



## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

What a year 2013 is turning out to be and I hope yours is as exciting. Thank you so much for your ongoing support, as our accounts indicate that year on year, donations continue to increase. Two avenues of support are particularly strong, Inner Wheel and schools, and in this issue we particularly feature the supportive work of the Inner Wheel clubs.

Just four months into 2013 and we will soon be sending 68 Literacy Boxes and the equivalent value of Zambian school curriculum text books to Mfuwe, where we sent our first Literacy Box. Other planned activity will see Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary Club work on another large project to send Literacy Boxes to help the education of the children of the Manila rubbish dumps while many other smaller projects are cropping up throughout the UK. May I thank you all for your endeavour and creativity in thinking up the ways to raise money for us.

Schools' interest in RotaKids and Interact clubs is growing. These are Rotary programmes that can be run in Junior and Secondary schools respectively and which help with the Global Citizenship aspects of the school curriculum. The programmes encourage children to give service in the community of their school and also look to

help those in need overseas. Literacy Boxes are ideal for the latter and also act as a learning tool to help the children understand overseas cultures.

If you like what we are doing, please spread the word. You can do this easily on Facebook.

Best wishes to you all,

Ian Parker

CONTENTS	
INNER WHEEL	2
- INNER WHEEL CONFERENCE	2
- PENNY & FORBES	3
- BOURNE END & COOKHAM INNER WHEEL	3
- BIDEFORD INNER WHEEL	3
- AROUND THE COUNTRY	4
MFUWE PROJECT	4
PHILIPPINES PROJECT	4
ROTAKIDS	5
INTERACT	5
NEPAL	6
FACEBOOK ROUNDUP	7
THE LAST WORDS	7

## INNER WHEEL

We have been thrilled with the support we have received from schools and Inner Wheel clubs over the last year. In the year ending 31st March 2013 we received donations from schools of £2,586 (up from £288 in the previous year) and from Inner Wheel clubs of £5348 (up from £2249 in the previous year).

However, while schools have featured prominently in our last three newsletters we have only had one article about Inner Wheel. Shame on us! It's about time this was rectified and what better time than with the Inner Wheel National Conference having been held in the Plymouth Pavilions only last week.

## INNER WHEEL CONFERENCE

As our chairman says "Attending the Annual Conference of NAIWC is always a pleasure and a very rewarding occasion. When the ladies of an Inner Wheel club get behind a charity they really do support it."

With his usual subtlety, and complete disdain for health and safety requirements, he ensured that our display boxes were placed so that it was impossible for any delegates to return home without knowing something about Literacy in a Box.



Even the Countess of Wessex, attending in her capacity as President of National

children's charity Brainwave, was unable to resist the lure of the Literacy Box.



Thanks to Keith Curtis for letting us use his photo

Before appearing on stage, The Countess was presented to the Inner Wheel Overseas Service Committee who were showcasing their work. This happened behind closed doors, but with a relay to the conference audience, and we have it on good authority that she expressed a real interest in the Literacy Box on display and commended its purpose. In the next break following her stage appearance, there was a surge of attendance at the Literacy Box stand!!! Many thanks to Trish Douglas, Chair of the Inner Wheel Overseas Service Committee, for the opportunity to display the box for the royal visit.

The conference provides a mix of presentations from the stage and breaks long enough to allow the delegates to walk round the House of Friendship, where the charities and craft stalls exhibit. Here clubs can decide where to put their efforts in supporting charities that will help them give service both locally and overseas.

With many teachers and ex-teachers in the ranks of Inner Wheel, we find that our work resonates with their views on the value of education as a key to empowering communities, as they strive to work their way out of poverty. We were very grateful to be able to explain what we do to such a receptive audience.

## PENNY AND FORBES

Our Founding Trustee is Forbes Watson, a Past President of our partner Rotary Club, Roborough. His wife Penny is currently President of Roborough Inner Wheel. Penny and Forbes celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on April 13<sup>th</sup> this year. Donations were invited to their chosen charities as a consequence of which Forbes was able to present our Chairman with a cheque for £550, enough to provide for two Literacy Boxes which, at Forbes' request, will be sent to Florence at Msoro.



There are some photos and thank you letters from the schools Florence supports on our website gallery [www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk/gallery/index.php/Zambia-December-2010](http://www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk/gallery/index.php/Zambia-December-2010).

## BOURNE END & COOKHAM INNER WHEEL

On the first Friday of every December, the Inner Wheel Club of Bourne End & Cookham hold a charity Christmas Tea Party where they aim to provide an entertaining speaker accompanied by a delicious home-made tea.

