



## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Supporter,

Once again may I welcome you to our Newsletter, which this time tells you about Literacy Boxes sent outside of our core programme, **School Aid 4 Zambia**; the growing interest and support from Schools, Colleges and Universities; a news round up; and what the Trustees are up to!!

Creating an awareness of what it does, then maintaining it, is the lifeblood of any organisation that needs a flow of donations to carry out its work and because The Literacy in a Box Trust was founded by Roborough Rotary Club, the major platform of promotion in this country, is at this stage of its development, to all levels of Rotary and our sister organisation, Inner Wheel. Once we have created an awareness at the administration levels of both Rotary and Inner Wheel, we hope that their clubs are able to promote us to the businesses, schools, youth organisations and other groups in the communities in which they are situated. Finally, we hope that those who have supported us through a Rotary or Inner Wheel introduction in their community, are able to encourage the wider public to be involved and to this end we are trying to get to grips with social media options!!!

It's conference season again and once more our Trustees have been out and about, showing the work of the Trust to delegates

at Rotary District Conferences, as we encourage the new committee chairs in Rotary and Inner Wheel to support us. We have felt tremendous warmth from everyone we have met this autumn, whether fellow Rotarians or the Ladies from Inner Wheel and when we add the support developing from schools, we are very grateful for how everyone is getting behind us!!

We have received our first donation from a Rotakids Club and this is reported below. Thanks to all those who are working in schools on our behalf and are using the Literacy Box as the catalyst for their efforts. I am certain that school support will grow, as pupils love the idea of helping their colleagues overseas and for the schools concerned, the process of raising a donation for the Literacy Box touches on key aspects of the curriculum in Global Citizenship and Understanding an Overseas Culture.

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## BOXES TO BURMA ROAD SCHOOL

Last year Royal Wootton Bassett Town Rotary Club donated £1100 to enable us to send 4 boxes to Burma Road Basic school in Lusaka

The choice of school was a natural one for the Club as Marie Bernhardt, next year's President of the Club, is a governor at St Bartholemews Primary school which has long standing ties with Burma Road Basic School.

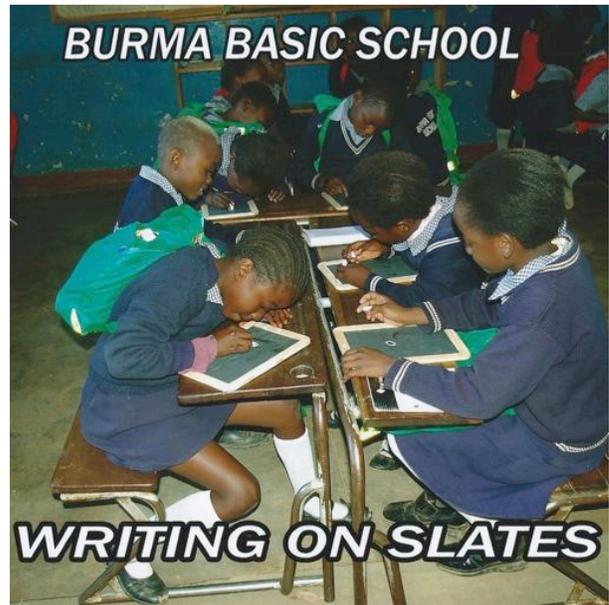
The ties have been strengthened by three years of Teacher Exchange programmes made possible by funding provided by the British Council in Lusaka through Mr Ackim Banda, the programme manager. Two members of staff from Burma Road Basic school, Angela Mutale Mwape Mukuma (headteacher) and Sophia Mufune (senior teacher) came over to the UK in June this year.



The photo shows Marie with Angela and Sophie next to Mrs Lane, headteacher of St Bartholemews at a meeting of the Rotary Club on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Also featured are Richard Hunt, Club International Chairman and Harry Maclaughlin, Club Project Manager.

The 4 boxes were sent in November 2011 and arrived in Zambia mid March but the photos of the children receiving the box contents arrived just too late to meet the deadline for our July newsletter. However all the photos are now on the Club's website, linked from our Facebook page.

The slates seem to have gone down particularly well!



We're very pleased to report that the Club will be funding a further 4 boxes which we hope to be sending over as part of our January shipment on the next Operation Sunshine Container to Zambia.

## BOXES TO NEPAL

When you read this, Bjorn Watson, Peter Walker, Clive Clark, Glyn James and Alyson and Nigel Lee of Faringdon and District Rotary Club will be heading to Nepal to build sustainable housing with the Habit for Humanity "Big Build" Project.



They have been preceded by two of our boxes which were flown out of Heathrow on

29<sup>th</sup> September and collected from Katmandu by the Rotary Club of Dhulikhel & District. Although the boxes have been funded by Faringdon Rotary Club, the Club has left it to the Rotary Club of Dhulikhel and District to select a suitable school for them to be distributed to.

## BOX TO GHANA

Warwick in Africa is a well-established innovative, philanthropically funded programme, developed over seven years by Warwick University students from a small volunteering project to a multi-layered programme which supports learners and their teachers with maths and English education in South Africa, Tanzania and Ghana.

The Rotary Club of Stainborough, S.Yorks, has a link with Warwick University and a donation from the Club enabled a Literacy Box to be taken to Ghana this summer.

## ROWENA EVANS

We are more than happy to customise our boxes and our September shipment to Zambia included a box funded by the Rotary Club of Thornaby and Yarm in memory of Rowena Evans who tragically died in a car crash last year.



