



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

May I welcome you to our third Newsletter by saying that since the last Newsletter, in the Autumn of 2011, we have had so much feedback that we have taken a decision to use Facebook as a means of posting snippets of up to date information. Facebook also gives us a better network platform to spread the word on the work of the [Literacy in a Box Trust](#) and gain the financial support so essential for the continuity of supply of [Literacy Boxes](#) to the schools with which we work. Our Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/LiteracyinaBox. Please share with your friends and colleagues, especially those who use Facebook, and visit the page regularly to keep up to date with our news.

Despite the recessionary times, your generosity has helped us to send 124 [Literacy Boxes](#) in the last financial year and nearly 300 in total since 2007. If feedback and news from our [School Aid](#) programmes is one measure of success, the other is the rate at which donations are increasing - meaning we are getting nearer to our target of sending 400 [Literacy Boxes](#) each year to the schools we work with. Your ongoing support is essential if we are to continue to be able to give hope to the children who receive our [Literacy Boxes](#), so thank you for all that you are doing to help and we hope, will continue to do.

Our support base is also widening from the traditional Rotary Club to organisations that they work with in their communities. We feel very warm that Rotary Clubs are supporting us by engaging with schools, their Inner Wheel Clubs, Youth organisations such as Brownies and Guides and also their local media, as by working with all these community groups, Rotary Clubs are not only offering service programmes and the recipients gaining from them, but [Literacy Boxes](#) are the catalyst and we are gaining financial support as a consequence. The synergy emerging from this process means that everyone is a winner, not least the children that we are able to help with the donations we receive.

As promised in our last Newsletter we are finally featuring some of our Zambian Schools in this edition. I hope you enjoy this together with the rest of our recent news. If you have any feedback on it, or feel you wish to contribute on how you have raised funds to help send [Literacy Boxes](#), do please let us know.

CONTENTS	
NOV 2011 ZAMBIAN SHIPMENT	2
KACHELE VILLAGE SCHOOLS	2
CHIPEMBELE SCHOOLS	4
MORE BOXES TO ZIMBABWE	6
NEWS FROM WESSEX	6

NOV 2011 ZAMBIAN SHIPMENT

In November 2011 we sent 30 boxes to Zambia. As usual the boxes were packed at a farm just outside Tavistock, loaded onto an Operation Sunshine container, and transported to Felixstowe.

