



## Report from the Chair

This year has been a challenging year for Hay2Timbuktu and particularly for our friends and colleagues in Timbuktu.

There have been changes in the trustees, Louise Davies, Sean Crawford and Maureen Cruickshank decided to move on. We are grateful to them for their contribution to the direction and work of H2T, thank them for their efforts and wish them well. Melanie Prince joined the small, hardworking team and immediately took on a daunting group of tasks. We remain small in number, big in effort and determined in support of Timbuktu. Once we are through the difficulties facing us during Covid 19 we will be looking for new trustees. If readers are interested please contact one of the trustees for further information.

We have been enormously grateful for the support of people in Hay, both individually and as groups. This support has enabled us to meet a number of objectives including funds for the solar panel project in our partner schools, help to initiate a sustainable sanitary ware project and emergency funds for equipment for the community in Timbuktu to protect themselves from Covid 19.

We have made firm friends with Hay WI and benefitted from their energy, enthusiasm and skills. In December we held a dinner at Booths which was very well supported by members of the WI and their guests, ticket sales and raffle tickets helped us reach our target for the solar lamps. We are grateful to Nick Blayney who steered the evening and preparations beforehand and we thank Elizabeth and those at Booths Restaurant for the support, Juliette for the gift of ice cream and Medis4Timbuktu for their unstinting efforts to feed everyone and clear away amazingly quickly.

Members of the WI craft group put all our fabric to good use as they helped construct sustainable sanitary ware and carrying bags to launch this new project and the book club donated funds for books in our partner schools. This level of support reminds us of the value of the relationship with Timbuktu to those who live in Hay and encourages us to link with other organisations in the town. It usually starts with a talk on what H2T are involved with in our twin city and Trustees are open to invitations to talk to groups when the time is right.



***“pupils in Hay worked for a whole day without electricity”***

*photographs used with permission*

Hay Primary School have become very involved in the life of those in Timbuktu and helped raise funds for ongoing projects while making links with the curriculum. Cake sales generated substantial funds and January saw a sponsored darkness day when pupils in Hay worked for a whole day without electricity to see how Timbuktu students face difficulties in studying with limited or no electricity. Plans are emerging for collaborative working between the 4 schools in Timbuktu and teachers in Hay. This will have enormous benefits for all and demonstrates the need to engage children and parents in Hay if H2T is to be sustainable. Our thanks to the head, staff and children in Hay for their engagement and enthusiasm.



***Pupils proudly displaying their new school bags, and some of the books recently sent over.***

Coronavirus has had a devastating impact in Timbuktu, the city being the worst affected apart from the capital, Bamako. Timbuktu has limited medical facilities, few specialist doctors, insufficient trained nurses and a community lacking understanding of the dangers they face. The hospital has sufficient oxygen tanks but struggle to find nurses to administer it, there are no ventilators and tents outside the hospital house Covid 19 patients in temperatures above 45C. Recently a mobile lab has been set up in the city with the capacity

for 100 tests daily, previously tests were being transported via the UN mission flights to Bamako or on public buses to other countries for analysis.

H2T has been working with AMSS, our partner NGO throughout the pandemic and have raised funds locally to supply the community with hygiene equipment, our thanks to all those who have contributed to this. AMSS recognized that women are often in vulnerable positions such as selling and buying in the markets, fetching water from the wells but are also key to safeguarding their families. A grant from the Welsh Government Wales Africa Grant Scheme, administered by WCVA has enabled us to work with AMSS in preparing and broadcasting key health and hygiene messages on local radio stations most listened to in the home. The grant has also provided funds for personal protective equipment and training workshops for women from the markets in the hope that not only they, but their families are safer.

Another grant from The Waterloo Foundation has enabled us to provide equipment for our 4 partner schools, water bowsers, washing bowls, soap and sanitizing gel to create a safe environment within the schools. Radio messages will encourage families for the safe return of students to school when the autumn term begins.



