



## CHAIRMAN’S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

The excitement of our Zambian Trip has now been replaced by the reality of what we have to do to continue to support the communities we visited last September. Children can only develop in their communities by education and this is a long term process lasting at least 6 years at Primary level and many more years thereafter, depending on the level of education available to the children. Roborough Rotary Club’s Matching Grant last year supported both Primary and Secondary Schools in Zambia but, welcome as this was, it is still a drop in the ocean.

We all react quickly and give generously to facilitate immediate relief for a disaster. The needs of the children in the communities we support are different, BUT just as great, with education the only way out of the twin threats of Poverty and AIDS. We aim to supply school materials to these children throughout their Primary Education; a modest enough ambition but one which requires 800 Literacy Boxes a year. We will only achieve this with long term support from our donor groups and I would like to give special thanks to all those from Rotary, Inner Wheel, RotaKids and Interact Clubs and also Schools who have made repeat donations. Please keep it coming!!

In this Newsletter we concentrate on our ‘core’ programme , [SchoolAid4Zambia](#) under

which we have just sent another 40 Literacy Boxes to Grace for distribution to various schools in and around Lusaka. A further two Literacy Boxes have been donated by the Gerrish Family, as part of the Wye Valley School’s Zambia Project.

We reflect on the RIBI Conference where we met Sarah Brown and witnessed the presentation to Penryn Interact Club of the award of RIBI Interact Project of the Year.

Finally, we report on the refurbishments at Manaca School in Lusaka, and a project to provide basic school materials and, if possible, Zambian curriculum text books to help the 400 pupils there.

Enjoy the read and thank you all for your ongoing support.

Ian Parker, Chairman

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## RIBI CONFERENCE

Sarah Brown, wife of former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, was on a hectic itinerary when she visited our display stand at the Annual Rotary Conference in Birmingham in April.

That week she had flown to Denmark for a conference about delivering universal education, then to New York and Washington DC for the 2015 Education Countdown. Towards the end of the week she was in Finland for a conference exploring education before finally arriving in Birmingham for the conference.

If you are wondering why she does this, it is because Sarah Brown is a woman on a mission and time is ticking away towards meeting her target of providing access to education for all children in the world by 2015. The task Sarah Brown has in front of her is to get 57 million children in the world into some form of schooling by 2015 and it's quite a formidable challenge.



It was a privilege for Literacy Box Chairman Ian Parker and Trustee Geoff Lucock to talk to Sarah, to learn more about her mission, and explain the role played by the Literacy in a Box Trust, as it attempts to fill the huge void that exists where educational funding does not stretch to the supply of school materials.

## PENRYN PRIZEWINNERS

We've reported on Penryn Interact in previous Newsletters but their fame goes on.

At the RIBI conference they were presented with an award for the best Interact Project in RIBI and further awards followed at Rotary District 1290 handover on 30<sup>th</sup> June.



The awards on show from left to right are

a Community Award for non Rotarians held by Tracy Hancock on behalf of Lisa Cooke of Penryn College,

the shield for the RIBI Interact Project of the Year held by Kathryn of Penryn Interact Club,

Rachel Bastian (tucked away at the back), the lead staff member for Interact at Penryn College holding her community award for non Rotarians,

a presidential citation for Penryn Rotary Club held on behalf of the Club by Katie of Penryn Interact Club,

Ann Congdon (also tucked away at the back) holding her service before self award. Ann is the Rotarian mentor to Penryn Interactors, having attended everyone of their meetings, and

the certificate for RIBI Interact Project of the Year held by Janna from Penryn Interact Club.

Just to remind you about the project, the Interact Club was split into three teams, given £25 each, and in an apprentice style challenge were asked to raise as much as

they could. They came back with £1,000 which, with support from Rotary District 1290, was turned into £2750 through the Rotary International grant process.

This enabled 10 boxes to be sent to Mkhanya Community School, which were packed by the pupils themselves. They also sent out personal letters to the Zambian children and received replies back. A fantastic project masterminded by Jim Henderson when he was President of Penryn Rotary Club. Jim is now Youth Service chair for Rotary District 1290 and is encouraging other Clubs in this District to emulate Penryn's success with similar projects.

The Trust would love to provide whatever support is needed for any Clubs who want to develop this idea with existing Interact Clubs or use it to start a new Club.

## OPERATION SUNSHINE

Following the closure of the Tavistock branch of Operation Sunshine, we now send our much needed Literacy Boxes to the same communities in Zambia that we have always supported via Operation Sunshine in Folkestone.

A silver lining to the cloud of the OS Tavistock closure has been provided to us in the form of a very generous donation from their residual funds to be used to support the supply of Literacy Boxes sent via Operation Sunshine in Folkestone. This has enabled us to send an additional 15 boxes in the July Box Shipment (see below) and also maintain our box price at £295 despite the additional costs involved in transporting our Literacy Boxes to Folkestone.

## JULY BOX SHIPMENT

Thanks to the many other donations received over the last few months we have been able to send 40 boxes on the Operation Sunshine container leaving Folkestone in July. The

packing was done at a new venue for us, Quickstore in Saltash, just over the Tamar bridge from Plymouth.



This is very convenient for Trustee Geoff Lucock, who does a fantastic job sourcing our box contents as cheaply as possible, as he lives in Saltash. We are very grateful to Quickstore for allowing us to use their premises and also to Langdon Transport Ltd storage and distribution, part of the Pallet Force distribution network, who transported our boxes safely up to Folkestone.

