

HARROWING VISIT ENDS IN PROGRESS

STAFF and students from Shaftesbury School paid a harrowing yet rewarding visit to Rwanda.

The trip, according to Mike Hayes, head of sixth form, was for the visitors to teach in a local school, visit projects, start to understand more about the Rwandan genocide, be ambassadors for their school as a major Msaada fund-raiser, but, more importantly, spread the word when they got home.

Mike said they found a visit to the memorial centre in Kigali a particularly harrowing experience.

“We began to understand the history of the genocide and, indeed, how the bloodbath could have been prevented if the UN had had the courage to take action,” Mike said.

“The stories about the children that died were particularly upsetting.

“Our visits to the Excel Bilingual School were in a much more positive vein and made us think that the future for Rwandans is bright.

“They were also pleased to



Chris Brickell, Msaada chairman; Jemma Woolmington, Vicky Little, teacher; Carly Emmett-Bowden, Kate Roper, Mike Hayes, head of sixth form, and Samantha Ryall in Rwanda

receive the resources that we took out with us; they have very little compared to us. The students were bright and willing to learn and so were a joy to teach. We intend to set up a permanent link between the two schools.”

The UK group visited projects started using the

funds raised by Msaada and also in part by their school. They undertook a very emotional visit to Nyarubuye church where thousands of men, women and children, were slaughtered. Their guide told them that his family had been murdered there. “How can a man have such

faith to be strong enough to return day by day to a place where this happened? His dignity was reflected in the simplicity of his words: It is important that no-one should forget.” Mike added: “We certainly won’t forget as we encourage others to help Rwanda recuperate.”

Total funds raised
in UK to date:
£82,297

Total sent to projects
(incl. funds from non-UK supporters):
£92,806

ENERGETIC SUPPORTER DANCE AND SWIM FOR

MSAADA supporter Joe Fossey set himself a serious endurance test when he ran in the London Marathon – he took part without doing any training.

In spite of this, Joe managed to motivate himself by running alongside (and then beating) a craggy-faced Gordon Ramsay.

“Suffice to say, I was exhausted at the end of the event and my body certainly told me the following week how foolish it was not to have prepared properly,” he admitted.

Joe paid tribute to his work colleagues in the Future Business Group at MOD Abbey Wood for their outstanding support for his efforts.



Joe Fossey looking deceptively fit during his marathon run



Jim Edmondson churns his way from Eilean Shona to Eigg and (right) but elated

JIM “seal boy” Edmondson has undertaken what he described as one of the most challenging and weirdest things he has ever done.

On July 3 last he swam from Eilean Shona to Eigg to raise funds for Msaada. He began the swim at 9am and arrived at Eigg

at 7.30pm, quite tired but elated.

Jim explained: “This may not sound like the biggest deal in the world but it took a year of training and it ended up being just under 13 nautical miles in Scottish waters.

“I know, normally, I would ask people to sponsor me before the

chal but you feat me a “I plea out Ach



Sundial Challenge cyclists in full flight during their 205-mile around Dor

ERS WALK, CYCLE, RUN, R RWANDA PROJECTS



emerges from the sea, tired

challenging event had happened, I didn't and I am hoping that I will still think this is a great experience of endurance and sponsor anyway.

If you do want to sponsor me please send me a cheque made payable to Msaada at Eilean Shona, Gillingham, Argyll, PH36 4LR."

CHAMPAGNE corks popped as three ex-chairman of North Dorset Rugby Football Club completed their 342-kilometre charity fundraising walk for Msaada at Gillingham town hall.

Remarkably, the walkers completed the 14-day walk without encountering a single drop of rain. Two years ago the walkers did a 16-day walk and only four of the days were dry.

The walkers, Nigel Potheary, Martyn Jose and Bob Jones, arrived home from their Gillingham in Kent to Gillingham in Dorset marathon to an enthusiastic reception at the town hall from supporters, including the Mayor of Gillingham and town and district councillors.

The Gillingham to Cornwall trek took two weeks. It is the third marathon undertaken by the three men.

In 2006 they walked around the border of Dorset, and last year they



Walkers Bob Jones, Nigel Potheary and Martyn Jose arrive back to Gillingham after their 342-kilometre marathon

walked from Hampshire to Cornwall.

Walk organiser Martyn Jose thanked their main sponsors for making the walk such a worthwhile success, including StMary's

Pharmacy, Gillingham Suite and Bed Centre, Blackmore Computers Ltd, The China Shop, Freestone and Company Accountants, Just the Thing, and Equity Mortgage Finance Ltd.



set marathon

A GROUP of almost 20 cyclists took part in the Sundial around Dorset cycle challenge to raise funds for Msaada. The 205-mile journey was completed in one day beginning at dawn and finishing at dusk.

The cycle also supported the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and the Go Ride cycling project. The cyclists were mainly from Gillingham and District Wheelers and North Dorset Rugby Football Club but were joined by supporters from all over North Dorset.

Other cycling club members joined in for shorter stretches of the route.



Billy Kelly, Msaada director, accepts a cheque for £750 from Chris Goodinge of the Copplridge Inn, Motcombe, part of the proceeds of the inn's fourth annual charity ball

Msaada was established with the support of journalist and broadcaster



Fergal Keane
Msaada president

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN: Chris Brickell, TREASURER: Ian Small,
DIRECTOR: Billy Kelly, TRUSTEES: Jim Farrand,
Martyn Jose, Gillie Strang, Tim Wood



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Msaada is a UK Registered Charity Number 1111819

Gift aid

I want Msaada to treat the enclosed donation of
£
as a Gift Aid donation

Please make cheques payable to Msaada

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



The Hawaii team who came joint first in the best beef category at the International BBQ Cook-Off: Kim Searle, Harriet Rose and Bee Hillier

Celtic Connection wins BBQ cook-off

THE second Gillingham International BBQ Cook-Off proved to be another outstanding success with 10 teams from Argentina, Ireland, the Cook Islands, England, Hawaii, Cuba and Rwanda taking part.

The overall winners were, once again, The Celtic Connection, who will now go on to represent England at the World BBQ Cook-Off in Limerick next May.

The event raised some £500 for Msaada's Count D'Angerville honey

project in Nyaribuye.

The Mayor of Gillingham, Ian Stewart, visited the event and complimented the organisers on staging a wonderful competition.

The barbecue was the opening event of the Gillingham Festival.

The other barbecue category winners were: best meat dish – Argentina and Hawaii; best chicken dish – Celtic Connection; best pork dish – Celtic Connection; happiest team – Ever so English.



Martyn Jose, Leslie Cook, Gay Jose and Bruce Cook, winners of the happiest team award at the International BBQ Cook-Off