



Newsletter

LANGA TOWNSHIP PRE-SCHOOL TRUST UK

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During their visit in November Pam & Gordon spent a day and a half on township matters, visiting Langa Township twice. It was especially interesting to see the results of three community initiatives and to meet some of the people closely involved.



In the heart of Langa we met Clarence, Liesel, Yolisa, Lilian and Zukiswa for a working lunch at Eziko (Xhosa for hearth), 'a place where friends and family meet to share good food and conversation'. The restaurant was founded by Victor Mguqulwa to financially support his Eziko Training School, which helps to provide unemployed people with vocational skills and empowers them to find employment. He has sponsors from hotels and restaurants in Cape Town.

DALUKHANYO PRE-SCHOOL

We met the children, and many staff including Joyce the Principal, Yolisa the Secretary, Lilian and Zukiswa. Also we chatted with Liesel Smith, our key contact from Uluntu Africa and Clarence the Chairman of the Pre-school Management Committee. It was good to see most of the children dressed in their tracksuits and also the younger ones in the fleeces provided by LTPT.

We learnt that the weekly supply of vegetables is very welcome, the delivery taking some strain off their budget. Hearing that seven boxes each week is insufficient we agreed to finance ten weekly from next January.

Our visit was especially timely, because there had been public health concern about sanitation. Deeply concerned the Committee had received a repair cost quoted at £4000. However, just before our arrival a local Xhosa plumber had undertaken to do the job for £400 as he wanted to help local children, he could work straight away (and presumably he needed the cash quickly). We advised that this much lower quote be accepted. The work was completed while we were in Cape Town and LTPT has met the bill. It pays to shop around!

Also our visit coincided with the delivery of a large supply of paint, brushes and rollers to Dalukhanyo to paint and refurbish two of the class buildings which are in a bad state of repair. The materials were paid for by LTPT, at a cost of £230, and parents and other local donors have raised money to pay for a decorator - the work has just been completed.

This leaves the Trust with an estimated £2000, after Inland Revenue Gift Aid reimbursement in this financial year. We are concerned that staff are only paid if there is anything left in the kitty and are exploring how a contribution, small in our terms, could be used to help them a little. It is encouraging that money spent by LTPT can circulate. For example, the tracksuits were made by a local dressmaker, the food is supplied by local growers, and the plumbing is by a local supplier. Such money spent will support more spending - in the words of economists there is an important multiplier effect.

Turning to the next financial year from April onwards, we will consider a paper just received on what is needed and work out what can be done in the light of the inflow of funds to LTPT next year. We are able to confirm that the only costs falling on the LTPT budget, other than direct support to the pre-school, are bank charges for the transfer of funds between the UK and South Africa.



Peeling paintwork on classroom buildings - now fixed!

REMINDERS Calendar for 2021

This was sent out to Friends on 2nd November. Some replies have been received but any others you can send will help us with our planning for the events, most of which aim to make money to support Dalukhanyo. So far, for the nearest event, the Hope for Children Burns Night on 31 January, we have four takers all with a Scottish connection!

Concerning the Restaurant 65 Subscription Dinner on 29th February, half of the 30 places have been reserved so far.

The Cape Town visit will take some planning, but so far ten people have indicated that, subject to dates, costs and programme, they are interested in such a visit.

We are working on a programme involving 6 days in Cape Town (Langa Township and Apartheid Museum, Table Mountain, Robben Island, Castle, Company Gardens, False Bay, Waterfront, St. Georges Cathedral, Museums, Botanical Garden etc., Harvest of Hope) and 4 days in Stellenbosch (university, museum, charming restaurants and bars, craft shops, day visit to Delheim Vineyard, day visit to Franschhoek , day visit to Hermanus – whales!). Travel out and back would be overnight based on Heathrow. More details will be sent out in January but only to those who have expressed an interest to know more. The most popular date is the first fortnight in November.

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DALUKHANYO'S VEGETABLE SUPPLIER HARVEST OF HOPE OF ABALIMI BEZEKHAYA

We visited this co-operative of micro-farmers, coinciding with Tamara Twin, some USA reality show celebrity - it was tricky to avoid her camera crew and entourage.

The point is, however, that this 17 year old co-operative initiative is exciting and it is growing in the townships of Cape Town. There are currently 500 community gardens, varying in size from 100-500 square metres.

The farmers and neighbours share the produce after which up to 400 boxes of vegetables are available for sale, with 10 percent of the harvest given to needy bodies. Interestingly, most of the micro farms are on land within school areas, which must set a good example.

The cost per family to be in the scheme is about £1.80 per month and the income generated, after very low admin. costs are deducted, goes back to the growers. The operation is strengthened by significant voluntary work and leadership, with support coming not only from Cape Town but also from abroad, as far away as the USA, UK, Denmark and Sweden



Some of the children of Dalukhanyo Pre-School wearing their new track suits provided by LTPT