

Most of the 66 paintings were donated by the club, raising £652 from the paintings and the rest from a raffle, refreshments and a separate raffle from a painting donated by a professional artist. I am telling you as I know you are always looking for new ideas to raise money for MRCH. I think having freshly cooked hot refreshments did encourage people to come to the event.

Thank you for the idea Linda-sounds great

Graham and Lynda Jones are visiting the Home in August

*Astonishment writes
I am looking forward to the Jones' visit. I hope to develop our communications during their stay here. Lynda will indeed be working with our staff in education while Graham will be working with Zvirinane to develop our communications. The link between the two will help us communicate about the children and teach our staff and children effective communication skills.*

Contacts

Chair: Carol Banham
carol2021@banham.net

Secretary: John Richer
jricher001@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Paddy Coles
9 Ashley Drive West,
Ashley Heath
Ringwood,
HantsBH24 2JW
Tel: 01425 478244
padjen@ukonline.co.uk

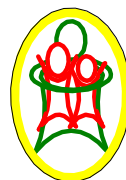
Membership Sec: Gail Richer
gmricher@btinternet.com

Catch up with 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

Registered charity 1120944



June 2010

Report from Barry Barnes

My latest trip to Zimbabwe in February went well, apart from it being very wet, which was good for the land but not so good for the official opening of the centre at Mzinyathi. About 500 people were there including the local MDC MP who is also the Deputy Speaker, the local Senator and the Induna. There were many speeches with lots of folk standing in the rain but overall it was a success. The community are very excited at the prospect of a service which will provide support for many of the families in the area who have lost parents through HIV/Aids and who are now headed by a grandparent or a child. There is still some finishing work to be done but they are nearly there. The crèche at the Home is proceeding apace and should be completed very soon, it's very exciting and looks good. The whole place is starting to look much better and they are also renovating other buildings for volunteers/guests.

We give support, mainly by cash, but also by advice and assistance to the Home for the benefit of the Children

We also went to Gweru and saw the Dongo site, on which work will start soon. We visited Masvingo, where work will start soon as well. It was a hectic trip with many miles covered.

Regarding the future, you may be relieved to hear that Action for Children have agreed to the request from MRCH/Methodist Church in Zimbabwe that I continue to support the work there for the two years corresponding to the two years I will be working in South Africa. I have agreed to visit twice a year, probably Feb/March and November, when I am in SA as well. I am pleased that I am able to see the programme further on the road than it is now and look forward to continuing my work with Astonishment and his colleagues over the next two years. I will also be glad to continue to act as an active link between the Friends and MRCH during this time.

Barry Barnes

Can you Help?

As the work of Matthew Rusike Children's Home expands even further into the community and plans are made to move into yet more areas of the country, we need to increase our numbers of supporters and publicise the wonderful work that Astonishment and his staff are doing to support thousands of children in Zimbabwe. We sent everyone a brochure with the December newsletter and asked you to pass it on to someone you thought may want to know about the Home.

This time we are asking if anyone has any ideas how we can expand further into the communities in this country? Could you talk to a group about the Home or show one of our videos/DVD to a group of friends? We can help with **To** videos/DVDs, extra brochures and/or extra newsletters to distribute amongst them. Would you like someone in your area to speak to your group about the work being done for children in Zimbabwe? Please contact us, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank You

To our Members for the prompt response to our letter asking for 2010 membership fees. The Charity Commissioners request that we keep a record of Members. As such we keep a list of those who send cheques to the Secretary and those who send donations direct to the Treasurer. The number was up on 2009 which shows a positive interest in the plight of the children in Zimbabwe. We are grateful to our supporters for their care and concern. Both Supporters and Members can sign gift aid declarations which remain in force until the donor cancels it. This allows the Treasurer to claim tax refunds which last year boosted our funds by over £3,000.

John Richer
Secretary

Please could you help us reduce our costs by receiving communications by email? If so please email Gail, our membership secretary gmricher@btinternet.com We are happy to continue posting to people who prefer it.

Up to the middle of 2009 we were fortunate not to have printing and postage costs. Now the newsletter costs £50 to print And £60 to post four times a year amounting to £440.

Our secretary printed 270 copies of the AGM papers on his computer costing 72p per posting. Thank you to over 70 people who already receive the newsletter by email, and to those people who also print off several copies to distribute personally. We thank too the many people who send extra money to cover the cost of sending out the packs of Christmas cards each year. Would you be happy to receive documents for the AGM by email?

Report from the Treasurer

We are now nearly midway through the year and at the time of writing we have received £24,000 into our account. I have been transferring US\$4,000 approximately every two weeks to MRCH and so far this equates to £26,000. Unfortunately, the pound has weakened against the US\$ and this means that each remittance is now costing £300 more to send the same number of dollars than it did in January, and I may have to scale back the number of dollars we can send in future.

I am grateful for the continuing support that you give which provides food, education and medical care for the 140 or so children at the Home, plus some help for the children in the community. I am particularly pleased with the increasing number of you who are making Bankers Order payments. It is a great help knowing that there are regular payments coming into the account. Please carry on the good work that you do in raising funds, so that we can keep making our regular remittances.

Paddy Coles
Treasurer



Fundraising Idea from Linda Tither, who is also a supporter of MRCH

This weekend we raised £1004.25 for the Street Children in Sudan by holding an Art Exhibition.