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STONEHOUSE BETTER WORLD

Change Challenge Team Goes Nationwide

On 1st June the Stonehouse Change Challenge team through the Glow internet link presented their challenge in a national forum. The children presented their project and answered questions from pupils in other schools. Former First Minister Lord Jack McConnell who has taken a keen interest in the project since it's inception also took part along with a representative of Mary's Meals.

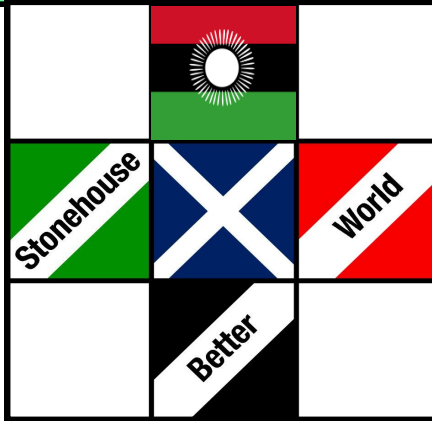
This was an excellent opportunity for the children to promote their idea of collecting loose change in a plastic bottle in support of the Mary's Meals feeding programme. marysmeals.org.uk for more information.

Tea in the Park

Robyn Payne P6 Stonehouse Primary is another of our school pupils showing practical care and concern for others. When her young cousin required treatment at Yorkhill Hospital Robyn wanted to give something back for the care he had received. She began making and selling cards to raise money.

SBW used Tea in the Park to encourage Robyn and support her efforts.

Although due to bad weather Tea was not in the Park but in St. Ninian's hall. A very enjoyable time was had by all



Below

Mary's Meals representative Tony Begley, Former First Minister Lord Jack McConnell and the Change Challenge Team
Left to Right:- Nicole Stevenson, Jack Bell, William Poulton, Alex Mitchell, Gregor Hamilton and Julia Grant



who attended. There was a great atmosphere as we were entertained by the folk music of **Rudeigin** along with our own John, Helen and Heather Young. Tea, coffee and home baking were kindly given by our Girls Brigade.

Thanks to the generosity of all those who gave time, talents and donations of money £500 was raised and this has been given through Robyn to Yorkhill "Make a Wish" appeal. Bringing joy to some very sick children and their families

Quiz Night

Stonehouse Better World invite you to a quiz night to be held in St Ninian's Church hall on Friday 7th October at 7.30 price £5.00. This will be a very informal evening at which a curry supper will be served.

More details will be intimated at St. Ninian's. We hope you will be able to come and spend an enjoyable evening with us.



Nurse Training

In 2009 Brenda Tekwatekwa began training as a nurse in Mulanje Mission Hospital, Malawi. Her training has been funded through the generous giving of those who have been supporting fund raising events organised by Stonehouse Better World. We are pleased to report that Brenda has now entered her third year of training and £1,400 has been sent to fund this final year. We wish Brenda continuing success in her studies. The Malawi Government no longer funds this training and she could not have undertaken it without outside support. We look forward to reporting next year that Brenda has completed training and is using her skills serving her community.

Sitolo Village

Sitolo village is situated within the Mulanje Mission Hospital catchment area with a population of around 2,400.

It has previously been mentioned twice in our newsletter. Money has already been raised to provide the village with a borehole providing clean safe water.



Sitolo borehole

A second project provided a Community Shelter for the village. A multi purpose building providing a village gathering point.



Sitolo Community Shelter under construction

A Community Garden is now the third project to be completed. Theoretical and practical training and experience are provided



Villagers learn crop husbandry

The first volunteer farmers have attended five days of training including preparing the garden and planting.



Preparing the ground and planting the crops



The Community Garden aims to improve the livelihood of Sitolo particularly in the area of food security. The farmers will grow maize and vegetables off the planting season in order to ensure all year round availability of food.

These crops are used both for consumption and for sale. Volunteers are supplied with a starter pack of seeds, fertilizer, watering cans and a treadle pump depending on the nature of the water source. These resources are provided once during the time that the garden is being set up and the income generated from the first harvest is used to procure farm inputs for the subsequent years. Thus the project becomes self sustaining

New Medical Director

Mulanje Mission Hospital has a new Medical Director. Dr. Ruth Shakespeare has been appointed by the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland and approved by The Blantyre Synod of Central Church of Africa Presbyterian Church.

Dr Shakespeare has a wealth of experience to bring to this position. We look forward to working with her and supporting the hospital and surrounding villages where possible.

Much has been achieved

This newsletter shows how much can be achieved, even in the present difficult financial circumstances, when all members of a community join together. In support of those at home and abroad. Thank you

Stonehousebetterworld.info

For further information on Stonehouse Better World Group. Contact Margaret McMeekin
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