

Newsletter Summer 2021



The New School Term started in July for all pupils and students. Thank you for your support in making this happen.

Fundraising re-starts

If asked "What has been the biggest challenge to the charity during the pandemic?" I would say that it was (and still is) raising sufficient funds to maintain Unity School when all our usual fundraising activities came to an abrupt halt. Ensuring that our children still had a school to return to when allowed and they had survived the situation in which they and their families were subjected.

When the pandemic struck in March 2020 the tourist industry disappeared, leaving many of our families with no source of income. For the school, with no pupils allowed to attend, meant no income from those parents who would normally contribute towards the fees. It was not long before the community of Unity school, children, parents and teachers were seriously short of food and money for paying rents. All against a background of a killer disease that cannot be seen.

The summer of 2021 has changed much. School has re-opened and most children have returned. In the UK, our fundraising activities are going again. Carol and Steph broke the records by cycling from Rustington to Brighton and back. They raised **£2535** between them.

m. On a smaller scale we were able to take our stall to the Worthing Lions Fair, selling bric-a-brac and giving out literature about our work. Plans for our Christmas Tree Festival (with Littlehampton United Church) are moving forward and on page 2 there are details of an event postponed from May 2020.

News from Mombasa continues to be challenging. Two teachers are unwell with Covid symptoms and a new peril has emerged; gangs are kidnapping children on their way to school and demanding money for their return.



To keep the school compound secure the number of security guards at school has been doubled and children are escorted to and from school.

Our thoughts are with the community of Unity School as we continue to support them both through the school, medical care and feeding programme. Our shared aim remains unchanged "A better future through Education".



Still to Come in 2021

Following the Prime Minister's publication of a road map out of Lock-down we hope that there will be some fundraising events later in the year. We're looking for a date in Autumn for **The Great Sale of Everything**. Maddy and Chris have re-booked their accommodation, for the third time, ready for their **Sponsored walk up Mount Snowdon**. This is now planned for September.

Despite such a difficult year and a half, Unity School scored an overall mean score of 'B' in their July examination results. We are very proud of them and thank all the staff at Unity School for their hard work and dedication.

Dates for your diary:

After a gap of two years we hope to hold our Christmas Tree Festival with Littlehampton United Church on **December 10th and 11th**. On Friday we hope to open to the public at about 4.00pm and enjoy carol singing and Christmas readings between 6.00 and 7.00pm. On Saturday we will be open from 9.30 am to 4.00pm together with our Christmas Fair.

New desks for teachers arrive.

Something we take for granted in any classroom—the teacher's desk. Now, thanks to a generous donation, teachers at Unity School now have their own desks. They are very pleased.



*You can donate to Friends of the Mombasa Children via
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/mombasachildren>*

*Or by on-line banking: our Treasurer Khatija Volk or Carol Groves can give you more advice.
K.volk@mombasachildren.org.uk, c.groves@mombasachildren.org.uk*

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A long awaited event—from Chris Azzaro

In May 2020 myself and my eldest daughter, Maddy, planned a sponsored walk up Snowdon, highest mountain in England and Wales.

When the first lockdown was imposed we postponed our trip for one year, but, as events unfolded we realised that in May 2021 Wales would still be in lockdown and another postponement was inevitable.

On September 9th we hope to make it third time lucky! Weather and Covid rules permitting.

At the age of 73 it is about 25 years since I last climbed Snowdon. I am in serious training. Walking on the South Downs with a high point of around 700ft, is hardly comparable to Snowdon at about 3,400ft. This really is, quite a challenge!

All we need now is some fine weather - and your support. The backup team, Val and our Son in law, Richard, were to travel up by the train, hopefully meeting us at the top with the charity banner and camera. I have just discovered that due to covid restrictions, the train is not going all the way to the top so we have to carry all we need. We intend to follow the Pyg track - 4 miles and 2400ft or over three times the height of local Chanctonbury Ring, where most of my practice walks have taken place.

If you feel able to support myself and Maddy on our walk for Unity School you can hand over cash or cheques (payable to FOMC) to myself, Maddy or any of the Charity Trustees, or you can donate on-line via the charity website: www.mombasachildren.org.uk There is a link "Support us" that will take you to our campaign. The link to our Virgin Money Giving page is being sent by email to all who receive this newsletter electronically.



Maddy with children at Unity School

