



Friends of Udobo Newsletter

No 24 November 2011



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fun and games at Udobo School

Winners of the 2011 'Trashion' Show

Moving on: from 'Friends of Udobo' to 'Action Udobo'

From the Secretary

Dear All

This issue serves to update you on the planned transition from Friends of Udobo to Action Udobo; appeal to you for your continued support of the school and share news of everyday life and developments within the school.

As you will see in the Action Udobo report, we are still waiting for regulatory loose ends to be tied up in order for the merger between Friends of Udobo and Action Udobo to take place. Whilst regular giving through Friends of Udobo continues, Action Udobo will embark on a fundraising drive to meet some of the urgent capital needs at the school.

We are most fortunate to have been promised 50% of the proceeds from the Easter Walk to be held in Stevenage next year as well as the collection from the 2011 Christmas service at the church in Alrewas.

School Director, Rev. Ansie Liebenberg and Principal, Anne Snyders are fast approaching the end of their first year of working together. Prayerfully and tirelessly, they have picked up where Kathy left off and continued her good work, putting in place new

initiatives, designed to provide the children with a secure and on-going education. The school has held several fund raising events during the course of the year and rallied the support of local government and businesses. The events were thoroughly enjoyed by all and provided a sense of community and pride in the school. Ansie has reported that the school will be fundraising in earnest in 2012. Fundraising ideas were discussed at a recent trustees meeting and it was suggested that we might take our efforts into local schools in the UK, perhaps even mirroring some of the Udobo School fundraising events, under the banner of 'Put your money where your MOUF is'. **MOUF** stands for **M**atching **O**pportunities for **U**dobo **F**undraising.

The school continues to delight in its monthly contributions from Friends of Udobo, for they enrich not only the lives of the children but of their teachers and parents too. We are pleased to report that funds from the trust are to be made available to the school for new playground equipment and a Jungle Gym. It is hoped that the work might be carried out during the school's summer holiday in December and

January so that the children can return to an exciting new playground.

This month I will be visiting Udobo, while on a trip to South Africa and hope to return with lots of news and photographs of life at Udobo.

There has been a further change to the trust. Peter Cannell, who temporarily held the position of secretary, has 'handed over the reins' and taken on the role of trustee of Action Udobo and treasurer of Friends of Udobo, until it merges with Action Udobo.

Peter truly is a 'man of many hats' and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the

invaluable role he has played in setting up and maintaining Friends of Udobo. He is a true visionary and his tireless commitment to the staff and children of the school has been inspirational.

As always, we continue to delight in your support of and involvement in the school and value any comments and ideas you might have in helping to maintain and develop the school. We would be happy to include information and photographs of any planned or completed fundraising initiatives in our next issue.

Jenny

A Prayer to Inspire You...

Master and Creator of the universe,
Thank you that your work does not depend upon my power.

I offer myself and my meagre resources
to do your work in the world.

But Father, I realize that the power to do this work,
the resources to accomplish the tasks,
and the time necessary to complete your ministry
must all come from you.

Today God, I confess to you my weaknesses and my sins,
knowing that all that your power needs to work in our world
is a willing heart and an available vessel.

Please use me today to do your work.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

The Re-organised Trust

Chairman David Letter

Normal chairman's duties as well as responsibility for the maintenance of the database in conjunction with all Trustees and despatch of electronic newsletter distribution.

General Secretary Jenny Victor

Normal secretarial duties including the preparation and distribution of promotional materials.

Treasurer John Sharman

Treasurer of Action Udobo, responsible for normal treasurer's duties including gift aid administration and despatch of funds to South Africa.

Trustee and Editor Rev. Paul Weary

Newsletter editor responsible for the compilation and preparation of the newsletter for printing and production.

Trustee Patrick Hughes

Together with Susan, responsible for the creation and encouragement of centres of support and for the initiation, promotion and co-ordination of all Udobo events in the UK.

Trustee Susan Hughes

Together with Patrick, responsible for the promotion of the work of the Udobo School in the UK.

Peter Cannell Trustee and Treasurer of UK Friends of Udobo

Treasurer of UK Friends of Udobo, responsible for normal treasurer's duties including gift aid administration and despatch of funds to South Africa.

A few words from our new Chair

Dear Friends,

In the last Newsletter, Peter mentioned a large number of changes taking place with the move from the 'Friends of Udobo UK' charity to the 'Action Udobo' charity. I am reiterating some of Peter's comments here, with an update on the transition from the old charity to the new.

