

GEOFF'S BRUSH WITH DEATH RAISES £6,620

SHAFTESBURY man Geoff Ballet put his life at risk to raise a massive £6,620 for people who are less fortunate than himself.

Geoff's fundraising effort was a planned 125cc scooter ride from Shaftesbury to the Sahara and back.

However, on his arrival in Morocco, Geoff was prevented from continuing by police due to social unrest in the country.

Instead he decided to travel through Europe to complete his 7,000 kilometre journey.

Disaster struck Geoff on a roundabout near Grandola, halfway between Faro and Lisbon.

A van driver on his mobile phone cut Geoff up at speed and he was thrown from his bike.

"The only thing I can remember was hitting the ground and the next thing I could hear sirens and there were people standing over me," he recalled. He had to be flown back to the UK with chipped bones and torn muscles.

Geoff's courageous efforts raised £3,310 each for Msaada and Cancer Research UK.

Undaunted, Geoff has vowed to complete his trip to the Sahara at a future date, and he is already making new plans!



Geoff Ballet, right, whose Sahara Scooter Challenge raised an impressive £6,620 for Msaada and Cancer Research UK, at the presentation of a cheque to Chris Brickell, Msaada chairman, by deputy Mayor of Shaftesbury, Win Harvey

Total funds raised
in UK to date:
£77,938

Total sent to projects
(incl. funds from non-UK supporters):
£84,556

Stephanie takes a few punches for Msaada

STEPHANIE Amies from Alton in Hampshire went into her college last Halloween dressed as a bright orange pumpkin to raise funds for Msaada.

“I must admit I was quite terrified, not only because I was the only college student that had dressed up for Halloween, but I was also performing in a concert that evening and I had visions of me turning up with an orange and green face!” Stephanie explained.

“As I walked through Alton college, people were turning to stare and I heard whispers from passing students, ‘is she supposed to be dressed like that?!?’

“There were a few people that looked at me, with the usual blank ‘first-thing-in-the-morning’ look upon their faces, they looked away and after a few seconds recollection, their heads jerked back to where I was standing; just to check that they were not seeing things.

“There were at least 10 people that asked ‘can I punch the pumpkin?’ as I was padded with layers and layers of bubble wrap (extremely hot!). I told them they could, if



Stephanie Amies: Pumpkin girl at work in Alton College

they put money in the collection box - a plastic pumpkin head!

“Some people simply ignored me, or looked the other way, as if nothing was any different. In orchestra my music teacher said: ‘Well, I have never had a pumpkin playing the piano before.’

“But the best reaction was definitely from my friends! They laughed... a lot! They even told me they would pay me extra if I ran down one of the corridors because they wanted me to make an even bigger fool of myself – the running, bobbing, wobbling pumpkin!

“As ridiculous as I felt throughout the whole day, I had an immense amount of fun! It made most people smile.

“I have raised over £200 and the memory certainly lives on because I am formally known throughout college as the ‘Pumpkin girl’.”



Pupils at the Excel Bilingual School in Rwamagana created quite a stir when they turned out in colourful soccer gear for a sports day organised by Msaada’s Leslie Spiers.

The kit was very generously provided by Poole Town FC Wessex.

Emile Rudasingwa, school chairman, thanked Poole Town for their kindness.

“It means a lot to the pupils to feel that people in the UK care about them and are willing to help like this,” he said

Card designs illustrate pupils' creativity

THE refreshing views of young people on what images best represent Christmas were evident in drawings produced by pupils at the Abbey Primary School in Shaftesbury.

The young people had been asked to design Msaada's Christmas cards, which went on sale last November.

A number of the works were selected to go to print and they drew a lot of admiring comments from the public.

The project raised in the region of £500.

Pupils at the school also organised a games stall at their Christmas Fayre to raise funds for Msaada's projects in Rwanda.



Pupils at Abbey Primary School who designed Msaada's Christmas cards with their winning designs

Project review shows progress being made

A MAJOR review of Msaada's projects in Rwanda shows that significant progress has been made in the past three years thanks to the support being given by donors in the UK.

The review was carried out by Msaada in co-operation with partners AVEGA and SURF.

The educational projects are progressing well and the latest addition, the Excel Bilingual School, is making great strides towards providing high quality education for young people from all backgrounds in Rwamagana.

The focus of the Subiruseke Vocational Training Centre is to remain on providing teenagers who have not

been able to attend school with carpentry, masonry and garment making skills. This will enable them to get work and generate an income.

The Count D'Angerville Honey Project was a little behind schedule, but is now back on track thanks to the support of Gillingham beekeeper Mark White.

Mark has visited the project sites and enlisted the support of ARDI, the Rwandan Association for the promotion of honey production, to provide additional training and support to the widows in the Nyarabuye area.

It is expected that the first honey will be collected at the end of March.

Msaada's support for a new conference centre at

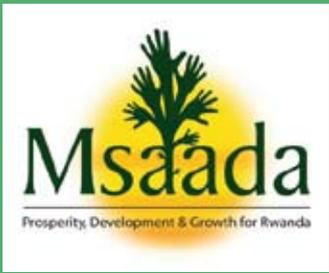


Mark White at the honey project in Nyarabuye

the AVEGA headquarters is already helping to generate funds.

"We are very pleased with the way our projects are progressing," Msaada chairman Chris Brickell

commented. "It is most heartening to see that our efforts are bearing fruit and that the support from people in the UK is making a significant difference in Rwanda."



Msaada was established under the patronage of journalist and broadcaster



Fergal Keane
Msaada president

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES:

Chairman:

Chris Brickell,

Director:

Billy Kelly,

Treasurer:

Ian Small,

Trustees:

Jim Farrand,
Martyn Jose,
Gillie Strang,
Tim Wood.

Msaada

is a
Registered Charity
Number: 1111819

www.msaada.org

9 Leddington Way
Gillingham
Dorset, SP8 4FF

Telephone
01747 823690

Carnation day is a big hit at Gillingham

LIBBY Page and Alice Nicholson, students at Gillingham School, raised over £400 for Msaada by organising a carnation day for fellow students on Valentine's Day.

The girls were delighted with the amount of money raised which exceeded their expectations.

This is the second school fund raiser that the girls have held for Msaada.

Last year they organised a cake sale, a guess the name of the teddy bear contest, guess the number of sweets in a jar and guess the serial number on a £5 note. That event raised over £100.

Last year the girls' tutor group met with Odette Kayirere of AVEGA, a widows and orphans



Libby and Alice: carnation day

support group in Rwanda. She told the students of her experiences surviving the genocide terror.

Gift Aid

Thank you for your donation to Msaada to help the victims of the Rwandan genocide rebuild their lives through self-sustainable development. If you would like to ask any questions regarding the form or Gift Aid, please call Ian Small on 01747 839960.

The Government of the UK operate a scheme called Gift Aid, which enables the charity to claim tax relief on your donation. The only criteria you need to meet is that you pay enough income or capital gains tax in the year of donation, at least equal to the tax deducted from the donation. If you meet this criteria, we would be extremely grateful if you could complete this form below and return it to us at your convenience.

I want the charity to treat the enclosed donation of

£
as a Gift Aid donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

IAN J. SMALL (Treasurer)

