



# Newsletter



No. 8 August 2020

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## New Online Donation Platform



Following the closure of Wonderful.org, we are now using Virgin Money Giving for online donations.

- Visit [uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com)
- Search for Future Pillars

Or

- [Click Here to go straight to our page](#)

## Welcome

We hope that you are safe and well, amidst the monumental impact of the coronavirus and its concomitant lockdown. All our lives have experienced significant changes, impacting on livelihoods and relationships.

We were unsure about the impact of these issues on our ability to support the project in Kabwe. We are pleased to report that we have survived well, despite the postponement of the Sponsored Walk, thanks to support for the 2.6 Challenge in April. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, we celebrated our 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday with many supporters - as well as Moses and Patrick from Kabwe - joining us via Zoom.

The team of trustees has experienced further change with Gwyneth Owen standing down at the end of her three-year term. We are saddened by this but are so grateful for all that Gwyneth has contributed to the establishment of FPZ. We are thrilled with her assurance that she will continue to support us - Gwyneth is in the DNA of the Kabwe project! In April we welcomed Nick Andrews to the team of trustees, bringing a skill set to complement the strengths of the rest of the team. Do read Nick's introduction in this newsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading about recent activities in both Kabwe and UK, and our plans for the future extension of the school. Please accept our thanks for your continued support in so many ways.

*Barry Gransden, Chair, Future Pillars*

## Trustee changes

### Thank you, Gwyneth,!

The Rev'd Gwyneth Owen joined the Trustees of Contesa following her visit to the project in Zambia in 2012. Subsequently she readily agreed to become a founding Trustee of Future Pillars Zambia in 2017 to support the transition. We have been fortunate that she has remained for the full three years of the Charity Commission's tenure rules. Gwyneth's quiet leadership, prayerful guidance and sensitive insights have been invaluable. She will be greatly missed on the Board of Trustees but, happily, has agreed to continue to offer her good sense and spiritual support behind the scenes.

*Rosemary Stanbury*

### *Gwyneth writes:*

It has been a privilege to be involved in trying to ensure that children and young people in our school in Kabwe have the opportunity to reach their potential through the provision of two things we so often take for granted: food and education.

Whilst our work may sometimes seem to be a drop in the ocean of need, it is so inspiring to hear the stories of young people whose lives have been transformed because of FPZ's work.

FPZ's work is YOUR work, dear supporter. Thank you for the knitted jumpers and the multitude of goods you have collected to be sent to Kabwe. Thank you



for the money you've raised through coffee mornings, sponsored walks, social and church gatherings, collections, sponsorships, one off donations and regular giving. We wouldn't exist without you, so please keep up the good work- I will be right beside you supporting the trustees in all their efforts.

Finally, my accommodation is booked for the sponsored walk in Woolacombe next year. Will I see you there? Gwyneth

## Welcome Nick!

*Nick Andrews joined the Board of Trustees in April and introduces himself:*

I first met Barry Gransden at Oxford Brookes University when studying for my Masters Degree and he introduced me to Zambian schools!

He spoke with such passion and commitment about his work that I did not hesitate when I was asked to join the Trustees of FPZ. I am honoured to be part of such a wonderful team.

My background?

Well, I was orphaned as a child. My adopting parents gave me a wonderful childhood full of opportunity. I went on to University and a business career in advertising before becoming a teacher in 2003. I have worked in many phases, Infant, Primary, Secondary, FE and now work as a part time lecturer in English at Adult Learning in Buckinghamshire. I have a passion for education; being a teacher is a joy and a privilege.

I have visited Zambia many times and worked in the English Dept. at Vinjeru School, just 50km north of Kabwe.

My role in the trustee team is to be looking at our approach to fundraising and to assist the school in the teaching of English. I cannot wait to visit the school and do some work there with Moses and his team.

I am 62 now, live in Buckinghamshire with my lovely wife Lynn and have two great children who are wonderful adults and I lead a privileged life.

However, the older I get the nearer I get to where I came in so if I can be of any help with the school then I am really happy to do so.



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## News from Kabwe

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### Headlines

*Headteacher, Rev Moses Kopa writes:*

Hi everyone,

I am highly delighted to share with you some of the happenings that have taken place at Family Future Community School prior to the school reopening on 1<sup>st</sup> June and from then to now. As you are all aware, the Corona Virus pandemic has ravaged every society in the world, and we are equally affected as a school community and my narrative will hover around the same.

