

Christmas cards

Have you remembered to pay for your cards? Please send your cheque or return the cards as soon as possible to the chairman.

Once again thank you to the many people who have made donations in addition to the cost of the cards. Carol Banham

Annual subscriptions are also due for 2013. To be a member please send £10 per person to the secretary .

From our treasurer

Once again I must thank you for your continuing financial support. So far this year we have received £45,000. However, as the Inland Revenue did not get our refund of Gift Aid through in the previous year, I have received two refunds in the current year amounting to around £9,000. Without these we would be down quite significantly on the previous year. In the last two months of 2011 we received around £17,000, so I am hopeful that there will be a similar surge of income this year. Thank you for all the help you give us, and if you can encourage anyone to support us, please do. MRCH still rely heavily on "the Friends" Paddy Coles

Thank you to everyone who has held fundraising events for the Children in Zimbabwe this year.

Quote from MRCH

"Thank you for the newsletter, it really gives me more encouragement to work for the Home. Please continue such a good work, especially for me it shows me that the work at the Home is really a great job that needs to be taken care of."

Contacts

Chair: Carol Banham
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Please note our secretary's new email address

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Take a look at our website

www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org

This newsletter is distributed by
**The Friends of Matthew Rusike
Children's Home.**



Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

We give mainly financial support and advice to the Home

December 2012

Registered charity 1120944

NEWS FROM THE HOME

This note is to let you know that the money is in our account.

Many thanks to the Friends of Matthew Rusike who are sacrificing their resources for our Children. You are indeed special to us and may His will be done in your life.

We are all doing well. We have however been experiencing too much heat during the day and night. But we thank God for some spells of rain here and there.

*The day before yesterday we received a day old baby girl. It's sad these innocent babies are abandoned. The baby is healthy. All the children are enjoying good health. I am grateful that you have Matthew Rusike at heart. In Christ's Name,
Margaret.*

Meet the Staff

Fund raising is very important at MRCH and part of the Outreach Programme works towards this while providing training and support for vulnerable families. It involves local volunteers working with the poultry, pigs and in the garden, in return for training and placements in the Early

Childhood Development Centre for their young children.

Abel is the gardener. He has the team of local volunteers to work for him in return for training to grow their own food on a plot of land set aside for this purpose. He grows spinach and rape, a tall plant grown for its leaves, fennel, rosemary, tomatoes, onions, a few strawberries and carrots. The produce is eaten on site and excess is sold to local people. There are also several fruit trees around the site – mangoes, avocados and hedges (small oranges)

Emmanuel is the assistant gardener who waters all the plants grown as landscaping around the whole site. He sweeps up the endless supply of fallen leaves. He came to MRCH as a child so has seen many changes.

Abiyot is in charge of the poultry and piggery projects sponsored by Uniting World in Australia. Day-old chicks are bought in and reared until they are about 2 months old. They are then ready to eat or sell to locals. Abiyot killed the large pig to be barbecued on the Fun Day in September. This is an annual sponsored walk event

to raise money for the Home. Staff and older children, volunteers and members of supporting churches and organisations walk the 15km from Connexional Office in Harare to the home where they can buy from a good choice of MRCH produced "fast food"-burgers, hot dogs and barbecued chicken and pork.

Mauline is the tailoress, she trains the local women to sew for their families so empowers them to become more independent.

Susan is Abel's wife. With **Beauty's** help, she cooks the meals in the large kitchen for the local community children in the ECD and parents who are part of this programme.

You can see the complete version of "Meet the MRCH Staff" on our website, thanks to Leigh East.



This climbing tower was donated by a Doncaster play centre and sent to the ECD earlier this year

Lloyd tells us about sending parcels to Zimbabwe

People or organisations who send us parcels should write us a letter in time so that all correspondences are done quickly before parcels arrive, to avoid customs storage charges. The letter of donation clearly stating that the named items are unsolicited gifts not for resale and their approximate value. "Using these hymn books will assist our choir to improve their English."



Our FoMRCH letterhead was emailed with the necessary information when DHL collected a box of Songs of Fellowship books for the secondary school choir from Church Stretton Methodist Church, Thank you David Jandrell for organising this.



Ladies at Beckingham Church knitted small blankets so that the children could carry their 'babies' traditional style while working or playing. Thank you Joan.

Can these people inspire you?

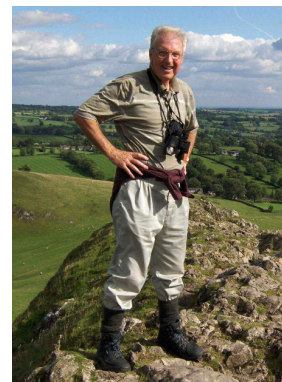


Anna Lomas
I asked for a surprise for Christmas 2011 and was given a voucher for a bungee jump. So what's a girl to do, but stand on the

edge of a cage, 160ft in the air with a panoramic view of Grafham Water and jump off. It was an amazing experience, **but more importantly I was able to raise £292 for MRCH.**

Rev Gordon Webster 75 miles for 75 years

Having reached my three quarter century I decided to celebrate by doing a 75 mile sponsored walk along the Suffolk coastal path.



For 5 days I enjoyed a variety of wild and beautiful countryside and spotted at least 75 different bird species.

I was a Mission Partner in Zimbabwe for 7 years and knew about the excellent childcare services given by MRCH so I wanted half my sponsorship to go to FoMRCH (the other half goes to our local children's hospice). **With a lot of generous support from many people the total raised was £3033 so I am delighted to pass £1517 to FoMRCH, some of which is gift aided.**

Can you spare some time on only 4 Saturdays each year?

Your executive committee is open to new ideas and would like you to join in our discussions to help make life better for thousands of children in Zimbabwe.

Come and meet us, maybe with a view to joining us in the future. 10 people are on the committee which minimises individual commitment but we usually average 16 attendees. Please give this some serious thought. Our next meeting is on February 2nd 2013 and the AGM is on 23rd March (sometimes in April). The other 2 are usually July and October.

Please contact us for details.