

Starfish News

The Newsletter of the Asterias Organisation Serving People in Kenya

Registered Charity XR92213

Issue 6

December 2008



North Down Mayor adopts Asterias

Asterias has been granted an enviable position, as Mayor of North Down, Alderman Leslie Cree, MLA, has selected the organisation as one of three charities for which he aims to raise funds and public awareness during his time in office. He announced his selection at a launch event for 'The Mayor's Charities' at Bangor Town Hall earlier this month. The Asterias Executive was delighted that the charity was chosen from around 40 organisations who applied to be considered.

The Mayor explained why he has chosen to support Asterias. He said: "My wife and I have been involved with Asterias from its earliest days and it gives me great pleasure to be able to support its work through my charity appeal this year." John Adamson, Chairman of Asterias was in attendance to express his profound appreciation at the Mayor's support for the charity.



John Adamson, Chairman of Asterias, presents an Asterias tie to Alderman Leslie Cree, the Mayor of North Down.

The Mayor is asking North Down residents and businesses to support 'The Mayor's Charities' in whatever way they can... perhaps by making a donation, raising sponsorship through sporting activities or attending one of the events scheduled during the year. These will include ghosts tours at Bangor Town Hall, a Valentine's event at Stormont, a charity golf match and a musical evening with Donaghadee Male Voice Choir.

To find out more about the Mayor's Charities or to register your support please contact the Mayor's Secretary on (028) 9127 8067 or heather.loebnau@northdown.gov.uk

Sad Farewell to Billy

Billy Justin, Asterias' Publicity Officer has sadly been forced to resign from his position due to ill-health. Although his time on the Executive was relatively short, his contribution to the work of Asterias has been huge. From the beginning of his involvement with Asterias, Billy put his organisational skills to good use particularly in relation to fundraising. As a member of the first Asterias team, he undertook the most ambitious fundraising project, a concert involving the Royal Irish Regiment Band along with Donaghadee Male Voice Choir. This involved an enormous amount of planning and organisation and all Billy's hard work paid off when the concert was a great success, raising £3500 as well as the profile of Asterias in the area. It seemed only natural that on joining the Executive, he should take on responsibility for fundraising. He quickly embarked on another huge event, a Jenny Bristow Masterclass, which he again arranged with great commitment and attention to detail, and a fantastic evening ensued.



Throughout his time with Asterias, both as a member of the 2007 team and of the Executive, Billy has shown himself to be a true team player, often working behind the scenes and not seeking recognition for the significant contribution he has made. His quiet, unassuming manner and godly character will be much missed. We send him our heartfelt thanks for all he has brought to Asterias, and in turn the people of Kenya.

Delegation's visit to Kenya



Kimuka Girls' High School where a new dorm is being paid for by Asterias

At the end of August, 3 members of the Asterias Executive, along with Colin Williams, an independent television producer, visited Kenya and in particular Asterias projects of the past, present and future. Colin, a member of Ballygilbert Presbyterian Church and Managing Director of the company Inferno, had generously offered to accompany the Asterias delegation to make a promotional DVD about the charity.

The trip was an extremely fruitful one, and the group were conscious of God's presence and leading throughout their stay. Articles describing different aspects of the visit will be included in forthcoming issues.

One highlight of the trip was a visit to Kimuka Girls' High School, where the group met Chief Daniel, members of staff, and pupils. They reported that demand for places at the school were so great that a dorm was urgently needed before the start of the new school year in January. Asterias has agreed to undertake costs for this build, which will enable many more girls to attend the school and gain an education. This is on top of the build which one of the teams will carry out next summer. Thank you for your support which has made this possible.

*The Asterias Organisation wishes you a joyful
Christmas and a peaceful New Year*

Thank you for your support in 2008

*We look forward to serving the people of Kenya
with you in 2009*



Christmas Cards

At this time when the credit crunch is biting, instead of buying your loved ones gifts that they don't really need, why not give them a gift that shows you care? Send them an Asterias gift card explaining that you have made a donation on their behalf to the work of Asterias. Your gift will be very much appreciated by the children served by the charity in Kenya. Cards are available from Executive members, or contact Valerie Brown at valerie.brown@asterias.org



Prayer Meeting

The first monthly meeting of the Asterias prayer group will take place on Monday, 12 January 2009 at the home of Anne and Paul Bailie, 163 Sandown Road, Belfast at 8pm. Please come along and join with us in praying for the nation of Kenya and the people and projects that Asterias are involved with there. This is a vitally important way in which you can serve the people of Kenya.

Money from Mobiles

Do you have an old mobile phone cluttering up your home? Did you realise that, like so many other things today, they can be recycled? And as well as being kind to the planet, Asterias can benefit! We are currently running a mobile phone appeal, through which we are asking you to collect old mobile phones to be recycled. Asterias can then receive £3 per phone. Why not get your church or youth club to start collecting? Please contact Rachel Boyle at rachel.boyle@asterias.org for collection bags and publicity posters. Please note that the phones do not need to be in working order or have a charger to be of use.



Please pray...

Give thanks for God's revelation of future opportunities for Asterias when the group visited Kenya in the summer. Pray for his constant guidance in taking these forward.

Give thanks for God's blessing of the work at Kimuka Girls' High School, and for how he is using Asterias to serve the community there. Pray for the pupils and staff.

Pray for the teams which have been selected to go to Kenya next summer, that God would be forging strong relationships between them and directing preparations for their trip.

Pray for God's continued guidance for the Asterias Executive, that they would be conscious of His will when planning for the future.

Thank you for your interest in, and support of the work of the Asterias Organisation. If you would like to receive this newsletter via email in future, please send your details to valerie.brown@asterias.org

Help Needed!

Asterias has been given a great fundraising opportunity in the run-up to Christmas. Marks and Spencer have allocated Friday, 19 December to Asterias to do a bag pack in their store at Bloomfield Shopping Centre, Bangor. On one of the busiest shopping days before Christmas, this has the potential to raise a substantial amount of money. Our new team members will be taking part but we need more volunteers to fill the rota. If you have a couple of hours to spare that day, please contact John Adamson at john.adamson@asterias.org. Giving a little time can make a huge difference to the vulnerable and needy in Kenya.

Teams 2009

The interest in going to Kenya next summer as part of an Asterias team was extremely encouraging, and the number of applications meant that we were oversubscribed. However the teams have now been selected. These are composed of people ranging from 18 to 64, and from 12 congregations of various denominations. You will hear more about these individuals in future issues, but please keep them in your prayers, and support them in their fundraising endeavours over the coming months.

Valentine's Ball



Date: 14th February 2008

Time: 19:00 for dinner at 19:30

Photographs by Bob McEvoy
www.bobmcevoy.com

Entertainment by Aidan Young
www.aidanyoungents.com

For the work of...



For further information about the Ball log on to www.asterias.org or email rachel.boyle@asterias.org

We're on the web!

www.asterias.org