon and Folkstone in Kent. Each year they send 5 or 6 40ft shipping containers filled with donated goods such as clothing, food, school furniture, educational supplies, medical supplies and food. These are sent to refugee camps, leper colonies, hospitals, orphanages, schools and remote villages throughout rural areas of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Each container costs £7,000 to £10,000 to buy and ship so OS have the dual challenge of collecting items to send and fundraising to cover the cost of transport. We are enormously grateful that OS charge us only £20 for each box we send on their containers which enables us to concentrate our resources on the box contents.

Kathy Harding started the charity in Exeter in 1980, moving to Folkstone to promote the charity in 1984. She now lives in Zambia and is the local presence for OS. This year she returned to England for the first time in 9 years to attend a ceremony at St. Andrews Church, Whitchurch to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Tavistock branch. The photo above right shows our chairman Ian Parker with Kathy at the Church ceremony. With her back to the camera looking at Kathy is Joyce Flay. Although Kathy was the



founder of Operation Sunshine Joyce was hugely supportive of the Tavistock branch from the outset.

Another landmark for OS was celebrated last August when a fundraising cream tea was held in Chillaton to mark the fantastic achievement of sending 50 containers in the last 10 years. During that time the Tavistock operation has been run by Felicity Derry-Thomas. You can see Felicity talking about the work of [Literacy in a Box](#) on the BBC Spotlight report which can be accessed under “News events” on our website www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk.

Anne Tregarthen has now taken over from Felicity as leader of the Tavistock operation and the photo below, taken at the cream tea celebration shows, from left to right, our



founder Trustee Forbes Watson, local MP Geoffrey Cox, Felicity, and Anne.

THE PHILIPPINES

The story of the 40 Philippines boxes started when Jane Walker, CEO of the Philippines Community Fund (PCF) gave a talk about her work in Manila to the Annual Conference of Rotary District 1110, a district which approximates to what 1,000 years ago, would have been termed Wessex, although it does also include the Channel Islands. The Philippines Community Fund (PCF) was already involved with three separate schools, providing education for children living on rubbish dumps and in squatter areas, and work was in progress on a new school for 1,000 pupils, a four storey building being constructed in Tondo, Manila from 74 recycled shipping containers (photo below shows the finished school).



Dennis Meadus is the Literacy Officer for the District and has been a great supporter of the **Literacy in a Box Trust**. He invited Jane to talk to his own Portsmouth and Southsea club with the result that the club agreed to set aside £1,000 to provide Literacy Boxes for the new school. Unfortunately, to provide equipment for 1,000 children we needed to send 40 boxes which, at £225 per box (see overleaf) required £9,000 in total.

However, with additional donations from the Rotary Club of Jersey (£1,000), our own Roborough Rotary Club (£600) and the agreement of the Rotary Club of Makita Neilson to make a token contribution of £60 and oversee the project, we were able to tap into various grants from the Rotary organization. We won't attempt to bore you with the complexity of the grant formula or the application process but after a few nail-biting weeks we finally received confirmation that we would have the funds

required to send the full 40 boxes on the PCF container leaving Southampton in May 2011.



On 12th August 2011 the boxes arrived at the now completed container school.



The Trust owes a huge debt of gratitude to Dennis Meadus who was the driving force behind both the donations from the Portsmouth and Southsea and Jersey clubs, and the securing of the various matching grants.

Another major contributor to the success of this enterprise was Becton Dickinson. The global medical technology company has a manufacturing facility on the Belliver Industrial Estate just outside Plymouth and they generously provided us with both warehouse facilities for storing and packing and transported the packed boxes to Southampton where they were loaded on to a PCF container for transport to Manila. Since all of the transport costs were met by Becton Dickinson and PCF we were able to reduce our usual box price of £250 to £225.



We would also like to thank Mapac of Watford Ltd., our suppliers of bacpacs, who donated 1,000 children's hats, and Sports Direct of Plymouth who donated 10 footballs, all of which were packed in our boxes sent to the Philippines.



In a recent PCF newsletter Jane's colleague Julie Tunnicliffe confirmed that "Every classroom in our new school will benefit from a box of literacy items thanks to the hard work of the Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary Club and the Literacy in a Box Trust....thank you to Dennis Meadus and Ian Parker for all your support." Dennis has confirmed that the "Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary Club is aiming to provide continuity of supply to the new school so that the children will always have the motivation of working with the materials so critical for their education."

There are lots more photos on our website where we tell a full pictorial story of the Philippines Boxes.

For more information on the work of the PCF with schools see their website <http://p-c-f.org> and in particular Jane's video <http://p-c-f.org/video-show.php?name=2>

ZIMBABWE

Our partner, Operation Sunshine, works in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania and following the Trust's successful pilot project, sending **Literacy Boxes** to Zambia in 2006, the progress of the Trust was given a boost by Bournemouth North Rotary Club. The Marjorie Gordon Fund, administered by Trustees from the Club, was set up as a bequest to help "educate African children" and in 2007 the **Literacy in a Box Trust** received £4000 which was the seed corn funding that allowed 400 Zambian children to receive school materials and the Trust to move forward.

