

School Aid



Setting the standards for volunteering

School Aid has made a great start to 2019 - new libraries opening, more books shipped, and the very proud moment when School Aid officially received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, presented by the Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher.



Janis Mowlam our Chairman, and Moira Austin one of our immensely generous volunteers, received the award on behalf of School Aid.

Whilst this is very much an award that recognises community volunteering in the UK, School Aid wouldn't want to miss this opportunity to celebrate every individual who gives us their time and their wealth of experiences, both UK-wide and in Africa. Our wonderful volunteers, wherever they are, make vital contributions across the organisation, and this award is as much a celebration of their hard work as it is of those who live close to our Hedgerley warehouse.

[more >](#)

Janis Mowlam is stepping down as Chairman after 10 years of exceptional commitment and service

School Aid is very sad to announce Janis Mowlam's departure from the role of Chairman, as family commitments beckon. Her dedication, stewardship and distinctive understanding of School Aid and its needs will be sorely missed. Below she casts her expert eye over the past year for, very sadly, the last time as our Chairman:

2018 has been an exceptional and memorable year for School Aid as we marked 20 years of our commitment to enhance quality education and promote literacy in Africa. We are immensely proud that this commitment has been recognised through the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. It acknowledges the sustained efforts by so many people across the years that have enabled School Aid to grow and flourish, and so to make an increasingly significant impact on African children's lives.

School Aid delivered our targets for the second year of our second three-year partnership with The Peter Cundill Foundation. The Foundation's most generous support has enabled School Aid to develop our Africa presence and to expand our literacy initiative of managed, sustainable school libraries from South Africa to Malawi and Tanzania. In 2018 a first library was launched in each country, while plans for the first in Lesotho are well advanced for early 2019. We added two more school libraries to the 20 already operating in South Africa, working with our sister organisation, School Aid South Africa.

[more >](#)

2018 saw School Aid beat it's 2017 shipment targets:

- Boxes packed - 4,777
- Pallets despatched - 127
- Books sent - 167,195
- Schools reached - 142
- Happy children - 109,712



School Aid Trustee Rob Walther visits two schools in Africa

In February Rob Walther, one of our exceptionally generous Trustees, visited two of our new libraries in South Africa, with his wife Anne.

Lulama and Dowling Primary School libraries have their official launches in February and March respectively, but Rob and Anne were able to meet their newly recruited Library Assistants Makhumandile Matshaya and Levern Hill, and observe how the children enjoyed and used the space.



MPs, Lords and MI5 inspired to join us through Project Pencil

Over the past 3 years, Thomas Broom our UK and Africa Operations Manager has been developing a relationship between School Aid



The footbridge in this picture, and the pole/ladder resting against the plinth used to reach it, is the only way to cross the river and a typical obstacle that Moso Ranoosi, our Lesotho Reading Club Project Officer has to overcome to reach some of his reading clubs! Our staff in Africa show a dedication, far beyond what would normally be expected of them.



Kondwani gets mobile

Sometimes it's necessary for School Aid to think outside of the classroom. And that's just what we've done for Kondwani Manga, our Projects Reading Office in Malawi. He has experienced all sorts of problems with reaching schools in rural areas, relying heavily on public transport, or the kindheartedness of our partners.

But no more! Kondwani successfully passed his bike test, and School Aid has now provided him with a motorbike, and all the

and Mitzvah Day, a charity that helps to perform good deeds for people who are less fortunate than ourselves, giving their time, rather than money, to the communities around them.

Mitzvah Day

17th November 2019

Last October, School Aid and Mitzvah Day held a Project Pencil event in Parliament. [Project Pencil](#) is a School Aid initiative where pencil cases are packed with stationery and other essential school supplies for children who lack these vital classroom resources. MPs and Lords across all parties took part, and wrote notes to the children who would be receiving the pencil cases. It's hoped that some element of return correspondence can be encouraged, along with further relationships with individual MPs and Lords.

A second event took place, again in partnership with Mitzvah Day at the offices of the Security Services MI5. Project Pencil works very well in an office environment, and this meeting was to discuss opportunities for further collections this year, both with MI5 and other intelligence partners MI6 and GCHQ. The hope is to extend this project with Mitzvah Day into government departments, starting with the Home Office later this year.

necessary gear - he can now plan his travel whenever it's convenient for him.



Rachel Seymour - on track for an amazing accomplishment at the London Marathon

On Sunday April 28th, elite runners, first-time enthusiasts and some extraordinarily courageous individuals in bizarre fancy dress will take to the streets of London, in the 26.2 grueling miles of the London Marathon. With just under 3 weeks to go, the pressure is on!

Rachel, who's fulfilling a life-long ambition, has been pounding the streets on behalf of School Aid. There wasn't any pampering for her on Mother's Day - instead she was running the 20 mile Marathon Prep Race at Dorney, and the following weekend it was the Fleet Half Marathon.

We're absolutely delighted that Rachel agreed to run on our behalf at one of the most iconic running events in the world, and you can see how she's progressing with both her fundraising and training [here](#). We hope you'll join us in trying to spot her amongst the 40,000 plus runners on Sunday April 28th.



Lethabaneng - School Aid's first library in Lesotho

Our first library refurbishment in Lesotho has broken ground, and as you can see from the photo above, the new room is progressing swiftly.

Clare Junak, our UK General Manager, during her visit to Africa this February can be seen here with Library Assistant Mapaleso Sello, our temporary Reading Assistant Libuseng Ramongae, Principal Mr Ralebese standing next to Clare, ex-Principal Mrs Mabote, 2 representatives from the building contractors, Library Co-ordinator Mr Lekhotsa, and Michael Makwela.

[Click here](#) to watch a wonderful piece by our partners in Africa, The Bookery, explaining just how important libraries are to disadvantaged schools in Africa.

We are looking for a part-time Warehouse Operative

Are you, or somebody you know looking for a part-time job? School Aid is seeking a Warehouse Operative responsible for overseeing the smooth



A shipment of books from School Aid reach southern Malawi ready for distribution around the local schools. This initiative was made possible with the help of The Book Bus and HELP Malawi.

How the world's best teacher is changing lives in Africa

Peter Tabichi, who teaches maths and physics at Keriko Mixed Day Secondary School in Pwani Village, in remote Nakuru, Kenya, was the winner of the Global Teacher Prize. His dedication is quite extraordinary and worth reading about - and [School Aid](#) got a mention too!

operation of the warehouse. This is a paid role, with flexible hours, responsible for assisting with the smooth running of the warehouse. If you are interested in working alongside our wonderful volunteers, please take a look at the job description, or pass it on to anybody you think might be interested:

[Warehouse Operative](#)



Bumba Primary School library is up and running supporting local school children and helping to encourage a reading culture amongst the locals in Rhumpi, Malawi.

Upcoming events

28th April - The London Marathon

30th June - The Fun Run

6th October - Film Night

[more >](#)

Please pass on our newsletter and share it with anybody you think might be interested.

If you are reading this having received it from one of our supporters, and you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter, [click here](#) to sign up - it's a quick and simple process.

**And once again, thank-you for your support.
We couldn't have done any of this without you.**

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