



# friends of the **martyn donaldson** music trust

Newsletter 5 | July 2005

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which will keep you up-to-date with our recent activities and some exciting forthcoming events. Our website, [www.mdmtd.org.uk](http://www.mdmtd.org.uk), will be re-launched over the summer, so please take a look and let us know what you think!

Thank you as always for your on-going support of Martyn's Trust.

*Stephanie Donaldson &  
Jane Silvester*

## Royal Approval

We are delighted to announce that MDMT and Starehe Boys Centre & School will be jointly hosting a special fund-raising reception in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal. Taking place on Friday 9th September, the lunchtime reception will be held at Macclesfield Methodist Church.

We are hoping the business community in Macclesfield will take advantage of the opportunity to experience at first hand the work of both Starehe and MDMT and present their donations to Princess Anne in person.

As a token of our appreciation, all Friends of MDMT will receive an invite to this exclusive event, so put the date in your diary now!

***NB. We have since received news of Dr Griffin's death and are currently waiting to hear how this might affect our royal reception. We will of course keep you posted.***

## DR GEOFFREY GRIFFIN

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of the founder and Director of Starehe Boys Centre, **Dr Griffin**, on Tues 28th June. Dr Griffin had been under treatment for stomach cancer and died at Nairobi Hospital. His death, which was announced by President Mwai Kibaki, was headline news in East Africa, demonstrating the esteem in which Starehe and Dr Griffin are held. The President described Dr Griffin as someone who had left an indelible mark on the country's education sector by establishing a model school.



*MDMT Trustees with Dr Griffin at Starehe*

Born in Eldoret in 1933, Dr Griffin enlisted after the declaration of the State of Emergency in 1952 and served as an Intelligence Officer. He later joined the Civil Service to run a rehabilitation scheme for youths in detention camps. While serving in this role he met his co-founders at Starehe, Geoffrey Geturo and Joseph Gikubu. Since its founding, Starehe has grown from two tin huts caring for 15 boys to a modern campus with a population of nearly 1000 students, three quarters of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Dr Griffin received the OBE in 2002 and this year had been presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kenya National Human Rights Commission, for his untiring efforts in promoting Kenyan children's right to education.

On behalf of everyone connected with MDMT, we have sent our deepest sympathies to the Starehe community. We were privileged to meet Dr Griffin on our trip to Nairobi and remember him as an inspiring and remarkable man. Dr Griffin will be buried in the school chapel in a ceremony on 7th July.

## Dancing Queen

Local dance (singing and theatre) teacher and good friend of Martyn, **Carolyn Farrish-Mayer** of "The Art House Theatre and Dance School" donated all the profits from her annual show presented by her senior pupils on April 29th & 30th, when over 60 pupils took part and delighted packed audiences.

Our grateful thanks to Carolyn for supporting MDMT.



# Sparkling Celebrity Auction

On Saturday 26th February we sparkled with the stars of Coronation Street and enjoyed MDMT's first ever Celebrity Auction in the sophisticated surroundings of the Tytherington Club, Macclesfield. A great evening's entertainment was had by all, including a delicious four course meal, a delightful jazz duo, brilliant bidding wars and dynamic disco dancing. The evening started with a Bucks Fizz reception as guests mingled with Corrie gems Jennie McAlpine (Fizz) and Julia Haworth (Claire Peacock.) Secret sealed bids were placed for special raffle prizes which was a great way to get the money flowing and items such as John Snow's crazy tie and Victoria Wood's Acorn Antiques Snow-storm were sold for more than £50 each!!

After a beautiful dinner was served, our fabulous auctioneers, Simon Gregson (alias Steve McDonald) and Anthony Cotton (alias Sean Tulley) took to the Gavel like Les Battersby to The Rovers Return and soon had the bids coming in thick and fast.

The highest bid came from our very own trusty trustee Matt Berry for the Coronation Street signed script and tour of the show as a wedding present for his gorgeous fiancée, Lindsay. Close behind were bids for the Manchester United signed shirt that sold for a whopping £500 and the Manchester City signed shirt that sold for a massive £370! Overall the event raised over £5000 for MDMT and sincere thanks goes out to everyone who had a hand in organising and taking part. The evening was rounded off with a touching speech from MDMT's honorary



*From Left to right, Jennie McAlpine, (Fizz) Julia Haworth, (Claire Peacock) Anthony Cotton (Sean) and Simon Gregson (Steve McDonald) at The Celebrity Auction looking like starlets!*

guest Kennedy Hongo, who reminded us all of how the money raised will help towards educating underprivileged children throughout Kenya. A fabulous evening's entertainment and all for a good cause! See you all at the next one!

