

ASCT NEWS

Caring for children in the Philippines since 1975

July 2010
Issue 40

Patrons: The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education and *MP for Surrey Heath*
The Right Revd Christopher Hill, *The Bishop of Guildford*

Since our last newsletter in January we have had a busy time and much of this is in our newsletter. First the good news that our old children's home in Manila has been sold. June Cobbett, one of our trustees has spent a very rewarding three months in Manila, the dynamic 'FUNKY' group from Camberley spent two weeks redecorating Cashew Tree School, and we have seen Craig and Peter in the UK. Some of our older young people have graduated to their next school or college and one will soon be looking for employment. At Cashew Tree school there has been great excitement as many of the 6 year olds had their graduation ceremony before moving on to their next school. We have been inundated with requests to join the school taking our numbers to 195. At Mango Tree house we have taken in 9 new children taking our numbers up to thirty nine.

The Grapevine project of educational support is also increasing and now boasts 50 students attending on Saturdays – again a record.

Fundraising is still top of our UK priority list to ensure we can continue to provide the increasing support to the 284 total number of young people in our care.

If you want to consider sponsoring , reviewing your giving or developing a local support group, then do contact Alison in the office, we always value your contributions and comments.

David Cox MBE, Honorary Chairman



An update from Manila.

Our ASCT children have been working incredibly hard over the last few months, all have taken end of term exams and many have sat entrance exams for college or university. All this hard work has paid off with some excellent results, many of the students achieving honour awards. Nine students graduated from High School, all of them are continuing with their education and are taking a variety of college/university courses. Seven of our children graduated from elementary school and are now taking on the challenge of High School. Cashew School children continue to excel with 31 graduating in a joyful event presided over by June Cobbett, one of our trustees. We would like to congratulate Rashelle Luarca who, after 10 years in our care, has finished her college degree. She is now studying for her board exam after which she will become a qualified social worker.



Rashelle Luarca at her recent graduation

As David said in his introduction we are expanding this year. The new Mango Tree House provides us with the facilities to take in more children both as residents of the home and in our educational support programme 'Grapevine'. Some of our new intake come from desperate situations. We are always inundated with requests for help so it is with delight that we can help more of



Cashew Tree School Graduation Day

these very needy children than ever before. The newly decorated Cashew Tree School will be bursting at the seams this year with 195 children now attending. This brings the grand total of children supported by ASCT to 284 so thank you to everyone for the support in helping us to achieve this fantastic new level. However, these additional children bring additional costs. We have had to buy more beds, wardrobes, books, clothes and desks, not to mention the additional staffing costs. Having made the decision to expand we are now looking to fund this growth. Please give consideration to fundraising, increasing your giving or sponsoring one of our children. We are always happy to talk at groups who are considering giving us support or who are interested in our cause. Some fundraising has already taken place and we would like to

thank all those who contributed to June Cobbett's 'Chair Fund', enough money was raised to buy 30 new chairs for the additional children at Cashew, and the St Ives ladies who raised funds for new fans for Mango Tree House. If you would like to fundraise for specific items please contact us.

For more information on any aspect of supporting ASCT please contact the ASCT office and talk to Alison.



The new intake of Mango children

Fund Raising

A big thank you to everyone who has helped to make the fundraising efforts for the first half of the year so successful. Several supporters asked for donations for ASCT in lieu of birthday gifts, many thanks to them. In May we had a fantastic evening concert given by the Rushmoor Male Voice Choir at High Cross church. The event raised over £1,100 thank you to everyone who attended but particularly to the choir who gave their time and talents for nothing. Our annual garden party at David's house also proved to be a great success, we were blessed with fantastic weather and raised £667. There are several fundraising events coming up, details can be found at the back of the newsletter. We have budgeted for an operating deficit of £8,000 for the year when the exceptional funds from the sale of old Mango are discounted so please support us in any way you can. If you would like to organise your own event or raise money for us in other ways please visit our website for some ideas or contact Alison in the ASCT office.



The Rushmoor Oddfellows male voice choir concert raised over £1100

Visitors from the Philippines

Over the past month we have had visits from both Craig Burrows and Peter Emata, our Director and Executive Administrator from Manila. They met a number of our supporters at churches, schools and in homes, answering many questions about their work in the Philippines and individual children. It was an education for everyone as they talked about getting used to the English way of life and how this compares to life in Manila. They showed pictures, videos, art work and described the daily routine, language, food, schooling and church life for the children in our care.

Peter visited Lyndhurst school in Camberley, who sponsor a child, and Thursley St. Michaels and All Angels Church in Surrey who have been supporting us for a couple of years. These two visits clearly highlighted the difference between schools and churches in Manila and the UK. Everyone enjoyed meeting and exchanging thoughts and experiences. Peter and Craig are now back in Manila with many fond memories of their time with us and putting faces to some of our generous supporters.