Peter- *Although the new charity is now in being, it is not yet up and running requiring the completion of a few remaining actions still in hand.*

David - This is still the situation, we have all the necessary financial elements in place in the UK, but there are ongoing discussions in South Africa that currently prevent us from making the full transition to the new trust.

Peter - *The new Action Udobo charity requires that we open a new bank account and it is our intention to close down the old Friends of Udobo account during 2011. This will be done as soon as we have ceased taking donations paid to the Friends of Udobo.*

David – Because of the South African situation, more of which later, we still intend to transfer all financial transactions from 'Friends' to

'Action Udobo' by the end of 2011, but it is by no means a foregone conclusion.

Peter - *Many thanks indeed for your continued and unwavering support of the school. Remember that your efforts and generosity really do make a difference – a massive difference – to upwards of one hundred children each year. Without your money and support and with no Udobo School, those children would have no opportunity to progress and would have stayed on the scrap-heap. At the age of six, they would almost all have had little hope for any better conditions for the remainder of their lives.*

David – This still remains our main priority, to be good custodians of your generosity, both financial and prayerful. We ask that you bear with us as we continue the dialogue with Ansie and others in South Africa.

Peter - *There was much discussion with the Charity Commissioners and one of the difficulties that had to be resolved was that charitable status could not be granted to any UK body that simply supported another charity with donations – as we have been doing from the start. The UK charity has to have a management input on the activities supported and*

has to accept responsibility for the payment of the costs of those agreed activities. This, of course, requires considerable discussion with the Trustees of the Udobo Ed-U Foundation and the actual working out of procedures is on-going to ensure that Action Udobo takes on the responsibility for specific aspect of the work of the school. This makes the personal commitment to regular giving much more important so that the Action Udobo Trustees can give commitments to the school with confidence and in the sure knowledge that they have the financial support to honour those commitments.

David – By far the greatest effort by the Trustees in the UK has been in discussion with Ansie as to how this process will work. For their part, the Udobo-Ed U Foundation and the Udobo School have been involved in a massive overhaul of their financial status, their applications to the South African government for full educational status, hopefully resulting in beneficial grants and a review of the school's policy on intake and geographic influence. To enable Action Udobo to work within the charitable status that it now enjoys, we have identified some projects within the school. We will be able to fund these projects

through Action Udobo, whilst still maintaining our current giving through Friends of Udobo. This ensures that funds are still being sent to Udobo, through your regular giving, AND project activity can be funded through one-off gifts. As and when there is a full understanding of the financial situation in South Africa, then our regular giving will be transferred from 'Friends of Udobo UK' to 'Action Udobo'.

Peter - We anticipate writing to all regular donors to advise the changes required to standing orders and Gift Aid Declarations just as soon as we are able. In the meantime, please continue with the present arrangements until you hear from us.

David – Please be aware that the situation with standing orders and Gift Aid declarations has not changed and will only change when the situation mentioned above has been resolved. Thank you for your continued patience in this matter, but we believe that with positive changes in South Africa and the changes we have made in the UK, places the Udobo School in a much stronger position for the future.

*David Latter
Chair, Action Udobo*

Friends of Udobo Treasurer's Report

Financial Year ending 31st August 2011

Income	CURRENT YEAR		PRIOR YEAR	
	£	£	£	£
Regular Donations	10,550.00		7,288.00	
Periodic Donations	4,481.59		4,500.42	
Gift Aid Tax Refund	4,816.04		0.00	
Fund Raising	1,509.60		12,021.04	
Other income	135.00		0.00	
Total Income		21,492.23		23,809.46
Expenditure				
Paid to the Ubobo Ed-U Foundation	19,000.00		23,000.00	
Expenses	344.13		360.00	
Total Expenditure		19,344.13		23,360.00
Excess Income Over Expenditure		2,148.10		449.46

The figures above show an income reduction of £2,317.23 from the receipts of the previous year. There were, however, some one-off special factors affecting both years for which corrections need to be applied to give an accurate picture and, by removing exceptional items from the above accounts, the base income for the year just past will be seen to have increased significantly from that of the previous year.

In the previous 2009/10 year, firstly, there was a special donation increasing the total income by £10,000 and, secondly, the gift aid tax refund failed to appear reducing

the expected income by £2235.23. In the year just past, 2010/11, the receipt of the late tax refund from the previous year plus the refund for 2010/11 (£2,580.81) has inflated the income. Correcting for these events, the base income for the year just past has risen by something over £3,000.

The even better news is that this increase is almost wholly accounted for by an increase in the regular monthly donations - which donations are the bedrock of our support for the school. Ansie and the staff at the School join me in thanking everyone for their

generous and consistent support through the year.

