

TWINNAGE COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER No 126

December 2009



Disaster Fund: Two donations have recently been made from the Disaster Fund. The first of £20,000 was sent to Council General to support the work of the Society in the countries affected by storms and disasters throughout the world during the Summer. The money from ourselves and others is being used in several countries including Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, Samoa and Tonga.

The second donation of £6000 was sent to support a project in Uganda which is working with Sudanese refugees in the Rhino settlement. This project is being shared between ourselves and Council General's TTC. The money will be used to procure and distribute machetes, maize seed, bean seed, hoes and mosquito nets to guard against malaria. With machetes the refugees will be able to construct their houses at the settlement, hoes will be used for the planting of bean and maize seeds and pick axes for digging of latrines.

Closer to home money is coming in through the Disaster Fund to assist those hit by the devastating floods in the Lancaster Central Council. I have advised Paul Hammond, former Twinnage Rep but now CC President, that we will happily make funds available as and when the needs are established. As with other UK floods it will probably be several years before all the problems are resolved.

Indian Student Sponsorship – Sponsors still desperately needed: Following the last newsletter donations have picked up, thanks to everyone for their efforts, but we are still very short of sponsors for the Indian student scholarships. To remind you funding for a school student through Vidya Jyothi is £15 per year, for a Vocational Training student £30 per year and for a Technical or Higher Training student £60 per year. Completed forms to David Wiles please.

2010 India visit: Plans are coming together our visit to India, the first official trip for 6 years. We will be happy to take out letters and photos to twins in the CCs we are visiting but please not bulky gifts as we need to travel light. Please send these to:

Kevin McDermott or Richard Roach		Terry Brown or Helen Haywood	
Madras reference	MA code in twin	Vijayawada reference	VW code in twin
Changalput	CP	Guntur	GU
Calicut	CL	Eluru	EL
Kannuru	KN	Berhampur	BP
Thamassery	TH	Bhubanashwar	BU
Tellicherry	TE	Balasore	BL
Mangalore	MG		

For any other CCs please send any letters to the relevant Indian CC President.

Sudan Appeal: Thank you very much to the Central Councils who have promoted the Sudan Appeal through their conferences this Christmas. No figures as yet but the money is coming in well and we hope to be in a position to be able to maintain the additional support we have been able to provide in 2009/10 for 2010/11.

I don't need to tell you all that this is really making a difference to people in such great need.

Christmas Catalogue: Thanks also to those who have been supporting the national catalogue for alternative gifts as well as cards. There are two twinnage related gifts but all of them need our support as without a thriving national society we will have no twinnage scheme.

Web site: Ian Mawdsley is our web site editor and would welcome your thoughts and comments on the twinnage web site www.twinnage.org.uk Our national site www.svp.org.uk is also worth keeping an eye on and the new international site www.ssvpglobal.org seems to be a great improvement.

Electronic Yellow Sheets: A number of CCs are sending their yellow sheets electronically and a couple of adopted the Twinnage database. With the increasing volume of transactions the electronic sheets do make things a bit easier but a couple of things would make matters ever better:

It helps if every line has a twin reference number. If the money is not from a twinned conference a generic number can be used eg SK000 for Southwark.

Blank lines and sub-totals have to be taken out and so it would help not to have these on the sheets.

A note of the date the money was banked helps the bank reconciliation.

As long as the total of the sheet agrees with the bank slip I do not think it is necessary to send these in. If there are any queries we can ask.

If anyone would like more information please let me know.

Additional Payments to Twins: Our agreement with the National Council of India is that the most we should send as an additional payment to a twin without there being an approved project is £100. Indian National Council are legally responsible and subject to audit for all monies received and it is their view, with which I fully concur, that they cannot control the expenditure of any sum above £100 unless there has been a project application which has gone through their approval process.

The Indian government is not keen of Christian groups receiving money from overseas and could withdraw the Societies licence to receive overseas funding if they could prove any inappropriate use of such funds.

Where there is a specific request I am happy to send additional funds up to £100 but where it is a generous gesture with no specific need both National Council of India and ourselves would be happier to use the available money to support additional twins, untwinned conferences or student sponsorships.

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work throughout 2009 and best wishes for a productive and fruitful 2010.