When schools closed abruptly on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 by order of the Zambian Government due to Covid-19, we quickly met to plan for take-home assignments for the learners in all the grades. The learners were all sent home with some work to help them stay tuned to their academic work whilst at home. The other issue we had to deal with was the feeding of our learners as most of them rely on the meals from the school. The puzzle was solved with a lot of dedication by notably two teachers - **Ephraim** the Guidance and Counselling teacher (far right below) and **Flare** the Feed Five Focus person respectively. Let me also mention our young G8 girl by the name of **Margaret** a member of the school senate, who played a very significant role in guiding the two teachers to the homes where the children stay. This was very tiring, and I was so touched by the willingness of this small group to help feed the children even risking their own health. Join me in thanking these gallant soldiers.



## Donate while shopping online – at no extra cost



Following lockdown, more of us are now shopping online. Why not support us as you shop? Easy fundraising will give us a donation from your purchase!

- Log on to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
  - Search for Future Pillars and join us
  - Start shopping
- Or
- Click Here to go straight to our Easy fundraising page and join us
  - Start shopping



I wish to further inform you that the feeding of the children who are not in school has continued but we have a new arrangement where the parents /guardians with their respective children are asked to come to collect their monthly food rations and this is working out very well.

Coming to the reopening of the school amidst Covid-19 challenge on 1<sup>st</sup> June, I can say so far so good. The teachers and the parents teamed up to clean the school surroundings and classrooms to make the place conducive for our children before they reported back. This gesture, especially from the parents was so encouraging. We held sensitization meetings for both the teachers and parents on Covid-19 to ensure collective responsibility in tackling the safety guidelines. Thereafter, the teachers set to prepare the schemes of work, lesson plans and all the necessary teaching and learning materials in readiness for teaching.

Let me mention that we were among the few schools that had all the basic requirements needed for prevention against the Corona Virus, so great thanks to FPZ for promptly approving the budget we had sent. The return of the children into school gave us a lot of anxiety but our readiness to receive them eased our nerves. Immediately the children came into school, we ensured every learner received a face mask and the guidelines were read and explained to them. Issues of social distancing in class were adequately addressed. The school is currently conducting two sessions; the G9s are reporting in the morning from 07:00am to 12:00pm and the G7s are starting their lessons at 12:30pm to 17:00pm; the G7s have their meal before they get to class and the G9s after the lessons.

Working in the new normal has brought some positives, some challenges and some innovations. For example, the size of the classes is enabling lesson delivery to be very manageable. There is tranquility generally in the entire school compared to when all the children were in school. On innovations, I am happy to mention that we have made our lessons still enjoyable through learner interactive groups. To achieve this, we have set up an outdoor teaching station where teachers can conduct group work activities without compromising on Covid-19 guidelines. This is making our teachers and learners continually deliver desirable lessons.



Management of suspected Covid-19 cases has also been addressed. The school has set up a temporary isolation bay which is being headed by Frank Shula, the Clinic Officer and members of the School Health and Nutrition Committee (SHN). *(Frank is a former student who was sponsored through medical training by a UK supporter, has recently qualified and is awaiting placement by the government)*. Those suspected are examined and observed for some time and then we call the Ministry of Health officials if the symptoms become eminent.

With the acquisition of the Infra-Red thermometer, learners' temperatures are being checked every day and so far no Covid-19 case has been recorded. In conclusion, the teaching staff and learners have now acclimatized to the new normal and doing their best to go by it. We cannot say we are so happy, we are not because we are missing our young learners and concerned they might forget the gains made when they were in school and so we foresee much more work when the time comes for their return. Nevertheless, we are so thankful for all the love and support we continue to receive from FPZ and all the well-wishers even during this world crisis. I thank you.

## News from UK

### Third Anniversary Celebration & Photography Competition

Monday 22 June 2020 was the third anniversary of the foundation of Future Pillars Zambia. We had originally intended to celebrate this with some form of "After Party" following the sponsored walk on 20 June. Having had to cancel the walk, due to coronavirus restrictions, we had to think again. In June we launched a photo competition, inviting supporters to contribute photographs illustrating subjects from an imaginary school timetable. We set up a Zoom event for the evening of Monday June 22, with winners of the competition to be announced that evening, and an opportunity for trustees to thank all our fabulous supporters for everything they have done over the 3 years since the charity came into being.

Despite a few predictable technical difficulties, we managed to hold a very successful "virtual" celebration. The 7 UK Trustees were joined by over 50 guests including some of our Zambian friends and colleagues.



*Changing States by Gilly Snaith*



*Lifecycles by Angela Scott*



*Gravity by David Quastel*

Peter McAughey presented the category winners of the photo competition. There were 58 entries across 15 categories and with a very high standard, the Judges (Peter, Karen, Phillys and Moses) had some tough choices to make. The overall winner was Gilly Snaith for her interpretation of Changing States. Second place was Lifecycles by Angela Scott. And in third we had a great photo of a UK truck needing a bit of assistance in Zambia earlier this year. The category here was Gravity, and yes it appeared a grave situation captured by David Quastel. Each of the 15 winning photos will now be included on a collage to be presented to our friends and to be on permanent display at our School in Kabwe.