***A tap installed at a school***



***Facemasks in use at a public meeting***

Our partners in Timbuktu are mindful of the efforts of Hay to offer support despite the difficulties faced locally with Covid 19 and they send thanks to all for the ongoing support.

Trustee meetings have continued thanks to technology and these may need to continue this way for some time. This has not diminished our efforts and I am grateful to all the trustees for their ongoing commitment. We have faced a number of threats to our relationships with our twin city, war, insurgency, food shortage, Covid 19 but we have been successful in retaining friends, colleagues, projects and relationships in a way which signifies the strength of Hay. Long may it continue.

Sandra Skinner Chair.  
September 2020

## The current situation in Mali

Mali has been in political turmoil for a long time but this year this has quickly escalated after Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was re-elected for a second term as president in 2019.

Consistent local unrest has very recently led to President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita's government being overthrown in a military coup which has led to celebration in the streets of the capital, Bamako. ECOWAS, the economic community of West African states have met to express their concern and are trying to support Mali through a transitional period..

The current situation appears to be that there will be a three year transition under a military government which will lead to democratic elections. President Boubacar Keita and Prime Minister Cisse will be released from prison.

The region is also threatened by the growth in power of ISIS across the whole of the Sahel where constant attacks make travel and economy prosperity very difficult. Ambush attacks on both military forces and communities are common and increasing. Timbuktu is deeply affected by this insecurity due to its geographical position and the fractured relationship between the capital and northern Mali.

## Covid 19 in Timbuktu

The recent outbreak of Covid 19 has arrived in Timbuktu and while funds have been raised for water, hand wash facilities and masks, Timbuktu has few facilities to support seriously ill patients.

This report below written early in August used here with permission from Sophie Sarin gives an idea of the impact of Covid 19 in Timbuktu. Sophie works with British Library in London digitising manuscripts in Mali

*Ben Essayouti, the head of the Mission Culturelle in Timbuktu and part of the family whose Library we are digitizing by the Djingareyber wrote the following when I sent condolences for an Essayouti family member:*

*"Yes, Sophie, he has died like so many others in Timbuktu, carried off these last weeks by the Corona virus which is killing more here than in Bamako, and which makes more victims than the armed Islamists here. The population is traumatised in Timbuktu, the hospital and aid centres are saturated without any adequate equipment. Every moment people arrive to announce the death of yet another relative or close one. Some die in silence at home without medical assistance and are buried without any ceremony. Tents are installed in the courtyard of the hospital with pitiful means ...some of the sick are fleeing the hospital and mixing with the population. It is an atmosphere of the end of the world. Columba should make a requiem for the dead and the orphans.."*

*Father Columba Stewart is seen below with Imam Essayouti and me. His Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) is the financial sponsor of our ELIT project (Endangered Libraries In Timbuktu.) The picture to the right shows Halimatou Cisse, the local manager of ELIT and me by the Djingareyber.*

*The official figures by the Ministry of Health announced 70 deaths in total in Mali today- It seems this must be greatly underestimated.*



A further report from Sophie two weeks later now indicates that the situation in Timbuktu has improved greatly and is getting back to normal.

And finally over the past month Mali and many other countries in the region have been subject to severe weather resulting in serious flood causing damage and loss of life. This has included the destruction of the bridge on the main road between Mali and Burkina Faso.

## DFID Funds

We will reach the conclusion of our DFID funds in December 2020 which has provided funds for our education projects in Timbuktu for the past two years. We are currently in the process of appointing an external evaluator as required by our funders.

We are submitting a further application in September 2020 to apply for funds for a further two years of educating girls and also working to develop education resources for Timbuktu schools with the primary school in Hay. This application will be for approximately £50000 and we will hear whether we are successful in early 2021.

## Solar lamps project

2019 saw us successfully raising funds to supply solar panels to power rechargeable portable lamps for several schools. The lamps can be taken home in the evening to give pupils light for their homework. Many Hay residents sponsored an individual light or made a general donation (total £1837), while DFID have in principle agreed that we can use up to £7000 of their education grant for this purpose, allowing us to supply equipment to at least four schools.

