



## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

As this year moves into its second half, what humbles me is the way that the 'family of Rotary' is so focal to our support. Whether it is Clubs running their own fundraising and involving the public, or working with their local schools to set up a RotaKids or Interact Club who then adopt us as their charity, I have a warm glow and really feel so proud of what our Rotary colleagues are doing to help us...and I must not forget Inner Wheel, whose Overseas Service Organisers feel the Literacy Box is just what they are looking for for their International efforts.

But the thing that is really beginning to excite me as a Rotarian, is when the various elements of the Rotary Family work together on a project, which is very often school based, and Literacy Boxes become part of their activity.

In Stornaway Literacy Box was the catalyst for setting up of the Nicolson Interact Club (see page 3).

In Bourne End and Cookham, we were able to supply Literacy Boxes to support Project Zambia, which developed out of the Rotary Club starting an Interact Club in their local secondary school (see page 5).

A newly formed Interact club in Penryn College used the 'Apprentice' ideals to help

their sponsor Club, Penryn, in their support of the Mfuwe project (see page 5).

Finally, the Mfuwe project itself is moving apace, thanks to the hard work and co-operation of Roborough Rotary Club, Mfuwe Rotary Club, Operation Sunshine, Project Luangwa, and Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust, with 72 Literacy Boxes having just arrived in Zambia (see page 4).

Exciting times and, as usual, my grateful thanks to all who are finding the time and energy to help us. By helping us, you are really helping the children in Zambia and I thank you on their behalf.

Best wishes to you all, Ian Parker

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## INNER WHEEL - BOOKHAM & HORSLEY

We were very remiss in the last edition in not recognising the efforts of Bookham and Horsley Inner Wheel. Our Chairman spoke at their tea party on 1<sup>st</sup> March where they raised enough for 4 boxes from various stalls.



A huge amount of effort had obviously been put into crafting many of the items on sale and we are enormously grateful to Bookham and Horsley for their hard work and generous support of Literacy in a Box.



The four boxes will shortly be on their way to Zambia as part of our September shipment of 22 boxes.

## INNER WHEEL - RUTHIN

It was a real honour when the Inner Wheel Club of Ruthin chose Literacy in a Box as the beneficiaries of the charity premier of 'Sweets for my Sweet' on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Ruthin. The play is set in a sweet factory and is described as a crunchy comedy with a sweet romantic centre.



A huge thank you from the Trust to Bill Snell, the playwright, Caroline Baines, and all the members of Ruthin Inner Wheel Club. Almost £1,000 was raised for us from the night.



We're particularly pleased to be associated with yet another project which brings together the Community and International aspects of Rotary.

As Bill Snell says *"It's quite exciting as people assume amateur dramatics is an older person's game, but this play was written with a younger cast in mind which has drawn fresh blood in. We're working with the Inner Wheel Club of Ruthin and their supported charity, and we've got something the community can get involved in, so everybody benefits."*

## NICOLSON INTERACT CLUB

In our January Newsletter we reported on the Nicolson Interact Club and their aim to raise enough money for 5 Literacy Boxes by the end of this academic year. What we didn't mention was the connection between Stornaway and Zambia. Well, Donald and Christine MacDonald, who run the Old MacDonald's Farm project on the outskirts of Lusaka in the Ibex Hill area, were both born in Stornaway.

The project was set up set up to look after and support young people who have either lived on the streets or are orphans.



They also run a school for over 60 disadvantaged children on site and provide educational support to around 30 other children in the area. All the boxes from the Nicolson Interact's fundraising will be going to the Old MacDonald's Farm project.

Jack MacKay, last year's President of the Rotay Club of Stornaway said *"setting up an Interact Club in Stornaway was the best project we have done for many years"*



*“We get immense satisfaction from the enthusiasm for Community Service which we now witness in the Nicolson Interact Club. In the years to come, the Interactors of today will be a source of goodwill and also a source of new members for Rotary International”*

Claire MacLeod looks after the Nicolson Interact Club and loves it ! *“Interactors absolutely love doing a fund raising event where they meet the people, explain what a Literacy Box is all about, and that their Literacy Boxes are going to Old MacDonald’s Farm Orphanage in Lusaka. Their enthusiasm makes light work of raising money for a good cause. In addition, it is quite easy to raise up to £300 from each event, so they had enough money to buy one box after their first event, enough money for two boxes after their second event and so on. Success breeds success, one box at a time. The Interactors can relate to the situation facing the pupils in Lusaka, the links are in place, the building blocks for Interact are fitting into place and the Literacy Box project is proving to be a tangible challenge to engage with in the spirit of community service.”*

### **MFUWE PROJECT**

We mentioned the project to send boxes and Zambian curriculum text books to Mfuwe in the last edition and how it had come about through the hard work and generosity of 23 Rotary Clubs in Districts 1290 and 1170.



The 72 boxes (4 more than the 68 we expected to send at the time of writing of the last newsletter) were loaded on to the Operation Sunshine container on 18<sup>th</sup> May and arrived in Lusaka earlier this month where they were picked up by Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust.....



.....and Project Luangwa



The matching grant also enabled the Trust to supply around £15,000 worth of Zambian curriculum textbooks.

