

School for Peace Support Group
Minutes of meeting held
Tuesday 10th December 2019

Present:, Michael Ellwood, Mary Ellwood, Sydna Playford, Alan Williams, Rona Baxter, Mary Nicholson, Mary Sparrow, Nate Sparrow

Apologies: Jane Mawer, Alison Scott, Colin Childs, Father Martin

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

Sponsorship/ Donations news

We have had two sponsorship renewals and Mick Atkins has donated £120 towards Pichouna's university fees. Fortunately, we can now cover the fees for all three further education students for 2019-2020 but we must receive termly information from them. In January we might have two new sponsors for some of the school children who need sponsoring.

News from the Congo

Mary showed some recent photos and distributed the translation of interviews with students and teachers as well as a lengthy WhatsApp message from Sr Angeline (Secondary Head). See attached for the completed documents.

Treasurer's report

Alan is inundated with work at the moment and will give a full report at the next meeting. We need to send the money for the three students in further education as soon as possible (£1,500) as well as a sum for the toilets when we know how much they will cost. £13000 was suggested which will also cover the stocking of the library. This will be done as soon as possible. £58.40 has been paid into the account from EasyFundraising.

Recent vents

- The stall in Leicester on 16th November did not raise much money so they will do another one in the New Year
- Mary went to Glebeland Primary School on 26th November and received a cheque from the children for £1238.25 following on from Clare and Darren Williams' Arctic Challenge
- The stall at St Benet's Church on 1st December raised £132.12 with more money promised

Forthcoming Events

- Italian Buffet at Barsham Rectory on 15th February 2020 by kind permission of Howard Trust. This will be to celebrate St Faustino rather than St Valentine. Ticket price to be £15 including a drink Mary will meet with Hazell to discuss the logistics. Entertainment – still to be confirmed.
- Mary will update the children at St Benet's Primary School on 13th January

- We hope to have a concert at St Benet's Church in the Spring with Father Martin and Suffolk Strings, depending on Father Martin's eye surgery

AOB

- Rona suggested a summer event at Howard's in Barsham so that the garden can also be used
- Ralph Moore, a friend of Howard's, has suggested giving a talk for the charity He has sent a list of possible topics from Opera to Graphology

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 29th January**
at 7.30pm

Message from Sr Angéline November 2019

Good evening dear Mary! We are doing really well here and congratulate you all for your steady efforts which are really helping in the education and development of our students at the School for Peace, Lubumbashi. The rainy season has started at which point we experienced disruption with the internet for a week but now the connection is restored.

Our university students have started their courses: Bénédicte (Pichouna) since October, Ilunga and Joseph since November. The library building work has come to an end. We thank you sincerely for everything and express our gratitude for having thought of equipping it. It is called the Knox library. God bless you forever.

The two girls you asked about have moved to Ruashi. Jonathan Lukoksha is our neighbour and he often comes to see me. He's studying in the Sixth Form in a secondary school where they start in the mornings, as he explained to me that he was unable to start in the afternoons – he just couldn't adapt to studying into the evenings as we do here. Concerning the young people who have not been able to finish secondary school, they are getting jobs as mechanics, electricians, and in woodwork. Those who make it through secondary school dream of going to university.

Thanks to the whole team for your friendship and generosity!