

2004, the year of the Monkey, has had an auspicious start. We are now the proud owners of our very own **VAN**. This is due to the generosity of Mary Clancy of **The Clancy Group**. We are so grateful for this sponsorship and also to Phillip Hodson of **R P Hodson Insurance Brokers** in Wakefield for donating fully comprehensive insurance.. We are in the process of organising the sign writing, so when you see a red Ford Transit van with the School-Aid logo on the side do give us a wave.

**DRIVERS NEEDED – Please ring Les Lee if you can help 01494 785076**

**BE AWARE! - ANOTHER SCHOOL-AID**

It has been brought to our notice that another charity called “School Aid – education without boundaries”, started in December 2003. Please do take care if you intend to donate to us. We have written to the Charities Commission expressing our concern and await their reply.

**CHRISTMAS GATHERING – Thursday 4 December 2003 at SARC**

We were delighted to see over 50 people at our Christmas party, which went with a swing thanks to Sandra’s mulled wine and Jeanette’s delicious mince pies. It was lovely to see so many new friends, including pupils from the Royal Grammar School High Wycombe and from Wellington College. Various initiatives were suggested and we look forward to acting on many of these.

**NEW PERSONNEL**

John Nicholas has joined us from the business world and has kindly offered to help Joy & Chris on a voluntary part-time basis, as General Manager. School-Aid is developing so fast that we need to put new systems in place and plan the future. John has the expertise to guide School-Aid during this exciting time and we look forward to introducing him to you.

**NEW TRUSTEE** – Sally Plummer has kindly agreed to become a Trustee of School-Aid. Sally does a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, as well as collecting items in the Bath area. We look forward to her continuing wise counsel.

**BUSINESS PLAN – Grant Making Trusts**

We are currently working on a Business plan, as we will be approaching Charitable Trusts to help fund our development. If you know of a Grant Making Trust that you think might be able to assist please contact Philip 01296 748 733.

**DONATION FROM A GRANT MAKING TRUST**

We have just received our first annual payment from a Grant Making Trust. We are so grateful for this generous donation, as we are now actively seeking funds to help School-Aid to develop.

**SCHOOL VISIT – Dulwich Hamlet Junior School**

Joy & Chris had a warm reception in Dulwich on 2 December 2003. The pupils were very enthusiastic about School-Aid and they are keen to establish a link with an African school. Unfortunately our slide projector broke down but the pupils assured us that they would look up School-Aid on the web for more pictures. This was the second time a slide projector had let us down and so we very much hope to be able to go over to PowerPoint soon. £192.64 was raised as their Christmas Concert. **THANK YOU** for donating this to School-Aid.

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION - the Royal Grammar School High Wycombe**

Goncalo Payne, a pupil at RGS, is currently working on a PowerPoint presentation for us. This is nearly finished. Some schools have a PowerPoint projector but we would so appreciate having our own to use at evening meetings etc. If you know of a second-hand one, or one which could be loaned to us, even for a day at a time, we would be most grateful.

**DONATIONS** – We are so pleased to have received a wonderful array of donations from the following:  
**THANK YOU ALL**

Jean Barrett  
Oakfield Preparatory School Dulwich  
Mrs Tina Panton + girls  
The Old Vicarage  
Vera Taylor  
Ann Bethell  
Flitwick Vale Inner Wheel  
Bob Parfitt (Refugee Relief)  
Isaac Madziva  
Donations via **Sally Plummer** in Bath  
Tana Tipping  
Derek Moore  
Bridget & Nick from Sherborne  
Sherborne Town Council  
Freshford Primary School  
Royal Sun Alliance  
Prior Park School

Dulwich Hamlet School  
Dulwich College Junior School Library  
St Albans Boys' School  
Whitgift School via Evan Fountain  
Verlie Heale  
Ms C Lloyd  
Alex Alberg  
Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls  
The Hollies Nursery School  
  
Hannah Conroy (Monkton Coombe School)  
Vicky McHugh (Royal & Sun Alliance)  
Tana & David Tipping  
Chemistry Dept Prior Park College, Bath  
Corsham Primary School  
Derek Moore

Sally writes "They donated (in order) tennis & football nets & tennis equipment; Maths books; working Tiny computer and printer; office stationery and equipment. Yorkshire Water is going to put something about School-Aid in their next staff newsletter (with a photo from Bangari Primary School in Zimbabwe, thanking them for the pens & pencils). They are also proposing to put a link to us on their website, and I notice that Ralph Allen School in Bath have already done this."

**WE ARE URGENTLY SEEKING NEW PREMISES – can you help?**

Since last March the Red Cross has kindly given us use of their building at Chalfont St Peter. However, we have to move out at the end of June 2004, as the building is for sale. The time has now come for us to find permanent premises, which will help secure the future of School-Aid. **Do you know** of a building that would be suitable as a warehouse/office/HQ, possibly on an industrial estate with vehicular access, close to motorways etc? Ideally this should be in the Amersham area but we can consider other areas, such as High Wycombe or Slough, if the right building was available. **Please do ask your friends.** Ideally, we are looking for premises on a free or heavily subsidised rental basis, although we expect to pay running costs.

**SHIPMENTS TO ZIMBABWE**

Three shipments of 50 boxes have recently left Chalfont St Peter for schools in Zimbabwe. Air Zimbabwe continues to help us with the airfreight and we are so grateful to them for this generous sponsorship. Another 50 boxes are packed and ready to go. Thank you **Brian Apps** for delivering these to Gatwick for us.

**SOLD ON SUCCESS** – *photos & letters from South Africa*

Jane Coulson has recently visited Cape Town and has returned with some wonderful photographs and letters from some of the recipients of the last container. We plan to have some of these for you to see on the website very soon.

**VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED for sorting & packing at Chalfont St Peter**

Our next container is due to leave for South Africa ON THURSDAY  
PLEASE CAN YOU SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS TO HELP US?  
NEXT TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY at 10.00

We would love to hear from you if you could possibly help. Bring a Friend too!

**Please ring Les Lee 01494 785076  
or Chris Knight in the School-Aid office 0870 0056 999**

**WE HOPE TO HAVE THIS LETTER ON THE WEBSITE VERY SOON – PLEASE LOOK!**

We have now had 1059 different visitors to our website