

# Don McMath Foundation

## Newsletter

[www.donmcmath.org](http://www.donmcmath.org)

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### The Don McMath Foundation Newsletter – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2003

Hello All

A lot has happened since we sent out the last newsletter at the beginning of August, most of our time over the last two months has been spent organising fund raising activities. Anne has been busy in Bexhill and Hastings while Judy and Mick have been doing the same in Verwood.

#### **Anne in Bexhill & Hastings**

My first event was a bric-a-brac stall for Hastings Old Town Week. This was a new experience for me, as I had not really organised anything like this before and had no idea what to charge. Many, many thanks to all who gave me items to sell, I was amazed at the response. The total raised was £140.

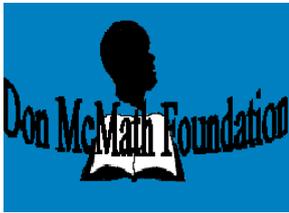
I have quite a lot of things left and hope to have a garage sale in the next few weeks. When I have settled on a date we will e-mail everyone and hopefully some of you can come. The items include china tea & coffee sets, off-cuts of good quality upholstery material, glass wear, computer goods and much more.

On Sunday 15th September, I had a fund raising party at my house. Unfortunately due to cancelled flights our main guest from the Gambian side of the Foundation, Sheikh E. T. Lewis, was unable to attend. However we decided to continue with all the planned events in his absence. The weather was fantastic so we were able to have it in the garden and about 80 people attended. I hope all of you who were able to come, had an enjoyable day. I would have liked to be a guest instead of the host, there were so many people I would have liked to talk to but didn't have the time. We had a fantastic raffle with over 40 prizes including a week in Spain donated by Nick & Sue Marshall. (Nick was the person who introduced me to Don, my husband over 30 years ago), it took about half an hour to draw all the tickets!

Again many thanks to all who came or gave donations if they were unable to attend, and also to all of you who donated those magnificent raffle prizes. I would also like to thank Shirley Collier & Paula Lee for all the help they gave me in writing letters, sending out invitations, selling raffle tickets etc. And I must not forget the four little girls who badgered and bullied everyone at the party to buy raffle tickets. Great work Daisy, Connie, Hayley & Charli. We banked £870 after expenses.

Hopefully the garden party will be an annual event.

I have also given three talks to Battle Rotary, Senlac Rotary & The Lions. Public speaking is not my forte, but I had a go and they were all very nice to me.



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#### Mick & Judy in Verwood

Like Anne our first event was a bric-a-brac stall at the Verwood Rustic Fair where after a gruelling day on our feet we managed to raise £150. Thanks to everyone in Verwood who donated their high quality goods to the stall.



With a lot of help from one of our sponsors, John Edgar, we managed to get some good publicity from the local press. The Bournemouth Echo and the Avon Advertiser both ran the same article about the Foundation. As a result of this we had several phone calls, some donations and some new sponsors. Thank you all very much for your support.

We had a very successful Charity Sunday Lunch on 31st August where the Thai Chef from our local pub cooked a Thai meal for 12 of us. Everyone had an amazing time, much wine was drunk (which we all suffered from the next day!). After expenses we ended up making £90 from the event.



On the day after Anne's Garden party we ran a small charity buffet for 14 people who couldn't make the following Saturday.

Our main fund raising event was a garden party on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September where about 50 or 60 people attended. Judy cooked various African dishes, which everyone enjoyed, again much wine was drunk and, having started at midday the event finally finished at about 9 pm. From these two events we raised another £700.

From these and other fund raising activities during August and September between Bexhill and Verwood we have managed to raise a total of £2,016, which should be enough to build the perimeter wall around the new school plot.

While all this was going on we have been plodding on with our application to the Charity Commission to become a registered charity. We think that this should be confirmed over the next few weeks. When we have achieved this we will be contacting everyone who has given us money over the last year or so to ask them (if they are taxpayers) to sign a simple form which will enable us to get about 28% of all contributions back from the Taxman! This will make a real difference to our income.

The trustees of The Don McMath Foundation would like to welcome all our new sponsors, through their help we will be able to open another class in January.



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Anne is returning to The Gambia in November, so the next newsletter will be from there. Judy and Mick are going out there for a week at the end of November and will come back with new pictures of the children and the new school plot.

Keep up the good work and please pass on information about the Foundation to all your friends, acquaintances and family. We will always need new sponsors. Once again thank you all for your continuing support.

Anne, Mick and Judy McMath

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