

# Don McMath Foundation

## Newsletter

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

[info@donmcmath.org](mailto:info@donmcmath.org)

The Don McMath Foundation Newsletter – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2004

Hello All

It has been a very busy few month's since we last sent you a newsletter.

Anne went out to Gambia at the end of May for two weeks, which turned out to be quite stressful. It appears that some of the paper work for the ownership of the land was not in order, so most of her two weeks were spent going from one department to another trying to get the correct documents. However Anne was determined not to be defeated, even if it meant knocking on the Presidents door, but it did not come to that, as the Minister of Land was very helpful. Hopefully it will all be sorted out over the next few weeks. Anne's friends in The Gambia are being incredibly helpful at the moment making sure that everything is in order and we have the correct papers.



All building work has stopped until the winter as it is now the rainy season and nothing gets done until the rains have stopped in September. Anne should be returning at the end of October to start the next stage of building.

However we have not been idle, the last few months have seen us involved in some serious fund raising.

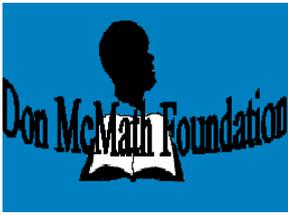
Mick and Judy held a Bar-B-Q for about 24 people on Verwood Carnival day on 31<sup>st</sup> May. They also held their annual Garden Party on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July, which proved to be very successful in spite of intermittent rain during the afternoon. They would like to thank Simon Pascoe for providing music throughout the event, Di Pomeroy for food and everyone else for providing raffle prizes. The bottle tombola and the raffle proved to be extremely popular and a total of £900 was raised over the two events.



Following the Garden Party we have had an excellent article about the Foundation in the Bournemouth Echo, in spite of the terrible photo, spelling the name wrong (McGarth instead of McMath) and a few factual inaccuracies we have had several phone calls from readers which we hope will lead to more sponsors.

One of our sponsors (Anne Ling) held a jumble sale at her house on the 10th July and gave us the proceeds of £105. Many thanks Anne we know how hard it is to raise money at these events.

Anne held a garden party on the 11th July, which was very well attended despite the weather. A raffle was held and we



## Don McMath Foundation

### Newsletter

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

[info@donmcmath.org](mailto:info@donmcmath.org)

received over 70 raffle-prizes, so people had a good chance of winning something. Also a very large bottle of whiskey was auctioned and sold for a very inflated price. Anne would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended, those who bought raffle tickets and raffle prizes and friends who helped prepare the food & erect garden furniture. We raised over £1,000, but another bonus was that we gained 12 new sponsors.



The next day one of our sponsors, who came to the party, phoned to say he & his wife would like to donate £1000 over the next 10months (£100 per month) to the building fund. He would also like to come out and do an art project with the children next year.

On the 12th August Anne is having a stall at the Hastings Old Town Carnival Street market where she will be selling bric-a-brac etc. If any one in her area has any bric-a-brac, please contact her on 01424

215818 and she will come and collect.

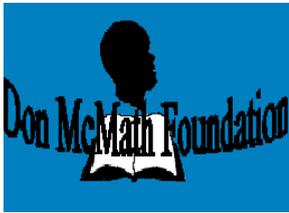
Mick and Judy will also have a stall in the Verwood Rustic Fair on Bank Holiday Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August, again if anyone has any suitable bric-a-brac please call them on 01202 823317.

We have started to sell some of the goods that have been donated on Ebay, we hope to continue with this over the next year.

There are plans to have a Don McMath day in Hastings Old Town, sometime in September, this is being organised by Susanne Mead. Don taught in Hastings so some of the Old-Towners were his pupils. More details as we have them.

Malin (our head teacher) has been granted her visa to come to England in September. She will be visiting schools in the Hastings/Bexhill/Verwood area to gain experience of our system and hopefully will be able to use some of this in our school. Malin is very reserved, but I know she is very excited about coming here. She has never left the Gambia before, (she did not even have a passport) so it will be her first time to fly and visit another country. She will be staying with Anne in Bexhill and Mick & Judy in Verwood, and though they will be taking her out to see a bit of our culture, it would be nice if one or two of our sponsors could invite her out as well.

We are continuing to collect equipment to send to The Gambia in October. We now have a detailed list of electrical and plumbing items, which will be needed in the building of the new school. If anyone feels they can help with any of the items then can they please get in touch with Mick and he will send them the lists (they are a bit big to include in this newsletter).



## Don McMath Foundation

### Newsletter

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

[info@donmcmath.org](mailto:info@donmcmath.org)

Graham Cook has been busy refurbishing old PCs which we will be shipping out to The Gambia for the school later in the year, he is currently short of a few pieces to finish them off, if anyone has any of the following that are surplus to requirements then can they please get in touch with Mick:

2 x Internal CD Drives, 1 x Internal Floppy Drive, 1 x Internal CD-Drive cable, 2 x Mice, 1 x Monitor.

We have been given several pieces of Portmerion "Botanic Garden" Pottery to sell for the school (see photo) , if anyone collects this and would like to make us an offer for some or all of it then please get in touch with Mick & Judy.

Many thanks again to everyone who has contributed to make this a successful year for the Foundation

Anne, Mick and Judy McMath

31<sup>st</sup> July 2004

