

# **School for Peace Support Group**

## **Minutes of meeting held**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Present:** Rona Baxter, Michael Ellwood, Mary Ellwood, Alan Williams, Colin Childs, Jane Mawer, Neil Bauers

**Apologies:** Sydna Playford, Ann Felton, Alison Scott, Benedicta Moxon, Father Martin, Chris Scott

**The minutes of the last meeting** were approved and signed by Michael.

### **Sponsorship/ Donations news**

Mary and Sydna have settled on a system for reminding sponsors who do not pay by standing order that their payments are due. This should be in place very soon. Mary is in the process of sending letters and the newsletter to those with no email address. Alan will send the next sponsorship money before the end of the summer term.

### **News from the Congo**

Mary showed the most recent photos of the goods that had arrived as well as photos of the senior choir looking very smart in black and white outfits. Mary has sent an email containing many questions but they have not yet been answered.

### **Treasurer's report**

Alan reported that there is £61, 072.08 in the bank account. Regarding the first payment of £10,000 for the library: we have struggled to make payments by electronic transfer. We tried but the computer did not recognise the beneficiary name. It could be to do with spacing and hyphens. We contacted Father Jo Deneckere in Brussels but he did not quite realise what our question was. Alan has now discovered that if £20,000 and more is being sent, we can do this by letter. Perhaps we could send this amount after the meeting. The sum was agreed by the support group. We have received £27.23 from Easyfundraising. Alan has completed the Gift Aid application for the last two years and hopes to receive £16,000. He bought more stamps before the price went up.

Tim Basey-Fisher (St John's Storage) received the gift token and sent a lovely message to thank us.

### **Recent events**

- The spring edition of the newsletter has been printed and copies are at the back of both churches.
- Margaret Knox, who was a supporter of the School since its inception, died on Easter Sunday. We have had a phone call from her daughter saying that money will be sent in her memory.
- The son of another supporter has also sadly died and we will be receiving the money donated at his funeral.
- Mary has written to Louise Wright in Norfolk (who lived in Congo for many years) to see if she could come and give a talk. We await her response.
- Colin has had our logo put on the side of his racing car and took it to Brand's Hatch recently.
- We had a call from Charity Checkout, a company that claims to help smaller charities compete with larger ones. They pointed out that we have no facility for potential donors to pay via the website. They would be willing to set this up for us as well as a campaign page for current projects. This would cost £479 per year. Alan pointed out that this sum amounts to four sponsorships a year and is too much. All agreed. Neil has spent a lot of time this evening reinstating the Virgin Moneygiving page on our website. This should help. He will also look at the photo gallery and delete photos that are now less relevant. We have also updated the facebook page. Alan also asked him about the QR code which should be put on all our literature and which will take people directly to our website if

they have the appropriate phone. We are grateful to Neil for maintaining the website and helping us with all the technical issues.

- A 1950s armchair was donated to the charity, and has been sold for £50.

### **Forthcoming events**

- Mary hopes to give a short update after Masses perhaps in May, and make an appeal for more sponsors.
- We hope to have another bric-a-brac stall on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April (weather permitting) or on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May.
- We are still waiting for the musicians to suggest a date for a concert at St Benet's. It is looking like September now. We all looked at their programme which might have to be slightly adapted.
- Alan will investigate costs of a Film Archive evening and Mary will check on the blinds in St Benet's School Hall.
- We discussed the possibility of another garden party this summer. We have several options for gardens: Joy Jeffrey, Betty Breheny, The Nicholsons, Howard Trust. Mary will investigate the options and report back at the next meeting. Mary's choir is already preparing a garden party in Worlingham singing Barber Shop music, but we will have to ask if they would be willing to repeat it for us.
- Brigid Rawlinson has suggested a book sale in St Benet's Hall, perhaps in August when the flower festival would be. We could also serve refreshments. We will investigate storage. Perhaps Father Martin has a little more now.

### **A.O.B.**

- Mary has spoken to the head teacher at Sir John Leman High School (Michael Taylor) to ask about the possibility of a couple of his older students getting involved with fundraising, or helping on days when help is needed to put up gazebos etc. He was quite positive about this and asked Mary to write a letter outlining what would be required. The group agreed that this would be worth investigating further and Jane pointed out that those involved in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme might be grateful for a charity to get involved in.
- Alan suggested that we invite Peter Aldous MP to a meeting when he has the chance as he is still very interested in the project. Rona suggested phoning his PA, Dawn, who will let us know when he is in the vicinity.
- Mary showed a beautiful vintage green and yellow silk evening outfit which had been donated and is going to write to Delia Smith to outline the charity and ask if she would like to buy it!
- Michael has been given a triple display board in its own case which will be ideal for future events.
- Alan checked that we are keeping in touch with Louis de Bernières. Mary admitted that she has not written to him for a long time and will send the latest newsletter immediately.

### **Next meeting**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**