

Swaziland Charitable Trust

Reg. Charity No. 257666 England
SCT Newsletter No 7 | October 2010



St Francis choir.

St Francis High School Choir prepares for UK Tour

It is with real joy that we welcome the choir of St. Francis school, Mbabane to the UK.

Bacons College has been twinned with St. Francis for a number of years and their visit coincides with our centenary celebrations. The choir will be in school at Bacons, meeting students and seeing how the College works, timetables have been drawn up for them to join lessons. Two days will be spent looking round London. On the way to Dorset we will be going to the sea, a once in a lifetime opportunity as Swaziland is landlocked.

Concert Venues

Wednesday 1st December

Hatfield House Herts for information check their website or email

c.fairman@hatfield-house.co.uk

Saturday 4th December

Crichel House Dorset

vmcdonaugh@hotmail.com

Monday 6th December

St. Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London.

omlowe@hotmail.co.uk

August 2010: the Visit of the London Board

Ably assisted by SCT secretary, Rob Mackenzie, his daughter Sharol and two McDonaugh boys, James and Hugo, the UK chair and four of her board members spent a wonderful two weeks visiting projects and schools with orphans on the support scheme. Lee Howe built another guest house to put us all up!

Hhoho AME Primary School

At Hhoho AME we visited the kitchen built with money raised by Bacons. Liz James met all the orphans her colleagues support there, we watched an amazing display of Sibhaca and a new variation on the girls dance, lots of twirls added. So good were they that they were instantly included in the cast for the following weeks major "dance in" at Malandela's.



Dancing at Hhoho.

Esibukweni Pre-school

At Esibukweni, the board were very pleased to see the SCT accountant, Stuart Banks, and his wife, Precious. They have built a library with SCT funding, open to all.



Trustees, Toby Tennant and Nicholas Baring, enjoying the children's singing.

Hope House

Here we found sister Elsa who took us round some of the bungalows which house the sick and the dying. The hospice has that quality of peace about it which makes a visit there an uplifting experience.



Sr Elsa with one of the residents.

Elwandle Primary School

The school gave us its usual exuberant welcome. Mrs. Mamba, the head, reunited many of the sponsored orphans who had left and gone to secondary schools for the morning's entertainment. The children's guardians showed their appreciation with some presents for the sponsors including a live chicken for the UK chair. There was a wonderful display of dancing and singing, the children looked so smart and well cared for. Many of them are taken in by elderly relatives, who have retired. The sponsorship so many of you provide is a real lifeline and they want to pass on their gratitude. (Sadly, the hen had to be left behind!)



The official opening of the kitchen paid for by CLSA.

Siteki School for the Deaf

The deaf school was the recipient of a £537.88 donation from Scottish Deaf Youth Association. It was a very impressive place, the only primary school for the deaf in the country, it is a boarding school. Very silent, the children use sign language and love being there, the head explained that at home in the holidays, they are isolated from their families who generally do not know how to communicate with them. We left with a promise to donate the money for mattresses for the new dormitories they are building.



Teachers and students send greetings to their friends in Scotland.

A Meeting

By James McDonaugh

I have been sponsoring Mancoba for 3 years and I was very pleased to get the chance to meet him. He had lost his mother 3 weeks before, leaving him a double orphan. He has a cousin working at the secondary school he now attends and we talked to him about Mancoba's future. The former already houses three other orphans but said that he was also willing to take in Mancoba as he was a good student. I gave him a watch and plenty of hugs but I felt too sad for words leaving him. My first visit to Africa and my first encounter with the reality of the misery caused by the AIDS epidemic but what a real joy it was to meet Mancoba and feel of some use to him.

Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital

At the Raleigh Fitkin we had a quick look at the playground built with SCT funds as well as the cots and the TV we have provided. Dr. Pichong, the hospital's director, took us onto the children's ward where mothers wait so patiently by their tiny babies on drips. Many are simply suffering from malnourishment and can easily be treated.



Dr Pichong in the children's ward.



Jamie with Mancoba.

Centenary Celebrations in Swaziland

August 12th 2010. The sun shone on the Malkerns valley behind Malandelas where we gathered to celebrate. It was an opportunity to thank those who have so ably garnered our resources since Independence and made the funds available to the Trust. Particular thanks are due to Robert Loder, Nicholas Baring and Rowan Howe for their work in restructuring the SCT.

Our manager, Sizwe and Swaziland board member, Angus Macleod, worked hard to organise a really wonderful day.



Rowan Howe makes his speech.



Zinhle Makhari from Bhunya Usuthu High School reading her poem at the celebrations in Malkerns.

Life Saver of the Nation

By Zinhle Makhari

It all started in 1910
And you have survived the
Hardships of the 20th century.
Strong and firm you still
Stand in the 21st century
What a marvel you are!

Today we celebrate the
Existence of a lifesaver.
Today we celebrate the
Existence of the world's backbone
For you have indeed been
Our second parent!

