

School for Peace Support Group
Minutes of meeting held
Tuesday 15th September 2020

Present: Michael, Mary, Alan, Rona, Alison

Apologies: Sydna, Colin, Jane

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

Sponsorship/ Donations news

Mary told the meeting that a letter will be sent to sponsors who have not yet sent their sponsorship money – Rona suggested a note could be added to say they could hand their money to Rona at the 10.30am service. Clodagh's family have said that they will get in touch with all their contacts and ask them to make a donation to the School for Peace in her memory. We've received £120 from jam sales and have raised £100.10 from selling books at auction and at a stall at Beccles Antiques Fair.

News from the Congo

Mary has received the following message from the Sisters: "The government has just lifted the Covid 19 emergency measures by authorising the resumption of exam classes while respecting the barrier measures against Covid 19. This is how we have just resumed school at St Benet's with the 6th primary and the 6th secondary to prepare them for the state exam. Because of the Covid situation, the Porticus organization (a Belgian charity) is asking us to present a project to support the teachers at St Benet's secondary school for the integral development of the child. Porticus offers these three components for the project:

1. Distance education online. Hence the need to train teachers to better use the tools of new technology and ensure effective online education.
2. Child protection
3. Water and sanitation

Porticus wants to know if there is another organization for co-funding – that is why we are asking if our friends in England can help us co-finance this project.

We had a meeting yesterday with the teachers. Given the Covid situation, it is important that each student has masks and that each class has a pedal hand wash and disinfectant.

For online education, teachers asked for:

1. Training to use the computer tools better and have a PC computer each
2. An overhead projector with screen to ensure the lessons in each classroom

The big question is how students and teachers can have a PC for distance learning. It is up to you to see what is possible for our friends in Beccles for co-financing – I thank you in advance."

The meeting then had some questions for Mary to ask the Sisters:

1. What type of online training do they require?
2. Do the students have access to PCs – what about electricity supply?
3. Are they now back at School?
4. Do they have exam results?
5. Toilets – are the original toilets now finished? Have they bought the land for the new toilets and/or finished them?

Treasurer's report

Alan reported that we have a balance of £23,974.70 made up of £20,834.34 in the Co-op 14 day deposit account, £1,728.03 in the Co-op current account, £580.86 in Santander current account and £831.47 in the Santander deposit account.

We have received the Gift Aid payment of £3,504.99 and £140 from Easy Fundraising. Mary is to access Virgin Money Giving to see who a donation of £20 is from.

Recent events

- Mary and Neil have been updating the website and uploading the Minutes
- Mary is liaising with 2 schools – at Somerleyton the geography teacher has been sent a Power Point presentation for their project on a village which is very different from theirs as part of the curriculum and a student from St Benedict's in Bury St Edmunds would like to do an on-line assembly to raise money and has sent a letter (translated by Mary) to the children at the School for Peace telling them about himself.
- Mary to check with Peter Aldous as to whether UK Aid Direct are still giving out funding – the next deadline for funding is March 2021, we would be applying to the fund for an 18-25 year olds literacy project for those who have never been to school.

Forthcoming Event Ideas for 2021

- Regarding the potential concert at St Benet's Church: the conductor of Suffolk Strings has now made contact with Father Martin, although no date has yet been set.
- Caritas Charities Festival at St George's Church, Sprowston in the Spring.
- Possible Garden Party at Barsham Rectory.
- Addy, our friend in Leicester, has been given a quantity of Lladró porcelain which is being sold on Ebay for the school. Also she has a friend who has a collection of photos of a relative who was a nun in the Congo which could be of interest.

AOB

- The AGM is to be postponed for the moment but Alan suggested that Michael (Chairman) and Mary (Secretary) produce their annual reports which could then be sent out to all our sponsors and friends of the charity. Officers will remain the same until we are able to hold a physical meeting.

The next meeting is to be arranged