

Don McMath Foundation

Newsletter

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The Don McMath Foundation Newsletter – 31st August 2005

Hello All

Well it's been a busy summer since we published the last newsletter at the end of May.

The water was finally turned on at the school in July, just in time for the start of the school summer break! However Sisawo and Ousman have moved all the desks and other furniture into the new school and we are all set to open on 18th September with 150 children in 5 classes.



Mick and Judy had a barbeque on the day of Verwood carnival and raised over £100 Towards the school funds, the garden parties that we had in Verwood and Bexhill were an incredible success with over £700 raised at the Verwood one and £1,100 at the Bexhill one.



In spite of the rain in Bexhill and the excess of sunshine in Verwood everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves, there was an abundance of food and drink at both events. We had about 70 or 80 people attending each event. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make these events such a success, especially Paula Lee and Mark Gale at the Bexhill one and Di Pomeroy and Rosemary Jones at the Verwood one. We

would also like to thank everyone who supplied raffle prizes, we took £850 in the Bexhill raffle and £166 In the Verwood one.

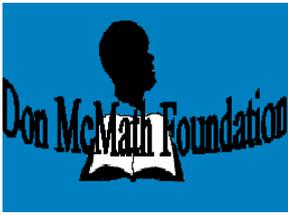
Anne had a garage sale at her house at the end of August and raised £135.

Mick and Judy once again had a stall at the Verwood Rustic Fair and raised £200. They also got lots of publicity for the Plymouth/Banjul challenge.



Bill and Jan Smith did a sponsored walk and raised a fantastic £250, well done both of you.

We are also in the process of raising about £700 more with some items of jewellery donated by Samina Ahmed and Graham Cook, these will be sold either on Ebay or to a Jeweller within



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the next few weeks.



Luke, Paul and Nat have managed to get hold of a 1985 BMW 520i (for not a lot of money) thanks to Mike and Lynne of the Monmouth Ash in Verwood, they donated the money from several of their quiz nights towards the car. The Team DMF (as they are called) still need to raise about £3000 towards the trip, **If you would like your company logo put on the car as it travels to Africa then please get in touch with Mick and he can give you more details.**

During the summer break the teachers at the school have been on a course at the Gambian Teachers Training College where they will gain a special certificate in Nursery School education. There were 362 applicants for the course so everyone had to take an exam to see if they could get a place. Out of all the applicants Malin came 11th, in the exam, Aminata came 26th and Fatou 42nd. We feel that this is an incredible achievement and the teachers should be congratulated on the results. It goes to show that we have some of the best teachers in The Gambia.

We now have at least 23 People travelling from England to The Gambia for the official opening on 28th November, we will be bringing back new photos of the children and their school reports for all but the newest pupils.

Anne and Mick McMath

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