



Stevenage – Kadoma Link Association

AUTUMN 2005 Newsletter

Dates for your diary



Monday 3rd October 2005 AGM - Our AGM will be held on October 3rd at 7.30pm in Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage. Everyone is welcome to attend. Barbara Follett will be the key note speaker.

October 2005 Friends Group – The October friends group will be a 'Zimbabwe Food Tasting Evening'. It's being held at Grace Community Church, Hydean Way, Stevenage at 7.30pm. The date is to be confirmed. If you are interested, please contact Nicola Hughes (see contact details at the end of the newsletter).

Primary School Fees



£10 What does it mean to you? A meal out? A new book? A round of drinks? Or a **whole year** in primary school for a child in Kadoma?

We (the Link and many kind donors) currently sponsor 300 children through primary school education in Kadoma. Their teachers know the families have no money for compulsory fees which means exclusion from education. The scheme in Kadoma is administered by teachers so we know all the money goes to the pupils.

Please help us to keep these boys and girls at school until Grade 7. They deserve an education at least to the age of 13.

We have been warned to expect increases in school fees, so please watch out for any fundraising events by SKLA – or organise one for us! Any donation is welcome, whatever size.

A Shipment to Kadoma



Our profound thanks go to Dave Thompson for spending a year negotiating with Air Zimbabwe and dealing with the paper work for our last consignment of computers, books and tools. The latter are going to the Vocational Training Centre as part of the Andrew Simm Memorial fund – thanks to all the people who supported that.

Dave Thompson arranged for 5 palettes in total, which amounts to hundreds of books for Primary & Secondary schools in Kadoma and computers to help set up a centre for people to learn IT skills.

This was a magnificent achievement but one that cannot be repeated unless volunteers and storage can be found.

Committee Who's Who



In this edition we profile committee member Rose Hamilton.

Rose Hamilton – Deputy Chairperson Profile

I first became aware of Zimbabwe in the 1970's when there were many political refugees in Britain. I got to know some of these refugees as colleagues where I was working in London and was excited by the lively political debates that took place as the war and then the independence negotiations progressed.

I was therefore intrigued when I spotted an article in the local paper many years later when I had moved to Stevenage to learn that we had a twin town in Zimbabwe. I was surprised to find that dull old Stevenage had done something so enterprising and got on the phone straight away to find out more from Joyce and Leslie Ransley who were very inspiring committee members.

One of the things I learnt from those days is that as a new member you want to have a role but feel you do not know anything. The committee tries to include everyone in some way and I hope we manage to achieve this.

The role I took on was custodian of the crochet and other crafts that we receive from Kadoma. My house is adorned with several lovely cotton cloths and some pictures as a result. I love going to fetes and so on and selling the craft gives me an excuse, as well as fund raising for the Link.

I find myself with some surprise some years later as the vice chair person, a poor successor of those preceding me in the role. I have had so much pleasure from the people I have met through the Link, both Stevenage (and Hitchin, Jan) people and visitors from Kadoma. The Link also provides intellectual satisfaction with its unusual window on so many of the central issues that concern the world today. I do not know what you will find in the Stevenage-Kadoma Link but I am sure you will find something to interest you and give you pleasure.

We Need Your Jam Jars!!



The Link has a supporter that makes homemade jams and pickles. These preserves are sold at events such as Stevenage Day and the proceeds go to the Link funds.

To continue the jam and pickle making, we need your recycled jars (and importantly, lids). Please bring along your clean jars and lids to the next Link meeting.

In the Next Edition



The Winter edition of the newsletter is due for publication in December/January.