Three years ago, we relied on expensive phone calls and unreliable email communication to our friends in Zambia, but now we can successfully cross the 8,000 km divide, seeing and hearing each other! Rev Moses Kopa, Headteacher of Family Futures Community School, spoke very eloquently and passionately about what has been achieved over the 3 years despite many challenges.

In her closing address as FPZ Trustee Rev Gwyneth Owen highlighted the shared love for the vulnerable children we support and empower. The other Trustees (Rosemary, Peter, Kathryn, Nick, Emma and Barry) also spoke about why they are involved and what it means to them personally. Chair Barry Gransden brought the evening to a finale with a 'virtual' blowing out of the candles on a (very real) cake. The air came all the way from Patrick Sichilima in Kabwe to Barry and Becky's house in the UK. A lovely evening. Thank you everyone for your support and kind messages  
*Peter McAughey and Kathryn Barron*

## 2.6 Challenge

Back in April we heard about the 2.6 challenge, a national event starting on the 26th April, the day of what would have been the 40th annual London marathon. This seemed like an incredible opportunity for FPZ to get involved with something fun, different, and accessible to all during lockdown.



*Louise Berry walked 26 miles in the garden*

In case you missed the various challenges that took place here's an idea of what some Trustees and supporters got up to back in April and through May:

- On 26 April Peter McAughey walked 260 laps of his garden (32.5 miles!)
- Louise Berry walked 26 miles in her garden on 26 April
- Kathryn Barron used her one-hour daily exercise to walk 26.2 miles over the week
- Rosemary Stanbury made 26 face masks in African fabric for her local care home
- Emma Berry organised a week of donation-based yoga classes
- Barry and Becky Gransden added to the contents of the container with 26 bags of goods in a record time
- Nick Andrews created a lockdown dance video with his family
- Alisha Snaith made 26 incredible historical outfits and went for a walk on 26 consecutive days wearing them
- Many more completed other baking, walking, cycling and sport challenges



*Rosemary Stanbury made 26 face masks in African fabric*



*Emma Berry with her 26 cookies*

Alisha's school were really impressed with her walk and especially her hand stitched historical costumes, so contacted Radio Solent. She spoke on the lunchtime show about her mile-long daily walks around Wimborne town centre over the 26 days in her different hand stitched historical costumes. She joked about her huge crinoline dresses being perfect for social distancing. She spoke about FPZ, the school in Kabwe and why she wanted to support projects helping education for all children.

We were, and continue to be, blown away by the support we have received for the 2.6 challenge and ended with over £5000 of donations including gift aid. Thank you to everyone who took part and / or donated!

*Emma Berry*

## Social Media



Our newsletters give a snapshot of our activities over the last few months. We use social media to share pictures and stories as they occur.

Follow Future Pillars Zambia on Facebook and/or Instagram to see news as it happens - and many more photographs!



*Alisha Snaith models a selection of her 26 outfits*

### Container 4 Kabwe

You would be forgiven for thinking that, since the middle of March, the filling of the current container has been abandoned – not so!

Over the past few weeks, a number of individuals have turned lockdown restrictions to their creative advantage..... clearing the loft of long-forgotten, but useful items **or** clearing the wardrobe of discarded clothing, but then fashioned into a range of skirts, **or** being part of the Wimborne Natter and Knit group who have had the wool delivered to their gate and carried on knitting, **or**.....



*Doreen & Dennis  
Holford*



*Clare McDermott*



*Joan, Doug & Nick  
Whitmarsh*



*Jean Joyce & some of her handy needlework*

Alongside such positive enterprise, it is a fact that lockdown has had an irretrievably negative impact on some organisations. St Thomas Garnet's School, Boscombe, is a case in point, with closure taking place at the end of this term. The school has donated a considerable amount of classroom resources and some furniture for the container. Yes, we have benefitted hugely, but the closure of a school – any school - is a very sad event, affecting children, families as well as teachers and our thoughts and prayers are with them all as they seek to rebuild their lives in new places.

As we near the end of collecting items for this container, please contact us if you have any items for immediate shipment or if you require any further details.

*Barry & Becky Gransden*

## Pure Gems

For the whole of FPZ's 3 year life, Sue and Cliff Froud have been staunch supporters of what we are trying to achieve in Kabwe. In addition to their regular financial giving, for which we are enormously grateful, they go more than 'the extra mile'.

