

Jeff and I have worked together on LTPT quarterly newsletters since Spring 2011. All of these trace the history of the Trust's mission and are available on our new website: www.langapreschooltrust.uk

Generally each is four pages long but we have decided that Issue 35 shall be a bumper eight page one. The reason is COVID-19. These times bring to mind Luke 21:11 'There will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and pestilence. And there will be terror and great signs from heaven'

We humans and the whole ecosystem suffer, but humans respond with patience, courage, hope and optimism. We look forward to the future with confidence and determination.

Gordon

Langa in Lockdown

The township has been in lockdown since April and it is anticipated that the pre-schools will not reopen until September. LTPT has continued to give financial and other support.

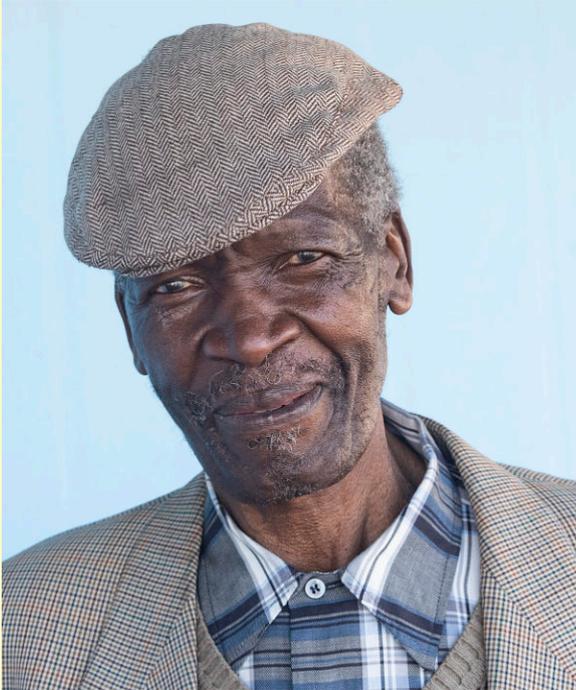
The principals of the six pre-schools have been provided with emergency packs, as listed in Newsletter 34, and later, sanitisers to clean the school buildings.

Vegetables have continued to be purchased and distributed through the school principals to the children and their families and water conservation has been developed further, (*page 5*). Also we are now planning to complete the three year Nomonde project, (*page 6*).

Although both Nomonde and Dalukhanyo Pre-Schools have been closed during the lockdown the buildings are still serving the community thanks to a joint initiative of VUSA Rugby & Learning Academy and Bishops Diocesan College in Rondebosch, Cape Town. There is more about this very encouraging development on *pages 3/4*.



Message from Clarence Mahamba,
Nomonde Management Committee Chairman



'This Pandemic Virus is the worst thing than each and every virus experienced, the world, projects and many things have been changed because of this virus, the numbers of people that are positive and die because of this virus are increasing every day, people have fear because no cure is found at the moment.'

'The Management, founder members of the Preschools in the disadvantaged areas are 'SALUTING', and holding high the name of LANGA TOWNSHIP PRESCHOOL TRUST(LTPT) and their supporters for making Nomonde, Dalukhanyo and the extended Pre-schools for their tireless efforts developing the preschools in many ways, and to make the children happy and looking healthy every day.'

The Management and staff of Pre-Schools never forget LTPT for not giving up assisting the Management during hard times we all experienced.'

From C.M Mahamba

He concluded by stating that the co-operation between his management committee and LTPT is a model of how the Langa Community can benefit from such a dynamic and the love of children.

Reading that Temba Bavuma is now the vice - captain of the South African Proteas cricket team and that he was brought up in Langa, it was interesting to follow the story further.

He lived in Rubusuma Avenue, the home of the Langa Cricket Club, as did two other recent South African stars, Thami Tsolekile and Malusi Siboto.

It seems to be a long time away from the 1960s when the Prime Minister Vorster said, 'Over my dead body will we allow a black man, a coloured man, or an Indian man to become a Springbok, whether it be in rugby, cricket, football, you name it'. In January 2016 Temba aged 25 became a national hero, the first black cricketer to score a century when he helped South Africa to save the second test against England.



Quoting Jonathan Agnew on BBC Sport on this innings of 102 not out, 'The innings transcended cricket, he batted absolutely beautifully and was a breath of fresh air.'



