



Welcome News

from South Africa

May 2020

FUNDRAISING EVENT ON 27 JUNE CANCELLED

Or perhaps it would be better to say POSTPONED until 2021 when hopefully we all shall be free again?

In the last newsletter we announced the garden party planned for this year was to be "**All on a Dorset Summer's Evening**". Sadly it will not be possible to hold our event and if you have been waiting for this confirmation, I do apologise. In fact, I was waiting for the new website for Future Bright Trust to be ready to go live. It has all taken rather longer than expected, but the wait will be worth it. More below...

Already I have spoken with our entertainer, Damian, and asked him please to exchange the booking for a new date in 2021. He has readily agreed and we are hopeful that he might be able to provide us all with a little preview from Paddock House garden next month. I am holding my breath and ask you to please keep an eye on your inbox in late June.

As you know, our annual garden party has been a hugely important source of funds and that amount will be sorely missed as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. However, I should remind you that the aims of Future Bright Trust are to meet the costs of educating the 5 South African children until such time as their formal education is completed and their potential has been achieved. The children are still young so that is many future years of our commitment. To achieve this, the Trustees have been building a fund that should ultimately cover our long term expenditure for the children. So, fortunately, we can cope with a thin year without being unable to meet immediate costs when the children go back to school after the South African Lockdown.

What this Coronavirus crisis highlights very clearly is how important the regular donations are to our funds - so I do send very warm and sincere thanks to all of you who have made standing orders to Future Bright Trust - you are our bedrock just now. In fact, any donations or purchases made this year will help us to shore up against the lost income from the garden party. The new website gives plenty of guidance on the different ways to donate.

NEW WEBSITE

Please take a good look at the website launched on 26 May. A lot of careful and creative work has gone into this and we feel that it well reflects the ethos of Future Bright Trust. We hope you agree and if you wish to make any observations, we will be happy to receive them. Hopefully it will open the door to even more people to understand this good cause and want to help us help the children from Grahamstown. GO NOW to www.futurebrighttrust.org.uk

LOCKDOWN LIFE IN GRAHAMSTOWN

The South African Lockdown started on 26 March, although the schools closed on 18 March. Our famous five have been confined to home for a very long time! School work is sent home and each day the national government broadcasts educational programmes on the TV.



Mother Zelma readily admits that it is often a real struggle to get them to settle down to school work when much more fun could be had playing in the garden. Sometimes she organises for them to work at the kitchen table. Even though she is busy cooking, she says that she can at least keep an eye on them!

In this picture, taken in the Community Room in the convent, they seem to be doing the right thing.

As yet there are no cases of Covid-19 in Grahamstown but the Lockdown rules are strict and so life has not been easy for everyone. Mother Zelma reports that the children have been very helpful – in the kitchen (but that she says is a mixed blessing) and in the garden sweeping up leaves.

Mother Zelma has been told by her GP that she must on no account go out because her Asthma and COPD conditions make her very vulnerable. She has obeyed this but is longing for the freedom to go for a walk in the fresh air. She is desperately sad that her visit to England in June is cancelled and that she will not have the opportunity to meet up with you at the garden party. She asked me to pass on this message:

“I am heart sore that I shall not walk in Sue’s garden on 27 June talking with you as I have done in the last 5 years. I pray that we can all be together again in 2021. I also pray for you and your family at this anxious time and thank you once gain for your generosity in helping our children. God bless you”

We – Sue, Andrew, Shelley and Rebecca will really miss seeing you all in Piddlehinton in June but please keep your eye open for another message around the time of the cancelled event. And please look at the new website.

Registered charity no: 1159539 For more information see our website www.futurebrighttrust.org.uk or ring Sue Hennessy on 07770 738170 To donate on line www.give.net/20180380