



## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

May I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope that whatever your endeavors in 2013 they are successful.

I shall be brief in my introduction, as there is so much to feedback on the growing support for our work, derived from the partnerships between Rotary Clubs and schools. We have also seen a surge in the number of Rotakids Clubs, which have used Literacy Boxes as the catalyst for their formation or a focus for their charity support.

We also report on a Matching Grant application by the Rotary Club of Roborough, as they seek grant approval to send 50 Literacy Boxes and a significant number of curriculum text books to Mfuwe, the destination of our first Literacy Box.

Finally, ***March will be Literacy Month in the Rotary calendar***, an ideal time to focus some energy in helping our Zambian children. ***Why not aim at financial support for a Literacy Box or to provide funds for the provision of much needed text books, specific to the Zambian curriculum.*** All support will be gratefully received.

Enjoy the read and if you have any comments or queries, do please feedback through our website [www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk](http://www.literacyboxtrust.org.uk)

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## SCOTTISH SUPPORT

We've just celebrated Burns Night - albeit with some of our Club members wearing Cornish rather than Scottish tartan! - so it seems a good opportunity to give a mention to the amazing support we get from Scotland.

## NICHOLSON INTERACT CLUB

We'll start in the Outer Hebrides, with the Rotary Club of Stornaway, on the Island of Lewis, around 800 miles away from Plymouth. Back in the summer of last year

they were trying to set up an Interact Club in their local school and Jack MacKay, last year's President, had the idea of using Literacy in a Box as an International Community Service project.



Roll forward to January this year and the Nicolson Institute Interact Club is up and running and aiming to raise enough money for 5, **yes 5!**, Literacy Boxes by the end of this academic year. Have a look at [www.facebook.com/TheNicolsonInteractClub](http://www.facebook.com/TheNicolsonInteractClub) where, as their cover photo, they have used our photo below which shows children from Holy Hill Community School in Msoro, Zambia proudly holding up their new text books



## HEADING SOUTH

Somewhat nearer to home, there has been a flurry of recent activity in the Angus, Fife,

and East Lothian area, a mere 400 miles or so from Plymouth.



## ST ANDREWS KILRYMONT ROTARY CLUB

In September last year our Chairman gave a well received presentation to St Andrews Kilrymont Rotary club.



Photo shows Brian Gray and Anne Tait from St Andrews Kilrymont club with Andrea Parker and our Chairman Ian Parker

## CARNOUSTIE HIGH SCHOOL

Fraser Booth, the head teacher of Carnoustie High School took news of our charity back to his final year (S6) pupils, and they accepted the challenge with enthusiasm. The S6 charities committee has already raised money for 2 boxes, which were sent on the January Operation Sunshine container together with personalised messages from

the pupils. The committee specified that one box should be used for the benefit of junior pupils and one for senior pupils.



The Carnoustie boxes are the two on the right. Along with the other 8 boxes at the front of the photo they are currently on their way to Natemwa learning centre in Kachele Village which you may remember from our April 2012 newsletter. Fraser promised to raise awareness of our charity with other headteachers so we are hopeful that this is just the beginning of schools support in Angus.

### MORGAN ACADEMY INTERACT CLUB

Morgan Academy Interact Club in Dundee held a coffee morning for us on 20<sup>th</sup> December.



Two visitors from St Andrews Kilrymont Rotary Club reported that *“it was a wild and very wet morning but the atmosphere in the room was warm, friendly and*

*welcoming....club president Lindsay (second from right) introduced herself and told of the plans they have for the year. At present they are fundraising for Literacy Boxes and in future plan to do some hands on community work”* The £200 raised at the coffee morning is a great start and we wish Morgan Academy Interact every success.

### INNER WHEEL CLUB OF DUNDEE

Vivien Scott, a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Dundee and wife of Alastair, President of Dundee Rotary Club organised 3 tea parties at their home in Broughty Ferry which raised a total of £828, more than enough for 3 boxes.



