

***CHIPPING MANOR DENTAL PRACTICE
DONATES £3,500 TO LOCAL SCHOOLS***

When they started up their business in 2001, Shaenna and Phil Loughnane, the owners of the Chipping Manor Dental Practice in Wotton-under-Edge, decided to put 10% of the Practice's private income into a charity fund. They wanted to make sure that the business helped take responsibility for the local community and world around it.

To date, most of the money raised has been used to fund trips to Tanzania by members of the Chipping Manor team. These trips have been in support of Bridge2Aid, a charity working to train local clinical officers in emergency dental treatment. Now, the Practice also wants to give something back to the local community in Gloucestershire which has supported Chipping Manor and enabled them to send so many volunteers to Tanzania.

They have therefore established a Charity Committee to decide how best to spend the money raised, and have created a structure whereby from 2009/10, 50% of the fund will go towards supporting the work with Bridge2Aid, and 50% goes back into the local community.

The Committee decided that the first year's community pot should be put towards work in local schools. They wrote to seven local schools and asked to hear their pupils' ideas on how they would spend a £500 donation from the Chipping Manor Dental Practice. It was not a competition - they just wanted to see how the pupils thought this money should be spent, and thought it would be a fun project for the pupils to be involved with.

They were delighted by the response they received from the schools, particularly as each school had a different idea on how to use the donation. One school is putting the money towards the equipment needed to grow a vegetable garden; another school is buying a cooker to develop an existing cooking club. One school is going to buy a Play Pod; another is putting the money towards commissioning a local artist to create a sculpture for the school grounds. One school even sent letters from the pupils themselves explaining how excited they were to be getting a new library built in their school.

This year's project has brought Phil and Shaenna and the team at Chipping Manor a great deal of pleasure. Members of the team are looking forward to visiting the schools and seeing the new equipment in use. The next task for the Committee will be to decide upon the next project.

For more information on Bridge2Aid and their work in Tanzania, please visit
www.bridge2aid.org

For general information about Chipping Manor, call into the Practice in Long St., Wotton-under-Edge, or go to www.chippingmanor.co.uk