On the second Saturday of every month, they purchase, prepare, provide and host the Colehill Lunch, near Wimborne – all at their own expense! With a regular clientele of around 30 'lunchers', Sue (in the kitchen with help) and Cliff (the waiter extraordinaire) provide a 3-course meal with tea/coffee to finish. The starter course is a selection of homemade soups, which are absolutely delicious. The main course is a ploughman's lunch with options of ham, cheese and rice salad to go with other salad ingredients – wonderfully healthy! However, for many, these 2 courses are a mere warm-up act for the dessert course with a selection that defies words – again, all homemade. My particular favourite is pineapple and ginger cheesecake!

Clearly, Sue, at least, spends most of the previous day preparing all the food and these monthly gastronomic affairs are well-organised within a very convivial atmosphere, with a number of friendships being updated each month. All that Sue and Cliff ask is for a donation of at least £6 per head, with every penny going to FPZ and onto Kabwe. Last year, in excess of £3000 was raised this way.

Thank you to you both for all that you do – yes, for the children, but also the diners. You are pure gems!

*Barry Gransden*



## Looking Ahead

### The Third Future Pillars Walk; Woolacombe, 19 June 2021!



The walk which was to have taken place on 20 June 2020 has not been cancelled but merely postponed! If you did not enter this year you now have another chance – and plenty of time to train!

#### How far?

The maximum distance is 28 miles, but there are 8 options, some all day, some morning, some afternoon, and total distances of 5, 10, 13, 15, 24 and 28 miles. The walk will be in two groups, one for hares and one for tortoises. If you prefer an early evening stroll, then the 5 mile Beach & Downs Amble is for you.

#### Interested?

Speak to a trustee or visit the [events page](#) on the website to find out more about the route. There is no entrance fee, but we do hope that walkers will gather sponsorship from friends and family.

## Our Website

Visit our website for more information on Zambia, Kabwe and our programmes.

On the Events page of the website you will find route maps and an application form for the sponsored walk.

[www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk](http://www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk)

## Contact Us

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[trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk](mailto:trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk)

## Building Project

*Barry shares the conversations we have been having about the future:*  
We have been dissatisfied with the current accommodation in Kabwe for several years, not least because of the school's inability to provide a complete educational journey through to the end of G12. Our empowerment of the vulnerable child has been restricted – currently children must leave at the end of G9 and the school 'day' is actually only half a day of learning. For many months, the trustees and the team in Kabwe have been discussing curriculum projections and Zambian Government compliance requirements. We are unanimous in our determination to solve the 'complete journey' shortfall as well as a number of other accommodation challenges. Detailed architect drawings have been commissioned to provide a **2-storey classroom** block with the following accommodation:

- 2 science laboratories, to comply with Zambian Government requirements for G10 - 12
- 1 computer studies suite, 1 technology/art classroom, 5 general classrooms
- 1 staffroom, 1 science preparation room, further offices

The benefits will be:

- G5 to G12 will have **whole-day learning**
- The school will have **senior as well as junior secondary learners**
- **Specialist accommodation** for Science, Computer Studies, Technology/Art, and the School Hall used for dance, drama, and music
- **Teachers will occupy their own classrooms**, rather than moving at the change of lessons, with more opportunity for curriculum enrichment
- **More effective safeguarding of vulnerable children** as many will be on-site for the whole day

We have been out to tender and our Zambian colleagues have 'checked out' the preferred contractor. A detailed bill of quantity has been prepared with a total cost of **£109,000** at today's prices and exchange rate. This figure comes with a couple of health warnings - the continuing rise in the cost of materials, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the regular fluctuations in the exchange rate.

To help our UK understanding of what our £ can do for this exciting project:

- Concrete building block (we need 5000) @ £0.50
- 50kg bag of cement (we need 2500) @ £5
- Door frame (we need 14) @£25
- Door @£40
- 20 ton lorry-load of sand (we need 11) @ £120

If we are to be ready to take G10 from January 2022, construction of the building will need to take place during 2021. We ask you to support, as you are able, our further engagement with 'empowering the vulnerable children'.

*Barry Gransden*

Watch out for news of a programme of events to launch our appeal for the new building! We have some ideas to appeal to a wide variety of interests and to give us all something to look forward to as we head into the autumn...

## Can you help?

We hope you have enjoyed news of the projects you have supported, and our plans for the future.

Can you help us to keep up the good work:

- Could you **organise an event** to spread the word and raise more support?
- Could you make a **regular donation**?
- Could you **help us apply for grants**?
- Could your **company adopt us** as their charity of the year?

Speak to a trustee or contact us using the details provided if you would like to talk about these or any other ideas you may have.

**Thank you**