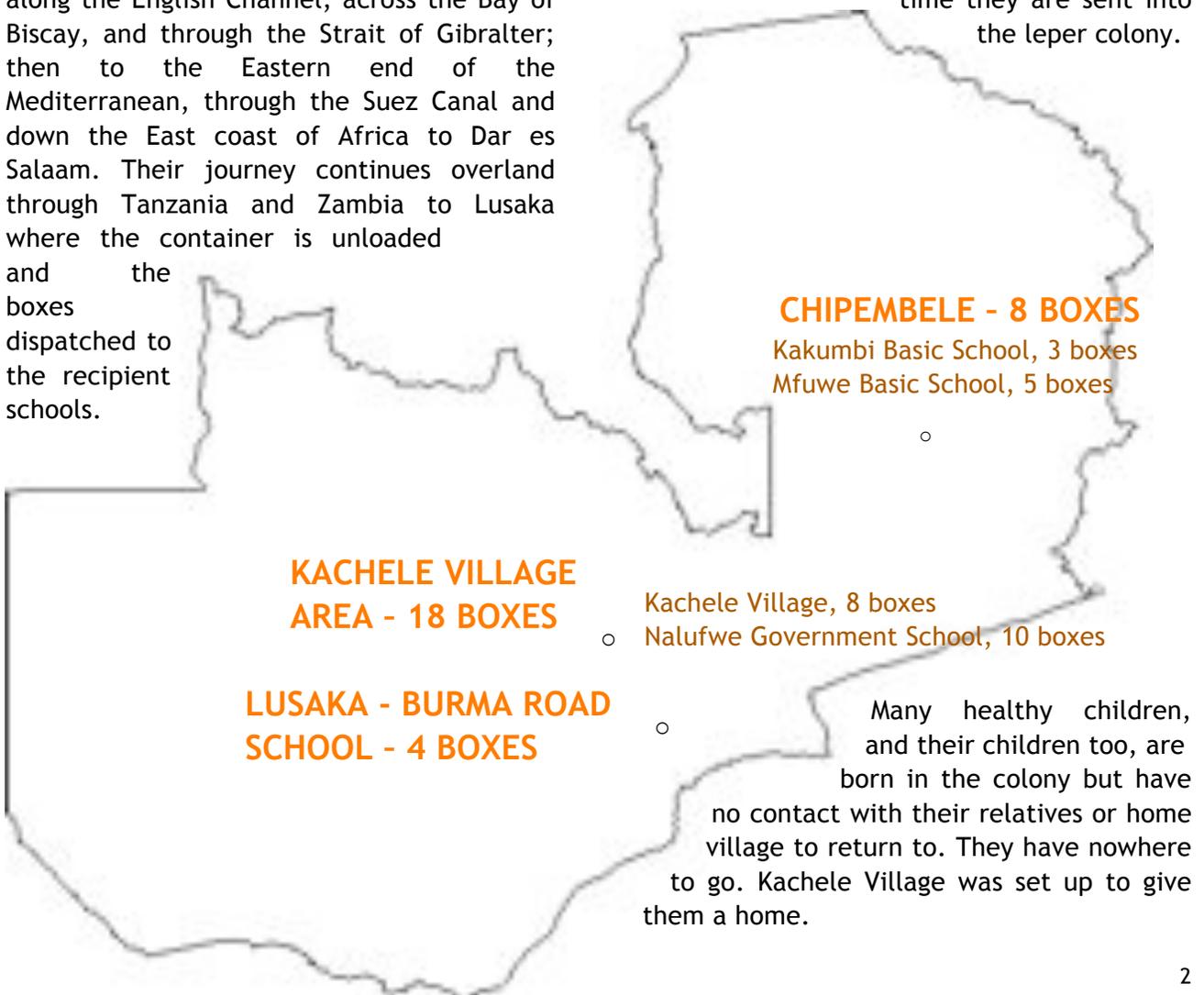


The boxes then commence their sea voyage, along the English Channel, across the Bay of Biscay, and through the Strait of Gibraltar; then to the Eastern end of the Mediterranean, through the Suez Canal and down the East coast of Africa to Dar es Salaam. Their journey continues overland through Tanzania and Zambia to Lusaka where the container is unloaded and the boxes dispatched to the recipient schools.

Once in Lusaka, 18 boxes were dispatched to Kachele Village and 8 to Chipembele. The remaining 4 went to Burma Road school in Lusaka, which has a twinning arrangement in place with St Margaret's in Royal Wootton Bassett. We were happy to oblige when Wootton Bassett Rotary club donated the money for 4 boxes to be sent to St Margaret's. There will be more about these boxes in our July newsletter. For this edition we focus on Kachele Village and Chipembele.

KACHELE VILLAGE

The Kachele Village project started over a decade ago with the aim of closing down a leper colony and integrating the leprosy victims back into society. The stigma of leprosy continues from generation to generation. Often the leper invalids lose contact with their own relatives from the time they are sent into the leper colony.



The project is a registered Zambian charity administered by Kathy Harding, the founder of Operation Sunshine, who you may remember from our October Newsletter. A school and health clinic has been established in Kachele Village, which serves the surrounding district of 10 villages or about 2000 people. The school has around 200 pupils. Until recently it only took pupils up to grade 6 (Primary level) but has recently expanded to grade 7 with further classrooms and other facilities planned in order to expand the age range further up the secondary level scale.

In December last year Kathy wrote to us “The second block of 4-classrooms has been completed and two will be ready for occupation for the new school year in January.....the other building work has been construction of the house for our headmistress, Bernadette Komoto and occupation is anticipated by July 2012.”



The photo shows Bernadette on a hot day with temperatures in the high 30s under the shade of the famous Kachele Tree.

