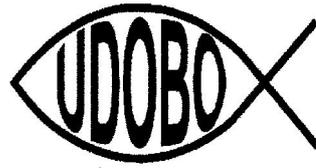


# FRIENDS OF



## **Newsletter No. 22**

*From Patrick and Susan Hughes  
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**October 2010**

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It seems a long time since we were able to send you a newsletter! Kathy and Graeme have, of course, now returned to South Africa to face another term at Udobo School. The effects of their visit to UK continue to be felt, with many more friends showing interest in the work of the school.

### **Action Udobo**

I reported last time that we were in the process of trying to obtain registration as a UK Charity, and this process is now drawing to its successful conclusion. There is to be a meeting of the 'Trustees' of the UK Friends of Udobo on 1<sup>st</sup> November, and one of the items on the agenda will be the ratification of our new Trust Deed and its signing by each of the Trustees. One of the effects of the Deed will be a change of name. The Charity Commission pointed out that there were so many 'Friends of.....' groups aiming for charitable status that they recommended a rethink. The new name agreed by the Trustees is:

**Action Udobo**

Action Udobo will continue to act as before, and for the moment, until the bank account has been changed, all cheques will need to continue to be payable to 'Friends of Udobo'.

### **Other Changes**

You will probably be aware that Kathy and Graeme Mercer will be leaving Durban at the end of the year. Graeme has been called to look after the Willows Methodist Church at Pretoria East after many years service at Montclair. Udobo School owes its existence to the vision, persistence and sheer hard work and love of Graeme and Kathy, and we wish them God's blessing in their new work at Pretoria.

The new ministers at Montclair Methodist Church will be Willie and Ansie Liebenburg. Ansie will be taking over the management of the Udobo School as part of her portfolio as second minister. We look forward to getting to know them and working with them in the interests of the school.

### **Fundraising**

As reported elsewhere, the need for continual fundraising for the school is great. We know of two events happening in the near future – a 'Pudding Evening' in Nottingham and a Harp Concert in Alrewas. Please consider arranging an event, however small, to try to raise funds and increase

awareness of the project in your locality. We can help with information about the school, and we will try and attend if that is appropriate. Our contact address is at the top of the newsletter.

*Patrick and Sue*

## **The Principal Writes;**

*Anne Snyders, the principal of Udobo School has sent us the following report for the year so far:*

We opened in January with a full complement of 100 children, and a waiting list of 40 plus. We could open at least two classes of four-year olds, as there is a constant request for placements for this age, but it was decided that we would concentrate on Grade R as that is the reason the school was started – to give a sound grounding in the pre-school year. We do have one class of children who turn five in the second half of the year, and these children benefit from having two years at Udobo.

Our fundraisers this year have been the Scooter Race, the International Dinner, the Baking Competition and Fashion/Trashion show. (See pictures in ‘the Fisherman’s tale’) We have had mini fundraisers, like Movie days, where we sell popcorn and juice. We have had sales of mattresses and buckets and sweets which help to swell the coffers a little. The staff are amazing, and always work really hard in the background towards the success of all our special days.

We continue to receive bread twice a week from a local baker, and fruit and vegetables from Durban market. The ladies of the church bake the birthday cakes which bring such joy into the lives of our little ones and their families. We are often blessed with gifts of second-hand toys or clothing, and we are grateful to everyone who remembers us in whatever way they choose.

The school is looking very smart after the driveway and fencing were done at the beginning of the year. We have had plumbing sponsored at the back of the school, and our maintenance man has cleared the area in preparation for a vegetable garden which is also to be sponsored. We are also determined to get our playground surfaced before Kathy leaves us. We have also received a promise of 50kg of sugar once a quarter which will help towards our sugar needs!

Our staff has been laid low during the third term, with a very bad strain of ‘flu, and we are operating with half our staff as we close the term. The fourth term will be a very busy one with staff appraisals, consolidation of the years work and reports. We are planning Kathy’s farewell which will be on 26<sup>th</sup> November, so lots of work will be done in the new term in order to give her a fitting send-off from her Udobo family, and all the friends she has made over the six years.

It has been an extremely full year, and I would trust that we never lose sight of the precious little people we are dealing with, and the gracious Father God who makes all things possible. I thank God for his amazing provision of all our needs, and look to Him with confidence for the future.

## ***Money Matters***

by the Hon Treasurer.

