



Welcome to the Mamelodi Trust Newsletter!

This is the first edition of what we hope will become a regular publication keeping everyone interested in the work of the Trust up to date with what is going on. It will be emailed to those who request it, or sent by post. The need for a regular Newsletter has been apparent for some time but recently a growing number of people have started to donate by Standing Order and we also now have a substantial community of those who are in regular touch with us. So this will be one way of keeping you all up to date.

The Mamelodi Trust Website

The website can be found at www.mameloditrust.org.uk. The material on the site is produced by us, but the technical side is managed by Joth Web Design (www.joth.co.uk) and we are about to embark on a re-vamp of the entire site. We will let you know when the new site is up and running.

Sir Bob Geldof at the NAACE Conference

NAACE is the UK education professional association for those seeking to improve the quality of education through the use of ICT. The Association has been hugely supportive of the Trust since 1999, raising funds every year at their annual conference. Following a meeting with Bob Geldof early in 2004, when we were able to describe our work in Mamelodi, Bob generously offered to address this year's Naace Conference in Scarborough.

This was an amazing session coming at a particularly important time for Africa as the rest of the world tries to gear up for a sea change in the continent's fortunes through debt relief and increased aid. Bob spoke passionately about the needs of Africa and congratulated Naace for its commitment to the Mamelodi Trust, describing it as "an exemplar, in the true sense of that word" of what can be done on a small scale to reflect what Governments are trying to do on a large scale. The 700-strong audience were greatly moved by Bob's plea for a positive response to "that luminous continent" and over the next three days raised over £17,000 for the Trust's work.



Bob Geldof's address can be seen on the Internet at:

<http://clients.mediaondemand.net/naace>

Primary teachers from Hampshire work in Zakhele School

At Easter this year four teachers from Hampshire schools worked in Zakhele School for a week. Funded by Hampshire County Council and from their own resources, Laura Beverley and Keeley Arkenstall from Ringwood Junior School, and teachers from Abbotswood Junior School in Totton travelled to Mamelodi during their Easter holiday. While they were there they supported literacy, science and ICT teaching at Zakhele School and were also able to visit other schools nearby. The input from these teachers was really helpful in moving Zakhele School forward in its use of educational resources, many of which have been provided by the Trust.



Steve Bacon visits Mamelodi on behalf of the Trustees

In July, Steve Bacon, Chair of the Trustees, spend 12 days in Mamelodi working on behalf of the Trustees in order to gain an up-to-date insight into the current needs of schools. The Trust has significant funds to spend in Mamelodi and the Trustees needed to be sure of the priorities before they allocated funds. Steve visited Zakhele School and saw how existing resources provided by the Trust and others were being used. He met with the staff and helped the senior staff to review the School Development Plan and identify priorities for support from the Trust.



Steve also spent time in Meetse A Bophelo School, a huge primary school nearby which also serves vast areas of informal settlement. This school has over 2,450 pupils housed in 36 tin shacks, 10 of which have recently been condemned as being unsuitable for classroom use. The largest class size is 101! Because of the accommodation problems, the school has to operate in 'shifts' with half the school attending in the morning and half in the afternoon. They have no educational learning resources to speak of - one of the maths teachers told Steve how he has to teach about circles and angles by drawing on the blackboard because

they have no compasses or protractors for children to use. The science teacher has just three text books for his own use, but the children have no text books to work from.

All the children at Meetse A Bophelo School are entitled to have a hot meal at midday, and for many pupils this will be the only food they will eat until the next day. The feeding programme is funded by the local authorities but they do not provide sufficient money each month to pay for the gas that is needed to heat the food. When the gas runs out, the children either go hungry or the Headteacher, Patrick Sikhumbana, buys more gas out of his own pocket. As an immediate priority the Trust will establish a budget in the school to pay for gas to ensure that no children go hungry and will be providing further funds to enable the school to purchase learning resources



Steve also visited Sikhansyielse School, a smaller primary school where Patrick used to be the Headteacher, and Tshegofatsong Special School, the only such school in the whole of Mamelodi. Both schools are in dire need of resources for learning and the Trust plans to provide some financial support for both schools.

Steve met with the local education department to establish a clear partnership with officials who support schools in Mamelodi. He also met with the new British High Commissioner in South Africa, Paul Boateng, who was interested to hear of the work of the Trust and who promised his support. Throughout the visit Steve was supported by our key contact in the British Council, Barry Masoga, who is the Director of Education for the British Council in the whole of southern Africa. The support of the British Council continues to be essential to our work and the Trust is grateful for their commitment to what we are doing.

Helen Bacon works in Mamelodi



Helen Bacon is an Education Social Worker in Derbyshire LEA and back in June was released by Derbyshire County Council to work in Mamelodi for four months. During that time Helen has supported the work of the Trust by working in Zakhele and Meetse A Bophelo Schools, teaching the children and working with the staff to develop their skills. She has liaised with the Trustees and helped us to gain a more detailed understanding of the needs of these and other schools. Helen has also been working with the Mamelodi HIV/Aids support programme, visiting infected adults and children in their homes in the squatter camps and counselling those who

visit the support Centre. The Centre has an arrangement with Woolworth's who donate food to the Centre for needy families. Helen has assisted in the distribution of food parcels in the squatter camps. HIV/Aids continues to be rife, with many adults and children dying. Many families are now "child headed" meaning that with both parents dead, children at Zakhele and other schools are now head of their families with younger siblings to support.

