

School-Aid UK

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008



Celebrating School-Aid's 10th Anniversary 1998-2008

SCHOOL-AID CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2008

In March 1998 Scott and Joy Baker travelled to Zimbabwe on holiday. Little did Joy know that upon her return to England, she would launch a new charitable enterprise.

Joy, a former primary school teacher, was inspired by a chance visit to a rural primary school near Hwange National Park to begin collecting books, sports equipment, furniture and stationery to send to the school. School-Aid was born.

From its launch with seven boxes of books sent to Zimbabwe in 1998, School-Aid has grown into an operation encompassing a central warehouse, more than 50 volunteers in the UK, a group of volunteers based in South Africa, and many other partners across the UK and Africa. In 2007 nine 20 foot containers were sent from the UK warehouse to Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Eritrea. Most importantly, more than 65,000 children were reached last year with vital educational resources



Chairman Joy Baker with volunteers.

PEBBLES PROJECT

In the wine region outside Cape Town, a new School-Aid partner is making a difference in the local community.

The Pebbles Project was established to offer support to children of wine farm workers, and to provide teacher training and after-school clubs. Two hundred and sixty children of families whose parents are at work on the farms, many of whom have special educational needs, are given tutoring in school subjects and offered a wide variety of activities including art, sports and music, and for the older children vocational training. Sophia Warner of Pebbles says 'We believe that if a child is supported and given the necessary education at an early age they are far more likely to go on to achieve more at school and later as adults.'

Following two consignments to the programme in 2007, School-Aid will continue to support Pebbles' achievements in 2008.

NEW LIFE FOR SHIPPING CONTAINERS

In March 2008 School-Aid volunteers in Johannesburg South Africa will open the first in a series of seven refurbished containers in the township schools. This exciting new enterprise, jointly sponsored by School-Aid, FastnFresh, and ABSA, will turn containers into essential additional space for schools to use. Plans for the first containers at Tsosolosa Ya Afrika High School and Tsako Thabo High School include classrooms, a library, a science lab, and an area to house a pupil feeding scheme.

EVERTON FC COACH TRAINS TOWNSHIP YOUTHS

Students at Allanridge Combined School near Johannesburg were invited by School-Aid and ABSA to a football training session with Everton coach Tony Farrell and local 'Orlando Pirates' players. Following the November event learners were thrilled to view a dedicated video message from Everton player and South African international Steven Pienaar.

NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH

SCHOOL-AID RETURNS TO ZIMBABWEAN SCHOOLS

Following several years of difficult communication with partner schools in Zimbabwe, School-Aid was delighted to receive confirmation in early January that the twenty foot container shipped in October 2007 has been unloaded and distributed to partner schools, some of whom had not received any books since 2003.



Students from Kwekwe Zimbabwe collect their books.

GOLF DAY 2008 AT DENHAM

On the 24th July, 2008, School-Aid will hold a charity golf day at Denham Golf Club in South Buckinghamshire. The competition will welcome teams of four players each, and will be followed by a carvery lunch. Early entry is advised! For more information please contact Barbara Fox 01753 654007.

NEW LOOK AT SCHOOL-AID WAREHOUSE

Visitors to the School-Aid warehouse in Hedgerley will notice a major change to the premises. In October 2007, the warehouse closed for three weeks for the installation of new heavy duty racking.

Now reopened, the warehouse is able to store up to fifty pallets of donated resources for African schools. The new shelving has made a great improvement to the ease with which goods can be sorted and packed by volunteers, and will increase the number of outgoing shipments to Africa.

A new forklift has also made a great difference to the operation, as volunteer driver John Godfrey can now easily move pallets on to racking out of the aisles, and can quickly load containers.



ANTHONY WYLDON

School-Aid Trustees and volunteers were saddened to hear of the death, last September, of Anthony Wyldon.

A true friend of School-Aid, Anthony had worked with the organisation since 2002. Anthony had a close association with schools in Harare. He collected and stored large numbers of books from Walthamstow, Yardley Court and other Kent schools, and helped transport boxes to Gatwick for air freight to Zimbabwe. Anthony will be sadly missed.



NEW SCHOOL-AID VAN HITS THE ROAD

Look out for the new School-Aid van now travelling across England and Wales to collect donations. Thanks to a generous grant from The Clothworkers' Foundation, School-Aid has been able to purchase a new van which allows for increased loading capacity and much improved access. The van insurance has generously been donated by Oval Insurance, and the van logos kindly donated by the Clancy Group.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND SPONSORS

- Capespan and Cape Reefers, UK and South Africa
- The Clancy Group, UK
- The Entertainer, Little Chalfont and all national shops
- Fresh Produce Terminals, South Africa
- FastnFresh, South Africa
- Middle East Cargo, UK
- Oval Insurance, UK
- The Rotary Club and Inner Wheel Clubs
- Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe
- Wines of South Africa



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For information about School-Aid or to make a donation of funds or educational items, please see our website www.school-aid.org

Deliveries can also be made to the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe.

OPENING TIMES

WEDNESDAYS 10.00-15.00

THURSDAYS 10:00 - 15:00

OR BY APPOINTMENT

Building Partnerships with African Schools