

London2Brighton Challenge

May 24th-25th

Nick Garrett is running an ultra marathon for MRCH. This means running 100km in about 20 hours "I am starting to question my sanity as I am also doing a 30mile run beforehand.

More details about this challenge are on our own website too.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NickGarrett1>

Mailing list

We have had some problems with the mailing list resulting in some people not receiving their normal packs of cards this year. If this was you, I apologise and if you are receiving mail with inaccuracies in your details please let us know – titles, initials or addresses etc

Carol Banham

Annual subscriptions are due for 2014. To be a member please send £10 per person to the secretary. As a non member you will still receive newsletters.

You are cordially invited to our AGM in Droitwich on Saturday April 5th at 11am.

John Richer

A few statistics

We post out 187 newsletters.

We email 127 newsletters.

11 copies are sent to the Presiding Bishop in Zimbabwe who distributes them round the Districts. They are received in all 4 UK countries.

21 are emailed to Zimbabwe, South Africa and Australia.

Could you help save postage by receiving yours by email?

Thank you to all who have raised funds for the Children in Zimbabwe, their need is still so great. Please continue your marvellous support.

Contacts

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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 directly to the Home

March 2014

Registered charity 1120944

NEWS FROM THE

HOME

As I write, children are coming back from Christmas holidays with foster families, ready to start a new term. This year we have 9 children starting grade one and staff are raring to go after a well deserved break.

Thanks to the Liverpool ladies our big project for 2014 is the expansion of the college. In consultation with Gladys and Kuda (heading the college) we bought building materials for the foundations of 3 classrooms and store rooms and



these are already completed.

We are looking for a funder to help complete it.

We also bought more text books for all school subjects to complement those we had from UNICEF and some gardening equipment for the children learning agriculture and some furniture.

We changed our uniform to sky blue dresses and white blouses.

The classroom has been painted.



"Each time we get into this class one can't help but feel the excitement in these students. Its a dream come true to them, thank you so much."

The Chubb locking door for the external Examination Centre was donated by Barclays Bank and we now await the officials from the Zimbabwe Examination Council to visit and begin the process of registration.

Friends from Farnworth Methodist Church, Widnes have paid for the sports teams to have full kits, thank you Annie. Here is the girls' team.



Our fleet of vehicles is depleted and we are spending too much on repairs. Vehicles are a necessity here and we will look into the problem at our next management meeting.

The year is beginning, the grace of the Lord has taken us this far, I am believing in God for a better 2014. The need is great and we are particularly grateful for the support of the Friends. The work you are doing here is tremendous. Everyone at MRCH wishes you a blessed 2014.

Margaret

Visit of Rev Margaret Mawire

The Friends of MRCH have invited Rev Margaret Mawire to visit supporters in the UK for 3-4 weeks in June 2014. **We are asking for volunteers to help host the visit** by offering accommodation for 1-3 nights, arrange for Margaret to meet groups of people, a church meeting or attend a fundraising event of your choosing where she can speak about the life and work of MRCH, and we also ask hosts take responsibility for the travel arrangements to the next host. This will be the 4th visit organised by the Friends but Margaret's first on behalf of MRCH. She spent a year studying at Queen's College in Birmingham in 2010/2011 so she is no stranger to the UK.

Please contact us as soon as possible if you'd like to help
01302 744 920 or
carol2021@banham.net

From the Treasurer

"Many thanks to all who have and continue to support Friends of MRCH. 2013 was our best year ever for fundraising, due in no small

part to two large legacies, a large sum from the Liverpool District Women in Britain and the efforts of two of our members raising money to provide the home with a generator, The generator fund is close to achieving its target of £17,000.

One of our concerns for a long time has been the months of arrears of staff salaries (**without the staff they cannot function**) and in January I was able to remit funds to bring them up to date.

We have completed our registration with Virgin Money Giving and this is already proving useful for sponsoring special efforts. (Do have a look on our website) I am also grateful for the increasing number of people signing Bankers Orders. Please keep up your support in whatever way is possible, as the need is as great as ever. £10- £15 of food can do wonders for hungry children.

Paddy Coles

New treasurer

David Graaf has been nominated as our new treasurer and assuming confirmation at the AGM in April he will be happy to receive your donations from May 1st.

His contact details are

The White Cottage,
1 Grange Hill,
London SE25 6SX
0208 405 881 david@graaff.co.uk

"My family has a long standing connection with MRCH, my parents knew the Rev Matthew Rusike and his wife when they started taking in street children in the 1950s and they both supported the charity through

the rest of their lives. There is a slide show on You Tube of a visit I made to the home with my mother in 2003."

David Graaff

FoMRCH has signed up to **Virgin Money Giving** online and already there are 3 pages specifically for our charity.

Lynda and Graham Jones are raising funds to buy a **generator**



"The electricity supply in Zimbabwe is erratic and sometimes MRCH can go for days without power, creating real problems. Cooking has to be done on open fires and firewood is getting scarce. Projects like tomato-growing need pumped water. Meat can't be frozen so sometimes goes to waste. HIV/AIDS drugs can't be refrigerated. Computers sit useless. When we visited MRCH last year it was clear a generator would make a huge difference. We're well on the way to the £17,000 for the purchase and installation. If we beat our target the extra will help towards running costs."

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GrhamJones13>

Generator fund raising event in Tonbridge, Kent, Saturday 26th April from 7.30 for 8pm

*An evening with **Henry Olonga**, Zimbabwean cricketer, singer and Christian. Tickets £10 available March 3rd from **Tonbridge Christian Book Centre**
01732 364 897*

Adventure 9th – 17th April

David Graaf and Wayne Cooper



have undertaken a challenge to drive 2,700 miles from London through Morocco and the Western Sahara to the Mauritanian border in West Africa. They plan to collect sponsorship money and sell the car on the Mauritanian border. They are meeting all their own expenses and all donations will go direct to FoMRCH, the value of the vehicle, when it sells, will be David's contribution.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/RevsandBenz>

Please look at the 3 links for full details and sponsor one of them.