Bernadette says “I want to start at the bottom and ensure every child is well able to read English from Grade 1. Those in higher grades who have not achieved good marks in reading will remain behind another year. Unless a child is able to read with understanding he will never succeed in life”

Kathy continues “The school - Natimwa Learning Centre - has had a successful year with tremendous progress in quality of

education under the direction of Bernadette who joined us in January 2011. We will not move up another Grade [8] in the coming year but maintain our present Pre-primary to Grade 7. Bernadette is insistent the standard of education has to be raised since the reading standard is extremely poor.”

The process of transporting boxes to the recipient schools can take a long time. It was not until 18th April that we received some unloading photos and a message from Kathy in Kachele.



“Greetings - and the good news is to tell you we have finally uplifted the [Literacy Boxes](#) for Nalufwe and Natimwa schools and these were safely deposited in Kachele Village this afternoon. It was of course disappointing we have had to wait so long for this delivery, but the rains shut us out of moving along the low-lying areas to the Village. We are now approaching winter. It is the month long school holidays - second term opens on the 8th May when we will transport from Kachele Village the [Literacy Boxes](#) for Nalufwe.”

Nalufwe is a Government Primary School with around 400 desperately poor pupils. It is a “sister” school to the Natimwa learning centre. In October last year Kathy wrote, “wonderful for Nalufwe to be receiving 10 boxes - oh, they sure need material - still the most neglected Government school in Central Province. I have been there every day this week, taking our 11 Grade 7 pupils to write their exams as this was the appointed centre for Natimwa Learning Centre.”

We will put photos of children from Kachele and Nalufwe receiving the box contents on the website or our Facebook page as soon as they are received.

CHIPEMBELE

Those of you who have had a look at our Facebook page may already know something about Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust as we have recently shared a link with them. Their strapline is “teaching Zambian children the value of wildlife” and they have a long history of providing assistance to Government schools. The Trust is run by Steve and Anna Tolan who you may remember from our first newsletter issued in April last year. Anna personally delivered the box contents to Kakumbi and Mfuwe schools. She writes “I took the boxes to Kakumbi Basic school first and all of the contents of one box were handed out to some of the Grade 1 pupils (there were 52 in the class).



They were very quiet to begin with as we handed everything out, then when it sunk in, they got very excited and by the time I was taking the pictures were almost riotous (but in a fun way!).



The Head Teacher, Mrs Sakala and class teachers were hugely appreciative. I left the remaining 2 boxes to distribute at their discretion.

I then took the boxes to Mfuwe Basic School.



Mr Sakala, the Head (no relation to Mrs Sakala) supervised the distribution of bags and pencil cases to 2 classes of Grade 1s, each with between 50 and 60 pupils.

He wanted to keep the coloured pencils and exercise books for the class teachers to use when needed for other activities which I thought was very reasonable. The footballs were greatly appreciated, as ever. My admin assistant, Eunice, a local Zambian woman, explained to the children in the local language about the special box in memory of Ellie Leadbeater and there was a very respectful silence as she did so (amongst a class of 55 highly excited 5 and 6 year olds that was quite something).”

Ellie’s Box

Ellie Leadbeater was a pupil at the former St Mary’s High School in Cleethorpes. She was a

very popular pupil at the school who tragically passed away in her sleep at the age of 16. The Treasurer of the Parents' Association happened to visit the Rotary District 1270 Stand at the Lincolnshire Show to ask about the **Literacy in a Box Trust** and subsequently we received a donation from the school via Geoff Peterson the District 1270 International Project Coordinator with the request that a box be sent to a school in Zambia in memory of Ellie. The photo below shows Ellie's box, labeled with her name, surrounded by Mfuwe pupils.



Kakumbi school

Project Luangwa www.projectluangwa.org is heavily involved with Kakumbi School and kindly let us reproduce some information about the School from its website.

“The classrooms and toilet blocks are in a poor state of repair and the whole school urgently needs refurbishment. There are 475 pupils and space is limited. There are too few desks and not enough textbooks and teachers face an uphill struggle trying to do their best for the school with very little funding. Kakumbi Basic teaches from Grade 1 to Grade 9 in just 5 classrooms. Out of the 475 enrolled pupils, 115 (2012) are orphans or classed as vulnerable.”

