

Amasango

No. 4 : March 2007

DRUGS continue to be a problem at Grahamstown, especially after the holiday periods. There were two stabbings by 'high' children after Christmas and there is no State scheme for Rehabilitation for under 18s in the Eastern Cape. Your PRAYERS would be much appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS to Siseko Gqola and Pikelwa Kondile on passing their MATRIC and good luck in their next try for University places. Simthembile has now done his bridging course at Rhodes University and is starting his Bachelor of Fine Arts course. Past pupil Misiwe Chibi has won the Xhosa reading competition for the whole district. On the athletic side Noziqhamo Diko, Zikhona Habana Anathi Nwadi were all selected to participate in a regional district athletic meeting.

VOLUNTEERS in the last year have included Alistair Williams, bringing the number sent by Mutley Baptist Church in Plymouth up to six! But volunteers don't just come from Britain; last year they came from USA, Australia, Sweden, Finland, Belgium and Holland. Three young volunteers going this year had a weekend at St. Andrew's in Suffolk in December as part of their preparations. KEEP COMING!

UNIVERSITY LECTURE in Port Elizabeth will be given by Jane on 'Challenges and Successes in teaching Street-children' in June. She prays that this will raise the plight of street-children in general.

YOUR TRUSTEES selected at the AGM last September are Mark Wright, John and Anne Cartmell, Elizabeth Earnshaw-Smith, Brian Wakeham and Rebecca Pennells .

A **MINIMUM DONATION** for Friends has now been established at £10 a year or £500 for life.

Newsletter of the Friends of Amasango

JANE ARRIVES on 1st July

Jane Bradshaw hopes to be here in the UK for most of July on the next of her now well-established annual visits. If you have any event you would particularly like her to attend please contact Brian (0208 4454613). One problem we have is that so far we have no SPONSORS for this year's trip; if you would like to make a contribution to the £900 cost of flight, travel and subsistence in the UK that would be wonderful! Please contact John, our Treasurer on 01283 585428

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the *Friends of Amasango* will be held on **Saturday 28th July** at 11.30 am at **St. James' Church, Piccadilly, London**. All Friends are asked to be there if at all possible.

PROGRESS WITH THE NEW SCHOOL

Architects have been appointed and site meetings held. The Dutch Rotary Club which Jane addressed last year has offered 30,000 Euros to build an irrigated soccer field **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

CHARITABLE STATUS We are pleased to announce that this was granted to the Friends of Amasango in October (No. 1116268). This means that we can take advantage of Gift Aid as well as being more attractive for some corporate donors. However, a condition is that all Trustees and volunteers have CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) clearance. We are also required to control the use in Grahamstown of our donations and have independent scrutiny of our accounts.

THANK YOU FRIENDS!

This is being another good year for volunteers and for finance. A big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped! Reports at the AGM will give more details. We may possibly raise in excess of £20,000 this year + Gift Aid (over £2,250 so far)!