Trustees Ian Parker and Geoff Lucock will be leaving for Zambia on International Literacy Day, the 8<sup>th</sup> September, to represent both Roborough Rotary Club and the Literacy in a Box Trust when the Literacy Boxes and text books are handed over to Mfuwe Day Secondary and Mnkhanya Community Schools. They will also be visiting the many schools in Zambia that have received Literacy Boxes over the last seven years.

There are lots more photos of the Mfuwe boxes on our facebook page and Ian will be posting regular Facebook messages on his travels in Zambia. So make sure you become a Facebook fan (if you’re not already) or if you’re not a Facebook user just bookmark our page [www.facebook.com/literacyinabox](http://www.facebook.com/literacyinabox) and make regular returns.

## BOURNE END & COOKHAM

You may remember from our last newsletter that part of the proceeds of a fundraiser by Bourne End and Cookham Inner Wheel Club were used to fund a Literacy box which Rachel Gerrish of Bourne End and Cookham Rotaract club was to take over to Luyando orphanage in Zambia.



We are pleased to say that, although the box suffered a bit of damage in transit, Rachel and the contents all arrived safely.



More about this story and a link to Rachel brilliant blog of her trip are on our Facebook page.

## PENRYN INTERACT

Another story trailed in our last newsletter was that of Penryn Interact. They attended District 1290 Assembly in May and told us how they had raised over £900 for Literacy in a Box through an apprentice style challenge.



They were split into 3 teams and each was given £20 with the aim of making as much money as possible for Literacy in a Box. Their ideas included cake sales, sponsored cycle rides, raffles and sponsored silences. But the £900 is not the end of the story because the money went towards the Mfuwe project (see page 4) which multiplied the £900 by 3.5 with the result that the initial £60 was turned into 10+ Literacy Boxes which were personally packed by the Interactors at Penryn College.



A big thank you to all the Interactors for their attention to detail and for the delightful letters to the Zambian children enclosed in the boxes. Again there is lots more about this on our Facebook page.

## OPERATION SUNSHINE

We were privileged to attend a presentation ceremony on August 14th for Felicity Derry-Thomas, founding member of the Tavistock branch of our partner Operation Sunshine. From Inner Wheel, Felicity received the highest accolade given by them, the 'Margarette Golding Award'.



Felicity is the only person in Great Britain and Ireland to receive it during the last twelve months. From Rotary she received the 'Community Service Award for non-Rotarians' having been nominated by our sponsor, the Rotary Club of Roborough.



Both these awards recognise, in different ways, over 30 years of devoted service to communities in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The Rotary Club of Roborough also made a donation of £350 to Operation Sunshine, in recognition of their support of Literacy in a Box. Caroline Easton, President

of the Rotary Club of Roborough, presented the cheque to Ann Tregarthen, who took over the organisation of the Tavistock branch of Operation Sunshine from Felicity. The full text of our Chairman's tribute to Felicity can be found [here](#).



Unfortunately the award ceremony was tinged with an element of sadness, as the Tavistock branch of Operation Sunshine will be sending its last container in February 2014. Ann said the decision to wind up the Tavistock branch of the charity had been hard, sad, but unanimous. *"We are all getting older, everyone of us are volunteers, and also the majority of our fundraisers are wanting to retire but younger people are not coming in to replace them."*

This is a very sad loss to Literacy in a Box. Not only has Operation Sunshine in Tavistock been incredibly supportive to our cause but they have also been a wonderful group of people to work with.

There are, however, a couple of pieces of good news.

Firstly a donation of £10,000 from a generous benefactor means that there will be two final containers going to Zambia before the Tavistock branch of Operation Sunshine finally closes, one in November 2013 and one in February 2014.

Secondly, we have been working with the Folkestone branch of Operation Sunshine to

ensure continuity of supply for the Schools we support in Zambia. 22 boxes have just been loaded onto a container in Folkestone and will be leaving for Zambia on 10<sup>th</sup> September.



Lyn Callander, who runs Operation Sunshine in Folkestone, has just returned from a trip to Zambia and has some interesting projects for us to consider, and of course our Trustees Geoff and Ian will be leaving for Zambia on 8<sup>th</sup> September. There will be lots about both visits and our plans for the future in our next Newsletter.

## PHILIPPINES

The Philippines matching grant appeal advertised in April has now been extended to all Rotary Clubs in Britain and Ireland, not just those in District 1110 but with a deadline for pledges of support of the end of September.



Further details are available on this link.

However please note that while all Club pledges are welcome, they will only attract full grant benefit if District is prepared to match your Club contribution

## FACEBOOK ROUNDUP

Do have a look at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/literacyinbox](http://www.facebook.com/literacyinbox) for more news and photos. 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](http://www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk/news.html)

Our Chairman will be posting regular Facebook messages on his travels in Zambia. If you are already a Facebook fan please follow the instructions on this link to make sure that you receive all of our posts in your NewsFeed. 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](http://www.facebook.com/literacyinbox) and make regular returns.

## THE LAST WORDS

A combination of holidays and a desire to include information on the closure of the Tavistock branch of Operation Sunshine has meant that this issue of the newsletter has been a little delayed. However the delay does mean that we are able to report that we have packed and loaded 100 boxes for Zambia between issues, definitely a first!....and you will not have to wait so long for the next Newsletter which we still hope to issue in October.

Finally do remember that Operation Sunshine have two final Tavistock containers going to Zambia, one in November and one in February next year so please help us to send as many boxes as possible.