



# Bambisanani Partnership

Working Together, Learning Together



## Bambisanani Partnership in the News

A selection of published articles and reports  
2016 – 2020



# Introduction



Bambisanani  
Partnership

In 2006 the Bambisanani Partnership emerged from a British Council/Youth Sport Trust initiative linking UK and South African Schools through physical education and sport. The link between St. Mary's High School in Leeds and Mnyakanya High School, which serves one of KwaZulu-Natal's most deprived rural communities, went on to become embedded in the lives of both schools, inspiring young people in many areas of the curriculum through joint learning activities.

Bambisanani is a Zulu word meaning 'working hand in hand' and aptly describes the work and vision of this inspirational partnership that uses sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

Now a multi-award winning charity, the pioneering partnership has gained international acclaim for its work. Despite the most challenging of circumstances this project has not only been sustained it has grown and expanded to involve other schools and indeed universities.

Significantly, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University are now both heavily involved in the partnership and like St. Mary's School regularly have students out in South Africa to extend and develop the partnership's various programmes, including 'Leadership Through Sport', 'Literacy Through Sport' and 'Cycling To Success'.

A fundamental aim of the partnership has been to create genuine 'two way' learning between both countries with a key focus on 'working together and learning together'. The Bambisanani story is testimony of the power of sport to change lives and has served as a reminder to many just why they became a teacher.

**Four highly acclaimed Bambisanani books have been published, the last in 2016. This booklet provides a selection of published articles, reports and news stories from 2016 – 2020.**



At the annual Reading Festival



Sports Festival at Mnyakanya High School



The road to Mnyakanya High School



*"The Bambisanani Partnership represents a truly authentic approach to educating children about health, global citizenship and leadership. St. Mary's School, Menston, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University should be applauded for creating and developing this inspiring project which uses sport to positively connect pupils from different cultures. It is a clear win-win situation innovation with boundless benefits for students in the UK as well as those in a deprived region of South Africa. The partnership clearly has the power to change lives for the good and develop long-standing friendships across nations. Many schools around the world would benefit from knowing more about this partnership and adopting similar innovative approaches to genuinely enhancing young people's lives."*

**— Dr Jo Harris, Loughborough University**

*"Much of our life in the UK has become obsessed with materialism and 'celebrity'. We have lost touch with things that really matter. My visit to South Africa has given me a much more meaningful perspective on life."*

**— UK student**

*"We have worked together...people of different colours, countries, religions and cultures...we have proved it can be done."*

**— South African student**



**Sports Leader from Mnyakanya High School**



**St. Mary's students visiting the Umlalazi Day Centre and Creche**



**Playing football in 2006 taken by David Geldart when he first visited Nkandla**



**At the annual Sports Festival**



*"Sport has the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Sport can create hope where there was once only despair. It breaks down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all kinds of discrimination. Sport speaks to people in a language they can understand."*

— Nelson Mandela

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

— Nelson Mandela



Students from St. Mary's and Mnyakanya working together



Artwork by a Mnyakanya High School student



Artwork by a St. Mary's school student



Football at Mnyakanya High School

# SHARED BIRTHDAYS –

## Bambisanani Partnership also Celebrates its Tenth Anniversary

David Geldart [afPE Honoured Member]

In 2006, as the then Director of PE and Sport at St Marys RC Sports College in Leeds, I visited South Africa as part of the British Council/Youth Sport Trust *Dreams and Teams* initiative. Ten years on, and as a direct result of that initial visit, I now have the privilege of leading the multi-award winning Bambisanani Partnership charity. The partnership has gained international acclaim for its work developing value-driven sport for its own sake but also, and significantly, for using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship, enterprise and leadership in one of South Africa's poorest regions.

From an initial meeting between two schools from very different parts of the world – St Mary's in Leeds and Mnyakanya School in rural KwaZulu Natal – the Bambisanani Partnership emerged and has grown into an exceptional international collaboration based on mutual respect and shared outcomes: *"Two school communities working together and learning*

*together"*. The Zulu word 'Bambisanani' literally means 'working hand in hand' and is a fitting name for the partnership. Very few international school links are sustained for as long or have the impact that the Bambisanani Partnership has had. I believe that this in down to the two school communities making an absolute and genuine commitment to global learning and to each other: *"The Bambisanani Partnership is not just embedded in both schools' communities it is part of our DNA now, part of who we are and what we believe in. This work is a constant reminder of our values, our purpose and the importance of interdependence."*

Annual exchange visits of teachers and students have had a most profound effect on all those involved.

St Mary's students:

*"My world has just got bigger, I realise it is my duty to be a global citizen."*

*"Much of our life in the UK has become obsessed with materialism and 'celebrity'. We have lost touch with things that really matter. My visit to South Africa has given me a much more meaningful perspective on life."*

Mnyakanya students:

*"We have worked together.... people of different colours, countries, religions and cultures.... we have proved it can be done."*

*"My view of the world has changed. I can now see what a difference it makes when you love and respect people."*

A key feature of the Bambisanani Partnership is the fact that, throughout the year, a range of learning activities take place to involve as many curriculum areas and students as possible. This is a major reason for the success of the programme.





## INTERNATIONAL MATTERS



Very few curriculum areas in either school have not harnessed the enormous interest in the Bambisanani Partnership as a catalyst for learning. Beyond PE and sport some remarkable work has also taken place in humanities, religious education, English, science, music and art. Students also have the opportunity to be involved in the Bambisanani Enterprise Programme (a student-led business to support the work of the partnership), the Bambisanani Award Programme and the Bambisanani Leadership Programme. Whilst not everyone

is able to go on the annual visit, everyone can be involved in something, whether they are a student or member of staff.

Last year I left my beloved St Mary's School to establish and lead the Bambisanani Partnership as a registered charity. This will enable us to make an even greater impact, as our supporters recognise.

**“** It is wonderful news that the Bambisanani Partnership has become a registered charity. For

the past ten years staff and students at St Mary's and Mnyakanya have worked tirelessly to create an amazing partnership that has used the power of sport to promote wider educational goals in a genuine international collaboration. Becoming a charity demonstrates the commitment of both schools to global learning which will now lead to further opportunities to involve more schools and young people in both countries in this inspirational work. **”**





Baroness Sue Campbell CBE, Chair of the Youth Sport Trust

**“** I am delighted that the Bambisanani Partnership has become a registered charity. This is further recognition for the hard work and commitment of all the staff and students who have been involved in the partnership, both at St Mary's and also Mnyakanya High School. We have been honoured to work with the Bambisanani Partnership over recent

years, helping shine the spotlight on over one hundred incredible young people who have selflessly dedicated their time to improving the lives of others in one of South Africa's poorest rural communities. We are delighted that the Partnership has been granted charitable status and we look forward to celebrating many more young people who continue in the footsteps of Diana, Princess of Wales. **”**

Tessy Ojo, CEO of the Diana Award



In its tenth anniversary year the Bambisanani Partnership has ambitious plans to extend its work and influence. In addition to the annual exchanges and the provision of a wide range of new learning activities in both schools, the charity is working with the University of Leeds to develop leadership programmes with its own students and to develop a unique cycling programme in KwaZulu Natal. At Mnyakanya School it is currently working with Intel and the KZN Department of Education to pioneer the installation of Wi-Fi and computers to enhance learning in remote rural schools. The partnership's long-term relationship with Zulufadder Orphanage will be developed through the building of a new hostel for vulnerable children. As Chair of the charity, I have also been invited by the South African High Commission to the UK to help establish a sport and education forum linking the UK and South Africa.

To celebrate and promote its work, the Bambisanani Partnership has published three remarkable books over the last nine years. To celebrate this tenth anniversary, we intend to complete a fourth: *Bambisanani: Ten Years of Working Together*. We hope other schools will look forward to this and be inspired to establish their own international partnerships.

To learn more about the Bambisanani Partnership visit: [www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org) or read our first three books:



- Bambisanani: The First Five Years, David Geldart, ISBN 978-0-9927124-1-9
- Bambisanani: 2012 Faster, Higher, Stronger, David Geldart, ISBN 978-0-9927124-2-6
- Bambisanani: The Power of Sport, David Geldart, ISBN 978-0-9927124-0-2

The Bambisanani Partnership also featured in previous editions of *Physical Education Matters*: Summer 2014 Vol.9, No.2 and Summer 2015 Vol.10, No.2. ■

**David Geldart is Founder and Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership.**



# Weekend

21.12.2017

## 10 years of working together celebrated

### Book

**T**HE St Mary's, Menston based charity, the Bambisanani Partnership has published its fourth book 'Bambisanani: Ten Years of Working Together and Learning Together'.

The multi award-winning charity has gained international acclaim for its inspirational and pioneering work using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of South Africa's poorest communities. The new book chronicles the first ten years of the Bambisanani story from 2006 – 2016.

Written by the partnership's founder David Geldart with foreword by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, the book has been described as a heart-warming story of challenge and hope.

Author David Geldart said: "The book was written to tell our story, a story that has gone from strength to strength despite enormous challenges. The ten year story acknowledges the remarkable achievements of Bambisanani team members in both the UK and South Africa, in particular those of the amazing young people of both communities."

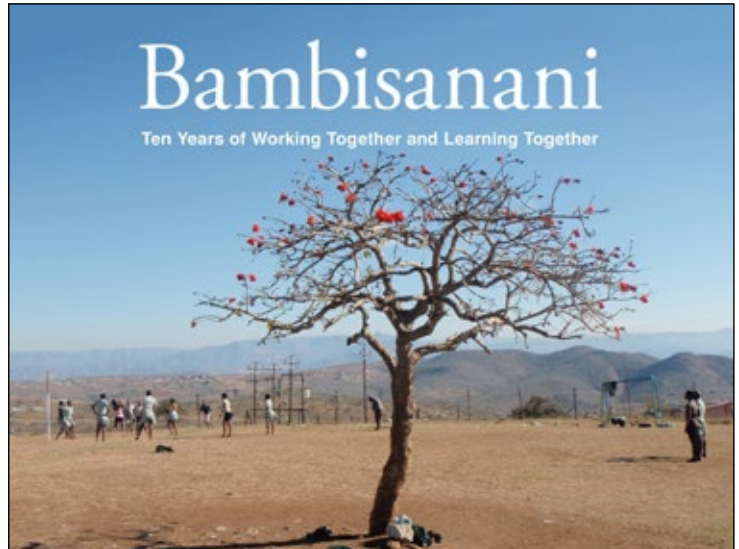
"The book is testimony to the power of sport to change lives and to what can be achieved when two communities from different sides of the world commit to working together in a genuine partnership. A major aim of the book is to encourage other schools, colleges and universities to get involved in similar work."

Ten years in development and two years in writing, the hardback book is impressive in both appearance and content with 300 pages, almost 100,000 words and including over 600 photographs.

A limited number of first edition copies of the book are available at £50 each with all proceeds going to support the charity. Contact Mrs Catherine Chattoe at St. Mary's, Menston – c.chattoe@stmarysmenston.org or 01943883000.



Baroness Tanni Grey Thompson has written the forward for Bambisanani: Ten Years of Working Together and Learning Together



A St Mary's, Menston, pupil helps youngsters with their reading in Africa in this photo taken from David Geldart's book



# Bambisanani

## Looking back, looking forward

**T**he Bambisanani Partnership has gained international acclaim for its pioneering work using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of South Africa's most deprived areas. Based on extracts from the recently published book *Bambisanani: Ten years of Working together and Learning Together*, twelve key individuals involved in the work of the Bambisanani Partnership offer their perspectives on the past ten years but also on what the future might hold for the multi award winning charity.





## DARREN BEARDSLEY, HEADTEACHER, ST. MARY'S SCHOOL



When thinking about Bambisanani Partnership, it is important to consider the phrase 'Working Together, Learning Together'. These objectives are essential for a successful partnership in that we do learn so much together and that we support each other. Writing as the Headteacher of St. Mary's, Menston, I have been privileged to talk to staff and students who have benefited enormously

from working with Mnyakanya High School. The philosophy of all involved within the partnership is that it is an equitable, sustainable and effective partnership that has a positive impact on both schools, but also the wider communities. The effectiveness of a school is often measured using examination data and this is important in providing opportunities for our students, but the real success of a school is how it works to develop young people so that they go on to benefit society in the future. We take this seriously and the skills and understanding that students develop in global citizenship, global justice, enterprise and leadership, by taking part in the partnership, equips them to make the world a better place in the future.

It is important that we celebrate the success of the partnership so far, but it is also imperative that we continue to develop our work. We are planning ways in which the partnership can influence younger students at St. Mary's with the introduction of the Bambisanani Award. The students have responded incredibly positively to this and I am delighted that we have recently presented our first award in an assembly at school. The influence on University students is also being enhanced by the involvement of two of our Universities in Leeds as part of the partnership.

All of these developments are exciting for the future of this inspirational work and continue to be driven by our desire to 'Work Together and Learn Together'.

## LOGAN GOVENDER, SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMAN AND ENTREPRENEUR



South Africa has a history of people from abroad attempting to "serve" the local community. Many of these missions flounder in time because they are designed to engender a feeling of goodwill more for the giver than the recipient. It is to the credit of the founder and his dedicated team that the Bambisanani Partnership has persisted for a decade. Bambisanani – working hand in

hand – works because there is neither a giver nor a receiver. Two groups, from different ends of the planet, each borrowing from the culture of the other forge relationships through the medium of sport, changing perspectives of both from the experience.

I believe that hands that serve are holier than hands that are folded in prayer and I have had numerous personal experiences over the past ten years of how the interaction between the two groups, compressed into a fortnight, has fostered joy and hope in a world so full of gloom and turmoil that it overshadows the innate goodness of mankind.

From modest beginnings, Bambisanani has spread its reach and grown from sport to the social upliftment of a community through several sponsors being inspired to come aboard. The work now includes the participation of the University of Leeds, who have provided children facing a two hour walk to and from school with bicycles; sponsorship of a crèche for HIV & AIDS orphans; and the sheer joy that arises from and in anticipation of the annual interaction. The future looks bright for this community as plans are afoot to substantially enhance their lives. A sports field where once only a windswept dustbowl existed is an example of the improvements that are planned.

I consider myself a Bambisanani Partner and am delighted to have been involved with this noble project since its inception. I look forward to offering my humble help in the future in enhancing the experiences of the participants of Leeds as a small measure of thanks.

Long may Bambisanani live!

## CATHERINE CHATTOE, BAMBISANANI COORDINATOR, ST. MARY'S SCHOOL



The Bambisanani Partnership is something that I feel honoured and privileged to be a part of. The Bambisanani Partnership has been pioneering, innovative and determined in its work.

I have witnessed, first-hand, a unique partnership develop between St. Mary's, Menston in Leeds and Mnyakanya High School in KwaZulu-Natal,

South Africa. I have seen how the partnership has made a positive impact on the lives of so many people. Anybody that comes into contact with its work will have been affected by it. The approach of the Bambisanani Partnership can only be admired. The international acclaim it receives is no surprise.

By working together with a shared vision, with equal respect and common values, the Bambisanani Partnership has achieved so much. It has provided new opportunities for so many, it has developed confidence and self-belief in those that have been fortunate enough to be involved with its work and improved leadership skills which has created new opportunities. I have seen it change the attitudes and aspirations of many; it has helped to shape people's lives in a positive way. Most significantly for me is how it has created so many long lasting friendships.

The last ten years have been incredible but I know this is just the start. The willingness, drive, spirit and energy from the Bambisanani team and its supporters is unstoppable. I know they are all ready and willing to continue their work because, inevitably, it makes the world a better place.



## PK ZONDI, BAMBISANANI COORDINATOR, MNYAKANYA SCHOOL



The Bambisanani Partnership is the most wonderful collaboration that has ever been experienced by the Mnyakanya community. This partnership between Mnyakanya High School and St. Mary's School has enlightened many young people, adults and stakeholders of our community in many different ways. It is bringing hope to many

families most of which are headed by under-aged orphans. The Bambisanani Partnership is playing a major role in encouraging many orphans to further their studies, by giving them financial assistance and many other educational needs. It has produced many young leaders who can stand up and do things on their own, to bring about change in their community. It also encourages many young people to work for excellence in all school activities, like in sports and academic activities and also in community activities. Joint learning activities initiated by the partnership have inspired young people from many schools in both countries. The yearly awards presented by Bambisanani Partnership to recognise young people for their good work is a great motivation for them to work hard in all areas of school life. It is very exciting indeed to share ideas with people who are from across the world in the UK, to work together towards achieving common objectives. It is unbelievable to see a school situated in a poor rural area like Mnyakanya becoming one of the most resourceful schools of KwaZulu-Natal, with tablets, library and have access to the internet in school computers. We are always so interested to hear of the impact of our work on the UK children; like ours many are profoundly influenced by the Bambisanani experiences. Bambisanani is helping to build a more educated, tolerant and caring society. We have ambitious plans for the future that will have a positive impact on even more young people.

At Mnyakanya High School we have no doubt that, this partnership is a blessing from God, who saw the life struggle in our community and brought this partnership to our school. We hope and pray that He will give us strength to grow this partnership to its highest level.

Long live the Bambisanani Partnership, long live, through working together and learning together.



## TONY MOODLEY, CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALIST, KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



It's unbelievable that the partnership has persevered for over a decade already and is surely a testament to the dedication and passion of the partners. Whilst the partnership is not about individuals, it is most certainly the amazing passion and drive of David Geldart that has ensured that it has flourished and blossomed into something beyond the initial dreams and goals of the British

Council's/Youth Sports Trust *Dreams and Teams* initiative.