In these notes, I would finally draw to your attention the large sum carried forward to the next year in our bank account. This is almost wholly due to the fact that our 2010/11 gift aid tax refund of £2,580.81 only arrived on the 23rd August. As I type this, mid-September, most of it has already been sent on to the school and the remainder will soon follow.

In the section below, John explains the reasons for the fact that the Trustees have not yet been able to

activate the Action Udobo account and, therefore, why it has been necessary to continue with the Friends of Udobo account in order to keep funding going to the School. This has necessitated my continuation with the Friends treasurer's duties for another year.

Again our most grateful thanks to you all from everyone connected with the Udobo School in both the UK and South Africa.

Peter Cannell
Friends of Udobo Treasurer
(half retired)

Action Udobo Treasurer's Report

Since registering for independent charity status, it has taken much longer to get 'up and running' than we anticipated. This has been due to various factors, both in the UK in complying with regulatory requirements, but also in South Africa, where the school has been restructuring its management and finances to create a better foundation for the future.

The Trustees decided to continue to operate the Friends during the current year running alongside Action Udobo to benefit the school transition and avoid additional costs, which would otherwise be incurred.

Regular giving, therefore, continues to be routed through Friends of Udobo for tax advantages, although Action Udobo is now embarking on fundraising for some urgent capital needs at the school.

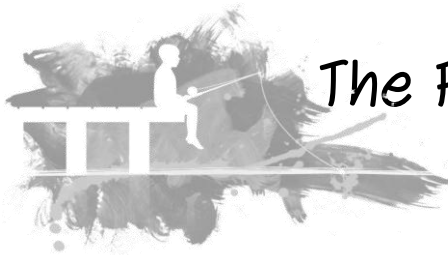
It is envisaged that the Friends will be merged with Action Udobo in the coming months and regular donors will be advised when the need arises. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

John Sharman
Treasurer

Capital Projects

Projects earmarked for funding include:-

- Library books, puzzles and shelving for storage
- Water tanks
- Computer laboratory
- Solar geyser and solar panels
- Playground equipment and Jungle Gym



The Fisherman's Tale

News from Udobo School

From the Principal's Desk

What a busy year it has been! The first term got off to a good start with a full house of 100 children but as always, one class seems to lose children who may move house or just change their minds, often without informing us but we do have a waiting list so these children are quickly replaced. We could quite easily open a second bridging class or four year old group as there seems to be a real need for this age group to receive a quality start at a reasonable price. A younger group would also give us two years in which to hone the English language to better prepare children for the

local schools – if only I could have just one more classroom

We have made some changes this term, which seem to be working very well. Our Friday assembly now takes place in the church, during which time the birthday children and 'children of the week', receive their incentives and a story is read.

The children love the stories but are also exposed to the church and are quickly learning that it is a special place where we learn more about Jesus.

We have changed the second 'lesson' or ring time to allow each teacher to choose the discipline they

are most passionate about and to prepare one excellent lesson which they present to all of the classes through the week. This is doubly beneficial, as the teachers get to know every child and have the opportunity to teach the subject they most enjoy. We have also put together a small bank of computers – we had three but one ‘died’, so we are down to two - Teacher Amos takes 10 children for computers and I take the other 10 for language extension.

We have 5 staff members studying at Caversham College. Lectures are on Saturday mornings and the College has again taken us on as being “co-educated.” This means the college allows our staff members to pay half the fee, while they carry the balance. We are extremely grateful to them for this.

Our main fundraiser this term was the scooter race. It was wonderfully supported and was thoroughly

enjoyed by the children and their parents alike. Green class brought in the most money so were treated to a milkshake at Wimpy and the family who raised the most money was rewarded with grocery vouchers.

We have welcomed five parents onto the Governing Body of the school this term. Absa Bank has come alongside our school in starting a vegetable garden. Our local councillor, Billie Prinsloo, gifted our school with a wheelbarrow, garden fork and spade and tins of veggie seeds – so it is becoming a reality! We have also begun to collect drink cans for a Collect-a-Can project, to encourage our children to recycle and bring in a little bit of extra money at the same time – all exciting new ventures.

During the second term, we concentrated on consolidating our new timetable. It is working well, with the teachers feeling less



rushed. We held two fundraisers – The first was to encourage parents to send in pocket change – all the little coins and we were pleasantly surprised as to the amount raised!