The photo above shows Rowena's box on the September Operation Sunshine container. In the foreground is our founding Trustee Forbes Watson with Felicity Derry Thomas who ran the South West Branch of Operation Sunshine before Anne Tregarthen took over last year.

## SUPPORT FROM SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Interest in our project from Primary schools continues to grow and we are doing a number of presentations at local schools, most recently at Plaistow Hill Infant and Nursery School in Plymouth.



The photo above features Chris Bryan, who gave the assembly on behalf of Literacy in a Box, teacher Sharon Burnett, and, of course, the children with some of the box contents.

Although it is primary schools who most readily identify with our box contents and the children in Zambia who receive them, we are receiving help and support from right across the educational spectrum.

We reported on the activities of Wye Valley College in our July newsletter and Warwick University in **BOX TO GHANA** above left.

Earlier this year the ITQ Diploma in IT user skills students from Kingston Maurwood College presented Portland Rotary Club with a cheque for £150 for Literacy in a Box. The money came from calendars they had designed and produced as part of their course....

....and a few days ago we received a request from a group of students studying for the BA in Early Childhood Studies at Plymouth University who wish to help in fundraising for us and raising awareness of our charity, as part of a teambuilding exercise.

## ALNWICK ROTAKIDS

This really is a continuation of the previous section, "Support from Schools, Colleges and Universities", but deserves a section to itself.

The article below was kindly provided by Elaine Smith of Alnwick Rotary Club in Northumberland, 450 miles away from Plymouth!:-

*Aln Federation of Schools comprises*

*The Duchess's High school,  
The Duke's Middle School,  
Lindisfarne Middle School and  
Alnwick South First School.*

*All Schools have the same governing body and work together in several ways.*

*In 2011 The Rotary Club of Alnwick gave presentations to all schools about the work Rotary Clubs do in the immediate and wider communities. As a result The Duke's Middle School invited the Club to give a presentation to the School Council about Aqua Boxes and Shelter Boxes. The Council decided to raise money for these charities. Rotary and Duke's began working together and in the autumn term of 2011 it was agreed that we should invite Lindisfarne and Alnwick South to join us in forming a RotaKids Club. As young people transfer from the First School to the Middle School it provides an additional opportunity for them to work together and get to know one another.*

*Staff from the three schools and some Rotarians met to discuss the idea and planned how to begin. Each school elected four members to serve on 'The Council' and in turn The Council elected a president, secretary and treasurer. The council all took the RotaKids promise and were then presented with their badges. We were now ready to begin and promptly set the*

*programme for the year. Ideas were in no short supply. We arranged some educational visits - all organised by Rotary - and decided on three fund raising activities for the year. At least one is always a local cause and any two others they choose.*

*Literacy in a Box was chosen after a demonstration box was presented to the council, who in turn showed it in assemblies to all three schools and persuaded their peers that they should hold a sponsored fancy dress Fun Run at the end of the summer term. They adopted the Olympics or favourite sportsman as their theme.*



*The weather was not kind, in fact it rained for most of the month prior to the chosen day but spirits were not dampened, even though the outfits were, and the schools duly raised a magnificent sum, enough to buy **three Literacy Boxes.***

**WELL DONE ALNWICK!**

## MFUWE ROTARY CLUB

Mfuwe Basic School in Zambia was the first school to which we sent a Literacy Box so we are particularly pleased to be able to offer our congratulations to Zambia's newest Rotary Club, Mfuwe, which was formally chartered on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Anna and Steve Tolan, who you may remember from previous newsletters run the Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust, are both founder members. They have identified a couple of school projects which we could help them with which may be eligible for matching Rotary grants, similar to those we obtained for the Philippines project reported on in our October 2011 Newsletter. Watch this space for more information.

## FACEBOOK ROUNDUP

Aug - Boxes to Ghana and Namibia. Unfortunately the boxes to Namibia haven't yet gone due to logistical problems!

Link to photos of Burma Road Boxes  
Thanks to Elaine O'Brien and Dunbar Rotary Club  
Thanks to Launceston Rotary Club

Sept - Autographed Collectible auctioned on e-bay. In case you're wondering we didn't get a bid for it!

27 boxes to Zambia  
Thanks to Chris Bryan for help packing and Mapac for the free caps

Oct - Boxes to Nepal  
Story of Mildred at Mfuwe school

## THE LAST WORDS

By the time this Newsletter is issued our Literacy Boxes will, over the last three years,

have had a presence at the conferences of all 29 Rotary Districts in the UK.



This has been a major exercise in raising awareness of what we do. There are a number of National Rotary Box charities but we like to feel that we are distinctive in offering, not just an opportunity to help a deserving overseas cause, but an opportunity to get involved with schools and youth organisations in the local community. Our school presentations serve the dual purpose of

educating children in this country about life in Sub Saharan Africa, hopefully making them more appreciative of the opportunities that many of them take for granted, and

raising awareness of what we do and encouraging the schools to raise money for a box, a process which can lead to a ongoing relationship with a school in Zambia.

Please do get in touch in you feel you can help us to promote Literacy in a Box in your local community.

And finally, the next Operation Sunshine container will be going to Zambia in January 2013. Please spare a thought at Christmas for the many children in Zambia who have been orphaned through the ravages of AIDS, and help us send as many boxes as we can to help them.