Last December, they were fortunate that Mary Berry agreed to be their guest speaker and, as you can imagine, the tea was a sell-out and hugely enjoyed by all who managed to get hold of a ticket.

Diana Hyde said “Many anxious hours were spent preparing the cakes which would be spotted by the “Queen of Cakes.” Mary told us about some of her recent experiences in the Great British Bake Off and told how she was invited to lunch at Buckingham Palace with the Queen.” The photo below shows Mary with Jane Dunsterville, the Club’s newest member.



Part of the proceeds were used for the purchase of a Literacy Box which will be taken to Luyando orphanage in Zambia by Rachel Gerrish of Bourne End & Cookham Rotaract Club in July (more about Rachel in the **INTERACT** section).

## BIDEFORD INNER WHEEL

In March this year Bideford Inner Wheel enjoyed a presentation by Geoff Lucock and Overseas Officer, Beth Cooke presented him with a cheque for a Literacy Box. Also shown is Club President Jan Wickes.



Jan said “Geoff gave us such an interesting talk, and showed us a video of the beautiful children wanting to learn in far from easy surroundings.”

The Inner Wheel Club will be able to follow its progress as it makes its way to help educate some of the children in Zambia.

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

The Inner Wheel Club of Farnham held a very enjoyable lunch back in May last year. Soup, sandwiches, a choice of delicious deserts and a glass of wine were served before everyone watched a fascinating painting demonstration by artist and teacher Terry Harrison. Enough money (£550) was raised for two Literacy Boxes.

Closer to home Roborough Inner Wheel held a tea party for us at the home of Andrea Parker last June and raised £305 and, as reported in the last issue, a magnificent £828 was raised from two tea parties hosted by Vivien Scott of Dundee Inner Wheel.

A big thanks you for all the Inner Wheel support we receive from around the country. Please tell us about your fundraising and, if possible, send us some photos.

## MFUWE PROJECT

We are pleased to report that the matching grant involving Mfuwe Rotary Club in Zambia, Rotary Districts 1290 and 1170, and 23 Devon and Cornwall clubs has been approved. Next month we will be sending 68 Literacy Boxes, and providing the equivalent value in curriculum text books, to over 1000 children who will occupy newly built and refurbished classrooms in Mfuwe Day Secondary School and Mnkhanya Community School. More about this in our next Newsletter.

## PHILIPPINES PROJECT

In our October 2011 Newsletter we told the story of the 40 boxes we sent to the Philippines to provide school materials for children attending a newly built school in Tondo, Manila. The school was built from recycled shipping containers and many of the children lived in squatter areas and scavenged amongst rubbish at the infamous Smokey Mountain site.

The whole project followed a talk given by Jane Walker MBE, CEO of the Philippines Community Fund, to Portsmouth and SouthSea Rotary Club. The hard work and enthusiasm of Club member Dennis Meadus, who was International Chairman for the Wessex District (1110), and the generosity of clubs in that District saw the project through to fruition.

We have recently been in contact with Jane who writes

*“Literacy in a box has been an enormous help to our charity. With over 900 students to provide school supplies for, knowing that this need was covered allowed us to improve on the quality of the school books that we offer to the children. It has been a great help also for the teachers knowing that there has been sufficient school supplies for the whole of 2012/2013 school year.*

*However we didn't anticipate how useful the actual boxes would be. We run four shoppers days in our school. Students earn credits that they save up and then on the quarterly shoppers day they trade their credits in for donated items as their reward for academic achievements. Storing these donated items has always been a problem for us as the cardboard boxes quickly breakdown in the high hu often goods were ruined by rats and mice but now the stock rooms are able to use the literacy boxes for storage*



*ensuring that our children have plenty of donated items for their shopper days.”*

Dennis has now embarked on another similar project to supply Literacy Boxes to a number of other schools attended by children who scavenge on the Smokey Mountain dump site.



There is more information about the Philippines Project on our website and Facebook page. If you think your district might be able to support the Project, alongside District 1110, then please contact either Dennis or ourselves.

## ROTAKIDS

RotaKids, the junior group in the Rotary family, catering for children between the ages of 7 and 12 was officially established in Great Britain and Ireland in 2011 and has been a great success with 67 clubs established to date. In our January Newsletter we reported on Penryn, the first

RotaKids Club in Cornwall and we are now proud to be associated with the first RotaKids Club in Devon, at Pomphlett Primary school.

