

The BARK FOUNDATION
In support of HOTPEC ORPHANAGE, BUEA, CAMEROON
President: Reverend Edward Sakwe

January 2009

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU!

We thought you would like an update on the progress of our fundraising.

Again, a big ‘THANKYOU’ to everybody taking part in our ambitious project – you will be as thrilled as we are to know that our total to date is **£7545.00!** This is a fantastic achievement, made possible through hard work and the generosity of many friends (and their friends) and acquaintances. We truly believe that we were meant to be inspired to do this, because every effort of fund raising has been successful and so many individuals have felt moved to donate generously to our cause. The orphanage made us very welcome during our visit but they did not ask us for financial support. We saw for ourselves a great need and resolved to do what we could to provide decent living accommodation for the nursery infants. The staff are overwhelmed that people from so far away want to support them. They did email a picture of Sister Grace and three (representative) orphans standing on the spot where work will begin, but unfortunately it is not in a format we can enlarge to reproduce for our newsletter. We hope to be able to supply photographs in the future.

We sent £1000 to the orphanage in December – enough to pay for the foundations to be dug. The timing is good because it is now their dry season. The directors and staff at the orphanage are delighted – they can now see that the dream is actually going to happen. The remainder we have in hand should be enough to lay the concrete foundation ready for building the walls. It would be great if we could get the roof on before the rainy season begins again – we can but try!

The £7545 has been achieved in the following way:

£1 – a –month Club:	1170.00
Donations: (Some from groups, many personal, varying from £5 to £400)	3373.00
Events and sales of donated items:	<u>3002.00</u>
	<u>£7545.00</u>

We said in our newsletter of May 2008 that we hope to encourage more people to join the £1-a-month Club – you can see what a wonderful contribution all those single £1 coins are! If any of you know of anybody else who would like to take part please pass on our contact details to them, or ask us to contact them direct.

Chairman
David Bark
48 Queensgate Drive, Birstall
Leicester LE4 3JR

Secretary
Charles Hilton
11 Beechfield Avenue, Birstall
Leicester LE4 4DB

Treasurer
Joy Bark
48 Queensgate Drive, Birstall
Leicester LE4 3JR

Email: david@bark.clara.net

Email: joy@bark.clara.net

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Similarly, the £3002 'events and sales' includes £1295 from the sale of recycled unwanted beads and jewellery. Joy is busy most days making new things out of old, or repairing broken items! This is an on-going project so Joy will be pleased to continue to receive any sort of old jewellery to work on.

If you know of any 'Coffee Mornings', Garden Parties or other venues where we might put out a sales table for the jewellery please let us know. Two friends kindly offered to invite their friends to their homes for a 'jewellery party'. This resulted in two very successful sales. If you could offer the same opportunity please contact us.

Unfortunately our application to HMRC for registration to claim Gift Aid was unsuccessful. We contacted Andy Reed (MP for Loughborough) who suggested that we should contact the Charities Commission. We are currently preparing an application for Registered Charity status. To make the Gift Aid application we had to provide a name for the fund and draw up a proper Constitution – hence the name of the foundation and the officers (but cheques still need to be payable to "D & J Bark (Orphanage)", the original name on our Treasurer's Trust Account).

Sending funds to the orphanage: Hans Njoh, Finance Officer at the Presbyterian Synod Office in Buea, Cameroon, kindly agreed to act as our 'agent'. It was he who collected the money we sent, on behalf of the orphanage. He will liaise with the orphanage staff on our behalf to make sure that the project progresses satisfactorily. Unfortunately the weakness of the £1 sterling against all other world currencies meant that the exchange rate was very low. We shall not send any more money until the orphanage tells us the builder has completed the excavation and needs to proceed to the next stage. Hopefully the exchange rate may have improved by then.

Two dates for your diary:

Saturday 7 February 2009, 10.00-12.00 **Coffee Morning at Birstall Methodist Church.**

Saturday 14 March 2009, 10.00-2.00 **Coffee Morning and 'Wii Sports' event at Birstall Methodist Church.**

Come along for a new experience!

Whilst the usual Saturday Coffee Morning will take place, several Nintendo Wii computer games and screens will be set up in the main hall and the church. This is mainly for young people but is also great fun for the 'young at heart'! The adults who came along to our 'training' session had a great time – it was suggested we forget about the children and hold the event for the adults!

For both occasions offers of help would be greatly appreciated: 'manning' stalls, donations of cakes, raffle/tombola prizes etc.

We thank you all again for support we have already received and hope that you will want to continue to support us so that we can reach our target as soon as possible.

Best wishes on behalf of us all

Joy and David

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