The partnership has had many material benefits which will be highlighted below but one aspect I believe is the ethos of the partnership, which is more important than just the material benefits it has provided. Firstly, it has allowed learners and teachers from both partner schools, Mnyakanya and St. Mary's to interact with each other through sport and sport related activities and given them the opportunity to develop important skills and values such as leadership, tolerance, sharing, understanding of other cultures and foster continuing links between them. Secondly, it allows for a school community in a rural part of South Africa to become a part of the global village through their regular interactions with learners and teachers from the UK thereby fostering a deeper understanding of global citizenship – skills which will be invaluable to learners from rural communities like Mnyakanya who ordinarily may not have such opportunities. The partnership has further allowed Mnyakanya learners to participate in global initiatives, notably the Diana Awards, in which learners from the school were the first South African recipients of this award again highlighting the value the partnership has provided learners from Mnyakanya to participate in international activities.

The blossoming of the partnership in the past few years has seen it move beyond just being a leadership through sports initiative but graduate to becoming one which has taken a deeper interest in developing the lives of the learners of Mnyakanya even further through the formation of the Bambisanani Charity. Through the invaluable efforts and funding by the charity in 2015 Mnyakanya was able to initially begin the first phase of an ICT rollout programme at the school which saw educational tablets being introduced to the school

and training for teachers. This has subsequently been followed by further funding from the charity which has seen the school becoming a part of the global village through the provision of a satellite Internet service at the school. The partnership has further provided uniforms to learners from disadvantaged homes, sports equipment to the school and bursaries to a few learners to pursue university study.

The partnership has also managed to gain the interest of other stakeholders like the University of Leeds which has provided the school with mountain bikes for use by learners who would normally walk great distances to school. Other stakeholders have also shown interest in developing a football pitch to further change the lives of the Mnyakanya learners and the surrounding community.

The fledgling *Dreams and Teams* initiative has developed wings and may the Bambisanani Partnership soar to greater heights and give the learners and teachers from both schools, through their regular interactions, the opportunity to continue learning about the value and importance of global citizenship. To quote the founding father of our democratic state, Nelson Mandela:

*'Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation.'*

It is my belief that the partnership and the assistance it provides to the community of Mnyakanya can allow for a lot more daughters and sons of peasants to take their rightful places in life and free their communities from the painful burden of poverty.



## **WILLIAM VILAKAZI, FORMER PRINCIPAL MNYAKANYA HIGH SCHOOL**



Through the Bambisanani Partnership I have witnessed many things I didn't believe could happen to the Mnyakanya community; through working together and learning together we have achieved so much since the inception of the programme in 2006. The partnership has connected South Africa and the UK and all of those that have been involved have been changed in

some way because of the others that are involved. There is a saying in Zulu culture: Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu which means 'I am because you are'. This is the very spirit of the Bambisanani Partnership; it is what makes it an equal partnership in an unequal world, it is what creates the belief and hope that sustains and motivates our work.

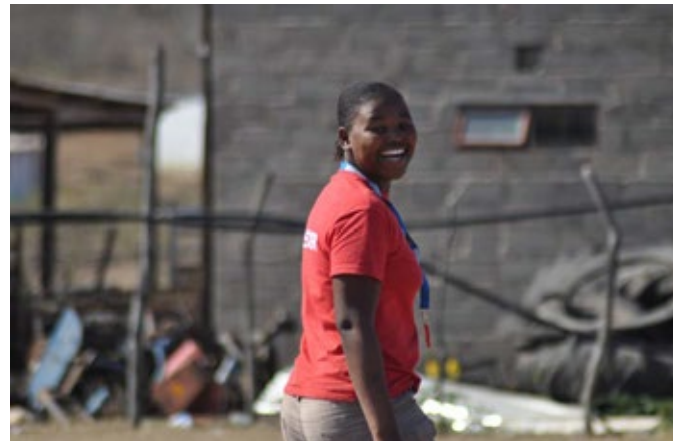
Mnyakanya School and its learners have received tremendous support in terms of equipment, facilities and opportunities and now attracts many more young learners each year who want to be part of the Bambisanani Partnership. The partnership has taught our learners to love, share, and respect and not to discriminate against other people of different colour, race or religion. They have learnt to appreciate other people and the spirit of Ubuntu is now prevalent in the whole community.

The focus on sport and developing young leaders remains at the heart of our joint work and has led to many other developments. The fact that we now have the internet to support our teaching and learning is transformational and something that I still cannot quite believe; we are now literally connected to the outside world. The exchange visits of learners and educators is something else that we thought was impossible but it has happened and it has changed lives, as many aspects of this partnership have.

The Bambisanani Partnership is constantly developing and we are increasingly linking with other schools, universities and organisations in both the UK and South Africa. This project has taught me that we may have different horizons but we all live under the same sky and because of this we have to help each other in our journey through life. Mnyakanya School and St. Mary's School have been significantly enhanced because of the Bambisanani Partnership. This translates into so many young people from both countries who now see the world differently and wish to make it a better place.

This partnership has a bright future in both countries. Our educators and learners need to take the partnership in both hands and pass it on from generation to generation.

May God bless the Bambisanani Partnership





## BARBARA POUNDER, TRUSTEE OF THE BAMBISANANI PARTNERSHIP



I had often thought that South Africa held untold potential much like a child in my class who suddenly surprises you with a comment or a piece of perceptive writing. It has been my privilege to visit South Africa on four occasions as part of the Bambisanani Partnership. On my first visit the sights, sounds and smells of Africa came all at once and the prospects of new

challenges excited me and our students. There I grew “African eyes” not just for spotting wildlife but for seeing the world like our students and Mnyakanya students did. As their shyness became less visible friendships were formed. The laughter and smiles of every young person will be etched in my memory, the skills learned and developed by both the African and English students filled me with the pride every teacher is privileged on occasions to witness. The relationship became organic and we all, staff and students alike, thrived on the passion and desire to do more that emerged during that first visit. Each time I have been back the essence of Themba (meaning ‘Hope’ in Zulu) has prevailed and indeed become stronger.

I think the impact of the Bambisanani Partnership has three levels; the personal, the educational and the spiritual.



The experience has enriched many lives, including my own, in ways which I can only describe as uplifting. There is a recognition for me that suffering and deprivation can be overcome when people are not forgotten and when interest is shown.

My faith in education and its power was reaffirmed with every visit. The desire of young people to learn, support each other and make a difference in the world is palpable.

I believe that spirituality, or whatever it is that people find deep within themselves, is a facet of resilience. For many, this partnership has brought them closer to humanity and the recognition of the strength and desire that they have to make the world a better place.

The future for the partnership lies with the people who care about its expansion and development. The partnership will evolve to become as embedded as any long lasting exchange of people and their skills and in doing so raise aspirations and build capacity. As long as the desire to enhance the lives of young people remains viable then this partnership will continue its important work.

It is an honour to be part of the Bambisanani family and now that my ‘African Eyes’ have been opened, I can’t close them.



## MONSIGNOR VLADIMIR FELZMANN, CEO, JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION FOR SPORT



The Bambisanani Partnership is a great example of Ubuntu (human kindness): what is good in KwaZulu-Natal is good in St. Mary's Menston. The relationship between the pupils in Yorkshire and South Africa has proved to be mutually life-enriching, even a life-changing, experience.

The enthusiasm with which the St. Mary's pupils speak about their time in South Africa and the way it has changed their thinking about so much of life, says it all.

Much has been achieved over the past ten years and even more will be achieved as this partnership builds on its experiences and the pupils in all the schools mature and move into adulthood.

Play is in our DNA and the importance of play through sport cannot be overstated in this remarkable partnership. As spirituality leads to religion so play can turn into sport with all the rules and sacrifices it demands for anyone with ambition to do well. Play and sport bridge differences, heal and rebuild communities devastated by war, disaster, disease and poverty.

Sport at its best enables young people to make their values visible as they acquire life-skills or virtues though their commitment to play. Sport at its best, which is driven by values, helps young people acquire the virtues they need to fulfil their God-given potential, it enables young people to find communities which support them on their faith journey through life. The Bambisanani Partnership is a key partner of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport and together we are using this approach around the world to help young people not only survive but even thrive in the harshest areas of our 'global city'.

Here's to another ten inspirational years at the Bambisanani Partnership; we look forward to working with you.

## MAZET ZANELE LANGA, TEACHER, MNYAKANYA HIGH SCHOOL



This all started with one man's vision and his inspiration. Since 2006 this partnership has developed from one level to another to another. It has created much hope, dedication, commitment and considerable responsibility among learners, teachers and members of the community in both countries. It has taught our young learners how to develop their

leadership skills and communicating skills as well as reaching out to the people who are in need. It has brought unity between the two schools (St. Mary's and Mnyakanya) and developed respect for each other's customs, cultures and traditions and learning new things every day. It has also taught our learners to be independent and creative. Having this partnership has raised the aspirations of our learners. Several are now attending University supported by the partnership. This is transforming lives, developing not only leaders for our community but also for our country. Through sport we are promoting education, health, leadership and global citizens. As we have developed we have included more schools and other organisations in our work. From one candle we have lit many more. In the next ten years we intend to keep the light burning brightly.

Our late president Mr Nelson Mandela once said "*sport has the power to change the world*" – the Bambisanani Partnership has changed the world of so many of our young people by working together, hand in hand.





## ANDY LOCKWOOD, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, SPORT AND

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



The Bambisanani Partnership is a truly brilliant organisation. At its heart is something really special, a commitment to the enrichment of people's lives through education and sport. They are two of the most powerful tools known and the way in which the

partnership harnessed them, has changed the lives of many people.

Over the last ten years, the partnership has made a dramatic impact with the work it has carried out. Whether it be training hundreds of young leaders, supporting educationalists or 'simply' expanding young people's view of the world and their place in it. The partnership is exceptional in what it does and fully deserves its international recognition.

What makes Bambisanani special? For me, it is that it is never satisfied with its work! The partnership is ambitious and always prepared to break new ground. It is particularly motivated when it is told that something is not possible. The plans for the next ten years are fantastic and will make a significant contribution to the development of young people and communities in both the UK and South Africa. The University of Leeds is fully committed to this partnership and is keen to play its part in the future. I can't wait to see what happens!



## DIANE MAGUIRE, ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL LECTURER, LEEDS TRINITY UNIVERSITY



The Bambisanani Partnership is a shining example of global learning at its best, with a truly inspirational team of people working together to make a difference to children and young people's lives in the communities of St. Mary's in Menston and in Mnyakanya School, KwaZulu-Natal. St. Mary's staff and partners have been innovative and creative in their approach to building this model of

equal partnership and it is one of the best organised and sustainable models of global partnership I have seen in my teaching career. I believe in this project as it is one based on equal respect and shared values and I feel privileged to be involved in a small way in this wonderful work.

I believe the work of the Bambisanani Partnership will go from strength to strength in the future as it continues to gain recognition as a highly respected project based on mutual benefit, equity and trust. Leeds Trinity University sees this as befitting of our own Catholic mission statement and partnership will provide a tangible way of embracing the shared values both institutions espouse. I am convinced that this will enhance the work we do to develop Leeds Trinity as a global learning community.



**GRAHAM CHENNELLS,  
SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMAN,  
PRESIDENT OF ESHOWE ROTARY  
CLUB, FORMER  
MAYOR OF  
ESHOWE**



The Bambisanani Partnership is remarkable in many ways. For someone such as myself - having been born here and having been involved with numerous projects through the Eshowe Rotary Club for more than forty years - this project stands out mainly because of its interactive nature and the fact that it has blossomed and developed so tremendously over the ten years it has been in existence.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been associated with the project from its inception, and I have been overawed by the responses that I have seen from all the students involved.

St. Mary's pupils arriving in deeply rural Zululand suddenly realise what privileges they have always taken for granted, and are humbled by this encounter. The fact that such a rich history exists between the two countries adds to the spice of the experience. The Zulu children, likewise, suddenly start to realise that their horizons are not, in fact, limited to what they have always considered possible

The *"Leadership Through Sport"* programme is particularly special for me. This fun programme encourages initiative and develops the organisational skills which our country so desperately needs. I have watched a large number of Zulu children being given a great boost of confidence by these interactions - surely a life-changing experience for them.

Here is to another 10 years!

Ngiyabonga kakhulu Bambisanani





# University backing project in Africa

By Annette McIntyre

01943 607022

LEEDS Trinity University has joined a project which helps one of South Africa's poorest communities.

The Horsforth-based university has been welcomed into an official partnership with the Bambisanani Partnership, a charity founded through St Mary's School, Menston, which uses sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Margaret A House said: "We are delighted that Leeds Trinity University is working with the Bambisanani Partnership.

"It is an exciting international volunteering opportunity for our students and will make a huge difference to the lives of children and young people in South Africa."

David Geldart, chairman of the project, said: "Leeds Trinity is a key member of the Bambisanani Partnership.

"It has played a fundamental role in developing the work of the charity in one of South Africa's most deprived areas.

"This involvement reflects Leeds Trinity's vision and values of commitment to social justice



David Geldart presenting the Bambisanani book

and providing world class opportunities for students and staff.

"Indicative of this is the personal commitment to the partnership demonstrated by Vice-Chancellor, Professor House, and Deputy-Vice Chancellor Professor Lloyd.

"At a recent meeting it was a great pleasure not only to present Margaret and Ray with a copy of our latest book but also to discuss, at length, development opportunities for the future which will see more students and staff engaging in work in South Africa."

Seven students from Leeds Trinity are fundraising to raise

money for the trip, which takes place in June and will form part of their degrees.

Mr Geldart presented the university with a book celebrating 10 years of the Bambisanani Partnership.

The project gets its name from the Zulu word for 'working hand in hand'.

The book chronicles the charity's achievements in the UK and South Africa, showing the impact that sport can have on changing lives.

It includes the stories and reflections of students who have previously taken part in the programme.

You can comment on this story online at

ilkleygazette.co.uk or wharfedaleobserver.co.uk

# Bambisanani

## International honour for Bambisanani Partnership

**A**s a result of the Bambisanani Partnership's pioneering work in South Africa using sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership it has recently been invited to become a *Founding Member* of Sport and Sustainability International (SandSI). Sport and Sustainability International is an international Swiss based movement that seeks to use the powerful influence of sport to help address some of the world's most urgent sustainability issues. With representation from over fifty countries and six continents SandSi is committed to promoting sustainability policies including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Based at St. Mary's School, Menston, and supported by both the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University, the Bambisanani Partnership charity has gained international acclaim over the past eleven years for its work in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas.





## DIDIER LEHÉNAFF, PRESIDENT OF SPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY INTERNATIONAL

*“Sport and Sustainability International (SandSI) is honoured to have the Bambisanani Partnership as one of its Founding Members. Through the use of sport this highly successful project connects the northern and southern hemispheres addressing key social, environmental, economic and governance issues. The Bambisanani Partnership is showing the way that sport has the power to change the world.”*



## DAVID GELDART, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BAMBISANANI PARTNERSHIP

*“It is a great honour and a privilege for the Bambisanani Partnership to be invited to become a Founding Member of such an important and ambitious organisation. The chance to work with key individuals and organisations from around the world to promote sustainability, in all its inter-related aspects, through sport is a tremendous opportunity. Many young people are interested in sport, the environment and social justice and would like to make a difference in the world; this is an important part of our work. Sport has a massive role to play in promoting sustainability and we are keen to play our part in taking this important movement forward.”*



## Volunteering work in South Africa reaches new heights

### The Bambisanani Partnership

**B**ased in Leeds, UK, the Bambisanani Partnership has gained international acclaim for its pioneering work in one of South Africa's poorest regions, using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership. This summer has seen the multi-award winning charity take on its most ambitious volunteering project in its twelve year history. Students and staff from St. Mary's School, Menston, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University have recently returned from South Africa where both individually and collaboratively they extended and developed the work of the partnership.

Following eighteen months of preparation, planning and fundraising, sixteen students from St. Mary's embarked on a mission to deliver a 'Leadership Through Sport' programme' to students at Mnyakanya High School situated in the remote, rural Nkandla area. This year's visit was led by Catherine Chattoe with support from Brad Dobson and Charlotte Wood.

The student team included Olivia Brady, Joe Gardner, Grace Darker, Orla Turnbull, Lily Humphreys, Libby Woffenden, Charlotte Walker, Rhiannon Boardman, Nicholas Brinkworth, Sylvia Cullen, Edward Fieldhouse, Aidan Joyce, Luke Barnes, Maeve Hendron, Lucy Hings and Lily Greenhalgh.

Throughout their visit St. Mary's students were assisted by three students from Eshowe High School; Morgan Gray, Nokabongwa Mtembu and Sbhongisiwe Ntuli who supported them with the delivery of the leadership programme and provided valuable assistance with English and Zulu language translation.



After four intense days of hockey, netball and rounders coaching, thirty Mnyakanya students were fully equipped and confident enough to organise and host a spectacular Sports and Reading Festival for over 120 children from Ntolwane Primary School. The success of the collaboration between the students from both countries was celebrated with a special presentation ceremony. South African students received leadership awards and annual awards as a way of recognising and celebrating their ability and potential as outstanding leaders.

Additionally as part of the visit, the St. Mary's students delivered lessons in a wide range of curriculum areas. Enthusiastic staff and students from Mnyakanya High School experienced high quality lessons in English, Maths, Geography, Science, Music and Drama. In one lesson Mnyakanya students represented the components of the solar system and moved around the playground as a way of learning how the solar system works.

The final part of their visit saw the St. Mary's students volunteering at uMlalazi Day Centre and Crèche, a centre for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children run by the Zulufadder Children's Trust. This was a magical time for the St. Mary's students where they loved bringing stories to life with the use of props and toys and, for the first time, helped with the centre's gardening project by planting some vegetables.



