

Chairs report January 2011

Progress to date

We have now sent 77 boxes of books to Southern Africa. This is approximately 7,500 books.

UK.

In this last delivery we also sent toys, donated to St Marys Church in 2009 which will go to children in an HIV/AIDS orphanage. This led me to ask Max (Bergman) whether soft toys would also be welcome, the response was a resounding yes and also yes please to pencils and crayons. So we have decided to add them to our publicity as they make good fillers for the heavy books.

SA

It appears that UJ have been rather overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of books in the first 55 boxes and were short of storage space and human resources for the distribution. They have now, I think, got it under control and the books are going out to the children. The result of this was that Max has suggested that we rotate the donations between several different places. The present load arrives at Roedean School in SA (this week), who have an extensive out-reach programme, and Max is hoping that Wittwatersrand and Pretoria Universities will be pleased to use them in their outreach programmes. The advantage of this is that the books will reach a wider audience as each institution reaches out to a different area. We can then rotate the deliveries through the 4 different institutions. There are some lovely photos of the children at school in Soweto with our books on the website.

We are really delighted that Max's new wife, Zee, is to be our SA Co-ordinator, using both his contacts and those of her own. Welcome aboard Mrs Bergman!! She will also send us updates about where the books are going and some pictures too. We will post her updates on the website.

Fundraising.

Jackie is working hard on the 100 Club and if you or anyone you know would like to support us on a regular basis and would like to join please contact Hilary via the website or by phone and I will pass on your details. (see contacts page)

I have been invited to speak to the Mount Sion Over 60's in February in Colchester. We have been invited to leave flyers at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester. We raised £56.00 at the Quiz at the Flag and £28.00 at the Craft Fair in November and are planning Name the Bear in various places. If you would like to do one then please let us know. Also if you have

a spare (lovely! usually quite large) bear or bunny or whatever! that would be very welcome.

Registering as a charity

At the last Trustees meeting it was decided to go ahead with registering as a charity with the Charity Commission and we are in the process of collecting the necessary documents together to submit our application. Once we have done that we will be able to register for Gift Aid which will improve our finances.

Donations

We have had lovely donations of books through Natwest Bank, The Business Park, Colchester, thank you to them and to Myle End Primary School. Thank you also to St Mary's School Colchester for the children's books left over from their Christmas Fair and also to St Mary's Church Wivenhoe for the donations of books, soft toys and pencils/crayons donated at their Christingle Service in December 2010.

Please contact me if you and your friends have books etc for us and we will arrange collection. This is relatively easy in the south of England. Anywhere else in the UK our plan is that the books could be packed and shipped direct from wherever they were donated. If you feel you could become a local co-ordinator then please contact me.

And finally, as always, thank you to all those who have been so generous with their time and money, especially the Trustees, and I apologise that I have been rather taken up with family matters for the last few weeks. If I have failed to get back to anyone then please contact me again.

Best wishes to everyone for 2011.

Hilary Baic

Chair, The Eachsa Trust