The second was our Fun Day, during which my staff washed about 30 cars at R25 a car. We also had various stalls and our annual Trashion Show. Every year the parents get more creative and innovative and our judges had the unenviable task of choosing Best Girl's outfit, Best Boy's outfit, Mr Personality and Miss Cutie Pie. Later in the term, the teachers were kept busy preparing reports - this seems to be a year of new things. I put together a new report, which I believe gives a better reflection of the strengths and weaknesses of each child. My precious teachers embraced this challenge and our 'new format' reports went out on the last day of term.

Our end of term FUNdraiser was the Big Spring Walk and was held on the last day of term. It was amazing - the kiddies walked/ran around the church property and I think we had the best course in Durban to walk! Lots of fun was had by all and some

parents also came, to support their children. The day started in the church with a chapel service and awards to the 'Stars of the Week'.



Tug of war

We had visits last week at the school from Departments of Social Development and Education. They were all very impressed with our school and we are excited that the process to get the school registered is finally off the ground. We are expecting a visit from the Department of Health in the near future.

The puzzles have been ordered and we have done that in faith and trust that God will supply our every need.

The men in the church moved in during the holidays and fixed up the playground area for us and cut back

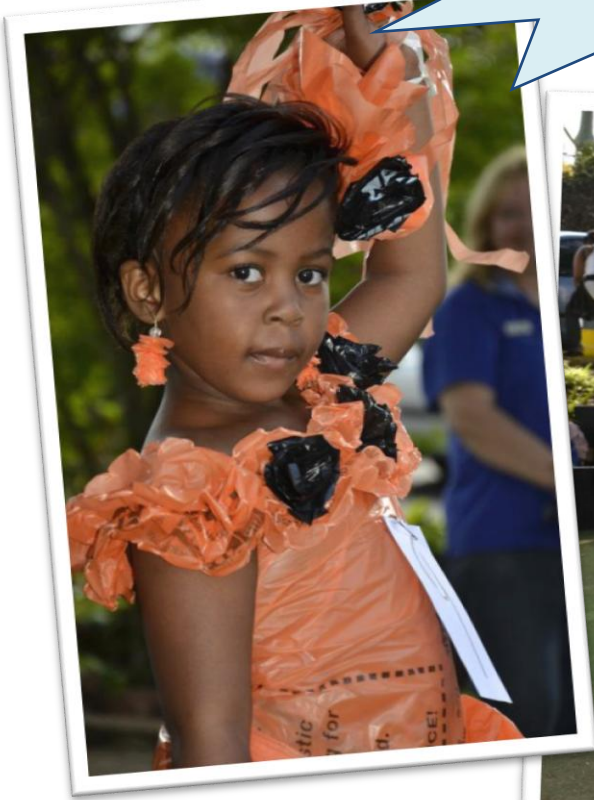
some branches. It looks so much better.

We are currently preparing for the last term and have started to plan our year end concert - so watch this

space! We are also hoping to have an outing to the Fire Brigade in November, about which everyone is very excited.

**THE TRASHION
SHOW WINNERS**

Best girl's outfit - Zoe



Best boy's outfit - JJ



Mr Personality - Clinton



Miss Personality - Mariah



And as promised in the last issue.....the day Teacher Daria became Mrs Hugo Haynes

Cute Quips

From the time she learned to talk, my little granddaughter has told people - "my granny works at the Adorable School". So in my house, we refer to the Udobo School as the Adorable School - it makes one look at work with new eyes.

I always lock my door while working with money. One morning I opened the door while the children were lining up and one little bright spark said: "did you have a nice sleep, Teacher Anne?" ... if only!

Letters from Parents

We continue to receive a stream of heartfelt letters from our parents.

Dear Teacher
On Saturday I took my son to his primary school campus. I would like to say thank you for all the help and support to get him to this place. God is always watching and I pray that He will reward you fruitfully.

Dear Teacher
Thank you very much for the cake, from what I hear from my son, he really had a great day and enjoyed every moment of it.

Dear Teacher -Thank you we received the cake. My son was so happy and wanted to share it with his friends.

The birthday cakes do so much to show God's love in a tangible way and we are so grateful to our bakers for this work. You will never know this side of heaven how you have touched lives by your sacrificial giving, thank you all.

In Closing...

Thank-you for reading our newsletter. Please continue to pray for us because without God's hand over us, we can do nothing. Day by day, our children continue to learn and grow. We are so proud of them and are filled with desire to continue our work with these, the youngest and most tender vines in God's vineyard.

No matter how busy we are at Udobo, we are thankful every day.

We are thankful for your love and support, care and concern and most of all, for believing with us, in the vision that Udobo School has. We thank you for your unwavering friendship over the years and look forward to your continued support in helping our children to grow, secure in the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Anne Snyders



The Spring Walk

