



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

May I wish all our supporters a fulfilling and healthy 2015 and send you a big thank you for all you have done to help Literacy in a Box in 2014.

The year ended with Literacy Boxes for two projects being packed and sent at the same time in early December along with 18 boxes for schools we regularly support in our School Aid for Zambia programme.

I would like to thank the RIBI Donations Trust for funding that enabled Roborough Rotary Club to purchase and send 20 Literacy Boxes to support Tondo School in Manila, a school run by the Philippine Community Fund (PCF).

I would also like to thank those that supported the Manaca Community School Project which involved refurbishment and provision of basic school materials and Zambian curriculum text books in the suburbs of Lusaka, delivered in partnership with Operation Sunshine, Goodwill & Growth for Africa (GAGA) and participating Rotary Clubs and Districts.

We tell you about the 500th Literacy Box to be sent to Zambia, funded by Scarcliffe Primary School, near Chesterfield in Derbyshire.

Finally we tell you a little about some of the community schools we support.

As we move into 2015 and reflect on eight years of working with the children in Zambia, I cannot help but feel humbled by the friendships shared, the support given by the Rotarians and their Clubs, from Inner Wheel ladies and their Clubs and of course the schools in this country, whose children really empathise with the children in Zambia and go out of their way to help.

Please spread the word, so that others may also join us and allow us to do more to help the Zambian children. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Ian Parker

Chairman

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TONDO SCHOOL MANILA

The PCF provides educational opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged communities in the Philippines. Many of the children come from families who earn a living scavenging on rubbish dumps.



In 2003 their largest school was operating out of a dilapidated warehouse.



Educating children in that environment was extremely difficult until the Philippine Government gave PCF some disused land on the old Smokey Mountain dump site in 2007 to build a new multi purpose school.

There wasn't sufficient money in the charity to build a new school, but APL Shipping in Manila had offered to donate some shipping containers. PCF asked a local firm of architects if they could design a school made from recycled shipping containers. Three years later PCF had built a ground breaking 4 storey school.



The children at the new schools were thrilled to receive 40 boxes of basic School materials in 2011 thanks to donations from Portsmouth & Southsea, and Jersey Rotary Clubs, and the efforts of Dennis Meadus of Portsmouth & Southsea Club in securing Rotary Grant funding.



It's been far too long since 2011 so we were really pleased to be able to send some additional boxes in December last year. The shipment was possible thanks to a grant of £5563.78 from the RIBI Donations Trust. The successful grant application was made by Literacy in a Box sponsor, Roborough Rotary Club, who also provided the additional funding to enable 20 boxes to be sent.



We look forward to seeing the Boxes arrive later this year

MANACA PROJECT

You read all about the refurbishment of Manaca Community School in our last (October 2014) Newsletter. Following the refurbishment, 16 boxes were packed in December and are now on their way to the school.



We will also be providing the School with £3,000 of local curriculum text books.

Many thanks to

Baldock Rotary and Rotary District 1260 who funded 6 Literacy Boxes,

Medway Sunlight Rotary Club and Rotary District 1120 who funded 4 Literacy Boxes,

Goodwill and Growth for Africa who funded 3 boxes and provided £115 for text books,

Diss and District Rotary Club and Rotary District 1080 who funded 2 Literacy Boxes,

Howden Rotary Club who funded 1 Literacy Box and provided £205 for text books,

Medway Rotary Club and Rotary District 1120 who provided £1,200 for text books,

Roborough Rotary Club and Rotary District 1290 who provided £1,500 for text books.

Also thanks to the packing team for packing, not only the 16 boxes for Manaca, but also the 20 Boxes for Manila, and 18 Boxes for our regular School Aid for Zambia programme.