Many of the teachers highlight the basic lack of school supplies, which our boxes provide. Let's meet some of them and hear from them directly.....



My name is Betty Kapensa and I am 30 years old. I don't have accommodation near the school, instead I am renting a house four kilometres away. I have 65 pupils in Grade 2 and find it difficult to concentrate on the slow learners. We don't have enough learning and teaching materials, eg. books reading books, charts, paints, crayons, water colours, or story books. About half my class are orphans, either double or one parent.



My name is Anna Lubinga Chola. I am handling a class of 76 pupils; the learners cannot be divided because there is no other classroom. The pupils do not have enough textbook; they share 10 textbooks amongst 76 pupils. They have no uniform and no books because they have no parents. Since the classrooms are overcrowded the furniture we have is not enough; pupils have to sit on the floor. Children do not have enough pens, pencils, exercise and textbooks and we have no teaching aids....no electricity. We use candles to write our lesson plans for the next day.



My name is Paul Mwembe. I am 29 years old.....currently a teacher [at Kakumbi]. I joined the career with the passion of a Zambian child in the year 2005. Challenges faced in my career are teaching 72 children in one classroom, inadequate teaching and learning materials such as exercise books, wall charts, pencils and pens for the children and most of the children are orphaned.

MORE BOXES TO ZIMBABWE

In our last Newsletter we told the story of our Zimbabwe boxes which were sent following donations from Bournemouth North Rotary Club. You can see the pictorial story of these boxes on our website picture gallery and also via the link from our Facebook page. Conscious of the need to provide continuity to the schools we supply we sent a further 5 boxes in January.

Just before sending out these boxes we received an e-mail from Tony Quinn, the Chairman of another Rotary charity, World Waterworks www.worldwaterworks.org offering us 100 size 5 footballs and 150 paint brush sets. While we normally fill our boxes with materials specifically requested by the recipient schools, we are more than happy to top them up with items we know they can use - and footballs and paint brush sets are ideal.

The five boxes to Zimbabwe were the first to receive these little extras and we have also included some in the 14 boxes sent to Zambia in March this year.

NEWS FROM WESSEX

Our last Newsletter also featured the 40 boxes we sent to the Philippines and the help we had received from Dennis Meadus in the Wessex district. In this issue Dennis tells us something about himself and the work he and his District have done on our behalf.



In 2007, whilst serving as International Chairman of the Wessex District and a member of The Portsmouth & Southsea Rotary Club, I was asked if I would become the Literacy Officer for the District. This followed a request from the [Literacy in a Box Trust](#) for our District to become involved and

coincided with a substantial donation from the Bournemouth North Rotary Club. Since that time I have attended regular meetings with the Trust and the advice and guidance of the Trustees has been invaluable.

In the early days the existence of The [Literacy in a Box Trust](#) was little known about in District 1110. However, it was known that 770 million adults worldwide could not read and that in an increasingly complex world, illiteracy condemned many of them to the lowest rungs of society. Many Clubs were looking for ways to assist in this global problem. An understanding of the work of the Trust was achieved in many ways: Presentations and handouts at District Assemblies, Seminars, Council Meetings, Meetings of Groups of Clubs, talks and power point presentations to individual Clubs and not least by the much appreciated attendances at all of our District Conferences by the Chairman of the Trust with an impressive display of the work undertaken. In addition, regular articles have been published in District and Club Magazines.

The publicity resulted in a remarkable response and support from Clubs in District 1110 and I understand that by 2011 we were as a District the largest contributor. Contributions were made in a variety of ways including donations following talks and presentations, use of the collapsible collection box not only at Club Meetings, but at business premises associated with Rotarians and at a University. The Jersey Rotary Club design a Christmas card each year depicting the work of the Trust and sales raise several hundred pounds. Our largest fund raiser involved the Award of a Matching Grant that enabled the 40 boxes to be sent to the Philippines. We also sent Christmas presents from our District for pupils in the new School. In the future, with the help of new DVDs and Powerpoint Presentations provided by the Trust, we are intending to extend our efforts into local Schools.