Peter with supporter John Walshe at Thursley Church



Peter entertaining the children at Lyndhurst School.

Old Mango Tree House is sold

We are very pleased to let all our supporters know that we have concluded a deal with the House of Refuge children's charity of Manila to buy our old Mango Tree home. The negotiations were completed after a couple of month's discussions, their children and staff will start to move in shortly. We are delighted that a Christian organisation will carry on the tradition of care for deprived children in the building that was home for so many of our children.

This now means that we can repay the loans that were so generously given to help bridge the gap between the costs of buying the land and building our wonderful new Mango Tree Home.

All this is expected to be completed by October this year when the payment is completed and our finances at ASCT can at last settle down and we can plan for the future.

We have many happy memories of the home we built and occupied for 13 years and wish the new owners every good wish for the future.



Old Mango, happy family home for many years.

FUNKY visit

When we were approached by St Paul's Church Camberley with the offer of a team of FUNKY young people for practical work in Manila, we were pleased and surprised. After all what did FUNKY mean? Well it stands for Finished University No Kids Yet and is a lively mix of twenty somethings who meet regularly at St Paul's. After some discussions it was agreed that the team should redecorate Cashew Tree School.



The team left the UK on May 25th and arrived the next day, getting straight to work. Above is a photo of the members hard at work. Despite the heat the group have enjoyed the visit and describe it as a great privilege. Revd Graham Shaw, the groups leader, says 'The highlight for everyone has been the relationships with the children at Mango. At the start we didn't know how we'd cope with them all the time, but soon we loved coming back from Cashew to see them - eating, playing games, TV, devotions...etc. The kids will remain in special places in our hearts.' There will be more about the FUNKY visit in our next issue.

FUNKY group members Jess, Graham, Nicky, Gemma, David, Caroline and Kristen with staff members of Cashew School.



Annual General Meeting

The ASCT AGM will be held at St Paul's Church, Camberley, Surrey on Saturday 23rd October at 9.30 am. All supporters are very welcome to this informal meeting. If you would like to be there please contact Alison on 01276 707633 or e-mail office@asct.org.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MICHAEL GOVE'S QUIZ NIGHT



***JOIN OUR PATRON MICHAEL GOVE
ON FRIDAY 16TH JULY AT 7PM
AT HIGH CROSS CHURCH, CAMBERLEY***

***TICKETS COST £10 WHICH INCLUDES A FISH
SUPPER. COME ALONG WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS UP TO 6 IN A
TEAM DON'T WORRY IF YOU CAN'T MAKE UP A SIX
JUST JOIN UP WITH OTHERS ON THE NIGHT.***



***PLACES ARE LIMITED AND THERE WILL BE NO ENTRANCE
ON THE NIGHT WITHOUT A TICKET. SO PLEASE BUY
YOUR TICKETS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.***

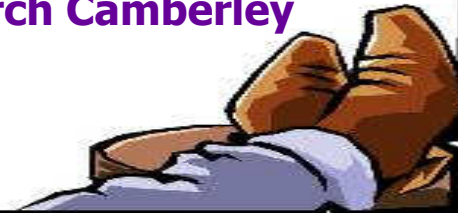
Tickets are available from the ASCT office

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

ASCT Barn Dance with 'Saxon Drain'

***Saturday 20th November at
High Cross Church Camberley***

***Dancing starts at 7pm
Wagons roll at 10pm
Ticket price TBC
Bring your own drink***



June Cobbett, an ASCT trustee volunteered for three months earlier in the year. She is home now but here is an extract from an email sent during her visit:



How time flies, since I landed here in the tropical heat of Manila in early January you have had snow and ice while I was acclimatizing to the humidity of the tropics and wondering what had happened to the dreadful flooding of the Typhoon last October. We are now facing water shortages but fortunately Mango Tree house has its own well and purifier so we have water to drink and shower. This home is truly a wonderful place with the warmth of love and fellowship from staff and children alike, we share time, enjoy being together, eat lots of rice and I feel I have become part of the family. I have spent a lot of time at Cashew Tree school standing in for Pamela, a teacher at Cashew who has contracted TB. She has been in hospital for a few weeks but is now recovering at her home.

I have been very impressed with the way things are organised here, the staff are so caring and dedicated and I have been welcomed wherever I have been. It has been hard at times to settle as I can not go where I want and the daily timetable starts early and most folks are asleep by 10pm, much different to my routine at home but the children make up for everything.

Summer Organ Recitals

During the months of July and August, High Cross, Camberley will be hosting a series of lunch time organ recitals on the 2nd and 4th Thursday's of each month from 12.45 until 1.30 pm. There is no charge for admission, but there will be a retiring collection in aid of church funds and ASCT.

8th July	Stephen Yeo	Headmaster at Lyndhurst
22nd July	Bryan Anderson	St Mary, Redcliffe, Bristol
12th August	John Wood	High Cross organist
26th August	David Markby	High Cross organist

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