



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

Well - it's happened. The inaugural **Walk4Hope** was held on 13th June and was a resounding success. I hope you enjoyed our Facebook and website postings. There's more in this Newsletter about the walk and how it can be taken up by Rotary Clubs, not only to support Literacy Box, but to help Clubs work better with schools.

We feature a fantastic example of how even very small Rotary Clubs can support us. In July I visited Penryn, in Cornwall, and saw just how much Penryn Rotary Club manages to do. Their story, and that of Pound Hill School, shows just how our youngsters can take up a cause and run with it to devastating effect.

Although the Manaca project is now concluded, the positive impact it has had on local children is huge. We know that having a fundraising focus through a project is particularly rewarding for our supporters so we are talking with our partners about possible future projects.

Many thanks for all the feedback you are giving us about your work in support of our core programme **SchoolAid4Zambia**. I thank all those working hard on our behalf for their efforts. We need to be sending over 1000 Literacy Boxes each year to give continuity of supply to the 40 or so schools we currently support. We will only achieve this with

ongoing support and I would like to give special thanks to those organisations who have provided us with the repeat donations the Zambian children we support so desperately need for their continuing education. Please keep it coming and stay with us as we continue on our marathon!!

We have recently been joined by two new Trustees, Paul Davies and Maureen Dickerson, both of whom are enthused with what we are doing.

Finally, it always amazes me what people will do to fund raise for a cause and we feature one Rotary Club President who literally dropped out of the sky to help us!!

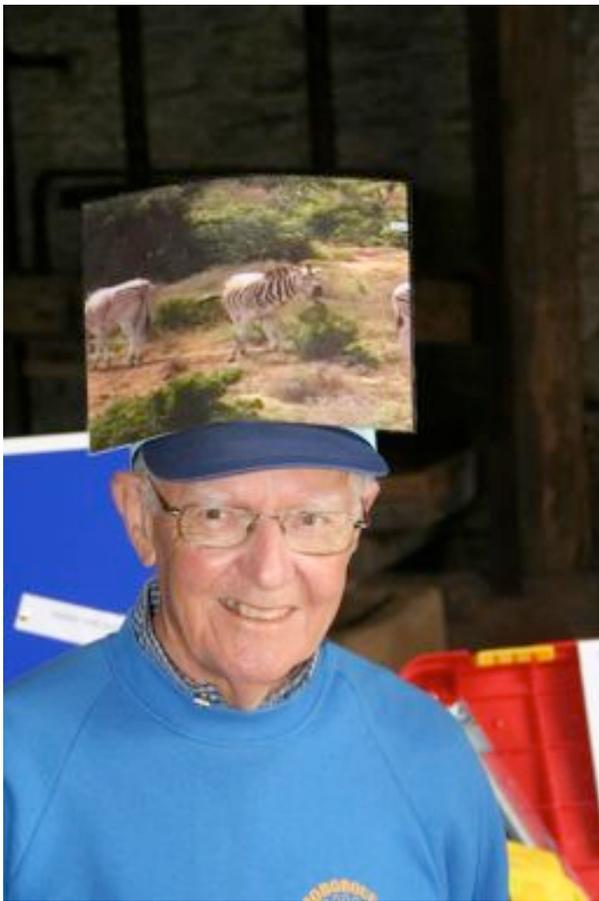
With gratitude for all you do to support us,
Ian Parker, Chairman

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WALK4HOPE

On a cloudy but mercifully dry day on 13th June children from Hyde Park Infant School in Plymouth gathered in the grounds of Buckland Abbey for the sponsored walk we trailed in our last newsletter.

As well as organizing and marshalling the event, members of Roborough Rotary Club, took on the role of various animals that Zambian children might encounter during their walk to school. The children from Hyde Park School were asked to look out for these along the mile long selected nature trail that was their walk to school.



On arrival at the Great Barn, which was their schoolroom for the day, they had a bowl of 'maize porridge' the staple diet of Zambian children. The porridge was made more palatable with the addition of some sweets, a luxury that few, if any, of the Zambian

children they are helping would have experienced.



The mums also “enjoyed” the same food.



The children then took part in various activities to teach them a bit about life in Zambia, all brilliantly organized by headteacher Liz Hill (the lady serving the porridge in the earlier photo!).



and learned how to count in Bemba, Zambia’s most widely spoken language.



The children then began the walk home, once more through the grounds of Buckland Abbey.....



.....and on returning all children were given a Walk4Hope sticker.



The children raised over £600 for us, more than enough for two boxes. Headmistress Liz Hill said “The children were thrilled to see the photos from Zambia of the box they raised money for last year and all really enjoyed their experience today. We are very grateful to the National Trust for permitting us to use the grounds of Buckland Abbey for the walk and the Great Barn for the workshops.”