We are working with Lagazel, a French company providing solar powered lighting systems. For further information see our website <http://hay2timbuktu.org/>

Unfortunately, due to Covid-related movement restrictions, installation could not go ahead for a while. However, at the time of writing we have heard that all the necessary equipment is now being assembled across the border in Burkina Faso, and the lamps project should be moving ahead at last.



## Education Report 2019-2020

Hay2Timbuktu links with schools in Timbuktu remain strong. Funding for projects is channelled through our partner NGO, AMSS with whom there is regular contact via Elmehdi ag Wakina , Programme Director. Although now based in the AMSS offices in Bamako he visits Timbuktu regularly using the UK mission flights. He receives reports from the AMSS Regional Director in Timbuktu and relationships with the schools are maintained by the full time facilitator funded by the Department for International Development through H2T.

Less formal links are made with the schools on a regular basis through correspondence with the English teachers in our partner schools. Currently our 3 partner schools Mahamane Fondogoumo, Yehia Alkaya and Alpha Daouna receive funding from the DFID grant to support vulnerable girls and recently a fourth school has become involved, Cheick Nouh, a school in an agricultural area on the outskirts of Timbuktu. All 4 schools are regularly in contact with H2T giving information on the school situation and accepting help with their English through correspondence. The English teachers meet regularly with teachers from the other Second Cycle Schools ( 11-14 years) to discuss how H2T can continue to support the teaching of English.

The grant from DFID has continued for the second year. This has provided a full time coordinator employed by AMSS who has run workshops for school staff, administrators and community representatives to set up, monitor and report on the project to support 60 vulnerable girls. The grant provides equipment for girls whose family cannot afford this, provides remedial lessons in key subjects including French and mathematics. These remedial lessons are run by school staff for 2 hour sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, Saturday and Sunday mornings.

In addition workshops have been run for mothers to emphasis the importance of relieving the girls of domestic tasks to enable them to attend school and remedial lessons. Health and hygiene workshops have been run in schools focusing on personal hygiene and disease control.

Girls from each of our partner schools have been selected by the school monitoring committee after applying for places to study as obstetrician nurses. 3 girls are funded by the DFID grant to attend Boctou Health School and take part in theoretical and practical courses. Reports received by H2T demonstrate the positive impact this provision has for these girls study, all receiving good results and prepare for work with midwives in the clinics following their 3 year training.

Results from all 3 partner schools show that 100% pass rates are achieved by the girls in each year group engaged in the project. Results and destinations for the girls completing external examinations in Grade 9 this year are delayed as a result of Covid 19 but previous cohorts of girls funded by grants from H2T have continued their education in the Lycee (14-18), training establishments and some into work. There seems to be no reason why this should change with the current cohort and all girls involved have delayed marriage since they are considered children whilst attending school.

The schools have faced difficulties this year with staff strikes and the Coronovirus pandemic. Teachers have had an ongoing dispute with Government relating to salaries. Teachers are poorly paid compared to other government workers and often do not receive their monthly salaries. This has resulted in periods of strike action during this academic year with schools being closed for several months. The dispute has been resolved but was followed immediately by school closures as a result of Covid. Schools were reopened in June for examination classes only, so Grade 9 students returned to our partner schools. The term was extended into August for catch up work and examinations held in September rather than the routine timescales of June. This has created real difficulties for staff and students but the hope is for a full return to schools in September.

H2T has continued to support the schools with practical projects. As a result of local fundraising efforts water supplies have been installed in the toilet blocks built last year with funds from Hay. Funds from the Waterloo Foundation have provided hygiene equipment for our 4 partner schools with Cheick Nouh being included. These funds will provide water bowsers, bowls and kettles for washing, soap and sanitizing liquid together with workshops run by AMSS on health and hygiene precautions and safe use of equipment. Radio broadcasts on 3 local radio stations, Radio Boctou, Lafia and Jamana are being used to encourage families to send children back to school in September by emphasizing the provision of the hygiene equipment and workshops to safeguard students.

