



Stevenage – Kadoma Link Association

Summer 2009 Newsletter



SPECIAL 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

A word from the Chairman



Welcome to this special edition of the SKLA newsletter. It is “special” because it marks a special year. This is the 20th anniversary of the town twinning of Stevenage and Kadoma, formally linked in August 1989! The newsletter has reports and information on the many ways we in Stevenage have celebrated this milestone throughout the year, all of which demonstrate that this is a real friendship between two communities which has lasted a long time, and shows every sign of going from strength to strength – despite (or maybe because of) huge challenges.

It is a special pleasure to report that we have been joined for some of these events by key people from the Kadoma side of the Link. Another sign of the real friendship between the communities, is the increasing involvement in all our activities from people from Zimbabwe who live in and around Stevenage

Enjoy the newsletter – and keep supporting the Link!

Jan Addison
Chairman

“Celebrate Zimbabwe” - April 18th



Held at Grace Community Church, Hydean Way. This is becoming something of an annual event, and ties in with Zimbabwe’s Independence Day. The activities included inspiring singing from the wonderful AFM Gospel choir, Zimbabwean poetry, children’s activities and – of course – Zimbabwean food. Numbers attending were again up on last year.



Fundraising for school fees

During the last year we have been facing increasing problems with fulfilling our commitment to school fees. There have been several reasons for this, the main ones being the volatile economic situation in Zimbabwe and the reduction in income on our funds because of falling interest rates. A simple answer is to raise more money! Two ways in which we did this were Stevenage Day and a sponsored cycle ride.



Stevenage Day – June 14th

Thanks to everyone who supported us at Stevenage Day. We raised £600 for projects in Kadoma - a record for this event!

Sponsored Cycle Ride - June

Over ten days in late June, Brian Ingarfill of Stevenage cycled from Ingelheim in Germany to Autun in France, raising sponsorship money for the School Fees Project.

Like Kadoma, Ingelheim in Germany and Autun in France are twinned with Stevenage. All the towns are therefore connected via Stevenage, but not necessarily knowing about each other – now they do!

A keen cyclist, Brian's sponsored cycle ride from Germany to France wasn't a straightforward run, as these excerpts from his diary will show:



DAY 2 "Setting off along the Mosel valley in Germany. Not the best of days - uphill in the morning in the rain with a headwind, on a forest track - me and the bike covered in mud."

DAY 3 "Made it to Trier despite strong, relentless headwind."

DAY 4 "Crossed into France at

14.45 today."



DAY 6 "Hardest day so far. Made 57 miles through thunder, lightning and rain. Everything's wet!"

DAY 8 "Broken spoke. Had to take detour into Dijon to get it repaired."

DAY 10 "Made it into Autun at 4pm today! Staying with members of the Autun Twinning Association."

The sponsorship money is still coming in, but latest estimates are that Brian will have raised over £600 – well done!

“The Handshake” Unveiling – 22nd August



The signing of the agreement between Stevenage and Kadoma took place on 29th August 1989. To mark this date, a sculpture was commissioned representing the SKLA logo of a black and white hand in a handshake.

The sculptor was Tendayi Tandi, a Zimbabwean who is already known to us, having displayed his work at our Celebrate Zimbabwe day in 2008.

The sculpture has been on public display in the Boxfield Gallery in the Leisure Centre, and was officially unveiled on 22nd August. The unveiling was carried out by Jan Addison, chairman of SKLA, and Jane Chigumira, Secretary of Kadoma-Stevenage Link.



In attendance were the Deputy Mayor of Stevenage, John Lloyd and Deputy Mayoress Joan Lloyd, together with many people from both towns who have been associated with the Link since its inception. The Kadoma Link was also represented by Howard Cottrell, the treasurer.

Left-right in photo – Jane Chigumira, Tendayi Tandi, Jan Addison, Howard Cottrell, Cllr John Lloyd

England v Zimbabwe Football Matches



On 5th September two celebratory football matches took place, each between teams representing England (well Stevenage) and Zimbabwe (well Stevenage area...). One match featured two adult teams, Stevenage United representing Zimbabwe and FC Cornerstone. (Cornerstone is the inter-church youth group which has supported the Link in many ways over the years.) The other match featured two under 21 teams.

A most enjoyable morning of football was followed by a BBQ at the Crooked Billet pub. Thanks to Andy Hills for master-minding this event and to all who helped. Profits will go to the school fees project.

For those who don't want to know the scores, look away now.... Well maybe we will just remember the fun we had!

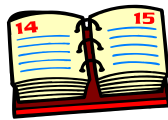


AGM Thursday 17th September 2009

This is due to happen as this newsletter goes to press. To mark the 20th Anniversary, two visitors from Kadoma will be present – Jane Chigumira, secretary of the Kadoma Link, and Howard Cottrell, Treasurer. The guest speaker will be Iain Whyte of the Tibden Trust who will speak on “Small Scale Projects and the Difference They Make”. The Tibden Trust has worked very closely with SKLA over recent years, in particular supporting our school fees project.

After the formal part of the meeting, refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to see displays and talk to other members of the Association and visitors.

Dates for your diary



“CELEBRATE!!! 2009” Saturday 31st October

The final event of our 20th Anniversary will go with a bang! This is an annual event organised by Stevenage World Forum, and this year will in part feature SKLA's special year. You are promised an exciting evening of multicultural performance arts. PLEASE COME, AND BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR A GREAT EVENING IN A GREAT CAUSE!

VENUE: GORDON CRAIG THEATRE, LYTTON WAY STEVENAGE

DATE AND TIME: SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER, 7.30 P M

**TICKETS: ALL TICKETS £6 AVAILABLE FROM THE THEATRE BOX OFFICE
08700 131030**

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If you would like to receive future newsletters by email (rather than by regular post), please send an email to Nicolahughes30@hotmail.com and you will be added to the Kadoma Link Newsletter distribution list.

If you wish to be removed from the Newsletter mailing list, please let me know either by mail (Nicola Hughes, 3 Chouler Gardens, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4TB) or via email on the address above.