Bernice Constantine, who chairs Roborough Rotary Club’s Youth Service committee, said “It was great to see the children experience a little of what life would be like for them if they lived in Zambia. I hope the experience will stay with them as they progress through the School system and help them appreciate the educational opportunities they have in this country.”

This was such a brilliant day for everyone involved. Roborough Rotary Club plan to hold a similar, possibly bigger, event next year and we would love to help other Clubs organize **Walk4Hope** awareness and fundraising events for their local Schools.

We are putting together an event information pack and would be happy to provide whatever additional assistance (including liaison with the National Trust about the use of their grounds and buildings) you require.

PENRYN ROTARY CLUB

On Friday 3rd July we were invited to Penryn Rotary Club to attend their President's night. Regular readers of our Newsletters and followers of our Facebook page will know about the fantastic support we have received from Penryn Rotary over the years. Literacy in a Box was to be the focus of the evening.

Ian and Andrea Parker represented the Trust and, as guest speaker, Ian had the opportunity to update everyone on our recent activities.

Musical entertainment from Penryn College Ensemble of flautists



DeeGee PHOTO

was followed by "Youth Speaks" presentations including a brilliant one by Lewis Naisby on the subject of Literacy.



DeeGee PHOTO

The evening was rounded off with the presentation of a cheque for £597.31 being the profits from Penryn College's recent enterprise project. Many thanks to all at Penryn College and Penryn Rotary Club and special thanks to Penryn College's Rachel Bastian and Penryn Rotary Club's President Ann Congdon - pictured below right.



DeeGee PHOTO

Earlier on the 3rd July, Ian and Andrea had visited Penryn Academy to speak to the Infants and Juniors. Read about this overleaf.

LITERACY IN A BOX SCHOOL VISITS

PENRYN ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL

by Andrea Parker

On a warm and sunny Friday in July we were welcomed to Penryn Academy in Cornwall, to speak to both the Junior and Infant pupils. We were there to tell the children a picture story of the 'The Red and Blue Box'.

With all the resources and technology set up in their main assembly hall, we eagerly awaited the arrival of the children. One by one they filed in, their faces showing looks of curiosity. Sitting cross-legged and straight-backed the faces turned to smiles once we had been introduced. Some pens, bags, rulers etc had been given to small hands to take care of while the story began.

As the story unfolded the children learnt about life for children in Zambia with the lack of school equipment and the need to walk many miles to school each day. Pictures of the schools and animals they might see in Zambia soon prompted a response which introduced the 'red and blue box' and what might we need to put in it?

Following suggestions - some of which were very interesting! - the custodians of the equipment willingly came forward to assist in filling the Literacy Box ready for its journey.



Questions put to the children resulted in lots of willing hands being raised to give answers and surprise was expressed when they learned that the box would take almost a term to arrive in Zambia.

The Head of Infants, James Brown, expressed his wish for the children to raise funds for a Literacy Box, and establish links between a school in Zambia and Penryn. The box was then closed - the story had ended, but hopefully remembered for the future.

In the morning a similar scenario had been enacted, but with the older children of the Primary School.



Support for Literacy Boxes was also promised, but this would be driven by the newly formed RotaKids Club. We will tell you more about their activity in the next newsletter.

POUND HILL SCHOOL

By Ian Parker

Earlier in the year Georgina (O'Reilly), my granddaughter, said that she would like to support Literacy in a Box and as she was on School Council would propose that the school adopted us as one of their charities. Time

passed then around Easter we heard that we were one of 30 charities which would go into a hat, the one drawn to be adopted as the recipient of funds collected from their School Choir Evening. Georgina was delighted her proposal had made the last hurdle and was resigned to the fact that at 30/1 the odds were not in favour of Literacy Box being chosen. The following evening a very excited 10 year old said that we had been chosen and would receive all the collection from their concert.



A lovely and rewarding moment for a young lady who was driven to do something for others - a very powerful force.



