

## December Newsletter

Welcome to the December issue of our newsletter. 2014 has been a very busy year at School Aid and we have been working hard to expand and develop both our UK and African operation. In Africa the focus is and will continue to be on developing the usage of the books once they are donated. A new role of South Africa Project Manager has been created to focus on this essential part of our support to African pupils. In the UK our current warehouse is being developed to cope with our ever growing army of volunteers, and our management structure has been strengthened with the addition of a part time Marketing & PR post aimed at raising School Aid's profile. Please read on to find out more about our activities. Once again we want to thank you for all your continued support.

### Africa News

On the 5th June we sent a container to our partners Link Community Development, with whom we are supporting 17 schools across Malawi, reaching over 13,000 children. We managed to pack almost 20,000 books into the container and sent it safely on its way from the School Aid warehouse.

A beautiful sunny day in July saw School Aid volunteers filling every corner of a 20ft container with books, stationery, sports kit and furniture, bound for 16 schools in Tanzania. Recipient schools include nine secondary schools, six primary and a brand new nursery in the Bagamoyo area, close to Dar es Salaam.



On the 25th September, volunteers of School Aid worked very hard loading a container of books and furniture for a shipment to South Africa. We are pleased to say that the shipping has been sponsored by Capespan and this consignment will be received by the Kirstenbosch Rotary Club initially and then onto School Aid South Africa volunteers in Johannesburg. Some of these books will be used to establish a new library at Heatherdale Primary School in Cape Town, part of a new charity partnership between The Bookery and School Aid.

### Events

#### The School Run

On Sunday 6th July we held our first ever School Aid 5km fun run near the warehouse in the beautiful Bulstrode Park, Gerrards Cross.

The event was called The School Run to highlight the fact that many children in Africa have to walk at least 5km to school and 5km home each day to gain even the most basic education. 134 people took part in this event, which was made up of serious runners, families and small children - who took part in a shorter Early Years 2km course. The event was opened by BBC television presenter Dr Michael Mosley who also judged the best fancy dress and best silly hat competition.



We would like to thank everyone who joined in, donated prizes, the [Bull Hotel](#) who kindly provided their Thames Suite for registration and local estate agent [Chewton Rose](#) who sponsored the event and helped produce banners and leaflets. Particular thanks to our event organiser Adele Wilter and all the marshals

led by Myriam Silverman. The event was a huge success and many said they looked forward to taking part again next year so we are planning to hold it on Sunday 28th June 2015.

### **Film Night**

Friends and supporters of School Aid gathered together for the 2nd School Aid Film Night at The National Film and Television School, Beaconsfield. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the film 'Out of Africa' with all the lovely African scenes and it was great to be able to view this on a big screen. It even showed children at a school in Africa being encouraged to learn, which is what School Aid is all about.



School Aid made a fantastic £2,338 profit from ticket sales, raffle and donations at the bar, after deducting expenses for the projectionist and film licence. The event organiser, Christine Hillis, thanked all those who contributed to the success of the evening by making and handing around delicious canapés before the film started, helping run the bar, selling raffle tickets and meeting and greeting guests at the door and talking to them about our work.

We are really looking forward to the next Film Night in October 2015.

### **Corporate News**

#### **London Value Investor Conference**

On the 22nd May our General Manager Clare Junak and our Treasurer Rob Walther presented at the London Value Investor Conference to an audience of 400 guests.



The theme of the presentation was that of “a country’s greatest wealth is in an educated workforce”. The presentation was well received raising over £34,000 and we would like to thank the organisers of the London Value Investor Conference for their invitation and support!

### **Warehouse & Volunteer News**

#### **Volunteers Needed**

We are delighted to announce that the School Aid warehouse is now open five days a week.

We are therefore looking for more volunteers to sort and pack books at our warehouse in Hedgerley. It is a great opportunity to socialise, make new friends and do something worthwhile. Hours are flexible and would be ideal for parents who are looking for something new to do whilst their children are at school.



Please spread the word and encourage friends and family to come and visit our warehouse - they may even discover that volunteering can be great fun!

#### **The New Office**

As part of our expansion, the warehouse office has been enlarged by removing a wall dividing the coffee room and the existing office space.

The office now looks very spacious and we cannot believe the difference it has made. A new meeting/coffee room is also presently being built which will be finished in the next few weeks.



## Merry Christmas

Everyone at School Aid would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Don't forget all your donations are gratefully received and make a huge difference.



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