

English Language Project



"Literacy is the fertiliser needed for development and democracy to take root and grow."

D.Archer, Global Campaign for Education

A UNESCO report from 2005 says literacy is crucial if individuals are to participate in political, social and economic life. Students in SA have to be literate in at least two languages, including English or Afrikaans.

Together teachers in Tyume Valley and TVS have identified one of the main reasons for underachievement as being the lack of English speaking, reading and writing skills. Teaching is supposed to be done through the English language and school leaving examinations are set in English. This means that village children who have little exposure to that language are at a serious disadvantage.

Hobbiton English Language Activities

In August TVS organised another study camp at Hobbiton in Hogsback, this time for a hundred

Tyume children and the staff who teach them English. The teachers were full of enthusiasm for the training they received saying, "The language approaches were fun and provided meaningful stimulation. The facilities, playground, halls and food were ideal [and] before they do anything the staff make sure the children's stomachs are full!"

Our learners were asked if they liked the new way of learning English. They loved the fun approach and the outdoor activities:

"It was nice because we played games and had fun learning English."

"I liked the teachers because they helped me and didn't shout at me and beat me."

"Yes, I want to come back to Hobbiton. I love the games and activities and we learn English nicely."



Briefing for hike up to the waterfall.

"The night hike was difficult because it was dark and I was frightened but I still liked it."

"Team building was fun. We were helping each other and supporting each other. We learned some good things from this activity."

THE BIG GIVE: DOUBLE YOUR DONATION From 10am 5th to 9th December
you can make a donation to the TVS "NEW LIVES" project at <http://new.thebiggive.org.uk/project/8551>.
HOG'S BACK FOR HOGSBACK FUNDRAISING WALK AND SOCIAL, APRIL 2012. See page 3



Our new learners have just arrived, looking a bit cold and apprehensive

Volunteering in Tyume Valley

Jan-Marek Grothaus worked with TVS from September 2010 to July 2011. Before leaving he wrote about his experiences.

“Hello, my name is Jan-Marek Grothaus and I am a volunteer from Germany. I teach Computer Literacy at Amabhele High School. The whole school has about 120 students and is blessed with a very intercultural staff. In the afternoon I teach an adult class with four women from the community. They will receive an accredited certificate.

“I stay in Krwakrwa village with a host family, and experience a whole different way of living compared to Europe. On my daily way to school I meet with a lot of people who are interested in what I am doing and where I am from. I plan these small conversations, which I really enjoy. In the village I am a respected person even though I am very young, because the people appreciate my service.

After the morning prayers I start my computer classes according to a certain timetable trying to fill out the lack of teachers which is a general problem in the Eastern Cape. The students learn how to type and how to do research on Wikipedia. The main focus is on programs like Word, Excel, Powerpoint and also email and internet, which is helpful in almost every job in their future life. Every student has at least two hours a week on the

computers, they also research on their own, which enables them to support themselves with direct knowledge and practice which pushes up their exam results.

“My time as a volunteer in SA is coming to an end in July, so we are looking for a future solution which provides sustainability. The idea is to motivate the teachers to use the computers and to show them the advantages and effects computers can have on their teaching. Another option would be to employ a trainer and pay him through the adult classes.”

Computers in schools

Vuvu Tomi, a former South African volunteer, joins TVS local staff.

Vuvu is joining TVS as an IT facilitator, having previously been a volunteer with Hilltop. We have also been able to retain Eric Fuzani, a retired Head master from a Tyume school, as mentor and supervisor of the IT programme.

Vuvu really is on the same wavelength as her learners, coming from the same province. “I’m not only training children but teachers as well. The plan is to enable them to teach their school children when they have their own computers at school.”

However, she reports that many schools cannot receive local grants for computers yet because they cannot afford an alarm system and electricity.



The Hobbiton coach leaves with a lot of happy learners after their few days at the camp

Fund raising activities 2011

We have received generous donations from The Openwork Foundation and the Pinmar Golf tournament. The tournament has been a supporter of TVS's work for three years and we are grateful for such a regular donation, which we are currently putting to good use in paying for our South African trainee, Vuvu and supervisor Eric.