You may notice that we now have a new box style. We have retained the old colours, blue for the box and red for the lid, but our new box is much sturdier and better able to withstand the rigours of road, sea and air transport.

The photo below shows the two boxes that are being collected by the Gerrish family to fly out to Zambia in July as part of Wye Valley School Project Zambia.



## MANACA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Manaca School is a community school on the outskirts of Lusaka. It was started by its dedicated principal and founder, who provided the chicken house on her property to help educate local children.

In spite of its humble beginnings the school has grown to cater for around 400 local children who come from up to 5km away to receive lessons in all of the standard school subjects. The school offers a very high standard of education with almost all students passing their exams to go on to secondary school.



Trustees Ian Parker and Geoff Lucock visited Manaca School last year. The photo shows Ian's wife Andrea giving some of the pupils an impromptu Maths lesson.



We have sent a few boxes to Manaca School in the past. However, we wanted to do more

for such a deserving School. Since the Trustees returned from their September trip we have sent 4 boxes to Manaca, 2 as part of our November 2013 shipment and 2 as part of our March 2014 shipment

We have also set up a twinning arrangement with Stanley Grove Primary School in Wakefield. This followed a talk our Chairman gave to their pupils last Autumn. They were so enthused with the idea of establishing links with a Zambian School that they produced letters and a scrapbook that were included in the boxes sent over in March. Reply letters are being completed, and will soon be posted back to the eagerly waiting Stanley Grove pupils.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to send any more educational materials to Manaca because of the quality of the building and the consequent lack of security.



Lyn Callendar, who runs our logistics partner, Operation Sunshine in Folkestone, wrote to us about Manaca School in May this year. A few extracts from her e-mail are reproduced below.

*"Rosemary and her teachers are the most committed people you could wish to meet and they have a wonderful vision. On my visits to the school I take small amounts of money from various wellwishers in the UK. This money goes a long way, last year's money provided new toilets - only two toilets for almost 400 children and they are kept beautifully clean. The children*

*themselves clean the classrooms and the toilets.*

*Every day each and every book has to be collected and taken to the Headmistress's house and then back again in the morning. I have promised Rosemary that we will try and obtain some funds this year to secure the rooms. It will cost roughly £1,000 to secure the rooms; this will be new metal windows with fixed burglar bars, a hardwood indigenous door for each class and then an outside metal gate for the door which is very sturdy. Through Operation Sunshine we have already sent out tables and chairs and a local Rotary Group provided desks for one classroom. We are also looking to provide a new floor (at the moment the classrooms look a bit like English roads with potholes) and new ceilings - at the moment they are just corrugated iron, the ceiling would help insulate the children from the noise of the rain."*

Our problem was that we couldn't send more materials without the refurbishment and we couldn't use money donated for Literacy Boxes for the refurbishment. Fortunately a solution was provided by Operation Sunshine Folkestone, who will be funding and managing the refurbishment helped by another donation from the residual funds of Operation Sunshine Tavistock.

The refurbishment will be supervised by Lyn and Grace Lutanda in Zambia enabling us to undertake a project to fully provide the School with basic materials and, if possible, local curriculum text books.

We have already been promised funding for 3 boxes (£885) from Baldock Rotary club together with a matching amount from their Rotary District. Goodwill and Growth for Africa have also agreed to make £1,000 available for the project.

We need another £1,950 to enable us to send the 16 boxes required to provide basic school materials for all 400 pupils. Ideally we would

like a further £4000 (£10 per pupil) to enable each child to have their own local curriculum text books.

If you would like to join Baldock Rotary Club, Rotary District 1260 and Goodwill and Growth for Africa [www.gaga-uk.org](http://www.gaga-uk.org) as partners in the project to help this deserving School then please contact us as soon as possible.

## PHILIPPINES

The future of our project to promote literacy and numeracy in the Philippines by providing Literacy Boxes and local curriculum text books for Filipino children, which had been so generously supported, was a little uncertain last month.

Jane Walker, a Rotarian and CEO of the Philippine Community Fund (PCF) will handle the project in the Philippines.

However, the communities she supports have suffered a major tragedy over the last two months. The owner of a dump site on which many of them live is, with Government approval, forcibly evicting them and demolishing their dwellings. The demolition includes PCF's Community health centre and three communal toilet blocks. You can read more about this at <http://www.p-c-f.org>

Horrendous though the situation is we have established that the impact on the school we will be supporting through the Global Grant project is relatively small, involving at most 50 children and the grant application will be submitted shortly by Dennis Meadus on behalf of District Rotary District 1110. Our sponsor, Roborough Rotary Club, also hope to be able to obtain some Rotary grant funding to help these communities.

If the grant applications are successful we will be sending well over 100 Literacy Boxes on the PCF container, which will be leaving Portsmouth at the end of this year.

## 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)

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

We have received some fantastic support this year. The donations just keep flowing in. However we do like to publicise our supporters fundraising activities so please send us photos and reports of what you have been doing to help us. Below is just a small sample of what has been happening over the last few months.



Carclaze Rotakids Club raised enough money for a box with their crazy hair day.

King George IV College in Southport raised over £600 in a staff v students cycle



challenge. Apparently the staff won. We've suggested they should have a rematch!

And finally, our very own Inner Wheel Club of Roborough, whose President for the last Rotary year has been Ian's wife Andrea (below left), raised almost enough for 3 boxes through a Fish feast fundraiser, held in partnership with The Rotary Club of Roborough and a coffee morning generously hosted by Anne Rucker (below right). Sorry about the behaviour of odd character back right who bears an uncanny resemblance to our Chairman.

