



Newsletter Spring 2015



Registered Charity No. 289084

Finance

Our income over the last 5 years

2009-2010 - £58,000	2010-2011 - £32,000	2011-2012 - £31,000
2012-2013 - £27,000	2013-2014 - £27,000	

Recent donations made

Zarka North School £6,742 • Hashimi School £6,742 • Beit Sahour School £11,486
 • Hashimi School Playground £4,000 • English Project £5,000

In addition, regular payments of £10,000 are made to the Latin Patriarchate to support school fees.

The most recent project is to renovate the courtyard of the Latin Patriarchate School in Hashimi. This involves renovating and building the surrounding stone wall and laying an asphalt playground with suitable access.

'On behalf of Fr. Adnan Bader and the Latin Patriarchate School in Hashimi and its students, we extend our gratitude and thanksgiving for your wonderful support and continued assistance.'

The Christians of Palestine urgently need your support to ensure continuing education for their children and to promote peace in all communities.

You can help by:

- Sending a donation,
- Making a regular payment by standing order using the enclosed form which can be gift aided,
- Organising a fund-raising event in your local parish.
Members of CNT will be pleased to visit groups and schools to give a presentation.

The Trust Committee:

Chairman, Bernard Whyte KCSG.,

Secretary, Benedict McHugo, KCSG. Donald McEwan, KSG.,

Treasurer, Phil Parker,

Margaret Cassidy, DCHS., Margaret Waddingham, DC*HS. Rev. Mqr Eugene Harkness KHS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

These have been difficult times for the Trust, and in common with many other charities we have suffered the effects of the economic downturn and the compelling need to support the many disasters both human and man-made that confront us almost daily. Our income from donations is much reduced but nevertheless we continue to make a significant contribution to the education of children in the Holy Land. We are most grateful for the continued support of our many loyal donors who maintain regular giving through standing orders etc. From time to time, we also receive donations from individuals and parishes that run special events to raise funds for the Holy Land. Our heartfelt thanks to you all. Trust members regularly visit the Holy land and meet with local parishioners and most importantly see for themselves the urgent need for support in the schools. As always, they are encouraged by the stoicism and fortitude of the population despite the increasing pressures of everyday life. We consider it so important to invest in the future by supporting education. We do this primarily by assisting to pay the education fees for children of the less well-off families who would otherwise not receive education in a Christian school. You will see how we support other educational projects in the following report.

We are sorry to lose Patricia Richardson who has resigned as a Trustee due to commitments to other aspects of support for the Holy Land. Pat has been a member of the CNT for 26 years and a trustee for the last 14 years. Her husband Malcolm sadly now deceased was also a trustee. In that time, she has been an ardent supporter of educational aid to the Holy Land leading pilgrimages and visiting schools in Israel, Palestine and Jordan on numerous occasions, especially schools where CNT has been involved. She was a teacher for 30 years, and her experience has been most valuable in directing the work of the trusts. Pat states, "I have been particularly satisfied with the way education has developed in the Patriarchate schools during that time, partly due to our initiatives". We thank Pat for her long and valued involvement with CNT and wish her every blessing in her new responsibilities'.

If you wish to contribute to our various projects, or increase you donation, please use the enclosed form.

Please note that our expenses are less than 6% of contributions, and we maintain minimal balances in our bank accounts.

Bernard Whyte, Chairman

Contact: Chairman: bernardwhyte@btinternet.com Tel: 01487 812094

Patron: Rt. Rev. Bishop Alan Hopes. Bishop of East Anglia

Summer Camps

Over 45 students from British universities volunteered to work in summer camps from 2009 to 2013. They raised over £15000 to help in this work in Madaba in Jordan, and Aboud, Jifna, Beit Jala, and Nablus in Palestine and Israel. There were also contributions from the KHS, and the Catenian Bursary Fund.

Although no official British group was organised this year, a flavour of these camps is given by the following account:-

Madaba Summer Camp 2014

A report from Pat Richardson

“In June 2014, I visited the summer camp taking place at the Catholic school in Madaba. and what a marvellous and uplifting experience it turned out to be. It lasted for two months, catering for 300 children aged between 5 and 12 years. There were 80 young volunteers mostly university students and scouts who look after the children. The camp ran Monday to Thursday and on Saturdays, and the children have a day trip.