Many boys in Cape Town are fanatical about cricket - this group playing on a street in Langa are no doubt hoping to emulate the three Langa national cricketing heroes who themselves had been boys in the township.



VUSA RUGBY & LEARNING ACADEMY

Covid-19 Relief - May 2020

Bishops Diocesan College was established by Bishop Robert Gray in 1849, the first Anglican Bishop of Cape Town. Bishops has developed enormously since then to cover all age groups of children. It has been a key factor in outreach in a racially riven society. As early as 1972 it introduced isiXhosa as a subject into its curriculum the view being that, 'we value isiXhosa not just as a language but as a life-long learning skill' and as a means of inter-race understanding.

This attitude and policy has led to the establishment of Vusa, a translation of the Xhosa word for 'awaken'. The story of VUSA below is written by Nikki Matthews, the Trust Officer for VUSA.

LTPT warmly welcomes its recent connection with Bishops and VUSA, as some of our pre-school children through going to local primary schools get involved with sport and learning with VUSA and through the invaluable work of VUSA during the pandemic.

The VUSA Academy was started by Brendan Fogarty (a teacher at Bishops Prep School) about 20 years ago. It was initially run as a Bishops programme and children were bussed from impoverished communities to utilise Bishops facilities. It soon became apparent that a lot of time was spent in transit and a limited number of children could attend training. Fast forward to today (well, prior to Covid-19) and VUSA is now a registered Non Profit Organisation. We rent the Langa Sports Grounds and children from all five primary schools in Langa are invited to attend the programme. We also offer rugby, academic support in English and Maths, a recreational programme on weekends and each child who attends the programme, receives a hot daily meal.



Langa children spaced out in Nomonde Pre-School awaiting lunch prepared in Bishop's kitchens and served by VUSA Academy coaches



..... and learning at Nomonde.

In offering academic support, we quickly realised that early intervention was key and in 2019 we began an ECD (Early Child Development) programme with four registered centres in Langa. This is how our relationship with Nomonde and Dalukhanyo began.

VUSA employs 13 men and women from the community who coach and teach the children. (they are also wonderful role models, particularly to children from single parent or child headed households). These coaches go into the crèches each morning at 11am and offer physical education lessons. The games they play with the children introduce basic English words and numbers, supporting numeracy and literacy development (through play) and thus better equipping the children for school.

Whilst community development in Langa is VUSA's greatest priority, the boys at Bishops often aren't exposed to the broader South African communities. Through the school civics programme and in partnership with Bishops Prep School, we therefore take the Bishops boys to Langa (and vice versa) to form peer learning programmes. Bishops Grade 10 learners attend the crèches each week.

As it did throughout the world, Covid had a tremendous impact on the Langa community. Many households were left without incomes. Whilst we knew we had to suspend the sport and academic programmes, our coaches advised that children in the community were starving. Thanks to Dalukhanyo and Nomonde offering their facilities and Bishops opening their kitchen for food preparation, our coaches are able to feed up to 500 children each day. This number is ever growing.

Nikki Matthews - VUSA Trust Officer

There is more information about the Bishops/VUSA Rugby and Learning Academy on YouTube, in particular, these two links:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfU9MukT4jE and www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtLeGB9Er_4



Nomonde Water Conservation

Thanks to a donation from Cheltenham College repairs have been made to the guttering at the front of the main building and a new 2,500 litre water butt installed. Also, as shown in the photo the same system has been introduced to the back of the building, doubling the capacity. Local people are able to help themselves occasionally.





LTPT 10 Year Anniversary Nomonde Project

In April 2018 there was a special issue of the newsletter, the launch of the '10th Anniversary LTPT Nomonde Project'.

The LTPT Trust deed having been signed on 21 February 2011, the aim of the project was to have completed some important infrastructure projects by February 2021.

These included a new two-classroom building, security fencing and an improved playground. The first two have been completed.

Whilst planning continues for improvements to the playground it is possible that these will have to be delayed until later in 2021.

The COVID-19 emergency in the UK has forced the cancellation of the 2020/21 events programme through which we had planned to make an £8,000 contribution to the cost of the work on the playground.



We have been able to cover the fixed costs of our support for pre-schools in this financial year and may even be able to begin to save for the delayed playground project.