Mrs Catherine Chattoe, Bambisanani Co-ordinator at St. Mary's:

**“The St. Mary's students were outstanding ambassadors for the school and the charity. Their kind heartedness, emotional intelligence and energy were exemplary, I am incredibly proud of their work.”**

Mr B Dobson, St. Mary's Menston Teacher:

**“I genuinely believe The Bambisanani Partnership has a truly positive impact on every single person involved. It was inspiring to see the determination, comradely and support on display, from both countries.”**



Working together, learning together



Alongside the St. Mary's visit, and building on the outstanding work of Andy Lockwood this was the third year of volunteering in South Africa for the University of Leeds. Members of staff Tilly Hall, Tom Exeter and Lisa Naylor led this year's visit of ten students representing a wide range of degree programmes. Natalie Donohue, Emma Sallis, Georgina Ellis, Charlie Vickers, Ava Martinez-Lambert, Francisca Darko, Aimee Christadoulou, Jessica Hole, Rachael Dickinson and Emily Bowden made up the 'Gryphons Abroad' team that successfully delivered two major projects over the two week period: Cycling for Success and Inspire through Sport and Leadership.



Both of these projects were also supported by three students from Leeds Trinity University, namely Oorjitha Prem, Danielle Lawrance and Katherine Skelton.



The Cycling for Success programme was based at Mnyakanya High School where the team taught a group of thirty students how to ride and maintain bikes.



Student Francisca Darko:

**“The Cycle for Success week of the trip has been amazing. To see students who had never been on a bike cycle by themselves and know how to fix them when something went wrong after only three days of teaching is pretty unbelievable!”**

By the end of the week all students could ride a bike, most of whom had never been on a bike before and nine students had all the skills and knowledge of road signalling to cycle on the main road. The skills the students have learnt are invaluable and many of them have already used the bikes to get to and from school, which for some was previously a two hour walk each way.

The South Africa school teachers also spoke about the impact of the project on the students' motivation, confidence and desire to succeed, and how the bikes were being used in the community.



Mrs Pk Zondi from Mnyakanya School:

**“It's not only the school that is benefiting from these bikes, it's also the community. Learners who have learnt these skills are now showing others how to do it at the weekend. They learn a lot doing this project, they become motivated and go on to be something outside of the community.”**



The second week of the visit saw the students from the two Leeds Universities lead the Inspire through Sport and Leadership programme to over 160 primary school children from the town of Eshowe. Through a range of sporting activities and challenges, the primary students learnt a range of leadership skills based on communication, organisation and planning. This work culminated in the children themselves taking responsibility for leading sports sessions.

The Gryphons Abroad team also led a classroom sessions based around their degrees, where subjects as diverse as Maths and Mental Health were taught.



Tilly Hall:

**“The visit was a remarkable success and has had a huge impact on both the students from South Africa and the students from Leeds.”**

In the Bambisanani spirit of 'Working Together and Learning Together' the University of Leeds team made a major contribution to this year's programme by supporting staff and students from Leeds Trinity University who were making their first student visit to South Africa as part of the Bambisanani Partnership.

Led by members of staff Dr Chirs Rowley and Dr Nicola Arjomandkhah, seven students from Leeds Trinity University (LTU) travelled to KwaZulu-Natal, as part of the university's landmark inaugural International Volunteering visit to the region as part of the Bambisanani Partnership. Oorjitha Prem, Danielle Lawrance and Katherine Skelton accompanied the Gryphons Abroad team in the delivery of the aforementioned Cycling for Success and Inspire through Sport and Leadership projects. This first collaboration of its kind between students and staff from the two universities was a great success, representing an exciting avenue for future combined work in the region.

Alongside these projects, four LTU Primary Education students spent their time in two South African schools as part of their 'alternative teaching placement' module. Amy James, Beth Ward, Hannah Page and Harriet Mackinney joined the university travelling party, with a view to extending the successful work of the Bambisanani Partnership into some of the Primary Schools within the KwaZulu-Natal region. Week one saw the students work across grades four to seven in Ntolwane Primary School in Nkandla, with class sizes averaging around 70 to 100 pupils. A range of subject areas were covered, including Geography, Maths, Physical Education and English, with the 'Premier Skills' resources (developed by the British Council in partnership with the Premier League) proving to be particularly useful in facilitating the delivery of English language lessons to Zulu natives. In week two the students were then allocated a specific grade to teach at John Wesley Primary School in Eshowe, presenting an opportunity to work alongside local teaching staff, and to learn more about the country's education system and culture.



All of the LTU students involved in the project received academic credit towards their respective programmes of study, and stressed the personal and professional gains they had achieved throughout the two weeks. Harriet Mackinney said that she felt "privileged to share the ethos of the Bambisanani Partnership" with the primary school pupils she had worked with, and Oorjitha Prem poignantly suggested that the visit had been "an amazing learning experience for both parties, more so for us, in my opinion."

Dr Chris Rowley who led this first Leeds Trinity University visit:

**“** I am delighted that Leeds Trinity is part of the Bambisanani Partnership. It's a fantastic partnership that shows the impact that sport and education can have on communities and individuals. For our students it is an amazing volunteering opportunity where they can make a real difference to the lives of children and young people in South Africa.”



David Geldart, Founder and Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership praised all those involved in the recent visits:

**“** My challenge to all those volunteering on this project is to 'stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before and take the partnership to a new level' – the students and staff involved this year's visits to South Africa certainly achieved that developing and refining existing programmes and introducing new initiatives. Over forty young people from three institutions in Leeds worked with almost 500 hundred Zulu youngsters over the course of two weeks in the most challenging of circumstances. For all those involved their lives will have been changed in some way. These young people are an inspiration. The innovative collaborative work between St. Mary's School and the two universities is incredibly positive and is now a real strength of the partnership. All the staff involved have my utmost admiration for the opportunities that they are providing for their young people; they too are an inspiration.

*It is wonderful to be working so closely with three organisations who are willing to 'live their vision and values' in providing these remarkable life changing experiences. This is real education and long may it continue.”*

For more information about the Bambisanani Partnership please see:

[www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org)





# Charity's book is presented to historic and inspiring games

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

THE annual Wenlock Olympian Games have a unique place in the history of world sport.

In the 1850s William Penny Brookes, through his Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS), had the wonderful vision of providing annual competitions in sport and the arts 'for people of every grade'.

What started in the small Shropshire town of Much Wenlock extended regionally, then nationally, and now hosts international competitors from as far away as Australia. Ultimately, it was a major inspiration for the modern Olympics as we know them today.

The Bambisanani Partnership is a multi-award charity that works in one of South Africa's poorest rural regions using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership. The partnership originally began at St Mary's School, Menston, but now also involves students from the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University in the volunteering programme.

The charity's latest book (Bambisanani: Ten Years of Working Together and Learning Together) has gained international acclaim, and the partnership was pleased to donate a copy to WOS. The book was



Pictured at the presentation, from left, Helen Clare Cromarty, David Geldart, Vanessa Statham, Mike Mowling and Andrew Lockwood, a Bambisanani Partnership trustee

given as a special additional prize for the annual 'Golfer of the Competition' award at this year's Wenlock Olympian Games, and presented to the very worthy winner, Vanessa Statham.

David Geldart, founder and chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership, said: "It is an absolute honour to be associated with the Wenlock Olympian Society. The pioneering work of William Penny Brookes in the 1850s paved the way for the mod-

ern Olympics and indeed physical education and sport for all children in school.

"The Wenlock Olympian Games are still held to this day and it was wonderful that the latest Bambisanani book was deemed worthy as a special prize this year. The work of the Bambisanani Partnership has very much been inspired by William Penny Brookes's concept of 'Olympism' - using sport for the greater good."

Helen Clare Cromarty, organiser of the Wenlock Olympian Games competition, said: "On behalf of the society, I'd like to thank the Bambisanani Partnership for their kindness in donating such a beautiful prize. WOS is run entirely by volunteers, and relies on the generosity of its patrons and donors to continue its work. It was great that David was able to present the book in person to Vanessa, and I'm certain it will be treasured."

Mike Mowling, WOS chairman, added: "It's wonderful to see the valuable projects organisations such as The Bambisanani Partnership are accomplishing in South Africa, by using the power of sport to transform lives in disadvantaged communities. The latest Bambisanani book tells an inspirational story in both words and photographs. Dr William Penny Brookes would certainly have approved of this important work. We wish them every success in their future initiatives and hope that their continuing work will inspire other schools to follow their excellent example."

For more information about the Bambisanani Partnership visit <http://www.bambisananipartnership.org> For more information about the Wenlock Olympian Society visit [www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk](http://www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk)

You can comment on this story online at

[iklegazette.co.uk](http://iklegazette.co.uk) or [wharfedaleobserver.co.uk](http://wharfedaleobserver.co.uk)

## 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 Trin-

ity 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



David Geldart

## Charity chairman receives leadership honour

DAVID Geldart, founder and chairman of the Menston based charity The Bambisanani Partnership has been recognised for his various leadership roles by the Institute of Leadership and Management in becoming a Fellow of the Institute.

During a highly distinguished career at St Mary's School, Menston he gained national and international acclaim which saw him hold a range of key public appointments for national strategy at the Government Departments of Education, Health and Culture, Media & Sport.

David was appointed by the Secretary of State as a founder member of the Sport England Lottery Panel and subsequently as a board member of Sport England.

In 1995 he was elected a Fellow of the Physical Education Association of Great Britain and became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2013. In 2006 he founded the Bambisanani Partnership which uses sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of South Africa's poorest communities.

This project has now developed into a multi-award winning charity. He is an experienced Non Executive Board member and Trustee.

As a leadership consultant and coach he now works with individuals and organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors.

David said: "It is always a great honour to be recognised by your peers.

"The Institute of Leadership and Management is a world class organisation that is highly committed to the on-going learning and development of leaders and managers through a wide range of resources and support.

"I would urge anyone involved in leadership or management, at any level or in any sector, to become a member of the Institute."



# VOLUNTEERING WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

David Geldart [afPE member]

The Bambisanani Partnership has gained international acclaim for its pioneering work in one of South Africa's poorest regions, using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership. This summer has seen the multi-award-winning charity take on its most ambitious volunteering project in its 12-year history. Students and staff from St Mary's School in Menston, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University have recently returned from South Africa where, both individually and collaboratively, they extended and developed the work of the partnership.

Following 18 months of preparation, planning and fundraising, 16 students from St Mary's embarked on a mission to deliver a 'Leadership Through Sport' programme to students at Mnyakanya High School, situated in the remote, rural Nkandla area. Throughout their visit, St Mary's students were assisted by three students from Eshowe High School who supported them with the delivery of the leadership programme and provided valuable assistance with English and Zulu language translation.

After four intense days of hockey, netball and rounders coaching, 30 Mnyakanya students were fully equipped and confident enough to organise and host a spectacular Sports and Reading Festival for over 120 children from Ntolwane Primary School. The success of the collaboration between the students from both countries was celebrated with a special presentation ceremony. South African students received leadership awards and annual awards as a way of recognising and celebrating their ability and potential as outstanding leaders. Additionally, as part of the visit, the St Mary's students delivered lessons in a wide range of curriculum areas. Enthusiastic staff



and students from Mnyakanya High School experienced high-quality lessons in English, maths, geography, science, music and drama. In one lesson, Mnyakanya students represented the components of the solar system and moved around the playground as a way of learning how the solar system works.

The final part of their visit saw the St Mary's students volunteering at uMlalazi Day Centre and Crèche, a centre for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children run by the Zulufadder Children's Trust. This was a magical time for the St Mary's students where they loved bringing stories to life with the use of props and toys and, for the first time, helped with the centre's gardening project by planting some vegetables.

Mrs Catherine Chattoe, Bambisanani co-ordinator at St Mary's said, *"The St Mary's students were outstanding ambassadors for the school and the charity. Their kind heartedness, emotional intelligence and energy were exemplary; I am incredibly proud of their work."*

Alongside the St Mary's visit, this was the third year of volunteering in South Africa for the University of Leeds. Members of staff led this year's visit of ten students representing a wide range of degree programmes. The students made up the Gryphons Abroad team that successfully delivered two major projects over the two-week period: *Cycling for Success* and *Inspire through Sport and Leadership*. Both these projects were also supported by three students from Leeds Trinity University.

The Cycling for Success programme was based at Mnyakanya High School where the team taught a group of 30 students how to ride and maintain bikes. Student Francisca Darko said, *"The Cycle for Success week of the trip has been amazing. To see students who had never been on a bike cycle by themselves and know how to fix them when something went wrong after only three days of teaching is pretty unbelievable!"*

By the end of the week, all students, most of whom had never been on a bike before, could ride a bike and nine students had all the skills and knowledge of road signalling to cycle on the main road. The skills the students have learnt are invaluable and many of them have already used the bikes to get to and from school, which, for some, was previously a two-hour walk each way.

The South African school teachers also spoke about the impact of the project on the students' motivation, confidence and desire to succeed, and how the bikes were being used in the community. Mrs Pk Zondi



from Mnyakanya School commented: *"It's not only the school that is benefiting from these bikes, it's also the community. Learners who have learnt these skills are now showing others how to do it at the weekend. They learn a lot doing this project, they become motivated and go on to be something outside of the community."*

The second week of the visit saw the students from the two Leeds universities lead the Inspire through Sport and Leadership programme to over 160 primary school children from the town of Eshowe. Through a range of sporting activities and

challenges, the primary students learnt a range of leadership skills based on communication, organisation and planning. This work culminated in the children taking responsibility for leading sports sessions.

The Gryphons Abroad team also led classroom sessions based around their degrees, where subjects as diverse as maths and mental health were taught.

In the Bambisanani spirit of 'Working Together and Learning Together', the University of Leeds team made a major contribution to this year's programme by





## INTERNATIONAL MATTERS

supporting staff and students from Leeds Trinity University who were making their first student visit to South Africa as part of the Bambisanani Partnership. Seven students travelled to KwaZulu-Natal, as part of the university's landmark inaugural international volunteering visit to the region as part of the Bambisanani Partnership. Three accompanied the Gryphons Abroad team in the delivery of the Cycling for Success and Inspire through Sport and Leadership projects. This first collaboration of its kind between students and staff from the two universities was a great success, representing an exciting avenue for future combined work in the region.

Meanwhile, alongside these projects, four primary education students from Leeds Trinity spent their time in two South African schools as part of their alternative teaching placement module. Their aim was to extend the successful work of the Bambisanani Partnership into some of the primary schools within the KwaZulu-Natal region. Week one saw the students work across grades 4-7 in Ntolwane Primary School in Nkandla, with class sizes averaging 70-100 pupils. A range of subject areas was covered, including geography, maths, physical education and English, with the Premier Skills resources (developed by the British Council in partnership with the Premier League) proving to be particularly useful in facilitating the delivery of English language lessons to Zulu natives. In week two the students were allocated a specific grade to teach at John Wesley Primary School in Eshowe, presenting an opportunity to work alongside local teaching staff, and to learn more about the country's education system and culture.



All of the Leeds Trinity students involved in the project received academic credit towards their respective programmes of study, and stressed the personal and professional gains they had achieved throughout the two weeks. Harriet Mackinney said she felt, "Privileged to share the ethos of the Bambisanani Partnership" with the primary school pupils she had worked with, and Oorjitha Prem poignantly suggested that the visit had been, "An amazing learning experience for both parties, more so for us, in my opinion."

Dr Chris Rowley, who led this first Leeds Trinity University visit, said, "I am delighted that Leeds Trinity is part

of the Bambisanani Partnership. It's a fantastic partnership that shows the impact that sport and education can have on communities and individuals. For our students it is an amazing volunteering opportunity where they can make a real difference to the lives of children and young people in South Africa."

Our challenge to all those volunteering on this project was to stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before and take the partnership to a new level. The students and staff involved in this year's visits to South Africa certainly achieved that, developing and refining existing programmes and introducing new initiatives. Over 40 young people from three institutions in Leeds worked with almost 500 Zulu youngsters over the course of two weeks in the most challenging circumstances. For all those involved, their lives will have been changed in some way. These young people are an inspiration. The innovative collaborative work between St Mary's School and the two universities is incredibly positive and is now a real strength of the partnership. All the staff involved have my utmost admiration for the opportunities that they are providing for their young people; they too are an inspiration. It is wonderful to be working so closely with three organisations who are willing to 'live their vision and values' in providing these remarkable life-changing experiences. This is real education, and long may it continue. ■

David Geldart is the founder and director of the Bambisanani Partnership. For more information, visit: [www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org)



## Bambisanani, British Council and the Premier League team up for beautiful game in South Africa that is changing lives

### The Bambisanani Partnership

Now in its twelfth year the Bambisanani Partnership has gained international acclaim for its work in the rural Nkandla area of South Africa using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership. From the very first visit by Founder, David Geldart, it was clear that despite lack of equipment, kit or facilities, football was of enormous importance to the Zulu community. Since that time the partnership has worked hard to use this fact to develop the game itself in the area but also to use to promote other aspects of education particularly English/Literacy through football. An example of this has been using football related books to teach reading.



This year the Bambisanani Partnership became involved in the British Council and Premier League Premier Skills initiative. Premier Skills has two distinct strands of its international work: developing local football coaches and teaching English through football related resources. All the volunteers who visited South Africa from St. Mary's School, Menston, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University received training from Michael Houten from the British Council in use of the resources. In South Africa members of the Mnyakanya School and

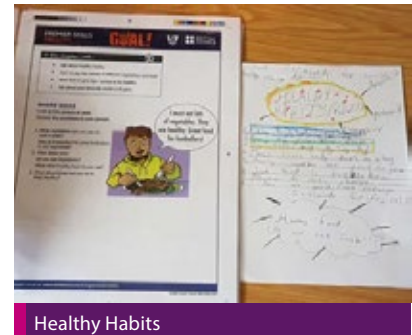
wider Nkandla community began training as football coaches with Premier League Coach Educators in courses held in Durban. Both strands of this work have proved incredibly effective and have added much to the impact of the partnership.

