

Civic recognition joy for charity

REPRESENTATIVES from the Bambisanani Partnership have had their work recognised by the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

Councillor Graham Latty, and the Lady Mayoress, Councillor Pat Latty, met members of the charity at Civic Hall.

David Geldart, founder of the charity, was joined at the meeting by fellow trustees Barbara Pounder and Andrew Lockwood, together with Leeds Trinity University student Beth Ward, who had just returned from volunteering in South Africa, and Karen Murgatroyd, from International Relations Leeds, who has supported the partnership from the onset.

The Bambisanani Partnership uses the power of sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of South Africa's poorest rural regions.

The partnership began at St Mary's School, Menston, but now also involves students from the University of Leeds and Leeds Trini-

ty University in the volunteering programme.

Mr Geldart said: "It was a great honour to have the work of the partnership recognised in this prestigious way. Leeds has a very special relationship with South Africa, with the city providing tremendous support during the Anti-Apartheid era; a point which was recognised by Nelson Mandela himself when he famously visited Leeds in 2001.

"The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress have a long-standing interest in the work of the Bambisanani Partnership and have been great supporters over the years. It was good that they had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the different organisations involved.

"They are genuinely interested in our work and were very keen to hear of our plans for the future that will help contribute to further developing the special Leeds-South Africa relationship." Mr Geldart presented a copy of the latest Bambisanani book to the Lord Mayor as a gift to the city.



Left to right - Beth Ward, Andrew Lockwood, Karen Murgatroyd, David Geldart, Lord Mayor Graham Latty, Lady Mayoress Pat Latty and Barbara Pounder