Happily the 'worst case scenario' developed in April has been set aside thanks to the appeals of Emily Lynskey, which raised £2,691, and new standing order donations in a separate COVID -19 response from six people, this being worth £1,726 in a full year. Additionally continuing we have the longstanding standing order commitments of another nine people whose support is so essential to us. Finally, popping up through PayPal in June a monthly donation of £100 has been committed to by a company in the USA, 'Enchanted Spaces' and we have received a welcome donation of £520 from longstanding supporters, Rothwell Accountants in Leeds.

Build a Child, Build a Nation – Our new website is now live

The new website has now been installed, taking the theme of 'Build a Child, Build a Nation'. The site leads a visitor through a sequence as follows:

Achievements – The First Seven Years

indicates the mission followed by a description of support for the Dalukhanyo Pre-School, which ended in 2018.

What Now?

describes transition establishing an office at Nomonde Pre-School and the setting up of the three year lead project for that pre-school.

What Next?

covers the completion of the Nomonde infrastructure work and confirms the extension of LTPT support to include five other pre-schools.

Langa Township

is a short description of life in the township, including a moving sequence of nine photos. There is a link to a chapter on the history of Langa Township from 'Cape Town Stories', by Gordon Gaddes.

You Can Help

especially in the context of COVID-19 in the Township, this is about raising and managing money and becoming a Friend of LTPT.

Newsletters

leads to an archive of all of the newsletters from 2011 onwards.



www.langapreschooltrust.uk

Other Links

Our Friends in Cape Town features the people who lead and serve these pre-schools. *Trustees and Patrons* includes photos and short biographies. *Report and Accounts* currently feature those for 2018/19. *Data Protection and Privacy* is the mandatory statement.

Christmas Card

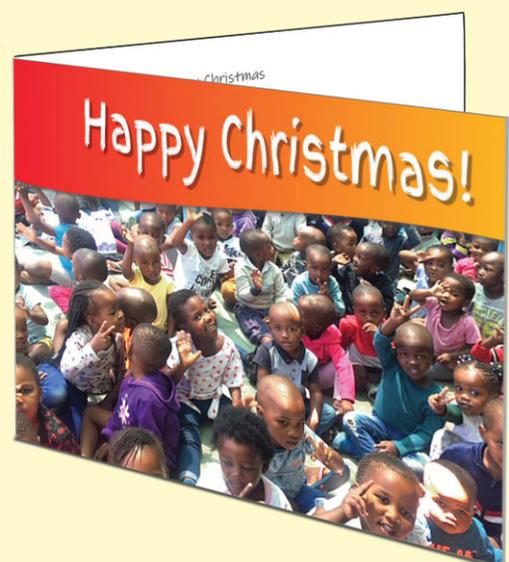
2020 will see our fourth LTPT Christmas card over the ten years and it features children from the Ilitha Educare Pre-School, one of the six supported by LTPT.

Including an envelope EACH card is priced at 50p. Orders, including postal delivery - minimum of 10 cards, can be placed through e-mail:

gordon.gaddes@btinternet.com

or by post to:

LTPT at 91 Highfield Lane,
Hemel Hempstead HP2 5JE



Sponsors

The sponsors below, all of whom have visited Langa Township, have helped recently to make it possible for LTPT to ride the financial effects of COVID-19.



Bil Bungay Creative Entrepreneur, as depicted in a lockdown oil painting by his sixteen year-old daughter.

Simon and Rachel of Rothwell Accountants, Leeds.

Rachel writes:

'We went to South Africa in July 2012 for our 25th Wedding Anniversary. We visited Langa Township on a Sunday and were invited into people's homes and attended a church service. We were very moved by what we saw and when we returned we wanted to help. I googled Langa and your project came up and so we decided that this was a charity we wanted to support because it was small and personal and making a difference.'



Revd Dr Adam Dunning, Cheltenham College

Editorial Photo-Boobs

The Editor apologises to Stuart and Sandy Cripps and to Claire and Robert Taylor. The photo in Newsletter 34 was not of Stuart and Sandy, who visited Nomonde in February 2020 but of Claire and Robert who visited in Nomonde in February 2019. Claire, with Andrea Smith, organised the highly successful coffee morning in the village of Dinton reported on page 2 of Newsletter 32.



Stuart & Sandy Cripps



Claire & Robert Taylor



Joseph, owner of 'Enchanted Spaces', Christopher, and their adopted children, Roman, Isabella, and Corvin.

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