The Premier Skills resources were used to great effect by students at the John Wesley School in Eshowe and in Ntolwane Primary School in Nkandla.



Harriet Mackinney, Trainee Primary School teacher, from Leeds Trinity University:

**“Premier Skills teaches English/Literacy through a range of football related resources eg the use of comics based on a young boy becoming a ‘soccer star’. It uses language that is simple but effective and allows children who speak English as an additional language to follow along, even if they can’t read the words. Even the children who were quite new to English could still say ‘you should eat fruit, you should eat vegetables’, and they could get that simple English. The children that were at a higher level could expand and speak for five minutes on the topic. The youngsters absolutely loved the fact that I was using a comic book because they almost didn’t see it as learning. They loved that it was about soccer because they could tell me about their favourite soccer team and they could ask me about mine. Premier Skills resources for teaching English/Literacy are excellent and can be used effectively in a variety of contexts.”**



Healthy Habits

Members of the Nkandla community, Thulisile Zuma and Mholi Hlabisa have progressed to the second level of the Premier Skills Coaching programming where they have received training in the coach education of others.

Mholi Hlabisa:

**“Attending the Premier Skills workshops helped me a lot as a young coach. I learned so much about training all kinds of people regardless of their ability or disability. The focus of our training was not just improving our ability to coach football but also on developing our confidence in communication. I will be able to pass on all that I have learned to people in my community so that we can work together as a team to promote football and other sports thus helping our youth to avoid involving themselves in criminal activities. Involving our community in sporting activities will also promote healthier lifestyles. We are also hoping that the skills we are passing on will help young people gain employment.”**





Thulisile Zuma:

**“Premier Skills has helped me develop my love of sport as a person. To be part of the Premier Skills training workshops has helped me to organise football tournaments back in my community for both boys and girls so they can develop their talent in sport. Football helps our young people to forget about involving themselves in substance abuse and crime but makes them think about their bright future in sport. In Premier Skills training we learned to work with other coaches to develop our coaching skills. We also learned about Child Protection, on how to organise tournaments and how to train other coaches. This is all going to add so much to my community where there is real passion for sport. We have started now to develop football teams in the community.”**



Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Coordinator at Mnyakanya School:

**“Both these aspects of Premier Skills have the potential to make a significant impact on our young people in the rural schools and the wider communities. They are already starting to make a difference.”**



David Geldart, Founder of the Bambisanani Partnership:

**“These programmes are so positive and are not only providing valuable education and skills but also aspiration and hope in this desperately poor area. Both elements are vitally important and we try and link them at every possible opportunity. In the year ahead we will continue to work with the British Council and Premier League with a specific focus on training more football coaches, coach educators and more local teachers in the use of the Literacy materials. Community football teams are already starting to emerge. We also hope to create a ‘proper’ football pitch for training and fixtures and a computer suite where teachers and pupils can access Premier Skills English Language resources online. Football really is a beautiful game!”**





A group of six people, three men and three women, are posed for a group photo. On the far left is a man in a formal military uniform, including a peaked cap with a crest and a high-collared jacket with epaulettes. Next to him is a woman with long blonde hair wearing a grey sweater. In the center is a man in a light blue polo shirt. To his right is another woman with long blonde hair. On the far right is a woman with blonde hair tied in a bun, wearing a grey vest over a white shirt. They are all smiling and holding white certificates or awards. The background consists of a blue wall with large, white, geometric shapes.

# Students shine as they win top award for role in South Africa

The students were presented with their awards at a star-studded ceremony at Leeds College of Music. Among the guests at the ceremony were Mush-  
opened by past St. Mary's students The Dunwells, brothers Dave and Joe, who treated the audience to their song, 'Lucky Ones'. Tesse Ofo, chief executive of The Diana Award

Mary's students have made a real difference to people's lives. Their work is truly special."



Megan O'Connor with Musharaf 'Mushy' Asghar



## Bambisanani volunteer speaks at the Houses of Parliament

### The Bambisanani Partnership

St. Mary's Menston, Leeds Sixth Form student and Bambisanani Partnership volunteer, Sylvia Cullen, was elected to the UK Youth Parliament this year.

Recently, she was chosen to give evidence to the Government's Digital, Media, Sport and Culture Select Committee in the House of Commons about two projects in her local area. Alongside a choir school project, Sylvia gave a presentation about the Bambisanani Partnership, detailing the work and impact of its programmes, both in the UK and South Africa, before presenting the chair, Damian Collins MP, with the latest Bambisanani book. The meeting was part of an inquiry undertaken by the committee looking into the effects of sport and culture on local communities and education; the report will be published in January.



Sylvia Cullen, Year 13 student at St. Mary's Menston:

**“It was fantastic to be able to take part in a meeting that will directly influence government policy and get to meet and answer questions with a senior figure in government. I had a great day.”**

David Geldart, Founder of the Bambisanani Partnership:

**“Sylvia's election to the UK Youth Parliament is a fantastic achievement but one that does not surprise me at all. She is an exceptional young lady who first got involved with the Bambisanani Partnership at St. Mary's when she was only eleven. For the past seven years she has made a remarkable contribution to the partnership which culminated her volunteering out in South Africa this summer. Her interest in politics does not surprise me either as she has always demonstrated a genuine interest and commitment to Human Rights and Social justice. Her invitation to speak at a Government Select Committee about the Bambisanani Partnership is indicative of her outstanding ability, dedication and passion. Long may Sylvia's interest in the Bambisanani Partnership and politics continue!”**

The Bambisanani Partnership is a multi-award winning charity that has gained international acclaim for its work using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas. For more information about the Bambisanani Partnership also see [www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org)



Sylvia during the 2018 South Africa visit



# Charity chief praises the volunteers

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

THE chairman of a Wharfedale charity, David Geldart, has praised the work of volunteers and supporters.

The multi-award winning Bambisanani Partnership has gained international acclaim for its work using sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas.

From an initial visit to South Africa in 2006, which established a partnership between St Mary's at Menston and Mnyakanya School, the effort has gone from strength to strength, becoming a registered charity in 2015.

Two pioneering student volunteers visited South Africa in 2007 and since then over 200 more have followed - from St Mary's, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University - to deliver the Bambisanani programmes.

Other statistics clearly indicate the development and impact of the charity:

- over 500 South African students have gained Bambisanani Leadership awards
- over 2,000 South African students have participated in Bambisanani Sports Festivals



David Geldart praised the efforts the charity's supporters

● over 1,500 South African students have participated in Bambisanani Reading Festivals

● over 1,000 orphans have been supported into school by the partnership

● over 3,000 South African students have participated in Bambisanani learning activities

● over 1,000 UK and South African students have engaged in joint learning activities involving various curriculum areas.

Mr Geldart said: "Our student volunteers are remarkable young people who want to make a difference in the world. They are prepared to

work in the most difficult of circumstances for the sake of others and learn so much in the process.

"Whilst the statistics are impressive, they only ever provide part of the picture: behind and in front of all the numbers are real people with amazing stories to tell about how their lives have been changed in some positive way by the partnership.

"Our supporters are absolutely fantastic and I cannot thank them enough for their outstanding commitment to our work. We have ambitious plans for the future and this will only be possible with volunteers and supporters."



Charity volunteers making a difference to people's lives in South Africa







John Stokes, of ACHPER, Pierre Comis of Sport Australia, David Geldart of the Bambisanani Partnership, and Dr Shane Pill of ACHPER

# Pioneering work is 'an inspiration'

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

THE founder and chairman of the award-winning Wharfedale-based Bambisanani Partnership has spoken at an international conference about its pioneering work.

David Geldart was invited to speak at the Australian Council for Health and Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) International Conference at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

The conference, one of the biggest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, attracted delegates from over 40 nations.

Mr Geldart explained the foundation, development and impact of the charity's work in South Africa, using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of the countries most deprived rural areas.

The presentation highlighted the pioneering work of St Mary's School, Menston, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University in the partnership and encouraged other schools, colleges and universities from around the world to also become involved in similar projects, stressing the mutual benefits for all concerned.

ACHPER Chief Executive Officer John Stokes said: "The 2019 ACHPER International Conference was a showcase where contemporary and innovative physical education, health and sport practices were presented to over 300 professionals from Australia and overseas.

"The conference provided an excellent opportunity for international presenters to highlight their work in many different settings.



The Australian Institute of Sport

"One of the outstanding international presentations was made by David Geldart from the Bambisanani Partnership.

"David's unique insights on a project that uses sport to change the lives of children in one of South Africa's poorest regions struck a chord with all attendees

"It demonstrated the vision, commitment and dedication of the partnership in truly making a difference to the lives of children in another country.

"Attendees had many takeaways from the presentation, including the power of working together, the importance of the teaching profession to inspire, motivate and lead and the impact of global leadership and citizenship in influencing young lives in a positive long-term way

"The Bambisanani Partnership is an inspirational story with an inspirational message."

Dr Shane Pill, President of ACHPER said: "The Bambisanani Partnership demonstrates how sport for development has the potential to change and enrich lives beyond the playing field.

"The project represents a powerful demonstration of what education in, through and about sport can be."

Dr Helen Butler, Australian Education Adviser, said: "I was touched and inspired by the presentation made by David Geldart.

"The proactive values of community development and building capacity for action and learning of the young people and their adult supporters, both in the UK and South Africa, were admirable.

"Powerful stories were told of the real differences this made in the lives of the participants and in their communities."

Mr Geldart said: "The ACHPER International Conference has a worldwide reputation for its influence and it was a tremendous honour and privilege to be invited to speak at the iconic Australian Institute of Sport about the Bambisanani Partnership.

"It is great to be able to celebrate the tremendous work of the Bambisanani team members and my hope is always that someone in the audience will see the potential in themselves or in their own institution and 'pick up the baton'.

"The potential for genuine 'two way' learning through such programmes is limitless.

"Some great connections have been made in Australia and I cannot thank the ACHPER organising committee enough for the opportunity."

Copies of the highly acclaimed Bambisanani book 'Bambisanani: Ten Years of Working Together and Learning Together' were presented at the Conference to ACHPER President Dr Pill and to Pierre Comis from Sport Australia.

## SPORT

# The power to bring positive social change

Mgr Vladimir Felzmann

IN 1998, as a graduate student from Senegal and studying in the United States, Amadou Gallo Fall founded SEED Project (Sports for Education and Economic Development). Doing the maths, you will soon realise that this year it is celebrating its 21st anniversary.

Fall was inspired by his own journey as a student-athlete when he was discovered by a member of the Peace Corps in the 1980s that eventually led to a basketball scholarship in the United States. After graduating from the University of the District of Columbia, Fall worked for the Senegalese Basketball Federation, mentoring players and providing opportunities for student-athletes to further their education through bas-

ketball. Fall then joined the Dallas Mavericks (NBA) and served as the Director of Player Personnel and Vice President of International Affairs while founding and overseeing SEED Project, and launching the first basketball student-athlete academy in Africa.

Fall, currently chairman of the SEED Project Board of Directors and Vice President of Development for NBA Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa, continues to impact the lives of thousands of African youth.

Their programmes are designed to inspire, empower and equip young people with the skills and virtues they need to succeed in life. The idea is to re-define the student-athlete model and develop socially conscious leaders that will continue to drive Africa forward.



SEED's aims chime with those of John Paul 2 Foundation 4 Sport. George Onyango of the Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group (DADREG) which came on board JP2F4S in 2014, was awarded National Diversity and Inclusion Award and Recognition under Diversity and Inclusion Gender Equality Champion Award in 2017 by the Daima trust. Daima Trust Ltd is a Kenyan registered company whose goal is to award peace, inclusion and equality champions who have embraced diversity as a tool of advancing their agenda.

DADREG'S aim is to rehabilitate women and children working in the dumpsite and provide them with sustainable livelihood through education, skills and capital enabling them to escape from the poverty. DADREG believes that if poverty is to be reduced among the vulnerable communities, they will need to get education and gain skills and

capital made available to them. Without life-skills, people and especially women will continue going to the dumpsite because they could not compete with others who have finished their education and trainings and have access to capital.

George wrote: "We feel blessed that our actions have blessed others to improve their living conditions." To find out more, visit: [www.dadreg.org](http://www.dadreg.org).

Since 2006, St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Menston, a Sports College in Leeds, and Mnyakanya High School have worked together using sport to inspire young people in both countries.

What started as a British Council/ Youth Sport Trust 'Dreams and Teams' initiative has been developed into a unique collaboration by the two schools that is known as the Bambisanani Partnership. The partnership has since gone on to gain international acclaim.

*Bambisanani* is a Zulu word meaning 'working hand in hand' and aptly describes the collaboration between the two schools.

Mnyakanya High School is situated in the rural and remote Nkandla region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The school, in the heart of traditional Zululand, was opened by Nelson Mandela in 2004 and is located in one of the most deprived areas of South Africa with one in three adults infected by HIV/AIDS, 90 per cent unemployment and an adult illiteracy rate greater than 60 per cent. The school serves a vast area and many students walk two hours to and from school each day. The area has many AIDS orphans. Class sizes are in excess of 60 and

the school has very limited resources.

In 2014, inspired by what David Geldart, the founder of the Partnership saw on our website 'JP2F4S', St Mary's joined JP2F4. To celebrate my 75th birthday, and as founder of the JP2F4S charity, Mnyakanya High School received £750 for their kit and library. This year, to celebrate my 80th birthday, I will send them another £800. If you would like to help, please contact David Geldart at [david.geldart@hotmail.com](mailto:david.geldart@hotmail.com).

In 2015, Fr Gerald Bwenu founded Lugazi Sports Academy [LSA], a registered [UYFA/098/18A], not-profit making, non-governmental organisation, registered under the Uganda Youth Football Association. As LSA's aims chime with JP2F4S, it came on board with us last month. As all JP2F4S clubs, LSA believes that every young person should have the opportunity to transform their lives and reach their full potential in life. Via high quality football programmes it creates pathways in Uganda for disadvantaged Ugandan youths to score goals on and off the football field.

The academy seeks to harness the power of football to bring about positive social change, nurture talent and alleviate poverty in Uganda and in particular, Lugazi. Currently, LSA has a population of 250 seven to 18-year-old boys and girls.

JP2F4S 'Aim High for All Virtues Programme' [AVP] works around the globe. It will certainly work in schools, Years 6 to 9 in your neighbourhood. Why not contact us on [info@jp2f4s.org](mailto:info@jp2f4s.org) and see how together we can make this world a better place, especially for the young.



Playing football in 2006. Photo taken by David Geldart when he first visited Nkandla





The British Council and Premier League Premier Skills initiative



Bambisanani and the beautiful game helping to change lives



Volunteers from Menston using football as a catalyst for learning



Bambisanani and the beautiful game helping to change lives in South Africa

# The beautiful game is helping to change lives

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

NOW in its 13th year, the Bambisanani Partnership has gained international acclaim for its work in rural Nkandla area of South Africa using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

From the very first visit by founder, David Geldart, it was clear that despite lack of equipment, kit or facilities, football was of enormous importance in the Zulu community. Since that time, the partnership has worked hard to use this fact to develop the game itself in the area but also to use to promote other aspects of education particularly English/literacy through football. An example of this has been using football related books to teach reading.

Over the past year the Bambisanani Partnership has become involved in the British Council and Premier League Premier Skills initiative.

Premier Skills has two distinct strands of its international work: developing local football coaches and teaching English through football related resources.

All the volunteers who have recently visited South Africa from St Mary's School at Menston, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University received training from the British Council in use of the resources. In South Africa members of the Mnyakanya School and wider Nkandla community began training as football coaches with Premier League Coach Educators in courses



Bambisanani and the beautiful game helping to change lives in South Africa

held in Durban. Both strands of this work have proved incredibly effective and have added much to the impact of the partnership.

The Premier Skills resources were used to great effect by students at the John Wesley School in Eshowe and in Ntolwane Primary School in Nkandla.

Trainee Primary School teacher Harriet Mackinney, from Leeds Trinity University, said: "Premier Skills teaches English/Literacy through a range of football related resources, for example the use of comics based on a young boy becoming a 'soccer star'.

"The youngsters absolutely

loved the fact that I was using a comic book because they almost didn't see it as learning.

"They loved that it was about soccer because they could tell me about their favourite soccer team and they could ask me about mine. Premier Skills resources for teaching English/Literacy are excellent and can be used effectively."

Charity founder Mr Geldart said: "These programmes are so positive and are not only providing valuable education and skills but also aspiration and hope in this desperately poor area. Both elements are vitally important and we try and link them at every possible

opportunity.

"In the year ahead we will continue to work with the British Council and Premier League with a specific focus on training more football coaches, coach educators and more local teachers in the use of the Literacy materials.

"Community football teams are already starting to emerge. We also hope to create a 'proper' football pitch for training and fixtures and a computer suite where teachers and pupils can access Premier Skills English Language resources online. "It is great to see the beautiful game changing lives in this way!"

## Inspirational charity says 'two-way' learning is key to success

### The Bambisanani Partnership

**T**his summer saw forty five volunteers travel to one of South Africa's poorest regions to expand the work of the multi-award winning Bambisanani Partnership charity.

Students and staff from St. Mary's School, Menston, The University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University developed existing programmes and introduced new ones based on using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in rural KwaZulu-Natal. Over a four week period the volunteers taught, coached and mentored hundreds of South African students in a variety of Bambisanani programmes which included Sports Leadership courses, cycling initiatives, Sports Festivals and other curriculum areas. The partnership's commitment to 'working together and learning together' proved to have a most significant positive impact on students from both countries.

