



UK LANGA TOWNSHIP PRE-SCHOOL TRUST

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 46 NOVEMBER 2023



Gordon reports:

In the July 2022 issue of the LTPT Newsletter (issue 42) the above 2-year project was described, the central aim being to provide the Langa Early Child Development Forum (LECDF) with a building to enable it better to develop its vital work. There were further reports in issues 43 and 44, when two problems were emerging. First, there was a growing understanding of the complexity of what we wanted to achieve, 6000 miles away from our base. Second, it was becoming clear that such an initiative would cost more than the £50,000 which LTPT would be able to provide. Happily, in the Summer 2023 Newsletter Issue, I was able to report that a lot of progress was being made through two of my new contacts, Chris Beech and Gary Clueit.

Now I am able to report further following a two-hour ZOOM meeting on 20 October linking me (Hemel Hempstead) with Chris Beech (Cape Town) and Gary Clueit (Douglas, Isle of Man). The three of us (The Trio), together in mutual trust, with determination and working free of charge, intend to do whatever we can to achieve by May 2025 the official opening of a LECDF Centre.

We see it as our mission that this centre, as a demonstration project, will provide better opportunities for child development, for the empowerment of children and women, and sustainability.

The main features of the project now are:

- that this is a LECDF project for a Centre which is in the responsibility of the LECDF
- that Chris Beech is to be the Project Manager covering every aspect of the project
- that the financial sponsors of the project are:  
the UK Langa Township Pre-School Trust (including the Cheltenham College Partnerships, Charities and Community initiative, the Parish of St Mary and St Paul Hemel Hempstead and other sponsors) represented by Gordon Gaddes.  
the Clueit Foundation represented by Gary Clueit.

The Trio next will meet via ZOOM 16 November and this will be the second of a series of meetings which will be needed to make progress on this project.





**TARGET SMASHED!**  
**£4,800 raised**



Only 6 miles to go!

**FERGUS RUNNING FOR LANGA KIDS**

Starting around 8am on 11 November Fergus Pickles completed the 34 - mile run in six and a quarter- hours, finishing 12th out of a field of 100. His parents, Sarah and Stuart, were there along with grandad Gordon, driving round to three vantage points to encourage him on his way. The run was from sea level up and down steep slopes, some rocky, some slimy. The going was very tough but throughout there was glorious sunshine, with temperatures rising from 3C to 11C. Several of his friends were also running in the shorter runs. There was a great party of celebration that Saturday evening in a local pub.

The support for Fergus has been magnificent, 152 people donating just over £4,800, including the gift aid element. The target was £2,500, and this sum has been allocated between 39 creches and pre-schools in an amount proportionate to number of children and staff.

However, given the extra amount raised we decided to allocate some of that on an equal basis, an extra ZAR200 for each entity (approximately £10). The money value is being given in the form of food vouchers to be spent at the discretion of each principal and this will help 3,000 children to be better fed in the last week of their Christmas term. The whole process is being worked on and overviewed by LTPT' s Nadia Petersen in Cape Town and Nomonde Educare 's Yolisa Gquirani.

The rest of the money raised, around £1,700, will be transferred into the fund we are building up to help provide a building for the use of the Langa Early Child Development Forum, target completion by May 2025.

Many of the donations have been through Just Giving, within which many comments have been especially encouraging for Fergus, some of which feature below:

"This is a great thing to do."

"Good luck Fergus. The Langa Trust is a wonderful project and provides desperately needed support for youngsters in the Township."

"You are an inspiration; prayers are with you"

"What a great cause and an amazing achievement"



En route  
– The loneliness of the long distance runner



Mission accomplished!

**IAN LAIDLAW-DICKSON OBE**



We are very sad to announce that Ian Laidlaw-Dickson passed away on 1 June this year. With his partner Julia Coleman Ian had been a supporter of LTPT over several years, attending events, making donations and always encouraging us.

Ian, a member of the Labour Party for nearly 50 years had been an election agent, and had served as a senior councillor on both the County Council and the Dacorum Borough Council. Relating to the former, he was Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police Authority for five years and was appointed OBE in 2010.

A life of unstinting service to others is epitomised to the end by service as a Trustee of the homeless charity DENS over the last dozen years.



## LTPT 2023 CHRISTMAS CARD

This smiling group are waving appreciatively the 2022 Christmas card, on which you may remember the children had very serious - looking faces. There are a fair number of cards left so PLEASE order if you are interested; sold with envelopes £3.50 per pack of 10, sent to you post free within the UK.



## FORTHCOMING EVENT

Gin and Jazz at the Gatsby

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Gin cocktail, 3 course dinner,  
Al Nicholls Quartet - £50



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