## News from Nairobi

Our Music Volunteer in Kenya, Matt Brooks, has now been working at Starehe Boys Centre & School for nearly a year. Here is an update on his most recent few months:

- Rehearsed a group of boys to take part in a massed choir in the Bomas of Kenya, which included choirs from international and private schools around Nairobi, where we performed 'Ocean World'.



*Matt at Starehe Girls School*

- Took a group of boys to see a performance of 'Don Giovanni' at Nairobi Arboretum, performed by the Garden Opera Company as part of the Kijani Kenya Festival.
- Took a group of boys to see the Nairobi Symphony Orchestra in action (featuring Matt on timps!).
- Held Starehe's inter-house music competition, with external adjudicators from local schools.
- Took part in Founder's Day on 25th June – the boys sang, girls from the new Starehe Girls School did some traditional dances and two of Matt's piano students played piano. Guest of Honour was the Kenyan Vice-President.



*Matt and the group performing 'Ocean World'.*

- Entered nine classes at Kenya Music Festival provincials, with the finals taking place in August.
- Outside school, Matt is rehearsal pianist for the NMS Choir, plays percussion for the orchestra, accompanied performers in the Precious Blood Girls' School inter-house music competition, adjudicated in a music festival at Hillcrest School and played for a cabaret show.
- Matt's also headed out to spend Christmas in Mombasa and Easter in Lamu.



# Maccstock Rocked!

The MDMT's annual music festival Maccstock 3 was again a major success.

The first act was **Joff**, who played a lovely acoustic set, thus creating a splendid welcoming atmosphere. Following on at 6.00pm, DJ **Otis B Driftwood** got the party started with a great selection on popular music. The next band to play was **The Sketch Trio**, who sounded beautiful. **Lis Murphy** the lead singer has the voice of an angel. The following band was a complete change of direction. **Deep Pleasure**, as they are called, dressed all in white added a funky flavour to the event, producing many movers and shakers on the dance floor.

DJ **Odd shaped Dog** played a stunning reggae / dub set which got the party swinging and smooching until **Ezily Led** (A Led Zepplin tribute band) took the roof off with their incredible rocking set. The next act was **Bride of Funkenstein**, which consisted of two DJs playing an assortment of music, from homemade Macclesfield stuff to funk, jazz, hip-hop, reggae, pop and dub, all mixed together in a very unusual fashion. The next band was **The Likeness** (A Darkness tribute band, whose lead singer featured on Stars in Their Eyes earlier this year). These guys rocked! It was a great entrance and a fabulous show. Next came the DJ **James Bright**, who has an album released soon and who's music has appeared on many Balearic compilations. He played a blindingly diverse set which included many nineties indie classics. The party was now rocking to the sounds of a crowd pleasing DJ.

The final band should need no introduction to Macclesfield's gig going public. **The Hot Bananas** have been doing 'the biz' in Macclesfield for many years now. They played some old favourites and a few new numbers. Tickling the crowd with their funky rock whilst bemusing a few shocked looking newcomers. Ending the night was DJ **Jut**. He contributed with a brilliant set, bringing the party to a climax with rockers dancing to rave and ravers dancing to rock. And that's what its all about!

**Jeff Coghlan**, June 2005

*The Trustees of The Martyn Donaldson Music Trust would like to say a great big thank you to all involved in making Maccstock 3 such a huge success. To everyone who donated their time and effort to perform, to the proprietors and staff of Angels nightclub, to all the people who worked tirelessly to promote it, and most importantly, to every single person who came and showed their support, THANK YOU!*

*With your help we staged a brilliant event, which raised over £2650 for the trust. We hope you all enjoyed it. Maybe we can do it again sometime?*