The thirteenth annual visit by St. Mary's to South Africa was led by Brad Dobson supported by Catherine Chattoe and Charlotte Wood. The St. Mary's student team were Louis Adams, Tom Allan, Harmonia Ebrahim, Charlotte Falkingham, Rachel Farmer, Lydia Giedrojt, Stephen Ginty, Ciaran Hammond, Ellie Lamb, Adam Metcalfe, Lucy Moorby, Ben Patterson, Will Sammon and Isabel Wilks had prepared for 18 months for what would be an incredible venture and significant learning experience.



Empowering students in developing leadership skills is one of the key aspects of the Bambisanani Partnership and through their ten day visit, the St. Mary's students, supported by students from Eshowe High School, mentored thirty Mnyakanya students through the Bambisanani Leadership programme. Using sport and education, the programme aimed to provide the Mnyakanya students with the necessary leadership skills and confidence to organise and deliver a Sports Festival, a Reading Festival and new to the programme, a Writing Festival, for 120 pupils from Ntolwane Primary school. As part of this process the Mnyakanya students were taught how to play, teach and organise competitions in hockey, rugby and short tennis. The leadership course was a tremendous success as was evident when the Mnyakanya students delivered three outstanding festivals. It was a learning process that empowered students from both countries and all with a real spirit of teamwork and mutual respect. The funding for all the equipment for the Sports Leadership and Festivals at Mnyakanya was provided by Manchester based international Shipping Company, Cardinal Maritime, who have been long term supporters of the partnership.



Additionally, as part of the visit, the St. Mary's students delivered lessons in a wide range of curriculum areas, ranging from science to mathematics. The lessons were full of enthusiastic Mnyakanya learners with teachers from both countries praising the students for the exceptional quality of their work.

At a special partnership celebration ceremony, Mnyakanya students received their much deserved Leadership Awards. Students from Mnyakanya and Ntolwane Primary School were presented with a series of annual awards from the John Paul II Foundation for Sport and the Lawrie McCauley awards for football and writing. Ten days of intense hard work and learning culminated in the St. Mary's students volunteering at the uMlalazi Day Centre for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children run by the Zulufadder Children's Trust. Here the students organised a variety of

sports, games, singing and story sacks which all proved to be a tremendous success.

The visit had a remarkable impact on St. Mary's students.

Rachel Farmer:

**“Bambisanani was an amazing opportunity. It taught me a lot about myself and the people I worked alongside. It gave me a unique opportunity to experience a very different culture. I met many inspirational people in South Africa and it was a proud moment watching the Mnyakanya students teach hockey, tennis and rugby to the primary school students. We saw them develop throughout the time we worked with them, growing in confidence and becoming great young leaders in their community. I believe that sport is the ultimate bridge between two different communities, as it brings us together allowing us to get to know each other, learn from each other and most importantly have fun together. I admire all the South African students I met for their commitment to learning and their striving to improve their community.”**

Tom Allan, Head Boy:

**“The visit to South Africa was the greatest 10 days of my life. The trip allowed me to become an effective leader, able to work with children but also inspire them to become leaders. It was so rewarding on the day of the sports festival watching our team of leaders from Mnyakanya teach the children of Ntolwane Primary School. Coming away from this experience, I've made friends for life.”**





Miss Charlotte Wood, teacher from St. Mary's:

**“It's been an emotional journey for everyone involved and I'm sure the realisation of what the students have experienced won't sink in for a while yet, and when it does it will be memories that last a lifetime. It's been a pleasure to experience the visit with them.”**

As part of their respective International Volunteering programmes, The University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University are key members of the Bambisanani Partnership with both institutions making has a most significant impact in recent years. This year the two universities worked collaboratively on aspects of the programme as well as also developing particular areas of interest and expertise.

The University of Leeds team was led by Paddy Craig together with colleagues Lisa Naylor, Suzzi Garnett and Andrew Lockwood. Students, Emily Faux, Charlie Stevenson, Sofia Ravanis, Jess McCarrick, Izzy Bull, Freya Bourne, India Greenbury, Beth Jenks represented a diverse range of university departments and courses.

The Leeds Trinity University was led by Nicola Arjomandkhah assisted by Sheila King. Students from Primary Education courses included Hannah Bewley, Mia Bogush, Georgia Gould, Phoebe Huggan, Claudia Jordan, Lauren Macarthur, Lizzy Marks and Beth Skelton with Jake Almond, Harriet Bryant, Adam Lambert and Ammarah Pandor representing Sport related degree courses.



Every aspect of the visit proved to be a huge success, with all volunteers thrilled by seeing the increase in the children's skills and confidence as well as with advances in their own learning and world view.

Week 1 saw students from both universities deliver the highly acclaimed 'Cycling for Success' programme at Mnyakanya High School. Now in its third year the programme teaches students how to ride and maintain bikes. This skill is often life changing for the students, as many live as far as 2 hours away from the school which creates a barrier to their education. This year, as a result of the project 35 children learnt to ride bikes, 6 children trained as bike mechanics and 20 bikes plus spare parts and tools were shipped to the school for continued use by the students. The cycling programme was made possible with funding from the North Yorkshire based, Rob Stephenson Trust and shipping by Cardinal Maritime.

In Week 2 students delivered the Leadership through Sport programme as well as additional curriculum lessons and sports activities to children from four primary schools in the Eshowe area: Gratton, Holy Childhood, John Wesley and Little Flower. This proved to be a remarkable success with no less than 175 children gaining the award.

The sports equipment that had been used to deliver the course, again generously provided by the Rob Stephenson Trust, was donated to the participating primary schools to facilitate ongoing sports development and sports leadership activities.



Alongside these projects, eight Leeds Trinity Primary Education students spent time in two South African schools as part of their 'alternative placement' module. Week 1 saw the students work across grades four to seven in Ntolwane Primary School in Nkandla, with class sizes averaging around 70 to 100 pupils. A range of subject areas were covered, including Geography, Maths, Physical Education and English. In Week 2, the students were then allocated a specific grade to teach at John Wesley Primary School in Eshowe, presenting an opportunity to work alongside local teaching staff, and to learn more about the country's education system and culture. They had the opportunity to develop lessons based on the South African curriculum and were able to link this with football related resources such as the 'Premier Skills' (developed by the British Council in partnership with the Premier League) on topics such as 'Healthy Eating'.

Moses Xulu, a teacher from Ntolwane Primary School, highlighted the benefits for all involved:

**“The student teachers and leaders made a fantastic contribution in the classrooms, in sports and with the marvellous Festivals. Both learners and educators benefit from this exposure; the talents of all involved are nurtured by the experience. My students from all grades told me that they have benefited in so many ways not least by experiencing friendship, sharing and love.”**

Alan Stuart, Principal of the John Wesley School, praised the impact of the programmes:

**“...you have made an incredible impact on the lives of so many youngsters of Eshowe. Your efforts could be described as tireless, positive, enthusiastic, meticulously planned, generous and highly professional. We look forward to similar interactions in the coming years.”**



Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Coordinator at Mnyakanya:

**“It is difficult to think of suitable words to explain the importance of this partnership. Our learners lives really changed and will never be like before. They learnt so much about leadership skills in different sports and about riding and maintaining bikes. Our learners have gained confidence in leading their peers in different school activities. They have become very helpful in the community when it comes to fixing of bikes. The young people from both countries developed their leadership skills together; in this partnership everyone gains. The partnership brings so much to our school, our community and to our country.”**

Students from Mnyakanya also valued the experience:

Melokuhle Mdlalose:

**“We learnt a lot of things from our UK friends. We learnt many sports games like hockey, rounders, rugby and tennis; we also learnt how to ride and fix the bikes. This was all a wonderful experience because we are now able to help anyone who has a problem with his or her bike even in the community.”**

Asanda Gabela:

**“I am so excited about what we learnt from the UK students this year. I am very proud that I can now play different types of sports that I have previously only seen on a television. I can now also fix bikes for myself and for my friends.”**

Melokuhle Mdlalose:

**“We learnt a lot of things from our UK friends. We learnt many sports games like hockey, rounders, rugby and tennis; we also learnt how to ride and fix the bikes. This was all a wonderful experience because we are now able to help anyone who has a problem with his or her bike even in the community.”**

Philasande Buthelezi:

**“We miss all the students from Leeds so much! They taught us many leadership skills such as communicating, active listening and how to train others in different aspects of life. We learnt the skills and rules of using the bikes. Everything was amazing!”**

Magwaza Sakhile:

**“Our visitors from St. Mary’s and the two Leeds universities were so kind, funny and patient with us. We were like brothers and sisters when we were together. We learnt so much from their discipline and about the importance of listening to others. I never thought that one day I would be able to ride and fix the bike, but today I’m proud that I have all those skills. I wish to thank the Bambisanani Partnership for changing my life.”**



Students from Mnyakanya also valued the experience:

Lizzy Marks:

**“It’s been such a privilege to have this experience and work alongside some amazing schools, teachers and students.”**

Georgia Gould:

**“I have learnt that I have the ability to achieve more than I thought I could. I have learnt that I am more adaptable and flexible than I thought.”**

Mia Bogush summed up her experience saying:

**“I have honestly had the best two weeks of my life! I have loved being able to teach and meet such amazing children who are so grateful for their education. I have learnt so much about South Africa as a country but also about myself. What I have learnt will stick with me forever and I can’t wait to share the information with others and hopefully inspire them to go and make a difference by international volunteering. I can’t wait to get back into a UK classroom and share the skills I have learnt!d for my friends.”**

University of Leeds lecturer and Bambisanani trustee Andrew Lockwood:

**“We work with hundreds of South African students with the aim of raising aspirations through leadership and activity. It is a student led project and once in a lifetime adventure, where the students gain a range of skills and experiences which set them apart for life after university. The programme not only helps the South African students to develop new skills, but it also increases our students’ skills. This year, over the course of the project, our students demonstrated an average improvement of 31% in 18 key employability skills. This will help them to stand out from the crowd once they leave university, making them attractive to top employers. Not only this, it is an experience they will never forget.”**





Emily Faux, one of the University of Leeds students:

**“The visit was more than I ever thought two weeks could be. I learnt so much about the challenges that so many people face and I helped to make a genuine, sustainable difference with the university’s partner schools. I made incredible friends and have memories to last a lifetime.”**

Fellow student Jessica M’Carrick commented::

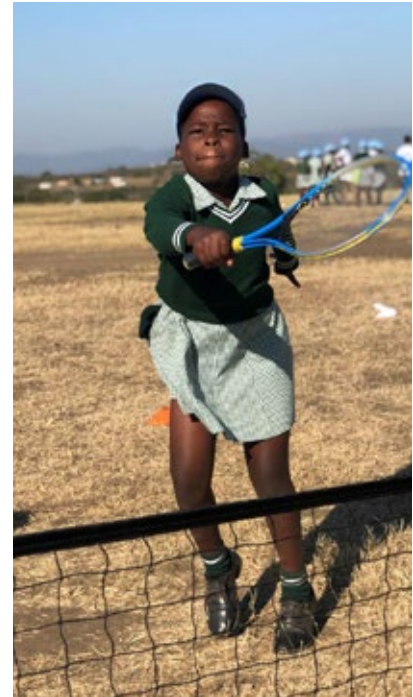
**“There is no better way to gain skills and push yourself in a teaching environment, whilst having fun and making friends. Truly an incomparable experience that I would recommend to all.”**

Founder and Chair of the Bambisanani Partnership charity David Geldart was full of praise for all involved in the visit:

**“The students and their teachers and lecturers have made a real difference to so many people’s lives through their selfless volunteering in South Africa this summer. In doing so they have learned and grown so much. Creating ‘two way learning’ is a fundamental element of what we are about. The commitment of St. Mary’s School, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University to the partnership and indeed global learning is simply phenomenal. Our supporters and sponsors, both here in the UK and in South Africa have enabled us to make a real difference in the world and deserve great credit and our sincere thanks. Based on ‘working together and learning together’ we have ambitious plans for the year ahead and are looking forward to expanding our programmes.”**

For more information about the Bambisanani Partnership please see:

[www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org)



## Bambisanani Partnership and Rotary Club of Aireborough help transform teaching and learning in rural South African school

### The Bambisanani Partnership

**St. Mary's School, Menston and Mnyakanya High School in KwaZulu-Natal started the Bambisanani Partnership thirteen years ago and throughout that time the Rotary Club of Aireborough have supported the now charity that operates in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas.**

The local Zulu community had identified a pressing need to bring computers and the internet to the school in order to transform the education at the remote rural school of Mnyakanya which is situated in an area of extreme poverty and deprivation. Three years ago, working with the KZN Department of Education, the partnership discussed an ambitious plan to create a computer based classroom (Media Centre) at the school. Following extensive research and consultation, long term Bambisanani supporter, Tony Moodley, Senior Advisor at the KZN Department of Education, produced a comprehensive three phase plan proposing a 'Computer Technology solution' at Mnyakanya.

Back in the UK Catherine Chattoe, Bambisanani Coordinator at St. Mary's began discussions with Bill Hudson, Graham Davies and Janet Kerr from Aireborough Rotary Club about the possibility of applying for a 'global grant' to implement Phase 1 of the plan from Rotary International based in the USA. The total estimated project cost was £30,000 with Aireborough Rotary Club committing to £10,000. Further liaison took place with Graham Chennells and Nick Phillips from Eshowe Rotary Club in South Africa who had also been long term supporters of the partnership. Eshowe Rotary Club consequently offered to support the project and Catherine, Graham and Janet began the rigorous process of the grant application. Late last year, following considerable hard work and commitment, the 'in principle' grant

for the remaining funds was approved by Rotary International. Over the last year the installation plan at Mnyakanya School has been put into place with the project managed by Nick Phillips supported with technical expertise from Eric Kruse.

Following three years of extraordinary international collaboration the Media Centre was opened at Mnyakanya High School this month. The purpose built classroom with enhanced security has full internet connectivity for twenty modern computers with associated software and additional hardware including projector and screen. The grant will also fund significant training for teaching staff together with technical support and connectivity fees for the next five years.

*"This is a great achievement for The Bambisanani Partnership, Aireborough Rotary Club and Eshowe Rotary Club. Providing twenty computers and access to the internet will make such a difference to the students and teachers at Mnyakanya High School. The teachers will be able to use the facility to improve their teaching and students will be able to use the computers to aid their learning and access valuable information that may impact on their futures."*

Catherine Chattoe



*"We are pleased to have been able to facilitate the funding of this project which we know will have a massive positive impact on the lives of both the students and the teaching staff at the school. We are looking forward in conjunction with the Bambisanani Partnership to seeing how they have all progressed."*

Graham Davies,  
The Secretary of the Rotary Club of Aireborough

The Media Centre is known as 'Mary's Room' with respect to St. Mary's School and to Mary Jowett, former teacher and Deputy Head at Saltire Secondary School, Bradford, who left a legacy to Aireborough Rotary Club which helped to fund the project. The Rotary District Governor in KZN Jaco Stander visited the school recently to officially open the new facility.

The opening of the Media Centre has already had a major impact on the teachers and students, many of whom walk two hours to and from school each day:

*"We thank everybody concerned for the new Media Centre which will help transform our school for both learners and educators. We have already applied to the Department of Education to introduce Computer Application Technology as a subject across all grades to ensure that our learners are well equipped to face the real world and play their part in it."*

Ronnie Ngeleka, Principal

*"The New Media Centre is opening a new page of life for the Mnyakanya Community. It will make the life of educators and students easier. Students will start to learn how to use the computers as early as from grade 8 and will learn how to complete school work on them. This had been a big challenge for ages. Our learners will have a better chance of reaching tertiary institutions and will not be disadvantaged when they get there. This Media Centre will also help to train young people from the community how to apply online and search for employment opportunities without having to always travel to towns and cities to search for jobs."*

***This will really change life for our community.***

*This Media Centre is marking the beginning of a computer literate society and an introduction of the importance of technology in our community. We as Mnyakanya School would like to pass our massive thanks to the Bambisanani Partnership and the Rotary Clubs of Aireborough and Eshowe."*

Pk Zondi,  
Bambisanani Co-ordinator at Mnyakanya





## ***“With this new Media Centre our community is equipped with a tool to communicate with the world.***

*Our community will live the lifestyle of a well-developed society where technology is a fundamental part of the society. Our students will have easy access to information. They will find the learning process as interesting as playing the games. This will lead to a bright future for learners, educators and the community at large. The Media Centre will pave a way to easy success to tertiary institutions and to job opportunities.”*

Boh Mbambo,  
Mnyakanya teacher

## ***“Our New media Centre will really change our lives at Mnyakanya.***

*Our standard of education will rise with the best, even if compared with those of urban schools. This Media Centre will attract many students to come to Mnyakanya because very few schools in rural South Africa have computers. This Media Centre will save time for educators because, less work will be written by hand on chalkboards. This will also save school funds in buying more chalks and exercise books.*

## ***This is really amazing!***

*May this partnership grow stronger.”*

BM Mthenjana,  
Mnyakanya teacher



*“We like to thank the Bambisanani partnership and the Rotary Clubs for opening this technology opportunity to us. I am a grade 12 student this year. I am so excited to get an opportunity to learn how to do typing from the computer. The Media Centre has helped me to search for different institutions where I can pursue my studies next year. It is a great opportunity for all young people who will come to Mnyakanya after me and even for our generations, to become a computer literate society.*

## ***“I would like to thank all involved in making this dream come true.”***

Valentia Mkhwanazi,  
Student

*“It is really unbelievable that I am using a computer at school to write my school assignments and projects and also to browse for information. It’s amazing! Life is becoming so easy! Learning is so interesting. This new Media Centre will encourage even those learners who feel schooling as a boring journey. They will start enjoying to come to school. Those who dropped out earlier will come back to school. This will lead to a more educated society with technology. Siyabonga Kakhulu (thank you very much) to the Bambisanani Partnership and Aireborough and Eshowe Rotary Clubs.”*

Lindelani Zuma,  
student



Rural KwaZulu-Natal

Discussions are already underway at Mnyakanya School to use this initiative as a catalyst for further development that will further raise educational achievement. Priscilla Guliwe from the KZN Department of Education is recommending that the school is reclassified as a Technical School which will bring curriculum development and enhanced resources. Nick Phillips is also discussing the possibility of employing a specific Computer Application Technology teacher at the school as from January 2020.



