



Stevenage – Kadoma Link Association

Newsletter January 2011

“CONFERENCE SPECIAL” EDITION



“INSPIRING PARTNERSHIP”

***A CONFERENCE FOR ALL INTERESTED IN LINKS BETWEEN
COMMUNITIES IN THE UK AND ZIMBABWE***

**STEVENAGE-KADOMA LINK ASSOCIATION IS TO HOST A NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SATURDAY MARCH 12TH AT GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH,
HYDEAN WAY, STEVENAGE.**

In July last year our then Chairman, Jan Addison, and Cllr Pam Stuart attended a high level conference in London, which was organised around the visit to the UK by Senator David Coltart, the Zimbabwean Minister for Education, Culture and Sport. The focus of this conference was the need to support the restoration of the education system in Zimbabwe and the place of UK based organisations in this effort. It transpired that of all the UK-Zimbabwe town and community links, SKLA is the only one that is currently active! Indeed, the conference participants were deeply impressed not only that our link is active but with how vibrant it is. One of the conference organisers was the British Commonwealth Consortium for Education, and their representative was very keen to use the SKLA experience to stimulate more links between the UK and Zimbabwe.

Discussions then took place with UKOWLA (United Kingdom One-World Linking Association). Plans emerged for two events – a one-day conference this year, to be followed by a two-day conference next year. The ultimate aims of these two conferences will be both to inspire and equip other towns and communities to form effective links with counterparts in Zimbabwe. Some links will have already existed and will need re-igniting, others will be need to be set up from scratch.

The first of these two conferences is now **OPEN** for applications. Attached to this newsletter you will find a flyer, both for your own use and to pass on to anyone you think may be interested. Application forms are available as indicated on the flyer. *Please note, places are limited, and we may need to give priority to applicants who are either currently involved in some form of link with Zimbabwe, or who are considering setting something up.*

Date: Saturday 12th March (day & evening events)
Location: Grace Community Church, Hydean Way, Stevenage
Cost: £25/£30 (registration date dependent) – includes evening entertainment

www.skla.org

“Celebrate Zimbabwe”



This year, our Celebrate Zimbabwe event will be held on **12th March** (rather than the usual middle of April timeframe) at Grace Community Church in Stevenage. The change in date is so that it will coincide with the ‘Inspiring Partnership’ conference and we enable us to share with people from further afield an evening of Zimbabwean entertainment and food (as well as our regular attendees!).

We are very grateful to the Stevenage based AFM Church for agreeing to help us with this event and we anticipate a great evening of celebration. Tickets will be on general sale for £5 each (conference delegates obtain entry via their conference payment). Watch out for more detail nearer the time.

Stevenage Christmas Tree Festival

At the invitation of the Stevenage Rotary Club, SKLA entered the 2010 Stevenage Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church. Our tree theme was ‘Schools in Partnership’ – each of the 18 schools in Stevenage that are partnered with schools in Kadoma was represented as a ‘bauble’ on the tree.

Pat Akhurst made some splendid ‘recycled’ decorations to represent the sort of decorations the school children in Kadoma might make. The plan for 2011 is to ask the schools in Stevenage & Kadoma to make some decorations for us to include!



School fees - update

A big “thank you” to all of you who have responded so generously to our request for school fees donations. A decision on how many children will sponsored this year are being made at the moment between both towns. We will provide more information in the next issue of the newsletter.

Male voices to raise funds!

The Stevenage Male Voice Choir are currently organising a concert to raise funds for SKLA children’s projects in Kadoma. They are hoping to join forces with the AFM Male Voice Choir to make it a truly joint British / Zimbabwean event!

The concert will be held at St Peter’s Church, The Willows, Stevenage SG2 8AN. Admission will be free, but there will be a retiring collection.

As soon as the date is announced we will let you know. We hope that you will enjoy these males voices as they sing to raise funds.

New SKLA Committee

At the SKLA 2010 AGM, a new committee was voted in. Here they are for you to see!



Chairman

Nicola Hughes was formerly the Vice Chairman of SKLA and has been involved with Kadoma for over 20 years. She visited Kadoma with Cornerstone in 1997 and 2007.



Vice Chairman

Kenny Mashonganyika has been involved with the SKLA for a number of years. He is a member of the AFM church and enjoys singing with the choir.



Treasurer

Kieran Heraty visited Kadoma with Cornerstone in 1997 and has been involved with the Link ever since. Kieran takes over as Treasurer from Leslie Ransley.



Secretary

Jan Addison was formerly the Chairman of the SKLA and after 6 years has moved to become Secretary. This move was also primarily to enable her to spend more time as her role of Partnership Schools Co-ordinator for the Link.

Dates for your diary

6th March: Fundraising curry night in Stevenage – contact Nicola Hughes (see details below) if you are interesting in coming along

12th March: Inspiring Partnership Conference and Celebrate Zimbabwe – Grace Community Church, Stevenage

NB. If you wish to be removed from the Newsletter mailing list or would rather download it from the SKLA website (www.skla.org), please let us know either by post (Nicola Hughes, 3 Chouler Gardens, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4TB) or via email Nicolahughes30@hotmail.com.