

July 2006

Msaada News

www.msaada.org Registered charity number 111819

Total funds raised at July 2006:

£27,689

Total allocated to Rwandan projects:

£27,689

Total commitments to 2010:

£92,150

Prosperity, Development & Growth for Rwanda

Massacre site visit shocks UK visitors

THE establishment of a “honey for money” beekeeping project in eastern Rwanda came a step closer this month following a visit to the project area by the chairman and director of Msaada.

Chris Brickell and Billy Kelly visited the Kibungo area of Rwanda to advance plans for a honey bee project among widowed and orphaned survivors of the horrific Rwandan genocide in 1994.

The honey bee project aims to boost the incomes of 200 impoverished families by developing modern beekeeping skills in areas where beekeeping was widely practised before the genocide.

There is a ready market in Rwanda for honey and beeswax.

During the visit the Msaada members experienced an extraordinary range of emotions from sheer joy to profound sadness.

On the second day in the project area, Chris Brickell had the wonderful experience of presenting footballs, t-shirts, tennis balls and other sports

equipment to the Gati Primary School. The sports materials were presented to Msaada by John Carver of the Bristol Lawn Tennis and Squash Club.

“The joy in the faces of the young people in the school when they received the equipment was most uplifting and rewarding,” Chris commented.

“It was an immense pleasure to see the young footballers wearing the t-shirts and practising with the new footballs.”

The school is where Emmanuel Bandora, the young boy featured in Msaada’s promotional DVD, studies.

Later in the day Chris and Billy visited the proposed area for the

honey bee project and travelled through a stunning variety of beautiful countryside.

But, the most shocking moment came when the group visited the parish church at Nyarabuye, scene of a horrible massacre in 1994, which was featured in a report on the genocide by Msaada patron Fergal Keane.

Chris and Billy were brought into a build-



Msaada chairman, Chris Brickell, and some of the Rwandans who hope to take part in the honey bee project in Nyarabuye

ing adjacent to the church where there was a wooden frame with old clothes hanging on it, which transpired to be some of the clothing worn by the murder victims. As the men turned the corner into the other section of the room they were confronted by a vast array of human skulls and bones laid out on wide tables.

“It was a most dreadful experience,” Chris recalled. “To see the rows and rows of human skulls with the

damage inflicted by all sorts of implements was truly shocking. The image will stay with me for ever.”

Billy commented: “When I turned the corner and saw all the skulls I was sickened, and frightened. I have never been so close to the darkness that lies hidden in the heart of man. I will never forget that horrible experience.”

The trauma of the day led to the two men pledging to redouble their efforts to assist the people of Rwanda

to rebuild their shattered lives.

“The world turned its back on the people of Rwanda once, and now the country is largely forgotten again,” Billy explained, “so we are determined to do all in our power not to let our Rwandan friends down.”

In 100 days an estimated one million people were butchered in the Rwandan genocide, while the United Nation refused to intervene to halt the bloodshed.



Prosperity, Development & Growth for Rwanda

Msaada was established under the patronage of journalist and broadcaster

Fergal Keane

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES:

Chairman: Chris Brickell,
Director: Billy Kelly,
Secretary: Mike Davies,
Treasurer: Ian Small,
Trustees: Gillie Strang,
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Msaada

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ABOVE: Dawn Small, proprietor of Bijoux Beads of Bath and Shaftesbury, right, and Billy Kelly, director of Msaada, with some of the prize winners in the shop's annual jewellery-making competition, at the Shaftesbury premises. The event raised £583.32. The money will pay for a teacher's salary for a full year in Rwamagana. BELOW: Prize winners in the Bijoux Beads jewellery-making competition at the Bath premises.



Keith and Charlie Westcar of Ye Olde Two Brewers in St James Street, Shaftesbury, with Rev Anne Haywood, organisers of two fundraising table quizzes held in the pub in aid of Msaada. Missing from the photo is Sue Ballett who was involved in organising the events. The total amount raised was £310.50, which will be used to send Rwandan orphans to school.

Ex-chairmen's walk raises almost £20k

THE walk around the border of Dorset by three ex-chairmen of the North Dorset Rugby Football Club has raised almost £20,000 for Msaada.

Martyn Jose said he and his co-walkers, Nigel Pothecary and Bob Jones, were delighted with the amount raised.

"The purpose of the walk was to raise awareness of Msaada and to raise cash – and we certainly did both of those," Martyn commented.

The 208-mile walk took the three men 16 days. "And only four of them were dry!" Martyn recalled.

Throughout that time they were within one mile of the Dorset border at all times.

Martyn paid tribute to the people who supported them during their walk, particularly Ewan MacNeish, who walked nine of the days, and Gay Jose, who walked three of the days.

"We got great support, particularly from our families, and we only had one day when the three of us walked on our own," Martyn said.