Mnyakanya High School, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

David Geldart, Founder and Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership was full of praise for all involved in bringing the project to fruition:

*“An exceptional amount of hard work has gone into this, with Bambisanani friends, supporters and colleagues in both countries collaborating to make it a reality. My special thanks must go to Catherine, Graham and Janet for driving the proposal forward to a successful outcome. The new facility at Mnyakanya is modest by UK standards but simply massive in the context of this remote rural area. It has the potential to transform education at Mnyakanya School and give already extensively disadvantaged students some of the same opportunities that we take for granted. In an area that has 90% unemployment this initiative will give the community a boost that will inspire hope and aspirations.”*

David Geldart,  
Founder and Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership



For more information about the Bambisanani Partnership please see:

[www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org)

# Bambisanani and UN Sustainable Development Goals

**A**s Founding Members of Sport and Sustainability International the Bambisanani Partnership's holistic view encompasses and interrelates the social, environmental, economic and governance pillars of sustainability.

We wholeheartedly support and work towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but view them as inextricably linked rather than in isolation.

Indeed, while our work with the partnership most obviously contributes to goals 3 and 4, we also believe that we make significant contributions to 1,2,5,8,9,10,16 and 17 in our own small and interconnected way

*"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."*

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu

*"Every day presents us with a myriad of opportunities to make a real difference and a chance to live more authentic and meaningful lives – let's get going!"*

— David Geldart, Bambisanani Partnership Founder

*"The work of the Bambisanani Partnership covers a broad range of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, from Goal 1: No Poverty, through to Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals. However, the partnership's work has direct links to Goal 3: to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and Goal 4: to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning. In 2019, UN updates outlined that major progress had been made in improving the health of millions of people around the world, as well as improving access to education. However, significant work in both areas still remains to be done. The Bambisanani Partnership is playing a vital role in helping towards this, improving health and education for thousands involved in this programme."*

— Zoe Fenwick, University of Leeds



## THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

**THE BAMBISANANI PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS  
AND WORKS TOWARDS THE UN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS IN ORDER TO HELP CREATE A  
MORE SUSTAINABLE, JUST AND COMPASSIONATE WORLD.**





**1** NO  
POVERTY

IN 2030 WE'LL HAVE  
HALVED THE NUMBER  
OF CHILDREN  
LIVING IN POVERTY.



**2** ZERO  
HUNGER

IN 2030 NOBODY WILL  
SUFFER FROM  
MALNUTRITION.



**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING

IN 2030 NO MORE  
BABIES WILL DIE  
FROM PREVENTABLE  
CAUSES.



**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION

IN 2030 EVERY  
BOY AND GIRL  
IN THE WORLD WILL GET  
A QUALITY EDUCATION.



**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY

IN 2030 THERE WILL BE  
NO DISCRIMINATION  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS,  
ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.



**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION

IN 2030 EVERYONE  
WILL HAVE SAFE  
WATER TO DRINK.



**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY

IN 2030 THE WORLD  
WILL BE POWERED BY  
RENEWABLE ENERGY.



**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH

IN 2030 EVERYONE IN THE WORLD  
WILL BE ABLE TO  
FIND A DECENT JOB.



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

IN 2030 EVERYONE  
WILL HAVE ACCESS  
TO THE INTERNET.



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES

IN 2030 OUR  
POOREST PEOPLE WILL HAVE  
FASTER GROWING INCOMES.



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES

IN 2030 OUR CITIES WILL BE  
HEALTHIER TO LIVE IN, WITH CLEANER  
AIR FOR US TO BREATHE.



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION

IN 2030 THE AMOUNT OF  
FOOD THE WORLD WASTES  
WILL BE HALVED.



**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION

IN 2030 CLIMATE  
CHANGE WILL NO LONGER  
THREATEN OUR PLANET.



**14** LIFE BELOW  
WATER

IN 2030 OVERFISHING WILL BE  
OUTLAWED, AND OUR FISH STOCKS  
WILL HAVE BEEN RESTORED.



**15** LIFE  
ON LAND

IN 2030 WE'LL HAVE SAVED  
OUR ENDANGERED SPECIES  
FROM EXTINCTION.



**16** PEACE AND JUSTICE  
STRONG INSTITUTIONS

IN 2030 WE'LL ALL  
HAVE EQUAL ACCESS  
TO JUSTICE.



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

IN 2030 THE LEAST DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES WILL EXPORT TWICE  
AS MUCH AS THEY DO NOW.

## International Conference honour for Bambisanani Partnership

### The Bambisanani Partnership

**D**avid Geldart, Founder and Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership, recently addressed a prestigious International Conference in Prague, Czech Republic.

Over the past thirteen years the partnership has gained international acclaim for its pioneering work using sport as a catalyst to promote education, leadership and global citizenship in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas. During that time more than 250 volunteers from St. Mary's School, Menston, The University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University have delivered a range of Bambisanani programmes to over 3000 South African children with significant impact on students from both countries.



The conference, organised by *Progressive Connexions*, attracted a diverse range of delegates and speakers from over 35 different countries. The conference provided an excellent platform to outline the purpose, activities and outcomes of the partnership. As well as hopefully encouraging others to embark on similar projects the presentation generated considerable discussion and debate involving not only those from the world of education and sport development but also from very different backgrounds including Law, Public Administration, Human Rights, International Development and even Architecture. Some of these conversations have continued post conference which is really encouraging.

Kacper Grass, USA:

**“The Bambisanani Partnership presentation at the conference made a very powerful impression on me. While textbooks can give students access to a whole history of ideas and the internet can provide information on virtually any subject, the Bambisanani Partnership offers students an opportunity that neither traditional education nor modern technology can adequately substitute: cultural learning through personal connections. If more young students had the opportunity to travel, meet, and share their knowledge and passions with peers around the world, then there would be much reason to feel optimistic about the future of international and intercultural relations. Should this project be but one small step in creating a more understanding and open-minded world, then at least it is a step in the right direction.”**

Adita Singh, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, India

**“The work that the Bambisanani Partnership is doing is truly inspirational. It is one thing to talk about making a change but it is another to take action. It's amazing to see people who dedicate their life to promoting education and leadership in one of the most deprived rural areas of South Africa. The most remarkable thing about the initiative is the use of sports as a powerful and effective educational tool. The project is changing lives and I think everyone should put their weight**

**behind the movement, so that it could be expanded to other areas as well. I would like to discuss the possibilities for collaboration between your organisation and our university (JGU).”**

Helen Vost, Managing Director, Youth Sport Trust International:

**“I was delighted to meet David in Prague recently and hear his presentation about how the Bambisanani partnership has gone from strength to strength since it first began in 2006. By sharing the journey that St. Mary's School has been on with Mnyakenya High School in South Africa, David will I'm sure inspire other schools and universities to use the power of sport to forge global links and promote genuine two way learning which benefits all the teachers and young people involved.”**

Dr Robert Fisher, Conference Director:

**“A global audience of academics, practitioners and professionals enjoyed an illuminating and revealing presentation on the work of the Bambisanani Partnership at the third global inclusive interdisciplinary conference, Culture and Society, in Prague. The significance of the work being undertaken and its value to researchers serves to accentuate the continuing need for voices who are engaging with communities and developing innovative, organic relationships to be heard in contexts like this and provided welcome perspectives in conversations with the delegates who attended. We heartily welcome and encourage this much needed level of participation in our global meetings.”**





David added:

**“ It was a great honour and a privilege to represent the outstanding Bambisanani team at this important international event. Such occasions always help me reflect on what we do and why we do it; on our actions and on our impact. This genuinely progressive conference proved very effective at this. There is a great danger for all of us that ‘we live in our own echo chambers’ only hearing or reading that which reinforces our current world view. This conference was highly effective in bringing together a wide range of people who were willing not only to listen and learn from one another but also to question and challenge others in a spirit of collegiality, goodwill and friendship. It was a great opportunity to speak about our international work to an international audience.”**



For more information about the Bambisanani Partnership please see:

[www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org)

David Geldart

The Bambisanani Partnership: Using the power of to change lives in one of South Africa's poorest regions





Work being carried out by St. Mary's School and Bambisanani Partnership, above and below

# National honour for work in Africa

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

ST Marys School at Menston and the Bambisanani Partnership have been recognised at the Youth Sport Trust 25th anniversary awards dinner held at the Ricoh Stadium in Coventry.

At the prestigious event the school and partnership gained a commendation in the 'Outstanding Contribution to Community Award'.

Catherine Chattoe, Bambisanani co-ordinator at St Mary's, and Barbara Pounder, trustee of the Bambisanani Partnership charity, attended the event of behalf of the school and partnership.

St Mary's started the partnership in 2006 with Mnyakanya High School which is based in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas.

The partnership uses sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

The independent nomination for the award said: "Not only has the partnership between the two schools grown, but St Mary's has reached out to its community of schools in Leeds, involving students and

staff from the School Sport Partnership and two local universities - Leeds Trinity University and the University of Leeds - while Mnyakanya involves children and young people from multiple schools across the region.

"The partnership's work is now vast and constantly developing. It includes sports leadership, sports festivals, cycling initiatives and sports coaching but it has also used sport as a catalyst for so much more: literacy and numeracy projects, curriculum development, support for orphans, further education support and promoting employability.

"The impact on everyone involved - adults and young people - is immeasurable but includes improved health and wellbeing, educational achievement and exemplary citizenship. Above all, St Mary's has demonstrated the power of sport to build communities - locally and globally - in which young people, whatever their background, can contribute and thrive."

Over the past 14 years over 10,000 UK and South African students have participated in Bambisanani activities. Over 280 students from the UK have travelled to South Africa



as volunteers to deliver the various Bambisanani programmes, over 775 South African students have gained the Bambisanani Leadership Award and over 2,750 South African students have taken part in Bambisanani Sports Festivals.

Darren Beardsley, Headteacher at St Mary's, said: "I am extremely proud of the work of St Mary's and The

Bambisanani Partnership.

"The teams involved have worked incredibly hard over the last 14 years and enabled such a transformation in our local community and globally. The impact has been immense. They are thoroughly deserving of this national recognition."

David Geldart, founder of the partnership, said: "This really is a fantastic achieve-

ment and thanks must go to our small army of volunteers and supporters who make all these things happen.

"It was fitting that Catherine and Barbara represented us at the prestigious event; their contribution to this valuable work over the years has simply been immense."

"We have worked closely with the Youth Trust and

without their initial support as part of the 'Dream Teams' programme work would not have begun.

"It was therefore a great honour indeed to be named in the very special Anniversary Awards."

"St Mary's deserves the highest praise for the work it has done to put its values into action."





Wednesday 15 April 2020

## David Geldart – Improving health and education in South Africa and the UK through educational exchange

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Over the past 14 years, David Geldart (M.Ed Physical Education 1989) has helped to change the lives of students in South Africa and the UK; he has established the Bambisanani Partnership, an educational exchange which uses sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

The work of the Bambisanani Partnership covers a broad range of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, from Goal 1: No Poverty, through to Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals. However, David's work has direct links to Goal 3: to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and Goal 4: to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning. He told us more about the work his charity is involved in, and how it is making a difference to the lives of those who take part.



## How did you get involved in the work you're doing now?

In 2006 I founded the Bambisanani Partnership, which came about following an invitation from the South African government to develop a school-based sports project in the eighteen most deprived areas of South Africa. I began by establishing a link between my own school, St. Mary's High School in Leeds, and Mnyakanya High School, which serves one of KwaZulu-Natal's most deprived rural communities. We brought students together from the UK and South Africa in a collaboration that went on to inspire young people across many areas of the curriculum – not just sport – becoming embedded in the lives of both schools.

'Bambisanani' is a Zulu word meaning 'working hand in hand' and aptly describes the work and vision of this inspirational partnership that uses sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership. One of our fundamental aims has been to create genuine 'two way' learning between students of both the UK and South Africa, with a key focus on 'working together and learning together'.

Fourteen years on, and this pioneering partnership has gained international acclaim for its work – we are now a multi-award winning charity. The project has not only been sustained, it has grown and expanded to involve other schools and indeed universities. Significantly, The University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University are now both heavily involved in the partnership, and like St. Mary's School, students regularly visit South Africa in order to extend and develop the partnership's various programmes, such as 'Developing Leadership through Sport', 'Cycling for Success', and the use of sport to enhance other areas of the curriculum. .

Since its inception all those years ago, over 10,000 UK and South African students have now participated in Bambisanani activities. Over 280 students from the UK have travelled to South Africa as volunteers to deliver the various Bambisanani programmes, over 775 South African students have gained the Bambisanani Leadership Award and over 2,750 South African students have taken part in Bambisanani Sports Festivals.

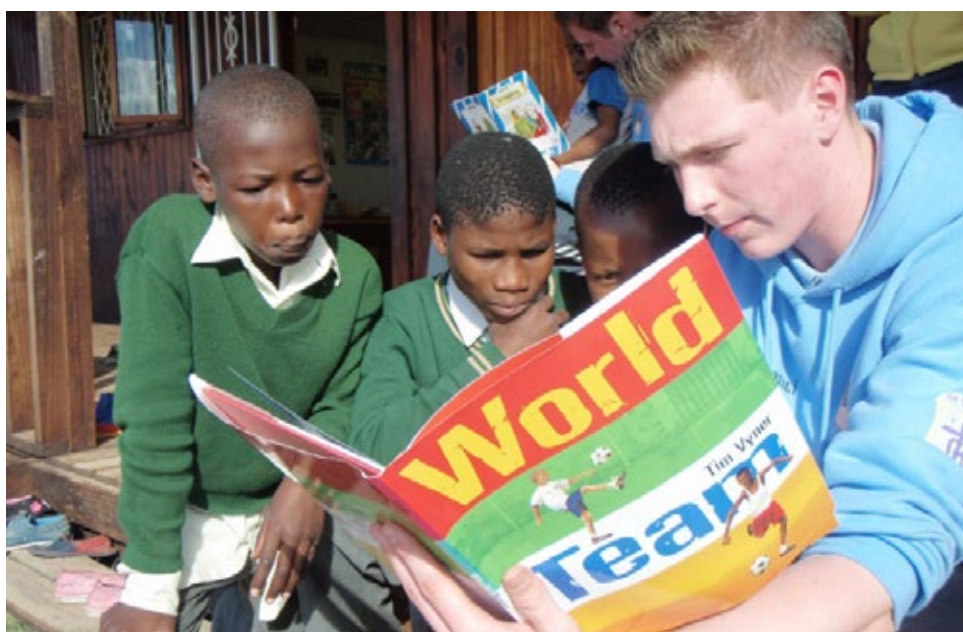
"The Bambisanani story is testimony of the power of sport to change lives and has served as a reminder to many just why they became a teacher".





## How did Leeds help you to get where you are today?

The University of Leeds was absolutely instrumental in giving me the academic basis, confidence and inspiration that fed my passion for education, sport and a better world. Alongside my work in schools, Leeds provided me with a range of opportunities at national and international level. Working with the brilliant Dr Jim Parry in both Physical Education and Philosophy was transformational. Jim challenged me in a way that I had not been challenged before – he made me think and taught me lessons that have continued to serve me and my work well for over thirty years. One thing tends to lead to another in life, and my current work with the Bambisanani Partnership can be traced back to my time at Leeds. I am therefore absolutely delighted that in recent years my alma mater has become a key member of the partnership, with students and staff regularly volunteering on our programmes in South Africa.



## How is your role linked to sustainability?

I lead the Bambisanani Partnership Charity, which operates in one of South Africa's most deprived rural communities. It is committed to using sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership – all key factors in creating a more sustainable world. Significantly, we bring young people together from both South Africa and the UK in a way that opens their eyes to a wider world and mutual learning possibilities. Challenged and inspired by the experience, young people from both countries begin to take a wider view of the world. They start to question the way the world is, and consider how it could, and indeed should, be in the future. Full of vision, hope and future intentions, these young people are better positioned to take their place in the world. This is real education.



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“Every day presents us with a myriad of opportunities to make a real difference and a chance to live more authentic and meaningful lives – let's get going!”

*David Geldart, (M.Ed Physical Education 1989)  
Founder and Chair, Bambisanani Partnership charity*

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## What does sustainability mean to you?

For me sustainability is about taking care of the planet and its people; creating a more equitable, compassionate and harmonious world that is increasingly interdependent. It is about addressing human behaviour that is capable of destroying our world and each other; it is about inspiring and motivating behaviour that can do the reverse.

My holistic view encompasses and interrelates the social, environmental, economic and governance pillars of sustainability. I wholeheartedly support the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but view them as inextricably linked rather than in isolation. Indeed, while my work with the Bambisanani Partnership most obviously contributes to goals 3 and 4, I also believe that we make contributions to 1,2,5,8,10,16 and 17 in our own small and hopefully interconnected way.

Sustainability is about the kind of world I want to see, and what I am prepared to do to help achieve it through my own personal actions, advocacy and the opportunities I create for others to be motivated into action.