Local funds raised and support from DFID have resulted in targets being met to install solar lamps and charging units in 4 partner schools to assist with home study during dark evenings. Plans are developing for collaborative working with Hay Primary School and schools in Timbuktu to improve English teaching initially in partner schools with the possibility of wider participation based on existing support groups with English teachers in all schools in the city.

H2T's close links with schools has increased from 2 schools to 4 over a number of years, over 250 girls have attended school between 11 and 14 years following the aims of the Millenium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, teachers salaries

have been boosted by extra classes with remedial work, equipment and facilities including toilets, water supplies, computers, books, have been provided, teacher support and contact with teachers throughout difficult times in Timbuktu have been welcomed and strong relationships built. The challenge for the immediate future is to continue the level of support for schools in Timbuktu against a background of diminishing grant aid and a difficult financial situation.



## Hay 2 Timbuktu AGM Report on Mentoring Programme

In March 2020, we found out that our application to Hub Cymru Africa's Advance Mentoring Programme had been successful. Five organisations currently working in Africa from Wales are chosen each year to receive one to one advice and support in order to enhance the organization's capacity and potential.

Gill Lloyd & Melanie Prince have volunteered to receive the mentoring, but their lessons are for all as the trustees are agreed.

Hub Cymru offer organizations support in a range of areas including advancing communication skills; financial management; governance; fundraising and programme design.

Gill & Melanie began work in earnest in July and so far, as is the new normal, all the sessions have taken place online incorporating a variety of new virtual tools which require mastering! Monthly meetings are set to continue up until June 2021.

We hope that this focused consultancy and support for Hay2Timbuktu will not only help to achieve our goals over the coming year but also strengthen the organisation for the future

Aims identified:

- **Develop a Strategic Plan**

This will strengthen the core activities of the organization and provide a clear framework to base all future activities.

- **Develop a Communications plan.**

We hope that embedding a clear communications plan within the organisation will allow us to quickly publicise & raise awareness of ALL of our activities not only to our partners and funders but also the communities of Hay & Timbuktu

- **Increase understanding and develop necessary skills for effective Monitoring & Evaluation of the work we do.**

It can be difficult to get the information needed from the volatile & inaccessible region of Mali. Hub Cymru are providing contacts within the sector with whom we can learn & share our own experiences of this aspect of charity reporting.

- **Identify gaps and define roles in the Trustee board**

We are a small group with lots of varied work to be done. We will seek to identify the skills we are lacking and help us not only identify the types of trustee that we need to attract but also encourage interested people to get involved with the organisation without having to take on full responsibility of a trustee role.

- **Increase and improve partner relationships in Timbuktu**

Recently our focus has been primarily on projects encouraging & facilitating the education of girls. We hope now to expand upon our initial twinning goals by furthering relationships between parts of our communities with natural commonalities such as farmers and market traders.



www.hay2timbuktu.org.uk

<http://hay2timbuktu.org/>

# Hay2Timbuktu

## Financial statement for the year to 31 May 2020

	2019-20	2018-19
Opening balance	4,669.94	9,213.15
<u>Income</u>	22,839.65	17,351.74
Festival collections	580.77	312.40
Other fundraising	1,719.70	1,226.53
Subscriptions, donations, gift aid	1,313.67	151.21
DFID grant	18,840.48	15,661.60
Refunds of expenditure	385.03	0
<u>Expenditure</u>	16,670.28	21,955.60
Maternal health transfers to AMSS	836.57	812.98
DFID grant transfers to AMSS	13,853.16	12,650.00
Sanitation project transfers	1,120.32	7,386.06
Communications/fundraising	522.73	209.31
Insurance	187.50	187.50
Refund of donation	0	100.00
Audit	150.00	0
Trustee travel	0	612.75
Closing balance		10,839.31
<u>Funds held</u>		
Education		299.70
M4T general		399.59
General fund		319.09
Designated for projects		1,897.01
DFID balance		7,923.92