

# Don McMath Foundation

## Newsletter

[www.donmcmath.org](http://www.donmcmath.org)

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The Don McMath Foundation Newsletter – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009

### NOTE NEW WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESS

Hello All

We are now in the middle of our summer of fundraising and so far have been very successful! We managed to raise £126 on Verwood Carnival Day in May with a barbeque for about 20 people.

At the Verwood Garden Party on 5<sup>th</sup> July we managed to make a massive £1,413 which will all go towards the new



Upper Basic School. The day was a great success, the sun shone most of the time and we even had a fly past by the Red Arrows at the start of the afternoon. We would like to thank everyone (including those who



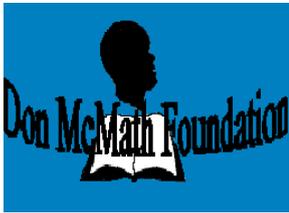
could not attend) for their generosity. Special thanks go to Di, Trudi, Graham, Nikki and Steve, Luke and Cat and Alistair and Shelley for all of their efforts and of course Jack for successfully raising £77 from the sale of our Gambian carvings and necklaces. Thanks as well for the few brave people who had a go at singing on the Karaoke machine, we came to the conclusion that the only one with a good voice was Charli!

Massive thanks also to The ACT Foundation who have given us a grant of £2,500 towards the new school building with an equal amount to come when the building is complete. Thanks to Rosemary Jones for putting us in touch with them. Thanks also to St Michael's PCC for their donations and St Michael's Youth club for the proceeds of their Beetle Drive.

Forthcoming events include the Bexhill Garden Party on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Don McMath Foundation Charity Shoot at Manor Farm in Verwood on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August and the Verwood Rustic Fayre on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August where Mick and Judy are running a stall. As Anne was in The Gambia for the Verwood Garden party she hopes to be in Verwood sometime in August to meet some of the sponsors over a cup of tea one afternoon.

At the school the term is now drawing to a close, the school exams are finished and the reports are well on their way to be done. Anne should be bringing the reports home with her next week. Most classes did well except Grade 4. This is a repeat of last year, when Grade 4 did badly. Grades 4 and 5 have different teachers teaching different subjects, so it is not because of an individual teacher. Maybe its hormones or something!

When Anne returned to The Gambia she found that her generator had finally packed in so as the temperature is so high out there at the moment and there are power cuts every day she has bought a new one so she can at least have the electric fans running.



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Her internet access has been even worse than previous trips this time so she has finally invested in Broadband, so far it seems to have made quite a difference.

The Gambian National Exams were sat by Grade 3 & 5, but judging by last year we probably won't hear the results until about the beginning of November.

On the new school building the inside and outside are plastered, the doors and windows have to be "set in" This is a bit laborious as they sort of shutter each one and then plaster. We haven't done the ceilings yet because when Anne inquired about the wood it was really expensive and started to put the ceiling price too high. Sisawo thinks he may be able to get wood much cheaper in the provinces and will check on this while Anne is back in the UK. The cesspits have been covered and the workmen will work on setting in the windows and doors until she leaves. We believe that we only need less than £10,000 To complete the building. The next large expense will then be fitting out the new classrooms which we expect to be considerably more that the previous ones. More to come on that in the next newsletter.



Further news on the school bus, we now have the school name written on the side. The picture shows the bus together with our transport manager Sisawo.

Again from Anne: "Apart from the temperature being 45 +, there have been some terrific storms with strong winds. The worse one carried my satellite dish across my roof into Hussein's trees. We had a bit of damage to the Primary School roof, but that has been fixed. The next morning there was a power surge which took out my mobile charger, a fan and several light bulbs. It also took one of the computer screens out at the school, but someone had given me one here so I replaced it with that

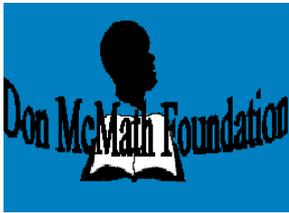
one."

Thank you to all the new sponsors who have joined us since the last newsletter, unfortunately although we have gained new sponsors we have also lost some of the existing ones so we still need to find more!

If you can spread the word among your family and friends we would be very grateful. They can pay £5 monthly or £60 annually by cash, cheque or standing order direct from their bank.



I would also like to thank Mark Rosser of amor Web Design ([www.amorwebdesign.com](http://www.amorwebdesign.com)) for designing and creating a new website for us at no cost to the school. The website is now up and running with just a few tweaks needed to get it complete. Please note the new website address: [www.donmcmath.org](http://www.donmcmath.org) and the new email address: [info@donmcmath.org](mailto:info@donmcmath.org). You can also reach Anne and Mick via: [anne@donmcmath.org](mailto:anne@donmcmath.org) and [mick@donmcmath.org](mailto:mick@donmcmath.org).



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If anyone who currently receives this newsletter through the post is now on email could you please email us at the above email address so we can email you future newsletters as this will cut down considerably on our costs. Apologies if some of you receive this late, I had a major computer disaster last month and lost about three months worth of changes, hopefully I am now up to date but may still have some of your addresses and email addresses wrong.

Anne, Judy and Mick McMath

July 2009