“What we doing to the forest of the world is a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another” - Mahatma Gandhi



## Why is it important?

Sustainability is important because time is running out. We all have a responsibility for the future of our planet and for humanity. There is clearly a mismatch between the kind of world that we would like to see and the one we have now. Sustainability in all its facets cannot afford to be ‘everyone’s concern but someone else’s responsibility’. Change needs to happen; our leaders need to lead, but I believe that the most powerful and significant changes will have to come from individuals believing that their actions will make a difference.

“Only when the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught and the last stream poisoned will we realise that we cannot eat money” - Native American proverb

## What sort of actions do you think individuals need to take in the next five years to create a sustainable future?

Paradigm shifts in attitudes and behaviour will be required, but relatively small changes made by all of us would make the difference. If you want to see a kinder, more thoughtful and compassionate world, then be a kinder, more thoughtful and compassionate person. In all things we need to be empowered to be the change that we want to see in the world.

It is both ironic and perverse to think that there may be 'positives' that come from the Coronavirus pandemic, but I have been heartened and inspired by the outpouring of humanity during such a devastating and difficult time. Our lives suddenly became very different to what they had been, and I believe that because of this there is the very real potential for people around the world to 'press the reset button' in terms of purpose, values and what is really important in the world and in our lives. For many of us, I believe our priorities in the future will be different.

Every day we make choices about how we live our lives; what we consume and how we treat others. Every day presents us with a myriad of opportunities to make a real difference and a chance to live more authentic and meaningful lives – let's get going!

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world" - Archbishop Desmond Tutu



**In 2019, UN updates outlined that major progress had been made in improving the health of millions of people around the world, as well as improving access to education. However, significant work in both areas still remains to be done. David's work with the Bambisanani Partnership is playing a vital role in helping towards this, improving health and education for thousands involved in his program.**





St Mary's students, left, who were due to visit South Africa in June of 2020 – the visit was cancelled due to lockdown; above, student Aisling Hendron is among the fundraisers

# From Menston to Mnyakanya: school fundraises for vital water

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

FOURTEEN years ago, Mnyakanya High School in rural KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, together with St Mary's School, Menston, established the now multi award winning Bambisanani Partnership which uses sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

A few weeks ago Mnyakanya School contacted the Bambisanani Partnership charity with the terrible news that they had no water supply which meant that the school could not reopen safely after the coronavirus lockdown of schools in South Africa, as basic hygiene requirements such as hand washing could not be carried out.

The Acting Principal of the school, Mrs Thulie Mkhize, spoke of young people 'starting to lose hope' in a school that offers hope above all else in one of the country's most remote and deprived areas.

In order to get running water reinstated at the school, students and staff from St Marys have started a fundraising campaign which involves members of the



The route from St Mary's to South Africa

school community collectively running, walking or cycling the equivalent distance from Menston to Mnyakanya – 8,709 miles! Led by teacher Miss Charlotte Wood, the initial challenge

involved 21 students and staff from the school who are directly involved in the partnership's work in South Africa, including current and former members of staff: Charlotte Wood, Catherine

Chattoe, Matt Harvey, Brad Dobson, David Geldart and Year 12 students: Joseph Nicol, Archie Bange, Ellie Woffenden, Gabriel Beaumont, Millie Carroll, Theo Humphreys, Joe Newman, Oscar Helliwell, Catherine Westhead, Caitlin Copsey, Kizzy Tremlett, Sabrina Spilker, Aisling Hendron, Dion Barber, Emma Kerrigan and Luca Volpe.

Last weekend, a 10k run, cycle or walk event was completed by all the team which also saw many more teachers from the school join the challenge including: Mr Hearle, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Rix, Mr Pringle, Mrs Wilson, Miss Chrispin, Mrs Beesting, Miss Anderson, Mrs Thornton, Miss Rogers, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Findlay, Mrs Harrison, Ms Pettifer, Mr Dennett, Mr Steingold, Mrs Hanson, Mr Thornton, Miss Mason and Mrs Doyle.

Collectively, the team have now completed over 1,665 miles, which on the long road to South Africa, takes them to Almeria in Spain. With all team members clocking up the miles on a daily basis, the destination will hopefully be reached by November which, will culminate in many of them competing in the Leeds 10k. The aim is to raise over £5,000

which will not only reinstate clean water to the school but also increase the number of taps and improve plumbing.

David Geldart, Founder and Chair of the Bambisanani Partnership, said: "This is a fantastic initiative which will hopefully get Mnyakanya students back into school safely so they can start improving their life chances again.

"We take washing our hands and having clean water to drink for granted; it is difficult to comprehend life without access to water, particularly in these unprecedented and challenging times.

"The only guaranteed meal that many of these youngsters get is when they are at school – during the lockdown. This has obviously not been happening so it is essential to get the school open again as soon as possible.

"I thank everyone involved in this challenge and indeed those supporting it – you really will make a difference."

To donate to the charity to support this initiative please visit [www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org) or contact Bambisanani Coordinator at St Mary's, Mrs Catherine Chattoe: [c.chattoe@stmarysmenston.org](mailto:c.chattoe@stmarysmenston.org)

# South African children return to school - with a water supply

By Claire Lomax

01943 407022

CHILDREN at the Mnyakanya School in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, have returned to school with water thanks to the Menston-based Bambisanani Partnership charity.

The school had not been able to return after the Coronavirus lockdown due to having no water supply. Students and staff were unable to adhere to safety and hygiene procedures such as washing hands and equipment.

The three main UK-based partners of the charity - St Mary's School at Menston, The University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University - wasted no time in setting about raising the necessary funds to reconnect water and also to improve the plumbing at the school, particularly the number of taps that students have access to.

Fundraising events from on-line quiz nights to the ongoing sponsored run/walk/cycle the equivalent distance from Yorkshire to South Africa, have been enhanced

by generous donations from Bambisanani supporters.

The Bambisanani Partnership is absolutely thrilled to announce that it has worked in collaboration with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education and that jointly the funding has been found - the water subsequently connected and the students have returned to school.

Principal, Mrs Thulile Mzizze, said: "We are lost for words to express our grateful thanks and joy at being able to return to school; we have hope again."

Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Coordinator at Mnyakanya School, added: "Thank you to everyone at the Bambisanani Partnership for all the hard work that has allowed Mnyakanya to reopen because we now have water at the school."

"The learners and educators are now back in school - there is much excitement!"

"Please pass on our sincere thanks to all the Bambisanani team and supporters for making this happen and happen so quickly."

The Chair of Governors at



South African children return to school with water

the school Mr Sguda Bhengu passed on sincere thanks from the governing body to the partnership for restoring the water supply to the school, adding: "We still face the Covid-19 pandemic but the water supply means that washing and hygiene will no longer be a problem."

David Geldart, Founder and Chair of the Bambisanani Partnership, said: "To resolve this problem has been a

tremendous team effort.

"Very quickly we were able to liaise with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education to agree a '50/50' funding package that would connect Mnyakanya School to the water supply. Our special thanks must go to Dr David Chonco, Tony Moodley, Priscilla Guliwe and all at Mnyakanya School and the wider community for their commitment to this project.

"Thanks also to all the Bambisanani Trustees who worked tirelessly to make this happen.

"Last but not least, a special tribute must be paid to our other Bambisanani team members and supporters who were so swiftly into action with fund raising."

Fundraising will continue for phase two of the project which is about improving the plumbing at the school.





From left to right: Charlotte Wood, Richard Phillips, Catherine Chattoe, Matt Harvey and David Geldart

# Otley Lions support African water project

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

OTLEY Lions have presented a cheque for £1000 to the St. Mary's, Menston based charity, The Bambisanani Partnership, in order to complete an ambitious Water Project at Mnyakanya School situated in the remote rural area of Nkandla in South Africa.

The charity recently established mains water connection to the school which allowed children to return to school following a strict coronavirus lockdown and now aims to install ten water tanks to store water for both the school and the wider community. The scheme will also include a rain water collection, filter and storage system which will add more sustainable element to the project.

The school serves one the poorest communities in South Africa and a constant supply of clean water will have a massive impact in terms of health and wellbeing. Having clean water to drink, cook with and clean with

will transform the lives of many in the area. South Africa has been particularly badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic, none more so than in the remote rural areas where the infrastructure simply isn't there to cope with the situation.

Mrs Pk Zondi from Mnyakanya School said: "We are so grateful for the support for this project which has already saved lives; it will improve the quality of life for members of the school community and beyond. This project will help sustain learning at the school which in its self is life changing for so many."

President of Otley Lions Richard Phillips presented the cheque to members of the Bambisanani Partnership team: Charlotte Wood, Catherine Chattoe, Matt Harvey and David Geldart in the Chapel at St Mary's where he also had the opportunity to learn more about the ground breaking work of the charity in South Africa.

David Geldart, Founder and Chairman of the Bambisanani Partnership, added: "St Mary's

School and the Bambisanani Partnership have a long history of support and kindness from Otley Lions. We are so appreciative of this very generous donation that will make a genuine difference to people's lives in this deprived part of South Africa where ready access to clean water is by no means a given.

"We are delighted to be associated with Otley Lions; their genuine commitment to serving communities, both locally and internationally, is truly remarkable and inspirational. We cannot thank them enough for the support that it has given this charity."

Richard said: "It was a pleasure to meet members of the Bambisanani team at St. Mary's School.

"The work they have done since the start of the partnership is tremendous and this current endeavour is no less worthy of our support.

"We all take clean running water for granted but not everyone is lucky enough to have the access to it that we do."



A young child stands amongst a fire damaged home



The World Cup programme which was auctioned to raise funds

# Auction helps rebuild lives in South Africa

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022

MENSTON-BASED charity The Bambisanani Partnership held an auction to raise funds for the community of Vumahlamvu Primary School, in South Africa, in particular 21 children who lost everything in recent wildfires.

The school's Principal, William Vilakazi, asked for support when ten families were left homeless in the rural, remote Nkandla region which suffers high levels of poverty and deprivation.

William said: "The wild fires have destroyed homes, livestock and forests. Twenty one of our learners were badly affected by the fire. They are homeless, without clothes and food; some of the children cannot return to school right now because of the situation."

The partnership hastily organised an auction which included some rare and unique signed items from Sir Geoff Hurst, Sir Trevor Brooking, Alan Shearer, Wayne Rooney, Geoffrey Boycott, David Gower, Bob Willis, Leeds United, Leeds Rhinos and the Kaiser Chiefs. The auction proved to be a tremendous success raising an amazing £4,205.

The auction was organised by David Geldart, chairman of the charity, who said: "Working with William, his local community and Eshwore Ro-



Wild fires left ten families homeless in the rural, remote Nkandla region in South Africa

tary Club we will now be able to provide the school uniforms, blankets and emergency food parcels required. We will also be able to provide the materials to rebuild the homes that were burnt to the ground. All the labour required for the building work will be provided by volunteers from the local community. With thoughts of these children not just surviving but thriving, our fund raising efforts will also enable us to provide reading books,

sports equipment and other educational resources for the children affected."

In response to the funding news, William Vilakazi said: "I really do not have the words to thank the Bambisanani Partnership for helping us at this time of great tragedy. This community is very poor and some families lost everything they had. The impact of the Bambisanani support will give the children everything they need: food, clothing and a

home again; they will be back in school again, happy and learning. Thank you so much to everyone involved."

David Geldart added: "People have been so kind and generous supporting the auction and making donations. The events in Williams's community clearly touched the hearts of many people and the response has been wonderful. This funding will genuinely help to change lives and the quality of people's lives."



A signed Kaiser Chiefs album



The Leeds United football



# 'Exceptional' Brogan takes on role as charity trustee



Brogan O'Connor has been appointed a trustee of the Bambisanani Partnership

By Annette McIntyre

01943 607022

A FORMER St Mary's student has been appointed as a trustee to the Menston-based Bambisanani Partnership.

Brogan O'Connor has been involved in the work of the partnership ever since visiting South Africa as a schoolgirl. Her work there was recognised when she received the prestigious Sbonelo Magwaza Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Whilst at Northumbria University Brogan returned to Africa several times both as a volunteer and leader of volunteers. At university she held key leadership roles including being elected student sport president and board member of the Northumbria Sport Foundation. She became the youngest student sport participation manager ever appointed at the university.

She said: "The Bambisanani Partnership is a charity that I support wholeheartedly, ever since my first visit to South Africa as a St Mary's student in 2011. In the nine years since my visit to Mnyakanya I have remained in touch with the partnership and followed its work closely.

I continue to be impressed and inspired by the amazing work being done between two brilliant communities. I couldn't be more proud to be appointed as a trustee and I am looking forward to working closely with the rest of the team to continue the amazing work the partnership does day in day out."

Bambisanani founder and Chairman, David Geldart, said: "Quite simply Brogan is an outstanding young woman who will bring much to the Partnership. Her exceptional track record in international volunteering, sport development and charity governance will enable her to make a significant contribution to the team who are committed to extending our work in one of South Africa's most deprived areas using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership."

"Brogan is both an outstanding leader and team player; her experience, ability and enthusiasm will enable us to have even greater impact in the future."

Brogan will join existing board members David Geldart, Darren Beardsley, Barbara Pounder, Andrew Lockwood and David Thorpe.

# It's all smiles as charity presents



Sthembile Dlezi



Nontethelelo-Gasa



Sifiso Mngayi



Bandile Ntanzu

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022  
claire.lomax@gazetteandobserver.co.uk

THE Menston-based charity The Bambisanani Partnership recently presented its annual awards at Mnyakayana High School in South Africa to six talented students.

The awards went to (from left to right in the group photo): John Paul II Foundation for Sport Sportswoman of the Year Award: Bandile Ntanzu; Laurie McCauley Creative Writing Award: Sthembile Dlezi; Sibonelo Magwaza Award (Outstanding Young Leader) & John Paul II Foundation For Sport 'True Spirit of Sport' Award: Nontethelelo Gasa; Laurie McCauley Most Improved Footballer Award: Sandile Mpungose; John Paul II Foundation for Sport 'Helping Others Achieve Their Potential' Award: Sifiso Mngayi; John Paul II Foundation for Sport Sportsman of the Year Award: Siyabonga Mbambo.

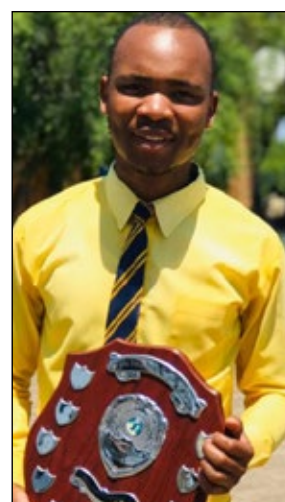
Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Coordinator at Mnyakanya School, spoke of the importance of the prestigious annual awards: "The Bambisanani Awards for 2020 had a great impact in motivating and awakening hope in Mnyakanya students, who were greatly demotivated by the Covid 19 pandemic which disturbed the 2020 academic year; they have lifted spirits.

"The award winners were so excited to be recognised for their efforts.

"They are motivated to do more at school and to attend classes actively. They developed higher self-esteem and self-confidence.

"They are a great inspiration to other learners who saw those receiving awards. I wish to thank the Bambisanani Partnership for introducing these inspirational awards.

"We especially remember at this time, Laurie McCauley and Sibonelo



Sandile Mpungose

Magwaza who continue to motivate through the very special awards in their memory. Even though the Bambisanani volunteers were not with us this year for the presentation they were certainly with us in spirit."

The recipients were delighted with their awards.

John Paul II Foundation for Sport Sportswoman of the Year winner Bandile Ntanzu said: "I am very happy to be named as a Sportswoman of the Year. It will also inspire other learners. I have seen many students wishing to take pictures with me holding this award. I felt like a famous person!"



# awards to star African students



Mnyakanya High School Bambisanani Award Winners 2020

"I do believe that my career in sports will be brighter in the future. Thank you very much to the Bambisanani Partnership for recognising me as the Sportswoman of the Year."

Sthembele Dlezi received the Laurie McCauley Creative Writing Award: "It is a great pleasure for me to win the Creative Writing Award. I am very happy that my writing skills have been internationally recognised."

"This award is motivating me inexplicably. The award will definitely go a long way to make my future brighter because I will always mention this achievement in my Curriculum Vitae when applying for jobs!"

"I wish to thank everyone involved in recognising me."

Having won two awards, the multi-talented Nontethelelo Gasa could hardly contain her excitement: "It is amazing. I can't believe that it is me who is holding the Sibonelo Magwaza Award of an Outstanding Young leader and the True Spirit of Sport Award. Thank you very much to the Bambisanani Team."

Sandile Mpungose, who won the Laurie McCauley Legacy Award for the Most Improved Footballer, said: "I have been wishing to hold the Laurie Award for many years. I was greatly inspired by the previous year's award winners. I am very grateful that this year it is mine to hold."

"I am also hoping to inspire others. This makes me proud as a sports person. I also hope that my team mates will be very proud of me."

"This award motivates all of us as a team to work harder. I feel honoured and humbled. Thanks to all the Bambisanani team for making this happen."

Sifiso Mngayi was surprised with his award: "It's so exciting for me to be awarded with the 'Helping Others Achieve Their Potential Award'."

"I never thought that my teachers were appreciating what I do to this extent. So this award is really a surprise to me."

"At school I am organising peer teaching

and group studies after school to encourage high achievement to my class mates. I also assist others with subjects that I know better. This award is really a great motivation to me and also to my class mates."

"I feel like I am a well-known person even internationally. I wish to pass my sincere gratitude to all who made this happen."

John Paul II Foundation for Sport Sportsman of the Year Siyabonga Mbambo said: "It is a great honour for me to be recognised with the Sportsman of the Year Award."

"I really like football and wish to be a professional player one day. This award is giving me hope for the future based on my present performance. I hope this will also encourage others in soccer."

