

School for Peace Support Group

Minutes of meeting held

Wednesday 27th June 2019

Present: Rona Baxter, Michael Ellwood, Mary Ellwood, Sydna Playford, Alan Williams, Alison Scott

Apologies: Jane Mawer, Colin Childs

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by Mary

Sponsorship/ Donations news

We received a donation of £1106 from Shirley Webster-Jones' funeral and Hector De Cavilla left £300 in his will. Colin Childs requested that his wedding guests give a donation instead of a present and Peter Hobbs is about to start his cycle ride – both of these have Virgin Giving pages so Mary to check the account for donations. We have raised £546 with Easy Fundraising since we started it.

Mary took \$1000 to the Congo which the sisters will use for solar panels on the Medical Centre – this came from money raised by Auriga Capella and half of a £1000 donation previously received.

Mary is to speak at the end of Mass on Sunday 7th July to update parishioners and try to recruit more sponsors. Mr and Mrs Mascarenhas have been trying to donate – Mary to pursue.

News from the Congo / Recent Events

See attached.

Treasurer's report

We currently have £40,283.84 in the Co-op with a further £1181.81 in the Santander account making a total of £41,465.65. Alan reported that the Co-op have changed their 14 days account to instant access.

Sponsorship money for the coming academic year needs to be sent soon and Mary to give Alan her expenses for her trip to the sisters.

Forthcoming events

- **Peter Hobbs** is cycling from John O'Groats to the Shetland Isles raising money for 3 different charities, one of which is the School for Peace.
- **Darren and Claire** from Glebeland School are going to drive an old banger from the school to the Arctic and all proceeds will go to the charity. Alan and Mary will find out more details and Sydna suggested that we get local radio and TV involved.
- **Sam Barlow** from St Benet's is interested in the children doing a project on the car drive.
- **Mary** is giving a talk at St Benet's Assembly on 28th June and at Worlingham on 1st July

- **Mary** to meet with Geldeston Hall to try and sort out future film afternoons
- **Brian Norman** has suggested an evening showing old footage such as Abbott & Costello along with some early Magic Lantern material which could be held in October at St Benet's

A.O.B.

- Mary to get in touch with BBJ re her trip to Zambia/Congo
- Rona has mentioned the visit to Suffolk Radio who promise to follow up
- AGM – possibly October 18th – Michael to see if Library is free
- Michael recently went to a training workshop at Birkett's and there is some paperwork to go through with Alan

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 4th September @ 7.30pm**

Mary's notes about her visit:

A group from the wider St B community have just returned from a three-week visit to Zambia, close to the Congo border in a convent set up by the sisters nineteen years ago during the Great War. The reason for not going to Congo this time was the insecurity and having heard that Sr Rosine's nephew had been murdered during a break in at his parents' house. However the head teachers at the school for peace and the sister in charge of educational projects for the order all came over to see us. First travelling by bus to the border, staying the night at the Bishop's residence before crossing the river in a rowing boat and jumping on the back of a motorbike which is the cheapest type of taxi.

They brought all the latest news and photos with them. Basically St Benet's school for Peace is thriving now with over 1000 pupils, the library building is almost finished, the choir has just won a prize and teachers from other schools are visiting to see what can be achieved.

Three of the first sponsored pupils hope to continue with their studies now they have reached the age of 18 and that will have implications for sponsorship. We managed to give 1000 dollars to the sisters who run the medical centre which has been raised by the Auriga Capella Girls' Choir in the last couple of years. Small operations are now being performed there although only two rooms are functioning. They would like to buy solar panels with that money as electricity is unstable.

Some sad news is that four parents and one pupil have died during the school year and there are 15 children who cannot afford any school fees at all so we need to keep up our fundraising and efforts to find more sponsors. 23 sponsors have died since fundraising began in 2001. Mass was said for them in the sisters' chapel one morning. All of their names were read out and will be painted onto the wall of one of the buildings. The sisters are praying for all of us as we pray for them and are so grateful for all that we do to help them in their work.