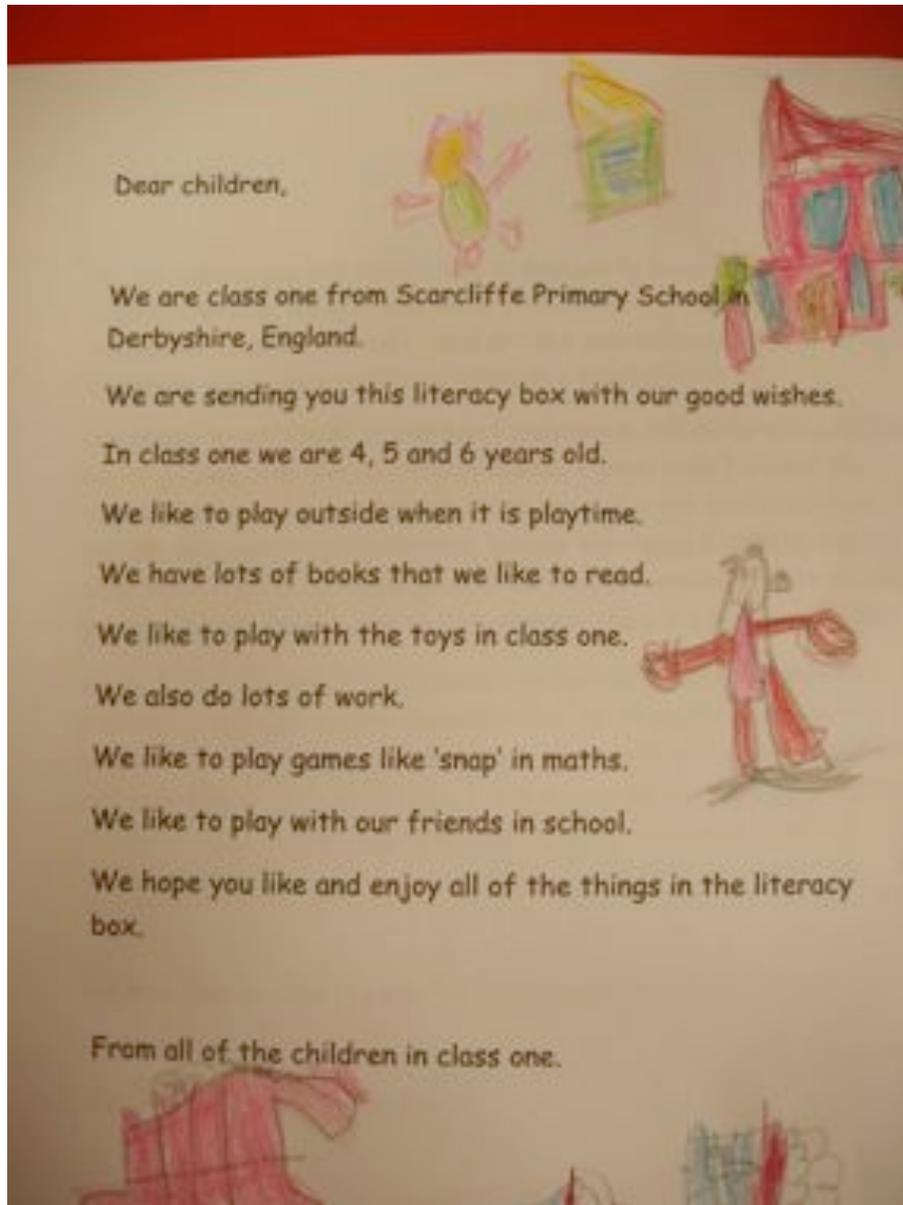


SCARCLIFFE PRIMARY - 500TH BOX

The 20 boxes for our School Aid for Zambia programme took our total boxes to all destinations for 2014 up to 165, our biggest yearly total yet. It also included our 500th Box to Zambia which was funded by Scarcliffe Primary School in Derbyshire.



Our Chairman Ian Parker and his wife Andrea gave a presentation to the children at Scarcliffe School and the pupils gave Ian and Andrea personal letters, an example of which is reproduced below, to put in the Box for the Zambian children.



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Zambia has a large number of Community schools like Manaca which were developed for children who either could not afford to attend government schools because of requirement for School Uniform and Basic School Materials or because they lived in areas that were too remote for the children to be able to walk to a Government School.

They were started by members of the community, often under a tree or in a church building, or in the case of Manaca, in a chicken shed! Although the founders and teachers have a real passion to educate the children these schools are often under-funded and under-resourced.

In some cases Community schools are set up to provide education for disabled children who would otherwise be kept in isolation within the home.

We provide support to many Community Schools. A few examples which have received materials from us recently follow:-

JEDIDIAH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Jedidiah Christian Academy is in Makeni, a rural area on the outskirts of Lusaka. It started with just a few children coming for lessons from its founder Sifelani Mwali in a derelict building without a roof. As it grew to over 150 pupils it suffered from a chronic lack of adequate classroom space and school

materials, problems which we have been able to play our small part in alleviating by the provision of basic school materials and, more recently, local curriculum text books which we now use all our gift aid reclaims for.

KUTEMWA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Kutemwa Community School is in Chongwe, a community about 50 miles outside Lusaka. The community consist of 14 villages in a catchment area of around 3000 people. The school provides an education for over 200 orphans and vulnerable children. As with all our boxes, the 4 they have just received included footballs and mini footballs in addition to all the basic school materials.



The footballs double as netballs



and in the photo you can also see the wind pump and water storage tank that has been installed to meet domestic needs and help

the community irrigate and cultivate its crops all year round in order to feed the children and create surplus produce to sell.

MULELA SPECIAL SCHOOL

Mulela Special School is in the suburbs of Lusaka. The School was founded by Susan Mulela, herself disabled, who is shown on the right of the photo. The food bags were provided by our logistics partner, Operation Sunshine. The School now educates around 40 children. Without Mulela Special School these children would probably be confined to home with no hope of an education.



FACEBOOK ROUNDUP

Do have a look at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/literacyinabox 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/literacyinabox and make regular returns.

THE LAST WORDS

In our last newsletter you read about our work with schools in this country, specifically Hyde Park School in Plymouth and Stanley Grove School in Wakefield. We continued the story in this newsletter with news of our work with Scarcliffe Primary School.

To further develop this aspect of the Trust's work we have produced a video specifically aimed at Primary School children. The video is designed to explain the work of the Literacy in a Box Trust to school children and, at the same time, tell them what life is like for children in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It will be on our website soon but, in the meantime, you can have a sneak preview by clicking on the image below.



If you want a download link to the video, DVD, or any other help in promoting Literacy in a Box in your local Schools, please get in touch.

We sent 145 Boxes to Zambia in 2014. We need to send around 1,000 Boxes a year to keep the 37 or so Schools we support fully supplied with basic School materials. We still have a long way to go to ensure that the supply of Literacy Boxes meets the actual needs. However with your ongoing support we are certain we can close this gap.

Please spread the word, so that others may join us and allow us to do more to help the Zambian children.