

## A word from Paddy

In 1996 five couples who had visited MRCH the previous year met for lunch, during which we decided to raise a few pounds each year to give the children a treat at Christmas. Not a life changing idea. A few years later, with the situation deteriorating in Zimbabwe, we started to get serious about fundraising, and subsequently registered as a Charity. To date we have raised nearly £1million thanks to our supporters and fund raisers. As I hand over the Treasurer's roll to David, I should like to thank everyone, including the Committee, for the support and encouragement you have given me, making it possible to make regular monthly transfers to the Home. Please continue to keep up the good work and support David.

Paddy Coles

*I am pleased to say that Paddy is not retiring completely, he continues as a member of the executive committee.*

**Please note the contact details of our new treasurer, David Graaff**

### Contacts

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**Take a look at our website**  
[www.friendsofmatthewrusike.org](http://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

*We give mainly financial support and advice to the Home*

**June 2014**

### NEWS FROM THE HOME

We are all fine, though winter is just beginning. We might experience the worst winter because it is getting colder and it has been raining in most parts of Zimbabwe. We had a wonderful Easter celebration. We were five circuits altogether so it was a big gathering. Good news from MRCH – the generator has arrived!! It has come just at the right time. We are now selling pork at the Home and at times 3 pigs are slaughtered for sale a day and power cuts were beginning to affect the project. But thank God that is sorted now. The generator is of much help indeed. We cannot complain of powercuts anymore especially during long hours of powercuts. We hardly use it when they are for a short time. It has made life easier for us. I am eagerly waiting to meeting you all soon.

Margaret

The college is at last an Examination centre starting from this November. These days its getting darkish earlier and I guess its because seasons are changing and getting ready to face the winter. I am sure this time winter will be something! We had too much rain this past rainy season and the ground must be saturated with water. Met officers are predicting one of the coldest seasons ever experienced.

Once again thank you so much for your unwavering support. Kuda

### NEW GENERATOR UP AND RUNNING

After visiting Matthew Rusike last September, supporters Graham and Lynda Jones set about raising £17,000 to buy a generator for the site to overcome the problems of Zimbabwe's erratic electricity supply. By January this year they'd raised about £13,000 and the cost, thanks to a favourable £/\$ exchange rate, had fallen to just over £16,000. At that point, the Friends of Matthew Rusike stepped in with an advance so the generator could be ordered. "Good news from MRCH!!!!" wrote Margaret Mawire on 11 March. "The generator is now at MRCH and the installation guys are working on it as I write. We can't wait to have it up and running. I can't begin to describe the excitement that is tangible here at the home."



Margaret, Mercy and Norlin with the new generator

The fund-raising continued, culminating in an evening with ex-Zimbabwean cricketer, Henry Olonga, at Graham and Lynda's home church in Tonbridge on 26 April. By then the fund had almost reached its target, so the bulk of the £800 raised on the evening will go towards fuel and maintenance for the generator.

As Margaret emailed last month: "The new generator has definitely made life easier. In the event of an electric cut, life goes on normally. Most importantly, it has helped our projects [the piggery, poultry and tomato-growing] in a tremendous way. Every cent that we get from the projects goes a long way in providing for the children in our care. To all the Friends of MRCH, thank you for your commitment to the children of Zimbabwe."

Graham & Lynda

### MRCH month

In the month of May, we celebrate the Matthew Rusike Children's Home. This is an important month on the Zimbabwe Methodist Church calendar. During "MRCH MONTH" we raise the profile of the Home by giving talks in different circuits and incentivising people about the work of MRCH. The month ends with a big Sunday at the Home and most circuits from Harare and surrounding places converge at the Home for celebrations. The results are always tangible and even corporates are beginning to come on board and assisting in many ways towards providing for the children in our care.

The generator has brought tremendous relief to everyone and the admin block as well. Personally I

now don't remember suffering the inconveniences associated with powercuts ever since the generator was installed. Our appreciation to all who were involved in fundraising for this very worthy cause. Zvirinane

### David and Wayne's adventure

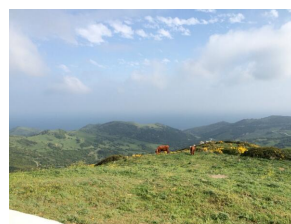


The car slogan advertises the charity run to Dakhla



View as we sail from Portsmouth

Cows grazing at the end of Europe



Ferry leaving Algeiras, heading for Tangier - it's getting hot



A sign! At least we're on the right road. A thousand miles to go. Tomorrow the off road starts heading into the mountains



Petrol from bottles and a flat tyre Last day in Dakhla with the Mercedes Benz. The Mauritanian

border first thing tomorrow. Car for sale, will miss her

**She sold for €1000 at the border - £818 +£204.50 gift aid**

*Congratulations David and Wayne, a great achievement and a grand total of £3,942.50, including gift aid, raised to date, will anyone help them to reach £4000?*

### Ultra Marathon

You can still help **Nick Garrett** top £2000, he's almost there, and sponsor his 100k run/walk/jog from London to Brighton over the day and night of 25<sup>th</sup> May, Please go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NickGarrett1>

### Visit of Rev Margaret Mawire

Margaret arrives in the UK in early June and will travel round various hosts in England and Wales meeting many friends of MRCH. She will be talking about and showing photographs of the work of the **Matthew Rusike Organisation** at the home in Epworth and in several communities across Zimbabwe through their Outreach programmes. She will also talk about life at the home and hopes and plans for the future of the Organisation. All are welcome to attend any of the meetings listed on the enclosed itinerary but please contact the named organizer so they can have numbers for any planned catering.

Meet Margaret and ask her your own questions about the work of MRCH.