Pinmar golf tournament, Palma de Mallorca

A group of friends, parishioners and neighbours held an Open Gardens Event in Weston Favell and George Kiloh celebrated his birthday with donations from guests to TVS. Several schools and churches are also supporting TVS.

We have five runners in the Great South Run which is being run around Portsmouth on 30th October.

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the 100 Club. Following consultation with members this has now been converted into a Regular Giving scheme so that TVS can claim Gift Aid on donations. If they are not cancelled existing Standing Orders will be transferred to the new scheme. The last draw will be at Christmas 2011.

Exciting news: we have been accepted to participate in the BIG GIVE Matched Funding Challenge. Every pound you donate on line is worth double - £10 becomes £20, £100 becomes £200. Donations will go to our "NEW LIVES" project to update the facilities at the Resource Centre for more English and IT lessons and to replace our extremely old minibus. Help us to reach our target of £30,000 by donating to TVS at <http://new.thebiggive.org.uk/project/8551> in the 5 days from Monday 5th December at 10am.



The upgrading of the computer lab and security is being made possible by a £5,000 donation from Care4Kids, part of the Openwork Foundation, which supports disadvantaged children in the UK and abroad.

STOP PRESS



TVS Christmas Cards are available from Sue Richards. Call her on 07884 185 930.

A "Hog's Back for Hogsback Walk" will take place on Sunday 22nd April 2012. Get out your walking shoes for a four and half mile ramble near Guildford.

The walk will begin at 10.30 in the car park opposite the "The Jolly Farmer" (a Harvester Inn) at Puttenham GU3 1AJ.

PLEASE TELEPHONE Liz Hanks on 020 8643 9777 or Stephanie Howell on 07778 536 738 beforehand to confirm date and time.

Bring your friends and make it a real social event.

Netball at Tyume Valley and Fort Hare

Geraldine Palmer and Sue Ellis visited Tyume for two weeks in July to provide netball coaching to schoolgirls in the region. “Pupils have to walk up to six miles to play an interschool match and we have seen matches being played with a goat wandering across a dirt court set in countryside miles from anywhere. Perhaps it can see the lines better than me”, Sue writes,

“There is a distinct lack of both netball sports facilities and general sports equipment. Schools cannot afford to pay a sports teacher from their own small budget. We were able to use the facilities at the University of Fort Hare and Adrian, the university netball coach volunteered to assist us. Eric, retired local head teacher and chair of the local TVS committee, drove the school bus every morning to collect children from outlying schools. We watched with amusement as many beaming little faces emerged from the back of the combi all eager and raring to go!”



Tyume Valley school learners at Fort Hare University.

“Our presence at the University soon became a talking point among the students. Dedicated volunteers had bags of enthusiasm: they provided invaluable support as role models and mentors to the schoolgirls. The one thing all the children shared was a love for netball and a real desire to get involved in ball handling, footwork drills, fitness session and team tactics. It also allowed them to learn about working in a team and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. In addition we were also providing support and training to local teachers.”

Adrian, the Fort Hare coach, writes “the ladies certainly had a ball with you around. They asked me to send their greetings and blessings to you ladies and they felt inspired by you.”

New Volunteers

We welcome a new committee member Nic Suggit, a South African from the Eastern Cape, who qualified as a teacher in South Africa and has lived in the UK since 1988. He has broad experience of learning and development and was Head of Training for St. John Ambulance before joining the civil service in 2002. There he held policy jobs in local government, finance and European Funding and spent four years at the National School of Government teaching public officials about policy making, change management and government. He still retains strong ties with South Africa and follow developments closely.

Our new layout and design is by Darren Pullman. He is a photographer, mediator, musician, composer, teacher, programmer, web developer and designer.



Thank you to Carshalton High School for Girls for printing this edition of Tyume Valley Schools Newsletter.