The sponsor of the Club is non other than our own partner Roborough Rotary Club. The RotaKids Club now has 25 members and the committee has decided to collect stamps for guide dogs and support our Literacy in a Box programme.



Headteacher Des Walsh (top left) said he is looking forward to the Club becoming a key part of life in the school as the children fulfil their promises to be fair to all, to serve the community and to show respect for others, thus strengthening the link to the citizenship aspect of their curriculum and the ideals of Rotary.

Andrea Parker, honorary Rotarian of Roborough Rotary Club (top, third from left) said the new RotaKids Club would see pupils build on their citizenship work at school.

## INTERACT

Interact has been going a bit longer than RotaKids but it is also one of the fastest-growing programs of Rotary service, with more than 33,000 clubs worldwide. Interact caters for young people between the ages of 12 to 18. In our January 2013 Newsletter we featured the Nicolson Interact Club and the Morgan Academy Interact Club and in our

July 2012 newsletter we briefly mentioned the newly formed Penryn Interact Club.

Penryn Interact Club have been enormously supportive in raising money for the Mfuwe Matching Grant Project referred to earlier, and in May, Penryn Interact and RotaKids will be packing 10 of the boxes bound for Mnkhanya Community School. Much more about this in our next Newsletter.

The newly formed Tavistock Interact Club, including pupils from both Tavistock College and Kelly College, have also committed to supporting Literacy in a Box and will be helping us pack and load boxes in May. The photo below is from their Christmas Fundraiser.



Last year Wye Valley Interact Club visited Libala (as reported in our July 2102 Newsletter). This year, it was the turn of Libala Interact Club to visit England. Literacy in a Box was there to meet the Interactors and receive a cheque for a Literacy Box from Rachel Gerrish (immediately to the left of the box in the photo), President of Bourne End and Cookham Rotaract Club. Three other boxes were funded by the Trust and all four have now been taken back to Zambia by the Interact Club for the use of children at Luyando orphanage.

We are particularly grateful for the support we have received from Mike Ware of Bourne End and Cookham Rotary Club, Sue Pomeroy

of Wye Valley School and Bourne End & Cookham Rotary Club and Judith Diment, Governor of Rotary District 1090. More photos and information can be found on our Facebook page.



## NEPAL

This is a rather belated report on the two boxes taken to Nepal by Faringdon and District Rotary Club, the contents of which were distributed to disabled children by the Rotary Club of Dhulikel, Nepal. This was done on December 3rd 2012, as part of the observance of UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities and was part of a larger project involving not only ourselves and Faringdon and District Rotary Club but also The Rotary Club of Makin Edge and Tea Tree Gulley Rotary Club in Australia.



The following is extracted from the report provided by the Rotary Club of Dhulikel

*“Nepal has a population of approximately 27 million. It is located in the Himalayas and bordered to the north by the People’s Republic of China, and to the south, east, and west by the Republic of India. Kathmandu is the nation’s capital and largest metropolis.*



*Due to the poverty and the remoteness, providing health services to the public is challenging. It is estimated that 9% of the population are living with some kind of disability. The objective of the programme was enhancing knowledge and skill by providing literacy items, kit bags, games articles and playing materials to the children with intellectual delay, physical disability, and hearing and visual impairment.”*

There were 5 schools and 86 children involved in the programme.

## FACEBOOK ROUNDUP

Do have a look at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/LiteracyinaBox](http://www.facebook.com/LiteracyinaBox) for more news and photos. You don’t need to be a Facebook user to see our content.

Alternatively you can now access all of our Facebook postings very easily from our website News Events page [www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk/news.html](http://www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk/news.html)

Feb – Photos from Mfuwe Basic School.  
Yealmpstone Farm School donation

Mar – Penryn RotaKids  
Wye Valley Interact  
Peterborough Ortons Rotary Club  
New Videos  
Comic Relief

April – Pomphlett RotaKids  
“Sweets for My Sweet” Premier  
Philippines Appeal  
Inner Wheel & Countess of Wessex

## THE LAST WORDS

We seem to have a bit of a theme going with rats and Literacy Boxes. Lyn Callander who runs Operation Sunshine in Folkestone says

*“I cannot emphasise enough the way these boxes are valued in Zambia. Not only the contents, but the marvellous strong storage boxes. As I expect you realise, rats are a big problem especially in the bush and these storage boxes mean that the contents are safe from the rats teeth. I feel full of horror at some schools when I realise who has been chewing at the pencils (and then the children do the same!).”*