### DUNBAR ROTARY CLUB

Finally, we have received great support from Elaine O’Brien and Dunbar Rotary Club



The Club have sent us enough for 4 boxes since Elaine, who was last years President, first came across our charity at their District conference in Southport. Elaine has also become one of more enthusiastic Facebook fans!

Apologies to any Scottish Clubs who have supported us recently who I have omitted to mention. Please send us an e-mail and photo and I promise to include you in our next newsletter.

## FEEDBACK FROM AFRICA

### KACHELE - NATEMWA

This is from our September 2012 shipment and shows pupils in Natemwa Learning Centre, Kachele Village, proudly showing off their new school bags. 10 boxes on our January 2013 shipment are going to Natemwa Learning Centre



### ZIMBABWE

This is from our May 2012 shipment to Zimbabwe.

Bryony Pichanick in Zimbabwe writes, “Once again, the schools selected were delighted to receive the contents of your boxes. We packed the sachels ourselves and distributed the books and stationary items for the pupils directly to them. The chinks, balls and more general items we handed to the Heads of the schools. You can see that many pupils from

*different schools have benefitted. THANK YOU all at Literacy Trust for your hard work in procuring these items and raising the funds to send them to needy pupils here. It is a wonderful vision, and very practical. Education is such a struggle for poor families”*



There are more photos from this shipment on our Facebook page

### MOTHER EAGLE MINISTRIES

These photos date back to spring last year when they were received, along with some others, on a pdf document. Apologies for the delay in publishing them but I’ve only recently discovered how to convert them to jpgs. I will be putting the rest on our facebook page shortly. The photos came with a message from Grace Lutanda “We are sending you photos from some of the boxes we got from the last container from Tavistock.



*Literacy in a box has been such a great help to our children, as most of them have never owned a school bag before. Parents cannot afford even to buy exercise books for some of the children. We are really grateful, for you have brought dignity to our children.*

*Instead of carrying papers in plastic bags, they now carry books and good pencils in school bags. Some of the children sit on block in class, no desks as well as chairs; hence having school bags and books is indeed a great boost to their morale.*



*Teachers are also very appreciative of the chinks sent for them. They say that these last longer and are not dusty. Please keep up this very noble work. We are very grateful to you at Literacy in a Box.”*

## **MATCHING GRANT APPLICATION**

As you may have read in our last newsletter, the newly formed Mfuwe Rotary club was chartered at the end of last year. To commemorate this event we are hoping to send out Literacy Boxes and curriculum text for over 1000 pupils in newly built and refurbished classroom blocks at Mfuwe Day School and Mnkhanya Community School. Work in both schools is under the management of Project Luangwa who has this to say about Mnkhanya Community School

*“For some time five teachers have been teaching 400 pupils split into 7 grades in just 2 run down classrooms with very few desks. [The Estelle Trust] were so taken with the needs of children and the efforts that the community has made towards their little school that they.....agreed to fund a new classroom block which will contain 3 new classrooms as well storerooms and teachers’ offices.”*

Thanks to the generosity of clubs in Districts 1290 and 1170 (Cornwall and Devon) we have received pledges totaling £8,075 which has enabled our sponsoring Club, the Rotary Club of Roborough, Plymouth, to apply for a grant which, if we are successful, will result in £28,262 being available for the project in total. We will post a message on our Facebook page as soon as we hear about our application from the Rotary Foundation.

## **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

Nov - Dunbar Rotary club Charity Shop  
 Rotary Club of Westbury (& Wessex Mead Rotary Club)  
 Photos from Zimbabwe  
 Photos from Msoro  
 Looe Community Academy

Dec - Matching Grant Appeal  
 AIn Federation Rotakids  
 Inner Wheel club of Dundee  
 Christmas greetings

Jan - Rotary Club of Parkstone  
 January 2013 shipment  
 Notre Dame School  
 Matching Grant update  
 News from Nepal  
 Nicolson Institute Interact Club

## **THE LAST WORDS**

I promised more about Nepal in our Facebook posting but I’m afraid it will have to wait until the next newsletter. ***Finally, don’t forget that March is Literacy Month. Help us to help Zambian children realise their potential.***