Over 3 years later, when a stalwart of the Club, Victor Horsfall-Turner passed away we received the following two e-mails

To: Literacy in a Box Trust
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2011 2:25 PM
Subject: Operation Sunshine

Dear Literacy in a box, I am a member of Bournemouth North Rotary Club, we would like to donate a number of your educational boxes to Operation Sunshine so they can be sent to Zimbabwe. Could you let me know cost per box and any other info I would need, such as to whom cheques should be sent etc.

Best wishes

Chris Chubb, chair Int committee

To Ian Parker

Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2011 12:05 PM
Subject: ZIMBABWE APPLICATION

My name is BRYONY PICHANICK, and I was given your email by Ann Tregarthen of OPERATION SUNSHINE in Tavistock.

OS has been sending us containers for many

years for our work amongst the destitute here in Zimbabwe. Ann mentioned your educational packs sometime ago and we have long wanted to be on your list of recipients. We operate both in the city of Harare and it's surrounds amongst the most destitute who have shacks for homes and no incomes, as well as in a large part of the rural area of the country.

We reach so many school children on a regular weekly basis, and these barely afford the low school fees of \$10 per term, let alone affording the necessary stationary. Our children number in the thousands, but we would be most grateful for any assistance you can offer us. Some families are of necessity on feeding lists with us, and so assistance in school materials would be most welcome. Only the extreme cases would benefit from your assistance.

Please would you consider us for future assistance. We are DESTITUTE CARE in Harare, and NEW HOPE VILLAGES in the rural area. All materials would come to us in the OS containers. The school system here is broken down for the most part, and in the rural area they do not even have desks and chairs, but sit on bricks.

I look forward to hearing from you, and finding out more about the type of assistance you offer. We will send photos of your goods being distributed should we receive items from you.

Bryony Pichanick (Mrs) Chairperson

The donation from the Bournemouth club was made in memory of Victor but on condition that the [Literacy Boxes](#) were sent to Zimbabwe. It was for £2,500 and was matched by an additional £2,500 donation to Operation Sunshine towards the cost of sending a container to Zimbabwe. So, thanks once again to the Marjorie Gordon Fund, a container with all the usual Operation Sunshine goodies plus ten [Literacy Boxes](#) was sent to Zimbabwe in April 2011.



True to her word Bryony promptly sent us photos of the [Literacy Boxes](#) arriving in Harare



and the contents being distributed.



The full pictorial story of the Zimbabwe boxes can be seen on our website.

When we were given a further £2,500 in August from the Marjorie Gordon fund for use in "Africa" we thought long and hard about how best to use the money. However, recognizing the importance of establishing some continuity of supply to Zimbabwe we agreed with Bournemouth North Club that the money should be used to send a further ten boxes. These were loaded on the Operation Sunshine container, which left for Zimbabwe on 24th September.

We were pleased to entertain Stan Webb, International Services Chairman of Bournemouth North Rotary Club and his wife Dorothy at an evening meeting of Roborough Rotary Club, which gave Stan the opportunity to formally present our Chairman Ian Parker with the cheque.



ZAMBIA

In case you think we've forgotten about Zambia during the last 5 months we should just mention that we sent 15 boxes in May taking our running total for Zambia up to 168 boxes.

We also received some feedback from Holy Hill Community School in Msoro who received both [Literacy Boxes](#) and textbooks earlier this year.



More photos from Msoro together with thank you letters are on a photo gallery on our website www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk.

THE LAST WORDS

The Philippines and Zimbabwe boxes represented the first departure from our core programme of sending [Literacy Boxes](#) to Zambia. As you will be aware from reading our first newsletter we are only scratching the surface of the need in Zambia so as a Trust we are pledged to give continuity of support to the schools we work with under our core programme [School Aid 4 Zambia](#). However, we are more than happy to supply [Literacy Boxes](#) in return for donations and send them to the donor's preferred destination, providing that we have the logistics capability to do so. This was the case with both Zimbabwe and the Philippines. However, we are still investigating the logistics for requests to countries where we do not have transport in place. Until we have resolved this problem, we have to say that we can still send [Literacy Boxes](#) to other locations in return for donations, BUT the individual/organisation who has made the donation must take full responsibility for the process and costs of passage, importation and customs liabilities of the boxes and safe passage to their destination. That said we are happy to work to maximize the value of any donations by seeking out Rotary grants as we did with the Philippines.

We have kept our box price at £250 since the trust began in 2006. However with the continuing effects of inflation on our suppliers we have found it necessary to increase the box price to £275 for all shipments after this September.

We are gradually improving and updating our website www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk so do look at it regularly to see what's new and also for our contact details if you wish to get in touch with us or make a donations. I'm afraid we have run out of room to provide more information on our Zambia schools but look out for this is our next Newsletter which will be issued early in 2012.