



ASET NEWS

AFGHAN SUPPORT EDUCATION TRAINING JAN 2010

LATESET NEWS:

ASET Dinner 2010
will be held on
Saturday 13th
March at
Hatherley Manor
Hotel



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Happy New Year!



Thank you so much for your support of ASET. 2009 was certainly a busy year with many projects completed, many lives changed and yet left us with much more to do throughout 2010. The ASET team wish you and your families all the best for the coming year.

Quilt Distribution

In the previous ASET Newsletter, we reported on a \$10000 project involving the making of 1000 quilts by local women. We are pleased to let you know that these have now been carefully distributed. The quilts will be a real blessing during these winter months as the temperatures drop. There was one old man (claiming to be 110 yrs old) who heaved five quilts up on his back and staggered off!



Proof of collection



110 years young!

Karte Aryana Park

Aryana Park is a special initiative by the Ministry of Social Affairs to reach children in an area where there are no facilities or safe areas for them to play. ASET has now completed the primary structure of the service and administration building at Aryana Park. On December 30th the park was inaugurated by the Deputy Governor of Balkh Province.



Khaligadad School

Work on the school is virtually complete. The classrooms will be decorated when the plaster has dried and will then be furnished once sufficient funds have been raised. Afghan schools are currently on a winter break until March and then the new rooms will be put to use.



Lucy's Trip To Afghanistan

After only a short trip to Afghanistan in the autumn of 2009 there is so much I could share. As a photographer I struggled to put my camera down, there were simply so many sights I wanted to capture on film and it was so encouraging to visit various ASET projects and see how far they had come from previous photographs I had seen before the work began.

I think the thing that struck me the most, however, was the day to day living, which is not portrayed by the western media, the living that reminds you that there are real people, living a real life. For me I saw it in the smiling eyes of the local bread man, the yawn of a baby tightly wrapped in cloth, comforted by the safety of his mother's hold. I saw it in the children who proudly flew their kites, even if it was just a carrier bag with a length of string attached to the handle. Every Afghan has a story to be told, and I wonder what that story would look like if they could tell the world themselves. (Lucy Bailey)



Dinner and Auction

Now in its sixth year, this annual event continues to be ASET's largest UK fundraising event of the year. The dinner will be held for the first time at Hatherley Manor, on 13th March, on the edge of the Cotswolds. Tickets cost £38 and include a four course meal with wine. The evening's programme will include live music, a short presentation from Dan Browne, International Director, and a live auction. In addition to the live auction, this year for the first time, we are holding an online auction, which will include a wider range of goods than we have previously offered. The online auction will go live on Saturday 23rd January 2010. Please visit www.asetauction.org.uk after this date to start bidding. For further information and tickets contact Rachel Browne, on 01242 709690 or rachelbrowne@blueyonder.co.uk.

Kindergarten

At the end of October the Afghan Minister of Health had requested all Schools, Kindergartens and even Universities be closed due to the fear of a Swine Flu outbreak. ASET used this time to run a Montessori Seminar with the help of a German Kindergarten teacher and two of her local workmates who travelled up to Mazar from the far south-west of Afghanistan to provide the training. Alongside the ASET teachers, seven other Afghan teachers from two Kindergartens and five foreigners were able to attend and be trained in 'Early Childhood Development' and Montessori materials.

Trustees Report

The Trustees signed off the Annual Report and Accounts for 2008-9 at the AGM on 5th December. The year has been a most successful one, with more funds going to the needy in Afghanistan than ever before. I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard to make such progress, and keep things running smoothly, both in the UK and in the field.

It was good to have Dan, our International Director, back with us for the first Christmas in eight years. The trustees appreciate all the valiant work he's done, and wish him a well earned rest.

At the AGM, Glenda and Jeff Green were voted to join the Trustees. They are a very special couple, and have been long term supporters of ASET, and will bring a number of gifts and skills to the charity. Mike and Beth Browne will be stepping down on 18th March 2010, and Jeff Green will take over as Chairman. We wish him every success in his new post.

We thank all those who continue to give so generously, at this difficult financial time.

Mike Browne CBE, ASET Chairman

Contact ASET

ASET (Afghan Support Education and Training) is registered as a Non Governmental Organisation in Afghanistan and is a registered UK Charity.

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