



UK LANGA TOWNSHIP PRE-SCHOOL TRUST

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 43 OCTOBER 2022

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SUCCOUR • HOPE • OPTIMISM • PROGRESS

In recent months LTPT has been approached for building support separately by the Chris Hani Pre-School and the Langa Early Child Development Forum (Langa ECD). The LTPT trustees have decided that there is no possibility of providing finance for two separate buildings, but as a gift would help finance the construction of a building designed to accommodate both the Forum and the Pre-School.

They are particularly concerned that Langa ECD does not have a building to work from. A proposal has been submitted for consideration by the interested parties. These include the Management Committee of Mr Clarence Mahamba, with which LTPT has had a successful relationship over 11 years, the Chris Hani Pre-School, which is one of 6 pre-schools supported by LTPT, and the Langa ECD Forum and other entities, especially the Newlands Rotary Club.

Whilst LTPT, with the support of the Cheltenham College Humanitarian Fund and 2 other sponsors, knows that it can raise up to £45,000 for such a project by the end of 2024, whether it will be able to give such support depends on questions such as the ownership, management and ongoing funding of such a building. The answers to these questions can only arise through consultation and agreement by the involved parties in Langa, especially Mr Mahamba's Management Committee, the Langa ECD Forum and Chris Hani.

The LTPT Chairman Gordon Gaddes, with his trustee wife Rosina, was due to consider these issues in September but critical illness in the family has postponed their visit until January. In the meantime, discussion to find answers is needed by the interested parties.

Gordon Gaddes, Chairman of LTPT

Micro-Farming and the Feeding of Langa's Pre-School Children

We have an important story to tell. The October 2011 issue of the Newsletter, under the headline 'Helping to keep the children better fed', indicated the LTPT decision to supply fresh food weekly for Dalukhanyo Pre-School. This was extended to Nomonde Pre-School in October 2014, by which time 120 children were benefiting. Over the first seven years the vegetables were to be provided by the Harvest of Hope the micro farms initiative of Abalimi Bezekhaya (AB), which has been a wonderful success in the townships of Cape Town. However by 2018 this AB supply ran into difficulties because of lack of rain and the acute shortage of water in Cape Town and Yolis, the Nomonde administrator, was asked to buy the vegetables both from AB and local sources. In October 2018 we decided to extend the vegetable supply to five more pre-schools so by then in total we were feeding 500 children. At that time one of the cooks said, 'Some come in starving but after six weeks of my soups with your vegetables they are well'.

By February 2020 we heard that AB was closing its sales operation, whilst continuing to support the development of micro-farming. Oddly, this was good news for Yolis and Langa-based suppliers and also for the taxi drivers, who were carrying the produce to the pre-schools. By August 2021 on page 1 of Issue 39 we were announcing the opening of the Nomonde Pre-school Garden, not only a supplementary supply of vegetables but an important eco induction for the children. Sterile sand had been fertilised and seeded in a wonderful collective effort of self- help, the sort of initiative started by AB forty years ago.



Solano Ngozi, a garden assistant at Nomonde Pre-School, with spinach just picked for the cook's soup pot.

Given the perennial problem of water shortage it was good that we had installed two water tanks to collect rain water, this supplementing the garden's newly installed tapped supply, which occasionally is cut off at short or no notice. This short story, expanded in our newsletters over eleven years is the background to the special message below from Babalwa, an Abalimi Besekhaya gardener.

Abalimi Open Gardens

Celebrating 40 years of township farming



My name is Babalwa. I am 39 years old and a young farmer leader. I live with my husband and three kids in Khayelitsha.

I started farming by accident in 2013 while helping my husband at his spaza shop. One day, I had to throw away a bag of rotting potatoes. I buried them to stop the smell. Months later, I saw that the "rotten" potatoes had grown into a lovely fresh new crop!! This was a miracle for me! So I went for training in urban agriculture at Abalimi. Now, I run my own urban farm and I train and support others to learn!

I joined the Abalimi team in 2016 and I am proud that Abalimi is turning 40 this year! Each year we help over 3,000 micro-farmers to learn and grow. The wider Abalimi Movement is now tens of thousands strong.

Tina May

We learnt with great regret that Tina May passed away 26 March, aged 60. Tina was a highly acclaimed English international jazz vocalist and a widely travelled recording artiste, and a visiting professor at the Royal Academy of Music.

She became a Friend of LTPT in 2014 and had remained in contact ever since. She honoured us, with the Tina May trio, by performing in Hemel Hempstead in 2015, 'Jazz at The Old Town Hall' and in 2016, 'Gospel, Townships and Jazz' at St Mary's Church. These were very popular and profitable and raised the profile of LTPT during an important and challenging period for the Trust. We will miss Tina very much and she will always be in our memory.'



2022 CHRISTMAS CARD

2022 will see our sixth Christmas card. This year the photo was taken on 24th September at Nomonde Pre-School on Heritage Day. The children seem to be taking this day seriously! Heritage Day was declared as national holiday by the Government of South Africa as a day for each part of the multi ethnic society to celebrate its distinctive background and its multi ethnic society.

The greetings in the card are in English, Xhosa and Afrikaans.



Including an envelope each card is priced at 50p

Orders, including postal delivery - minimum 10 cards, can be placed through e-mail:
gordon.gaddes@btinternet.com or by post to LTPT at
91 Highfield Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 5JE

LTPT EVENTS

October 2022- March 2023

26 October

Jazz and Music at The Gatsby
Clayton Stevens, Bernie & Shaun: **almost sold out**

1 December

Festive Dinner at The Marchmont Arms
40 places available - £40 each

26 January

Schmelvis at The Mazza:
80 places available - £25 each

29 March

The Gatsby: Nightcall Duo or Al Nichols -
more details later

Graduation day at Nomonde Pre-School



“Dear Mr. G. and Rosina

This afternoon we are well, hoping that you are the same. Nomonde will soon be graduating 65 Children. I'm requesting donations from the local shops to make their last day of happiness successful, we'll see to their response, the last graduation was long ago before the Pandemic.”

Yolisa Gqirana

Secretary & Administrator

When we first went to Nomonde in 2014 the number of children there was 60. We have just heard that today 162 have enrolled: aged 1-2,24; 2-3, 45; 3-4, 31; 5-6,62. Ypilisa Gqirani in explaining this increase wrote, ‘The children increased because of you, Nomonde changed to a better standard’.

In recent years LTPT has provided this pre-school with

- 2 new classrooms,
- a modern playground,
- security fencing,
- 2 water tanks and improved guttering,
- a micro-garden,
- building decoration
- an improved office and kitchen.

The overall cost has been £60,000’.

UK Langa Township Pre-School Trust

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