***‘Thank You’***, and a great big one, to all who have contributed in the past year and particularly to all our ‘regulars’ who have so faithfully maintained their donations and, in some cases, increased them. We welcome our new regular donors and I am delighted to be able to record that our monthly contributions, which a year ago were £576 have now increased to £686 – and still going up!

**2009/10 Financial Year Accounts.** The accounts for the year ending 31st August 2010 have now been audited and approved and are as follows:

	CURRENT YEAR		PRIOR YEAR	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Regular Donations	7,288.00		7,490.00	
Miscellaneous Donations & Gifts	4,500.42		2,387.00	
Fund raising	12,021.04		1,525.91	
Gift Aid Tax refund	0.00		2,028.62	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>23,809.46</b>		<b>13,431.53</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Paid to the Udobo Ed-U Foundation	23,000.00		14,000.00	
Expenses				
Postage & Publicity	163.00		0.00	
Bank	102.00		72.00	
Visit & travel	95.00		0.00	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>23,360.00</b>		<b>14,072.00</b>	
<b>Excess Income Over Expenditure</b>	<b>449.46</b>		<b>-640.47</b>	

**Comments on the Accounts:**

- The Fund Raising income line increased from £1,526 to £12,021 as a consequence of a fundraising effort by Quinton Methodist Church resulting in a gift of £10,000.
- The gift aid tax refund was not paid in time to be included in these accounts. It has since been received and amounts to £2,235.23.
- The balance sheet shows that we carried forward the sum of £555.02 in the UK bank account.

**Single Donations.** While the School relies so much on our regular donors, the single gifts from individuals – and many as extra contributions from our regular givers – provide additional and vital income to the School and it can be seen that this income nearly doubled last year. More than half of this came from various Christmas contributions and I would like to remind all the School supporters that some of our members, each year, let it be known to family and friends that they would prefer to receive Christmas gifts in the form of donations to the School. In our family, we actually have an Udobo box available at present opening time on Christmas morning to help us remember that not all little children are having as good a time as the Cannell family. Presents between adults are nominal and the care we have for each other is expressed by the sum placed in the box. I hope that those who participated last year will do so again and that others will be encouraged by this note to join us.

**No Room in the Inn.** As you will read elsewhere, the one hundred Montclair Udobo pupils places available from the start of the new school year in January 2011 are already fully taken up with upwards of another fifty children on the waiting list - and with little chance of them getting school places. To try to meet at least some of this need, there are plans afoot by the Udobo trustees to open another school but very significant funds are needed for this.

### ***Will You Help – Can You Help?***

- If you have not so far contributed, your gifts will be welcome at any time, cheques made out to Friends of Udobo should be sent to me, address below, or to any of the Trustees -, addresses elsewhere in this newsletter.
- If you are able to make regular contributions, let me know and Standing Order information will be supplied.
- If you are making a new gift or newly starting to make regular donations and if you pay income tax, please do make the gifts under the Gift Aid scheme. Please contact me for details – only one simple form required which we supply. Each £10 you give enables us to claim another £2.80 tax refund for the School when gift aided.
- A Gift Aid tip. If you have already signed a gift aid Declaration and intend to have a Christmas (or some other similar) appeal to family and friends, then seek gifts in cash (or cheques made out to yourself), make the total contribution yourself (cash or personal cheque to the Friends) and we can then recover the tax refund on the total.
- Alternatively, if you seek donations from friends who pay tax, we can supply special Udobo gift envelopes which include a Gift Aid option.
- To all who have contributed for some years, we all appreciate how inflation, even at only two or three % per annum, eats away at real values. So it is with donations – and so it is with the costs of running the Udobo School. We also face another problem. When we first started sending funds to South Africa in 2003, we got over 15 Rand for each £1 we sent. The Pound has been losing ground against the Rand for years and for each £1 in the last payment sent two weeks ago, we got fewer than 11 Rand. So we need more £'s for the same payment of Rand. If at all possible, please consider reviewing your donations to the school to help offset these difficulties. The welfare of the children depends on it.
- ***And Finally.*** I say again, if you have any queries on any financial matter connected with the School, do contact me. Details below.

*Peter*

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PS Link to 'Fishermans Tale' news from School:

[http://www.udobo.org.za/newsletters/Fishermans\\_Tale\\_1009.pdf](http://www.udobo.org.za/newsletters/Fishermans_Tale_1009.pdf)