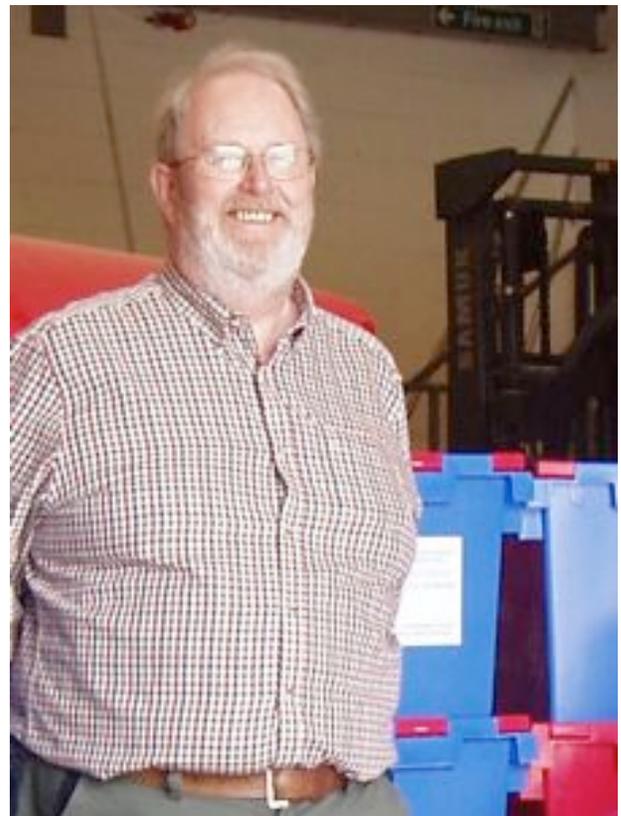
We arranged to go and talk to their school just before the end of term and on what turned out to be Georgina's last day at Pound Hill, just outside Crawley. Later that day she would be travelling to her new home in Richmond, North Yorks where her daddy was about to start a new job. The school choir sang for the whole school before we started and again after the presentation of 'The story of the Red and Blue Box' by Andrea.

We were then presented with a cheque for £100, being the income from the concert collection.

OUR NEW TRUSTEES

PAUL DAVIES

Paul became a Trustee in 2014 shortly after becoming a member of Roborough Rotary Club in 2014.



He brings a wealth of experience in, not only the growth and development of business and

charitable organisations, but also of their management and governance. He was a Founder Trustee and Secretary of the Cornwall Community Foundation for nine years from June 2003, and a Trustee of the Plymouth Drake Foundation for six years from 2008. He has also served as a Governor and then Chair of Governors of a Community College.

His first career was as a Science Teacher in London; which he left after five years, as a Deputy Head, to go into business. Since then his background has been in business and corporate development at Board level in FTSE 250 companies operating in the UK and overseas. Declining an offer to relocate to the USA when the company he was working for was taken over (because his two daughters were in the middle of their UK education), he moved into management consultancy and took on some non-executive directorships, primarily in companies financing small businesses seeking to grow in the South West.

In 2005 he began training as an Executive Coach, since, in his view, business development is ultimately about people development and providing leadership. The key to success and survival, Paul believes, lies in having a team which is innovating and learning, all of the time.

MAUREEN DICKERSON

Having supported the Literacy in a Box Trust as a member of Roborough Rotary Club and through her company for several years Maureen also became a Trustee in 2014.

Literacy in a Box was formed by members of the Club when her husband Ron was President so she has strong connections with the charity and was involved in advising the founder, Forbes Watson, on various matters in the early days.

While she was Club President in 2012/13 the Club undertook a Rotary Foundation



Matching Grant project to provide 72 Literacy Boxes and £16,000 worth of text books to schools in Zambia. Maureen was closely involved in the management of this project, a job which required her to coordinate 24 Rotary Clubs in Cornwall & Devon and work in partnership with the newly formed Mfuwe Rotary Club in Zambia.

Maureen was the Financial Accountant of St Loye's Foundation in Exeter where she worked for 23 years. At that time St Loye's was a large local charity training disabled people for employment in industry and commerce and also provided degree courses for occupational therapists. Maureen was also a member-nominated Trustee of their pension scheme and received trustee training for that role. In 2003 she moved to Plymouth where she runs a personal search company providing reports for the conveyancing process.

Maureen's experience of charity financial and administrative operations, together with her Trustee experience and in depth knowledge of Literacy in a Box activities makes her an ideal Trustee.

FLYING HIGH

As you will realize from Maureen's biography we have always enjoyed excellent support from our sponsor, Roborough Rotary Club. Last year Phil Chesters, our Newsletter editor and then Club President, persuaded the immediate past President, Caroline Easton and President Elect, Helen West to participate in a Team Triathlon which raised over £1,000 for Literacy in a Box. As this year's President, Helen has nominated Literacy in a Box as one of her two chosen charities for the year and has already raised over £500 for us through a SkyDive.



FACEBOOK ROUNDUP

Do have a look at our Facebook page 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

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 may recall from our May Newsletter that the Manaca project was not quite complete at the time of writing. Five more boxes were on their way to the School, four of which were funded by Medway Sunlight Rotary Club from money raised in memory of Clive Lawrence. These have now arrived.....



.....and we'll provide more feedback from Zambia on both our April shipment (of which the above 4 boxes formed part) and our latest shipment (which was packed in June and shipped in July) in the next Newsletter.

Thanks for your continuing support and please send us your fundraising stories so that we can report on them.