David Geldart, from the partnership, said: "You only have to read the quotes above and see the photographs to get a sense of just how important these awards have become."

"Recognising and rewarding achievement is so important at any time but it is particularly significant in this very difficult and testing year."

"I congratulate all the award winners; they are truly outstanding – keep working hard; nothing succeeds like hard work, persistence and determination."

"Our thoughts are always with the wonderful McCauley and Magwaza families at this time. The awards in memory of Laurie and Sibonelo are both aspirational and inspirational – what a wonderful legacy."

"We also thank Monsignor Vladimir Felzman (Father Vlad) and the John Paul II Foundation for Sport for their fantastic support of the partnership and in particular helping to establish the annual awards which acknowledge the power of sport as a force for good."

"With the presentation and photographs over, many more students will now be aspiring to gain one of the prestigious awards in 2021!"

For more information about the Bambisanani Partnership see [www.bambisanani-partnership.org](http://www.bambisanani-partnership.org)



Siyabonga Mbambo



# Jordan Sinnott is honoured in



Jordan Sinnott who was fatally injured in Retford on January 25



The 'Sinnott 25' football shirt campaign received shirts from every football league club in the country



Jordan Sinnott who played for Matlock Town at the time of his death in January 2020

By Claire Lomax

01943 607022  
claire.lomax@gazetteandobserver.co.uk

THE tragic death of former St Mary's School, Menston, student Jordan Sinnott last January touched the heart of the nation and indeed beyond. Jordan, a footballer who played for Huddersfield Town among other clubs, had always been a great supporter of the Menston-based Bambisanani Partnership.

This month two specially commissioned awards in his memory were presented by the charity for Sportsman and Sportswomen of the Year at Vumanhlamvu Primary School in rural KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

"This is all very positive and just the kind of thing that Jordan would love."

The Bambisanani Partnership is a multi-award winning charity that has gained international acclaim for its pioneering work in the most deprived rural area of South Africa using the power of sport to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

The Bambisanani Partnership Sportswoman of the Year Award in Memory of Jordan Sinnott was won by Nombulelo Biyela.

The Bambisanani Partnership Sportsman of the Year Award in Memory of Jordan Sinnott was won by Mzwandile Zondi.

This is the first time that any awards have ever been presented at the school and there was much excitement as the two winners were announced at a special ceremony.

The recipients were both surprised and delighted.

Nombulelo said: "I am so very excited



The Jordan Sinnott award

to be a first recipient of this award in memory of Jordan Sinnott in the United Kingdom.

"Although this was the toughest year due to Covid 19 my teachers have managed to recognise my talent.

"I would like to thank them for giving me the opportunity to demonstrate it.

"I would like also to send my special thanks to the Bambisanani Partnership and to the Sinnott family for all this.



# South Africa through awards



Some of the shirts donated as part of the Sinnott 25' football shirt campaign

"May Jordan's soul rest in peace. Thank you Bambisanani Partnership."

Mzwandile said: "I am very happy and feel very much honoured to be the recipient of this prestigious award in memory of Jordan Sinnott."

"I am the first person ever in our school to lift such an award and I would like to thank our Principal Mr Vilakazi and my educators for nominating me."

"I would like to thank again the Bambisanani Partnership for their kindness and support to our school and also to Jordan's family who are in our prayers."

The Principal of Vumanhlamvu School, Mr William Vilakazi, had actually met Jordan when he visited St Marys in 2011.

He said: "I remembered meeting Jordan as soon as I saw the photograph – I remember his smile and how respectful he was. I also saw him play football – what a talent!"

"It is a great honour to have these very special awards in memory of Jordan installed at our school which serves a very remote and deprived community. "These awards will raise spirits and motivate our learners in sports and in the classroom – healthy minds need healthy bodies."

"The interest in the awards is amazing and I can foresee tough competition in sports in the year ahead at Vumanhlamvu."

"Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Jordan's family and friends; Jordan will become part of life at Vumanhlamvu School."

Following Jordan's death, the phenomenal 'Sinnott 25' football shirt

campaign not only received shirts from every football league club in the country but it went on to receive over 850 sports shirts from more than 30 countries from around the world.

More than 100 of these shirts will be going out to South Africa when Bambisanani volunteers from St Mary's visit next summer (Covid permitting). David Geldart, founder and chair of the partnership, had worked very closely with Jordan at St Mary's as he prepared to become a professional footballer and had remained in contact when he had left school.

David said: "Jordan was an amazing young man; a massive character with a heart of gold."

"Despite his phenomenal talent he was always modest and unassuming."

"He loved the Bambisanani Partnership and was a great supporter."

"The awards in South Africa will encourage learners, year on year, to be the best that they can be."

"With an award also to be introduced at St Mary's School a wonderful legacy has been established that will ensure that Jordan will always be remembered and that he will continually inspire others."

"Taking his shirts out to South Africa will be amazing; Zulu children absolutely love football and I can see a 'Sinnott 25' shirt becoming a particular prized possession!"

"Massive congratulations to Nombulelo and Mzwandile; we are all very proud of you."

For more information about the partnership see: [www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org)



The Jordan Sinnott award winners

## Cycling to Success in South Africa

### The Bambisanani Partnership

**A**bandoned bikes from the University of Leeds are enjoying a new lease of life in rural South Africa thanks to an ongoing project led by the universities sport development team and local charity, The Bambisanani Partnership. Over the last 4 years the bikes have found their way to Mnyakanya High School in Kwa-Zulu Natal to support the charities inspirational 'Cycle to Success' programme.



Each summer staff and students from the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University travel to South Africa to deliver a week of cycling based activities to pupils at the school. Travel to and from school in these remote areas can be challenging with some pupils walking two hours every day to access education. The University students and staff spend a week teaching pupils how to ride and maintain bikes – a commonplace skill in the UK but a life changing and mobilising one over in this part of South Africa! The programme ultimately helps pupils develop confidence and skills which support them to remain in the education system as well as the mechanical skills needed to keep the bikes moving long term.

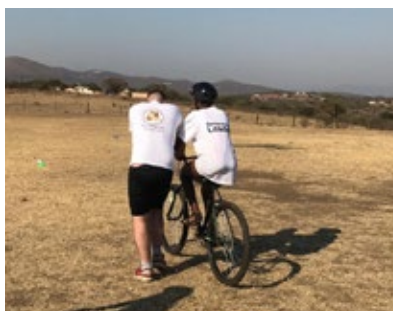
Through partnership work in the UK with university campus Sustainability and Security Services more than 20 bikes a year are refurbished and shipped to Mnyakanya along with new bikes acquired through University

and Bambisanani Partnership fundraising and spare parts and tools funded by the Rob Stephenson Trust. The generous support of Manchester based shipping giants, Cardinal Maritime means the bikes are transported free of charge. Many of the old bikes are damaged when they are acquired so university staff and students give up their time to repair them to make sure they are safe and functional when they arrive in the port in Durban. The university student volunteers receive sports leadership and cycling proficiency training in the UK before travelling to South Africa to teach children aged 12-15 how to ride the bikes in just one week.

30-35 South African pupils are supported to learn regardless of their starting point – some have never sat on a bike before, whilst others progress quickly learning how to signal and ride safely on open roads. Pupils are also supplied with bikes parts such as inner tubes and brake cables and taught how to repair the bikes which inevitably break down more quickly on the dirt roads around the school. The bikes stay in a hub at the school, being loaned out to pupils to break down the barrier of transport to school where one exists. Additionally, students from Leeds and Mnyakanya also join together in a wide range of cultural activities with traditional singing, dancing and sports activities taking place after school each day.

For the past fourteen years the Yorkshire based charity, The Bambisanani Partnership has worked in one of South Africa's most deprived rural areas using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership.

The charity has gained international acclaim for its work and the university involvement has taken this to new heights, with the Mnyakanya bike hub and 'Cycle to Success' project being the brainchild of University of Leeds Professional Development Manager, Andrew Lockwood. Andrew was approached in 2015 by The Bambisanani Partnership to support the expansion of their work in South



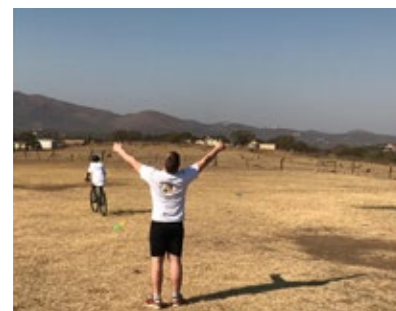
Africa to involve staff and students from the University of Leeds. Andrew accompanied a group from the projects founding school, St Mary's in Menston on a fact-finding mission that year. Using his expertise and experience in the field of sport development, Andrew engaged with teachers and pupils to understand some of the challenges faced in accessing education and future employment and the idea of the bike hub was born.

Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani Coordinator at Mnyakanya High School :

**“Cycling was not that familiar in our community until this initiative was introduced four years ago. Since then it has become part of the lives of many learners. During lockdown, when schools were closed, they were so excited to be using the bikes. I could not believe to see even the elder people in the community showing interest in cycling. Mnyakanya young cyclists inspired the elder, who in turn decided to fix and renew their old bikes that had never been used for years and years. Some of those old bikes were brought to these young cyclists to fix them. We do not have enough words to pass on our gratitude and thanks to the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University for changing the lives of our young people.”**

Community member Senzo Mdlalose added:

**“It is so amazing to see the interest of cycling growing like this in our community. I volunteered in assisting these young people if they have some challenges in repairing their bikes. Cycling is help the young people not to involve themselves in doing bad things. I make sure that they follow the rules of Covid 19 while they are using and fixing the bikes. I so wish that this cycling project may grow stronger.”**





Mnyakanya students are in no doubt about the impact of this initiative:

**“ I love cycling. Sometimes I compete with my friends in a distance of about 10 kilometers or more. Cycling has become my daily activity, especially if there is no school. Many people on the road show an exciting interest in our cycling activity. We hear people hooting their taxis and others clapping their hands to encourage our cycling competition. Many people stop and watch what we do. I would like to thank Leeds University and Leeds Trinity University for introducing cycling to us.” – Asanda Gabela**

**“ I am so grateful that I can ride and fix my bicycle for myself. It is now easier for me when my parents send me to a place that is far from home because I use a bike to take that journey. I can ride as many times as I can, even if the weather conditions are bad. The bikes also help me to get to school earlier and faster. When there are heavy rains my books and my school uniform are not getting too wet if I am riding a bike. It is so exciting that the bikes have changed our lives for better. May God bless The Bambisanani Partnership and the Leeds university teams for changing our lives.” – Sakhile Magwaza**

**“ Thank you very much to The Bambisanani Partnership for donating the bikes to us, and also for offering riding and fixing training. Our lives are becoming easier with bikes. This is all very exciting! Almost all young people in my community like to learn cycling. We also use the bikes for sports and as a transport. Many people in this community have developed the love of cycling. People ride the bikes to work, to their relatives, to shops and others to school. Bikes are so helpful and save money.” – Bonginkosi Magwaza**



**“ Cycling is greatly appreciated by our local soccer team. The Bambisanani bikes are used by our team for physical training. Using the bikes has encouraged active participation in our fitness work. Players really enjoy using bikes for exercising and are motivated. Thank you very much to the Bambisanani team.” – Mholi Hlabisa**

Parallel to the impact on the recipients of the bikes, the impression on the skills and values of the UK students is huge. Skills auditing before, during and after the intervention saw students develop 10 top graduate level skills by an average of 31% from start to completion. “I’m proud to say I helped teach 30 kids how to ride a bicycle in just a few days. I am however even prouder to say that a group of 30 kids have taught me more than I could have ever imagined. I discovered the perseverance the children had as well as the importance of Zulu culture in those same couple of days!” said Franki Darko, a University of Leeds student who visited Mnyakanya in 2018.

Despite an unscheduled pause in the project this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic both here in the UK and in South Africa, the legacy of the last four years continues. Since 2016:

- 70 used bikes have been refurbished and shipped to Mnyakanya High School with the support of University of Leeds Security & Sustainability and Cardinal Maritime
- 80 new bikes have also been purchased and shipped through student and staff fundraising and The Bambisanani Partnership
- Tools and consumables to the value of £10k have also been provided thanks to the support of The Rob Stephenson Trust and The Bambisanani Partnership
- Over 120 South African children have been supported to learn to ride and maintain bikes
- 59 University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity students and staff have been involved in the project



Andrew Lockwood, who is now a Trustee of The Bambisanani Partnership said: *"Setting up the bike hub at Mnyakanya has been hugely beneficial to all involved, not only the recipients of the bikes, but also the University staff and students who are able to develop outstanding professional skills and personal values through this unique challenge. The hub is now clearly embedded at Mnyakanya and in the surrounding community and we now hope to expand the project to further rural schools in the area over the next few years".*



David Geldart Founder and Chair of The Bambisanani Partnership added: *"This initiative has clearly had a remarkable impact both on those receiving the training and those providing the training. Andrew and the university teams deserve enormous credit for pioneering this inspirational work. It has been absolutely wonderful to see cycling introduced to this remote rural area. For the Mnyakanya students, and indeed in the wider community, we have seen a growing interest in cycling as a mode of transport, for sport, recreation, fitness training and for some, a source of employment! There is a real desire in the community for this initiative to grow further and indeed in other communities for it to be introduced. It really has been a tremendous success; I would like to congratulate and thank everyone involved for making this amazing project happen."*

The Cycling to Success programme has gained praise from cycling organizations in both South Africa and the UK. One of Great Britain's greatest ever cyclists, Olympic gold medalist, Chris Boardman has recently said of the project: *"This is a great initiative of which you should be very proud."*

For more information about The Bambisanani Partnership visit

[www.bambisananipartnership.org](http://www.bambisananipartnership.org)

or contact David Geldart:

[d.geldart@bambisananipartnership.org](mailto:d.geldart@bambisananipartnership.org)





# Bambisanani in Numbers (January 2021)

More than  
**10,000**

UK AND SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS

have participated in Bambisanani Projects.



**280**  
STUDENTS

(from St. Mary's School, University of Leeds, Leeds Trinity University) have now visited South Africa to deliver Bambisanani programmes.



**775**  
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS

have gained Bambisanani Leadership awards.



**2,750**  
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS

have participated in Bambisanani Sports Festivals.



**3,500**  
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS

have participated in Bambisanani Learning activities.



**1,200**  
CHILDREN

have been supported into school by the partnership.



**1,700**  
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS

have participated in Bambisanani Reading Festivals.



**1,000**  
UK/SA STUDENTS

have engaged in joint learning activities involving various curriculum areas.



**14**  
SCHOOLS



**2**  
UNIVERSITIES



**1**  
ORPHANAGE

now involved in Bambisanani activities.



**55**  
UK/SA TEACHERS AND LECTURERS

have visited each other's countries, as part of the partnership, to extend their knowledge and understanding of global education.



**200**  
UK/SA STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

have gained the National/International Diana Award in recognition of their outstanding volunteering/leadership work.



**270**  
STUDENTS

have learned to ride and maintain bikes as part of the Bambisanani 'Cycling for Success' programme.



**4**  
SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS

have successfully completed Further/Higher education with the support of Bambisanani College/University bursaries.



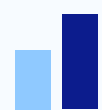
**10**  
SOUTH AFRICAN TEACHERS

have received Bambisanani ICT training.



**↑26%**  
INCREASE

26% increase in number of students on roll at Mnyakanya School during the past three years.



**↑57%**  
IMPROVEMENT

at Mnyakanya School during the past four years.



**↑32%**  
INCREASE

32% increase in the employability skills of UK University students involved in the programme.



**6**  
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

The Bambisanani Partnership has gained



**35**  
BAMBISANANI ARTICLES have been published.



**4**  
BAMBISANANI BOOKS have been published.

The Bambisanani Partnership has featured at



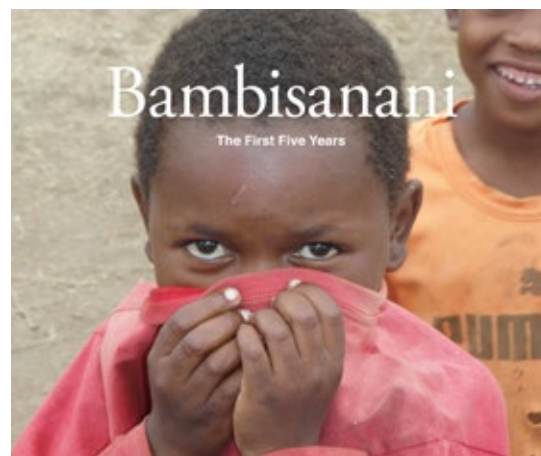
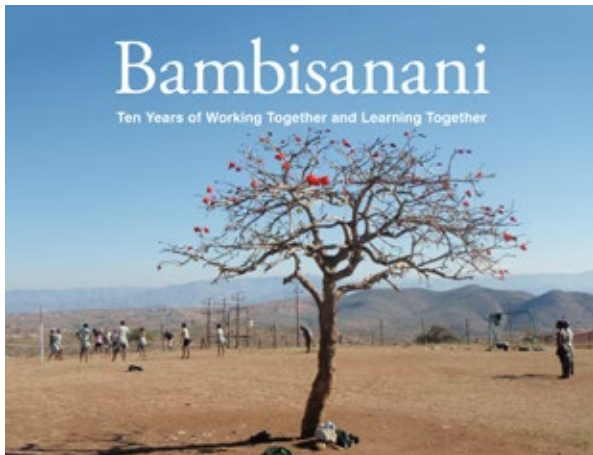
**5**  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES on  
**3**  
CONTINENTS



**£500,000**  
RAISED

to support Bambisanani Partnership activities.

## 4 Bambisanani Partnership Books have been published



## Contact Us

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