

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2013



Dear friends and supporters of Les Amis,



As we come to the end of our sixth year helping some of the most disadvantaged people in the world, and reflect upon how things have gone, it is with relief and gratitude that we can say that, despite the ongoing economic uncertainties which began with the banking crisis in 2008, Les Amis has been able to maintain its level of commitment and aid. We are therefore deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to this charity and look forward to your continued support in the future.

We are pleased to be sending you our latest news and enclose a newsletter which gives much more information about our work, written by those who work with us in Burkina Faso. We hope that, in reading it, you will feel inspired by how your money is being spent.

Protecting and educating girls and young women ...

.... in Baskouré, near Koupéla

The refuge for runaway girls in Baskouré is doing really really well, thanks to you all. Over the years we have had as many as 30 girls at any one time at the refuge where they are fed, housed, educated, trained in embroidery, weaving and beer-making, and also work their fields where they grow millet, maize, haricot beans and peanuts.



The girls of the refuge in Baskouré

.... in Gounghin

At St Monique's in Gounghin, we are putting ten secondary school orphans through school and also paying all the costs of housing them, clothing them, keeping them well and providing them with all the necessary school equipment. When Gillie was there in February she was shocked to see the conditions of their living quarters in which there were just three beds being shared by 13 girls. We made the immediate request that enough beds be bought to enable each girl to have her own bed.

Also in Gounghin we pay the school fees for 20 primary school girls, all of whom come from families who live in poverty. Having paid a visit to a lovely but very run-down little nursery school, also under the care of the Gounghin parish, we are looking at the possibility of helping them.



The children of the nursery school

Boulsa Parish

Our association with Father Lambert, the parish priest in Boulsa, has enabled us to widen our projects. We have been delighted to contribute towards the cost of literacy courses, the repair of water wells and the needs of a widow.

The Yoann Foundation and helping the disadvantaged

This foundation, based in Ouagadougou, continues its wonderful work of supporting women with disabled children, women who are themselves disabled, and also widows in seriously difficult conditions. Money, food and general practical help is given to 20 women and 15 children. One of the really important aspects of this work is to provide those women and children with the opportunities to meet socially. Women with disabled children can feel very isolated in a country which finds disability hard to accept. Getting these women and children together regularly has resulted in a greater solidarity between them, and the sense that they are not alone in their suffering.

We are always open to ideas and were therefore very happy to be approached by the managers of the Yoann Foundation with a request for help. They asked if it would be possible for funds of just £1,000 to help a young woman, Julie, set herself up in business as a moto/moped technician, for which she was fully trained. We are delighted to be able to help with small but life-changing grants which have such a big impact on the life of an individual.



Julie

Father Paul

One of our favourite ways of giving is via Father Paul who uses Les Amis money in a wonderfully wide variety of ways, touching the lives of many individuals. Do read the enclosed newsletter in which you can read about the work he does on our behalf.

Lots of gratitude!



David Dixon

Thank you to the family of the late and much-missed **David Dixon**, a long-time supporter of this charity, for asking for donations to Les Amis instead of flowers when he was laid to rest in July. David loved the work of this charity and was a generous benefactor from the outset.

Thank you, also, to the **children of Year 3 at St Edmund's School** in Godalming who held a sponsored spelling, maths and physical exercise challenge; to **Judy Collins** for organising and hosting a 'Pop-Up Supper' in her home; to the **Patrick family** for holding a book and cake sale, and to **James Blackett** for baking and selling cakes. Between them they raised an amazing **£3,373!**

Thank
you

We particularly want to thank those who took to heart the plea made in our last newsletter to consider setting up a monthly Standing Order. This has resulted in a dozen more Standing Orders, though it would be truly wonderful if we could add to this. Thank you, also, to Mark Warner of **Headline Design & Print** in Woking, who took our work to heart and who prints our newsletters at no charge.

We are always pleased to give illustrated talks to groups however big or small, as this remains one of the best ways of telling everyone about our work. Thank you to Parishes Together in Leatherhead for inviting us to give a talk there in May 2013, and to the parish of The Sacred Heart in Fareham, where we gave a talk in July 2013.



A personal message from Gillie ...

*Thank you to everyone who has now set up a Standing Order with us. Such a regular commitment to us is both crucial and appreciated. **I want to say, again, that if every single person on our mailing list were to commit to just £10 per month, we could cover all our projects annually, AND do considerably more.** I do beg you, therefore, to consider the possibility of committing just £10 per month to us. I promise you, hand on heart, that unlike many UK charities, **100% of your donations will go directly to improving the lives of those in need: nothing is spent on administration or the necessary costs of running a charity.** You can set up a Standing Order by completing the enclosed form and posting it to us.*

The Trustees of Les Amis-Burkina Faso: Gillie & David Nicholls and Jude O'Mara-Spicer

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Registered Charity number 1120772

The poor will never cease out of the land;
therefore I command you to open wide your hand
to the needy and to the poor. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

In so far as you did this to the least of those brothers of mine,
you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40-41)