

Trustees announce closure plans

In May 2021, Trustees announced plans for the closure of Friends of Hlekweni. 2021 is the final year of operation - a very active one! - with formal closure in 2022.

Since 2008, Friends of Hlekweni has supported children, schools, peace education partners and the Zimbabwe Secondary Bursary Scheme using donations from a dedicated group of donors in the UK and internationally. Our small volunteer team in the UK and partners in Zimbabwe have used this money to best effect by keeping expenses low and focusing funds where these will count most.

Over the last few years we have been looking ahead at how we can manage this work effectively and reliably. We now think that our small team will find our work untenable in the near future. Rather than face the likelihood of the work coming under increasing risk and stress, we have agreed to bring our activity to a managed closure. This decision has not been taken lightly. All of us have been in contact with the realities of life in Zimbabwe for some years and know full well that the needs of the people will be no less in the future.

Throughout the remainder of 2021, we aim to build as large a fund as possible to support projects into 2022.

The Clerks of Southern Africa Yearly Meeting have written to us:
'We are sure we speak for many Friends here when we acknowledge FoH for having rendered compassionate service. Even as FoH starts ...laying this work down, we remain encouraged by your sense of commitment to service and social justice.'

Zimbabwe Secondary Bursary Scheme



Greater Mudimba, funded by the Secondary School Bursary Scheme. Greater has recently done really well in her O-Level exams (which are still taken in Zimbabwe).

We remain committed to fulfilling our undertaking to support learners currently in the Zimbabwe Secondary Bursary Scheme to complete their secondary education by an endowment to pay all future fees.

Last chance to order Zimbabwean cushions or batik pieces!

Contact info@friendsofhlekweni.org.uk



Teacher accommodation at Lochview

One of the biggest projects FoH has funded is currently under construction: a simple teacher accommodation block at Lochview primary school. This will cost \$20,000, excluding furnishings, which the school community is funding.

Perpetual Chemhere, the headteacher tells us: *'The house will be occupied by myself and one or two teachers. This will enable me to be at school all the time for supervision of what happens after working hours. This will also add to the security of the school during the day and night. Projects in the school will be monitored closely without the Head and the teachers rushing for transport to go to home.'*

New Text Book for Peace Clubs in Zimbabwe

Since the beginning of the project, we have been shipping out used copies of an American text. Now, in collaboration with Don Rowe, Dorothy Moyo and Mandla Moyo (below) are writing one especially adapted to the needs and context of Zimbabwean pupils.



Peace Building work set to continue

Since we launched the Peace Clubs in schools project in 2016, we have been taken aback at the way teachers have welcomed the opportunity to be trained in how to set up and run Peace Clubs, equipping and empowering young people to become ambassadors for peace in school, at home and in the community.

We began with a group of 8 primary schools and now, with grant support from QPSW, we have inducted 25 secondary schools—and there are others keen to join.

The time is right for this project. Teachers are welcoming training in non-violence and conflict resolution. Officials from the Ministry of Education are also very supportive. One wrote, *"I appreciate all your efforts and Peace Building initiatives in our schools and community. In fact, I have been monitoring school children's positive behavior in the pilot schools compared to those that have not been inducted, there is a huge difference. There is need to induct more schools so as to inculcate positive peace and friendship value to our future generations".*

In order to continue supporting this particular project for at least three more years, Milton Keynes Meeting is planning to set up a committee to gather funds and channel them to **Alternatives to Violence Zimbabwe (AVPZ)**. This will enable them to continue their work in the community and through the Peace Clubs Project. The Committee will be called the 'Peace Building in Zimbabwe' committee. Interested? Contact: zimpeacework@gmail.com.

Thank you—please give generously to our final appeal and ensure your donation arrives by the end of 2021

A huge thumbs up to our wonderful supporters - individuals, Local and Area Meetings, Yearly Meetings in Europe, Trusts and legacies, especially in memory of those for whom Zimbabwe was a beloved country.

Thanks to you, Friends of Hlekweni has to date channeled almost £900,000 out for education and peace building projects in Zimbabwe. And thanks, also, to the indefatigable teddy knitters and pencil case makers who have brought joy (and pencils) to hundreds of children, and to people who've given other resources we've been able to take or ship out, including scientific calculators, books, educational toys, dozens of reading glasses and refurbished laptops.

Please help us to raise enough to fulfil all our plans for 2021 and to have enough for final grants at the end of this year to fund core activities - school meals, orphan fees, sanitary pads and peace building - in 2022.

How to donate to Friends of Hlekweni

- **By bank transfer** to: FRIENDS OF HLEKWENI R/C 1126598, The Co-op Bank, Sort Code: 08 92 99; Account no: 65319891
- **By cheque.** Please make cheques payable to: Friends of Hlekweni and send to: Friends of Hlekweni, c/o The Quaker Centre, 1 Oakley Gardens, MILTON KEYNES. MK15 9BH

Gift Aid - this increases your donation by 25% as long as you are a UK tax payer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick this box x

"I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... and any donations I make in the future, or have made in the past 4 years, to Friends of Hlekweni RC 1126598. I am a UK taxpayer and understand if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of the Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference."

Name (including title) : _____

Address & postcode: _____

_____ Date: _____

Please notify us if you: want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Email address: _____

Friends of Hlekweni is a registered charity 1126598. www.friendsofhlekweni.org.uk

Trustees: Lee Taylor (clerk), Roger Moore (treas.), Graham Bishop, Jessica Bishop, and David Brown.

Email: info@friendsofhlekweni.org.uk.



Summer/Autumn 2021

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FINAL FUNDRAISING APPEAL

An already tough situation in Zimbabwe has deteriorated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Disadvantaged people face even more difficulties - ongoing lockdowns, serious school disruptions and night-time curfews.

We share news of what Friends of Hlekweni is doing to support education and peacebuilding in a highly active year of close cooperation with our resilient partners and Quakers in Zimbabwe. We also have news of our planned closure—and a route for ongoing support for the peace-building projects.



Women of the Nketa township community, Bulawayo, delighted with new glasses. They have also received emergency food packages for their families.