*The Likeness*

## Friends for Leisure

MDMT once again sponsored the work of Friends for Leisure, a local Macclesfield organisation that enables disabled and able-bodied young people to work together to put on an all-singing, all-dancing show once a year! Trustee Colin North represented MDMT at the public performance of 'The Snow Queen' held in Poynton High School and comments:

*"Having provided the venue, several of the staff and Sixth Form students helped with the staging of the show and also backstage. The preparation and rehearsal were spread over 22 weeks and the disabled youngsters, as they're happy to be known, are encouraged to participate in the all-inclusive activity. As one watches them perform, one soon realises that very little encouragement is needed, as they simply love to put on a show and clearly get great enjoyment!*

*They do, however, need help and guidance and here the dedication of all the helpers, carers, students and parents is much in evidence, and their contribution is beyond measure.*

*There was a cast of 16/17 young people, but a programme which listed 60/70 names of people involved, plus your correspondent who poured cups of coke and handed out crisps for light refreshment at the end of a moving and joyful evening."*

## MDMT makes music in Uganda

A collection of brass instruments kindly donated by Bollington Brass Band, All Hallows High School, Macclesfield and Rainsford Brass Band from Wigan along with accessories to maintain them have arrived at Oxford High School in Uganda. This is a new school supported by Starehe(!) that has made a priority of developing a marching band to create esprit de cour among the students and serve the wider community – a feature of Starehe from its very early days to the present. We hope to update you on the band's progress in future newsletters.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## Musical Soiree

**Friday 22nd July 2005**

We welcome musician **Matt Brown** and friends to give a musical soiree at the home of Vin and Sue Thomas in Macclesfield. They will perform light classical music, cool jazz, folk song arrangements and popular operatic arias suitable for a relaxed summer's evening, to be accompanied by strawberries! If you would like a ticket, please contact the Donaldsons on 01625 433187.

## Reception in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal

**Friday 9th September, Macclesfield Methodist Church**

Friends of MDMT will receive an invitation to this event in due course.

## Martyn's Music 2

**Saturday 10th September, 7.30pm, Macclesfield Methodist Church**

After the sell-out success of Martyn's Music I, two years ago, we are proud to present another evening of music associated with Martyn performed by his friends and family. Demonstrating Martyn's vast and varied musical tastes, the programme ranges from Haydn and Chopin to Cagney & Lacey and Stevie Wonder, taking in some of Martyn's own compositions along the way.

**Tickets: £5 to Friends of MDMT** (£7 normal price). Please complete the enclosed slip to order tickets, contact one of the Trustees or email Steph at [stephanie.donaldson@uce.ac.uk](mailto:stephanie.donaldson@uce.ac.uk)

## St Aidan's School Swing Band

**Saturday 12th November, 7.30pm, Macclesfield Methodist Church**

Recipients of the 2004 MDMT Outstanding Performance Award at the National Festival of Music for Youth, St Aidan's toe-tapping Swing Band will entertain you with a vast range of music ranging from Glenn Miller to Santana. The evening will include soloists and full band numbers and promises to get you swinging all the way home!

# A Special MDMT Friend

We were sorry to hear of the death of our very first Friend of MDMT, Mary Meakin. Mary's daughter writes *"Mary had a love of music from being a small girl, as her father sang with Huddersfield Choral Society, Handel's Messiah being her favourite. She was always concerned with the plight of children everywhere. The aims of MDMT to help educate children in Kenya and to promote musical ability both in Kenya and this country were obviously close to her heart. It gave her much pleasure to contribute to the MDMT."*

Our condolences go to Mary's family and friends and our grateful thanks for the further donations received since Mary's death.

## MDMT at Music for Youth

The National Festival of Music for Youth moves from London to Birmingham this July. MDMT sponsors awards in the Choral and Jazz categories, both of which are about to take place in the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire, as we go to press!



Information about the award-recipients will follow and we hope to engage at least one of the groups to perform for you at a concert in Macclesfield in the future.



## Your Friendly Trustees

**Chairman: Andy Donaldson**

**Vice-Chairman and Friends Co-ordinator: Stephanie Donaldson**

**Secretary: Linda Donaldson**

**Treasurer: Matthew Berry**

**Publicity: Chris Brown**

**Fund-raiser: Katie Muncaster**

**Fund-raiser: Lis Murphy**

**MDMT Trustee: Colin North**

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