Each afternoon began with prayers and a warm up session before the different age groups went off to their activities. The children (or most of them) went off eagerly with their volunteers whilst I wandered between them.

The first room I entered contained a group of 8 year olds. They were in the middle of a fun science session, trying to inflate a balloon without actually blowing it up. They succeeded - with help!

I then watched a martial arts group in the playground. Another group was in a music session, learning scales and playing virtual instruments, whilst yet another group was learning French. The young man teaching them was from Paris, and had volunteered for the whole two months.

One of my favourite activities was with a

group of Kindergarten children. This was the first year the camp has taken such young children. The children were making little cakes. Firstly, they broke up plain biscuits into small pieces; then the adults mixed these with chocolate sauce and made them into little balls. The children rolled these in coconut and ate them. I declined!

I was particularly impressed with groups involved in arts and crafts and recycling. They were making beautiful objects using very few resources, including CDs and egg boxes. Other children were making mosaics (Madaba is famous for its ancient mosaics), and yet others were dancing or participating in sport.

All the children were obviously absorbed in what they are doing, and the volunteers certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves as well.

The children were very well behaved, despite the number and age range. This is in no small part due to the reward system. For good behaviour and good work, the children are given printed ‘dollars’, which they can build up and spend in the gift shop to buy items, made during craft sessions. The joy on a small boy’s face when he was given one of these dollars was unforgettable!

Madaba Summer Camp is a very worthy (and grateful) recipient of CNT funding.”



The English Project 2011-2014

... Without CNT and KHS support these schools would cease to exist.

CNT contributed to an ambitious five phase training programme for LPJ teachers of English which started in 2011. Initially the twenty teachers trained online but later phases included three English Language tutors, The Flying Squad, going to Amman to hold workshops and seminars. After a period of consolidation, the Flying Squad returned to carry out observational visits at each teacher’s school. The tutors returned again in 2013, making two visits to each school. The teachers reported that these visits, which are part of the unique aspect of this project, were invaluable in enabling them to acquire confidence and expertise in new teaching techniques. Two teachers acquired TESOL qualifications and others came to Lewis School of English in Southampton for further training. These teachers were then able to cascade best practice to their colleagues.

Fr Ashraf Al Nimri, LPJ Director of Education in Jordan: “We are very thankful for the effort and what you have achieved in our English teachers. I think having some of our teachers as certified TESOL trainers is interesting ... they can be the core of the technical team working with English teachers in all our schools”.

Between 2011 and 2013, the Flying Squad tutors provided different levels of training for over ninety teachers from Jordan and Israel. They agreed that “this is the best training we have ever had and that they were thankful for this training opportunity”.

So successful was this training that twenty Palestinian teachers followed a similar training programme in 2013-2014. Another seventeen teachers attended a short Training Day.”. Awad Abu Airob of Zababdeh School, Palestine wrote: “This course has been a great success for our

schools. The teachers had the chance to be introduced to new techniques, methods and activities which they could carry back to their classes to apply. This was not done theoretically; it was practical and applied. Hopefully, our English classes will be fun and enjoyable for our students as there will be a lot of change, movement, activity and positive noise that our students will like”.

The English Project has set a model of good practice and professional development. The pattern of a self-sustaining and unified group of English teachers in the LPJ schools has been established. With the help of CNT, it is planned to bring three teachers from Nablus, Ramallah and Beit Jala in Palestine for TESOL training at Lewis School this coming June. The commitment and enthusiasm of the LPJ teachers who have made impressive progress in such a short time are to be admired. Their Head Teachers soon realised that these training methods and skills were transferrable to other subjects and the transformation of teaching is underway. We are grateful to the inspirational Lewis Teacher Training Team and the support given to this project by the LPJ Education Departments in Jordan, Israel and Palestine.

Margaret Waddingham



“A view of Jerusalem”