

School for Peace Support Group
Minutes of meeting held
Wednesday 21st February 2018

Present: Rona Baxter, Sydna Playford, Mary Ellwood, Alan Williams, Colin Childs, Jane Mawer

Apologies: Michael Ellwood, Ann Felton, Alison Scott, Benedicta Moxon, Father Martin, Chris Scott

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by Alan.

Sponsorship/ Donations news

One of our ad hoc sponsors has now set up a standing order, which is good news. Mary and Sydna will meet to set up a system for reminding sponsors who do not pay by standing order that their payments are due. It was easier when it was always September, but now people become sponsors at any time of year. Two brightly-coloured buckets have been purchased by Colin and Nikki, to whom we are very grateful. They will be much easier for collecting money at larger events when people are in a hurry.

News from the Congo

Mary read out two emails from Pichouna, a girl who has been sponsored by a parishioner since she was five years old. She is hoping to go to university next year, which poses a problem about fees. Should we continue supporting the School for Peace alone, or should we continue to support the poorest children leaving school who hope to attend further education? Perhaps it should be left to individual sponsors, or perhaps we should set up a specific bursary fund for further education. Perhaps there is a charitable foundation which might be able to help. We shall give some thought to this before the next meeting. Pichouna says she loves her school and will miss it when she has to leave.

Treasurer's report

Alan reported that there is £59,760.01 in the bank account. Regarding the first payment of £10,000 for the library: the banking system changed on 28 January so that payments can now only be made by electronic transfer. Alan has to register us for this and will sort it out within a week.

Mary will send an email to Tim Basey-Fisher (St John's Storage) to ensure he received the gift token.

Recent events

Unfortunately, the last film at Geldeston (Victoria and Abdul) had to be cancelled at the last moment as the builders had removed the ceiling ahead of schedule! Attendees were invited back to Northgate to have some of the cakes that Jo and Lillian had made. It probably would have been a sell-out as carloads of people had arrived only to be turned away. Perhaps we could organise something once the hall has reopened. Mary to investigate. Sydna and Mary

visited a former sponsor, Jill Bennett, in her new home at the Moorings in Bungay. It is important to keep in touch with former sponsors, as their contributions have helped us enormously in the past.

Forthcoming events

- Rona reported that we could not have a concert at the end of April as that evening (28th) has been taken for an event in St Benet's Hall. Mary will write to the musicians lined up for the first concert to find out if they can do any dates in May.
- Colin will try to do some publicity when he races his car (photo shown) at Brands Hatch and other venues. He will put our logo on the side and we could have a display near his van. Sydna showed interest in driving such a vehicle, and we discussed the possibility of a 'Sponsor Sydna at Snetterton' event in the future.
- Another newsletter when the container arrives.

A.O.B.

- Thanks to Rona for providing information about costs of hiring the Public Hall for the evening. It would be expensive, and most of those present thought the Canopy theatre /United Reformed Church in Hungate was a good venue for the music hall. Discussion to be continued.
- Alan suggested having another East Anglian Film Archive evening, as the last one (several years ago) was highly successful. Even though these films can now be viewed on a computer, it is a nice evening to see it on a bigger screen and serve refreshments. He will investigate costs and Mary will investigate the possibility of showing this in Geldeston perhaps in the autumn although travel is an issue for some people. We should also investigate the blackouts in St Benet's Hall as new windows have been installed and this might have improved.
- Mary mentioned BOND (the international development network) again. They do support certain specific projects, including education, and so it might be worth the cost of joining (currently £130 per year for small organisations). It was suggested that someone from BOND could come and talk to us. More news to follow.
- We should look out for opportunities to have another bric-a-brac stall.
- Louise Wright in Norfolk (who lived in Congo for many years) could come and give a talk to which we could invite our Congolese friends in Norwich. Mary will contact.

Next meeting

Thursday 26th April at 7.30pm