

School for Peace Support Group
Minutes of meeting held
Tuesday 11th December 2018

Present: Rona Baxter, Michael Ellwood, Mary Ellwood, Sydna Playford, Alan Williams, Colin Childs, Norman Healy, Father Martin, Mary Nicholson

Apologies: Alison Scott

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

Sponsorship/ Donations news

Mary reported that we have a further two new sponsors – a second lady from Winchester and the daughters of an existing sponsor.

Sydna is continuing to remind Mary on a monthly basis of outstanding payments from sponsors. Sydna, Mary and Alan met on 21st November to update the sponsors payment list. They will continue to meet on a regular basis. This sponsor document will be enlarged and printed for ease of use.

Donations totalling £1,250 have been received recently from well-wishers and supporters.

News from the Congo

Mary read out a message from Sister Virginie sent on 18th November to say that the community had lost three sisters in the space of 15 days: Sister Thérèse died from old age (93), Sister Julie died from diabetes aged 75, and most shockingly Sister Hortense who was in charge of the community in Likasi and an adviser to the community as well as their bursar, died suddenly from a heart attack aged 45. They are all devastated by these deaths. As Sister Virginie was in Congo for the funerals, she was able to get the engineer to start work on the new library on 15th November. Photos have been sent. She regrets the lack of computer skills of the new head teacher but she hopes these issues will be resolved soon.

Treasurer's report

Alan informed the meeting that there is £51, 150.17 in the bank accounts. Our Easy Fundraising total is now £436.10 – enough to send four children to school for a year.

Mary has asked Sister Angeline Wikele to send a receipt with an official stamp for the three sums of money they have received this year. She has acknowledged this in an email but we have explained that something more formal is necessary.

Mary and Colin attended the Charity Commission Workshop in London on 26th November and Alan went to Newcastle on 5th December. They summarised the day but will meet again separately to prepare a formal document for dissemination. The main points from the workshops were 1) the importance of keeping tight financial control all along the chain 2) ensuring that our charity mission statement matches what we are actually doing.

Recent events

- The film at Geldeston (The Bookshop) on 30th November was very well attended and we raised £80.00.
- Neil has updated the website with photos and has also added outstanding minutes. People do look at the website so we are grateful to Neil for overseeing this.
- **18th November at 4pm** - Auriga Capella sang at Broadlands Care Home, Oulton Broad to raise money for the Medical Centre. Clodagh, Rona, Sydna, Mary and Pat attended but there could have been a bigger audience. A cheque for £20 was received which is welcome but lessons were learned in case of a similar event in the future.
- Sydna and Mary ran a stall at St Benet's Hall on Sunday 9th December and £138 was raised.

Forthcoming events

- **30th January at 2pm** - Film at Geldeston – Christopher Robin
- **17th or 24th February at 3pm** – High tea at The Old Rectory, Barsham during which Auriga Capella will be singing

A.O.B.

- We discussed Waveney Swing Band's offer but decided their costs (£800) made it a risky venture and that the Music Hall would be more of a safe bet at either Hungate or Blyburgate Hall, the Public Hall again being too costly.
- The Blyth Music Group's concert at St Benet's is a real possibility in the Spring
- Mary to get in touch with the Sisters to get an update on the costs for finishing the Medical Centre and the Library including books.
- At the next meeting it was agreed that we would reassess the 5 year plan as we ran out of time this month, the evening finishing with excerpts from a DVD of the 2009 visit highlighting how much has been achieved since then.
- Mary will email an interim newsletter before Christmas, quoting from emails received from the sisters.
- Colin suggested having some mugs made up with the logo and website address for future stalls and events. He has some for his company and they are popular. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea. Colin to investigate costs.

Next meeting Wednesday 30th January @ 7.30pm