Eleven girls and two teachers from Corfe Hills School were among those who joined the walk, as were some of the NDRFC U14 team with Dorothy Newbury. Others included some firemen colleagues of Ewan MacNeish and various members of the rugby club. Martyn thanked them all for their great effort. He recalled the U14 rugby team members did the



Martyn Jose, Fergal Keane, Nigel Pothecary, Ewan MacNeish and Bob Jones walk through Purse Caundle during the walk around the border of Dorset

toughest walk on the wettest day.

"They showed great spirit and did very well," he said.

The three walkers were particularly struck by the contrast they encountered on their travels. They en-

joyed walking through the beautiful Dorset countryside inland, rolling hills and heath land, the chalk cliffs and coastal paths, the fossil forest near Lulworth and many other fascinating landscapes.

There was also great contrast between the various pubs the men refreshed themselves in each evening – everything from typical Dorset country pubs to biker pubs at the coast. The range of wildlife they encountered was also of great interest.

"The hospitality of the bed and breakfast owners we stayed with was also wonderful," Martyn said. "Without exception they all made a contribution to the charity."

Overall Martyn and his friends found the whole experience to be very sociable, and, informative.

They brought a book of useless information on Dorset as the walked the border they found themselves being engaged by the story of the hapless

Duke of Monmouth whose rebellion in June, 1685, began when he landed his forces on the beach near the Cobb at Lyme Regis. His doomed adventure eventually led to his clumsy beheading on Tower Hill.

The men found Portland Bill to be surprisingly interesting. They saw where the stone used to build St Paul's Cathedral was quarried and loaded onto ships to be transported to London.

This was in stark contrast to the grimness of the two prisons located on the Bill.

So what is next for the intrepid three?

"I am looking at getting a hip replacement," Martyn revealed, adding with a smile, "... but watch this space!"



NDRFC members Shag Gulliford, Kirsten Telfer, Glen Smyth and Barry Mathews join Martyn and Nigel on the last day

3,500 foot drop lifts Rwandans

GILLINGHAM School student Alex Page (16) has raised almost £600 for Msaada by parachuting from a plane at 3,500 feet.

But for Alex one jump was not enough. She immediately accepted an invitation to do a second.

"The scariest part was waiting, with the door open so you could see down, to be called to jump," Alex explained. "Once I was on the edge it wasn't so bad because I knew I was going to do it. I thought of the people I'd met in Rwanda and how I couldn't let them down."

Alex decided to do the jump after visiting Rwanda.

There she met primary school students who are going to school thanks to support from Msaada, as well as trainees attending a vocational training centre, where the teachers' salaries are being funded by Msaada.

On her return Alex sold her drum kit to pay for the education of two of the young people she met. Then, with encouragement from her parents and teachers at Gillingham School she enlisted the support of her fellow students to sponsor her to do the parachute jump.

"It's great to be able to think that I've done something to help," Alex commented. "I am so glad I did it."

Alex trained for the jump with the Army Parachute Association at Netheravon. She did a static line jump, which means that she jumped on her own and a cord attached to the plane automatically opened the chute. Alex's father, Grant, also did the jump.

"I was the first person out of the plane," Alex recalled. "I fell for about 50 feet before the chute opened. It was amazing!"

She said it felt more weird

and disorientating than scary dropping from the edge of the plane. "I couldn't quite believe I'd let go," she said. "It was fantastic, especially when the chute opened and I could steer over the drop zone and take in the surroundings. I liked it so much and was so full of adrenaline afterwards that I went up to jump again. It was a new experience watching others disappear out of the side of the plane. I was amazed at how fast they dropped away."



Alex after her parachute jump

"The second time was even better because I was more relaxed and could enjoy it more - but it still got my heart pumping pretty fast though!"

"It's not every day that you get to see the bottom of a plane at 3,500 feet, so it was pretty surreal," she said.

And what's next up for Alex?

"Skydiving!" she replied enthusiastically.

Msaada director Billy Kelly thanked Alex for her outstanding support for the agency's work.

"It is always heartening and encouraging to see how selfless young people like Alex are. It is wonderful the way young people respond to the needs of others who are less well off than themselves," Billy said.



Dayo Benson and Hassan Mehmood present a cheque for £1,600.68 to Msaada patron, Fergal Keane

Schools back efforts to combat poverty

SHAFTESBURY and Corfe Hills secondary schools have given their wholehearted backing to Msaada's work in Rwanda.

Both schools presented cheques to Msaada patron, Fergal Keane, during his recent visit to Gillingham

Shaftesbury School presented a cheque for a massive £1,600.86, the proceeds of their Rag Day.

This is the third contribution made by the school since joining the campaign to help the genocide widows and orphans in Rwanda.

Previous contributions totalled £1,666.34.

And Corfe Hills weighed in with £500, raised by the school's Rock Challenge company's sale of DVDs and two musical soiree evenings in the school.



Pippa Murphy and Fay Hollingbery of Corfe Hills School with Alan Hinchliffe, head teacher, and Fergal Keane