I speak from experience
For through your Charitable Trust
you have turned empty classes
to formidable laboratories
Bhunya Usuthu is forever indebted
To your Trust

You are the saviour of the world
For you saved the Swazi Nation
You saved the orphans, disabled
You saved farmers
And most crucially
You saved Bhunya Usuthu!

You bring comfort to the abused
You are a backbone to the homeless
You bring hope to the disabled
You are a miracle to the farmers
And you are the foundation of education.

Forever spread your wings
Thy giving hand shall be blessed!
As goes our emblem "Ora Pro Nobis"
We shall pray for your strength
And so shall the whole of Swaziland
Phambili Charitable Trust!!



Ekutsimleni tingabisa dancing.



Moyeni High School sibhaca dancers.

Bacons College Appeal

Another stunning effort by the staff and students of the College produced £8,055 for the SCT. In August, Liz James, head of their 6th form, joined the SCT board in Swaziland to visit some of the projects financed by her students.



Liz James at Ekutsimleni Primary School with children supported by Bacon's College.

Ferndown Upper School twins with Lamawandla High

From the outskirts of Bournemouth to those of Manzini, these two schools hope to develop an understanding under the "Global Schools Partnership" scheme.

Vicky McDonaugh taught at FUS for four years and is looking forward to renewing her contact with the school in a series of assemblies about Swaziland and Lamawandla HS.



The SCT chair and LaMawandla headteacher explaining how the partnership will work.

Some Long, Tall and Short African Tales

By Lucy Heath

I belong to a small village drama group in the heart of Oxfordshire, it has become famous in the locality for its winter pantomimes. We decided to celebrate our summer festival with an African Safari theme, three stories acted out to pull in the crowds.



A few of the animals that appeared in the festival.

With a couple of months to go, we made big masks and animal heads as props, the house became a menagerie, we used them to tell the tale of how the elephant got its trunk, how the giraffe got its long neck and how the python saved all the animals, the stories were adapted from traditional Swazi ones. We had a fabulous time, there was a good turnout and we raised 250£ to put towards the good work of the Swaziland Charitable Trust.

We are so grateful to Lucy Heath and her family and friends at Stanton Harcourt. The money will allow an orphan to continue studying at High School.



Nonhlahlha (back right) with visitors & his classmates.

Lucky by Name

By Nonhlahlha Mawelela

I am Nhlanhla Mawelela from Dvokolwako in Swaziland. I am a young gentleman of twenty years old. I live in a single parented family with my mother and two little brothers. My father died when I was ten years old.

I started schooling in 1997 at Manzana Primary School. Everything was running smoothly. I was proceeding from one class to another each academic year and I was enjoying being a student. The problem started when my father died when I was in grade 4. The responsibilities were shifted to my mother alone. She was growing crops and selling them in order to get money to pay for my school fees. After two years my mother got sick and she was no longer able to manage the garden. This resulted in myself dropping out of school due to the shortage of money.

As I was staying at home, one man came and asked me to go and look after his cattle so that he could pay my school fees. I accepted that offer because I had the ambition to go to school. Life was not easy for me as I was supposed to take the cattle to the farm every morning before I went to school. This made me arrive very late to school every day. Before the end of that year I was sent back home to collect school fees since the man had only paid the

first term. That meant dropping out of school again. I went back to stay with my mother for three years. I had to watch her fighting for her life as she was sick. A dream came to my mind that if I could get a chance to learn, I could become a doctor. Even now that dream is still in my mind. Towards the end of 2003 my mother got better but she still could not work.

In 2005 I met with the Swaziland Charitable Trust. These are the only people who were 100% able to take me back to school. I started in Grade 6 and in 2007 I was in Grade 7 when I got a first class pass with merit. I then proceeded to secondary level at Dvokolwako High School. Every morning I walk about 9 km to school. I passed my Form 1 and 2 to sit for an external examination in Form 3 when I got another first class pass with merit. I am currently in Form 4.

I am now looking forward to Form 5 which is the class that will determine my future. I have all the necessary equipment needed for my education. The ball is now in my court. I have to work hard until I reach my destiny.

Thank you Charitable.

Nonhlahlha, Siswati for lucky, is the recipient of the sum raised at the 2006 Christmas Bazaar in Luxembourg and he has more than justified our confidence in him. We shall be making sure that he gets all the assistance he needs to continue his studies.



A typical Swazi homestead.

Antioch School

These are the students supported by those of you who sponsored the Dorset coastal walk in 2006. The school is a very poor one and the new uniforms we brought with us were much appreciated. One girl came up and very shyly whispered in my ear "I am very happy" as she went off with her brand new blue dress.

We are really grateful for your continuing support for these children and hope that you will be able to get to one of the 3 concerts by the St. Francis choir to celebrate our centenary.



Walkers, Rob Mackenzie and Vicky McDonaugh, with the sponsored students.

Swaziland Charitable Trust (Reg. Charity No. 257666)

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Photos: Vicky McDonaugh, Jamie McDonaugh and Rob Mackenzie