



School for Peace Newsletter May 2016



Registered charity No. 1151173

Patron: Louis de Bernières

schoolforpeace.org

We have had another eventful year which has seen great strides with the secondary building work and a visit by two supporters to Tshamalale in April (2016).

The school year: September 2015 to 2016

There were 750 children on the school roll: 112 children in the Nursery School, 440 in Primary and 198 in Secondary. The children are now able to stay until 5th year Secondary when they take options to go on with academic education, pedagogy or business studies.

Most of the teachers in the nursery and primary school are now paid on a regular basis, but the secondary teachers receive no salary. They simply accept a donation which comes from the school fees the children pay. This will not be resolved until the secondary school is fully recognised by the state when there are 6 years. This will be in the next academic year.

The secondary building, however, has now doubled in size, thanks to a legacy from Ian Bauers. Here is the latest photo, showing the final stages of part of the



building which was delayed by two months in January and February because of torrential rain. In April, the builders were working very long hours and sleeping in the building in order to complete it before the end of the summer term. There will be a chemistry lab with copper sinks which has been paid for by a Belgian charity, as well as an IT room. The next stage will be a library as reading is something the children are very keen to do. Building work will start as soon as the secondary building is ready.

Le Dispensaire (free health centre)

This building, funded by two generous donors was also



delayed because of the severe rain and termites, but is now nearing completion and includes wards with bathrooms and even a small operating theatre where operations

will be performed by “Médecins Sans Vacances” surgeons who go to work in Africa during their holidays. The beds were already in place but the painters were working on it every day during our visit and we were amazed at the size of the building.

A message from Sister Virginie

« Dear Friends, we have just had the joy of welcoming Mary and Mike here and we thank you sincerely for all the school equipment that Mary brought.



Resources bought with Philip's marathon money

Thanks to all of you for your generous financial and practical support for the project. Although the building work was delayed due to heavy rains it is now advancing well. Thanks to Philip who ran the marathon for the nursery school. We are praying for you all! »

In the **financial year 2015-2016**, we were able to send £15,800. This was to cover sponsorship as well as to purchase nursery school resources and books. Without the generosity of our loyal supporters the project could not continue. A summary of the full accounts is available on request.

Fundraising news

The fundraising highlight was an Old Time Music Hall which took place in Hungate Canopy Theatre on September 12th 2015. Our patron, Louis de Bernières, kindly agreed to participate in the show which featured members of the group Salon Entertainment and included a magic lantern, music, recitation and community singing. The girls choir, Auriga Capella, performed by popular request. Refreshments were served. £1,095 was raised - our largest sum to date for an evening event. The Music Hall was very popular and we received positive feedback. The entertainers gave



*Eliza Byrne
with her old
cock linnet*

their talents freely and we are extremely grateful to all of them. The money raised will go towards providing resources for the secondary school.

Films at Geldeston

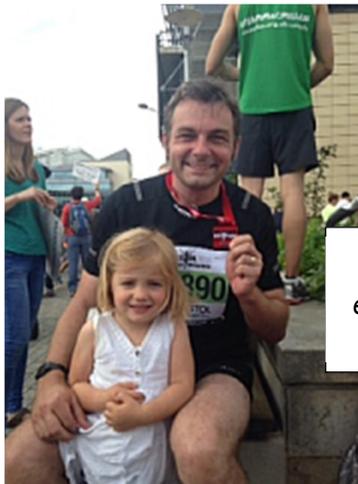
These films, at 2pm on a Wednesday afternoon, run monthly from September to May, thanks to the generosity of Brian Norman, not forgetting Jo and Lillian who make the cakes. This year £450 has been raised – more than enough to pay for four children's education for a year. Thanks to all the film goers! The dates for

autumn 2016 are: 28th September, 26th October and 30th November. For more information see

www.geldeston.org/films

Bristol half-marathon

On September 13th 2015, Marc Norris ran in this event, and raised £246.25 towards funding places for younger children in the nursery school. Thank you, Marc!



*Marc pictured at the
end of the run with his
daughter.*

Other fund-raising events included a three-day bric-a-brac stall during the St Benet's flower festival in August, a gift stall at Langley Christmas Fair and carol singing in Norwich with Auriga Capella in December.

Future fundraising

We hope to have another concert at St Benet's Church, a musical garden party as well as another Music Hall. Our next project is a library (the space has already been allocated for this), solar panels and we are also looking into the possibility of building a small kitchen where simple meals can be prepared using environmentally-friendly stoves. More information about future events can be found on the website.

School links

These links continue to flourish and apart from the gifts sent by Glebeland School, the children from St Benet's in Beccles sent pictures and letters. The children from Wragby School in Lincolnshire, St Mark's in Ipswich and Langley School in Norfolk also sent letters.



*Pictures were sent
by Year 2, St
Benet's, Beccles.*

During our visit to the school, we met most of the sponsored children and we interviewed the oldest children (in their fifth year of secondary education). The older children all seem ambitious and are very happy with the education they are receiving. We also attended lessons (Geography, French, English) and were impressed at the level of teaching. Everyone is very excited about the new building.

Would you like to sponsor a child or make a donation?

Would you like to help us with fundraising?

If so please contact us. We are always looking for new sponsors and fundraising ideas.

To sponsor a child for their education costs £108 per year. All donations are gratefully received. If you are a tax payer we can collect an additional 25p for every pound you donate. This project is registered with the United Kingdom Revenue and Customs for gift aid purposes.

Please ask if you would like to receive a bankers standing order form.

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