Derbyshire County Council links with Mamelodi

Derbyshire County Council has links with several places in different parts of the world. Last year it determined that it would seek to link with Mamelodi and a Twinning Officer, Stephanie Walsh, was appointed to maintain existing links and to develop a link with Mamelodi. Stephanie has just returned from a three-week visit to Mamelodi during which she set up contacts with various institutions and schools, worked on an arts link which will bring an African artist to work in Derbyshire schools in 2006, and worked with children and staff in Zakhele and Meetse A Bophelo Schools with Helen Bacon. Although the Derbyshire County Council link, which is not necessarily limited to educational projects, is not specifically part of the Trust's work, we are working closely with DCC as our respective activities in Mamelodi are likely to overlap.

Photo on right: Fikile Manzini, Headteacher of Zakhele School, and Patrick Sikhumbana, Headteacher of Meetse A Bophelo School are received at County Offices, Matlock by the Chair of the County Council, Cllr. Charles Cutting, the cabinet member for Education, Cllr. Alan Charles (back row, centre), Michael Halls, Headteacher of Turnditch Primary School (back row, left), and Stephanie Walsh (middle row, left). Steve and Mary Bacon, Trustees, complete this line up!



Jenny Murray works in Mamelodi

Jenny Murray is an ICT educational consultant with Nottingham City Council who gave up three weeks of her summer holiday to work in Mamelodi. Her visit overlapped with Helen's, of course, but also, coincidentally, with Steve's. So the East Midlands was well represented in Mamelodi for a few days this summer! Jenny worked hard in Zakhele School on various aspects of the curriculum notably literacy and ICT. She worked with the children in producing books about themselves which they bound with a comb-binding machine which she had taken with her. The enthusiasm for this work by the children had to be seen to be believed – they had not experienced such motivation for writing before. Jenny also worked to develop their use of the ICT facilities at the school and liaised on the school's behalf with local software companies and the local authority. Jenny funded herself to go to Mamelodi and the Trust is grateful for the work that she did while she was there.

St John's Parish Church, Hazelwood supports Zakhele School



Earlier this year, Hazelwood parish church in Derbyshire decided that they would adopt Zakhele School and look for ways of supporting the school. Church members have raised funds, written to the Headteacher, sent items for use in the school and remembered the staff and children in church prayers. The school values highly this personal support. The Sunday School raised money to send gifts to the children and decided that they would like to send skipping ropes. These were delivered on Steve's recent visit much to the delight of the children at Zakhele. In March this year, the Headteacher of the school, Fikile Manzini, spoke in church about life in Mamelodi and the background of the children in her school - this link is valued not only in Mamelodi, but also in Hazelwood.

Fund raising in the UK

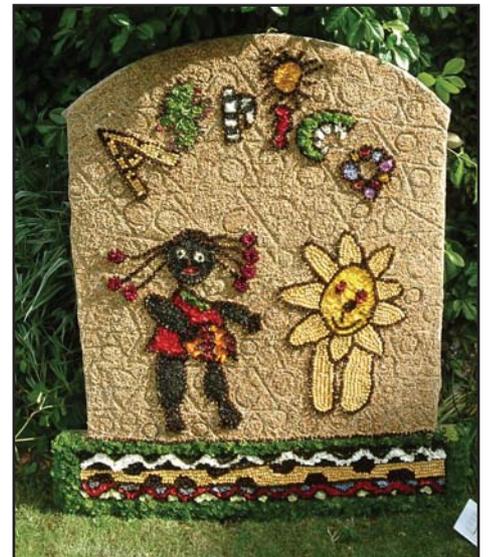
We are pleased to acknowledge so many different groups who have contributed to the work of the Trust through fund raising:

Turnditch School in Derbyshire used a novel fund raising technique during Lent - the children had to pay to come to school each day! The pennies soon became pounds and, together with the collection at the summer Leavers' Service, a substantial donation to the Trust was made. Well done to everyone at Turnditch.

Wirksworth Infant School in Derbyshire were studying Africa this year and at the town's Well Dressings they made a Well Dressing celebrating Africa, (photo, right) and collected for Zakhele School during the Wirksworth well dressing weekend. Together with a collection from parents at a special service in school, they too made a substantial donation to the Trust.

For those unfamiliar with Well Dressing in Derbyshire, visit the website :

www.peakleisure.co.uk/well_dressing_in_derbyshire



The children of Hognaston Sunday School have also raised money this year which has been used to buy new books for the Zakhele School library.

The Derby Mercia Rotary Club asked Steve and Mary Bacon to give a presentation about the work of the Mamelodi Trust recently. Subsequently, they made a substantial donation to the funds for which we were very grateful.

A large number of other individuals have been very generous in their one-off or regular donations all of which are helping to make a real difference in the schools in Mamelodi. Thanks to everyone for your support. In the next Mamelodi Trust Newsletter we will tell you more about the way in which your money has been used following recent allocations of money to schools.

Further information

Please visit the Mamelodi Trust website:

www.mameloditrust.org.uk

or phone: **01773 829849**

If you wish to make a regular donation, or to donate via Gift Aid, please request the appropriate forms from Steve Bacon.

email: **steve@farnahgreen.com**

or use the above phone number.

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